



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Reflections on the Water

This week I've been at Camp Grier in Old Fort as the Camp Pastor. It's been a fun week and leading evening worship for 50 kids from rising 2nd graders through high school has been a rewarding challenge. There's been plenty of time during the day to enjoy all of the beauty and history that Camp Grier has to share. My daughter, Margaret and I had fun searching all of the staff photos on the wall to find her grandfather in the 1975 group shot. Camp Grier sits on 655 beautiful acres of forest, but my favorite spot has become the wooden rocker next to Lake Refuge. I've found times of quiet and times where I can hear the joy of children swimming, canoeing or using the zip line in the lake. Every time I take a seat in that rocker I am grateful for all of the memories that have been made on that lake for so many children in the name of Christ Jesus. I give thanks for Mr. Grier who originally purchased the land so that children from Charlotte and the surrounding areas would have a place to be in the mountains to experience wilderness and worship at Camp Grier.

On Tuesday morning, as I looked out on the water and saw the reflection of the surrounding trees on the surface of the water, I began to reflect on all things water that have been a part of our summer together. It's been a joy to explore the themes of water in worship, and I'm grateful for the way our two guest preachers continued the theme. Additionally, it was a highlight to have a 3-night VBS experience with the children and youth as we re-visited the water stories through our service, play and creativity. I previously shared an email with some VBS highlights, but here are a few of our children working hard together in the Swannanoa Garden, creating tie-dye and glass art, playing with water (throwing the water balls at their Associate Minister!) and praying.

My thirst for joy and community has truly been quenched this summer. As we transition soon into Fall programming and welcome Steve's return from Sabbatical, I pray that we will all continue to live into the promise of living water and remember that in each of our Baptisms God claims us as God's own to be loved and to love others.

Peace,
Sarah Grace





VBS was a fun time for the kids as they made some water glass and tie-dyed beach towels. It was especially fun to throw water balls at their Associate minister!



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Please call 828-298-9092 to speak with us or leave a message for us at the church. 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	Aug. 1	Darcy Orr	Aug. 4
Alisa White	Aug. 6	Elaine Barnes	Aug. 8
Pat Levi	Aug. 11	Bill Mosher	Aug. 11
Vicki Collins	Aug. 14	Carla Presnell-Smith	Aug. 21



Please join the Warren Wilson Book group as Sandy Brauer leads our discussion of *Tallgrass* by Sandra Dallas. We'll meet at noon on Thursday, August 11 on the porch outside of Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch to enjoy from 12-12:30, with the discussion following from 12:30-1:30. We'd love to welcome new members who share our love of reading!

OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: Kip Smith, Tacci's father; The Witherspoon family, on both Gene and Barbara's death; Pat Crumpler; 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.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

HOUSE OF FAITH - this photo, taken on June 4, is the Habitat House several of our members worked on in May and June. Look for a more recent photo in next month's newsletter as well as information about the partner family's visit to our church in September.



HELPING BUILD THE HOUSE OF FAITH –

In June seven church members helped with construction of the next Habitat for Humanity House of Faith.

They included Andrew and Emily Pulsifer, Ken Murchison, and Larry Griswold in this photo at the site, as well as Anne and Jamie Dale and Bob Gambrell.



CLERK'S REPORT

At its stated meeting of 21 June, 2022, the Session:

