

CARRILEA'S CORNER

It's been a few weeks since I've written. Partly because time has been moving quickly—and partly because, on any given day, there are so many thoughts swirling through my mind that sitting down and writing them out is no easy task.

Lately I've been reflecting on what it means to live in balance. To be awake and aware of what's happening in the world—the chaos, the harm, the heartbreak—and still protect your own wellbeing, your peace, your body. To stay engaged, without becoming consumed. It's a delicate line.

There's a real temptation, especially for those of us with certain kinds of privilege, to pull back and tune out. After all, the most violent edges of this political and social moment may not touch us directly.

But on the other hand, it's easy to fall into doom-scrolling and despair, until our nervous systems are completely flooded and we're no longer able to be present or helpful to anyone—including ourselves.

I don't have perfect answers about how to hold this balance.

But I do know the tension is real.

And I've been struggling to find that balance lately.

Maybe we can help each other.

Last week, I attended a conference at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta titled Pastoral Leadership in a Time of Christian Nationalism. One of the keynote speakers was Kristin Du Mez, a historian and the author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*.

To be honest, I didn't leave the conference feeling particularly hopeful in the sense that there are clear, three-step plans to successfully resist white Christian nationalism. If anything, the scope and depth of its influence is deep right now. AND we know that the facade of power, hatred, and control will eventually crumble.

What I did leave with from the speaker was that the task at hand is a commitment to maintaining our humanity.

Our sacred work is:

To resist without becoming rigid.

To speak truth without losing tenderness.

To cultivate a local network of care and support—what Dr. King called a "beloved community"—when the dominant culture seems bent on division and harm.

Grateful to be on this journey with you,
Carrilea

September 28–October 4, 2025

October Birthdays

- 1 - David Grose
- 2 - Grant Lippard
- 2 - Lawrence Lippard
- 3 - Doug Hendrix
- 5 - Mary Whitted Hendrix
- 6 - Peggy Nicholson
- 6 - Ben Kudlacek
- 11 - Will Kenney
- 12 - Maple Scott
- 13 - Millie Corcoran
- 14 - Ulysses Marshall
- 16 - Brandon Tilley
- 16 - Grady Adams
- 20 - Tom Wiberg
- 21 - Kevin Angell
- 24 - Steve Coarsey
- 24 - Ellie Smith
- 30 - Jean Stroupe
- 30 - Mike Shaver
- 31 - Tristan Brown
- 31 - Serenity Brown

Anniversaries

- 5 - Maggie and Susie Hurst
- 18 - John and Melissa Hendrix

Please join us for the Fall Lunch & Plant! on Sunday, October 5th, immediately after church. A light lunch will be provided, and afterwards we will break up into teams to take on plantings in five various locations around our campus! We have over 60 plants to put into the ground, beginning to create some healthy plant communities around our new trees, a small border to help hold leaves in place, increasing the native plant presence on the berm, installing some understory plant communities at the maples, and finishing planting out several trees. So exciting!!! We will have a number of tools available, but if you have a shovel or trowel, please bring it, as well as your water bottle and work gloves. As in the spring, we will have a children's tent with a fun activity and play. We hope to see you there!

Love, The Grounds Committee.

****Our Davis Lecture Series is coming October 12-13th. 7pm nightly.**

Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, Dean of the Wake Forest Divinity School, will be out speaker.
More info on attachment with midweek email.

Scary Supper is coming-November 5th.

ICM NEEDS CANNED CORN AND GREEN BEANS

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$77,688.00

Received year to date: \$74,120.78

UNDER budget: \$3,567.22

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$940.00



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