



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

Fifteen years ago this month, I preached my first sermon as the brand-new pastor of our church.

I have mentioned this before, but on this occasion I hope you'll let me reiterate that within just a few months of settling into my new office, I began to get a clear sense of why I felt like I might be called to this particular congregation at that particular time: to help our amazing congregation transition from its venerable past, filled with legendary characters and a living library of vibrant stories, to a bright hopeful future, filled with new families and new faces, who, together with long-time members, would begin to write new stories for a new era.

Not to worry; I will not take the time here to recount (again) all the individual steps we have taken, as a church, toward this goal.

But I will say this: after months and years of focused effort and intentional investments, I felt like we were right there. Indeed, we had already made great progress toward that goal; with the presence of so many new members and so many young families, serving to enrich our *present life*.

Still, I felt like we were right on the cusp of a whole new era in the life of this congregation--that we had all the pieces in place to continue to attract even more young families with children; to become even more relevant to the life and mission of Warren Wilson College, and to become a place where even more members of the campus community might find a spiritual home.

So, I was looking forward to hearing even more children running up and down the hallways in the CE building on Sunday morning, laughing and shouting and yelling and (yes) sometimes crying---the full cacophony of life.

I was looking forward to seeing our playground filled with still more children before and after worship. Looking forward to watching the choir loft steadily fill with more and more singers, of all ages. Looking forward to rolling back the ribbons that block off the back pews as our congregation steadily grew.

And then, suddenly, all that forward momentum stopped. The coronavirus pandemic forced us to shut our doors and suspend all our in-person ministries.

That is the sad news, the hard news.

But there are many advantages to a long-term ministry. One of them is that having been in a place as long as I have been here is that you get to know the soul of that place, and you become intimately familiar with its stories and its history, in part because, along with your flock, you've helped write some of those stories and you've lived through a good bit of that history, together.

Which gives rise to the good news: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church has survived hard times before. Like any congregation, this church has faced more than a few moments of crisis, when the way ahead was not clear. And it has always come through those times and weathered those crises.

(Continued on page 7)

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During this STAY HOME period, the church office phone will be checked remotely several times per day. Feel free to call 298-9092 and leave a message.

July Birthdays!

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Larry Griswold | July 4 | Allyson Hetrick | July 8 |
| Grace Boyer | July 14 | Don Collins | July 18 |
| Brent Roberts | July 23 | Gretchen Williams | July 23 |
| Bob Gambrell | July 27 | Allee Williams | July 27 |
| Pat Crumpler | July 29 | | |



The Warren Wilson Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, July 9th at 11:30 via Zoom. Corise Gambrell will lead the discussion of "The Daughter of Time" by Josephine Tey. Tey is known for outstanding murder mysteries. The meetings have been well attended and enjoyed by all - bring your cup of coffee or tea and join us on Zoom.

Allee, Evan, and Gretchen helping with sign for 12 Baskets Cafe food project.





PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jon Hetrick and his family; Jack Cole, on the death of his brother Mac in May, and his brother Boyce in February; Joel P. Rogers, and his husband Rich Holst, and Rich's mother Joan Holst; Diane Sharp, friend of Babs Guardenier; Lee Dugger and his family; Sara Wilcox; Ginnie Stevens; Fitz Legerton, doing well following a minor medical procedure; Blake Joslin; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole; Rev. Dr. Lee, friend of the Corbin family, and Pat Crumpler.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES, IN YOUR PRAYERS: Carolyn Cole; Jack Ballard; Richard Riddle; Laura Bethany Riddle; Kristin Williams; Blake Joslin; Lisa Mallory; Stacy Balzano, Toby & Sally's niece; Mika, Sandy Stanford's niece, and all those working to provide medical care to others in this time when both need and risk are great.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE WORKING ESSENTIAL SERVICE JOBS IN YOUR PRAYERS: Natalie Cowal; Carla Presnell-Smith; Susan Daugherty, and all those helping to keep essential services open for all of us.

