



# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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## *Steve's Slant...*

What comes after Easter?

Regular readers of this column will not be surprised to know, or perhaps you already know, that as with the story of Easter itself, all four Gospel writers offer slightly different, and in some cases very different, answers to that question.

In fact, Mark, the first Gospel to be written, does not comment on that question at all. His version of the first Easter famously ends without any mention or glimpse of the risen Christ. Instead he leaves us with a group of devout women, so seized by terror and amazement at the news that Jesus has been raised (perhaps because it was given to them by an angelic figure) that they said nothing to anyone. The end.

After Mark, Matthew offers us the shortest version of the events that immediately followed that first Easter morning. He begins with a story of a conspiracy – how secular officials worked to spread a rumor that Jesus' body had been stolen from the tomb by paid mercenaries. He then closes his Gospel with a scene in which a newly resurrected Jesus gives to his disciples the so-called Great Commission, the famous command to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

The scene is noteworthy for several reasons but chiefly for this: the risen Christ is standing right in front of the final gathering of disciples, yet some continue to doubt the reality of his presence. And for this: their doubt does not stop him from inviting even the uncertain ones to participate in his great love-based insurgency.

Luke gives us my favorite account of what those first post-Easter days were like. It's also the longest version. It includes two meals, the first in the village of Emmaus, with strangers who finally recognize Jesus when he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. And then vanishes.

Later he somehow appears in the middle of a locked room and promptly shows the disciples his wounded hands and feet, his pierced side. The text gives us a tangible sense of how extraordinary this occasion was, how hard it was for the disciples to process this experience. As Luke puts it: "While in their joy there were disbelieving and still wondering..." I should think so!

Apparently Jesus is hungry as he asks for a bite to eat. He then gives the disciples a slightly different, and slightly longer, version of the same commission we find in Matthew. And then, finally, he leads them outside, blesses them one last time, and takes his leave from them, ascending out of sight.

John's version is perhaps the most vivid. Jesus first appears to a room full of disciples who are cowering in fear. Later, he appears on a beach after the disciples have spent a fruitless night fishing. He instructs them to cast their nets on the other side, and the haul is so great it threatens to break their nets. He then shares breakfast with them and charges Peter to "Feed my sheep."

(Continued on page 5)



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### **PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

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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The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 14th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sandwich... drinks and snacks are provided. Sue Wilson will be leading a discussion of "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. It is a beautifully written book that chronicles the lives of a blind French girl and a young German boy as they struggle to lead their lives amid World War 11.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

**JUST FOR FUN**

Join us for our next Just For Fun on Wednesday, April 13th. Doug Bradley who works with Facilities Management on campus will be joining us with some of the students who traveled with him to War, West Virginia last Christmas to deliver the packages we helped to wrap for the children there. Doug will share with us about this program and the students will talk about their experiences. Dinner starts at 5:00 and the program starts at 6:00. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

**Bowls For The Soul  
A great event!**



April Birthdays:

Molly Hamilton, April 10. Happy Birthday Molly!

## **AN EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC BY THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE TOURING CHOIR**

Alumni from Grove City College, WWPC members, students from Asheville Christian Academy, and others all enjoyed an evening of beautiful choral music in our sanctuary when the Grove City College Touring Choir performed there on March 21. On its 57th annual spring tour, the 44 voice choir sang at churches in Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland before returning to Western Pennsylvania.

Under the direction of Dr. Katherine E. Mueller, the students sang eight pieces before an intermission, and a smaller group of chamber singers performed two numbers during the break. When the concert resumed, the choir members circled the sanctuary in the outside aisles, just as we do at the end of our Christmas Eve service, and sang a moving version of Shenandoah. Then they returned to their places in the front of the sanctuary for seven more pieces, ending the evening with God Be in My Head.

WWPC members and Grove City College alumni Barbara and Larry Griswold arranged for the performance after being notified last fall that the Touring Choir would like to return to the Asheville area where it has last performed in 2012. Barbara and Larry would like to thank the following people for their help:

For assembling the lunches the students took with them when they left on March 22 - Susan Daugherty, Ned Guardenier, and Kathe Mosher.

For helping serve the choir and staff a preconcert dinner - Sally Broughton, Sandee Butterworth, Anne Dale, Bill and Diana Sanderson, and Jerry Vaneman, with an extra thank you to Bill Sanderson for his cleanup efforts after the meal.

For hosting anywhere from two to seven students in their home after the concert - Sally Broughton and Toby Ives, Anne and Jamie Dale, Corise and Bob Gambrell, Babs and Ned Guardenier, Pat and Ernst Laursen, Kathy Rouse, Robyn and Steve Runholt, Jerry Vaneman, as well as Andrew Belz of Asheville Christian Academy, and Jane and Dan Vann, neighbors of the Griswolds. Sandee Butterworth helped by finding many of the hosts.

For their help in a variety of ways - Donna Eagle Joslin, Steve Runholt and Steve Williams.



