



# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Volume 28 Issue 3

April 2021

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## *Steve's Slant*

I begin this month's column by first confessing, and then correcting, a "sin of omission".

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we commemorated the one-year anniversary of when we went into lockdown as a congregation. In my sermon that day, I named the ways -- or at least some of the ways -- that we continued to be church and do church in the year that followed.

I covered a lot of ground and named several initiatives undertaken by the following ministry teams -- Congregation Life (Eloise Murchison, chair, Jan Collins, Vicki Collins, Susan Daugherty, Sarah Anne Eller, Corise Gambrell, Susan Laney, Pat Levi, Sharon Lytle, Kathé Mosher); Community Engagement (CC Cole, Anne and Jamie Dale, Bob Gambrell, Salyna Morgan, Ken Murchison, Adeeb and Leslie Sayyar, Mary Wheeler--with a big assist this past year from Sally Broughton and Vicki Collins); and Church/College Relations (Tacci Smith, Chair, Diana Sanderson and Kay Stockdale).

These efforts proved vitally important in keeping our ministries alive for the last year, despite having to close our doors and suspend in-person everything.

But like a groom who fails to acknowledge his new in-laws at the post-wedding reception dinner, I failed to recognize several essential contributors to our collective ministry efforts over the last year.

My first omission was Joel and his merry band of vocalists: Rich Holst and Heather Bronson. Together, the three of them have lent us their talents week-in and week-out for the whole of this time. And in doing so, they greatly enhanced our worship experience. (Here's a thought experiment to prove my point: imagine our online services without them!)

To the uninitiated, what Joel, Rich and Heather do may seem simple, or easy, or straightforward: Joel plays and sings, and Rich and Heather sing along. It's like what might happen at a Christmas party, if the three of them were in attendance and the host had a piano. *Fa-la-la-la-la*, kind of thing.

But given that all three of them are in different locations when they record the music and the hymns for our services, the effort is in fact quite complex and requires all of them to devote a substantial amount of time to the effort each week.

So that's one omission.

I also want to acknowledge and thank our Faith Develop Team: Kristin Williams (chair), Sandy Brauer (Session liaison), Lisa Mallory, Susan Laney and Natalie Daugherty, joined most recently by Jan Collins.

This team has done a brilliantly creative job of keeping our kids engaged with and connected to one another during this long year apart, and of building up their faith in the process.

I would also like to express my personal thanks to Jamie Dale for his ongoing collegiality and generosity in providing leadership and support to our adult education program.

Of course, when you start naming names like this the risks remains high that you're going to inadvertently omit still more people.

(Continued on page 8)

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Please call 828-298-9092 to leave a message for us at the church. The phone will be checked remotely, or in person several times per week.

Thank you!

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**April Birthdays!**

Eloise Murchison	April 4	Molly Hamilton	April 10
Leslie Sayyar	April 11	Claudia Nix	April 21
Ken Murchison	April 24		



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 am on Thursday, April 8. Sandy B. will lead our discussion of Exile Music by Jennifer Stiehl. It promises to be an interesting discussion. If you are interested in joining us contact Sandy Brauer and she will forward you the link to the Zoom meeting.

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**SOUPER BOWL REPORT:**

How successful would our participation be this year in the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering? After all, we would not be meeting in person during February to receive food and monetary donations for the local non-profit of our choice that addresses hunger in our local area. Most of all, we would not be seeing our youth in chef's hats collecting for this worthy cause during coffee hour on Super Bowl Sunday!

Though it may have taken a bit longer, we should have had no concern. Our monetary donation was the largest ever. A check in the amount of \$1245.50 was submitted to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry to support its significant efforts to address hunger in the Swannanoa Valley. Thanks to all who supported this worthy effort!

