



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**3rd Annual Wild Goose Festival Explores Community
at the Intersection of Art, Music, Spirituality, and Justice**

Hot Springs, NC – The 3rd annual Wild Goose Festival, themed this year “ReMembering The Body,” will take place August 8-11 at the Hot Springs Campground, just north of Asheville in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The four-day festival will have more than 75+ discussions, conversations, and explorations from provocative speakers such as NPR radio host Krista Tippett*, best-selling evangelical author Philip Yancey, civil rights pioneer Vincent Harding, popular mommy blogger Glennon Melton (Momastery.com), Catholic priest and author James Alison, progressive Muslim leader Ani Zonneveld, “Moral Mondays” organizer Rev. William Barber, and others. (*Tippett will be recording live interviews for *On Being* at the festival with other featured speakers, such as emergent church author and activist Brian McLaren and Lutheran pastrix Nadia Bolz-Weber.)

Musical guests at this year’s festival include Indigo Girls, Speech (from Arrested Development), Phil Madeira, Run River North, Ric Hordinski, Aimee Wilson, Adam Crossley, Eugene IV, The Violet Burning, The Lost Dogs, Stuart Davis, David Mansfield, Melissa Greene, Christa Wells, and Micah’s Rule, the Wilmington, NC-based Gospel group selected by *The Advocate* magazine as one of 2013’s “Top Reasons to Have Pride.” In addition to the main stage, The Space, The Chapel, and the Darkwood Brew Performance Cafe serve as venues for music and talks during the festival. There is also an open mic stage where festival goers will be able to deliver their own contributions.

This year, the festival offers two venues dedicated to the visual arts: The Imaginarium, a 10'x20' micro-gallery, and the Art & Soul Cafe, where participants can enjoy an open art bar serving art supplies and sessions on creating prayer beads, full-body singing, movement, writing, and a communal art project that will culminate at the festival's closing ceremony.

Since the first Wild Goose Festival in June 2011 (held at Shakori Hills in Pittsboro, NC), more than 5,000 people have attended three Wild Goose events. The festival takes inspiration from many places, such as Greenbelt (UK), Burning Man, the Iona Community, SXSW, TED, and others. The festival is open to everyone, aims to be a space where people of all ages can become a temporary community, and invites respectful but fearless conversation and action for the common good.

Wild Goose Festival Director Gareth Higgins elaborates, "At Wild Goose this year, you're likely to find yourself talking theology under a tree with a *New York Times* best-selling author, or re-imagining the unfinished business of the new civil rights movement with someone who helped lead the first one. You'll be dancing the night away to impassioned folk singers and joyous dance DJs or lifting your sights to a better vision of your own life by interacting with a spiritual director. You can engage with tomato-pickers from Florida seeking just working conditions for their colleagues, hear and honor the stories of the Native people on whose land the festival takes place. You'll hear the voices of historically marginalized people more often than usual, experience anti-racism, non-violence, and ecological sustainability workshops before swimming in the river right beside the festival site."

Brian McLaren says, "Hundreds if not thousands of great events happen in the Christian community across North America every year. But nobody brings together a wider and *wilder* spectrum of people to engage with spirituality, art, and justice than Wild Goose."

The festival is family-friendly and rich with programs for youth and children from birth through 17. Kids 5 and under are free. Full festival passes are currently on sale for \$199. Day passes for Thursday and Sunday are offered at the low price of \$29 with day passes for Friday and Saturday going for \$69. It's just \$20 per car to park for the weekend or \$10 per day. Tent camping is \$20 per tent.

Info/tickets: www.wildgoosefestival.org

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