



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

I want to use this space this month to update all of you about the status of the Waldrop bequest. In particular, and in the spirit of transparency, I want to fill you in on where we are in our discernment process centered on how to steward this gift to maximize its benefit.

And I begin with two pieces of good news. First, we have received the gift! And, second, by the time we received the funds, the value of the bequest (it was in an IRA) had increased from \$65,000 to just over \$70,000. So, praise be!

In May, when it finally appeared certain that we would soon receive these monies, Session appointed a small task force to make a recommendation on how we might best manage this substantial gift.

That task force was chaired by **Ken Murchison** (a member of Session and also on our Administration Ministry Team), and it also included **John Laney** (chair of our Funds Ministry Team--the group that oversees our endowments), **Kay Stockdale** (also on Session and a member of both the Administration Ministry Team and our Christian Education Team--please thank her for her service!), **Sarah Anne Eller** (chair of our Congregational Life Ministry Team), and **Barbara Griswold** (chair of the Communications Ministry Team.)

After careful deliberation -- that is, after some hard and conscientious work for which they deserve our thanks -- the task force made the following three recommendations:

1. That we allocate \$7,000 (10% of the total bequest) as a tithe to our Community Engagement Ministry Team for distribution to agencies and ministry partners outside of the church who are serving our neighbors in need.
2. That we allocate \$45,000 to fill the Associate in Ministry position, on a quarter-time basis (i.e., 10 hours per week) for five years. With a starting salary of \$15,000, the bequest monies in this plan would decrease by \$3,000 per year, in the belief that by year five the congregation could support and sustain the full cost of the quarter-time position moving forward.
3. That we allocate \$3,000 to a reserve fund for publicity/promotion and \$15,000 to a reserve fund for building and custodial needs.

This past Thursday, our Administration Ministry Team (our former budget and finance committee) met to consider these three individual proposals before the recommendation went, in full, to Session for final approval.

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PRAYERS WELCOME FOR: Kathy Rouse; Blake Joslin; Rodney Lytle; Neil Satterfield; Dr. Steven Williams; Barbara Robinson; Calvin Clark; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

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

Director of Music, organist; Vivian Hare e-mail= vhare03@gmail.com

Treasurers; Jerry VanEman 258-1082 e-mail= jerryvaneman@gmail.com

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

July Birthdays!

Larry Griswold	July 4
Bob Sigmon	July 12
Marrion Ward	July 18
Gretchen Williams	July 23
Bob Gambrell	July 27
Pat Crumpler	July 29

Allyson Hettrick	July 8
Don Collins	July 18
Brent Roberts	July 23
Gay Fox	July 24
Allee Williams	July 27



Spring Service Project

We got our hands in the dirt for a good cause on June 11th. The children and adults teamed up together to harvest, turn compost, weed, plant, capture bugs and play at the spring Service project. The Swannanoa Community Garden contributes to the *Bounty and Soul* organization. They help assist families and individuals in our area, who are in need of food. Thanks to all who came out. When we put all of our hands together, we can accomplish big projects, in a big way!



CROSSROADS ANTIRACISM TRAINING

AUGUST 18 - 20, 2017 • MONTREAT.ORG/CROSSROADS

This introductory workshop by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training will provide participants with a shared analysis of systemic racism in the United States. Using an action-re action model, the work- shop will seek to answer three questions: What is the current reality of racism in the US? Why is this still our current reality? How can we inter- vene strategically to disrupt and dismantle racism?

The workshop will include de nitions of key concepts such as racism, prejudice, power, and dominant culture. Participants will receive capacity-building tools and resources to work for antiracist transfor- mation in their churches and institutions.

Volunteers
Needed



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

PWNC Missions Committee

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Mission Trip to Kinston, NC

October 8-13, 2017

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Kinston

What will we do?

Help folks rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew.

Where will we stay?

First Presbyterian has designed facilities to house groups coming in to work.

What is the cost?

\$150 per person includes food/lodging.

How many can go?

We have space for 20 folks.

How can I sign up?

Registration forms will be available at the PWNC website along with a Kinston site manual.

Community Engagement Ministry team Action team/Poverty

The action team focusing on food insecurity in this area reported on several activities during the past weeks.