## Who Am I?

Last fall Beth Newman offered us a message in worship that called on us to reflect:

Are we living in fear or relying on the abundant love of Christ such that compassion triumphs over fear in our lives. You might remember it as “the one in which Beth talked about the Enneagram,” as I’ve heard several of you comment.

This winter our staff and some lay leaders spent time with Enneagram facilitator, Sandra Smith to learn how we can best understand and communicate with each other, taking into account our individual challenges, strengths and motivations. I asked Sandra to write a brief description about the Enneagram for those who may be interested. I’ve worked with Sandra on several occasions in other settings, and I not only agree with her opening paragraph (below) I totally take it to heart. Here's how she offered to briefly describe the Enneagram:



“Who am I?” is a foundational theological question and deepening self-awareness is key for honest, authentic relationship with self, other and the Holy. Waking up and becoming available to ourselves and to the Holy requires that we recognize the compulsions, patterns and internal stories that limits us, keep us on automatic, and deny us our full dimensionality.

"The Enneagram Personality System offers unparalleled insights and benefits to those who are curious about their inner landscape. With its clear descriptions of nine unique personality types, the Enneagram names type-specific paths to a compassionate heart as well as the barriers that each personality encounters on the journey to wholeness. Spiritual transformation requires an exploration of the inner dynamics that drive perceptions, feelings, and actions. "Serving as a midwife of grace, the Enneagram names the fears that bind us and identifies filters of perception that blind us to the love and compassion present each moment when we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

"What is my greatest obstacle to my deepest prayer? What stands between me and spiritual experience? I do."From Beth: Sally and I have both found the enneagram a helpful tool to understanding ourselves and deepening our faith. If you are interested in learning more, or perhaps attending an Enneagram workshop led by Sandra, please let either of us know.

Sandra will be teaching in the Swannanoa valley this spring.

Submitted by Sally Broughton and Beth Newman





## Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Since Session's Retreat in January, the Forward Planning Leadership Team has been busy praying, writing, editing, praying, rewriting, and consulting again with Marylyn Huff. The good news is we have completed new mission, values, identity, and vision statements for presentation to Session in April.

We are grateful for your participation and patience throughout this process. Please know that your input has provided the focus essential for us to develop all-inclusive statements.

Many of you conveyed a desire to work toward one or more of the thirteen identified changes that will strengthen WWPC. Others are actively involved with church committees and community programs. Maybe you are looking but haven't found where you want to be involved. We invite each of you to join us on either May 1 or May 15 for a light lunch in the fellowship hall followed by presentation of the new mission, values, identity, and vision statements and elicitation of your input for our ministry plan goals.

We need you to continue our forward planning process successfully.

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### *Steve's Slant continued...*

The last of the four Gospels finally closes with the suggestion that there is still so much more to this story that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written about it. Heaven knows we have tried, given the number of books that have been written about it since!

What I love about these stories, taken together, is that they defy easy readings and simple categories. Jesus appears out of thin air or walks through locked doors but he also eats bread and fish.

Try that sometime and you'll see what I mean about defying simple categories. Is his body real? Yes. Is it the same as ours? No. As for easy readings, do the factual details of all these stories harmonize? No. Are they all somehow true? Yes.

But I love even more how he continues to be the disciples' shepherd and guide even to the last. He meets them in a time of great fear and extends to them a word of peace. He meets them in their doubt, and entrusts his ongoing program to them anyway.

Which is to say that the days after that first Easter were not so different from our experience today. Is there fear in the air during this tumultuous period in the life of our country? Yes there is. And to us Jesus extends a word of peace.

Is there uncertainty in our own midst as we begin to imagine a future without Steve Williams sitting at the console of that magnificent organ, leading our music ministry? Yes there is. But to us comes the reminder that, even here, even now, God remains our shepherd and guide, and has promised to be with us even to the end of the age.

What comes after Easter? Let's find out, shall we?



(Barbara Nagy speaking in Fellowship Hall June 11, 2014)

Dear Friends,

Most of you know of Dr. Barbara Nagy and the incredible work she has done over the past twelve years in medical ministry at the Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. Due to personal, family, and health concerns, Barbara has decided that she will leave her mission co-worker position in Nkhoma, Malawi at the end of the current school year in June (See her attached letter). While her future career is uncertain, her effectiveness as a physician in the midst of drought, famine, poverty, and political uncertainty speaks for itself. During her tenure in Malawi, the infant mortality rate in Nkhoma has dropped by over 75%, and together, the medical staff and management have developed a strong hospital complex in an area plagued by complications. They have had the vision, resourcefulness, and commitment to make extraordinary advances in basic health care in Malawi.

