



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

I have written in this column before that, ordinarily, this is by far my favorite time of year. Outside, fall continues to dazzle like a living tapestry. Pumpkins and apples fill the fruit and vegetable stands, and shorts and t-shirts have long since given way to jeans and sweatshirts.

Inside, we trade iced tea for hot cider, and light blankets are folded up and stored, replaced by down comforters. It's a season both cold and crisp, and warm and fuzzy, and I love it.

Ordinarily. But this is not an ordinary year. Yes, the leaves continue to dazzle but the temperature still feels more like early September than early November. I find myself wearing shorts and t-shirts on the weekends. I'm still drinking more iced drinks than hot drinks, and in our household our sweaters and heavy blankets remain snugly tucked away in storage.

But of course this is not an ordinary year in another way too. There's the tiny little matter of Election Day, and the fate that awaits us all when the results are finally tallied.

I think you would have to go back to the mid-60s to find a time when America was more divided, or more tense, than it is now. Given the vast differences between the two candidates – differences of temperament, experience and perspective – about the only point of common ground between the candidates' supporters is the anxiety and fear we all feel about the prospect of a win by the nominee of the opposing party.

It's at times like these (not that we've ever been in a time exactly like this!) that I must consciously remember to practice one of the simplest and most pervasive commands we find in scripture: *Fear not*.

Fear not. There's a reason that this was the continuing message of the angels, because in a world like ours there always has been and there always will be cause to fear, and like a grizzly bear, fear will dominate us and ultimately consume us if we let it.

Fear not. There's a reason we have to be repeatedly instructed to resist our fears, not just because fear is powerful but because it's instinctive when we sense danger. And, yes, it feels to many of us like we are living through a dangerous chapter in our country's history.

Fear not. It's a pervasive command, but it's not easy to obey. The good news is that if you are feeling fearful, you don't have to resist your fears by yourself.

Every time you walk through the doors of our sanctuary, you are joining a body of believers, a gathering of disciples, who seek to follow the counsel of the angels by choosing faith over fear, a community that finds its identity in an alternative narrative to the one playing out on our TV and computer screens and in the daily paper—a narrative filled with stories of God's faithfulness over time, in which hope repeatedly triumphs over fear. (Continued on page 7)



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Neil Satterfield; Barbara Robinson; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092,
 Church Website=www.warrenwilsonchurch.org
 Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-209 e-mail= deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu
 Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 771-2095 e-mail= srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu
 Associate in Ministry; Rev. Beth Newman 231-2588 e-mail= bnewman3668@gmail.com
 Music Director, Organist; Vivian Hare e-mail= vhare03@gmail.com
 Treasurers; Bob Gambrell 357-5064 e-mail= gambrell4@charter.net
 Ray Stock 298-0955 e-mail= stoc5054@bellsouth.net
 Assistant Treasurer; Alisa White 2986778 e-mail= aliswht@yahoo.com
 Book Keeper; Nan Woodard e-mail= nan.woodard@yahoo.com

November Birthdays!

Kay Stockdale,	Nov. 3	Bob Cook,	Nov. 12
Tom Eller,	Nov. 12	Barbara Higgins,	Nov. 13
Susan Daugherty,	Nov. 16	Roberta Martin,	Nov. 23
Ernst Laursen,	Nov. 24	Sally Broughton,	Nov. 26
Pat Laursen,	Nov. 27	Kathy Rouse,	Nov. 27
Steve Runholt,	Nov. 29		



THE BACK PORCH SESSIONS Because community can be hard to find. Because who doesn't like live music and great stories? Because there are lots of different ways to do church. The Back Porch Sessions is a joint offering of the Spiritual Life department of WWC and Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. Join us Sunday night, November 6, at 7:00 on the porch (or inside if it's cold) of Ransom Fellowship Hall for an evening of roots music and storytelling, followed by communion served in a Mason jar and on a wooden plate; just like on your back porch.



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thurs. Nov. 10th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Helen Bell will lead the discussion of "No, I Don't Want to Join a Book Club" by Virginia Ironsides. After several months of reading serious books, we chose to lighten the mood with a humorous book!! Bring your own sandwich and snacks will be provided. Come join the fellowship.

NOVEMBER JFF Our Just For Fun in November will be held at Highland Farms, in the Assembly Room, on Wednesday, November 9th from 5-7.. Join us for a time of fellowship and a fun sing along, and decompress from all the election madness. Highland Farm folk, feel free to invite your friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to make a dinner reservation.

