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### *Steve's Slant*

Dear friends,

With Thanksgiving now on the near horizon, it's time once again to ask: What are you thankful for?

In light of everything we've been through the last eighteen months, all the shut downs and losses we have experienced, it is not a throwaway question. And the reason is simple: Gratitude focuses us on the things we have rather than the things we have lost--the things that are precious and valuable to us, and not just things but people and relationships and experiences. And traditions.

With that said, here are some of the things – and people and relationships, experiences and at least one tradition – that made my list this year.

First, I'm thankful that we've made it this far. We have suffered some extremely hard losses as a congregation in the last year, ones that we will likely grieve for a long time. But none of those losses was from COVID, and I'm grateful for that.

In that same vein, I'm thankful for science and for vaccines.

I'm also thankful to be part of a community that values such things, that believes in science, celebrates its advances and embraces its recommendations. This disposition has helped protect our collective health and I'm grateful for that, as well.

And because of that, I'm also thankful for a return to in-person worship, for the chance to see familiar faces every week (even if they are still partially obscured by masks), and to be able to preach to live souls sitting in the sanctuary with me.

I'm thankful that our choir is back, and for the gift of live music.

I'm thankful for all the people and all the investments that make our life together possible: for Joel and Donna, for our Session, for our Ministry Team leaders and everyone who serves on those teams, and for the many ways the teams have stayed active throughout this pandemic: all the sandwiches you all made, all the lunches you all served, all the receptions you've hosted and the support you've provided to members in need, all the ways you've kept our educational ministries alive.

That is an enormous amount of shared ministry, and I'm grateful for all of it.

Finally, let me share one last thing for which I am thankful.

Given the situation in which we (still) find ourselves, I was uncertain as to whether crews from the college would be able to keep our wonderful Thanksgiving Harvest Display tradition alive. (For one thing, I don't even know who the relevant crew supervisors are anymore. I've never met them and they don't know me, either.)

(Continued on page 6)

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

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**Please call 828-298-9092 to leave a message for us at the church. There will be someone checking messages while Donna is healing from surgery. Thank you!**

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**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Birthdays!**

Nov. 3	Kay Stockdale	Nov. 12	Bob Cook
Nov. 12	Tom Eller	Nov. 14	Izzy Presnell-Smith
Nov. 16	Susan Daugherty	Nov. 24	Ernst Laursen
Nov. 26	Sally Broughton	Nov. 27	Kathy Rouse
Nov. 29	Steve Runholt	Dec. 5	Hythe Hamilton
Dec. 9	Doug Orr	Dec. 12	Jon Hettrick
Dec. 14	Darrell Spemcer	Dec. 15	Emily Pulsifer
Dec. 22	Tacci Presnell-Smith	Dec. 31	Sandy Brauer
Dec. 31	Derron Daugherty		



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The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at 11:30 on Thursday, Nov. 11. Bring-your-own-lunch is from 11:30-12 and our book discussion begins at 12. Corise Gambrell will lead the discussion of the delightful mystery *The Windsor Knot* by S.J. Bennett.



Our December meeting is at the same time on Thursday, December 9. Sue Wilson and her husband Jack Allison will lead our discussion of Jack's book titled *The Warm Heart of Africa: An Outrageous Adventure of Love, Music and Mishaps in Malawi* (available through Amazon, with all proceeds going to charity). Depending on the weather, our group will either meet on the patio in front of Fellowship Hall or in Fellowship Hall. Of course circumstances may require us to meet via Zoom so please contact Judi Repman ([jrepman@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jrepman@georgiasouthern.edu)) for any changes.

New readers are always welcome!

**At the October Book Group meeting, everyone celebrated Betty's 95 birthday following a discussion of her new book!**





**OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO:** Gina Marvin; Grace Boyer, on the death of her mother; Erica Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Salyna Morgan; Donna Eagle Joslin and family; Doug Bradley; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Lynda 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:** 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.

## WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thanks to everyone from Warren Wilson who participated in the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry's Walk for Your Neighbor on October 10. Allee Williams led the Warren Wilson participation in the 2021 Walk. Allee shared information about the Walk in the newsletter and in a Minute for Mission. She organized those who wanted to walk and to donate to the Walk, and she saw that t-shirts were distributed. Allee also worked with our Church School students to create a poster for the Walk. Warren Wilson was the only church to enter the poster contest of the approximately ten church participants. The winning poster earned a \$100 award which was added to the WWPC contributions to the Walk. Twelve WWPC members walked and others who could not attend the Walk, made financial contributions. SVCM appreciates Allee's leadership in Walk for Your Neighbor. The 2021 contributions go for food, rent, utility and medical bills for those neighbors in need in the Owen School District.

Corise Gambrell, SVCM Executive Board





## AN UPDATE ON HOMEWARD BOUND

As you are all aware, our congregation has supported **Homeward Bound** in various ways for many years. We hosted guests through their **Room in the Inn** program for many years, and we provided “bag lunch meals” to those sheltered at the **Red Roof Inn** during much of the pandemic, as well as offering financial support annually. Several WWPC members recently attended a gathering at the Days Inn on Tunnel Rd in Asheville to learn more about Homeward Bound’s most recent endeavor.

As you know, HB’s priority is **Housing Now**, a research-proven, nation-wide model that activates the belief that housing is crucial and that enhancement of all other aspects of life is gained when one is housed: not just safety and stability but also nutrition, mental and physical health, employment capacity, educational opportunities, family reconciliation etc. Housing First is also beneficial for the community because interactions with police, jails and courts, are reduced as well as emergency room visits. It’s more economical to house a person than to serve them in hospitals and legal systems.

In Homeward Bound’s own experience there are people who have difficulty making it on their own in a rental system, often through a life of trauma, and the organization has worked to identify the needs – and solutions – that make it possible for formerly chronically homeless individuals to maintain stability in their own home settings. The **Woodfin Apartments** has been their initial endeavor to provide supportive housing offering 24-hour security and on-site case-management daily.

Homeward Bound’s vision for increasing supportive housing capacity has been perking for years, with the success of the Woodfin, and oddly enough, the pandemic has both raised awareness of the issue of homelessness and contributed to solutions. HB has been researching real estate options for expansion for quite a while, and the availability of the Days Inn on Tunnel Rd. seemed like an opportunity worth exploration.

The organization is not going it alone and has developed partnerships throughout our community.

Contributions supporting Homeward Bound’s Days Inn purchase include:

\$2 million from the city of Asheville (from its \$26.2 American Rescue Plan Act funds)

\$2 million from Buncombe County

\$2 million from Dogwood Health Trust

The value of Homeward Bound has been recognized by many in our community and a few private citizens who are able, have already made significant contributions toward renovating the 120-room motel into 85 efficiency apartments. Additionally, there will be space for meals, recreation, and for partner organizations to offer services such as medical care. It is expected to take a year before the project will be completed. (Submitted by Sally Broughton)

For additional information read more here:

[https://avlfly.com/2021/09/03/ashevilles-double-sided-approach-to-homelessness/?fbclid=IwAR01UjeaVtgfpSsASgosnxtkgAm\\_cpwAS3i5K35OibJks\\_zC9W5hiJPYbI](https://avlfly.com/2021/09/03/ashevilles-double-sided-approach-to-homelessness/?fbclid=IwAR01UjeaVtgfpSsASgosnxtkgAm_cpwAS3i5K35OibJks_zC9W5hiJPYbI)

*Steve's Slant continued...*

But I reached out to Dave Ellum, the Land Use Dean for the college, to get his counsel on this question, and he assured me that installing the display is on the Farm Crew's calendar.

"Tradition is tradition," he concluded.

Indeed it is. And as part of that tradition, we will resume our annual practice of helping to build out the display by collecting bags of food on that Sunday, which we will then donate to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry.

So all that is left to say is this: Come ye thankful people come!



Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry needs Fall/Winter children's clothing. Drop off Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 3:00. Need: Baby wipes, blankets new or gently used, winter coats, sheets and towels and washcloths, laundry detergent, cat and dog food. Thank you for anything you can give to our neighbors in need!

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## ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMPLETES ITS FIRST HOMES DESIGNED FOR SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE

Starting in 1946, birthrates in the United States soared for 18 years in a time period that would be called “The Baby Boom.” Today, many Americans are living longer and the youngest members of the “Boomers” generation will soon be 60 years old.

A concept called “Aging in Place” (AIP) that allows older Americans to live independently with dignity in their own homes later in life began and grew, and Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity has just completed and closed on its first two AIP homes designed for adults 55 and older.

The townhouse units, built in partnership with the Deerfield Charitable Foundation and Deerfield board and residents, are in West Asheville’s New Heights neighborhood.

### Among the unique features of AIP homes are:

- An at-grade or ramped entrance to the main floor or the capability to easily install a ramp
  - Entry doorways and passageways at least 36” wide
  - A bathroom that will accommodate a wheelchair in a 365-degree circle
- One-level living that includes a full bath, kitchen, laundry, living space and 1+ bedrooms

These two new Habitat units are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> new homes for families in the New Heights neighborhood where two more units will close this year, and 12 units are currently under construction.



**FIRST AGING IN PLACE HOMES** - Asheville's Habitat for Humanity chapter recently closed on its first two Aging in Place homes, designed and built for adults 55 and older.

Ann, a retired librarian, mother and grandmother, owns the unit behind the sign.  
Kay, a line cook and the first crew leader in Asheville Habitat's Women Build program, owns the unit on the right.

## CLERK'S REPORT

At its stated meeting on October 19, 2021, the Session

1. Received an email from the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry thanking WWPC for its participation in the Walk for Your Neighbor and praising the Allee Williams for her leadership of the church's participation and the children and youth for their submission of a poster supporting the walk.

2. Approved a Music Program Expenditures Guide.

3. Named Steve Runholt, Susan Daugherty, Sally Broughton, and Leslie Sayyar as a commission to resolve any issues arising from the church administrator's absence for her upcoming surgery.

4. Authorized the payment of \$1200 to help a Warren Wilson international student to return home following a death in her family with funds to come from the Warren Wilson Student designated fund and the earnings from the Church-College Endowment.

5. Approved reintroduction of candles of concern on the third Sunday of the month with participants to remain masked while sharing their joys and concerns.

Ken Murchison, Clerk

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A grateful and heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who has been so kind and giving during this time of relocation.

The members of the church are a real part of my family, and I love you all.

My new address is:

Pat Crumpler  
McCune Center Room 130  
101 Lions way  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

May God continue to bless and keep all of you in his service. In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Love,  
Pat

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**FLOOD CLEAN UP DAY** We'll be sending a team to Cruso —extremely hard hit by recent flooding here in WNC — on Saturday, November 20th, to do a variety of tasks, including: door-to-door needs assessment, listening to stories, delivering food. More specific details will be available soon. If you're interested in being part of the team, please call or email Steve.





*Our Advent Season this year begins on Sunday, November 28.*

*Because the Thanksgiving display will still be up, we will decorate the church for the holidays the following Saturday. (see below for details)*

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### THE HANGING OF THE GREENS...

This year, we will “Hang the Greens” on Saturday, December 4 beginning at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

Come, join the fun! Bring evergreen cuttings from your property to add to the decorations. Holly, magnolia, whatever you have will work. If you have loppers or other cutting tools bring those as well. We’ll work together to make the sanctuary beautiful for the Advent season! If you have any questions, contact Brent Roberts at [brentbroberts@icloud.com](mailto:brentbroberts@icloud.com).



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### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE...LESSONS AND CAROLS



Our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols will begin this year at 8:00 pm. on December 24. Join us for this beautiful, and well loved service that ends in a very special way. Bring your visiting family and guests. All are welcome!



ALL SAINTS' DAY



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

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*