

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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A Note from Our New Director of Music

Hello there! Joel P. Rogers here. I'm your new Director of Music and I want to take a chance to introduce myself. I am so excited about becoming a part of your congregation and family. I hope that we will be able to make great music together and lift our voices in praise to a loving God. I should give you a little background about my journey to here and how my life has been blessed over the years.

I started as a very young musician in church when I was thirteen. I began playing the piano for all services at Northwoods Baptist Church in Walkertown, North Carolina. Our family moved to another Baptist church after a couple of years and I also played the piano for that church until I went to college. My first year of college I spent at Brevard College, which began my lifelong love of these mountains. At Brevard College, I was a music major with an emphasis in voice, piano and organ! What a bad idea! I spent the entire year in a practice room and had very little free time. I transferred to Appalachian State University and continued as a church music major, but there was a change for me on the horizon.

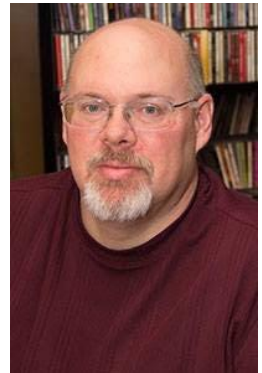
During high school, I spent every minute that I wasn't practicing piano at the local community theatre. It was something I loved and had a feeling I was good at it. I left school and began working as a theatrical musical director and actor wherever I found a job, and eventually ended up based in Florida. I spent a few years living the life of a professional actor, but also knew I needed to return to school to finish my degree. While based in Florida, I was the Organist/Choirmaster for St. John's Episcopal Church in Naples and even though I was a wandering minstrel, I always had a church home.

Eventually, I returned to school to begin my real career. I always knew that my first love was music, and my choosing to not make it my primary career was perhaps the best decision I ever made. It always kept my church and my music special for me and I never had to let it be my "job." I moved from Florida and finished my undergraduate degree (BFA) in Musical Theatre Performance at Northern Kentucky University. I then moved to Memphis for graduate school and finished my terminal degree (MFA) in theatrical direction with an emphasis in Musical Theatre (no real surprise there)!

I first taught at Bethel College, a small Cumberland Presbyterian college in Tennessee, and after two years, took a position in Chico, California at California State University. I spent most of my teaching years there, served as Chair of our Department of Theatre for many years, and served as Dean at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz, California. I moved back to North Carolina five years ago and taught at Mars Hill University for four years. I have recently retired from teaching and have started on another path. I am currently finishing a few pre-requisite classes for the Associate Degree in Nursing program at AB-Tech. Even as I type this, just a few hours ago, finished my last presentation for Anatomy & Physiology II, taught by your own Bill Sanderson.

(Continued on page 4)___

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



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May Birthdays!

Ron Wilson	May 2	Babs Guardenier	May 8
Lizzy Newman	May 10	Steven Williams	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 Discussion Group meets Thursday, May 9th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Marion Sigmon will lead a discussion of THE PLOVER by Brian Doyle. Julia Jordan will provide snacks. Bring you sandwich and join us for an "always interesting" discussion.

Adult Education

May 5-19 "Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi." The class will be exploring 3 parables of Jesus using the research of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine (a Jewish New Testament scholar). No preparation required, just come on in!

CHURCH WIDE PICNIC AND BUDDY EVENT

Join your Church Buddy or just come in support of our children's program to a picnic after church on May 19th at the Owen Park Shelter in Swannanoa. It will be a covered dish dinner so bring your favorite dish to share. For seating you can use the tables in the shelter or bring your own chair or blanket. Parents might want to bring riding toys for their children, a frisbee or a fishing pole (license required) or basketball. Foot races and the swing sets will be available. Remember Croquet??? An area for Croquet will be set up for adults... it promises to be a fun time.



