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Steve's Slant

In 1939, the British government commissioned the publication of a poster, which (according to Wikipedia) “was intended to raise the morale of the British public, threatened with widely predicted mass air attacks on major cities.”

The poster read: KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON.

That sentiment captured the perfect combination of comfort and exhortation. It was meant to calm the people’s fears and give them permission to carry on with normal life, even as it conveyed the implied promise that in the end, all will be well. Given that the people of Britain, London in particular, were about to be heavily bombed, it was exactly what the populous needed in order to keep their chins up and their upper lips stiff.

A few weeks ago, as our stewardship season began to come into view, we wondered whether we might find a passage from scripture that conveyed this same sentiment: a combination of comfort and exhortation, with an implied promise that, in the end, all will be well.

Granted, we are not in war-time but these are by no means normal times. Bombs are not falling all around us, but we cannot worship in our own sanctuary. Our hospitals are not filled with the wounded, but all around the country ICUs have at times been filled beyond capacity with patients infected with COVID-19--a trend that is ticking back up now that fall is here. Saddest of all, the number of Americans who have succumbed to this pandemic rivals the number of American soldiers lost in some of the United States’ most violent conflicts.

We are not in war-time, but these are not normal times.

How do we do stewardship under such conditions? How do we offer words of comfort and exhortation, words of comfort and encouragement, when we can’t gather in our sanctuary for worship? Is there a scripture that can do for us what that famous poster was meant to do for the people of Britain?

It turns out there is. It comes to us from what is surely the most beloved and durable psalm of all-time, a poem that has served to comfort and encourage millions of people, through some of the darkest episodes in history.

Taken as a whole, Psalm 23 is not as pithy as Keep Calm and Carry On but in six short verses it does an astonishing amount of work.

It assures people who may feel lost in an inhospitable wilderness that the Lord is their shepherd.

It promises people who feel like their wells have run dry, that their cup will overflow again.

It lifts up a people who feel stranded in the valley of the shadow of death and sets them down in green pastures, flush with life and beauty.

It promises those of us who feel walled off from our sanctuary that we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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During this **STAY SAFE** period, the church office phone will be checked remotely every day. Feel free to call 298-9092 and leave a message.

October Birthdays!

Rebecca Hettrick	Oct. 4	Donna Eagle Joslin	Oct.6
Betty Smith	Oct. 15	Mark Meriwether	Oct. 17
Evan Williams	Oct. 21`	CC Cole	Oct. 21
Salyna Morgan	Oct. 22	Susan Laney	Oct. 25
Toby Ives	Oct. 25	Kathe Mosher	Oct. 25
Barbara Griswold	Oct. 27		



The Warren Wilson Book Discussion will be held via Zoom on Oct. 8th at 11:30 am. Judi Repman will lead the discussion of "No Woman is a Man" by Etaf Rum. Judi is a retired librarian from Georgia Southern and an avid reader. Any book she recommends promises to be good. If you are interested in joining the Zoom gathering, contact sandra_brauer@yahoo.com and you will be welcome to join the group.

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)



Are there any quilters or folks handy with a needle that might be looking for a project? I am looking for a few folks that might be interested in helping with a quilting ministry. At my church in California, we had a quilt ministry that would make small quilts for folks in the church that might be in the hospital or at home during a long sickness. There were a few quilts that had been blessed and were a very welcome comfort for folks. When I was in the hospital for open heart surgery, the quilt I had was one with appliquéd hands

cutouts from members of the congregation. It was very meaningful to me and I felt the warmth from my church family. If you are interested, please let me know. There are lots of ways to participate and you can do a little or a lot.

Contact Joel P. Rogers at joelprogers1967@gmail.com



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Ric Morton and family; Joel P. Rogers, and his husband Rich Holst, and Rich's mother Joan Holst; Salyna Morgan; Ned & Babs Gardener, on their move to Arizona; 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; 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.

Steve's Slant continued...

Earlier this week a friend of mine from seminary posted a message on her FaceBook page. It was by Aisha Ahmad, a professor of political science, who has first-hand experience working in war zones, refugee camps and other contexts of extended trauma and conflict.

She wrote to assure the general public that it's common under such conditions -- conditions not dissimilar in some ways to the ones we're living under now -- to hit a wall after six months.

She documented that the experience of having one's normal life so completely disrupted, of having to re-learn how to do so many things, things we ordinarily don't think twice about -- how to shop for groceries, how to go to the doctor, how to visit family and friends, how to go out to eat, how to attend or lead a committee meeting, how to gather for worship -- that having to re-learn all these things, and laying this work on top of a deep layer of grief and isolation -- almost invariably leaves one feeling empty, spent, exhausted.

Which brings us back to Psalm 23. To those people, which is to say, to people just like us, this marvelous psalm also promises that God will restore our soul.

On Sunday, October 11, we will launch this year's stewardship campaign, and that will be our specific theme: God restores our soul. (Or, for those of you who, like me, can't get the King James Version out of your head, and don't particularly want to: *He restoreth my soul.*)

Over the course of the five Sundays of our stewardship season, we will explore what this enduringly beautiful psalm has to say to us. We will explore its words of comfort and exhortation.

