



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

I stood in the pulpit of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church for the very first time fourteen years ago last month. All these years later, I still remember two distinct feelings I had on that occasion.

The first was a deep sense of joy and gratitude to have been called as the new pastor here -- twin feelings that, I am very happy to report, persist to this day.

The second feeling was a little different. As I stood taking in the demographic profile of our congregation at that time, I realized we would have to take active steps to grow and strengthen our membership or we might not still be here in ten to twenty years.

That second feeling, that hard realization, gave birth to a nascent sense of what my call here would be about, or at least one of the things it would be about. And it's a sense that has continued to grow and mature in the fourteen years since.

I understood that I was called here, in part, to help transition this lovely and faithful worshiping community from its storied past to, as we've now said many times, a bright, hopeful -- and sustainable -- future.

How does one do that, you may well ask? I'll admit I had no real clue at the time. But I would soon learn several things. First, you don't do such a thing quickly. You do it brick by brick, step by slow and steady step.

We first began by working to strengthen our (then) committee structure. Our hope was to revitalize some of the ministries that had always served to define the congregation. Not surprisingly, some of these had grown a bit quiet during the long two-year interim period between the time that Rob Martin left and I arrived.

And it worked. Revitalizing our Social Outreach Committee and our Church/College Relations Committee and our Worship Committee and our Christian Education Committee was like adding kindling to hot embers: the flame and the energy came back quickly.

So that was step one.

Speaking of bricks, we next focused--and when I say "we" I don't mean that in the Royal We sense (meaning, really, "I"); I mean "we" as in "all of us" -- we next focused, as I was saying, on revitalizing our beautiful facilities, which, after forty years, were beginning to show signs of wear and tear.

Two large-scale renovation projects, and the capital campaigns needed to support them, followed. And the marvelous news there, as you all know well, is that working together, we not only fixed what was broken (or simply inadequate) in the Chapel, we made the whole building brighter, more welcoming and more hospitable.

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PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pat Crumpler; Ray Stock; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams; Marta Rodriguez, friend of the Stockdales, Jeff Toney, friend of Sandy Brauer's son and Mary Moorrees.

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August Birthdays!

Beth Meriwether	Aug. 1	Ray Stock	Aug. 1
Darcy Orr	Aug. 4	Alisa White	Aug. 6
Elaine Barnes	Aug. 8	Blake Joslin	Aug. 8
John Craven	Aug. 9	Pat Levi	Aug. 11
Bill Mosher	Aug. 11	Hank Barnes	Aug. 11
Vicki Collins	Aug. 14	Mike Nix	Aug. 16
JoAnne Mccollom	Aug. 21	Jerry Vaneman	Aug. 31



LAST CALL - HABITAT AUGUST WORKDAYS - If you would like to help this month at the site where Presbyterian/Methodist house # 28 is now being built, please contact Larry Griswold by August 7th. Volunteers are needed on weekdays and some Saturdays.



Fellowship with your Warren Wilson Church “neighbors”

Have you ever had a brief conversation with “an acquaintance” during coffee hour that you wished you could continue? Have you greeted someone with the peace of Christ, but never actually had a conversation? Have you had the pleasant opportunity at a church breakfast to sit with people you didn’t know well and realize that you all had really interesting lives and stories to share?

Beginning in 2015 when our congregants participated in in-depth conversations about what they longed and hoped for, there was a repeated refrain to re-start “Caring Groups”. That’s what we called them back in the 80’s and beyond.

If you were one of the “choir members” singing that chorus, the answer to your prayers is here. “Caring Groups” will commence in the fall. But here’s the deal: we don’t really remember exactly how they were in the past, and, regardless, they don’t have to be that way in the future. We’ll be inventing this as we go, but the thing is, we’re collecting the names of those interested NOW, in preparation for the organization of groups in the fall. Even the name may change, so if you have a catchy name for how we might label these fellowship groups, please let us know!

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you think you might be interested, please sign up. If you have suggestions or hopes for these groups, please contact us. And stay tuned for more info toward the end of summer.

Sally Broughton and Gina Marvin

College – Provided Youth Work Team for Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Warren Wilson College hosted 250 to 300 youth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints the week of 24 June for their summer retreat. As part of their retreat, they were scheduled to divide up into many teams to work for various departments and programs of the College for a 3-hour period on Thursday, 27 June. Diana Sanderson knew of this and suggested we contact the College to see if they would assign a team to do some projects for our Church. Following Diana's suggestion, I did this and Liz Brace of the College's Auxiliary Services Office was pleased to schedule a crew of more than 20 youth along with about 3 of the youth group's adult leaders to do projects for us if we provided tools, supplies, and supervision, which we did. The WWPC Administrative Management Team approved this effort. The youth teams completed four smaller projects for us and two major projects. The smaller projects included:

1. picking up stones from the rock wall on the west side of the Chapel that have broken free of their mortar and fallen either on the grass side or the parking lot side of the wall and placing them on top of the wall again to make it easier for us to get this wall repaired,
2. applying new, non-skid strips on the exterior pedestrian ramp leading to the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall,
3. trimming and hauling off some weeds and brush growing in the planted area next to the sidewalk between the Chapel and Fellowship Hall, and,
4. using mops and brooms, removing spiderwebs from the exterior of the Chapel windows and Narthex parlor windows on the east side of the building (they did not get to finish this task on the west side).