Sunday, May 5

Please join us on Sunday, May 5 to worship at 11:00 as we are joined by two talented musicians, Dr. David Foster leading the choir in the Anthem, and Joel P. Rogers, our new Music Director, playing the prelude, offertory and postlude also leading us in the hymns.

Following the service, come to the Fellowship Hall for a catered lunch, followed by an informative re-cap of the recent leadership retreat that was dedicated to moving the ministry plan forward. Find out how we will be implementing these updated plans!

Following the lunch and meeting in Fellowship Hall we will gather in the Chapel to listen to and thank Dr. David Foster for being our interim Music Director. David took on this roll graciously and on short notice. He has worked beautifully with our choir and is appreciated weekly for his expertise on the organ. David's performance will include five of his favorite pieces.

CLERK'S REPORT

At the March stated meeting, the session received Carla Presnell and Venneta (Tacci) Smith as members and took the following additional actions:

1. Approved payment of the church's share of the cost of replacing two compressors in the chapel from the designated maintenance fund.
2. Approved the personnel review process proposed by Administration Ministry Team.
3. Authorized Bob Gambrell to work with the college to implement safety recommendations as soon as the college is prepared to act on the recommendations.

At the April stated meeting, the session took the following actions:

1. Authorized the hiring of Joel Rogers as Music Director.
2. Approved the scheduling of a catered church luncheon to present the results of the recent leadership retreat.
3. Authorized development of a method that will enable the church to accept donations by credit and debt cards.
4. Approved the establishment of an action team to improve displays in the chapel entrance.
5. Authorized the expenditure \$500 from Community Outreach Endowment to go to flood relief efforts at the Red Cloud Renewal Energy program on the Pine Ridge Reservation.
6. Authorized the expenditure of \$150 from the Christian Education endowment for the youth to attend Adventure Day at Camp Grier.
7. Authorized the expenditure of not more than \$500 from the Worship and Music endowment to purchase cloth to mark off the back pews and discourage their use during worship services.
8. Approved beginning 10:00 worship on June 2.

Ken Murchison, Clerk

Music Director Continued...

And again, all along the way, the constant in my life was being a church musician. I served for eleven years at St. John's in Chico, California and prior to that was at Faith Lutheran Church in Chico. I served as Director of Music at Grace Episcopal in Asheville, NC and now I have found my way to you. Here to serve your congregation, your mission, and your community. I feel fortunate to have been met with such openness and I feel that this opportunity is truly God given. I look forward to worshipping with you, and look forward to introducing you to my husband, Rich.

So, that's me...in a nutshell. Please, always feel free to come to me with your suggestions or just to say "howdy." I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you and would love to sit down, have a meal, or just have coffee. I am hoping to get a handbell choir up and going in the fall and if you are interested, please feel free to let me know. If you are intimidated by the handbells, or music in general, please come to me and ask for help. I will do anything possible to make you feel at home. If you want to find your way to the choir, also, please feel free. I will help you in any way possible. God is pleased when anyone lifts their voice!

In the meantime, please come and introduce yourself to me! Tell me what hymn you miss singing, or what hymn you want to hear...I'm open to all suggestions. If you have a special musical gift (banjo, violin, washtub), please let me know. I would love to have you participate in worship, if you feel comfortable.

I can't wait to make music together!

Joel P. Rogers



Dear Board Members and Volunteers,

Cheryl asked me to let you know of a situation we are trying to work through for one of our clients. One of our single moms who has been homeless and couch surfing was able to save up enough money and buy a trailer. The trailer needed lots of work and many of the appliance need to be replaced. We are working thru the repairs of the trailer. She currently needs an electric stove, refrigerator and washer.

We also have had many calls from other clients in need of the same items. If you are upgrading and still have any of these appliances that still work, please let us know. Please share this with your friends and family as well. Together we can make this happen!

Thanking you in advance for your help and support.

Pam Malchow
Admin. Asst./ Asst. Director
Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry
828-669-9404

Easter egg hunt and highlights from our Easter service









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