



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

© 2011 Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church (USA) and College Chapel Inc.

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 25 Issue 10

December 2018

Steve's Slant

Early last October, acting on a tip from John Laney, I drove over to the Asheville Mall after work one day to take advantage of a sale on men's wear at Belk.

The men's wear section is on the second floor so I hopped on the escalator and just as I got off I came essentially nose-to-nose with something I did not expect: a small toy reindeer. The little stuffed animal was standing next to a big artificial pine tree, which was decorated with a profusion of fake red berries and synthetic pine cones, with a few miniature Santa Clause ornaments thrown in just for . . . fun?

The price tag on the tree bore a cheery message, promising buyers a "Cozy Christmas." On the other side of the tree stood a display of red and white checkered letters, big enough to stand on a mantle, that spelled out: JOY.

The experience forced me to admit something I was not aware of, namely, that I appear to have an inner Grinch, for JOY was not what I felt. Perhaps this is because it was October 8th.

It seems like every year retailers push the beginning of Christmas further and further out. First it was just after Thanksgiving. Then it was before Thanksgiving, with the, um, advent of (aptly named) Black Friday. Now it appears that Christmas arrives, in stores at least, well before Halloween.

Naturally, retailers mount this effort in the hope of reaping as much profit as possible from offering shoppers the opportunity to purchase something that cannot be bought: JOY.

Resisting this push is perhaps a losing battle. But still I try. Until recently if you had asked me when Christmas begins I would have given you a rather orthodox answer: the Christmas season properly begins on the first Sunday of Advent.

For many years I held to this view, well, religiously, waiting until that Sunday to break out our favorite Christmas cd's and to put up our decorations.

But this year I was startled for a second time by the arrival of Christmas, only this time in a good way.

This year, the Christmas season began for me on November 22nd. That was the day we hosted our (second annual?) Thanksgiving dinner in the fellowship hall. I can't say why it was exactly, but something about the combination of family, friends and strangers (read: friends we haven't met yet) all gathering in the same room to enjoy a wonderful holiday meal together gave me a deep sense of -- you guessed it: JOY.

In the end I should not have been surprised that the Christmas season began early for me this year. At the start of our service this past Sunday, Allee Williams and Anne Hamilton danced and acted out for us the story of the Annunciation.

It was the perfect way to begin Advent, and a beautiful reminder that the God who was born on that first Christmas morning can arrive wherever and whenever the Spirit chooses.

So, there is only one thing left to say as we continue on our Advent journey: keep your eyes and hearts open! For even if it feels like this sacred season has not yet begun for you, Christmas is surely coming, bringing with it JOY to the world!

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; Leslie Sayyar, 333-8867 e-mail= treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Ray Stock 298-0955 e-mail= stoc5054@bellsouth.net

Assistant Treasurer; Alisa White 298-6778 e-mail= aliswht@yahoo.com

Book Keeper; Barbara Escalante e-mail= bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

December Birthdays!

Hythe Hamilton	Dec. 5	Doug Orr	Dec. 9
Jon Hettrick	Dec. 12	Darrell Spencer	Dec. 14
Emily Pulsifer	Dec. 15	Liz Lesesne	Dec. 17
Joanne Lincoln	Dec. 30	Sandy Brauer	Dec. 31
Derron Daugherty	Dec. 31		



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Dec. 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. "Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys will be discussed. Sepetys writes about little know disasters in History. This book focuses on German refugees seeking safety from the Russians at the end of WWII. Bring a sandwich for lunch and dessert will be provided. (Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES--CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Looking for a way to help the children and youth in the church as they grow in their faith? The children's Sunday School classroom is in need of some supplies. If you can provide any of the supplies, just place them in Grace Boyer's office OR on the table down in the Youth Room. Needed are: large scissors, markers, glue, pencil sharpener, a CD player or tablet, a gallon of water, some bottled water (small).

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!



Interested in helping the homeless this holiday season?
Our youth are doing a drive of small supplies, such as toiletries, hats and gloves. Donations accepted through 12/16 in the Narthex. Please see Allee Williams for details.

SVCM Homeless Emergency Shelter

WWPC is responsible for meals for the SVCM Homeless Emergency Shelter at First Baptist Church, Black Mountain, from Sunday, Dec. 30 through January 5. There is a sign-up sheet and envelope in the Narthex or you may contact Corise Gambrell (357-5064) or Sarah Anne Eller (669-2116) if you would like to prepare dinner AND/OR make a contribution toward breakfast or lunch. Corise and Sarah Anne will purchase the needed items for breakfast and lunch each day.