- 1) Visiting the lunch meal at West Asheville 12 Baskets where persons may choose from several options provided by donors (individuals, restaurants, churches) in the area. Good group attendance with friendly social interaction. (Pat, Betty, Mary)
- 2) Attending Emptea bowls, fundraiser for Dr. John Wilson Community Garden apprentice Program with pottery, tea and live music. Students from Warren Wilson participate in this program through the Service-Learning Program. Diana McCall, the garden manager states "Apprentices make our donation programs possible and carry what they've learned out into the world to address hunger in every community". (Betty, Pat)
- 3) Gleaning and Potato Project. Kathy reported that several members of our congregation helped with the bagging and distribution of a trailer load of white potatoes arriving in Swannanoa on June 15 from the Society of St. Andrew gleaning project.
- 4) Seeking volunteers for Home Grown Garden of Black Mountain Children's Home providing fresh vegetables for use by ministry as well as to share with local organizations that address food insecurity. Individuals and church groups are invited to participate in the work of the garden. In June and July volunteers help maintain beds, harvest and continue planting new crops. In August, Home Grown needs help harvesting, weeding and planting cover crops into the Fall. Please contact Jason Covert at 828-686-3451 or jcovert@blackmountainhome.org if you are interested in volunteering at Home Grown Garden. (Betty)
- 5) Participating in Swannanoa Community Garden clean up with our children on Sunday June 11 for an afternoon clean-up to prepare the garden for planting. Everyone to bring bag lunch and work gloves with drinks and snacks provided. A fun afternoon with tasks suited to all ages to support our children.
- 6) Lakeview Center for Active Aging, 401 Laurel Circle Drive, Black Mountain, NC 28711 828-669-8610 Visiting Buncombe County Council on Aging hot lunch program provided Monday-Friday with food donated by Moose Café at Lakeview Center for persons 60+ years old. Open 10:00 am-2:00pm Lunch served at noon. Come early for fellowship, program, activities. Reservations requested by 10:30am previous day. (call Trevia Rhodes, 828-669-2035) Suggested donation \$1.50 a day or as can pay. Transportation may be arranged through Nutrition Site Center 828-669-2035 (Pat, Betty)

Suggestions, ideas, contact persons are welcome by team members, Betty Siviter, coordinator.

(submitted by Pat Crumpler)



A good time was had by all at our Church Picnic on July 2!

Steve's Slant Continued...

The team unanimously endorsed recommendations 1 and 3 but did not reach a consensus on recommendation number 2. All members supported the idea of filling the Associate in Ministry position, but opinion was divided, mainly, around whether to fill the position on a quarter-time basis for five years or half-time basis for three.

With this information in hand, Session then met this past Sunday in a specially called meeting to consider the Task Force's original recommendation. Seven of our nine elders were present for the meeting. (Two members were out of town.) Their response closely mirrored that of the Administration Team.

Recommendation 1 was met with unanimous support. A clear majority of Session members favored Recommendation 3 but it did not receive unanimous support.

As for recommendation 2, opinion was divided between two camps. A slight majority favored a half-time approach for three years, believing we need the additional staff support to help us fulfill the goals of our ministry plan. The balance of the members favored the original recommendation of a quarter-time approach, spread over five years, in the belief that this is a more sustainable and, thus, more responsible approach.

As for my personal view, I am in the former camp. Obviously I respect any plan that is rooted in the desire to be financial responsible.

But going all the way back to our two renovation campaigns, we have invested an enormous amount of time, money and effort as a congregation in preparing for our future and in developing our ministry plan. I believe we are now ready to live into that future and that to get there we must take this step of faith to realize the goals we have set for ourselves.

Had we not made this effort to improve our facilities, and not invested so much time, prayer and thought in developing our plan, I would likely feel differently. But I believe we're ready to step out in faith, and that our work and our faith will be rewarded and met by God's generous provision. I say this because I believe that's how faith works: first comes the call to follow, then comes the provision that makes the journey possible.

But because this matter is so important, and because it will have a significant impact on our congregation, I felt that a close Sessional vote was not wise. On decisions of such consequence I am generally of the view that it's important for Session to try to get as close to 100% consensus as possible. In this specific case, I felt that the differences held by our Administrative Team and our Session members about how best to manage these monies are also likely felt by and reflected in the congregation more generally

Which is why I asked for Session's approval -- which they granted -- to appoint a small team to continue our prayerful deliberations around how to steward this gift to ensure we maximize its benefit.

Those members are **Sally Broughton** (Clerk of Session), **Ken Murchison** (member of Session and chair of the original task force), **Mike Levi** (chair of our Administration Ministry Team) and myself.

If you have any thoughts, ideas, comments or concerns about this process, or about how we might best allocate these funds, I invite you to share those with any one of us by phone or email, or in person, or with any member of Session. Thank you! God bless you!



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!

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

The Extended Family