And we will find hope in its implied promise that, in the end, all will be well.

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

The peace of Christ belongs to everyone, everywhere

Peace & Global Witness Offering

This time is the season of Peace and Global Witness, which culminates on World Communion Sunday, October 4. Along with other Presbyterian churches, Warren Wilson participates in the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. Through the celebration of Communion with our global neighbors, and collecting this special offering, we celebrate Christ's peace that extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of being the beloved community of Christ, faithfully witnessing to God's reign of grace and peace, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged discipleship – and a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

In keeping with the call to be peacemakers at home and around the globe, the Peace and Global Witness Offering is used in the following manner: 25% of the collected offering stays with the local congregation, 25% assists our presbytery in its peacemaking initiatives, and the remaining 50% supports peacemakers globally through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

If you are able, please support the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering as part of our celebration of World Communion Sunday. Because we will not be meeting in the chapel, you may mail a check to Receiving Treasurer, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778 or you may give using the church website to give online. The online option will remain available throughout the month of October.

your impact

Equipping Peacemakers in Congregations and Around the World.

SVCM, THE PANDEMIC, AND THE NEXT MONTHS



The Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry has done an amazing job serving those in need in the Swannanoa Valley during the past months. Using staff and a reduced number of volunteers, SVCM made changes in the physical approach to clients, but continues to meet their needs. Food and clothing clients make out a list of needs, rather than coming in to shop, and a volunteer fills the list. Clients are interviewed with social distancing. Looking to the future, here are some ways WWPC can participate.

The Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 11. Participants may contribute online, walk on their own, and donate food. There will NOT be a mass walk departing from First Baptist in Black Mountain, as in past years, but there are many ways to continue to help the hungry. (Online donation at svcmblackmountain.org or mail to SVCM at Box 235, Black Mountain, NC 28711)

The Homeless Shelter will not be open at First Baptist, but Sonny Moore has been busy finding as much housing as he can and providing extra assistance and items for those who continue to live in the camp. There is an emergency plan for extreme cold. WWPC will be asked to prepare box lunches (two hot meals for one week) for the homeless, to be distributed from SVCM.

Hope for Tomorrow will soon have a new family in the apartment that WWPC adopted. The mom and three children in the apartment expect to move soon. We will need household goods and furniture for the new family, and we hope to have more information about that in the next month.

Here's a quote from the most recent SVCM newsletter: Here at SVCM we are continuing to meet the needs of our neighbors. As Renee Weaver, SVCM Board President, said, "You have not missed a beat." We have adapted, but wait with great anticipation for the day we can open our doors and all our volunteers and clients can come together. Until that time, our clients know they can call for a listening ear when someone is ill, a loved one has died, or for any situation they want to share.

Please remember that SVCM serves families in the Owen School District, from Oteen east. These are our neighbors, and they need our support.

(Written by Corise Gambrell, submitted by Caroline Cole)

A TALK IN THE WOODS 2: “WHITHER SMOKEY THE BEAR?”
An Invitation from Presbytery’s Earth Care Team

Massive wildfires burning out of control again this fall in several western states have been dangerous, deadly—and sobering. Even when they are caused “naturally,” why do they seem to be more common and more destructive? How can we heed Smokey the Bear’s reminder that “Only you can prevent forest fires,” in the face of widespread drought and other changes in environmental conditions?

The Earth Care Team of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina invites you to its second Zoom gathering, where wildfires will be the topic of conversation. What stories do you have about forest fires in Western North Carolina and southern Appalachia? What do we want children and youth to learn about living in the special environment of mountains and forests? How do Christians and their congregations promote healthy and sustainable ways of life here?

Please register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfuuhTMpEtdDyS4qUc8nZqoPx1J4KoMg> for this October 8th Zoom event. The Earth Care Team looks forward to you joining in this talk!

Clerk’s Report

At the stated meeting on September 15, 2020, the session took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2021 Challenge Budget
2. Authorized distribution to the congregation of the proposal changes to the Funds Ministry Document with final consideration of the changes to come at the October stated meeting.
3. Directed the continued payment of partial salaries to those nursery workers who indicate their intention to continue to serve when the church resumes in-person worship
4. Approved the schedule of adult Sunday School classes for the coming year.
5. Authorized the treasurer to sign a services contract with Kristin Williams for services as interim for children’s education
6. Approved the purchase of a gift card for a gift to Grace Boyer from the congregation.
7. Authorized the Music Director to spend not more than \$1200 from the Music Program Designated Fund for the purchase of a MacBook Air computer.
8. Approved the recommendation to hold outdoor worship services in the parking lot on September 27 and November 1.



Ken Murchison
Clerk of the Session

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN SEPTEMBER FOR A CELEBRATION ... THANK YOU, GRACE!



We shared our love and good wishes in a drive by celebration on Sunday, September 20 in front of the Chapel. We love you Grace. Thank you for being you!



OCTOBER

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