One of the two major projects was removing the old, badly worn carpet (and nailed strips and other nails holding this carpet in place) from both sets of stairs leading to the choir loft in the back of the Chapel. This was a very dusty job, but they finished and swept up the area. The Church will need to make a decision now about whether to re-carpet these stairs, or stain / paint the wooden steps that were underneath.

The other major project was working on a rock garden outside of Steve's office window. This flower / plant garden area gets overtaken with a lot of weeds every summer and looks bad. The plan was to move many of the desirable plants to a nearby area and remove the weeds (something a College crew did for us a few weeks earlier), then retain just a few good plants here, but to make the area mostly a rock garden that will be much easier to keep looking nice in the future. In just over an hour, the youth crew place ground cover cloth over this area, place one ton of large river stones over about 40 percent of the area (when we ran out of stones), and then added a few hundred pounds of donated, smaller river rock that fills in the gaps between the larger stones. While the designated area is not entirely converted to a rock garden yet, a good start has been made and several church members think this area is looking much better. The AMT and Session have approved getting more rock to finish this project.

With Bob Gambrell and Steve Runholt directing them, this youth group and their supervisors worked very hard and accomplished a lot on a very hot afternoon. Steve had the great idea of going out and purchasing some ice cream for them after they finished these tasks and they very much appreciated this treat.

Bob Gambrell

CLERK'S REPORT



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

1. Approved the endowment funds report for June 30, 2019 and expressed its appreciation to John Laney, Mike Levy, Leslie Sayyar, and Barbara Escalante for their work in completing the report.
2. Received the financial reports for June 2019 with thanks to Leslie Sayyar and Barbara Escalante for their work in providing this information on a timely basis.
3. Directed the clerk to express its thanks to Kristin Williams and Robyn Castallani for their work on possible changes to the entrance to the chapel.
4. Approved the recommendation of the community engagement team recommended that the session accept the presbytery's offer to return the \$2500 previously given for the support of a missionary no longer working in Malawi and to use the money in support of the proposed playground.
5. Expressed its support for Steve Runholt's participation in the demonstration scheduled by the Moral Majority in El Paso on July 28-29.
6. Approved the plans for the inter-generational retreat scheduled for August 24.
7. Received notice from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina that Rodney Lytle has been named as the Presbytery Advocate to the congregation.
8. Designated El Refugio, a group working at the Stewart detention center, as the recipient of the local portion of the peace and global witness offering and approved the collection of supplies for El Refugio on World Communion Day.
9. Authorized Steve Runholt to name an action team to develop a emergency action plan for the congregation.
10. Designated Big Brothers, Big Sisters as the recipient of the local portion of the Pentecost offering.
11. Approved the team's recommendations from the communications ministry team to begin working on a new church directory and to launch a church Instagram account.
12. Expressed its appreciation to the congregational life ministry team for its extra work in planning two memorial receptions the previous weekend.

Ken Murchison, Clerk of the Session



A bouquet of coffee hour beauties! (July 28)



At Home in Black Mountain with Jan Karon

The Friends of the Black Mountain/Tyson Library is proud to present “At Home in Black Mountain with Jan Karon” on Sunday, October 6th, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at the Blue Ridge Assembly. The afternoon will include an interview style conversation, reception and afternoon tea, so please try to join us for this very special occasion!

Jan Karon is the #1 *WSJ* and *NYT* bestselling author of twelve books, best known for her beloved series of Mitford novels featuring the fictional village of Mitford and Father Timothy.

Jan won't be signing books at the event, but guests may reserve a signed hardback copy of her latest book, *Bathed in Prayer* in advance for an extra charge. Visit SassafrasOnSutton.com before September 20th to reserve a copy. Your book will be waiting for you at the event!

Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite, or at the Black Mountain/Tyson Library (cash or check only) for \$35. Ticket refunds will not be available. Event seating is limited to 135 guests and is sure to be popular, so don't wait to get your tickets. All proceeds benefit the Black Mountain/Tyson Library.

Thank you to these event sponsors for making this opportunity possible: The Mitford Childrens Foundation, The Blue Ridge Assembly, Sassafras On Sutton, Robert E. King, CPA, and Carolyn and Dave Johnson.

SAVE THE DATES:

CHURCH RETREAT AUGUST 24 at Camp Grier from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. There will be planned whole group activities in the morning, and then after lunch you can swim, walk, play games, talk, or sit in a rocking chair and enjoy nature until we gather back for our closing. Cost is \$10 per person (\$20 max per family) in order to cover the costs of the lunch and rental fees. Deadline to sign up is Sunday August 18. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

Pot Luck for Students August 25 Following the service in Ransom Fellowship Hall.

