



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Volume 23 Issue 6

July 2016

Steve's Slant

It's summertime and the livin' is . . . what? I wouldn't say it's easy, necessarily. Apart from brief interludes—often called “vacations”—life after the age of, say, ten is rarely easy.

But at least it has slowed down some. Over the summer most of our church committees take a break from their work, and our programs – Sunday school, Just for Fun, Back Porch Sessions – also go on hiatus during this season.

And that's why this issue of the Extended Family is a bit shorter than it normally is. We just don't have the usual range of information and updates to share. But that's not to say there is nothing to report on or write about in these pages.

For starters, the 222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA) just concluded what was by all accounts an historic meeting. For the first time ever, our denomination elected a co-moderator team to lead our church. But more than that, this, well, this dynamic duo consists of the Rev. Jan Edmiston, who is white and in her sixties, and her counterpart, the Rev. Denise Anderson, who is African American and in her thirties.

But if bringing more diversity to the top level leadership of our denomination was their goal, this Assembly was just getting started.

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, also an African American, was elected as the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), taking over from Gradye Parsons who served our denomination with distinction for many years. And Tony De La Rosa, a married gay Latino man, was appointed as the interim Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. (This is the agency that, among other things, oversees the church growth, social outreach and disaster response programs of our church.)

Finally, the face of our top level leaders is beginning to reflect the full diversity of the human family. That in itself is a noteworthy development. But even that's not the whole story.

As many of you know by now, the Assembly also made history by adopting a new creed—the Confession of Belhar, named after the community in South Africa where most of the work on it was done. This is the first creed to be adopted for widespread use in the PC(USA) that originated in the so-called Global South (read: not in North America or Europe.) So another historic decision, and one that tacitly recognizes that the era when historically white leaders and structures dominated the global church has come to an end.

Closer to home, work proceeds apace on our three main congregational initiatives: the forward planning process, the search for our new director of music, and the development of WWPC's new website. These initiatives may not be global in scale but they matter a great deal to us, and they have a direct bearing on our future together as a congregation. So, I close with a brief update on each one.

(Continued on page 3)



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Tom Moore; Neil Satterfield; Ellen Huggins, Beth Meriwether's mother; Bob Keener; Salyna Morgan; Barbara Robinson, Jack Ballard's mother; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

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July Birthdays!

Larry Griswold	July 4
Allyson Hettrick	July 8
Don Collins	July 18
Marrion Ward	July 18
Brent Roberts	July 23
Gretchen Williams	July 23
Gay Fox	July 24
Bob Gambrell	July 27
Allee Williams	July 27
Pat Crumpler	July 29



Picnic

Church Picnic

Join the fun at our annual 4th of July church picnic on Sunday, July 3 following the service.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and drinks will be provided by the church, you bring your favorite side dish and desert! All are welcome.



Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry is a primary, non-profit organization addressing poverty, hunger, homelessness and access to health care for the under-served in Buncombe County.

Begun as a small collaboration of churches in 1969, ABCCM has played a significant role in meeting emergency assistance needs for families. ABCCM is currently a family of 279 congregations organized to provide ministry in the areas of crisis, jail, homelessness (transitional housing service) and medical through a volunteer base of over 5,000 people. ABCCM provides an opportunity for volunteers to grow, mature and express their faith through fellowship and service for the joy set before us in Christ. It helps us do together what individual congregations cannot do separately. WWPC members volunteer one day a month to prepare and serve the midday meal, assist in packaging food donations for those needing longer term nutrition, assist in repackaging bread donations so individuals might help themselves to bread products and interact with ABCCM staff clients as needs are met and the meal is served. If you would like to help please see John Laney-the fellowship is great!

(Submitted by Pat Hardy)

Steve's Slant continued...

On the forward planning front, “goal teams” have been meeting throughout June to draft specific objectives intended to help us realize our four newly minted goals. In case you need a memory boost, these are as follows:

1. Create a sustainable future
2. Enhance faith development and spiritual nurture
3. Improve congregational care and hospitality
4. Deepen our engagement with and service to the wider community

We hope to have these objectives formulated for presentation to Session for their review and approval at their July meeting. So while I can't yet say what these objectives are, I can say that I have been struck by the energy and enthusiasm with which these groups have done their work. I have also been inspired by the innovative, creative ideas for moving our congregation forward that have come out of their brainstorming sessions.

On the music ministry side, the transition team has collated the feedback we received from the needs assessment which they distributed in May.

Three main themes emerged from the responses we received from the congregation:

1. Strong appreciation of Steve William's faithful leadership and brilliant playing over his 35 years of directing the program.
2. With that, a strong affirmation that our music program continue to be anchored by our amazing organ.
3. A consistent desire for more diversity in our musical offerings, including, perhaps, the formation of a bell choir and a children's choir.

The music director search committee (Corise Gambrell, Doug Orr, Diana Sanderson and Beth Meriwether) have integrated this feedback into the description we have for the current position (a document that Steve Williams helped draft).

This new job description was approved by Session at their June meeting and has officially been posted on the website for the WNC Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, on our own website and on the church's Facebook page.

Finally, a working group from the Communications Committee is continuing to put the finishing touches on our church's new website, selecting pictures and drafting copy for the different pages on the site. Look for the official launch of the site later this summer or early fall. I predict you're going to love it. Just as important, I predict that visitors to the site – people who are perhaps looking for a new church home – will be intrigued by the church they experience on its pages.

Summertime. The livin' may not always be easy – there is still plenty of work to do – but it is rich, full and rewarding!

Date to remember...

August 21,

11:00 a.m. service time resumes with Pot Luck welcoming students to follow in Fellowship Hall

CHURCH PICNIC



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 ◻