



# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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## *Steve's Slant...*

Last fall we launched our “Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow” campaign, with the twin goals of building a strong foundation for the present and laying the groundwork for a bright hopeful future for our congregation.

Since day one of this joint campaign, I have been astonished by the burst of time, talent, energy and generosity our members have invested in rising to meet these goals.

On the *Strength for Today* side we completed a successful stewardship season last fall, and you responded generously to our challenge budget for 2016, for which we are deeply grateful.

On the *Bright Hope for Tomorrow* side, we have already completed a substantial amount of the groundwork necessary to support and inform our forward planning process. Last fall we completed our full slate of listening sessions. A synthesizing team then distilled that data into a list of thirteen core ideas that might serve to strengthen our church for the future.

We then held two congregational feedback sessions – one in December, one in January – in which we invited attendees to rank these ideas in order of priority to them. (For a more detailed report of this process, including the members of the synthesizing team and the results of this ranking process, please see page 6.)

To date, some sixty percent of our active members have participated in the forward planning process. By any measure, that is an extraordinarily high level of congregational participation. So, again, we are deeply grateful for your willingness to support and invest so generously in the work of preparing for our future.

Now, having reached roughly the halfway point in this process, I also want to update you on where we stand as of this moment. I will then outline the proposed timeline for work that still remains to be done as we move toward our ultimate goal of producing a comprehensive ministry plan.

On the first weekend in February, Session gathered for an overnight retreat at William Black Lodge in Montreat. We brought to this time a shared commitment to centering our work in prayer and theological reflection.

With all the data we have collected to date in hand, we focused on identifying our congregational norms and we began work on new mission and values statements. We were joined in this work by members of the forward planning leadership team, along with several committee chairs and four at-large members of the congregation, each of whom expressed interest in helping us refine the church’s mission. Marylyn Huff, a well known, highly respected church leadership and development specialist, served as our facilitator.

Working in small groups, we produced four separate drafts of a possible mission statement. It’s worth noting that all four statements were strikingly similar, a clear sign that we were all hearing the same thing as we worked to discern, prayerfully, the mission of our congregation – who God is calling us to be, what God is calling us to do – as we move into our future.

(Continued on page 8)

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The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thursday March 10th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Anne Dale will lead the discussion of "God's Hotel" by Victoria Sweet. The author is a medical doctor who focuses on understanding and relating to the individual patient as well as diagnosing their medical problem. To help the healing process she read the Medieval medical manuscripts of Hildegard of Bingen , written during the 12th Century. Bring a sandwich and come join our discussions.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

**NEW FACES IN CHURCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.**

At the end of December, 2015 Tom Eller stepped down as Church Treasurer having replaced Bill Corbin as Disbursing Treasurer earlier in the year. We owe both of them our deep gratitude for the time and knowledge they have freely given to the church as they have overseen our finances during times of great change. As an indication of the increasing complexity of the world in which we live, what used to be taken care of by one and then two individuals will now be handled by four people. **Bob Gambrell**, a relatively new member of the church has agreed to be Disbursement Treasurer responsible for overseeing church finances and the disbursement of funds. He will also serve as church corporation treasurer. **Ray Stock** will continue as Receiving Treasurer, keeping up with all donations to the church. **Nan Woodard**, who started last October, is contract bookkeeper working about 20 hours a month taking care of day-to-day management of our finances. **Alisa White**, Assistant Treasurer volunteers to record and deposit donations every Sunday with help from John Laney and Mike Levi. When you have a chance, please thank all of these individuals for the behind the scene work they do that is essential to the successful operation of our ministries.

The Nursery Brigade Leaflets for the Spring Quarter are now available. The stories are meaningful and relevant for our children to hear as they begin their Christian journey. Walk with the children to the Nursery after the Children's Sermon, read the story to them and then return to the sanctuary for worship. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex under the red sign that says "Nursery Brigade." Be a part of the lives of our children as they journey toward becoming responsible adults that reflect our Christian values.



**JUST FOR FUN      Wednesday, March 9 at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

We will be joined by Vicki Meath, the executive director of Just Economics, a local agency whose mission is to educate, advocate, and organize for a just and sustainable economy that works for all in Western North Carolina. She will be leading us in a program that explores the impact of wage inequality. The meal will begin at 5:00 (\$6 at the door) and the program will follow.

