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Volume 25 Issue 2

March 2018

Steve's Slant

Right now we're on not one but two journeys together.

The first is our Lenten journey, or, in keeping with our theme for the season, the ridiculous journey of following a nobody from nowhere. We will continue to follow along with Jesus on his own journey toward the destiny that awaits him, as told to us in the big stories in the Gospel of John.

Many of you have offered gracious feedback on our efforts to add visual, musical and experiential richness to our Lenten observance, particularly the addition of the prayer stations to our service. This was a new and different thing, so we appreciate your feedback very much. Speaking on behalf of the Liturgical Arts Team, we are pleased to know that the stations seem to be making your Lenten observance more meaningful.

Two more quick points along these lines. One, if you'd like to add your own creative gifts to the work of the Liturgical Arts team, we'd love to have you join us! This invitation is open and all are welcome, so just let me know if you'd like to be included.

Second, if you have *not* found our Lenten services to be meaningful -- and perhaps the prayer stations in particular -- we'd like to know that, too. We are aware that the first two Sundays of the season went a little longer than normal (closer to 75 minutes than 60), so we're taking that into account as we plan our remaining services through Palm Sunday.

All of that said, alongside our Lenten journey, we're also traveling on a separate but parallel track, one that we've been on for a while now, one that we trust and believe will continue to take us to a bright hopeful future.

I've documented in this space, and in separate email messages, that I believe we've already made significant progress toward achieving the main goals of our Ministry Plan.

But we recently took another major step in this direction when our Session and the conveners of our ministry teams gathered for a leadership retreat at William Black Lodge in Montreat.

The main goal for our time together was to clarify the kind of "container" we need to carry our "cargo", as our facilitator, Marylyn Huff, likes to say. To put that another way, we wanted to get clearer about the kind of leadership and oversight structure we need in order to fully implement our Ministry Plan and realize its four main goals.

What follows below is the structure we agreed to. You'll see that each of our goals is supported by one or more ministry teams -- nine teams, in total. What this means is that each of our ministry teams can either be led or supported by one of our nine elders.

(Continued on page 6)



PRAYERS FOR: Bill Heck and family on the death of his mother, Irene Case; Jane Corbin and family on the death of her father, Rev. Dr. Louie V. Andrews, Jr.; Pat Crumpler; Milt Butterworth; Bill Corbin; Donna Eagle Joslin; Charles Bradley, Doug Bradley's father; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams and Mary Moorrees.

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March Birthdays!

Betty Siviter	March 2	Evva Hamilton	March 6
Beth Newman	March 6	Catherine Showalter	March 7
Patrick Sanderson	March 10	Amber Crumpler	March 11
Bill Sanderson	March 15	Wendy Meyer	March 18
Anne Craven	March 18	Anne Hamilton	March 20
Harriet Cowel	March 22	Dennis Stockdale	March 24
Jonathan Crumpler	March 26	Andrew Pulsifer	March 27

March 29



The Warren Wilson Book Group The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet Thurs. March 8th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Helen Bell will lead the discussion of "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham. Musings of Virginia Woolf are included in the book. The book won a Pulitizer Prize and promises to be an interesting discussion. Bring your lunch and join us.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)



John Bishop

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

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.

Please welcome Leslie Sayyar to the church office!

Her e-mail is wwpc.staff@gmail.com

The church has hired Leslie to fill the part-time office position while Donna is out on medical leave. Leslie and her husband Adeeb are new members and are very familiar with Warren Wilson as they met as students here on campus in the 70's.



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.

March 4: The LoverMarch 11: The SageMarch 18: The Presence

March 25: Following Jesus (Palm Sunday)

CHORAL PERFORMANCE The Valparaiso University Chorale, a select 48 mixed voice choir and one of the premiere Lutheran choral ensembles in the United States, will present a concert at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood Street in Asheville on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. The Chorale was honored as the only international ensemble invited to perform at Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on October 31, 2017. This



concert will showcase a broad spectrum of choral repertoire, featuring works by Monteverdi, Schütz, Howells, Whitacre, Bernstein and more.



WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will hold their 2018 Spring Gathering at Warren Wilson on Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 until 1:00. They made a special request to the Warren Wilson Session last summer to meet at Warren Wilson on the Thirtieth Anniversary of their 1988 Spring Gathering, which was held at Warren Wilson.

Before the Session agreed, members were polled to see if they could help and many of you said you could do so. We expect 100 to 150 guests for worship, workshops,

and lunch. Lunch will be catered, but we will need help with preparation, registration, breakfast snacks (coffee, juice, muffins, etc.), generally hosting, parking, serving lunch, and clean up. We will have sign-up sheets in the narthex for the next several Sundays.

So what do Presbyterian Women, as an official organization, do? One project in this Presbytery is microloans to help Guatemalan women start small businesses. The recent issue of <u>Horizons</u>, the national magazine, has excellent information on refugees, asylum-seekers, sanctuary, those fleeing violence in Central America, etc.



Please join Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

for a Mad Hatters' Tea

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 2:30 PM



In the Fountain Room, between buildings G and H,

at Givens Highland Farms

Music from the Highland Farms Hand Bells and the Dulcimer Group

Please wear a hat if you wish, but hats are not required. Everyone is welcome, not just Highland Farms' residents.



The Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association will once again be sponsoring Community Worship Services for the 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:

March 7 Tabernacle United Methodist

March 14 Montreat Presbyterian/Montreat Assembly

March 21 Black Mountain (Warren Wilson Presbyterian helping)

March 30 (Good Friday) First Baptist

Community Outreach Team

Thanks to all donors to Black Mountain Home for Children at Christmas. We received this from their staff:

"What joyous holiday season we experienced at the children's home! From Thanksgiving to New Year's, donors helped make sure that our kid's spirits were lifted. Tables were laden with treats. Christmas wish lists were filled and fun outings were enjoyed over the school break. Holiday outings included: skiing, bowling, roller skating and others. Santa Claus made several trips to bring early gifts to children and youth. Thank you to everyone who helped bring light and life to our children over a season that is often challenging for them."

Donors from Warren Wilson Presbyterian filled <u>three</u> large Santa packs with gifts as well as donating <u>\$400</u> to funds for Christmas outings. Community Outreach Team sends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all for such a generous response.

(Submitted by Pat Crumpler)

Treasurer's Narrative Report for 2017/2018

Many of you will recall that 2017 was projected to be another difficult year in the financial life of our church. In 2016, we experienced an operating budget shortfall of approximately \$22,000 and had to borrow that amount from the Memorial Fund to cover our expences. In our 2017 budget, we also foresaw the possible need to borrow a similar amount in order to balance that budget. However, we are happy to report that, through a combination of hard work, sacrifice, and good luck, we ended 2017 with an



combination of hard work, sacrifice, and good luck, we ended 2017 with an operating surplus! And we did it <u>after</u> repaying the 2016 loan and <u>without</u> borrowing any money in 2017.

This was all made possible by a combination of factors:

- 1) An increase in pledged and non-pledged income
- 2) Significant cash and in-kind donations
- 3) Overall reduction in operating expenses and outreach (especially not having an Associate on staff for more than half the year)

Session is now discussing how to best handle the \$13,700 surplus, a surprising and pleasant chore!

The budget approved for 2018 continues the good news. Pledged income from the congregation has increased by \$12,000 compared to pledges received in 2017. In addition, an unexpected bequest of \$70,000 was received in 2017 and Session voted to first "tithe" 10% of that bequest for new outreach programs and then to disperse the remainder over three years to help pay for our new Associate in Ministry, starting with \$25,000 in 2018 and decreasing over the following two years. We also were finally able to budget a long overdue pay increase to our hard working Staff (3% of their gross salaries.) And again, we project no need to borrow any funds in 2018.

Copies of the 2018 budget and the 2017 year-end report are now available at the Church office for those who would like to see the details.

Treasurer, Jerry Vaneman

Steve's Slant continued...

Here's what that looks like, with the Session liaison for each team in parenthesis:

Goal One: Improve Congregational Care and Hospitality

Congregational Life (Nancy Garrison)

Goal Two: Deepen Our Engagement with and Service to the Wider Community

- Church-College Relations (Diana Sanderson)
- Community Outreach (Kathy Rouse)
- Facilities Use (Bob Gambrell)

Goal Three: Enhance Faith Development and Worship Experience

- Adult Education (Kay Stockdale)
- Children and Youth Education (Sandy Brauer)
- Worship and Music (Carolyn -- CC -- Cole)

Goal Four: Strengthen the Church for a Sustainable Future

- Administration (Ken Murchison)
- Communications (Jack Ballard)

Lent is often thought to be a rather somber season. That's entirely fitting for a season in which we reflect on those things in our lives that we may wish to change, or discard, or leave behind in order to realize God's intention for us of living healthy and abundant lives.

But this Lenten Season I mainly feel joy and gratitude to be on these journeys with you--toward Easter, and toward our future.

SANDWICH MAKERS NEEDED:

On March 21 Warren Wilson and Black Mountain Presbyterian Churches will co-host the Community Lenten Service and Lunch. Steve Runholt will be preaching and our congregation is asked to provide 80 sandwiches. (The service will take place at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and they are making soup.) If you would be willing to make sandwiches, please find the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sandwiches need to be in our church kitchen by 10:45 am on March 21 so that Steve Runholt can take them to Black Mountain. Please make sure to cut the sandwiches in half for easy eating! If you would rather



make the sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall kitchen with others, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.





Holy Week schedule:

Palm Sunday March 25, 10:55 meet

in front of the Chapel

Maundy Thursday March 29, 6:00 pm in the Chapel. (Chancel)

Good Friday March 30, Lenten

Service at noon

First Baptist Church,

Black Mountain

Easter April 1, Easter Breakfast,

9:30 Fellowship Hall Egg Hunt, 10:15 in and

around Fellowship Hall

Service, 11:00 am



Warren Wilson Presbyterian church is looking for a new bookkeeper on contract for approximately 20 hours a month. The pay will be commensurate with level of experience. The person must be skilled with Quickbooks. This position is supervised by the Church Treasurer. If you know anyone who is interested in this position, please have them send their resume to:

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Attention: John Laney CPO 6355, PO Box 9000 Asheville, NC 28815

We will begin interviews on March 7, 2018. Special thanks go out to Nan Woodard (our current bookkeeper) who is retiring.



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