(submitted by John Laney)

Congratulations to the following congregations who were certified as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2022:

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Black Mountain NC  
Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Brevard NC  
First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC  
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC  
Montreat Presbyterian Church, Montreat, NC  
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville NC  
Northminster Presbyterian Church, Hickory NC  
Unity Presbyterian Church, Denver, NC  
Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa, NC



This honor speaks to the great commitment these churches have made to care for God's earth. To become an Earth Care Congregation, each congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

"It is exciting that these 9 churches are part of the the 276 congregations that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year. Particularly in a time of much uncertainty and worry about the future, the activities and commitments of these churches, even in the midst of navigating limitations brought about by COVID-19, brings hope to their community. We believe that this will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program, visit [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

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Do you have an extra car that needs to find a new home? Imagine how difficult your life would be without a car! Working Wheels repairs and recycles donated cars, transforming them into working wheels for working families. The process is simple, the donation is tax-deductible, and the impact is real. We also need volunteer drivers and administrative help. To donate, volunteer, or learn more, please visit [www.workingwheelswnc.org](http://www.workingwheelswnc.org) or call 828-633-6888.

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Thank you!  
Jamie Beasley (828) 633-6888 [Jamie@workingwheelswnc.org](mailto:Jamie@workingwheelswnc.org)

## Special Thanks for the Congregational Life Team...

My friends,

How wonderful it was to open my door and find there, Pat with the valentine gift from the church. You were so thoughtful to remember me with all the delicious goodies. I enjoyed every bite. Pat can tell you all about me. We had a wonderful visit which made me so happy.

You have been so special to me and I thank you,

Love

Billie (Martin)

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the loving care and concern from members of the **Congregational Life Team, the Church Youth group** and many others who have sent lovely cards, notes and brought food and cookies to enjoy. All are giving so much of yourselves in the spirit of Jesus Christ and are such a blessing. These relationships are inspirational and lasting in the church family. I do enjoy reading the newsletter and hearing about all the activities and programs at the church with wonderful leaders and pastor. May God Bless you all.

Love, to you in Christ. Proverbs 3:5,6

Pat Crumpler

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### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have joined other Christians in the One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Today, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world.

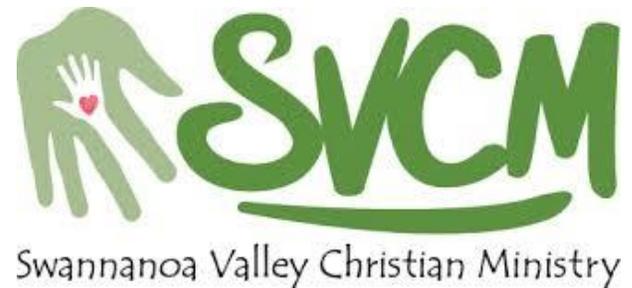
Presbyterian gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Each works in a unique way to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Statistics tell an imperfect story but they provide some perspective on what we are able to accomplish when we join together to help those in need. Our collective giving enabled Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to make grants of \$4.1 million in the first half of 2020, the Presbyterian Hunger Program to fund 94 grants impacting 20 countries in 2019, and the Self Development of People program to train more than 17,000 individuals in the United States and throughout the world.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church has generously supported the One Great Hour of Sharing in the past, and we will again have the opportunity to participate in the offering on Easter Sunday. You may give in three ways: by placing a check or cash in the offering plates on Sunday, by mailing a check to the receiving treasurer (101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778), or by choosing the One Great Hour of Sharing option at the giving link on our website.

## SVCM UPDATE

Just in case you did not know . . . SVCM - The Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, located in Black Mountain, serves families in the Owen School District, providing a food bank, clothing bank, rental and utility assistance.



The SVCM site is also home to Meals on Wheels and GED tutoring. The Hope for Tomorrow housing near the Montreat Gate assists homeless mothers and children with housing, counseling, financial management, and job preparation. A number of WWPC members volunteer at SVCM.

Since March 2020, SVCM staff and volunteers have been dedicated in continuing to serve the needs of those in our community facing hardships. The SVCM staff has been creative in ways to serve while protecting the health of staff and volunteers.

