

# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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[www.warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://www.warrenwilsonchurch.org)

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## *Steve's Slant*

As I write this, in just a few hours the president will give his first State of the Union address since taking office last January. So, per my recent custom, I'm going to follow that example and offer my own thoughts on the state of our union here at Warren Wilson Presbyterian.

I have covered some of this ground already. In December, I sent a message to the congregation in which I shared with you what I deemed to be good news of great joy: that the investments we've made in our Ministry Plan were beginning to bear fruit. I noted that we can now point to measurable gains we've made -- some of them more modest, some of them quite significant -- toward reaching all four of our main goals: improving congregational care, deepening our engagement with and service to the wider community (particularly the college), enhancing our faith development and enriching our worship experience, and, finally, strengthening our church for a sustainable future.

Having detailed those gains earlier, I will not repeat them here. (If you missed that letter, or would like to revisit it, you can find it here: [warrenwilsonchurch.org/really-good-news/](http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/really-good-news/)).

But I do want to underscore some recent news, which Jerry Vaneman, our church treasurer, shared with us at our congregational meeting, following worship on the 21st.

In brief, on the financial side, we're on very solid ground. We finished 2017 comfortably in the black, and we exceeded our challenge pledge budget for 2018. So, taking these things together--the gains we've made toward our goals, and our strong financial footing--we are entering 2018 arguably in the healthiest position we've been in for several years.

So that is obviously news worth celebrating! And thanks must go out in all directions to everyone who has helped get us to this point: Our Session, our Forward Planning Leadership Team, our Stewardship Team, our staff and the leaders of all our ministry teams. And, of course, to all of you for your incredible support and your ongoing generosity, which make our life together possible.

With that said, I would like to share with you a few highlights we can look forward to in the weeks and months ahead.

First, as part of our outreach to the campus community, we're constantly thinking about creative ways to take what we believe -- those of us who gather on the inside of the Chapel -- and make that visible to those who pass by on the outside of the building, those who may never join us for worship.

Session just approved a recommendation that will enable us to do that quite literally. Under the guidance of our Communications Team, we have commissioned a large banner for the front of the Chapel that will look like this:



(Continued on page 8)



**PRAYERS FOR:** Jack Ballard and family on the death of his mother, Barbara Robinson; Dr. Steven Williams; Pat Crumpler; Milt Butterworth; Bill Corbin; Pam, CC's daughter-in-law; Barbara Higgins; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

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**February Birthdays!**

Diana Sanderson	Feb. 1	Mike Levi	Feb. 5
Jack Ballard	Feb. 9	Rocky Ward	Feb. 10
Clotilde Guisasola	Feb. 11	Karen Cruser	Feb.12
Georgena Millar	Feb. 13	Brownie Newman	Feb. 16
Edythe Wiener	Feb. 19	Milt Butterworth	Feb. 22
Burnace Roberts	Feb. 24	Patrick Hardy	Feb. 25
Marian Sigmon	Feb. 27		



**The Warren Wilson Book Group** The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thur. February 8th in the Fellowship Hall. Betty Smith will lead the discussion of "A Question of Mercy" by Elizabeth Cox. Cox has received the North Carolina Fiction Award and has been inducted into the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Her writing reflects the flavor of NC while challenging the reader to consider individual freedoms and responsibilities around difficult decisions.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)



**SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUP** You are invited to join the Spiritual Nurture group which meets regularly on the 2nd Monday at 7:00 PM around the fireplace in Ransom Fellowship Hall. We explore passages of Scripture and life experiences with the expectation that God's Spirit will reveal the truths we need to hear.

Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil orders will be accepted February 18 and February 25 with delivery on March 4th. Look for the poster and order forms in the narthex.

Anne Dale



**Nursery Brigade**

A Sign-up Sheet is now available for the Spring Quarter of the Nursery Brigade and is available in the Narthex. Consider reading to the children when they return to the nursery. The contact we have between our adults and children provides a solid foundation for their lives now and in the years ahead.

**NORRIS-HUNTER FAMILY, NOW WITH TWO CHILDREN, WILL MOVE IN TO  
HABITAT PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST HOUSE # 26 NEXT MONTH**

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian/Methodist House # 26, which members of our church helped build, is nearly complete.

