

ASLC NEWS

United in Christ. Welcoming All.

Pritchard Park Breakfast

Our next homeless breakfast at Pritchard Park will be Sun, Aug 12th. Set-up for the breakfast will be Sat, Aug 11. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space for those who wish to donate food and/or volunteer on the day of the breakfast. Thanks for your continued support of this important ministry.

Treasurer's Report

	June 2018
Income	\$9,632.98
Expenses	<u>-9,536.94</u>
Net Income	+\$94.04

YTD 2018 Net Income =
-\$5,978.50

Sincerely, **Bob Lierman**



Pastor's Column

July 12-15 I attended The Wild Goose Festival in Hot Springs, NC. What is a "wild goose" you might ask? The term comes from a poem by Mary Oliver entitled "Wild Geese." The last line of the poem reads "Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—over and over announcing your place in the family of things."

Another way to describe it is a bold and collaborate experiment in kingdom living. The weekend was attended by over 4,000 Progressive Christians who were the most diverse group of speakers and participants I've ever seen in one place. They were Black, Latino, Asian and White; male and female; straight and LGBTQ. There were families with children and all ages were represented. People also came from a variety of Christian denominations and other faith traditions as well.

We sweat, worshipped and studied together. We dreamed of what our world would look like if we really lived out the values Jesus taught us. Many of [con't p2]

[from p. 1] the speakers did collaborative presentations with others, and the usual divide between presenters and attenders was non-existent. It was a common site to see speakers attending each other's workshops and having holy conversation with participants all over the campground.

The atmosphere was one of honoring and sharing the gifts each one of us possesses, and trying to figure out how to use these gifts to make our nation a better place for all of us. I can easily say I left with hope in my heart and a clearer vision of how to navigate these crazy times we live in. I suspect everyone else left feeling the same way.

I got to soak up the wisdom of some of my favorite authors such as Brian McLaren and Barbara Brown Taylor. I heard lots of new worship music that's being written for Progressive Christian churches. I ate from local food trucks, hung out with old friends, and made a few new ones along the way.

I would encourage members of ASLC to consider attending the festival next year. The good news is that you can just go for a day if you like or spend the entire weekend there. It's really flexible. If you love to sweat, you can camp on the grounds. I chose to commute which is more my style!

I will be sharing more of what I learned over the coming months. Hopefully some of the hope and joy I felt while attending the festival will rub off on you. If this gathering is a sign of what the Church is going to look like in the future, I know our future is bright and promising, indeed.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

"The lenses through which we see Jesus matter. We all make Jesus slightly in our own image. We all have different Jesuses. So how do we navigate the world together? Can we have a transcendent Jesus that bridges all of these differences?"—John Pavlovitz, Wild Goose Festival

Church Council & Mission Teams

Our Church Council and Mission Team meetings will resume in August. They will be held the third Sunday of every month after worship with the MT meetings first and then joining together for Council. Please bring your own lunch.

"A Bigger Table" Study

When Sunday School resumes in Sept. we will spend the first five weeks studying a portion of John Pavlovitz's book "A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community." Please purchase a copy of it before class begins. If you can't attend the class but still want to participate, study guides will be posted on the church's web site. Here are the chapters we will be covering in class:

Sept 9—Ch 6, Jesus the Table Setter
Sept 16—Ch 7, Radical Hospitality
Sept 23— Ch 8, Total Authenticity
Sept 30—Ch 9, True Diversity
Oct 7—Ch 10, Agenda-Free Community

You can participate in the class even if you don't have a book but it's a great read!

ASLC @ an Asheville Tourist Game



