



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 27 Issue 1

January/February 2020

Steve's Slant

As long-time readers of the Extended Family will know, I ordinarily use this space, in this issue, to provide a kind of "State of the Church" report-- the view or our life together from where I sit.

But having just offered such a report at our annual meeting, let me drill down and provide some additional details on three specific things that were mentioned at that meeting.

As we heard from Ken Murchison, the church has received a substantial gift from Steve Williams. When I first heard this news, I felt like one of those spouses you see on TV whose wife or husband has been deployed overseas but comes home unexpectedly for their birthday and surprises them. I felt a mixture of surprise, joy and deep gratitude. My only frustration was that I could not thank Steve personally -- though I'm inclined to believe he knows how grateful we are, and what this gift will mean to our church.

In an email to the congregation which was sent out yesterday, Ken noted that the Session has authorized Ken and me to appoint an Action Team to develop a plan for how best to steward these funds.

I am happy to report that this team is now in place. It includes Diana Sanderson, Rodney Lytle and Brent Roberts -- all long-time friends of Steve; in addition, Diana sang in Steve's choirs for years and Rodney and Brent both currently sing in our choir. The team also includes Ken Murchison (Clerk of Session), Mike Levi (the Chair of our Administration Ministry Team) and Leslie Sayyar (the church Treasurer).

As you can see, it's a very strong and capable team. I am sure they will approach this important work deliberately and thoughtfully. I already know they are planning to meet with a number of individuals to get their recommendations on how best to allocate these funds. As Ken noted in his message, they will also host listening sessions with the congregation to get input from our members before making their final recommendations to Session.

Please do keep the team in your prayers. Our Session and finance team always work conscientiously to steward significant financial gifts to the church, and they do so as transparently as possible. Due to the unexpectedly large size of this gift -- at \$133,700 it's the largest bequest we have received since I started here in 2005 -- we are especially committed to undertaking a fully transparent process, and to developing a wise and thoughtful plan for how best to steward this amazingly generous gift.

Now for the second thing. An Action Team has been working since last fall on a plan to enrich and improve the way we welcome visitors who come to our church. The team members include Jack Ballard (convener), Sandy Brauer, Milt and Sandee Butterworth, and Nancy Garrison. The plan they've developed is smart and thoughtful, and I think it will do exactly what they hope it will do.

(Continued on page 8)

PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison, who is in the hospital; Pat Crumpler; and Mary Moorrees.

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; Joel P. Rogers= joelprogers1967@gmail.com

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

Jack Ballard, 777-6156 e-mail= Joballard67@gmail.com

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

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

January/February Birthdays!

Jan. 5 Sarah Anne Eller
Jan. 15 Carolynne Cowal
Jan. 24 Corise Gambrell
Feb. 1 Diana Sanderson
Feb. 11 Clotilde Guisasola
Feb. 16 Brownie Newman
Feb. 24 Burnace Roberts

Jan. 7 Sandee Butterworth
Jan. 15 Robyn Runholt
Jan. 29 William Hamilton
Feb. 5 Mike Levi
Feb. 12 Karen Crusier
Feb. 19 Edythe Wiener

Jan. 12 Jamie Dale
Jan. 16 Mary Kells
Jan. 30 Cadence Cowal
Feb. 9 Jack Ballard
Feb. 13 Georgena Millar
Feb. 22 Milt Butterworth



The Warren Wilson Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall of the Warren Wilson Church. Betty Smith will be leading the discussion of "The Overstory" by Richard Powers. Sandy Brauer will provide Valentine snacks! Bring a sandwich and join the discussion.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Jan 19-Feb 16 "What We Can Learn From..." Dr. Marc Mullinax, Professor of Religion at Mars Hill University, explores what we can learn about Christian faith by studying Shamanism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Islam.

Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Join us on **February 25 at 5:30 pm in Ransom Fellowship Hall** for our Annual Pancake Supper. This is always a favorite event for the church and the many different kinds of pancakes, egg casseroles, fruit etc. are delicious. Contact Susan Laney for more information and look for a sign-up sheet in February to bring food or help with the event.



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 26 we will have our Ash Wednesday service in the Chancel area of the Chapel beginning at 6:00 pm. As we begin our Lenten journey, this is a very meaningful service that ends with the imposition of ashes before leaving the Chapel in silence.