Future owners Nikita Norris and Regina Hunter, who visited us last September, and added a second daughter to their family on Dec. 28, will close on March 15 and move in to their new home.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian is always a leader for volunteer hours among churches that build each Presbyterian/Methodist house, and on behalf of Habitat and the Norris-Hunter family, a very special "thank you" goes to the following people. They donated more than 160 hours to help build

Presbyterian/Methodist House # 26:

Sally Broughton	Don Collins	Elisabeth Cook
Anne Dale	Jamie Dale	Andrew Daugherty
Derron Daugherty	Bob Gambrell	Rick Garrison
Barbara Griswold	Larry Griswold	Ned Guardenier
Bill Heck	Toby Ives	Ken Murchison
Steve Runholt	Ray Stock	Jerry Vaneman

Another very special "thank you" also goes to all who contributed a total of more than \$1,600 to the special offering for building materials when the family visited our worship service in September, and to the Community Outreach Team for their continued support of Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity.

Before construction of each new faith partner house begins, there is a kickoff meeting at Habitat's Asheville office. At the meetings representatives sometimes talk about other ways they help such as bringing lunches to their church members working on the job site.

Recently Warren Wilson members have helped Habitat and this family in some new ways with a gift from Elisabeth and Bob Cook of 10 new dustpans needed at the job sites, and a gift from Kay and Dennis Stockdale of a family quilt that will be delivered to the Norris-Hunter family at the closing.

Founded in 1983 as the first Habitat affiliate in North Carolina, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity has built 295 new, affordable and safe houses for families, and repaired more than 170 homes.

Plans for the next Presbyterian/Methodist House will be announced as soon as they are available.



Presbyterian/Methodist House # 26 in Arden on Jan. 12.

*Regina Hunter and Nikita Norris will close on P/M house #26 on March 15, and move in with their children, Kyree, age 3, and baby Kaleia Rayelle, born on Dec. 28.*

## **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast Saturday, February 10, 2018, 8:00-11:00 am at Camp Dorothy Walls**

Dear Friends and Loyal Patrons,

Each year, we gather together to celebrate diversity. Our differences make our community richer. Our shared values, however, make our community stronger. We all prize respect, justice and peace, and we are grateful to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for holding us in the light of those values as we seek to renew our commitment to living together in harmony. Our nation's motto, "E Pluribus Unum," also reflects this desire to recognize and value our differences as we attempt to weave them into a unified pattern of faith, hope and charity.

The speaker for our 2018 Prayer Breakfast is Pastor George K. Logan of the New Day Christian Church in Morganton, NC. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and the Crenshaw Christian Center Ministry Training Institute in Los Angeles, Pasot Logan served inmates and youth camps with the New Life for Old Prison Ministry in California and Nevada. He was awarded the NC Department of Corrections "Volunteer of the Year" award and the Morganton Rotary Club "Man of the Year" award. We look forward to hearing his healing message. We hope you will attend our celebration and continue your support of our mission via any of the following means:

- 1) **Attending** the prayer breakfast by purchasing tickets by January 20, 2018.
- 2) **Contributing** to our scholarship fund. We acknowledge in our program Patrons Donating \$5-\$99, Sponsors donating \$100-\$499, Benefactors donating \$500+.
- 3) **Volunteering** to become members of the MLK Jr. Board.
- 4) **Purchasing** an ad in our printed program by contacting a board member.

For more information view our website at [www.svmlk.com](http://www.svmlk.com) Thank you for your support.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**  
**February 11-March 25**  
**(Lenten Series)**

***The Ridiculous Journey of Following the Nobody from Nowhere***

This is a video and discussion series from TheWorkOfThePeople.com that includes footage of Nadia Bolz-Weber, Greg Boyle, Brene Brown, Emmanuel Katongole, Rachel Held Evans, Richard Rohr, and Rowan Williams. “A search for purpose and meaning in the events and choices of our lives. A costly journey with an unknown destination. A Middle Eastern homeless man from twenty centuries ago and why he still stirs the souls and imagination of so many.” Come and join us as we journey with Jesus this Lenten season.

- February 11: The Ridiculous Journey (Transfiguration Sunday)
  - February 18: The Revolutionary (First Sunday of Lent)
  - February 25: The Reconciler
  - March 4: The Lover
  - March 11: The Sage
  - March 18: The Presence
  - March 25: Following Jesus (Palm Sunday)
- 

**Grace’s Schedule**

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your warm welcome over these past three months! You have been kind to me as I ease into learning about this church family and my role in it, as well as try to figure out my part-time schedule.



