



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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November 2018

Steve's Slant

I'll confess up front that this is not the newsletter article I was expecting to write, given that it's now November -- Thanksgiving month -- and that we're also now just two weeks away from the culmination of our stewardship campaign in support of next year's budget.

I thought I might write about things for which we have cause to be thankful, and how the practice of gratitude is even more important than ever in times like these, when the world seems so tense and divided.

Or I thought I might focus on the good news that's coming from the stewardship side: how we've already received just over \$99,000 in commitments -- more than half-way toward our goal of just over \$196,000 -- with two weeks still to go in our stewardship season.

But instead I feel that it's important to address a topic I have never before written about in this context: the stewardship of our safety.

Most of you know by now that, during a routine sweep of the Chapel just before securing the building for the night, Public Safety officers from campus recently discovered a homeless man (age 21) hiding out in the women's restroom. I have recounted the details of that event in a previous email and will not revisit them here.

So, I first want to stress that I do not believe our safety or security is in any immediate risk. For fifty-four years the Chapel has been a place where students and others could come at all times of the day and night to pray or mediate in safety. Though this recent incident was unnerving, that record of more than a half-century of safety remains untarnished. And we trust and believe that this will continue to be true.

That said, as opioid and methamphetamine use have spread to this valley, the demographic profile of this area has changed in ways that do carry security implications campus-wide. And sad as this is to say, last Saturday's tragic shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh is all the proof we need that even communities of faith can no longer take the issue of safety for granted.

So, with all of that in view, I plan to ask Session when we meet later this month to appoint an Action Team to begin a thorough review of the question of our collective safety. My recommendation will be that this team consists of representatives of Session, the church staff, and the congregation at large.

During this busy holiday season, our first priority will likely be to assess whether we need to take any immediate steps to improve or enhance the security of our buildings during the day. Our staff sometimes work alone in these buildings. So it will be important to hear from them in order to determine whether we need to do anything in the short-term to enhance the security of our buildings.

(Continued on page 7)



PRAYERS FOR: Salyna Morgan; Marylyn Huff, following back surgery; Paulette Heck; Ron Wilson; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams and Mary Moorrees.

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November Birthdays!

Kay Stockdale	Nov. 3	Bob Cook	Nov. 12
Tom Eller	Nov. 12	Barbara Higgins	Nov. 13
Susan Daugherty	Nov.16	Roberta martin	Nov. 23
Ernst Laursen	Nov.24	Sally Broughton	Nov. 26
Pat Laursen	Nov. 27	Kathy Rouse	Nov. 27
Steve Runholt	Nov. 29		



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 8 at noon. The book for discussion is, "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. Join us at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a sandwich and snacks. Discussion begins at 12:30.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

From **Oct 14-Nov 18** the class will be reading Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About The Poor, by Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. This is a book that the former co-moderators of the PCUSA recommended every church read. Dr. Theoharis is a Presbyterian Pastor with a PhD in New Testament and Christian Origins. Her book examines how the Matthew 26:11 text ("the poor you will always have with you") is taken out of context and distorted. "Poverty is not inevitable, Theoharis argues...and all Christians have a responsibility to partner with the poor to end poverty once and for all."

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER?"

Congregants, college students, faculty and staff, friends and neighbors, you are invited to the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Community Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 22 in the Fellowship Hall. We will start gathering at 1:00pm for fellowship and appetizers with dinner at 2:00pm. Turkey, ham, vegetarian options and all the traditional fixings will be served. More details and sign-up sheets will be available in November. If you have questions contact Diana Sanderson or Mike Levi."



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR EMPTY BOWLS!

In celebration of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 11-18), Warren Wilson College will hold its 20th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 6:00pm, Ransom Fellowship Hall.



Participants will eat a simple meal of bread and soup served in handmade bowls and, at the end of the evening, take the bowls home as a reminder of the work we can do together to end hunger in our communities. Students from the Bonner Leaders Crew organize this event in collaboration with local agencies to ensure the evening is educational and meaningful for participants.

Students will be selling tickets for this event in the Narthex after church on November 4 and 11. The cost is \$15 for students and \$20 for everyone else. This year's beneficiary, BeLoved Asheville, provides opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to transform their lives and communities as they tackle some of our toughest community challenges: homelessness, poverty, and racism. Proceeds will support BeLoved's Tiny House Village project, a new model of housing that is deeply affordable, sustainable, and community-oriented.

Emergency Shelter

The Emergency Shelter (ES) at First Baptist Church in Black Mountain is about to open. This shelter is open from Nov 2 through March 31 when the night temperature drops below 39°F. First Baptist Church generously offered their basement Fellowship Hall for use as a shelter, some years ago, after several homeless people froze to death in Black Mountain. This ES serves the homeless in this part of the county -- from the VA Hospital to the McDowell County line. Volunteers work with Sonny Moore, an employee of the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, to make sure that the clients are safe and warm. About half the clients have jobs, but their salary is not sufficient to pay for rental housing. Dinner and breakfast are served and a bag lunch is sent with the clients.

