



FOTOS POR LUIS MELODELGADO | PHOTOS BY LUIS MELODELGADO

## Santa Julia Reza en Diferentes Idiomas

Por Luis Melodelgado y Nora Haenn

En 1960 Martín Luther King Junior dijo: "Todos los domingos, a las 11:00 a.m., cuando cantamos alabanzas sabiendo que Cristo no tiene ni Oriente ni Occidente, nuestros pies descansan en la hora más segregada de esta nación." Hoy en día hay pocas congregaciones multirraciales. Por esto Santa Julia, iglesia católica en Siler City, es un lugar bastante especial. Sin tener muchos ejemplos, la congregación ha construido una comunidad bilingüe donde se hablan el inglés y el español. Sus pastores consideran que la iglesia es uno de los pocos lugares donde los hispanos pueden intimar con el mundo inglés, crear conexiones gracias a su fe y a la activa vida social parroquial. Al mismo

tiempo, y porque "el ser humano reza mejor en su lengua nativa", Santa Julia debe planear logísticamente cómo servir a esta comunidad bilingüe.

Como solución, el español es usado en ciertos momentos y el inglés en otros, lo que constituye un proceso de ensayos y ajustes. Algunos ejemplos: los domingos hay varias misas a saber, dos en español, una en inglés, y una bilingüe, en una distribución que corresponde al hecho que 900 personas atienden los servicios en español, trescientos los servicios en inglés y 60 los servicios bilingües; la educación religiosa escolar es dictada en inglés y en español y, solamente en inglés, para las edades de escuelas media y secundaria; las familias hispanas han creado nuevos eventos en la parroquia como son el 'día de los niños' y la repre-

sentación de la pasión de Cristo en el 'Camino Viviente de la Cruz'; finalmente, mientras otras iglesias venden pasteles Santa Julia ofrece tacos, en sus festivales de recaudación de fondos.

El Consejo Pastoral, entidad que supervisa las actividades en la iglesia, está integrado equitativamente por personas que hablan ambos idiomas. El padre Jim Fukes comenta que aún cuando los hispanos superan en número a todos sus demás feligreses, el inglés es la lengua oficial de la iglesia, quizás solamente porque los fieles anglos que hablan el español son muy pocos y, por el contrario, un gran número de hispanos hablan bien el inglés.

El proceso no es fácil. Aún cuando Santa Julia ofrece clases de inglés para adultos, y debido al tamaño de su congregación, sus dos sacerdotes

bilingües a menudo se encuentran mediando entre los dos grupos lingüísticos. Los pastores también reconocen que las diferencias étnicas pueden marginalizar a algunos de sus feligreses. A pesar de todo no dejan de haber momentos de calor y cordialidad. Este año, por ejemplo, en el 'Camino Viviente de la Cruz', uno de los dos ladrones del Gólgota fue un anglo-parlante que debía actuar en español, lengua que él maneja con dificultad. Él, 'por si las moscas', escribió su parlamento en la palma de su mano: historia sagrada con trampilla.

*Luis y Nora son residentes de Chatham County. Los intereses de Luis son la escritura y el teatro. Nora enseña antropología con énfasis en asuntos mexicanos en NCSU.*

## Santa Julia Prays in Many Languages

By Luis Melodelgado and Nora Haenn

In the 1960s, Martin Luther King Junior famously observed "At 11:00 on Sunday morning when we stand and sing and Christ has no east or west, we stand at the most segregated hour in this nation." Even today, multi-racial and multi-ethnic congregations are rare. Because of this, St. Julia's Catholic church in Siler City is an especially meaningful place. With few examples to follow, church members have built a community that includes many parishioners who do not share a common language. St. Julia's pastors see their congregation as one of the few places where native Spanish speakers can interact with the English world on a personal level, making connections through a common faith

and common social activities. At the same time, based on the belief that "people pray best in their native language," St. Julia's must reckon with the logistics of a bi-lingual parish.

Their solution has been to use Spanish in some church settings and English in others, a process that operates through trial and adjustment. For example, Sunday services include two masses in Spanish, one in English, and one that is bi-lingual. The distribution reflects attendance. Some 900 people attend the Spanish masses, while 300 and 60 people attend the English and bi-lingual masses, respectively. Religious education classes are held in both Spanish and English for grade school children. However, by middle and high school, all classes are held in English. Latino families have introduced new events to the church,

such as a celebration of the Day of the Child and a re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion, in a "Living Way of the Cross." And, where other churches might hold bake sales, St. Julia's fundraisers include tacos.

