



© 2022 Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church (USA) and College Chapel Inc.

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 29 Issue 4

May 2022

Steve's Slant

Let me begin with some personal news. I am delighted to report that at our April meeting, Session approved my request to be granted an eight-week sabbatical, starting this June. With their blessing, I will also add one week of vacation at the end of that break, bringing my total time away to nine weeks.

Now a little background:

Per our internal policies, and in keeping with general denominational recommendations, the pastor here is entitled to take an eight-week sabbatical every seven years. And indeed, I was due to take one, and planning to take one (my second, since coming here in 2005), in the summer of 2020.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus put a decisive end to those plans. Once we closed our doors to in-person worship in March of that year, I felt it was important to stay in place and provide as much leadership and guidance as I could to help us all get through this terrible pandemic, both individually and as a congregation.

Now, two years later, the coronavirus is still out there “in the wild”, but the metrics around vaccinations, new infections, hospitalizations and deaths are such that even Dr. Fauci has indicated he believes we are, to quote him directly, “out of the full-blown explosive pandemic phase” and moving toward a more endemic phase of this unwelcome global experience.

So, after two rather grueling years, I feel like the time is finally right to take some time away and to focus on replenishing my own energy and recharging my batteries, in order to continue to provide leadership and guidance as we prepare to enter the next phase of our life together.

And now some additional background:

Before taking this idea first to our Administration Ministry Team for their review, and then to Session for theirs, I sat down with Sarah Grace to discuss the possibility of my being away for most of the summer, and to talk through what that would mean for her. And then to talk through whether she was willing and available to take on some additional responsibility for the time I would be gone. (With additional compensation, of course.)

Outside of regular worship leadership and periodic turns in our pulpit, Sarah Grace’s primary focus here is on coordinating and supporting our children’s Sunday school programs and family-oriented ministries.

With those pieces largely (though not completely) in abeyance this summer, she was more than agreeable to taking on a larger role here, and fully supportive of my desire to take some extended time away from my day-to-day, week-to-week and month-to-month responsibilities.

(Continued on page 8)

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-2097 e-mail= deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 712-7803 e-mail= srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu

Associate in Ministry; Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery 704-962-8975

e-mail= sarahgmontgo@gmail.com

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 speak with us or leave a message for us at the church. Thank you!

May Birthdays!

Sarah Grace Montgomery May 4,
Pat Wilson May 11,
Zach Pulsifer May 28,

Lizzy Newman May 10,
Tess Newman May 13,
Rick Garrison May 30



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, May 12 in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch to enjoy from 12-12:30. Our discussion of *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy L. Sayers will follow from 12:30-1:30. Corise will lead the discussion. We'd love to have you join us--new members are always welcome!

OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Milt Butterworth, Sandee, and family; Fran Roberts; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Gina Marvin; Brooks and Carol Lee Joslin, Blake's parents; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; 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.



Outdoor beautification Team

Our Outdoor Beautification Team met before Easter to clean up the front of the chapel and the playground area.

(One member came and worked on Friday, April 15, and the others in the group met on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 am.)

Our hard work was followed by refreshments on the Fellowship Patio. Thanks go out to Jack Ballard, the Daugherty family, Bob Gambrell, and Donna Eagle Joslin. Look for bulletin announcements on when we will meet next. All are welcome!!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS
THE FIRST WALLS OF THE 2022 HOUSE OF FAITH HAVE BEEN RAISED



On Friday, April 27, a group of volunteers and Habitat construction staff members raised and secured the first walls for the 2022 House of Faith in West Asheville's New Heights community.

THE PARTNER FAMILY FOR THE 2022 HOUSE OF FAITH

Shortly before the wall-raising, the partner family of Jesse and Kayla Coffey was announced for the house, and they were on-hand for the raising with their three small children.



In her remarks at the wall-raising, Kayla said that the struggle for affordable housing in the Asheville area has caused the couple to live in nine different locations in ten years. With their oldest about to start kindergarten, she and Jesse are eager to give their children the security of a permanent home and the ability to stay in the same school.

The couple believes in working for what they have, and Jesse, a landscaper, looks forward to using his skills on his own property and those of his neighbors.

14 MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP AT THE SITE IN MAY AND JUNE



The 2022 House of Faith is being built in memory of Susan Barbour with funding from the law firm of McGuire, Wood & Bissette in her memory, and from the longtime support of a diverse coalition of area faith communities. These faith organizations have partnered with Asheville Area Habitat to build 49 homes since 1992.

CLERK'S REPORT

At its called meeting on 3 April, 2022, the Session:

1. Welcomed Michael Montgomery, Danny Starnes, and Arden Starnes who were meeting with Session to join Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.
2. Heard each share their faith journey with Session at the request of Pastor Runholt.
3. Approved a motion by Ken Murchison to accept Michael into Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church upon receipt of membership transfer from Brevard - Davidson River Presbyterian Church and to accept Arden and Danny into Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church upon receipt of membership transfer from Mars Hill Baptist Church or by profession faith as appropriate.

