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### *Steve's Slant*

Four years ago, on the first Wednesday evening of November, I got in my car and drove to Highland Farms for our monthly Just for Fun event. Remember those? They were, as advertised, fun!

Except that night was not fun. By coincidence the event took place the evening after the 2016 election. Because of that timing, the planning team (as I recall) opted to simply give people time and opportunity to reflect together on the results of the election. Most of us expected the mood to be largely celebratory; that the American people would have chosen a woman to be our next president, shattering the last and highest glass ceiling in the country.

But, of course that is not what happened. Instead of sharing in that celebration with those who had gathered, I spent the evening consoling people I love and care about. At one point, a dear lady approached me with tears streaming down her eyes, and just hugged me tightly, hanging on as if for dear life.

She was not sad because her preferred candidate lost. She was sad for what the days and weeks and months ahead might hold, afraid that our country was about to take a troubling turn toward a much darker future.

I think most people in that room that night shared her concern and her apprehension. But at the time we had no idea of the scope and scale of the crises that would steadily amount over the next four years: the “policy violence” that the administration would visit on the most vulnerable Americans; the race riots that would erupt in our streets; the pandemic that would lock us all in our homes and out of our sanctuaries; the economic meltdown that would leave thirty million Americans out of work and struggling to pay their basic expenses; the ongoing, largely unaddressed threat of climate change.

The final result of this year’s election is still being tallied as I write this. But this time around, it seems all but certain that, by a large majority, the American people have voted to “go in a different direction.”

I wish I could gather in the Assembly Room at Highland Farms again, with that same group of people, to reflect on this year’s results. My guess is the mood would be dramatically different.

Speaking just for myself, I am grateful for this change at the top of our country’s leadership. And I very much hope -- I actively believe -- that brighter days are ahead for all of us.

But I am also mindful that there are no messiahs out there; that no one person (or party) can resolve all the crises that we are presently facing as a people and a country. They are too big and too deeply rooted to expect a new president and administration to solve them. And even under the best of circumstances, they certainly will not be solved quickly.

That may sound like hard news. But it is also an opportunity -- for our church and all communities of faith across the country -- to fulfill our calling to be the light of the world, and in our case to be the hands and feet of Jesus right here in the Swannanoa Valley.

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**Church contacts:**

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-2097 e-mail= [deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 712-7803 e-mail= [srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Director of Music, organist; Joel P. Rogers= [joelprogers1967@gmail.com](mailto:joelprogers1967@gmail.com)

Treasurers; Leslie Sayyar, 333-8867 e-mail= [treasurerwwpc@outlook.com](mailto:treasurerwwpc@outlook.com)

Brent Roberts, 919-844-6311 email= [brentroberts@icloud.com](mailto:brentroberts@icloud.com)

Bookkeeper; Barbara Escalante e-mail= [bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com](mailto:bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com)

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During the month of October, our church phone line was down due to underground lines on campus the college had run years ago that were damaged beyond repair. As the college was unable to fix the line, Donna had AT&T run a new line for us and the phone is now working again. Please call 828-298-9092 to leave a message for us at the church. The phone will be checked remotely, or in person every day.  
Thank you for your patience!

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**November Birthdays!**

Kay Stockdale	Nov.3	Bob Cook	Nov. 12
Tom Eller	Nov.12	Izzy Presnell-Smith	Nov. 14
Susan Daugherty	Nov. 16	Ernst Laursen	Nov. 24
Sally Broughton	Nov. 26	Kathy Rouse	Nov. 27
Steve Runholt	Nov. 29		



The Warren Wilson Book Discussion Group continues to have interesting and thought provoking meetings via Zoom. We will be meeting at 11:30 on November 12th to discuss "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Sue Wilson will lead the discussion. Instead of our usual lunch meeting, simply bring your coffee to your computer and join us!!! Contact Sandy Brauer if you are interested and the Zoom link can be sent to you.  
(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

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Emmeline McManus from Warren Wilson's Center for Community Engagement recently notified us that this year's virtual Empty Bowls event is set for November 18 at 6:00 pm. Anyone can access the free event via a YouTube link (not yet available). Like in years past, people will have the opportunity to purchase beautiful ceramic bowls for \$25.