Bowls for the Soul will be Sunday, **March 13 right after church.** If you are interested in bringing a pot of soup, please sign up in the narthex so we will be sure we have enough soup. Bread is also welcome. Thanks! (See photos on page 4)



**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Tom Moore; Neil Satterfield; Bob Keener; Shirley Raines, staff at SVCM; Barbara Robinson, Jack Ballard's mother; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

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### Letter to the Congregation

First, I would like to thank Session, the Rev. Runholt, and the congregation for the gift of a delicious dinner at Posana Restaurant in Asheville. Sarah Anne and I enjoyed it greatly along with other friends. Most of all I would like to thank the congregation for its trust in me as treasurer and bookkeeper for so many years.

I began my service as treasurer in 1987, succeeding Larry Smith who had resigned due to health reasons. For someone who had no background in bookkeeping, I had a steep learning curve; but with Larry's help I was able to struggle along, apparently adequately. Books were kept by hand in those days, although in the early '90s I devised a method to keep the books using a spreadsheet.

I have many people to thank who have helped me along the way: Sally Broughton, George Spencer, and Ray Stock served as associate treasurers; Gay Fox took over for a year and Ray Stock for several years in the late '90s to give me a rest. I took back over in 2001 and computerized the bookkeeping process using PowerChurch software. In 2008 Bill Corbin, CPA, took over the job of treasurer and accountant and did a professional job. I continued as receiving treasurer. Bill resigned at the end of 2014, and I agreed to take over the job for one more year. The job became too much for me and I resigned for good at the end of July, 2015. Ray Stock took over as receiving treasurer and Alisa White as assistant treasurer. And at this time we are fortunate to have Bob Gambrell as treasurer and Nan Woodard as contracted accountant.

So there you have a short history of treasurers since 1987. Thus, while I appreciate the acknowledgment of my work, it clearly wasn't mine alone. My service as treasurer is my gift to the church just as many of you have given your service (which, in many cases, far surpasses what I have done).

On another note, some of you will note my absence from services this coming year, and I want to take this opportunity to squelch rumors that may arise. No, I am not absent because, as a choir member, Steve Williams is leaving at the end of May (although all of us will certainly miss his masterful musical offerings). No, I am not leaving because of the pastor or some member of the church with whom I have had a falling out—how on earth could I have bad feelings towards anyone at WWPC: you're all saints in my sight! I simply need a rest and time to contemplate where my spiritual journey is leading. I hope it's leading me back to be in your midst again in a year's time.

Once again thanks for your confidence and for being my family. I will follow your enthusiastic move into "bright hope for tomorrow"!

Very sincerely,

Tom Eller

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### **Faith Trade Coffee Orders**

It's that time again! Faith Trade orders will be accepted Sunday March 6 and March 13. Order pick up will be on March 20. Please remember that payment is due with order.

Thanks, Anne Dale.

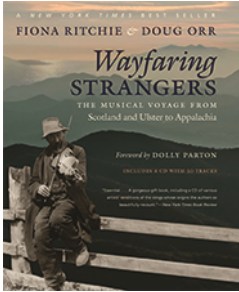


Making Bowls in Black Mountain for our **Bowls for the Soul** event...



Bowls for the Soul will be Sunday, **March 13 right after church**. If you are interested in bringing a pot of soup, please sign up in the narthex so we will be sure we have enough soup. Bread is also welcome. Thanks!





"Wayfaring Strangers," *The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia* Doug Orr and Fiona Ritchie's look at the roots of Appalachian music in Scotland and Ulster, has been named the winner of the 60th annual Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award. The panel of judges said, "The Panel applauds the ambition and scholarship of the authors and the publisher. The work is thoroughly researched, beautifully written, exceptionally well designed and illustrated, and as an appropriate coda, includes a wonderful illustrative CD of the music it honors." (ACT November 30, 2015) Darcy Orr researched and compiled all illustrations in this award winning New York Times best seller.

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## **The 45 Voice Grove City College Touring Choir to Perform Here on Monday Evening, March 21**

Making its 57<sup>th</sup> annual spring tour, the touring choir from Grove City College will perform a free, 90-minute concert in the Chapel on Monday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Located in northwest Pennsylvania, Grove City is a Christian liberal arts college with 2,500 students. WWPC members Barbara and Larry Griswold are alumni.

The choir, which seeks to praise and glorify God and minister to others through music, is directed by Assistant Professor of Music, Dr. Katherine Mueller. Previously she was music director of the 90 voice Pittsburgh Concert Chorale for five seasons.

On this tour, the choir will perform both sacred and secular music, some of which embodies Easter themes. After reviewing the program, WWPC Organist and Choirmaster, Dr. Steven Williams, called it "a terrific program of beautiful music," adding "the selections are some of my favorites and I'm looking forward to it."

Church members are needed to house small groups of students on the night of March 21 and provide breakfast for them the following morning. Also, the students will need transportation to and from the church. If you can help, or have questions, please contact Sandee Butterworth at 828-702-1407.

