

*School of the Spirit Fall Refresher
2020 Alumni Retreat*

WELCOME TO THE WALL

Immersion in both the Presence and the Action of the Holy



The Wall is a deeply holy place on the spiritual journey. It is always individual, mysterious, God-shaped, and infused with Spirit - inviting us to transformation.

October 5-6, 2020

1-8 pm Monday / 9-4 pm Tuesday
Starrette Farm Retreat, Statesville, NC

The CORE truth of the Wall is what will transform our lives: the struggle that gets you to the Wall is not the essence of the Wall. How you respond to the struggle and what you allow God and other wise guides to heal in you at deep levels is the essence of the Wall.
~ Janet Hagberg

School of the Spirit alumni have a hunger, a yearning to keep seeking God in both the joys and the crucible of life and leadership. The 2020 Alumni Fall Refresher is for those committed to the radical notion that we can be transformed by God to be more.

Please join us!

Leaning into the Critical Journey

with Ashley Thomas and colleagues



Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas is our *School of the Spirit* Missioner. She is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, having served as a pediatric chaplain, campus minister, associate pastor, and lead pastor in The Western North Carolina Conference. She is a graduate of *School of the Spirit* - and passionate about sharing how this program, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has powerfully strengthened her soul, her ministry, and every avenue of her life. Ashley is overseeing the implementation of the newly created **Second-Mile Mentoring** initiative for current students and alumni. As the *School of the Spirit's* storyteller and advocate, Ashley is available to speak to conferences, districts, churches, or individuals about the powerful impact of this one-year transforming experience in community. Contact her at 704-408-4248 or apickerel@wncumc.net.

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You've heard the phrase, "Let go and let God." I've often wondered how does this really work? How can you let go and let God, not merely as an intellectualize exercise, but as a habit of the soul? The "how" can be found at the Wall.

God uses The Wall to teach our souls the depth of the freedom found in letting go and letting God. ~ Ashley Thomas

When: October 5-6, 2020 (Monday 1-8:00 pm and Tuesday 9-4 pm)

Who: • Those who have completed a one-year *School of the Spirit* experience
• Current *School of the Spirit* participants

Overview of Retreat:

- ***Approaching The Wall:*** one of the surest signs of an invitation to The Wall is repeated struggles with the same type of issues or patterns. Got any of those?
- ***Embracing The Wall:*** our will faces God's will and we intentionally respond to the struggle through awareness, forgiveness, acceptance, and love.
- ***Releasing The Wall:*** Moving outward again, towards others with compassion and presence. Mentoring others with humility and generosity. Embracing our calling as an outgrowth of our experience of the Wall. Living with utter gratitude, courage and faithfulness. Experiencing naturally the gifts of the Spirit that we have read about or longed for all along. Through Christ, this is not only possible, it is the promise of the Gospel message!



Where: *(by popular request)*

Starrette Farm Retreat • Statesville NC • 704-488-5825

Registration Cost: \$100 *(a \$250 value)*

This cost is for leadership, support materials, meals and snack throughout the two days.

Limited to 24 alumni/current cohort students • *Lodging is on your own*

TO REGISTER

- **Remit your non-refundable \$50 deposit check to hold your space**, payable to Davidson United Methodist Church (DUMC), with *"2020 Fall Refresher"* on the memo line. Mail your check along with the following form to:

• Registrar Ann Starrette • PO Box 1288 • Troutman, NC 28166 •

- Balance is due by **September 1, 2020**.
- Contact Ann at starrette@mindspring.com if you have any questions.

The journey to God is not to a destination as much as a continuing unfolding of greater freedom, presence, joy and love. Like any real journey, it is not linear. There are places where it all flows effortlessly and places where we get stuck, which literally feel like we are up against a wall. Our walls are usually about some way that we cling to power and control, esteem and affection, and security and survival. The stuck places are the places of transformation. To go forward, we must step back. To find our victory in God, we must surrender our ego selves. To deepen our individual journey to God, we must rely more on community. To be born anew we must allow time for the dark, unknowing place of gestation needed for new birth. Ultimately we see clearly enough our own human-ness to give it in love to God to bring forth through us His divine gifts into the world and we are amazed to realize our journey was His after all.



~Don Carroll



2020 Alumni Retreat

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Best PHONE _____

(mark appropriate box below)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

- DEPOSIT of \$50 (balance of \$50 due September 1)
- or*
- FULL PAYMENT of \$100

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*** PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK
AS A CONFIRMATION OF PAYMENT •**