I have been asked about when I am in the church office (rather than my home office). After Staff meets on Tuesday mornings, I plan to stay in the office until 4:00 pm on Tuesday afternoons. When there are meetings on Tuesday evenings, I will simply stay straight through. On Wednesday afternoons I can be available for meetings either in or outside of the church, so this will vary week to week. While there are events that will bring me to the church on other days and nights of the week, my general focus is Sunday mornings, Tuesdays, and then Wednesday afternoons. The rest of my work I will do from my home office. If over the next few months this schedule does not work well, I will go back to the drawing board! This, like much of life, is a work in progress. But I am grateful for the opportunity to go on this journey with you.

Peace,  
Grace Boyer  
Associate in Ministry

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**The ABCCM's Veterans Restoration Headquarters (VRQ)** provides us with one of the most rewarding opportunities you could imagine. The headquarters, a former 125 room motel, provides housing, meals, case management services, counseling, laundry facilities, computer lab, gym, chapel, and transportation to VA Medical Center for over 240 homeless veterans. WWPC volunteers prepare and serve lunch for the veterans on the last Friday of each month. The men who pass through the lunch line are immensely grateful and make us feel appreciated and welcome.



Please sign up in the Narthex after church if you are interested in joining our small cadre of volunteers.



It will be one of the most gratifying 3 hours you can spend.



Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all who participated and contributed to the festivities and gifts at the annual Christmas pizza Party on December 2. Social Outreach reports an excellent response in the making of Christmas decorations, decorating gingerbread houses for all children, and wrapping approximately 40 shoe boxes filled with items for children at SVCM. As an event for the community, there were students of WWC and from other surrounding schools attending and participating. This was truly a time to enjoy the Christmas Spirit of giving in action.

(Submitted by Pat Crumpler)

**Our New team of Elders:**



**From left,  
Caroline Cole  
(CC)  
Nancy Garrison  
Sandy Brauer**



**COMMUNITY**  
  
**LENTEN SERVICES**

The Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association will once again be sponsoring Community Worship Services for the first Wednesdays of Lent and on Good Friday. Each service begins at noon and lasts for about 30 minutes. A light lunch follows each service. An offering will be taken at each service for the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries' "heating fund." All are invited

to these services which help us to prepare ourselves for our holiest day of Easter. The Schedule is as follows:

- |          |                 |   |
|----------|-----------------|---|
| Feb 14   | (Ash Wednesday) | St. James Episcopal                           |
| Feb 21   |                 | Black Mountain United Methodist               |
| Feb 28   |                 | First Christian                               |
| March 7  |                 | Tabernacle United Methodist                   |
| March 14 |                 | Montreat Presbyterian/Montreat Assembly       |
| March 21 |                 | Black Mountain and Warren Wilson Presbyterian |
| March 30 | (Good Friday)   | First Baptist                                 |

*Steve's Slant continued...*

The banner is the brainchild of our friend, local singer-songwriter, David LaMotte. We're making it with his permission, and hanging it with the permission of President Morton at WWC. It will be paid for from our Student Relations Fund, and it should be up by early next week! So keep your eyes peeled for that. (It will be hard to miss!)

On Friday evening, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Session and leaders of several of our ministry teams will gather for an overnight retreat at William Black Lodge. The purpose of the retreat is to come to a deeper and clearer understanding of how best to coordinate, oversee and implement our ministry plan -- and how we might invite greater participation in our ministries and programs, new and old alike.

We're looking forward to a rich time of reflection and conversation, and to sharing the fruits of our time together with the broader congregation.

Finally, I have two personal highlights I'm thrilled to share with you. First, starting this Monday I will be launching my first-ever personal blog. It's called BlueFaith, and my tagline is: *Dispatches from the intersection of faith and politics*.

Session has given me their blessing to pursue this project. But I want to be clear that, one, I will be working on this on my own time, and, two, the views I express will be my own. I will not be speaking in any official capacity on behalf of the congregation. Still, if you'd like to join me on this journey, starting on Monday you can follow along here: [bluefaith.net](http://bluefaith.net).

Finally, I'm very pleased to formally announce that on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, I will be participating in an international pulpit swap with the Rev. R. Frazer Penny, minister at the Dunkeld Cathedral in Dunkeld, Scotland.

