

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Volume 25 Issue 3

May 2018

Steve's Slant

Unlike the four seasons of the calendar year (technically the Gregorian calendar), the seasons of the church calendar are not evenly distributed. At a total of 33 weeks, "ordinary time" is by far the longest season. That's mainly because it serves as a kind of liturgical filler between the other major church seasons.

Easter tide, the season we are in now, lasts for seven Sundays. Lent for six. Advent lasts only four.

At just one *day*, Pentecost is sort of the unwanted orphan of the church season. We take one Sunday to mark the arrival of the Holy Spirit on the world's stage, and to celebrate the unofficial "birthday of the church", and then, just like that, the very next Sunday we're back to ordinary time.

I always find this brief acknowledgment of the third member of the Trinity a little surprising, especially given that it is God's Spirit that energizes us for the work we're called to do as followers of Jesus Christ.

I hope this doesn't sound fussy but I'm also a little surprised that there is no time on the Christian calendar devoted to a season of gratitude, or the giving of thanks. Granted, we do celebrate Thanksgiving here in America, but that is a civic and cultural celebration, not a formal church holiday.

I make this latter point because, as a congregation, we lately have so much to celebrate and to be thankful for. So, I would like to do that here and now.

I am thankful for the creativity and hard work of our Liturgical Arts team that helped make our Lenten experience and Easter celebration so rich and meaningful.

I am thankful for another productive spring workday, and for everyone who planned it and participated in it.

I am thankful that we were selected to host the 30th anniversary celebration of Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina, and that it was an unqualified success. And I'm very thankful for everyone who helped plan, organize, support and host it.

I am thankful that Donna is back with us and that her surgery was successful. I'm also thankful for the wonderful support Leslie Sayer and Rodney Lytle gave us during Donna's recovery.

I am thankful that Warren Wilson Presbyterian is now an Earth Care Congregation.

I am thankful this congregation cares about immigration, enough to take a formal stand of solidarity as a "Sanctuary Supporting Congregation", and for everyone who continues to make investments in building out this support, and helping us understand, as a congregation, what it means.

I am thankful to have been asked to offer the benediction at Lynn Morton's formal inauguration as President of WWC (on May 12th), and for the marked improvement we have felt in the relationship with the college since Lynn arrived on campus.

(Continued on page 7)



PRAYERS FOR: Diana Sanderson and family, on the death of her father; Pat Crumpler; Milt Butterworth; Bill Corbin; Charles Bradley, Doug Bradley's father; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams and Mary Moorrees.

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-2097 e-mail= deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 712-7803 e-mail= srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu

Associate in Ministry, Rev. Grace Boyer 713-1491 e-mail= graceeboyer@gmail.com

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

May Birthdays!

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Gene Witherspoon | May 1 | Ron Wilson | May 2 |
| Babs Guardenier | May 8 | Lizzy Newman | May 10 |
| Pat Wilson | May 11 | Tess Newman | May 13 |
| Bill Fore | May 27 | Ned Guardenier | May 27 |
| Zach Pulsifer | May 28 | Rick Garrison | May 30 |



The Warren Wilson Book Group The Warren Wilson Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, May 10th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Anne Dale will lead the discussion of, "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. It is a fascinating account of the Osage Indian Nation during the 1920's oil boom in Oklahoma. The FBI was developing new methods and was brought in to investigate the numerous murders of the Osage. Bring your bag lunch. Snacks will be provided by Kathy R.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUP

Richard Rohr, Franciscan priest, believes there is already a conversation, initiated by God, happening in our souls. We just need to learn to listen. This is what we are about in our Spiritual Nurture group.



We meet on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 in the Parlor to reflect on Scripture and share the insights and experiences God has provided in our lives. Our Scriptural focus is on the passages which will be used in worship the coming Sunday. We find this reflection deepens our Sunday worship experience. The life stories we share, some profound, some quite ordinary, illumine our humanity and allow us to see where God may be working in our lives. Our once a month meeting is not meant to be one more thing we add to our calendars, rather it gives us opportunity to examine what we are already doing and discern its value.

