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July/August 2021

Steve's Slant

If you're thinking back to last month and wondering, *Did I miss something?*, I can assure you that you did not: there was no July *Extended Family*.

It was not our intention – not my intention – to simply skip July and not produce our monthly newsletter.

It's just that life intervened. Well, actually, "life" is perhaps not the right word. Between Thursday, July 1st, and Monday, July 26th, I either led, attended or participated in seven memorial services: three here at WWPC (one for William Hamilton, one for Käthe Mosher and one for Margaret Nelson), two in Minnesota (one for my niece, and one for my aunt), one in the columbarium at Montreat and one in the Assembly Hall at Highland Farms (these were separate services but both of them were for John Craven).

We also got the news earlier this week that Chuck Stephenson passed away last Sunday. You may wish to make a note that his service will be in the Chapel at Givens Estates on Saturday, August 28th at 11:00 a.m.

Ordinarily I try not to talk much about my workload. It's just not a good look for a pastor to do that, for all sorts of reasons. But I do it here not to underscore what an oddly demanding month July has been – demanding in terms of time and emotional resources – but because I suspect July has been oddly demanding for many of you, too.

There is just so much going on in the world right now, and so much of it is moderately to acutely worrisome, that it's tempting to just go back to bed after breakfast, pull the covers over one's head and stay there for the rest of the day.

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that for everything there is a time and a purpose under heaven. If that's true – and of course it is – then, for me, July 2021 was a season of loss. And of grief and mourning. And I know it was that way for everyone who knew or loved any of the dear folks whom we have lost.

However you look at it, July has been an unusually difficult month. But we also know that seasons change: summer to fall, fall to winter, winter to spring and spring back to summer.

So, I'd love to say that after this long hard summer we can look forward to an easier time, perhaps even a season of celebration as we prepare for Sunday school and choir to start, and the resumption of what we hope will be a more normal programmatic year this fall.

But if I had to guess right now, it's shaping up to be more a season of change and adaptation. And I think it's important that we are honest about this, so that our expectations are in line with what may be coming, and so that we can prepare for whatever that might be.

Whether we like it or not – and of course we decidedly do not like it -- the coronavirus is still with us, nineteen months after the first case in the US was reported last January.

That is hard news to share, hard news to hear, hard news to accept. (Continued on page 9)

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Please call 828-298-9092 to leave a message for us at the church. Office hours are 9:00-12:00, 1:00-5:00 Monday through Friday. Thank you!

July/August Birthdays!

Larry Griswold	July 4	Bob Castellani	July 4
Allyson Hettrick	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
Beth Meriwether	August 1	Darcy Orr	August 4
Alisa White	August 6	Elaine Barnes	August 8
Blake Joslin	August 8	Pat Levi	August 11
Bill Mosher	August 11	Hank Barnes	August 11
Vicki Collins	August 14	Mike Nix	August 16
Carla Presnell-Smith	August 21	Jerry VanEman	August 31



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on the patio outside of the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 on Thursday, August 12. We will eat lunch (bring your own) from 11:30-12. From 12-1 we will discuss, The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See. The discussion will be led by Julia Jordan. We welcome new members to our group of avid readers!

(Submitted by Judi Repman)

Choir!

Adult choir will begin rehearsals on September 8th at 7:30 PM. We were so honored to be able to sing as a group again for our beloved alto Kathe Mosher at her memorial service. We will miss her so much, but it was also so fitting that we were able to join our voices together again after such a long hiatus. We will continue observing whatever COVID protocols are necessary, and if we need to sing masked and socially distanced, we can do that too. We will be as flexible as we need to be to meet the demands of this seemingly never ending pandemic. But, we will plan to lift our voices together beginning in September. If you would like to sing and would be interested in joining, just contact me at joelprogers1967@gmail.com or pop up to the balcony any Sunday after church!



OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: The Stephenson family, on Chuck's death; The Craven family, on John's death; Molly and the Hamilton family, on William's death; Lynn Morton and family, on Ric's death; Rick Garrison; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Doug Bradley's brother Clifton, as he battles Covid 19; Mark and Albert Laabs, friends of the Griswolds; Blake Joslin; Vicki Allman, family friend of Sandy Brauer; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison, 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.

"Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you:

Love, Prayer, and forgiveness."

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Clerk's Report

At its stated meeting on May 18, 2021, the Session

1. Approved a recommendation from the Administration Ministry Team to fund the part-time Associate in Ministry position with nonrecurring funds currently available in the church's accounts.

2. Approved the job description for the part-time Associate in Ministry position recommended by the Children and Youth Ministry Team.

3. Approved the recommendation of the Children and Youth Ministry Team that the search team for the part-time Associate in Ministry should consist of Kristin Williams (chair), Sandy Brauer, Susan Daugherty, and Pat Levi.

4. Approved the expenditure of \$100 from the Waldrop Tithe to help Faith Communities Organized for Sanctuary assist an immigrant in need.



At a called meeting on June 27, the Session approved holding a memorial service in the chapel for William Hamilton with all attendees asked to wear masks.

At its stated meeting on July 20, 2021, the Session

1. Adopted a motion ratifying four decisions to which the session agreed informally in email communications:

- Approving memorial services at the chapel for Kathe Mosher, Margaret Nelson, and Ray Stock.

- Authorizing the reopening of the church office.