Until further notice, Warren Wilson College has closed its campus to all visitors. Only employees and a few students are allowed on the campus grounds.

Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World
(A Summer Invitation)

This summer, Grace Boyer invites you to join her in reading Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World, by Mark Williams and Danny Penman, and do its 8 chapters/weeks of meditation exercises on your own at home.

Step 1) Order the book. Either the older version of it that comes with a cd of 8 recorded meditations, or the newer version with a web link to the recordings (this has "An Eight-week Plan For..." as part of its subtitle).

Step 2) Let Grace know you are doing this, so we can set up a way to check in with each other over the summer.

Step 3) In June read at least chapters 1 & 4 (Ch. 2-3 go into the brain science). (continued next page)



Step 4) Beginning during the week of June 28 read chapter 5 and do its week of exercises. Then each new week do a new chapter and set of exercises, finishing up by the end of August. And if that schedule doesn't work for you, make up your own! The goal is to bring some inner peace during the summer months.

Children/Youth Spiritual Nurture Continues!

Since the church went "virtual" in March, Children/Youth ministry has continued in new forms. Grace emails families weekly children's message videos that match the scripture for the Sunday worship service. You can find these videos on the church's website Covid-19 page:

<http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/covid-19/> Steve continues to find ways for children to help lead in worship. Church Buddies and Confirmation Mentors continue to reach out. We had a Kid's Zoom call on Easter, another Zoom to wave "fire-rings" for Pentecost, a Confirmands' Zoom, and may have a Parents' Zoom soon. The Children/Youth Ministry Team will meet to brainstorm even more ideas for how to keep connecting and nurturing our children and families this summer.

Recently, we have added Grace's virtual messages to our Sunday service.

5 Cents a Meal Offering

A reminder from our children and youth regarding the 5 Cents a Meal offering that they normally collect on the first Sunday of every month:



The 5 Cent a Meal offering helps feed hungry people in North Carolina and around the world. Food for hungry people is needed now more than ever. Because we have not been meeting in person for worship, we have not been passing the red buckets to collect our coins. Please consider giving to the 5 Cent a Meal offering so we can continue to help hungry men, women, and children in our neighborhoods and around the world.

You can mail your contribution to the 5 cents a meal offering to the church at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Attn: Receiving Treasurer, 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778. In addition, throughout the summer you will be able to make your gift online at <http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/>. As always, we remain grateful for the generosity you have shown in this particularly difficult time.

Much of what we encounter in the landscape all around us - the rocks and thorns and birds, the weather, the natural disasters, the convergence of historic events - are out of our control.

However, we are gospel-sowers and therefore we sow on, regardless of all the circumstances inhospitable to the harvest.

(Taken from Lectionary Reflections by Jill Duffield, from The Presbyterian Outlook)

SEVERAL UPDATES FROM ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Last month Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity sent out information about the partner family for Presbyterian/Methodist House #28, plans for faith partner house construction in their new fiscal year that started July 1, and a gradual return of volunteers to work at job sites.

The first announcement was that Dewana Little, a fourth generation Asheville resident, mother of two and part-time guardian for a nephew, will become the homeowner of the four bedroom, two bathroom, Presbyterian/Methodist House #28 that completed Asheville Area Habitat's Curry Court neighborhood in Candler.

Dewana is employed as a business development associate at Self-Help Credit Union, and volunteers as the executive director of YMI Cultural Center. She is the founder of the youth leadership organization, Positive Changes, and serves on the Affordable Housing Advisory Council.

As much as she does for the community, addressing needs from food, shelter, and employment, Dewana's outlook remains positive despite the challenges of finding safe, affordable housing in Asheville.

Her income is too high to qualify for financial assistance and housing programs, but not enough to qualify for the traditional housing market or traditional financing methods. She has stated that housing classified as “affordable” in Asheville and Buncombe County is unaffordable, which has prevented her from achieving her dream of homeownership and the creation of intergenerational wealth for her family.