At a time when conversations about prayer and Spiritual guidance may seem awkward we see this as an opportunity to be spiritually honest with one another and claim our true identity as children of God.

Please join us in the Parlor on the second Monday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering is May 14.

Orders for Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be taken on May 6th and May 13th. Delivery will be May 20th. Thanks, Anne Dale.



CARPENTRY SKILLS

Do you have carpentry skills you are willing to share? The nursery is in need of some replacement shelving. Current shelves are becoming unsteady. If you are able to build shelves to the dimensions and design they desire in order to organize the toys and supplies, please contact Natalie Cowal at forestchick07@gmail.com or 336-413-9071.

A SPIRITUAL MOMENT

Meditations from Richard Rohr and the Center for Action and Contemplation
meditations@cac.org

Fr. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Priest residing in Albuquerque, NM. He is an author and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. He will very often focus on Christian Spirituality and making Spirituality accessible to each of us in a way that is understandable and in a way that is applicable to our daily lives. It begins with the heart rather than the head! As Presbyterians we are comfortable with our doctrines and our theology and rightly so..... they have much to teach us about our faith.

But to focus on Spirituality, we move into an area of understanding the presence of God in our individual lives and not solely in the corporate body of believers. He draws on theological writers such as Brueggemann, Bourgeault, Barbara Brown Taylor or Thomas Merton.

For the next several months I will pass on to you some of his thoughts and ideas regarding God's spirit at work in each on us. Fr. Rohr suggests letting the new thoughts and concepts on spirituality slowly filter into new ways of thinking. This is opposed to trying to understand them solely with our minds. The deepest truths about God cannot be grasped at the level of the intellect. Spirituality is not about beliefs or doctrines It is a slow meditative process about God working in our lives. It becomes transformative only when the head, heart and body are all open and receptive. More on the subject next month.....

Peace and blessings, Sandy Brauer



The Faith Development Team has planned a picnic for our children, their families and buddies at Robert Lake Park in Montreat on May 20th after the Pentecost Service. The Shelter is reserved for 1pm. We are asking individuals to bring a bag lunch. The Team will provide drinks, snacks and desserts for everyone. Bring a chair or blanket or maybe even a towel for wet feet if you (all ages) decide to wade in the creek.

Parents may want to hike the Montreat Trails or grounds while the children are playing. Let us know your plans - we hope to see everyone.....if necessary contact Sandy B., Kristin W., Susan L., or Grace B.

Where Are All Our Nickels Going Lately?

Some years ago Presbyterian women convinced the whole Presbyterian Church that a consistent small sacrifice every time we ate a meal could provide a tremendous amount of relief for others who are hungry. That is how our "Nickel a Meal" program came to be. For a long time we called this effort "Two Cents a Meal", until inflation caused us to reconsider. Some presbyteries have now gone on to promote "Ten Cents a Meal" and even "A Quarter a Meal". But in our Western North Carolina Presbytery we feel that "Nickel a Meal" still gets the message across that we can profoundly alter the threat of hunger by consistently making small sacrifices. Last year the "Nickel a Meal" offering from our Presbytery's churches raised over \$100,000. We at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church contributed a significant portion of that amount.

Here are some of the programs recently awarded grants from the Nickel a Meal fund. Five community food pantries: "Sharing House" in Brevard; "Clay County Food Pantry"; Loving Food Resources" in Asheville; Dulatown food Pantry; and "Feed My Sheep" (sponsored by 3 small churches near Burnsville) received a total of \$33,232.00 from the "Nickel a Meal" fund. "Twelve Baskets" a free community café in Asheville that makes use of surplus restaurant food received a \$4,000 grant. The WNC AIDS Project in Asheville which delivers nutritional food to dozens of AID patients and hospital convalescents received a \$5,000 grant.

In addition to these local agencies the "Nickel a Meal" fund was also able to provide \$18,400 of support for the nutrition program of our Guatemala Partnership.