The Shelter serves the homeless in eastern Buncombe (Owen School District). It operates when temperatures are forecast to be below 38, and it has been open and near capacity for most of November.

December events schedule:

Dec. 2, First Sunday in Advent
Service in the Chapel at 11:00
(Special liturgical segment, with Angel and Mary)

Dec. 9, Second Sunday in Advent
Service in the Chapel at 11:00
(Special liturgical segment, with Innkeeper)



Wassail Reception



Following the service on Dec. 9, we will gather around the Wassail bowl in Ransom Fellowship Hall for special finger food treats and fellowship. During the Wassail, we will also have a craft sale where a large percentage of the money made will go to SVCM.

Dec. 9 continues with the Warren Wilson College Choir performing their Christmas Concert in the Chapel at 3:00 pm.



Dec. 9 continues with our annual Cookies and Carols at 7:00 pm in Ransom Fellowship Hall. Come learn to play the chimes or just join the students in singing your favorite Christmas Carols.

Dec. 15, On Saturday Dec. 15 the Asheville Choral Society will perform their Christmas Concert in the Chapel at 4:00 pm. tickets for this concert may be purchased on their website, adult \$20 and students \$10. There will also be donation baskets at the church.



Dec. 16, Third Sunday in Advent
Service in the Chapel at 11:00
(Special liturgical segment with Shepherds and Angels)

Dec. 23, Fourth Sunday in Advent
Service in the Chapel at 11:00

(Special celebration for Vivian Hare during the coffee hour)



Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service
of Lessons and Carols
in the Chapel at 8:00 pm.

CLERK'S REPORT

At its stated meeting on November 18, 2018, the session took the following actions:

1. authorize the moderator to hire an interim Music Director; to confer with the members of the Worship and Music Ministry Team and, with their advice, to appoint a search team; and to name an action team to arrange an appropriate expression of the congregation's gratitude for Vivian's work.

2. Approved, with regret, Marian Sigman's request to transfer her membership to First Presbyterian Church of Asheville.

3. Approved closing of the cemetery money market account with the remaining funds transferred to the church's money market account.

4. Approved a revision of the Memorials Fund Policy for the congregation.

5. Approved a revision of the Endowment Funds policies.

6. Authorized crafters from the congregation and the individual in sanctuary at the Unitarian Church in Asheville to sell their crafts at the Wassail celebration.

7. Approved the use of \$1000 from the Waldrop bequest to support the making of cleanup buckets to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

8. Approved spending \$190 from the Christian Endowment to pay for two individuals to attend the presbytery's retreat for middle school youth.

9. Authorized the pastor to schedule an installation service for the newly elected elders.



Ken Murchison, Clerk of the Session

November 30 was a really busy and fun day beginning with Hanging the Greens and ending with our Christmas Party...!





Our Christmas Party was so much fun... food, crafts and lots of icing for all!

Saturday, December 1 our youth had a service day at Manna Food Bank



We have some very hard workers who like to help others!



Your 2018 Stewardship Team is most grateful for the continued generosity of the members of Warren Wilson Church. We appreciate your response to the annual stewardship campaign.

It is worth noting that we've gained new pledges this year, and that of course is much appreciated by all of us. By way of explanation: the income portion of our operating fund budget is made up primarily of commitments, but also includes other regular giving by non-pledging congregants, and plate offerings given largely by visitors. Some folks who've been in the category of "regular contributors" have given us pledges/commitments this year; that's enormously helpful to our Administration Ministry Team as they develop a budget that meets our needs and accurately projects anticipated contributions.

The down-side of that is, unfortunately, that the regular unpledged income, which we always include in our projections, may decrease substantially in 2019 unless we attract more congregants because of the increase in numbers who have given commitments for 2019.

To avoid a deficit and to fully fund the 2019 Target Budget, we need people who have not made their commitment, but plan to do so, to let Ray Stock know as soon possible. If any of you are willing to increase your commitment, that would be a wonderful gesture. You could also pass that information to Ray Stock.

One of the aspects of our 2019 budget was a challenge to set aside \$4,000 to pay forward toward the Associate in Ministry position, which is currently funded in part by a bequest.

Again, we give you thanks and appreciation for your commitment to the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. Warren Wilson church can continue its numerous and meaningful ministry to our members, to our community and to the world beyond.

In love, prayer and grace,

Your Stewardship Action Team

Bob Gambrell, Sandy Brauer, Nancy Garrison, Sally Broughton

From *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Anne Weems



*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*

*This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.*



PRAYERS FOR: Ron Wilson; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams and Mary Moorrees.



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!

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

The Extended Family