Scheduled to purchase her house in December, she wrote "Without my acceptance into the Habitat for Humanity homeownership program, I don't see how I would've achieved my dream at a time when my family needs it the most." (continued)



Though Habitat's fiscal year that just ended included two faith partner houses, Presbyterian/Methodist House and Interfaith House, effects of Covid-19 including stressed budgets and longer build times due to limits on volunteers, will mean that just a single faith partner house will be built in the year ahead.

The future home, tentatively named "House of Faith," will be built in Habitat's New Heights neighborhood
in West Asheville. Construction is anticipated to start in late August.

Because of the pandemic, Habitat, like most organizations, suspended all volunteer activity for safety reasons in March. Now proceeding very cautiously, in July they will begin bringing back half of their core volunteers, people who work one day each week or every other week. More volunteers means more work will get done and if things go well faith partner volunteers may be able to return in the fall.

Session Available: If you have any questions about the operations and ministry of the church, please contact Pastor Steve Runholt or any other member of the session. The elders currently serving on the session are:

Class of 2020: Sandy Brauer, Carolyn Cole, Nancy Garrison

Class of 2021: Susan Daugherty, Bob Gambrell, Fran Roberts

Class of 2022: Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison (clerk), Tacci Presnell-Smith

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk's Report

The session held its regular stated meeting via Zoom on June 16, 2020. At the meeting, the session agreed by consensus that it was not yet appropriate to begin face-to-face gatherings for worship. The session also:



1. Elected Ken Murchison as commissioner for the July meeting (via Zoom) of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
2. Approved the purchase of a video camera using funds from the Worship and Music Endowment Fund earnings.
3. Approved recommendations from the Administration Ministry Team to reserve funds from the Waldrop Fund and Memorials Fund to support the Associate in Ministry position for 2021.

Ken Murchison
Clerk of the Session

Steve's Slant Continued...

And so, I can say with confidence that we will survive this current hard time, and we will weather this crisis, too.

I believed this before Grace shared with me the news that she would be leaving us this fall to take the next step on her vocational journey. And I believe it still.

But it is also true that Grace's departure is a hard loss for us. My first thought was how much I would miss her personally, and professionally, as a friend, and as a highly valued colleague.

But then I immediately realized that many other people would also feel this loss at least as acutely as I did: the members of the Congregational Life Ministry Team, the members of the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team, the members of our Adult Education class, the parents of our children, and of course, and perhaps especially, the children themselves.

Which is to say, all of us, really. Grace has clearly made an enormous contribution to our congregation, across all aspects of our life together.

So, even as we fully support her decision to venture into her own bright, hopeful future, it will be very difficult to see her go.

But to return again to the good news: we still have Grace for at least the next two months. Two months to celebrate her service here; two months to thank her for all the ways she invested in this congregation; two months to enjoy and benefit from her ministry.

And two months to continue thinking about what our own bright hopeful future might look like now, and two months to continue planning for how to live fully into it--in, through and beyond these hard times.

New things Happening at Camp Grier!

Family Overnight Camp 2 Night / 3 Day

\$400 (includes 4 people, +\$100 per extra person)

- Accommodations
 - Private summer camp cabin with bunked platforms, screened windows, cooking shelter with grill and campfire circle. Access to the bath house for showers.
- Food included (let us know of special requirements)
 - Sample menu:
 - Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans, slaw
 - Tin Foil Dinner, ground beef/veggie patty/vegetables
 - Eggs, bacon, biscuits
 - Bagels, cream cheese, fruit
- Activities included:
 - Lake Canoeing
 - Hiking/Fire Tower
 - Creek Walks/Rock Slide
 - Swimming Pool (once open)
 - Picnic Lunch
 - Camp Fire/S'mores

Call to schedule: 828-668-7793



JULY

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
101 Chapel Lane
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The Extended Family