The concert is open to all who would like to see it. The Grove City Touring Choir last performed in this area to a full house at Beverly Hills Baptist Church in 2012.



The Grove City (PA) College Touring Choir



Touring Choir Director Dr. Katherine Mueller



A small Synthesizing Team (Mike Levi, Jamie Dale, Derron Daugherty, Tom Eller and Kay Stockdale) used the results of the listening sessions held with the congregation last fall and developed a list of 13 ideas that would strengthen the church for the future. Members of the congregation were then invited to attend one of 2 meetings held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to rank the ideas in priority order. Members unable to attend those meetings were mailed a copy and invited to respond. A total of 66 ranking sheets were completed and returned. Number one (top) ranked choices were assigned 13 points, number 2 12 points, down to number 13 (bottom ranked) 1 point. The following table shows the points scored for each idea, the number of people who ranked each idea number 1, in their top 3 choices and in their bottom 3 choices.

**SUMMARY OF RANKINGS FOR CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN WWPC**

	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Times Ranked 1</b>	<b>Times Ranked 1-3</b>	<b>Times Ranked 10-13</b>
Develop a plan to attract and welcome new members	666	19	37	3
Grow children and youth programs	626	8	32	5
Improve care of members	538	6	20	3
Expand social justice and advocacy work	514	7	23	13
Interact with community outside church	498	2	13	7
Expand publicity/outside communication	468	2	13	6
Seek more clarity on our church’s mission and priorities	439	10	19	25
Involve more members in church activities	429	1	10	14
Interact more with the college	397	2	9	18
Enhance internal organization	377	3	9	27
Improve internal communications	376	2	6	19
Host more outside events at church	361	3	7	30
Improve use of technology (social media and website)	348	1	4	24

These results will be used by the Leadership Team and Session to help them develop a series of goals and objectives that will make up a Ministry Plan to be used to guide church programs over the next 3 years.

(Submitted by Mike Levi)



**Habitat for Humanity International Vice President Calls  
Asheville Chapter “Something Very Special”**

Speaking at a dedication event on Feb. 18 for four new Habitat homes in West Asheville, Habitat International Vice President of Operations, Sue Henderson, visiting from headquarters in Georgia, told the audience, “You have something very special here. Year in and year out you are one of our strongest producers.”

Henderson stated that the Asheville chapter, which has now built 283 houses, and served more than 40 families last year with a new house or home repairs, is one of 1,408 affiliates in the U.S. and Canada. She commented that Habitat’s first partners were church partners, and that the building of interfaith houses, which she said is now a “hot trend,” started in Asheville 18 years ago.

The new homes dedicated at this event with a ceremonial key passing to the owners and litany of dedication included:

- Presbyterian/Methodist House # 24 (The Martinez family)
- Thrivent Builds Worldwide/Bank of America-Merrill Lynch House # 7 (Annie Allen)
- Episcopal House # XI (The Drake family)
- Interfaith House # 17 (The Ender Family)

Construction of Presbyterian/Methodist house # 25 is tentatively set to begin at the end of August in Asheville’s Shiloh section.



Catalina Martinez, and her son, Raul, who visited our church last September are now residents of Presbyterian/Methodist House # 24. Catalina closed on the house on Feb. 18, and then received the keys from attorney Marc Rudow a few hours later at Habitat’s dedication event for four new houses here.



Habitat for Humanity International Vice President Sue Henderson speaking at the dedication of our new homes in Asheville.

(Submitted by Larry Griswold)



Jack Allison has been awarded North Carolina’s highest civilian honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Jack received the award on February 13 at a meeting of “The Geezers,” an informal Black Mountain breakfast group. Jack was recognized for decades of work in emergency medicine. He founded the department of emergency medicine at Brody School of Medicine at Eastern Carolina, and his impact on emergency medicine has been world -wide. Jack was nominated by fellow Warren Wilson College alumnus Danny Starnes, who also nominated Billy Edd Wheeler for the award.

(Submitted by Corise Gambrell)

Session then commissioned a small writing team (Sally Broughton, Derron Daugherty, Georgena Miller, Pat Levi, Kathy Rouse and myself) to refine those four separate drafts into a penultimate version for review by Session.

That, then, is where we stand as of this moment. What follows below is the prospective timeline for the work that remains to be done. Each of these pieces is intended to support and inform our ultimate goal of producing a ministry plan, which will guide us in our life as a congregation as we live into our future.

March:

- Complete work on new mission statement for presentation to Session, and continue work on values statement
- Start work on new vision statement
- Distribute commitment forms from congregational feedback sessions to committee chairs for direct follow up with individual members.

