



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

Last Saturday twenty-two adults and children gathered at Camp Grier for our first-ever (at least since I've been here) inter-generational family retreat. Last spring, we scheduled the retreat for a time later in the summer when the swimming pool would still be open, and when we assumed the weather would be warm enough to canoe and to just generally play and enjoy the outdoors.

I had been on a congregational retreat at Camp Grier many years ago myself, and I vividly remember how much fun it was. So I had been looking forward to this occasion for several months. But when the day finally arrived, the morning dawned cool and damp.

There is just no other way to say this, but the chilly temps and the wet conditions dampened our spirits. There is also no better way to say this: Nevertheless we persisted! Grace first led us through some ice-breakers, which were not quite literally true, but that did serve to warm us up some and also helped us get to know one another a little better. (For example, some of us are pie people, others are cake people, and some are both.)

For the center-piece of the morning, we explored together a passage in Luke (13:10-17), which was also the lectionary text for the next day: the story of the bent-over woman. We broke into groups and acted it out, each group taking a different part in the story. We also reflected on it individually, and had a chance to respond to it through a variety of artistic media.

It was a rich time and helped us forget about the weather a bit. Then, after a yummy lunch, the weather cleared up, and warmed up, enough that we had a chance to take some canoes out on the small lake on the property.

The boating was both preceded, and followed, by the most popular activity of the day, particularly for the under 12 set: rope swings!

Eventually the time finally came to load back into our cars and head home. Just before leaving, Gretchen Williams took in her surroundings and announced, "I wish Bible School could start again tomorrow!"

I believe she meant Vacation Bible School. I suspect the fun she had during that week in July, and the fun she had at Camp Grier, blended together into one wonderful memory of having fun with her friends, and making art and playing with adults whom she's come to love.

In any case, I felt like I understood her perfectly. It was a terrifically fun day--an adventure in learning and growing together that we all got to share in together, and I wanted it to start again tomorrow myself!

Grace and I are planning to do a thorough debrief of the retreat -- what worked well, what we might want to do differently next year. We have already talked about the possibility of finding a venue that works equally well for kids as it does for grown-ups, including adults who might have mild to moderate mobility challenges. We want to include everyone! (Continued on page 7)

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Christa Showalter and family, Pat Crumpler; Ray Stock; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams; and Mary Moorrees.

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September Birthdays!

Liam Pulsifer
John Laney

Sept. 4
Sept. 23

Natalie Cowal
Elizabeth Cook

Sept. 15
Sept. 27



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Sept. 12th in the Fellowship Hall. It will be the Annual Salad Potluck Luncheon. Bring a favorite salad to share with the group - snacks and dessert will be provided. "Hotter than a Pepper Sprout", by Billy Edd Wheeler will be discussed and led by Betty Smith. We will feast on special salads and enjoy a great discussion. Come join us.

Join us for our annual Labor Day week-end outdoor service at 11:00 am September 1, in the Pavilion on Warren Wilson's campus. This is always a favorite service, in a beautiful setting where we can enjoy the sounds of nature as our Prelude and Postlude! All are welcome.



SEPT 8-OCT 13 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 9:45 AM

"Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi." We will explore parables of Jesus using the research of Jewish New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, who teaches at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Each Sunday will include a 10 minute video by Dr. Levine. No preparation required, just come!

We will be hosting "Room in the Inn" September 22-29

Please watch for sign-up sheets to help with meals and bag lunches!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE
ASHEVILLE AREA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL PARTICIPATE
IN OUR SEPT. 29 SERVICE

Construction of Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian/Methodist House # 28 and other new houses continued at the Curry Court site in Candler in July and August.

During that time 15 different Warren Wilson Church volunteers and four friends of church members helped with our newest faith partner house as well as other houses at this location.

This year, for the first time our Habitat chapter is building two-story, two family units. There will be eight of these when the work is done, along with four single-family units, and a result of this change is that faith partner volunteers have been offered a choice of different things to do at different faith partner houses on the days they work.

For many years our Moment for Mission on the final Sunday of September has been about our Habitat mission, and we have welcomed the partner family for the current Presbyterian/Methodist House and received a special offering to help with the cost of building materials.

Church members who worked on Presbyterian/Methodist House # 22 in Swannanoa may recall that it took a while longer for a partner family to be identified and qualified from Habitat's applicant pool that year, and that is the situation again this year.

Because of that, Andy Barnett, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director since March, 2016,

has offered to join us for our worship service on September 29, and speak during our Moment for Mission.