Do you have an extra car that needs to find a new home? Imagine how difficult your life would be without a car! Wheels4Hope collects donated cars, repairs them, and recycles them back into the local community for families in need. We also need volunteers, especially those with mechanic skills. To donate or volunteer, please call (828) 633-6888. www.wheels4hope.org/Asheville



The Veterans Restoration Quarters has been the destination of 4-6 volunteers from WWPC for many years. It all started with Tom and Evie Moore who joined the kitchen staff to provide and serve lunch for the veterans who live at the Headquarters. They also brought fresh fruit to spice up the dessert for the vets. WWPC has provided volunteers the 4th Friday of every month to continue Tom and Evie's generous gestures of love and caring. It is truly a moment of gratitude both for the volunteers and the veterans.

(Submitted by Kathy Rouse)

2015 was a good year financially for WWPC



This summary report on the 2015 financial experience of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church has been delayed for several reasons. Our new bookkeeper came onboard in October of 2015 and Bob Gambrell became the disbursement treasurer in January of 2016. It has taken time for both of us to learn how to do our jobs efficiently. There were a few corrections for 2014 and 2015 that needed to be made in our books though these corrections turned out to be relatively minor.

Actual pledged income (\$168,095) exceeded budgeted pledged income (\$165,000). Regular unpledged income (\$20,555) was only about 80.5% of budgeted (\$25,540), and loose plate offering income (\$6,097) was just over the budgeted amount. Our covenant with the College is resulting in a decreased college contribution over a 5-year period. To balance the budget, income included an anticipated need to transfer \$24,600 from the Memorial fund. The actual transferred amount needed for 2015 was very near \$19,000.

In future years, the Budget and Finance Committee recognizes the necessity of reducing and eventually eliminating annual transfers from the Memorial Fund to achieve a sustainable operating budget.

In summarizing staff expenses, expenditures for the total package for our minister and administrator were very near budgeted amounts, and substantially less than budgeted for our parish associate due to her request in 2015 to reduce her hours in the summer months to spend more time with family.

Funding denominational and other mission programs and local benevolence giving are important to our church. In 2015, \$6,500 was given to the PCUSA general mission program, and an additional \$8,060 was donated to other mission programs and local benevolence programs with line items in our budget. In addition, more than \$10,300 was donated for non-budgeted special offerings such as Souper Bowl, One Great Hour of Sharing, 5 Cents a Meal, Peacemaking, Bowls for the Soul, Pentecost, Habitat, SVCM, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Bob Gambrell, Disbursement Treasurer

Ray Stock, Income Treasurer, Alisa White, Assistant Treasurer, Nan Woodard, Bookkeeper

DEDICATION SUNDAY: Sunday, November 13, marks the culmination of our **Season of Gratitude and Celebration**. During worship we will dedicate our 2017 pledge and commitment forms. If you wish to return your forms before then, you can deposit them in the offering plate or in the box in the Narthex each Sunday. They can also be mailed or left in the office in a sealed envelope marked pledge/commitment form. Thank you for the support you are able to give to our ministries!



In celebration of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 12th-20th), Warren Wilson College will hold its 18th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Wednesday, **November 16th, 2016 at 6:00pm** in Ransom Upper Fellowship Hall.

The event raises awareness about hunger and food security issues in the Asheville and Buncombe County community. Participants will eat a simple meal of bread and soup served in handmade bowls and, at the end of the evening, take the bowls home as a reminder of the work we can do together to end hunger in our communities. Students from the Bonner Leaders Crew organize this event in collaboration with local agencies in order to ensure that the evening is educational and meaningful for all participants. This year's Empty Bowls benefits the Shiloh Community Association and their community garden.

Cost of the event is \$20 for WWC employees/general public and \$15 for students. Individuals can also purchase tickets to sponsor student attendees.

Students will be selling tickets for this event in the Narthex following church on October 30, and November 6.

For more information, visit the Center for Community Engagement (formerly Service Program Office) or contact 828-771-3774.

Introducing CHURCH BUDDIES!

Church Buddies is an upcoming opportunity for adults to be paired individually with children in the church in an ongoing friendship. This connection could be a very simple one, but could grow into a very important one. Perhaps it might include sending birthday wishes in the mail to the child, sitting near your church buddy at a fellowship event, adding them to your prayer list or asking them about how school is going. Children will be encouraged to reciprocate the love back by sharing cards, artwork or treasures with their adult buddy. As our church buddies grow up, this connection could prove to be very enriching on many levels! If you are interested in this idea, please see Sandy Brauer or Kristin Williams. If need be, adult "Buddies" might partner together to be matched with one child. We hope to start *Church Buddies* in the beginning of the New Year. Help us lift it off the ground!





THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Have you ever wondered
how our church's Thanksgiving tradition began?

"All is safely gathered in, now let the winter storms begin"
words to a familiar Hymn has set the tone for 83 years the
Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Bernhard Laursen, a Dane who had immigrated to Boston and
became a citizen, came to teach and work at Asheville Farm
School in 1931. He began the tradition of "gathering in" for the
Church's Thanksgiving service in 1933. At that time, the
school was holding its church services in the parlor of

Sunderland, the men's dormitory. He brought in a shock of corn, several grains, potatoes,
apples, and other produce grown on the farm as a display for the service, the Sunday before
Thanksgiving.

As the farm manager, he felt that sharing the visual aspect of the harvest would add to the air
of thanksgiving. He continued the tradition until his retirement in 1956 and his son Ernst
became the farm manager.

Ernst continued the tradition until his retirement in 1996. The students on the farm crew were
always involved in the "gathering in from the fields", the gathering of animals and the creation
of the display each year.

Beginning in the 1940's the Churches of the Swannanoa Valley met together in the decorated
chapel for services Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving with the different churches taking
part in the service. This practice continued until the mid 1960's.

This year, we continue to "gather in" on **November 20 at our 11:00** service of worship. We
would ask all who would like to bring items to place at the front of the church during the
offertory, to bring canned goods that will be distributed to the Swannanoa Valley Christian
Ministry.

Join us for this special gathering in the sanctuary, and make sure to thank the student crews
for all their hard work!

College Choir Concert

The Warren Wilson College Choir (36-voice ensemble with students, faculty, staff, administrators,
alumni and community members) led by Dr. Steven Williams, will present its Fall Concert with Choral
works featuring a medley of songs from the Broadway/Movie hit Musical "Les Misérables"

November 20, 2:00 pm in the Chapel (Free)



To Members of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church:

Thank you so much for your recent gift to Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families. On behalf of the children, staff, and Board of Directors, I offer you our heartfelt appreciation for helping us make a positive difference in the lives of the children entrusted to us.

- Our youth are beginning a new school year, striving to top their campus-wide GPA of 3.10 last year.
- November 9 – 10 am – **Open House** – Come learn about our ministry and take a guided tour of campus. Refreshments will be served.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity are sincerely appreciated-you are an important partner in our ministry as we strive to glorify God by caring for children and families.

For our children,

Tom Campbell

Tom Campbell

Top 10 needs:

1. Furniture – new or VERY gently used furniture.
2. Welcome Baskets – totes with sheets, towels, toiletries, a bible, and a toy for new youth
3. Shower curtains – for youth bathrooms
4. Seasonal decorations – new or gently used decorations to make our campus festive for the kids
5. Heavy – duty leaf blowers and weed eaters – new or VERY gently used
6. Porch furniture – sturdy outdoor furniture for relaxing as a family
7. Items for youth rooms – trash cans and bathroom rugs
8. Hay – square bales to feed the animals this winter
9. Duffel and sleeping bags – for retreats and overnight trips
10. Good used vehicles – for youth entering the Independent Living Program

(Please contact Social Outreach if you have items that may be used for teen rooms or items on the list above)

(Submitted by Pat Crumpler)



This year's **Trunk-or-Treat** was a huge success. We had a tremendous response from the community; families from Swannanoa, The Verner Center, and the Warren Wilson Campus came to trick or treat with us. A special and heartfelt thanks to all who participated and came dressed up. We'll look forward to hosting this event next year.

Steve's Slant continued...

Also, singing helps. As does prayer. As we make our way through this Season of Gratitude and Celebration, it also helps to remember that we all have much to be thankful for and many blessings to celebrate, and this will remain just as true after November 8th as before.

So on Sunday, November 13th, we will make official our intention to heed the call of the angels. We will bring our pledges and commitments and offer them in worship. And regardless of what happens next Tuesday, we will remain committed to meeting fear with faith, to waging hope in the face of uncertainty, and to engaging in the ongoing, holy work we are called to do as Christ's followers, to work for the healing of the world.



Would you like to have Christmas decorations which support a good cause? Delta Kappa Gamma, a society of women educators, is selling high quality, fresh, locally made wreaths, and all the proceeds support our scholarship fund for teachers. Three sizes are available: 12 inches (\$12), 22 inches (\$20), and 28 inches (\$25). They will be freshly available at the church on Dec. 4. Please see Vicki Collins (298-4131).



At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole-and everything in between. Together, we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring, and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
CPO 6355/PO Box 9000
Asheville, NC 28815-9000
01-0001-1320

The Extended Family