Though for many of us in the PWNC, Barbara Nagy has been the “face” of the mission efforts in Malawi, there has been much accomplished by this presbytery in the same decade. Ever since Barbara’s first year at Nkhoma in 2003, this presbytery has sent a mission team annually (or twice a year). These teams have worked with Barbara and her colleagues in Nkhoma to reach the health and education goals that have been mutually identified. We have developed strong working relationships with both the hospital staff and community leaders, like Drs. Reyneir ter Haar and David Morton, lead physicians at Nkhoma Hospital, and Willeke ter Haar, the director of the Ebenezer Institute of Learning, a school that this presbytery started in response to local need. The development of the nine outlying rural clinics associated with the Nkhoma Hospital has also been the particular ministry of this presbytery. After many visits and mission teams to Nkhoma (at least 4 while Barbara was back in the US), our ministry in Malawi has grown beyond dependency on Barbara. The abundance of good work that has been accomplished in the past in the name of Jesus Christ will surely continue into the future. There is a solid base of commitment in the PWNC and with our partners in Malawi to continue this robust ministry in Malawi.

Our partners in Malawi share the same commitment to continue. To that end, I will be traveling to Nkhoma in May alongside this year’s mission team to solidify our mutual commitment, our system of accountability, and our partnership in the absence of Barbara Nagy. Other PCUSA mission co-workers familiar with the area have also agreed to assist, if needed. Clarifying our shared obligations and continuing to nurture personal relationships will allow us to progress in a healthy manner. If you have questions about these transitions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. I would welcome your insights.

We certainly wish Barbara and her family all the best, and pray that every step on their path is guided by the loving hands of Jesus Christ. I hope you will take the opportunity to thank Barbara and her family for their faithful service. Barbara is leaving part of her heart in Malawi. While we will miss seeing Barbara and her family on our visits, we are grateful for our partners in Nkhoma. I feel even stronger that this is where God is calling us in ministry. We will let you know Barbara’s future plans when she determines them. Thanks also goes to you for your love and support.

This first twelve years has been a wonderful start. Following the principles that have guided our presbytery in the past, we can accomplish more together than we can separately through our common faith in Jesus Christ. May our common efforts to further Christ’s ministry in Malawi be abundantly blessed by the Holy Spirit!

Sharing Christ's Love,

Rev. Bobbi White  
General Presbyter

## An Update from the Music Ministry Transition Team

The Steve Williams Celebration/Transition team has been planning ways to celebrate Steve's thirty-five years at Warren Wilson. Sunday, June 5, will be Steve's last day to play for worship at Warren Wilson. He will play an extended prelude beginning at 10:15. Steve has asked that worship not be interrupted during the 11:00 service with mention of his time at Warren Wilson. Immediately after the 11:00 service, there will be a pot luck luncheon. Betty Siviter and Alisa White are coordinating the lunch. During lunch, Rebecca Hettrick will play in honor of Steve, and members are invited to speak about his time at Warren Wilson. Joyce Ackerman is compiling a scrapbook of photos and letters to Steve. If you would like your messages and/or photos enclosed, please get those to Joyce no later than May 25.

During the summer months, we will have several area organists as substitutes. Steve Williams gave us a list of possible substitutes when he met with us. David Foster, formerly with First Baptist, and Stephen Michael Knoll, formerly with Swannanoa Presbyterian, will be playing for most of the summer Sundays. Vivian Hare-Grogg, who is currently the church musician at New Hope Presbyterian, will play one Sunday.

The Session will be authorizing a search committee in the next month. That group will compile a job description, based on information from Steve. They will also use comments from the Forward Planning information, as well as a separate survey instrument to solicit feedback from the congregation. While this is a time of sadness and loss, it is also a time to plan for the future.

For the next two months, we all look forward to celebrating Steve Williams' years of service at Warren Wilson as we continue to enjoy his magnificent gift of music.

Bridging Differences is a Polarized World: Spiritual Wisdom and Practical Tools  
Sponsored by the Partnership of Pastoral Counseling. To register, you can go to their website:  
[www.ppcwnc.org](http://www.ppcwnc.org) (828-275-7279)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 12, 2016     6:30pm - 8:30pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A gathering with thought leaders that have worked to decrease the division of our communities due to religious and political differences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Dr. Guy Sayles, Assistant Professor of Religion at Mars Hill University &amp; Former Pastor First Baptist Church Asheville</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>&amp;</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Terry M. Bellamy, MPA, Director of Communication, Asheville Housing Authority, Former Asheville Mayor</i></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 13, 2016     9:00am - 3:30pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynotes presented by Dr. Guy Sayles and Terry Bellamy followed by interactive workshops led by Partnership Pastoral Counselors providing participants communication tools to use in day-to-day practice when faced with significant and challenging differences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enhancing human experiences utilizing practical tools and spiritual resources. Topics such as; <i>generous listening, opening the mind with the heart, what to do when you are triggered, disarming attitudes that block relationships and making the connection before conversation.</i></p>
<p><b>First Baptist Church 5 Oak Street Asheville, NC 28801</b></p>	<p><b>\$20 Per Person</b> <i>Cost includes lunch and materials</i> \$30 Per Person for those seeking CEU's</p>



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*