Clerk's Report

At its stated meeting in January, the session took the following actions:

1. Approval of the budget for 2020.
2. Authorization for the pastor and the clerk to name an action team to prepare a recommendation as to how the church should use the gift from Steven Williams
3. Authorization for the pastor and clerk to name an action team to prepare a recommendation regarding the possibility of a long term rental of the lower fellowship hall.
4. Election of Bob Gambrell and Vickie Collins as members of the congregational nominating committee with Bob to serve as chair.
5. Approval of six special offerings for 2020.
6. Approval of the recommendation of the youth that the funds received for the Souper Bowl special offering be distributed to Manna Food Bank.
7. Approval of the recommendation of the Communications Ministry Team to hold "Create Hope" programs of music and storytelling.



At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 26, 2020, the congregation heard reports from the pastor and the clerk of the session, received the financial reports for 2019 and the approved budget for 2020, and took the following actions:

1. Election of Ann Dale, Derron Daugherty, and John Laney as members of the nominating committee for 2020.
2. Approval of the 2020 terms of call for the pastor.

Ken Murchison, Clerk of Session_____

Bring your kids to the Playground!



WWPC installs new elders for the class of 2022

Congregants appreciated a service of installation during the worship time on January 12. Elected for a three-year term were **Tacci Smith, Ken Murchison and Sharon Lytle** (pictured below). Many of you will know these folks, but you might learn something new in their bios:

Sharon is a native of Asheville! And was a student at Warren Wilson College. She joined our congregation around 1985. Sharon is married with Rodney Lytle, also an alum of WWC, whose voice we appreciate in the choir loft. They have three children: Wynee, Rodney Jr., and Erika. Sharon began working Warren Wilson College in 1991 as an admission counselor and retired last July 2019. In her spare time she likes to read, travel, spend time with family, especially grandchildren and grandpuppies. Some of the authors she enjoys reading are Mary Jo Meadow, Jung Yun, Stephen King, James Patterson, Harper Lee, Emily Bronte and Charles Dickens. She is a fan of Michelle Obama and Maya Angelou.

Tacci came to work at WWC in August 2016 and joined WWPC officially in spring of 2019, though she had been attending the previous year. Tacci was born in Pennsylvania and lived in West Virginia. Her undergraduate study was at Otterbein College and she attended Bowling Green State University for graduate school. She worked at five schools in Ohio before moving south to Swannanoa. Tacci is married to Carla Presnell, and they are the parents of Izzy, aged 7. You've recently seen Izzy as a new acolyte for our worship service; she loves art, dancing and singing. Carla works with Banfield Veterinary at Petsmart. In her spare time Tacci likes to watch movies and play some team sports, particularly softball and volleyball. She is a fan of Pittsburgh sports, especially the Steelers. When she reads, it's mostly kids' books these days. One of her favorite things is catching up with friends over lunch!

Ken is beginning his second term on the session and has served as clerk since 2018. He and Eloise moved to Black Mountain in 2011 and joined WWPC in 2014. Ken was born in Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana Tech. After earning his law degree from the University of Virginia and clerking for a year, he served four years in the Air Force. Following his Air Force service, he taught constitutional law and environmental law at LSU for 33 years; and he remains an LSU sports fan. Since his retirement, he has been a visiting professor at the law schools of Ohio State and the University of New Mexico. In his spare time, he jogs, plays tennis, and reads mysteries.

Find a moment to thank these wonderful folks for serving on our Session.



Submitted by Sally Broughton

Caring Groups update

The Caring Groups, which began in Sept. gathering for all who had signed up and indicated an interest in being part of this 9-month-long fellowship program, have mostly continued through the fall and into winter.

The "Nifty Nine + 1" group has enjoyed a total of 3 meals together so far. We are a group that enjoys eating and fellowship, so it's been a natural fit! Most recently we met over at Cheddar's Restaurant after church one Sunday in January. The previous visit was in November where Fran and Burnace Roberts were gracious to host us and we experienced Burnace's famous Chicken Dumplings! Due to the busy holidays, we decided to forego our get together during December.

"Dinner with Friends", met and enjoyed a meal at the Pulsifers in October at which the members of the group brought photos to share. In November, the Gambrells hosted the group. While electing not to have a December gathering, the group chose to serve dinner at the SVCM homeless shelter in Black Mountain for its January gathering. Their next gathering will be at the Laney's home on February 10.

The "Nine Pins" met at the Daugherty's home November for covered dish dinner and games, but had such fun just talking and visiting they didn't get to the games. In December, the group prepared the evening meal for the SVCM homeless shelter. Several members were able to stay to serve the clients, join them for the meal and cleaned up afterwards. Others Nine Pins who had tickets for the symphony were able to drop off food for the meal. Rodney had made 3 different soups one of which was served and enjoyed for the "soup course"! In January, the group will dine out together at Fresh Pizza in Black Mountain.

