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www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 28 Issue 8

October 2021

Steve's Slant

Dear friends,

Traditionally, mid-October marks the beginning of our annual stewardship season.

In a world where it often feels like everything is changing and nothing is the same as it once was, I'm very glad to say that this year is no different.

But on behalf of this year's Stewardship Team (Fran Roberts, Leslie Sayyar, Derron Daugherty, and myself), I'm even happier to share with you the theme for this year's campaign.

The Apostle Paul writes that, together, we are the Body of Christ. That deep idea, that deep concept, that deep truth, has given rise to the theme for this year's campaign:

TOGETHER . . . WE RISE

The image below will serve as our logo for this season. It is comprised of several individual logos developed by our Communications Team, with credit – and thanks! -- for the final artwork on each of them going to Martha Duggar.

Each individual image is meant to give visual representation to a different aspect of church life: music and worship, and the way they anchor our life together; Christian education and our shared journey of learning and growing; community engagement and the social outreach that has always been such an important part of this church's past and present; congregational life, which starts in the Chapel and extends to the care we offer one another outside of the sanctuary; and, of course, stewardship, without which our vibrant life would, like a plant left untended, steadily wither and die.

Starting on Sunday, October 17, and for the next five Sundays, we will focus our service each week around one of these specific aspects of our shared life:

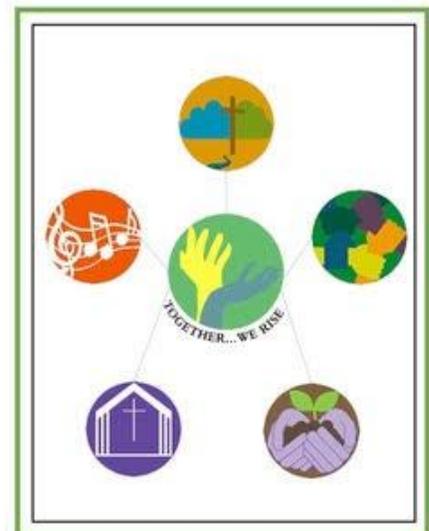
Together We Sing, Together We Rise

Together We Grow, Together We Rise

Together We Serve, Together We Rise

Together We Care, Together We Rise

Together We Give, Together We Rise



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Director of Music, organist; Joel P. Rogers= joelprogers1967@gmail.com

Treasurers; Leslie Sayyar, 333-8867 e-mail= treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Brent Roberts, 919-844-6311 email= brentbroberts@icloud.com

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!

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	Barbara Griswold	Oct. 27



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at 11:30 on Thursday, October 14 on the Fellowship Hall porch. WW's own Betty Smith will lead us in a discussion of her new book *You Don't Look Seedy Enough to be a Folk Singer*. Bring your lunch and beverage to enjoy from 11:30-12. Our discussion begins at 12. New readers are always welcome!

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: Erica Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Blake Joslin; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Mark Laabs, friend of the Griswolds; 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.



On **World Communion Sunday**, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house.

As a shared offering, your gifts to the [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#) support peacemaking in your own community, your own region, and places around the world. Thank you for your generosity; *for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.*

During the month of October, the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church community has the opportunity to join with other Presbyterians in the Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering. Gifts to this offering enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of the gifts remain with the local congregation to be used to connect with the witness of Christ's peace; at Warren Wilson, the Community Engagement Ministry Team will recommend to the Session how this portion of the offering should be used. Mid councils (presbyteries and synods) retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The Presbyterian Mission Agency uses the remaining 50% to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Please give as generously as you are able, to support this offering that is designed to promote Christ's peace locally and throughout the world. During the month of October, the Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering will be one of designated gifts that you can make on our website. In addition, you may place your gift in the offering plates at worship or you may mail your gift to the church at 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

What are the Children and Youth doing these days?

The children's Sunday school class gathered on the Fellowship Hall porch after *A Time for the Child in Us All* on October 3. We looked at a map and pointed to places where we thought people may be without food. Everyone first pointed to a developing nation. This led to a bigger discussion about how there were people everywhere on the map that were hungry, including people right in our own community.

We did an activity where everyone drew images of their favorite meals on paper plates. However, one of our older youth was given a plate, but nothing to draw with. The youngest child there immediately tried to give up her marker and share. We tried to imagine what it might be like to want one of the elaborate meals they had created, but not even have one item to eat. We read the above Bible verse and reflected on ways we had used our own hands to help fight hunger through past service projects.



We finished our time making posters for people to carry during the upcoming SVCM Hunger Walk.



HABITAT JOB SITE VOLUNTEERS - are key to the mission project of building affordable housing in safe neighborhoods for area families. With the cool fall days ahead, now is a great time to sign up and help for a day, or even a half day.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELCOMES (AND NEEDS) VOLUNTEERS

Though the pandemic greatly reduced volunteer opportunities at Habitat for Humanity job sites for more than a year, volunteers are now welcome back and needed at the New Heights neighborhood in West Asheville.