Students and Welcoming Families The WWC new students arrive on campus August 20. Some students, especially international ones, are most appreciative of a “host family” during the year. So what is involved? As much or as little as the family and student agree to and enjoy during the year. Suggestions are having the student over for a meal occasionally, helping the student explore the Swannanoa Valley-Asheville area, celebrating birthdays together. If you are interested in the possibility, please contact either Tacci Smith (tsmith@Warren-Wilson.edu) or Kay Stockdale (stockdale0557.bellsouth.net) after the service or by email.

Vacation Bible School has begun...We are learning about the environment in vacation Bible school this year. Grace is leading us with music and the Creation story. Bo Mallory has helped us explore the Earth around us with a soil study and water study. We will finish the week with some recycled art and a service project at the Community Garden!





FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Although many churches in our country and abroad are struggling with financial challenges, our church continues to be very healthy from a financial standpoint. Thankfully, we are blessed with a generous congregation of both long standing and new members.

The following is a summary of actual and budgeted income and expenses for the first half of 2019:

Contributions: (Commitments)	\$121,814.87	Budgeted:	\$108,000.00
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Total income from all sources:	\$134,684.10	Budgeted:	\$119,001.00
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Expenses:	\$114,530.76	Budgeted:	\$118,869.04
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NET INCOME: \$20,153.34

Note: During the first 6 months of 2019 total pledges paid were at 57% year to date. When compared to the first 6 months of the previous year (2018) this is a 2% drop in year to date pledges paid so far for the year. Pledges and regular giving provide the primary support for our operating fund budget which, in turn, provides the primary support for staff, programs, and administrative costs.

We have also had some expenses related to building maintenance, which include gutters, compressors, and asphalt. Warren Wilson College is paying half the cost of these expenses with the church .

We entered the endowment fiscal year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) with steady growth in our investments as reflected in the rising value of the New Covenant Growth Fund, one of the accounts in which our funds are invested. The fund ended the fiscal year with a gain of 7.2%. The balance of our asset accounts at the end of the fiscal year was \$206,412.83. The earnings provide additional income for our community outreach programs outside of budget as well as providing funds for Spiritual Nurture, Worship & Music, & W.W. Church-College Relations.

In summary, we continue to have strong support provided by our congregants. Thanks to your generosity, we continue to provide financial support for Special Offerings to Presbytery and we directly support fifteen local organizations addressing community needs. As of June 30th, our community outreach giving has totaled \$8354.57. Special offerings for the same period totaled \$6162.00.

Thank you for all that you do for Warren Wilson Presbyterian church. If you have questions contact Leslie Sayyar and Jack Ballard
Treasurers



A message from Pat Crumpler — To the children, young people, and all the others who have been so kind during my recovery, I want to express my loving thanks. A special thank you to the children for the creative and beautiful paper flowers they made during Vacation Bible School last year. Pastor Steve brought me a bouquet of them today and they brightened my day! Love and all good blessings to each and every one of you!

Memorial Fund

WWPC Memorial Fund was established in 1992. The fund has two purposes – to beautify the church and to support its program. Some of the artwork in the Narthex, Parlor and Fellowship Hall was purchased with these funds. Some pieces of artwork were gifts throughout the years. The Memorial/Gift Book in the Parlor is a record of these gifts. Thank you notes are also sent to the donors and appropriate families.

If you wish to make a gift in memory of someone, please designate it for the Memorial Fund and indicate the person you are remembering. If need be, you may include the person and address of the family to receive the thank you note.

Ray Stock, Molly Hamilton, and Kay Stockdale, chair, serve on the Memorial Fund Team. Session must approve all expenditures. Recently Session approved purchasing stones needed to complete the Stone Garden behind Fellowship Hall near the ramp to the kitchen. The garden is not only beautiful but also helps to keep the flow of water away from the building.

Steve's Slant continued...

New families began to worship with us, including families with young children. Or at least one did. And we saw potential for more.

So we promptly began to focus on enriching our ministry to children and on creating better spaces for them. We created an Associate in Ministry position, with a partial focus on family ministry. We refurbished the rooms for infants and toddlers upstairs in our Christian Education wing, and began to make small but important improvements (like mold remediation) to our youth room downstairs.

And because of these investments, more young families with children started to come.

With all those investments in and improvements to our infrastructure behind us, we then sat down as a congregation and, again working together, we wrote a plan. We believed that our Ministry Plan would serve as a guide and a map and that, if we followed it closely and worked to implement the goals we set for ourselves, it would do what we hoped it would do: lead us to our future.

And we've made progress. Sure enough, following the Ministry Plan has served to enrich our life together and enhance our ministries across the full range of the goals we set for ourselves.

With all that groundwork laid, we sat down together again in the spring to refresh our plan. And we developed three new "growth initiatives": improve the way we welcome visitors, refresh the look of our narthex and our parlor, and (closely related to that) continue to improve our communications and find still more ways to tell our story.

I genuinely believe, I deeply believe, that these new growth initiatives will do exactly what we hope they will do: bring still more new life and new energy to our congregation.

The bricks have been laid. And we have taken many steps together to get to this point. So now I find myself asking once again: what does our future hold?

I can't wait to find out!!!!



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