The "Proximity People" met on November 24 at the Broughton/Ives home. Members missed having the Eagle Joslin family, as Donna was still recuperating from hip surgery. Opting not to meet during the Christmas season, a few members of the group prepared and served a meal for the Swannanoa Valley Shelter at the Black Mountain First Baptist Church. For their January gathering, the group chose to "dine-out" after worship for Sunday lunch at the Veranda on Cherry St. Happily, all were able to attend – especially a "good-as-new" Donna. They hope to visit and join in a Wednesday Welcome Table lunch site (Black Mtn. or Swannanoa) in February to get to meet our neighbors, and then gather for a meal at the home of the Sayyar's on Feb. 16.

Members of Caring Group 4 have had their share of health challenges during the fall and winter and haven't all been able to gather in a while. In case you'd care to invite any of them to join your group, or otherwise reach out to individuals, they are: Gina Marvin, Jack & Jackie Cole, Jamie and Anne Dale, Pat Wilson, The Stockdales and Chuck Stephenson.

News submitted by each group's point person and edited by Sally Broughton

Intergenerational Sunday School Class

Sunday morning Faith Development Classes for adults and children resumed on January 12 with an Intergenerational Sunday School Class for all ages in the Fellowship Hall in celebration of **Baptism of the Lord** Sunday.



Grace created a memorable learning experience for children and adults alike from the scripture text Matthew 3:13-17 on The Baptism of Jesus:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, [a] with whom I am well pleased."

Grace provided an interactive teaching over-view of the lesson, then offered everyone the opportunity to volunteer for "parts" in the enactment of scripture. Parts included the roles of: the water, Galilee, John, Jesus, the dove, and a voice from heaven! We rehearsed and "performed" which really gave the scripture multiple opportunities to be experienced and to "sink in".

For the next portion of the lesson, Kristen Williams and Lisa Mallory had gone to great lengths to prepare all the materials for an art project. Adults and children were paired so that each young student could create a memorable image to take home evoking water and baptism.

Reports from adults:

"Kristin is a genius in coming up with art projects. And you can quote me on that."

"I'd do that again in a heart-beat – intergenerational Sunday School is the best!! I look forward to doing that again in the spring!"

"It was much fun-- Grace created interactive parts from the scripture reading for us to portray. Kristen and Lisa helped the youth create a water painting. We had to leave for choir before the completion of the paintings but saw pictures, which were beautiful."

Because our church staff/team are so "together", the lesson continued into the worship service. Steve led the "Time for the Child in Us all" by inviting the young people to the font for a lesson in baptism, referencing the intergenerational sacrament of baptism performed recently in our chapel for both infants and an adult. Each child was reminded and "marked" with water – "YOU are a child of God". May we ALL remember.



Presbyterians are part of a remarkable tradition. The PC(USA)'s four church-wide Special Offerings help share Christ's love with millions of people around the world. WWPC participates in all of these.

One Great Hour of Sharing Three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, & Self-Development of People - work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Pentecost Offering Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering empowers congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves. Through this offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world, confronting hopelessness, thwarting division.

Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well.

Presbytery of WNC – Building Hope Campaign - PWNC designed a vision of empowering four ministries through this Presbytery-wide campaign. In this balanced campaign, the PWNC sought support for two local Ministries: – Vital Churches and Camp Grier, and two Ministries abroad: Malawi, and Guatemala. This response to the Lord Jesus’ commands to “make disciples” and “tend my sheep” will reinforce the unity of God’s people in the PWNC and show Christ’s practical love to all.

WWPC DONATIONS TO PRESBYTERY OF WNC 2019

Pentecost Offering	\$630.60
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1540.00
Peacemaking	\$838.50
Christmas Joy Offering	\$2267.00
Building Hope	\$1000.00
General Mission	\$6500.00
Mark Hare/Jenny Bent	\$1000.00
Nickel a Meal Offering	\$1980.00
Presbyterian Disaster Relief	\$4270.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$20,026.61</u>

Steve's Slant continued...

But it will also rely on the congregation's support to help implement it. So, on Sunday, March 1st, the team will host a catered lunch following worship at which they will explain how the program will work, share the goals we have for the program, describe the training they will offer, and answer any questions you may have.

So please mark that on your calendar now: Lunch with Visitor Welcome Action Team, following worship on Sunday, March 1st.

Now the final thing I'd like to share with you, and it's something I'm very excited about. Several years ago, Robyn and I saw Garrison Keillor perform at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. He went on stage alone and proceeded to hold the attention of 2,500 people for some ninety minutes, all by himself. When we left, Robyn and I felt buoyed and even nourished.

How did he do this? The answer is simple: he told stories and sang songs -- and, crucially, he invited the audience to sing those songs along with him.