At the same time, membership on the church's Pastoral Council, a committee that helps oversee all church activities, is evenly split between English and Spanish speakers. As Fr. Jim Fukes relates, despite the fact that Latinos are more numerous, much church communication takes place in English. Rather than an explicit preference, this tendency reflects the fact that while few of the church's native English speakers are conversational in Spanish, a number of the Latinos are competent in English.

The process is not always smooth. Although the church offers English

language classes, given the size of the congregation, the parish's two bi-lingual priests often act as a bridge between language groups. Church pastors, also, recognize ethnic differences can leave some parishioners feeling marginalized. But, the process does provide moments of warmth and hilarity. One of two thieves in this year's 'Living Way of the Cross' was a native English speaker who delivered his lines in Spanish, a language he scarcely understands. Just to be safe, he wrote his lines on the palm of his hand, sacred history with a cheat sheet.

*Luis and Nora are Chatham residents. Luis is a translator with interests in theater and writing. Nora teaches the anthropology of Mexico at NCSU. Email: wordxchange@yahoo.com*

## ECOTOURISM

continued from page 1.

Carolina Community College System. Courses to be offered include Introduction to Ecotourism, Natural and Cultural Resources, Safety and CPR, Interpretation and Guiding, Nature-Based Law, and Business of Ecotourism. The program will appeal to a variety of audiences, including students who might go on for higher education in tourism, business owners, and entrepreneurs who might be inspired to venture into ecotourism.

Nationally, vacations and travel are getting "greener" as people opt for visiting national parks, taking nature adventures, hiking, biking, birding, or any of the many leisure activities that involve getting closer to nature.

### Links to Find, Follow, Fan

**WEB** [visitpittsboro.com](http://visitpittsboro.com), [www.chathamnc.org/cvb](http://www.chathamnc.org/cvb)

**BROCHURE** [www.lunarcow.com/goguide/pittsboro](http://www.lunarcow.com/goguide/pittsboro)

**TWITTER** [twitter.com/PittsboroCVB](https://twitter.com/PittsboroCVB)

**TWITTER RSS** [twitter.com/statuses/user\\_timeline/24394681.rss](https://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/24394681.rss)

**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/pages/Pittsboro-NC/Pittsboro-Siler-City-Convention-Visitors-Bureau/37906927050](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pittsboro-NC/Pittsboro-Siler-City-Convention-Visitors-Bureau/37906927050)

**FACEBOOK RSS** <http://www.facebook.com/feeds/notes.php?id=37906927050&viewer=1593276487&key=9896e620d0&format=rss20>

**TOURISM CHITCHAT** [community.icontact.com/p/visitpittsboro/rss.xml](http://community.icontact.com/p/visitpittsboro/rss.xml)

According to the travel Web site, [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com), more Americans plan to be environmentally

conscious about their travel and vacation decisions. Seventy-three percent said they plan to visit a national park, up from 62 percent a year ago. Forty-seven percent plan to engage in a nature adventure activity, up from 40 percent in 2008.

Enjoying nature as it is, without damaging the environment or ecological system, has spawned a branch of the tourism industry known as "ecotourism."

Some travelers have difficulty hiking long distances or on rough terrain. Some simply do not enjoy it but would like to find gentler activities so as not to spend the entire vacation inactively. Chatham County offers plentiful opportunities with scenic views for those who enjoy a quick mile or hours-long hike. Families pack a picnic

and find the Talking Tree Trail a great day at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest. Birders see Wild Turkey, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, wintering waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Wood Thrush, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue Grosbeak, wading birds, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and more.

Learn more about our outdoor activities through our interactive visitor brochure and online: [www.lunarcow.com/goguide/pittsboro](http://www.lunarcow.com/goguide/pittsboro) or [VisitPittsboro.com](http://VisitPittsboro.com), go to Attractions, then Outdoors.

*Neha Shah, is Director of Travel & Tourism for the Pittsboro-Siler City CVB. For information, call 919.542.8296.*