At its stated meeting on 19 April, 2022, the Session:

1. Approved a recommendation from the Administrative Ministry Team that Pastor Runholt's request for a sabbatical leave of 8 weeks this summer be granted with plans and arrangements for his responsibilities to be covered as specified in his written request and other discussion at the meeting.
2. Heard reports from Sarah Grace Montgomery about having a youth acolyte active in our worship services again and that planning is ongoing for a youth Sunday in June and a vacation Bible school this summer.
3. Heard a report from Congregational Life working on a project to improve our contacts with members who have difficulty in getting to regular worship services.
4. Heard a written report from Vicki Collins about how our church is supporting the Afghan refugee siblings we have adopted.
5. Heard that church donations to One Great Hour of Sharing had reached \$1,400 as of 19 April and that the Session's target of \$500 in donations from the congregation toward the Presbytery's Medical Debt Relief fund to supplement the money already approved by Session has now exceeded \$500. (Continued)
6. Approved a motion accepting written procedures reviewed by Session regarding background checks for church staff, nursery workers, and any church person working with children or youth.
7. Heard and approved a report of a 2020 audit of our financial accounts with thanks to the audit team and Leslie Sayyar (treasurer), Barbara Escalante (bookkeeper), Brent Roberts (receiving treasurer), and John Laney (investments) for their good work with church finances.
8. Heard plans for getting volunteers for a personnel review team and a stewardship team recruited for 2022 and heard a report that our new payroll accounting system is now working well.

Bob Gambrell, Clerk

Thanking Veterans for Their Service Larry Griswold

Seventeen years ago this month, one year after the World War II Museum opened in Washington, DC, six small planes flew from Springfield Ohio with 12 WWII veterans to honor them with a visit to their memorial.

World War II veterans still living at that time quickly led to a growing waiting list of others from all areas of our country who wished to make the trip and the program began chartering commercial airliners. It also partnered with a new program called Honor Air in Hendersonville, and the Honor Flight Network was born.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFm1uj3DJpE>

As the numbers of World War II veterans declined, the program started taking Korean War veterans to see their memorial, opened in 1995. Honor Flights continued to grow and began taking Vietnam veterans to their memorial, dedicated in 1993.

I am an Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War, though I was never sent to Southeast Asia. Last month, after a stoppage of two years due to Covid, our Blue Ridge Honor Flight program resumed, and I went on it to Washington DC and back as a guardian (escort) for two Air Force veterans from Hickory who had served in Vietnam.

We had to be at the Asheville Airport by 6:30 that morning, and after visits to the memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where we watched the changing of the guard, we flew home. On the return flight each of the honored veterans received a surprise "mail call" box filled with cards and letters thanking them for their service.

That group included one World War II veteran, about five Korean War veterans and more than 80 Vietnam veterans, and the mail and large crowd at the Airport who gave the veterans rousing thanks for their service when we returned was an emotional experience to say the least. Very few Vietnam veterans received any gratitude for serving when they returned 50 or more years ago, so this recognition was long overdue and appreciated.

Sometime this month the Honor Flight network will bring its 250,000th veteran to Washington DC. Blue Ridge Honor flight will take a whole new group up there on May 21, and I will be with that flight once again as a guardian. (Continued)





With Air Force Vietnam veteran Joe Brittain of Hickory.



Bobby Moore on the Vietnam Memorial wall. He was one year behind me in high school and died in Vietnam at just 20 years old.

Steve's Slant continued...

Since that first conversation, she and I have continued to meet, just the two of us, and we have also met individually with a team appointed by Session, to insure that all the essential functions and activities of the church are covered, and that my core roles are filled: worship planning and leadership, preaching, pastoral care, and support for the ministry and action teams responsible for providing our ongoing ministries and outreach programs.

So, with all of that said, I will preach here one last time before this break on Sunday, June 12th, and I will return to the office on Tuesday, August 16th.

In between those dates, Robyn and I plan to travel to New England to spend approximately a month, first in the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts, and then we'll shift over to a lovely spot near the coast of Maine.

In early August we'll then return home to Western North Carolina, and enjoy a couple of weeks, as we customarily do every summer, at our favorite getaway spot on Lake Fontana, near Bryson City.

In closing, let me say that I am grateful, first, to Sarah Grace for her immediate enthusiasm for this idea and her willingness to step up her responsibilities and cover for me while I am away. I'm also grateful to the AMT and to Session for their unconditional support for this idea, and their willingness to help make it happen.



In the Muslim faith, May 1 was Eid al-Fitr ("Holiday of Breaking the Fast" in English), which marks the end of the month-long observance of Ramadan.

Led largely by Vicki Collins -- but with strong support from the members of our Circle of Welcome here at WWPC -- all of the area churches that have welcomed Afghan refugees organized a gathering at Owen Park to help the members of our Circles celebrate this holiday that is so important to them, so central to their faith and culture.

The tables -- and there were many, not just the one pictured to the left -- were all growing with food, a dazzling array of dishes ranging from Afghan specialties like *bolani* (stuffed bread) and *sheer yakh* (a sweet, cold dessert, a bit like ice cream, flavored with cardamom and garnished in this case with kiwi fruit -- both dishes made by Farkhunda), to Middle Eastern foods like tabouli, kebabs, hummus and baklava, to traditional American

picnic fare, like potato salad and watermelon, to offer just a partial list of the many different dishes that graced those tables.

The meal was not Communion, per se, but looking at the crowd that had gathered to enjoy it together, the words we often use during our Communion liturgy, inviting people to come to the Table, came to mind:

They will come from the east and the west, the north and the south, to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.

April 27 – Rolls around every year, which isn't often enough to say Thank You!

How many times have you heard.... or said: "Donna, how do I....", "Donna, would you...?", "Donna, can you help me find...", "Ask Donna, she'll know", "Donna! HELP!" It rings familiar in my head for sure! And thankfully she knows, will, does. While "Thanks, Donna" is part of our regular vocabulary, April 27th was the official Administrative Professionals Day to offer our appreciation. So next time you see She-who-always-has-a-ready-smile, offer her one of your own, for surely she makes things go more smoothly.





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!

May

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778

The Extended Family