Volunteers do not need previous experience or their own tools. They just need a willingness to help because anything they do will help achieve the Habitat goal of providing affordable housing in a safe neighborhood.

The volunteer shifts are generally 8:30 - 3:30 on Mondays through Thursdays, and Saturdays. On Fridays the shift is a half day from 8:30 - noon. Being at the site and signed in at 8:30 is important because the first activity is a short safety briefing which is required for all volunteers.

It is also important for volunteers to sign up ahead of time for a specific date so that the number of volunteers is right for the work to be done on a particular day.

To learn more about all of Habitat's volunteer opportunities, and to sign up go to this link:

<https://aahh.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=56039>



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

Thank You so much!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

At its September meeting, the Session received a report of gifts to special offerings through the end of August. These gifts expand the gifts made to others in the operating budget with all of the funds received being distributed to their intended purposes. Once again, these offerings have highlighted the extraordinary generosity of our congregation.

During the first eight months of the year, our church community contributed a total of \$8798.50 to a variety of different special offerings. The total includes \$1245 for the Souper Bowl Offering, \$1773 to One Great Hour of Sharing, \$999 to the Nickel a Meal Offering, and \$680 to the Pentecost Offering. Your generosity has contributed greatly to supporting those in need.

These totals do not include the moneys given to Habitat during the month of September, recent gifts to disaster relief, or the Peacemaking and Christmas Offerings that will be collected later this year. By the end of the year, the total of special gifts will likely again exceed \$15,000. Maintaining that generosity is another sign of the vitality of Warren Wilson's ministry during the pandemic.

CLERK'S REPORT

The August stated meeting of the Session was canceled because inclement weather prevented various members from joining the Zoom meeting.

At a called meeting on August 30, 2021, the Session

1. Voted to continue online and in-person worship so long as permitted by the COVID rules of the college.
2. Approved the collection of special gifts to support victims of the Haywood County flooding and the Haiti earthquake as well as refugees from Afghanistan and the use of funds from the Waldrop fund to supplement the gifts that are received.
3. Approved the dispersal of the gifts given to support the Hamilton family.

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

1. Received two new members:
 - Rachel Sparling by transfer of letter from the Belleville Presbyterian Church in Belleville, Michigan
 - Allee Williams by affirmation of faith.
2. Accepted year-end endowment report with thanks to John Laney for his work in preparing it.
3. Approved the 2022 Challenge Budget and the theme for the coming stewardship season.
4. Authorized an adjustment of the chapel sound system with the funds to come from the earnings of the Worship and Music Endowment.
5. Reviewed and received the audit report for 2019.

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6. Reviewed and accepted the personnel review report for the church staff.
portion of the Pentecost Offering to Big Brother/Big Sister of Asheville for its youth programs.

Ken Murchison, Clerk



Say Hello to a friend!

Clotilde Guisasola has a new address, and would love to hear from you:

Clotilde Guisasola
Brethren Care Village
Belmont Towers, Apt. 425
2140 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio
44805

Steve's Slant continued...

Last year was by far the hardest year of my twenty-plus years in ministry. Due to the pandemic, it was a brutally hard year for all of us, for many different reasons, in many different ways.

Here at church, we had to reimagine how we do everything: worship, learn, serve, care, give.

But, together, we rose to that challenge. We kept our ministries alive even though our doors were closed. And in what felt to me like a genuine miracle of abundance and generosity, we ended the year in the black, financially. (In fairness, it also helped that we kept our expenses to a minimum!)

Thanks to the protection offered to us by vaccines, and by other mitigation efforts and safety protocols we're observing, this year feels at least a little less tomb-like. But obviously life, including church life, is far from normal.

Some of us are gathering for worship in-person on Sundays; others do not yet feel comfortable doing so and are tuning into our service online.

Our sanctuary is taped off in a way it has never been before, in a way I resolutely hope it will never be, ever again.

Meetings and classes are happening either outdoors, or online. After memorial services, we're holding receptions for family and friends on the porch of the Fellowship Hall.

Beloved fellowship and community events like our potlucks are still not happening at all.

None of this is normal, and most of these disruptions are still difficult to adapt to and accept.

And yet, despite all of that, I trust, I hope, I believe, that together we will once again rise to meet the challenge before us: the challenge of continuing to offer creative and nourishing worship services, of keeping our ministries alive and vibrant, of meeting our financial obligations and commitments, of approaching all of our shared work and ministries with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

We did it last year. I know we can do it again. I also know this: the pandemic will someday end and this terrible period we're living through will not last.

Which is why I am confident in saying that, together we will rise.



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
Swannanoa, NC 28778

The Extended Family