1. Was reminded that Sarah Grace Montgomery, our Associate in Ministry, will serve as Moderator of Session during Steve Runholt's sabbatical.
2. Heard from Sarah Grace Montgomery about the guest ministers and the dates that they will preach during Steve Runholt's sabbatical on those few Sundays when Sarah Grace will not preach, and, that for the 1 week when Sarah Grace will be out of town during this period, Jamie Dale will be available to handle congregational concerns that arise.
3. Heard that WWPC is planning a Vacation Bible School event for 24 through 27 July this summer.
4. Heard the Congregational Life Ministry Team's request for additional bulletin and / or email announcements for our 4th of July picnic planned after the worship service on 3 July, and, that the Afghan refugees we are assisting should be invited to this event.
5. Heard from the Church-College Ministry Team that a late August picnic is being planned for returning Warren Wilson College (WWC) students. Session was also informed that unlike last summer when our church assisted in being sure that the WWC students who remained on campus during the summer closure had access to meals, this summer Bounty and Soul is helping to provide food for these students remaining on campus this summer.
6. Got an update from the Community Engagement Team that WWPC contributed \$1,590 to the Presbytery's western North Carolina medical debt relief fund, an amount a little over three times the Session's goal for our church, and that the total amount received by our Presbytery was also about three times their initial goal.
7. Approved a recommendation from the Community Engagement Ministry Team for a donation of \$500 from earnings of our newly established Community Engagement endowment fund to This Child Here, a non-profit organization working with Ukrainian orphans.
8. Heard from the Children and Youth Ministry Team that our Youth Sunday event on 5 June went very well.
9. Heard from the Children and Youth Ministry Team a recommendation and motion that \$500 made available by an individual's donation to sponsor WWPC youth will go to sponsor an event or activity that the Team will decide upon. This motion was endorsed by the Administrative Ministry Team and was approved.
10. Heard from the Administrative Ministry Team about a matter that came up at the previous Session meeting where we missed taking a vote, and this was a motion that \$1,573 of unused continuing education money for Steve be approved for supporting his upcoming sabbatical as a supplemental allowance. The Session approved this motion which also stated that a required approximately \$500 amount would be paid to the pension board and that this would come from earnings of the general endowment. This was approved by common consent.
11. Heard that the Administrative Ministry Team has approved the use of up to five \$250 scholarships paid from earnings from the general endowment for WWPC youth who may decide to attend a summer Camp Grier event if needed.
12. Heard and approved a recommendation from the Community Engagement Ministry Team to the Administrative Management Ministry Team that a motion be brought up in Session for the balance of \$2,046 in our Room in the Inn fund be donated to the capital campaign of Homeward Bound for temporary housing for the homeless. Homeward Bound is the currently active organization that used to sponsor the now-ended Room in the Inn program.
13. Heard a report from the Administrative Management Team pertaining to several sources of funding (endowments and designated funds) pertaining to our music program and a similar situation with the Spiritual Nurture program and that there was some confusion related to the number of these funds and about how these funds could be used. A document prepared by the Administrative Management Team and distributed to Session prior to this meeting identified these individual funds, specified what these particular funds could be used to support, and, who has to approve expenditures from each of these funds. Session voted to approve this document.
14. The Communications Ministry Team was thanked for the stamped postcards provided for worshipers to pick up that are addressed to our US senators requesting their support of efforts to reduce gun violence.

Bob Gambrell

Clerk of Session

Musings From Across the Pond...

Most of you know I just spent several weeks touring England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. As you can well imagine, in many of the cities we visited, churches were at the top of the list for places we wanted to see. I am, of course, always interested in seeing what kind of pipe organs they have in these magnificent, historical buildings, but I am also someone who likes to just sit and reflect on the majesty of the structure. One of the thoughts that came to mind was how much effort went into building these beautiful houses of worship and while they are churches, they are still just buildings. They often feel holy and you can almost feel the presence of God swirling around you...but, again, just buildings. While I was sitting in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, I was thinking about how this building was just a building, but the **church**, the life and breath of the building was actually the lady sitting alone across from me, and the gentleman and his wife sitting over there, and the teenagers that had put down their phones for a moment to just sit...in the quiet. We were the church, all strangers, but coming together for a few brief moments to sit and reflect and try to feel the love that comes from the worldwide community and communion of the church. While I sat there, many others came and sat, and a few left, and there was this constant stream of travelers hoping and praying for some peace and mercy. The building just happened to be the place we gathered that afternoon, but we came together hoping for something, and I know I experienced something by being there. The building was also very nice.



Joel P. Rogers

Funds Critically Low!

Our "Daily Change" fund (formerly "Nickel a Meal") is at a critically low point. This affects the PWNC Hunger Committee's ability to fund grant requests received bi-annually from agencies across our Presbytery. We are already receiving requests for the fall funding cycle, so we need your help!

*Please encourage your members to contribute to this worthwhile cause! Consider taking up a special offering during Sunday worship in the coming weeks, or designate 5th Sundays as an opportunity for this collection.** Make it a staple in your annual budget.

The Parables Adult VBS that was held recently at Green Mountain took the opportunity at their event to collect an offering for Daily Change. \$57.55 was received to go toward helping those who are food insecure. How wonderful!

Please help us replenish the fund! Give the change you want to see in the world.



SEASON OF CREATION

When and What Is the Season of Creation?

If your church missed the opportunity to have a Creation Care service during Earth Month (April) you can still honor God's creation this year during the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and creation itself. Started as an ecumenical effort in the early 1990s, the Season starts with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 and ends with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4.

This year's theme is "Listen to the Voice of Creation" and the symbol is the burning bush, reminding us of the numerous destructive wildfires on our planet and the bush that Moses witnessed that did not burn. "I have heard their cry...I know their suffering...Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you" (Ex 3:1-12)

The Season of Creation organization has put together a complete Celebration Guide focusing on prayer, sustainability, and advocacy with links to help you plan your events. <https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf>

Additional resources for Presbyterians that you might find helpful:

- Celebrating the Season of Creation Workshop by Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka with Season of Creation resources <https://presbyearthcare.org/season-of-creation/>
- Celebrating Worship and Creation Care (video of workshop) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9mcedSj2Ek&t=37s>
- Blessing of the Animals' liturgy on St. Francis Day from St. Stephen's in Fort Worth, Texas. <https://ststephenpresbyterian.com/blessing-of-the-animals-liturgy-and-photos/>

If you would like more information about what the Presbytery Earth Care Team is doing to honor and protect God's creation year round, email wncearthcareteam@gmail.com

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care Congregation.





Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July/August

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!

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The Extended Family