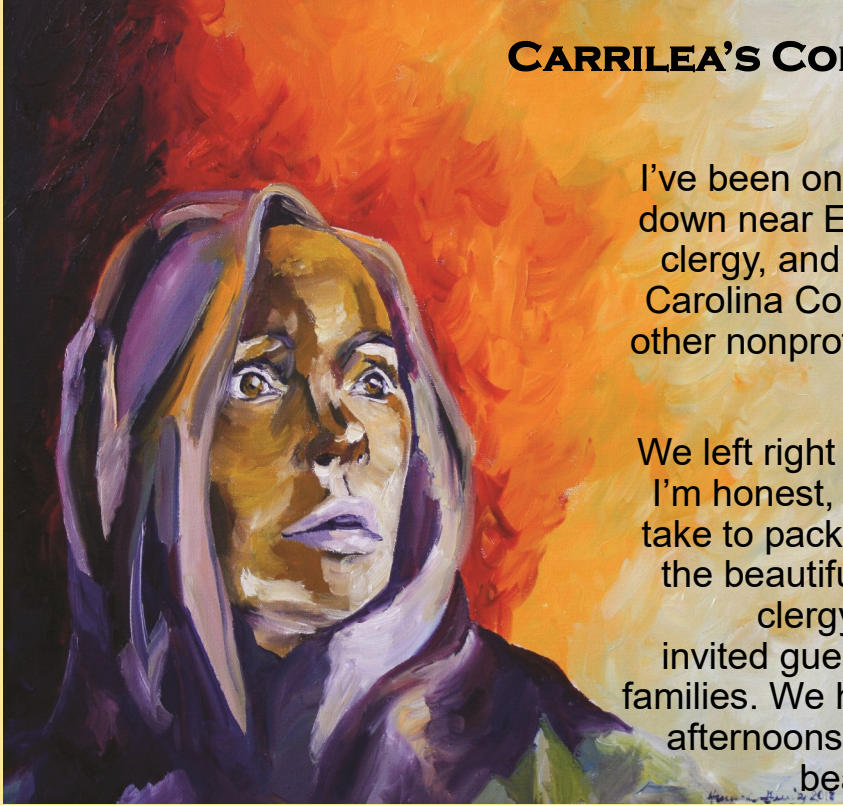


CARRILEA'S CORNER



Dear Grace Family,

I've been on the road this week for a conference down near Emerald Isle. It was a retreat for rural clergy, and I was there representing the North Carolina Council of Churches alongside several other nonprofits to share resources for clergy and churches.

We left right after church this past Sunday, and if I'm honest, I was dreading all the work it would take to pack up and just get us there. But one of the beautiful things about this retreat was that clergy—and those of us who were invited guests—were encouraged to bring our families. We had sessions in the mornings, but the afternoons were simply free time to enjoy the beach and the retreat center.

Last night, we closed our time together with a worship

service on the beach. A circle of us stood in the sand for a few songs and a brief message, while 7 or 8 kids played in the middle, building a sandcastle. When they realized we were serving communion, they came over with sandy hands, eager to receive the bread and grape juice.

It was such a sweet and simple moment.

At the start of the week, everyone was a little standoffish—not quite sure how to engage with people they didn't know. The kids were the same. But after just two days of sharing meals and beach time in each other's company, we were all friends.

There's something about set-apart time, especially when it's unstructured—when there's no agenda other than simply being present—that can turn strangers into friends.

It's hard to get people to do things like this anymore. To leave the comfort of home, give up a few days of their time, and go on an unknown adventure...

But sometimes, I think that's exactly where something holy happens.

Carrilea

August 3-9, 2025

August Birthdays

1 - Landon Johns
 4 - Jim Brown
 5 - Dawn Bradley
 9 - Regina Shumaker
 8 - Shelly Rogers
 9 - Maegan Wardo Milstead
 10 - Thomas Brown
 11 - George Keesbury
 15 - Gary West
 16 - Tip Nicholson
 16 - Bailey Wiberg
 19 - John Nicholson
 21 - Lucy Coarsey
 23 - Kakki Barnard Kudlacek
 30 - JJ Grose

Anniversaries

1 - Chris and Leigh Brown
 17 - Tip Nicholson and Nancy Davis
 30 - Cory and Sam Scott

WE ARE IN OUR SEASON OF GRACE.
 WORSHIP WILL BE AT 10AM, AND WILL
 CONTINUE AT THAT HOUR THROUGHOUT THE
 SUMMER MONTHS.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

DURING THE SEASON OF GRACE, ARTWORK
 ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERMON WILL BE
 DISPLAYED IN WORSHIP FOR THE
 CONGREGATION TO INTERACT WITH THROUGH
 MEDITATION AND PRAYER

WE On Sunday, August 31, we will meet at
 Vanhoy Campground for worship at the
 Wild Goose Festival.

More details to come. WE

**THE DAVIS LECTURES, IN COOPERATION
 WITH THE WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL, IS
 DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCED THAT THE
 REVEREND DR. STARLETTE THOMAS WILL BE
 A GUEST LECTURER ON WEDNESDAY,
 AUGUST 27 AT 7 P.M.

HERE AT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH,
 HER TOPIC IS "WALK TOGETHER, CHILD-
 DREN": SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR AN
 UNDIVIDED KIN-DOM. **

We are doing beer and hymns again
 At Red Buffalo on August 14 &
 September 11. 7PM
 Flyer is attached

ICM NEEDS CANNED CORN AND
 GREEN BEANS

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$61,752.00

Received year to date: \$57,192.93

UNDER budget: \$4559.07

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$758.00



Use this PayPal QR code for easy
 donations.