- Lists of available food items are prepared daily so clients can choose items they need. We have added a Spanish version of the daily food list. With extra food stamps many clients have not needed the food.

SVCM is in discussion with the Donald Collins Early Learning Center to begin bringing food to them for distribution to families. Food needs for the working poor have greatly increased in the last year.

Every Thursday, beginning April 15, SVCM will be open from 12 --6 to better serve our working families.

This year's **Deck the Trees** program raised over \$36,000 for heating assistance to families. The host Monte Vista Hotel had limited space for trees and served fewer people, but downtown businesses sponsored trees and people donated generously.

While the **Homeless Shelter** did not open, SVCM provided housing in local motels for those in need. Warren Wilson members provided meals for two weeks in January, and we send bag lunches twice a month.

**Hope for Tomorrow** placed four families in the new affordable housing in Swannanoa. Apartments are currently being cleaned and painted for new families.

***Please mark your church calendars for our Walk for Our Neighbors (typically Walk for Hunger Relief). This year we are celebrating how this community has come together to help our neighbors throughout the pandemic. October 10, 2021 at 2:00 at FBC Black Mountain.***

(Submitted by Corise Gambrell)



**OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO:** Virginia Howell and family, on the death of her husband Carl, Carla Greenfield's father; Corise Gambrell's brother, Louis Holleman and family, Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Fred Porter, relative of the Griswolds; Mark Laabs, friend of the Griswolds; Blake Joslin; Ric Morton and family; Ellen Ballow, friend of Sandy Brauer; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole, and Pat Crumpler.

**WE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES:** Carolyn Cole; Richard Riddle; Laura Bethany Riddle; Kristin Williams; 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.

**OUR PRAYERS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS GO OUT TO:** Natalie Cowal; Carla Presnell-Smith, and all those helping to keep essential services open for all of us.

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“Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you:  
Love, Prayer, and forgiveness.”

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

## Remembering our children and youth at Easter

Easter treats were delivered to our children on the Saturday before Easter. Without normal Sunday School, it is important that our children feel included in our church activities. The treats were delivered to each home with a note indicating that they were missed.



## Clerk's Report

At its stated meeting on March 16, the session

1. Discussed with representatives of the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team the need for professional assistance for the Christian Education program
2. Approved and ratified the annual statistical report prepared by the clerk.
3. Accepted with regret Lee Duggar's resignation as an elder in active service.
4. Named Ken Murchison as commissioner for the April meeting of Presbytery meeting of Western North Carolina.
5. Approved the recommendation of the action team on in-person worship to hold two in-person services on Easter Sunday, one at the cemetery and one in the chapel.
6. Named the action team on in-person worship as a commission to decide whether to hold in-person worship services on April 11, 18, and 25.
7. Approved the recommendation of the Administration Ministry Team to increase wedding fees to cover cleaning costs.



Ken Murchison, Clerk

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

And certainly, there are still more people to thank, starting with my wonderful wife, Robyn, for donating hundreds of hours of her own time over the past year, putting our pre-recorded services together prior to posting them on YouTube.

And Donna, who has worked quietly and steadily behind the scenes to answer voice mail, produce our newsletter, send out mailings, coordinate the cleaning of our buildings, and, in general, to keep us on track administratively.

And still the list goes on: the members of the Administration Ministry Team (Ken Murchison, chair, Sally Broughton, Bob Gambrell, Brent Roberts, Leslie Sayyar, Kay Stockdale, Pat Wilson); the members of our Communications Team (Brent Roberts, chair, Sally Broughton, John Bishop, Robyn Castellani, Donna Eagle Joslin, Nancy Garrison); our Liturgical Arts Team, which I convene (Robyn Castellani, Anne and Jamie Dale, Donna Eagle Joslin, Joel P. Gregory and Kristin Williams); and, of course, the members of our Session (Ken Murchison, clerk, Sandy Brauer, Susan Daugherty, Bob Gambrell, Nancy Garrison, Sharon Lytle, Fran Roberts, Tacci Smith).

