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www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 28 Issue 7

September 2021

Steve's Slant

I have several updates I'd like to share with you. They come in three parts:

Part I: Worship and other church activities and gatherings

In light of the ongoing spread of the Delta variant, the In-person Worship Team has recommended, and Session has approved, the following policies and practices as we move into the fall season:

- That we continue to offer worship on a hybrid basis: in-person for those who feel comfortable, and online for others who may not feel comfortable gathering in person, and for those who have not yet been vaccinated.
- That we continue to stress that masks are mandatory, that we continue to strongly encourage non-vaccinated individuals to worship online and that we restore the safe distance guides in the sanctuary (taping off the pews).
- That ministry teams and other small groups meet outdoors, on the porch of the Fellowship Hall, while it is warm enough and light enough to do so. Teams are free to make their own decisions about how and where to meet after that, though we strongly encourage them to meet via Zoom as we move into colder weather later this fall.
- That choir – per Joel's recommendation – wait to resume in-person rehearsals until October 6th, and that we reassess this date later in September.

As for our educational programs, the adult class will meet for the first time on September 12th via Zoom, and will likely continue to meet via Zoom thereafter.

The children's class will meet in-person once a month, gathering outdoors following the Time for the Child in Us All. During the intervening weeks, Kristin Williams and Natalie Daugherty will convene the class using a variety of online tools.

Part II: Disaster Response

You may have seen the email I sent out about this earlier this week, but if not, here, briefly, is our plan for responding as a congregation to the disasters we've seen unfolding here in WNC and around the world:

- \$1000 to the ecumenical fund for flood relief in Haywood County
- \$1000 to earthquake relief in Haiti
- \$ 500 to Afghani refugee relief

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Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

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Bookkeeper; Barbara Escalante e-mail= bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

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!

September Birthdays!

Liam Pulsifer
John Laney

Sept. 4
Sept. 23

Natalie Cowal
Elizabeth Cook

Sept. 15
Sept. 27



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 on Thursday, September 9. Anne Dale will lead our discussion of *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. New members are always welcome. Contact Judi Repman (jrepman@georgiasouthern.edu) for the Zoom link.

(Submitted by Judi Repman)

Choir!



Adult choir will begin rehearsals on October 6th at 7:30 PM. 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 October. 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: Doug Bradley, on the death of his brother Clifton; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Mark Laabs, friend of the Griswolds; Blake Joslin; 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.

Our newly formed handbell choir will begin rehearsals on September 22 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. 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, as we will be worshipping in the Pavilion on campus, look for the small red baskets to donate. During the month of September, 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.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

Many congregations receive this offering throughout *A Season of Peace* — beginning on September 5, and culminating on World Communion Sunday, October 3.



Steve's Slant continued...

If you would like to contribute to these totals, you may write a check to the church and designate how you'd like your contribution to be used: flood relief, earthquake relief, refugee relief.

Please note: we hope to get these monies sent soon, as early as the week of September 13th, so if you do plan to contribute, please do so soon.

As for the massive damage in the Gulf, and elsewhere, caused by Hurricane Ida, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is already on the scene, providing relief and support to those areas. You are of course welcome to contribute to those efforts as well, which you can do that via the online giving portal on our website.

Part III: A personal word of thanks

Someone I follow on Facebook recently posted a "meme" that ran as follows:

"Imagine what kind of world we'd be living in if every cent donated to a religion had been donated to scientific and medical research. That's the world religion has stolen from us all."

This is a deeply misleading characterization of the contributions to the common good made by science and religion, respectively

First, faith-based communities, including ours, give more money to local charities and social service agencies than any other demographic group in the country, probably more than all other demographic groups combined.

Second, science finds ways to bring research to life and to apply those findings toward solving technical and medical challenges. How do we get someone to the moon? How can we make a phone call from our car? How do we combat a global pandemic?

At their best, faith-based communities find ways to bring love and compassion to bear on solving humanitarian problems. How do we feed the hungry in our community? How do we end homelessness? How do we dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty?