April and May

- Present drafts of mission, vision and values statements to the congregation
- Solicit input from congregation on ministry plan goals and objectives

June, July, August

- Develop, review and refine ministry plan, including criteria for success, timelines for implementation, and specific recommendations and responsibilities for the congregation, committees, Session and staff.

September

- Introduce to congregation proposed new three-year ministry plan.

I want you all to know that Session and the forward planning leadership team have been acutely mindful, as we've done this work, that we are facing a significant transition in the life of our congregation. Steve Williams' departure at the end of this academic year is hard news indeed, and we are still processing what it means for us.

The good news is that we have assembled another remarkably strong team to guide us through this transition, and I'd like to introduce them to you here. Alicia White and Joyce Ackerman will represent the choir. (Joyce also brings to the team her experience as a HR specialist.) Ned Guardenier serves on our Personnel Committee and is our Session representative. Betty Siviter will serve as an at-large member. Corise Gambrell, a member of our worship committee, will convene the team. I will serve as an *ex officio* member.

The team met for the first time on February 17<sup>th</sup>. We were joined by Steve Williams, who graciously provided us with his thoughts and perspective on what we need to do to prepare for this transition, both in the short- and longer-term. A report of the committee's agreed upon next steps, including Steve's recommendations, can be found on the following page.

This is a substantial amount of information to process, and I thank you for giving it your time and attention. Moving forward, our plan is to reserve space in the newsletter on a monthly basis to provide shorter summaries of both these processes – forward planning and music ministry transition – to help keep you fully informed.

In the meantime, please continue to hold Session, the forward planning leadership team and the music ministry transition team in your prayers. And please know how grateful we are for your patience and support as we continue to discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do as we move into our future.



## American Guild of Organists sponsors Steven Williams Organ Recital in Chapel

On February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel, 250 people were transformed by the incredibly skilled hands (and feet) of Steven Williams as he performed pieces by J. S. Bach and Max Reger. Members of the organist guild were impressed with Steven's ability to perform the difficult arrangements as one commented, "You don't often hear these Max Reger pieces performed because of the level of difficulty involved."



Following a standing ovation, Steven played one additional piece by Max Reger entitled, *Benedictus*. A reception in Fellowship Hall was hosted by the church after the recital.

### On another musical note: An update from the Music Ministry Transition Team

In June, 2016 Steve Williams will end his 35 years of service to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church as Director of Music and organist when he takes on more responsibilities at Warren Wilson College.

For the congregation, this is a time of mourning as everyone reflects on the loss of Steve's gifts of talents and service, but it is also important to join in thanksgiving for his service to the church. A small group was asked to plan celebrations of Steve's service and a time of transition.

On February 28, Betty Siviter coordinated a wonderful reception after Steve's American Guild of Organists concert in the Chapel. Of course, Steve will continue to play AGO concerts, but we wanted this concert and reception to show, especially, just how much the church values his talents.

Steve's last Sunday to play for worship will be June 5, and he has asked that this service be a "normal" service. However, he is open to an event after worship, and we are beginning to plan a luncheon and celebration after the service. There will be more information on that event – and other ways to honor Steve's service – at a later date.

When Steve met with the celebration/transition team, he very graciously offered a number of comments helpful to that group. Steve said that he knew any time of transition was an opportunity for evaluation, suggestions, and new possibilities. He urged us to move forward in using the ideas we have gathered during the Forward Planning process, and to gather thoughts from the congregation with further survey tools.

The transition team will consider making that recommendation to the Session. Steve provided us with a list of six Asheville area organists who may be available to join us for worship during the summer months. He also said that he knew it may be advisable to at least start the process of looking for a new Director of Music during the next months, and he gave us his blessing for that process.

The celebration/transition group will meet again in early March, at which time we want to make further plans for celebrating Steve Williams' gifts of talent and service to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. With his blessing and suggestions, we will start planning the time ahead. We look forward to sharing those plans with you.

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The final score for the **2016 Souper Bowl of Caring** offering was **\$831.00** in monetary donations and 78 food items. All donations were directed to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, the "neighborhood" organization to address hunger in our valley. Thanks for your response to this once-a-year effort and for supporting our youth who participate in this project.



Palm Sunday Service: March 20, 10:55 in front of Chapel

Maundy Thursday Service: March 24, 7:00pm in Chapel

Easter Sunday: March 27, Easter breakfast, 9:30 Fellowship Hall

Easter egg Hunt, 10:15 on the grounds

Easter Service, 11:00 Chapel

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. We  
are the many faces of  
humanity-yet as a  
community of faith, we  
are committed in our  
diversity to be one in  
Christ!

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*The Extended Family*