There is a great need for volunteers to work the early shift, which is 4:45 PM until 11:45 PM. With enough volunteers the duty comes around once a month. During that time different churches have volunteered to bring and serve supper, and help clean up. Clients take showers, put their dirty clothes in assigned place to be washed and dried by the volunteers. Lights are out at 10 PM so the clients can get a good night's sleep. There are always two persons on duty and there will be an experienced person there to help get new people acquainted with the system. We have three part time persons paid to work the 11:45 PM to 7:00 AM shift if we cannot get volunteers for that time.

Different churches have volunteered to prepare the evening meal for a week at the time. This year **Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church has the week Dec 30 through January 5.** We will be asking people to sign up to prepare the evening meal and make monetary contributions to cover breakfast and lunch items. This helps to make sure that needed items are available and that we don't have an excess of items that are not needed and take up refrigerator and freezer space.

Please consider volunteering, you may call Sonny Moore at 828-273-5001, or Sarah Anne at 828-669-2116 or SVCM at 828-669-9404 and speak with Sonny or Cheryl Wilson. Any questions? You may ask me or Corise Gambrell.

(Submitted by Sarah Anne Eller)



A goal of our Ministry Plan is to **Strengthen the Church for a Sustainable Future.** Several of our Ministry Teams have given great consideration of the financial strength and position of our church and approved target budget drafted for 2019. We hope that you have already or will take a few moments for yourself to consider the budget and request from the Stewardship Team. This has been a diligent, earnest and prayerful process. Our Ministry Plan and our goals are not taken lightly. We hope that you'll continue the process in that Light.

Our guiding scripture during this time of gratitude and generosity is

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NRSV)

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Perhaps we are drawn to this church because we recognize the longing and need for groundedness in our lives that comes from seeking God's will. We understand that in order to serve, to be of service, we need the nourishment and support of a loving community. In order to grow and thrive in God's love, we cherish being surrounded by fellow pilgrims on God' path. It is here where we can meet the challenges of our faith in a sanctuary of love.

Your stewardship team is asking you, now, to continue this process as manifested from our Ministry Plan. What does Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church – its ministries, its service, its worship mean to you? How is your life and your faith enriched by your presence in this chapel and in this community? From these questions and being rooted and grounded in God's love, we ask that you prayerfully continue the discernment of how you can participate in the vision of this congregation. Please review the materials you've received. Let us hear your questions. And please, participate in stewardship and sustainability, as you are able, as you are challenged, by returning your commitment card.

NOVEMBER 18 IS OUR HARVEST SERVICE...

Have you ever wondered how our church's Thanksgiving tradition began?

"All is safely gathered in, now let the winter storms begin" words to a familiar Hymn has set the tone for 84 years the Sunday before Thanksgiving.



Bernhard Laursen, a Dane who had immigrated to Boston and became a citizen, came to teach and work at Asheville Farm School in 1931. He began the tradition of "gathering in" for the Church's Thanksgiving service in 1933. At that time, the school was holding its church services in the parlor of Sunderland, the men's dormitory. He brought in a shock of corn, several grains, potatoes, apples, and other produce grown on the farm as a display for the service, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

As the farm manager, he felt that sharing the visual aspect of the harvest would add to the air of thanksgiving. He continued the tradition until his retirement in 1956 and his son Ernst became the farm manager.

Ernst continued the tradition until his retirement in 1996. The students on the farm crew were always involved in the "gathering in from the fields", the gathering of animals and the creation of the display each year.

Beginning in the 1940's the Churches of the Swannanoa Valley met together in the decorated chapel for services Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving with the different churches taking part in the service. This practice continued until the mid 1960's.

This year, we continue to "gather in" on **November 18 at our 11:00** service of worship. This year, we will also have special music by The Overmountain Recorder Consort. We would ask all who would like to bring items to place at the front of the church during the offertory, to bring canned goods that will be distributed to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry.

Join us for this special gathering in the sanctuary, and make sure to thank the student crews for all their hard work!

God's Mission in Dominican Republic and Haiti

Mission co-workers **Mark Hare and Jenny Bent** work alongside the Dominican Evangelical Church (IED) to provide training and support for Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in IED congregations in Barahona and surrounding communities in the Dominican southwest.

The success of the CHE program, which Jenny piloted with Dominican sugarcane workers living in the Batey 7 settlement in 2012, has led to the introduction of CHE in every region of the country. "CHE empowers, creating resilience in the adults and children who participate," Jenny said.

"The emphasis of CHE is on people using their God-given resources to change their lives and the lives of their neighbors," Mark said. "We are energized by the Holy Spirit blowing through, transforming us as well as the people with whom we work."