- Granting sick leave for Steve to visit his family after his niece's death.

- Approving Steve's request for an additional Sunday of vacation leave in August.

2. Authorized the collection of a special offering to help the Hamilton family.

3. Approved the expenditure of additional funds from the General Endowment to complete the installation of the live-stream video equipment.

4. Expressed its appreciation to the congregational life ministry team and others in the congregation for their work in arranging for the Mosher reception.

Ken Murchison, Clerk

Our newly formed handbell choir will begin rehearsals on September 8th at 6:30 PM. We were fortunate enough to be able to play a couple times before summer break, and we had such a good time, we are going to keep going. At present, we have all the ringers we need, but if you ever want to join in, just let me know and I'm sure we can find a place for you. If you've never played bells before, that's ok! The learning isn't very high and we are always willing to teach you anything you need to know. If you are interested, please contact me at joelprogers1967@gmail.com.

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 in our area and throughout the world. Our congregation has generously supported this offering for a number of years.



Ordinarily, the children pass a red basket to collect this offering during worship on the first Sunday of each month. This month, and the months following, the red baskets will be sitting on the offering table as you come into the church to gather. During the month of August, there will again be an option for on-line giving on our website. Finally, 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.

WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 10, at 2:00 PM when Warren Wilson will join our neighbors for the annual Walk sponsored by the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. Allee Williams is coordinating the WWPC participation in the Walk this year.



We are walking to celebrate the support that neighbors have given to neighbors during the pandemic and to raise money for medical needs, rent, utility payments, etc. as well as funds for hunger needs.

Churches are invited to enter a poster contest. The winning poster will receive a \$100 donation to the Walk, given in honor of that church.

In a few weeks, we will have signup sheets for the Walk in the narthex. Check with Allee and her team for more information in the next few weeks.



Mission Trip Opportunity for PWNC

The Mission Committee of Presbytery has worked closely with those in the Eastern part of North Carolina to set up a mission trip to help with flood damage.

You will find links to helpful information about the trip on the Presbytery Website. Feel free to share this information with others who may have an interest in going.

Fall Work Trip Scheduled

October 10-16, 2021
Wilmington NC

Cost: \$75 per person
Financial aid available upon request.

Team size is limited to
15 people.

****A COVID-19 vaccine is required to participate in this trip.****

"If you're always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be."

Maya Angelou

Her reception was a showcase of Käthe Mosher's life and Talent...



THREE AREA FAMILIES MOVED IN TO NEW HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSES IN JUNE
THIS INCLUDED THE FIRST HOUSE OF FAITH MADE POSSIBLE BY A DIVERSE COALITION
OF FAITH COMMUNITIES AND OTHER FUND-RAISING EFFORTS

Even with numerous challenges caused by the pandemic, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity pressed on with its mission of providing and maintaining affordable housing by building 12 new houses and doing needed repairs on 70 existing houses in the fiscal year that recently ended.

One of the new houses is the first House of Faith which was supported by donations from our church and many others, generous individual donors and the Stay Home with Habitat promotion in January in which five participants won dinner from an Asheville restaurant delivered to their home.

Habitat plans to build 12 more new houses in the current fiscal year, as well as do repairs on 71 existing Buncombe County houses. The plans include starting the next House of Faith in March.

Volunteer opportunities, which were largely stopped during the pandemic, are reopening at job sites and at Habitat's ReStore locations in Asheville and Weaverville. If you have questions about these or may be interested in helping the Habitat mission as a volunteer, contact Larry Griswold.



HAPPY HOMEOWNER - after completing Habitat's sweat equity requirements, Mission Hospital employee Leesa Flowers (center), became the owner of the brand new two-bedroom, two-bath House of Faith in Habitat's West Asheville's New Heights neighborhood. Leesa's mother and daughter joined her for the special day and Barbara Griswold handed the house keys to Leesa.



JOY - Nine year-old Lazaria Flowers celebrated having her own bedroom for the first time in her life in front of Habitat's House of Faith after her mother purchased the house.

Steve's Slant continued...

If there is any good news in this scenario – and there is – it's that all of the major vaccines are still proving to be remarkably effective in preventing infections, and in preventing serious disease in the (still relatively rare) cases of breakthrough infections.

COVID-19, and more specifically the Delta variant of it, appears to be largely a pandemic of the unvaccinated. And it's not just me saying that; that's coming from the best epidemiologists in the country.

Still, infection rates and hospitalizations are once again rising almost everywhere. So it's fair to ask what this means for us and what are our plans in response.

Our in-person worship team met on Wednesday evening to consider these very questions. We unanimously agreed that the protective steps we've taken and the health and safety protocols we've instituted around our services (worship and memorial) are, for the moment any way, the best we can do to protect the health and safety of our members.

So we will continue to do those: We will continue to require masks and, given the nature of Delta variant's infection vector (spread largely by the unvaccinated, to the unvaccinated), we will continue to encourage people who have not been vaccinated to worship with us online.

I know it's disappointing—and frustrating—to feel like we're still stuck in the middle of this pandemic. But if there is another piece of good news – and there is – it's that this summer is different than last: if you have been vaccinated, well, sure, continue to be safe and take precautions.

Because if you do that, you have every right, grounded in the best science we have, to feel safe in resuming your life, and living your life.



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!

JULY & AUGUST

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The Extended Family