We look forward to greeting Andy then, and will once again receive a special offering for Habitat that day.



WWPC members Ned Guardenier and Sally McDuffie (center of this group) were among our volunteers in August. Habitat Construction Supervisor Emily Stevens is in the back row.

Asheville Area Habitat Executive Director Andy Barnett



Saturday - August 24th, 2019 - Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC

The young and the young at heart enjoyed a day at Camp Grier, the camp for the Presbytery of Western NC. Games, Crafts, Bible stories and lunch was followed by an afternoon of canoeing and swimming.



Fall Tai Chi Class

**Improve your health
and well-being!**

Wednesdays mornings

Sept. 25 – Nov. 13

**Downstairs (Lower Fellowship
Hall) at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church**

Sign-up at wnctaichiarthritis.com.



To my Church Family,

Church family is an inspired relationship - inspired with kindness, compassion, sharing, loving, and reaching out to others. I am so thankful to be a member of such a caring church family. Your visits, cards, calls, prayers, and pastors' kind visits with flowers and even Starbucks coffee, have meant so much to me and have meant so much to my recovery to this point. I am able to do more, think more clearly, and walk daily on the sidewalk outside our home. Thanks to wonderful friends, neighbors, and exceptional children I have been truly blessed. I am looking forward to returning to services as soon as I am able.

With love to all,
Pat Crumpler

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.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

World Communion Sunday, October 6

The session has approved a special offering in support of refugees and immigrants in detention as part of our 2019 Peacemaking Offering.

25% of the offering will go to El Refugio, a volunteer center supporting detainees at Stewart Detention Center in southwest Georgia, and their families.

Items on the wish list will be taken in late October.



WISH LIST

Gas cards: Shell gas cards in \$25 denominations help our families afford trips to Lumpkin to visit their loved ones. Families share with us that these cards help, as they are financially depleted from having a loved one in immigrant detention.

Exterior Enhancement Project: We are transforming our backyard into a wonderful play space and place of relaxation for our families.

Storage shed: We need a storage shed for donations we cannot store in our house, which was built in the 1800s and has just one closet. The shed we need costs \$900.

New and used men's clothing: Shoes in very good condition, sizes 6 and up; new or gently used jeans or casual pants (no dress pants, please) all sizes; men's belts, new or gently used; new or gently used men's casual shirts, such as polo shirts, all sizes; new men's underwear and socks; new or gently used duffel bags or backpacks (must have a zipper). Our particular need right now is for men's jeans and shoes in smaller sizes. We also need white shoelaces, as we received a large donation of sneakers without laces.

Walmart gift cards: Many families struggle to pay for groceries, diapers, and other necessities when their loved one is sent to Stewart.

Sponsored by the Community Engagement Team

Steve's Slant continued...

Once a date is announced (pending Session approval!) we hope you will put it on your calendar and plan to join in the fun next year.

Shifting gears, now that the fall season will soon be upon us, I want to report on three other things that are coming our way in the next few weeks.

First: Caring Groups! Forty-four people signed up! That translates into a total of *eight* separate groups. The key take away at this point is that if you signed up to participate, we'd like you to bring a brown bag lunch to church on Sunday, Sep. 8th. We'll gather in the fellowship hall after worship, break into our groups, and begin talking within our groups about what we want our groups to be about, and what we want to do together. This is your chance to have a say in how your group works, so be there if you can!

Second: Last month Session voted to endorse the plan Kristin and Robyn submitted for updating and upgrading our Parlor and Narthex. Most members of our church responded enthusiastically to the draft proposal they distributed to the congregation for review and feedback. But enough people expressed concern about the pace and scope of the proposed changes that Kristin and Robyn suggested to Session that we follow the model of Abraham and Sarah, who journeyed to the promised land in stages. Session agreed that it makes sense to roll out the plan in stages, which will allow us to adapt to and enjoy (!) the changes they've proposed, starting with adding some colorful banners to the narthex.

Finally: Session also approved the plan submitted to them by the Playground Action Team for moving forward on the playground. Installation on that could start as early as mid- to late-September, so you should soon see new swings and slides on the lawn that runs alongside the exit from the Chapel parking lot.

Onward we go!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund

WWPC Memorial Fund was established in 1992. The fund has two purposes – to beautify the church and to support its programs. 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 near the Fellowship Hall's back door. The garden is not only beautiful but also helps to keep the flow of water away from the building.



September

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