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The bowls will be available for pick-up, or the organizers will ship them out to a personal address for an additional \$5. The event will also feature \$2 raffle tickets for a variety of gift baskets.

All proceeds will go to this year's beneficiary: Southside Community Garden. The garden is the only community garden in Asheville that is on housing authority land. It provides space to grow food along with fresh food and hot meals free of charge. The money raised from this event will go towards hiring Black and Brown folks in the area to teach herbalism, growing practices, and other skills surrounding gardening and health. If you would like to learn more about them and the work they do, you can check out their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/southsidegarden/>).

If you have any questions, contact the Center for Community Engagement at the college.

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**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:** The Bannerman family, on Glenn's death; Ellenor Frelick, on Paul's death; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Ric Morton and family; Rich Holst, and Joel P. Rogers on the death of Rich's mother Joan Holst; Steve's niece, Anna Lisa Busch; Ned & Babs Guardenier, on their move to Arizona; Blake Joslin, on his upcoming surgery; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole, 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.



Dear Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church,

This year has been extremely challenging, and how to best serve our homeless clients during the upcoming winter months has been discussed at SVCM since late spring. It is impossible to safely hold the shelter in First Baptist Church Black Mountain. It is not advisable to house people in a congregational setting. We also felt we could not safely have volunteers and staff at the shelter. At the present time, there are no emergency shelters planning to open. In talking with the Buncombe County Homeless Task Force, they are advising that we serve the homeless in their camps or cars. So, that is our plan. We will assist in providing the warmest possible sleeping bags, tarps, and tents.

The homeless population that we are currently serving is manageable. We are informing transients from out of town that our area does not have services to provide them and advising they go to a larger city with more resources. We will work with any current clients who are homeless or that we foresee being able to help who are truly our clientele. In past years we have seen folks come to our area because of the kindness and care we give our homeless.

**There are several ways you can help.** We are going to be hosting meals at the ministry throughout the winter on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and are asking you to provide a meal or meals. We will be serving the meals at 4:30 PM and are expecting to have about 10 people each time. Things like chili, lasagna, and casseroles work best. The kitchen at SVCM is very small and not conducive to a lot of cooking, so we ask that food preparation is done off the premises as much as possible.

You can also donate in the form of a monetary donation or with gift cards that we can give clients to places like McDonald's. You can also donate essential goods that are very important for the homeless, such as:

- Bottles of water**
- Power drinks**
- Protein bars**
- Peanut butter crackers**
- Waterproof gloves**
- Hand & feet warmers**
- Chapstick**
- Sleeping bags designed for cold temperatures**
- Thick Tarps**
- Socks**

If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Ally Wilson at 828-669-9404 or [allysvcm@gmail.com](mailto:allysvcm@gmail.com).

With thanks,

Cheryl Wilson  
Executive Director

Sonny Moore  
Homeless Outreach Coordinator

## Clerk's Report

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

1. Accepted with thanks the offer of the Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyterian of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, to preach at our worship service on November 15.
2. Supported the opening of the chapel for individual meditation, reflection, and prayer.
3. Appointed Brent Robert Roberts as receiving treasurer.
4. Approved adding an on-line option for submission of stewardship commitments.
5. Gave final approval to the amendments to the Funds Ministry Document.
6. Authorized the Communications Ministry Team to update the church website using funds from the General Endowment.
7. Named Steve Runholt, Donna Eagle Joslin, and Leslie Sayyar as a commission to arrange for the resumption of telephone service to the church office.



Ken Murchison  
Clerk of the Session

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**THANKS**  
*from the*  
**HEART**

As it reviewed the financial report for September, the Administration Ministry Team was once again thankful for your generosity and faithfulness. The report showed that commitment giving actually exceeded our budget projection for the first three quarters of the year. Likewise, our other regular giving exceeded our projections for the first nine months of the year. The only giving item that was below budget was the loose offering, which we have not collected since our last in-person service in March.