So, my thanks to all of you individually for the generous contributions you have made to these causes over the years, and especially in the last few weeks when the needs have been so acute.

And my thanks to all of you collectively for being a congregation that is so quick to marshal its resources when disaster strikes, and so generously puts its love and compassion to work in building out the Realm of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Something to think about...

"Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul. When writers make us shake our heads with the exactness of their prose and their truths, and even make us laugh about ourselves or life, our buoyancy is restored. We are given a shot at dancing with, or at least clapping along with, the absurdity of life, instead of being squashed by it over and over again. It's like singing on a boat during a terrible storm at sea. You can't stop the raging storm, but singing can change the hearts and spirits of the people who are together on that ship."

Anne Lamott

(submitted by Donna Eagle Joslin)



Congratulations Corise!

(Article is currently on the bulletin board in the Parlor)

“Demystifying Solar for Homeowners” Scheduled for September 30

The Earth Care Team of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church will offer a program, “Demystifying Solar for Homeowners” on Thursday night, September 30, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tell your neighbors! The program will be free and open to the entire Black Mountain Community.

Representatives from two solar installation companies, Sugar Hollow Solar and M.B. Haynes, (continued on next page)

plan to be there to speak briefly and answer questions. We also hope to have someone from Duke Energy as well.

Topics to be covered include current technology, costs and rebates, renting panels, billing, how to proceed.

The emcee will invite each guest to speak briefly, then answer questions from the floor. After the formal portion of the program, people will have time to talk individually with guest speakers and also with area residents who already have solar panels.

Reservations are encouraged by emailing or phoning the church office at 828-669-2725. We are the church at 117 Montreat Road with solar panels on the roof.



HAPPY FAMILY - Last month the Kibysh family moved into their Habitat home, sponsored by Elevation Church, in West Asheville's New Heights Neighborhood. September is our special offering month to help Habitat build the next House of Faith here.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE SEPTEMBER IS OUR HABITAT SPECIAL OFFERING MONTH

For many years our third Sunday in September bulletin included an insert about the partner family for the newest Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian/Methodist House.

One week later, the partner family attended our worship service, and a special offering to help with the cost of building materials was received.

Covid has changed this however, and presented numerous challenges for everyone, but, as an Asheville Area Habitat employee recently said, "We continue to build, slowly, but without stopping."

Three more families, including one featured in our July/August newsletter, closed on a new, green-built Habitat House in West Asheville's New Heights neighborhood in June. In August, the Kibysh family (photo on page 7) closed on their new house. In October, the first house designed for seniors to age in place here, will close.

All of this has been done while enduring Covid which for a while meant very few volunteers, surges in prices for building materials, and delays, sometimes long ones, for products like trusses and windows.

But thanks to donations from our congregation, and many others, Asheville Area Habitat completed the House of Faith which Leesa Flowers now owns, this year, and construction on another House of Faith will begin next March.

Donations made for our Habitat special offering this month will help build the next House of Faith, so please consider making a donation which can be done in these ways:

Three Ways to Make a Habitat Special Offering

1. Through our Church web site (click the Give Online button near the top right corner)
2. By Check mailed to the Church Office - 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778
3. By Check dropped in an offering plate inside the front door of the sanctuary

If you donate by check, please write *Habitat offering* on the memo line. Thank you.



Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry Walk for Your Neighbor Sunday, October 10, 2021

Registration will begin at 1:00 - Walk begins at 2:00
First Baptist Church Black Mountain
130 Montreat Road

This year money raised will help our neighbors in their time of need:

- With Rental Assistance
- Keeping their lights or water on
- As needed food for the Food Pantry
- And so many other needs our neighbors are facing.

After the walk enjoy music, food, and time spent together.

For more information about the walk call
828-664-9224 or email svcmdirector@gmail.com
Visit our website event page
www.SVCMblackmountain.org



*5% of contributions will go to Black Mountain Counseling Center and 5% to Food Connection

Walk For Your Neighbor 2021



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!

SEPTEMBER

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778

The Extended Family