Although most of their work is in the Dominican Republic, Mark also travels to Haiti as opportunities arise to support and celebrate the success of Haitian farmers in growing lots of food on small areas of land.

"It can be challenging," Jenny said, "to encourage people living in very difficult situations to believe that God has given them all they need. It begins by being the good neighbor-loving God, themselves and those around them, while working to make all their lives better."

**Support Mark and Jenny
In the Dominican Republic and Haiti:
Pcusa.org/donate/E200356**

This inspiring news is received by our Community Engagement Team-Worldwide with gratitude and praise to God. (Submitted by Pat Crumpler)

Bring Christmas joy to a child at Black Mountain Home.

Christmas is often a challenging time for our children. It's one of those days when they miss family most keenly. We know we can't give our kids a perfect Christmas, but we can give them the best holiday possible and you can help. We need supporters to:

Sponsor a Christmas outing. Over the school break we plan fun outings for the kids like ice skating, bowling, a trip to Fun Depot, or even skiing and snow tubing. Chip in to cover the cost of some holiday fun.

Our Community Engagement Team plans to give to this program for kids to enjoy their Christmas. Please plan to bring your gift on Sunday Dec. 2 or Sunday Dec. 9 and put Black Mtn. Home on the memo line. They expressed heartfelt thanks for our generous gifts in 2017.

A Rare and Special Opportunity

We have received an invitation to take a group from our church on a service trip next year to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Session has given their blessing to start recruiting for this trip, so we wanted to let you know that, provisionally, the dates are scheduled to run from June 9th thru June 15th next summer. We are still working out final budget details, but the cost per person is expected to come in at approximately \$1200, perhaps a bit more depending on the cost of travel and other expenses beyond our control.

We hope to take a group of twelve. If you are interested in reserving a spot, please speak to Steve directly for further details. Spaces will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Participation will require a commitment to participate in some pre-trip training and orientation sessions. Receiving an official invitation to visit Pine Ridge is a rare and special privilege, so we hope you might give prayerful consideration to joining the group!



Steve's Slant Continued...

Longer term, and as I have mentioned elsewhere, I hope we will take the opportunity at this moment in our history to develop a comprehensive safety plan, one that not only addresses our safety and security, but also addresses how we might respond to weather and medical emergencies.

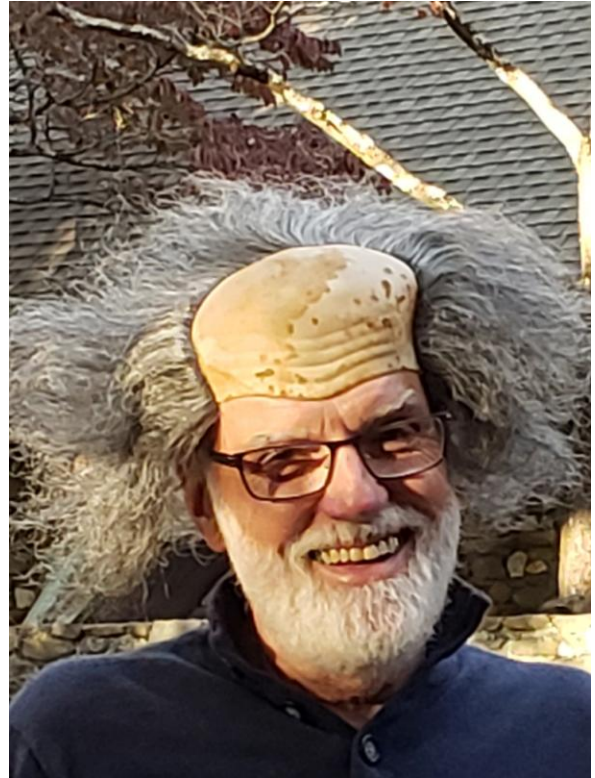
Because in this season of gratitude, one thing for which I'm thankful is that the Chapel has always been a place of safety. And I'm certain that we all want it to remain that way.

Join us at 2:30 on November 30 in the Chapel for "The Hanging of the Greens". Bring cuttings of Holly and other greens from your property and help us decorate! There will be hot cider and a few goodies to nibble on while we decorate with Christmas music in the background. All are welcome and encouraged to help.



Also on November 30 at 5:30, join the Advent fun in Ransom Fellowship Hall with pizza and Christmas crafts for our Annual Christmas Party. Help the kids with crafts or make things yourself! This is always a fun event and we hope you'll join us!

A RE-CAP OF "TRUNK OR TREAT"



AND THE FUN CONTINUED...!



NOW...WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT CHURCH EVENT...!

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE TRUNK OR TREAT HAPPEN.



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-and everything in between.

Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are committed in our diversity to be one in Christ!

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The Extended Family