Of course, we recognize that some in the congregation have experienced financial hardships that will preclude them from making the contributions they planned to make before the pandemic. However, we could easily make up any shortfall if those of us who were not harmed financially by the pandemic were to increase our gift.

Your continued support for the church in these difficult times has made it possible to continue the ministry of our congregation even though we cannot yet participate in our regular in-person activities. Your gifts make us confident that the church will be in a sound financial position as we begin to resume our normal activities in the coming year.

## 5 CENTS A MEAL

The presbytery's 5 cents a meal offering funds a variety of activities to help the hungry and those in need. When combined together our small gifts support many important programs. Recent recipients of regional grants from the presbytery include the Beloved Community in Asheville, the Blessing Box in Sherrill's Ford, and Pay It Forward Food Pantry in Lenoir. This year, the presbytery program has also made an international grant to Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi.



Ordinarily, the children pass a basket to collect this offering during worship on the first Sunday of the month. Of course, that method is not available right now, but the offering still needs our support. During the month of November, the 5 cents a meal offering will again be an option for on-line giving. In addition, you may mail a check to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Attn: Receiving Treasurer, 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778. Please make your check payable to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church with a notation that it is for the 5 cents a meal offering.

Thanks for all you do to support those in need.



## Johnny Raines Christmas Cheer Program (SVCMM)

Help a family with Christmas.

In 2019, 172 families with 391 children received Christmas through the Johnny Raines Christmas Cheer Program. This program helps ensure families are blessed with the spirit of

Christmas. For information on how to be involved, choose a family to help and give, please go to the link below:

<http://www.svcblackmountain.org/johnny-raines-program.html>

or call 828-669-9404 and ask for Ally Wilson.

## Our Stewardship Campaign began on October 11 and runs through November 8.

Thank you to all who have already sent in or gone online to our website to submit your commitments for the 2021 upcoming year.

If you still need to make your commitment, please use the stamped and addressed envelope we provided you, or go to our website, [warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://warrenwilsonchurch.org) and press "Give" on the dropdown bar to get to our Stewardship page.

Hello Church Family!

We miss seeing your faces and sharing in your sweet hugs! For the past few years, some of you have dressed up with us and parked your cars full of treats beside the chapel for our annual 'Trunk or Treat.'

Although this year we couldn't gather in-person to celebrate Halloween, we still want to share our happy faces with you and say that we are counting down to a time where we can be silly together in one spot!

Until then...much love, hugs and laughs,  
The WWPC Children and Youth







## *Steve's Slant continued...*

These last four years have been extraordinarily difficult for most of us, and often deeply painful, as well. Without trying to sound an overly partisan note, I am enormously grateful (and, yes, relieved) that they now appear to be coming to an end.

With the start of this new chapter in the life of our country, I am also grateful that our work, our mission, our calling as a congregation, and as individuals, is now about to begin anew.

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### This Year's Goal for Our Stewardship Campaign

**Our Commitment target for the 2021 challenge budget is \$202,864. This is an increase of 2.5% over 2020. Listed below are the highlights for this slight increase:**

1. We've engaged with the college to share the costs 50/50 of a professional cleaning crew for the Ohler Spiritual Center (the Chapel, the Fellowship Hall and the office wing). Our facilities are still being used -- by church staff and by our financial team, and by the college as a location for socially distanced classroom space. During this time of Covid, we believe it is especially important that our facilities are clean and safe.
  2. We are hoping to offer genuine raises to our staff for the first time since 2015. (They received raises in 2018 but these mainly restored salary cuts we had to make in 2017.)
  3. Historically, we have funded the Associate in Ministry position (first Beth, then Grace) with monies from unexpected bequests. We have steadily depleted those funds over the years. To continue funding this critically important position moving forward, we must now build support for this salary into our regular operating fund.
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2 Corinthians 9:7 "Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver."



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!

NOVEMBER

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
101 Chapel Lane  
Swannanoa, NC 28778

*The Extended Family*