All of these teams and the individuals that comprise them, and all of the individuals named above, have invested substantial amounts of time in the work of the church, and in support of the overall goal of keeping our ministries alive during lockdown.

As such, they all deserve our heartfelt thanks. But so do all of you.

Many churches, perhaps even most, saw their income and financial support drop precipitously during the pandemic. But that has not been the case here. Our membership -- which is to say, all of you -- having continued to support our church with unflinching generosity.

Sadly, some of the churches that closed their doors last March will never open them again. But thanks to all of you, we're about to open them again on Easter Sunday, for the first time since last March.

That said, I offer one final word of perspective: our Easter service will be markedly different this year from years past. Half our pews will be taped off; we will all be wearing masks; there will be no congregational singing, no handshakes, no hugs.

But despite all these necessary safety precautions, I would not be surprised if this was the most joyful Day of Resurrection any of us have ever experienced!

So for all of these things, I say, *Praise God and Halle....* to be continued, and completed, on Sunday!

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*"It turned out this man worked for the Dalai Lama. And she said gently-- that they believe when a lot of things start going wrong all at once, it is to protect something big and lovely that is trying to get itself born--and that this something needs for you to be distracted so that it can be born as perfectly as possible."*

— Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

MARCH, 16TH, 2021

### TEAM MEETING:

5 members of the ministry team met on March 2nd for a Zoom meeting focusing on our children and youth. Those present were: Kristin Williams, Natalie Cowal, Janice Collins, Susan Laney and Sandy Brauer.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

The Sunday School continues to meet via Zoom. Each family received a packet in the mail that included a Lenten Journal, coloring sheets and a labyrinth. The labyrinth can be used to consider our time as we navigate thru Lent. The class will meet on Palm Sunday, March:28th at 9:30.

### BUDDY PROGRAM:

The birthday list for the children was updated to reflect the correct birthday for Harriet Cowal. It is March 22nd rather than March 3rd.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS:

No date has been set for completion of the confirmation class. It has fallen by the wayside. A possible plan would be for the Mentors of the young people to meet via Zoom and discuss a way forward.

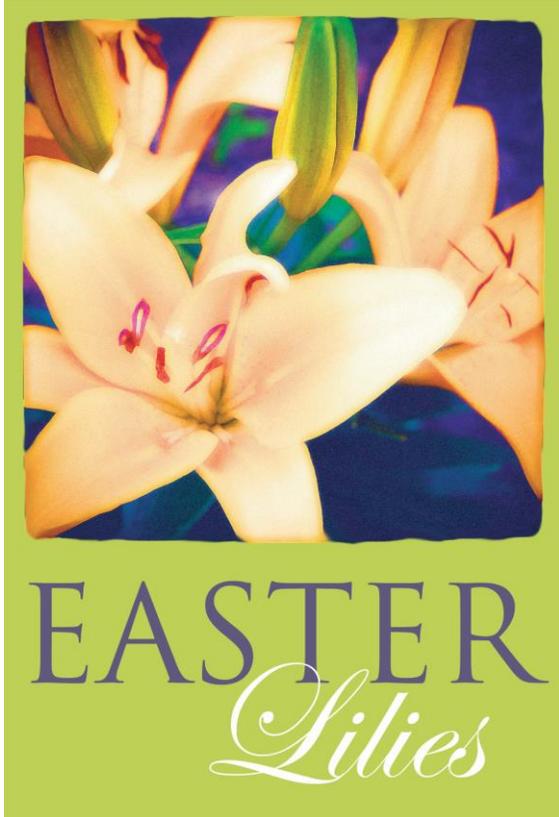
### REPLACEMENT FOR GRACE:

Much time was spent discussing how to best explain the urgency to begin considering an Associate Pastor to focus on our Children and Youth Program.

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“Do not abandon yourselves to despair: We are the Easter people,  
and Hallelujah is our song”.

~ **Pope John Paul II**



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  
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