Thank you for your faithful support of this hunger relief program and for including this small sacrifice of a nickel a meal in your daily routine. Look for the red "Nickel a Meal" offering baskets passed in our worship service on the first Sunday of every month.

Successful Spring Workday

We want to thank 14 WWPC people who contributed to the successful church workday in April. Most helped on Saturday morning, 7 April, but a couple contributed to cleaning and repair projects a day or two before and after the 7th.

Among the tasks accomplished were: 1) scraping old paint and repainting an exterior door to children's church school classroom, 2) some cleaning of the choir loft, 3), trimming brush and plantings encroaching on sidewalks and parking spaces, 4) cleaning interior windows in the Chapel, 5) removing weeds from walkway, 6) continuing improvement to the walkway on the east side of the Fellowship Hall / Administration/ Education Building by adding more gravel, 6) going through all the previously used hymnbooks to separate those with special acknowledgements and dedications written in them, 7) cleanup of the porch / fireplace area outside the main entrance to the Fellowship Hall, 8) cleaning of rooms and hallway in the Administrative / Education Building and other areas, 9) adding more mulch around the walkway to planting areas on the east side of the Fellowship Hall, 10) planting new flowers around the front area of the Chapel, 11) repairing a hole in one of the external timber steps between the Fellowship Hall and the parking area west of the Chapel, 12) cleaning bathrooms, 13) replacing a damaged threshold of the rear door of the Chapel, and, 14) other. Thanks again for all efforts contributing to a good workday. Another workday will be scheduled before the College homecoming weekend in the fall.



WWPC HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has an Environmental Ministries program to recognize churches that qualify as Earth Care Congregations. We prepared an application during the fall of 2017, submitted it during the early 2018 submission window, and were informed at the end of February that WWPC has been certified as a First Year Earth Care Congregation for 2018. Thanks to the several members of our congregation who helped with this effort. We have received a certificate of our status as an Earth Care Congregation, an Earth Care seal or logo we can use on our web page and in other ways as we wish, and, the PC (USA) will add Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church to their online Earth Care Congregations listing and map that can be found at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/.

The application was a spreadsheet questionnaire with more than 125 questions or required actions, each requiring either a “yes” / “no” response or a more numerical response to actions. For example, Question / Action Number 2 is “Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year” and you select from their options of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 times, each answer having a point value. For this one, we got 10 points for two outdoor services in 2017. One more example is Question / Action Number 64, “Amount of food scraps and lawn / garden waste that is composted” and the answer options include “0,” “some,” “half,” “most,” and “all” with a point value for the response option that applies to us. The questions / actions fall into four categories that are: 1) Worship, 2) Education, 3) Facilities, and 4) Outreach. For initial certification which we have achieved, a minimum of 25 points must be scored in each of the four categories for a minimum of 100 points. For initial certification, upgrades or actions under the category Facilities can be made at any time in the past, but for Worship, Education, and Outreach, all points counted must have been earned during the past year. For recertification as an Earth Care Congregation in subsequent years, using the same question / action spreadsheet, we must score a total of 50 points with none of the four categories having less than 5 points. If anyone is interested in receiving either a paper copy or an electronic copy of this spreadsheet application package which is an EXCEL file, please contact Bob Gambrell

Obviously as an Earth Care Congregation, we want to do more than the minimum to maintain this recognition in the future. The WWPC Earth Care group looks forward to interacting with church staff, other church teams, and church members to qualify for recertification next year and beyond, and to continue to improve our efforts to preserve and enhance this beautiful earth that God has given us.

ABCCM COMMITMENT: Since ABCCM was organized in Asheville our faith community has continually supported various programs of this organization. Presently we have teams that periodically work in the Veterans Restoration Quarters in Oteen as well as the clothing room and soup kitchen of the Crisis Center in downtown Asheville. The time has come for some members of the “soup kitchen team” to retire their food preparation skills. If we are to continue this particular commitment at the Crisis Center, replacements for these kitchen volunteers will quickly have to be in place. The need is not for occasional kitchen help but rather a firm monthly commitment to be responsible for having an on-site lunch prepared for 75-100+ clients. For more information call John Laney (298-2344).