This exchange is part of a new official Sister City relationship between Asheville and Dunkeld. This connection between our two cities was spearheaded in large part by Doug and Darcy Orr, and their good friend, Fiona Ritchey, of Thistle and Shamrock fame, and a resident of Dunkeld.

We will provide much more information about this exchange in upcoming issues of The Extended Family but I wanted to share this news now, so we can start planning how best to celebrate and commemorate this wonderful opportunity.



On behalf of Robyn, and of Donna, Vivian and Grace, too, I want to thank you all for the tremendous kindness you showed all of us over the holidays. Every day as we got closer to Christmas, a new gift bag would appear outside of our doors, filled with bread, or popcorn, or peach jelly or savory pecans or

homemade cookies. Or a Christmas card would appear in the box outside our offices, or in our mailboxes at home.

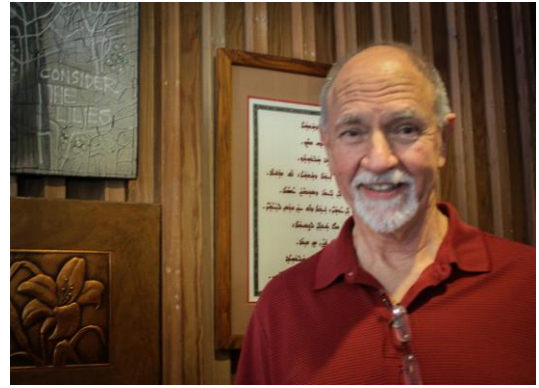
Thank you so much. Your love and support is greatly appreciated. Even though it's tough to respond in kind to all of these gifts, we sincerely hope you feel our love in return.



## New Member Profile

In 1963, when he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, **Bob Castellani** was a brand new college graduate from upstate New York just starting Emory Law School. He got an internship at a local law firm, hired by an office manager who herself had recently moved to Atlanta from Savannah, Georgia.

He married the office manager. Her name was Betty Clanton; she became Betty Castellani, and Bob and Betty had a joyful, energetic, purpose-fueled life together for fifty years. Bob became a U.S. District Attorney, tried and won cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and eventually followed his dream to become a judge on the superior court bench. His lasting testament to the Georgia law system was his creation of the state's first drug court, an alternative intensive treatment program to provide rehabilitation instead of incarceration for addicts. Betty had her own high-energy career in ministry and cancer survivorship. And they raised and launched two children into the world, Marc, a clinical psychologist who lives in Charlotte, N.C. with his family; and Robyn, who (spoiler alert!) married a Presbyterian minister and moved to Asheville.



Betty Castellani died in 2014, one week after she and Bob had their 50th wedding anniversary, and now Bob Castellani is moving again, for the first time since 1963. And he's going to make his home in the mountains, and with the church, that he has been visiting since Robyn and Steve married in 2007. He'll be moving full time in October, when his new home at Highland Farms is completed, although in his words, "I wish I could be there yesterday!"

Here, in his words, is why he is coming home to the mountains, and home to us.

*In the ten years I've been coming here as a visitor, I've seen how this church takes care of people. I've never seen anyone do it better. And that's what I believe church is all about. I believe that we are on this earth to learn and to teach and to serve. And I want to serve. The work this church does with veterans, with the homeless, with families in trouble...this church does it as well as any group I've ever seen. I feel that we are all fulfilled when we do those kinds of things. I've always found that to be true. It's almost a selfish thing. You feel empowered yourself when you are helping others. You do something for somebody else and you get more out of it than you give.*

*My wife and I raised our kids in the Presbyterian church. We saw how our kids had a family there. And all my life, my faith has given me direction. There have been various times in my life when I have been lost. Times when I have seriously questioned my place here, why I'm here, whether there is any purpose. And I've always returned to the Bible, the idea of God being a Creator who both means well and does good. I just feel as if there's a time in your life when you have to make a choice. And you can get all intellectual, but at some point you have to decide at some deep level for yourself, is there a purpose to why I'm here? And it seems to me life makes more sense to me if I'm part of a greater creation. A small and insignificant part, but at the same time, you can be an individual and still be somebody who makes a big difference.*

*I just finished reading a book on cosmology, and the infinite numbers of different worlds and solar systems and galaxies. It's mind boggling, how vast the universe is. And yet I believe we are all, as individuals, still a very important part of it. And I don't know how to explain it except to say I believe there is a greater power in charge of it all.*

(Submitted by Robyn Castellani)



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*