In light of where we are right now at this moment in history, and given all the anxiety and even apprehension that so many of us are feeling right now, we want to follow that example. We want to host an evening of story-telling and singing that will create hope in the members of the audience, and help everyone to leave feeling buoyed and even nourished.

Which gives rise to the working title for these events. You may have seen this already. I want to stress this is a *working title* but I really love it. And Donna gets credit for first suggesting it: *Comfort Food: an evening of food music and stories to nourish the body and the soul.*

The stories we tell and the songs we sing will not be religious, necessarily. We want to make the evenings as welcoming and inclusive as possible. But we do hope that they will give any newcomers who might attend -- members of the Warren Wilson community, and members of the wider community - - a good sense of who we are and what we believe and value.

We are working out some of the final details around our first event, including the best time to host it. But we intend to get that on the calendar soon. We will let you know as soon as we know, so keep an eye out for that.

And that, my friends, is all the news that's fit to print, at least for now!

Warren Wilson Campus Community-

I am sad to announce that this will be **Chaplain Brian Ammons'** last semester at Warren Wilson College. Brian has been a support to many of us in this community and it is not an exaggeration to say he has helped redefine college chaplaincy. His work in Spiritual Life and interfaith engagement has been influential beyond our campus.

Along with his colleagues in WIDE and the Center for Student Well-Being, Brian has helped us all to recognize the intersectionality of our students. Beyond our campus, Brian has helped to shape the conversation on vocational calling on college campuses like ours.

While no one can replace Brian, we will be launching a search for his position soon. Brian's work with his department over these past eight years has made this an amazing opportunity for our next Chaplain. And, let's not forget that Brian will be with us until the end of this semester.

Paul C. Perrine, Vice President for Student Life Warren Wilson College



HABITAT PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST HOUSE # 28 UPDATE

Last year 20 Warren Wilson Church members and friends volunteered more than 160 hours to help build Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian/Methodist House # 28 in Candler, and soon it will be an affordable home for a family in a safe neighborhood.

The house is one of four two-family, two-story units Asheville Area Habitat is now completing at the Curry Court site along with four single-family houses. All units are expected to be completed in May, and Habitat is working with a prospective owner for the Presbyterian/Methodist House now, and will make an announcement when the application is approved.

Once again Warren Wilson Presbyterian was among the leaders for faith partner volunteers that help build each Presbyterian/Methodist house, and on behalf of Habitat and the future owners of the house, a big "thank you" goes to the following people that helped build P/M House # 28:

Church Members

Sally Broughton; Don Collins; Anne Dale; Jamie Dale; Andrew Daugherty; Derron Daugherty; Bob Gambrell; Barbara Griswold; Larry Griswold; Ned Guardenier; Toby Ives; Sally McDuffie; Ken Murchison; Emily Pulsifer; Andrew Pulsifer and Steve Runholt

Friends

Betsy Warren; Richard Boyum; Bob Mancuso; Dick Ross

Another "thank you" goes out to Don Collins who represented our church at the kickoff meeting in June, and to all who contributed a total of \$1,325 to the special offering for building materials at our annual Habitat Moment for Mission last fall.

Founded in 1983 as the first Habitat affiliate in North Carolina, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity has built 335 new, affordable houses in safe communities for families, and made repairs to 357 homes.

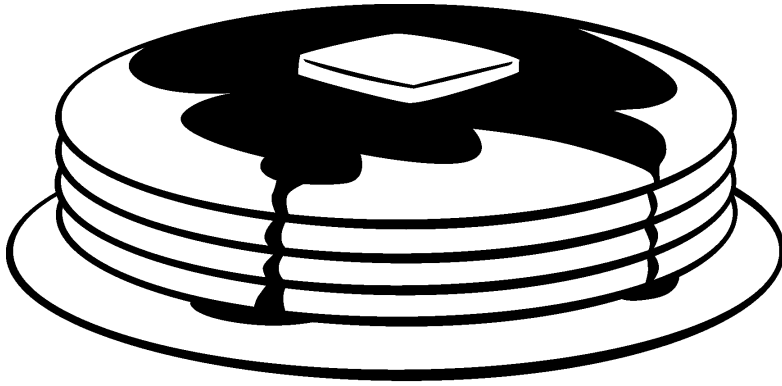
Plans for the next Presbyterian/Methodist House will be announced as soon as they are available.



Church member Emily Pulsifer volunteered at the Habitat job site in Candler in July, and again in September with her husband, Andrew.

Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Andy Barnett, between Steve and Larry, spoke about current activities and future plans at our annual Habitat Moment for Mission last fall.





SHROVE TUESDAY

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 [□]