*HAPPY HOMEOWNERS
- Regina Hunter and
Nikita Norris, and their two
small daughters, are now
at home in Arden in
Habitat's
Presbyterian/Methodist
House # 26.*

**NORRIS-HUNTER
FAMILY NOW AT
HOME IN HABITAT
PRESBYTERIAN/METH
ODIST HOUSE # 26;
PLANS FOR HOUSE #
27**

Regina Hunter and Nikita Norris, and their daughters Kyree and Kaleia, closed on Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian/Methodist House # 26 on the morning of March 15, and moved in that day.

Many members of our church helped build this house with volunteer labor and financial support.

Later this year, at the kickoff meeting for Presbyterian/Methodist House # 27, Habitat will give participating churches a large, framed print of the photo with this article, and it will be placed on a wall of our adult Sunday school room in Fellowship Hall. There are 16 photos of Habitat Presbyterian and Presbyterian/Methodist Houses, going back to 1998, on those walls now.

Though all details for the next Presbyterian/Methodist house, # 27, have not yet been set, Habitat has announced that it will also be in Arden at the same site as house # 26. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-July, and additional information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

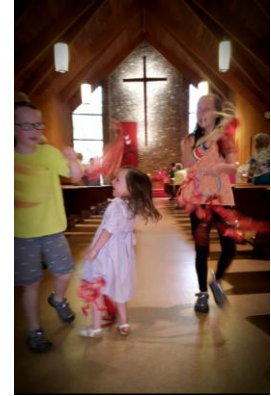


A very heartfelt "Thank you" goes out to everyone for your healing prayers, cards and generous gifts of food brought to our house during the time following my surgery. You have no idea how much this meant to all of us (especially me) and we are grateful for your generosity and love. Thank you so much. Donna

(Blake left a box of food containers in my office if yours was left at the house)

Children and Youth Sunday May 13...On May 13, Mother's Day, the children and youth of this congregation will help lead the worship service. Steve Runholt will preach, but our young people will play and sing music, read scripture, lead liturgy, and create artwork. During Sunday School, they have been practicing music, learning how a worship service is planned, and deciding ways they can be involved.

The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 20.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE May 2018

May 6—Creation Care

Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, director of the Creation Care Alliance of Western NC, will look at Creation Care theologically and in the context of our current reality. Will also brainstorm options for hands-on projects the congregation could try.

May 13-20—Read Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance

Participants are encouraged to read ahead so we can cover the book's insights in two sessions. Will compare this book to issues raised when the class read "Waking Up White" and "Just Mercy" in 2017.

May 13—Part 1 (Have read through page 151.)

May 20—Part 2 (Have finished reading the book.)

May 27—No Adult Class. Worship will be held in the Pavilion on campus.

(June 3 begins our 10:00 a.m. Worship schedule for the Summer, so there will be no regular Adult or Children's morning classes. Classes will resume on September 9.)

Steve's Slant continued...

As our programmatic year winds down, I have a few more things for which I am deeply grateful.

I am thankful for everyone who has planned, invested in, supported or taught in our spiritual nurture programs this year. Our children's educational program, especially, is flourishing at the moment, and that's because a group of talented and caring people are investing significant time and energy into growing and supporting it.

I am thankful for everyone who has sung in our church choir this year.

I am thankful to have such wonderful colleagues in Grace and Vivian, and for their specific roles in enriching the life of this congregation. (See the previous two paragraphs.)

I am thankful for our elders and for everyone who coordinates or leads our ministry teams, and of course for everyone who serves on them.

Last but by no means least, I am thankful to serve such a loving and caring congregation.

So even though we are technically in Eastertide, I hope you'll join me in giving thanks for all these things!



PENTECOST

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