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Steve's Slant

I will never forget the feeling I had last Easter. Granted, Easter is always special, obviously. But this year it felt like I was watching a version of the Easter story play out in real time.

We had just opened up our sanctuary to in-person worship for the first time in two years. We were all still masked, and the pews were taped off to make sure we maintained a safe distance from one another.

But there were people in the pews! We were together again, in-person! As a corporate body, it felt like some essential part of us had come back from the dead.

If you were here that day you may remember I was so moved by the experience of seeing so many of you sitting out in the pews, waiting expectantly for our service to begin--our Easter service to begin—it took me a moment to collect myself.

I had a similar feeling this past Sunday when I stepped into the fellowship hall after worship and took in the scene: several long tables laden with food on either end of the room, many more round tables in the center, surrounded by chairs.

And there were people in those chairs! We were together again! Corporately, it felt like another important part of us, the fellowship part, had come back from the dead.

My reaction was a little less public this time but, once again, I was so moved by the scene it took me a minute to gather myself.

There is a reason we come to church and there is a reason we gather together afterward for fellowship and to share meals together. Because these experiences nurture us and sustain us. They feed our faith and they feed our souls. That's part of what made the pandemic so hard: we were denied these opportunities, walled off from these simple joys, starved of these nourishing experiences.

Which I think explains what happened when our Stewardship Planning Team met.

We gathered last month to settle on a theme for this year's campaign, and to plan how to roll it out. We traded some ideas back and forth until someone asked, "How about, *Together We Serve?*"

Instantly we knew we had found our theme for this year. With all of our regular programs and ministries opening up, we liked the idea of focusing on our shared call, as followers of Jesus, to serve God, our neighbors and one another—something that has also been difficult to do during the pandemic.

We certainly will touch on those themes during our stewardship season: what it means to be called, what some of our opportunities for service are, now that we're returning to more normal operations.

But as we reflected on that phrase – *Together We Serve* –something shifted in all of us, something I did not expect. We found our attention being drawn more to the first part of that phrase, the "together" part. The part that gathers for corporate worship. The part that gathers for potlucks and fellowship.

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Please call 828-298-9092 to speak with us or leave a message for us at the church. Thank you!

October Birthdays!

October 4 Rebecca Hettrick
October 10 Marion Satterfield
October 17 Mark Meriwether
October 21 Carolyn Cole
October 25 Susan Laney
October 27 Barbara Griswold

October 6 Donna Eagle Joslin
October 15 Betty Smith
October 21 Evan Williams
October 22 Salyna Morgan
October 25 Toby Ives
October 31 Margaret Grace Montgomery



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, October 13 on the Fellowship Hall porch. Sandy Fisher will lead our discussion of *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Bring your own lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30. The book discussion begins at 12:30.

Please join us!

OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: The family of Nancy Dale, Jamie's sister in-law, following her passing; The Family of Gina Marvin, on her passing; Barbara Howell and her husband Loren Gifford, Carla Greenfield's sister and brother in law; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Tim Joslin, Blake's brother; Pat Crumpler; Milt Butterworth, Sandee, and family: Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; 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 the Garrison's.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AND HOMECOMING POTLUCK



Our service on World Communion Sunday (pictured above on left) began with a call to worship spoken in many languages by people born in different parts of the world, coming together for worship and to celebrate Homecoming Weekend.

Our Homecoming Potluck (pictured on the right) was once again joyously held in Ransom Fellowship Hall where old and new friends shared much needed in person fellowship and delicious food. A big thank you goes out to the Congregational Life Team for their hard work on this event!

Steve's Slant continued...

I think we all realized that without the together part, without the nourishment and sustenance that worship and fellowship provide, we have no energy for service.

We also realized that there is one more piece to this puzzle, one more layer to this story: that what brings us together is also what motivates us to serve.

And that, of course, is love:

Love for God as we gather for worship.

Love for one another as we gather to enjoy fellowship together.



Love for neighbors, as we engage with the wider community in acts of service and compassion.

It felt important to all of us to name this motivating force behind everything we do. So here it is in full, our theme for this year's stewardship season:

United by Love, Together We Serve



WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

-  **First Baptist Church Black Mountain**
130 Montreat Road,
Black Mountain NC 28711
-  **Sunday, October 9th**
Registration will begin at 1:00
Walk begins at 2:00

Sunday, October 9th, 2022
Walk starts at 2:00 pm



Community Engagement Ministry Team

SEEKING YOUR INPUT, PLEASE!!

Your Community Engagement Team is involved on several fronts year-round. Our particular focus this time of year is on creating the budget we will use for 2023. This guides how we share the funds allocated to our team's stewardship of the congregation's outreach supporting our community's needs.

Where do those funds come from? From a variety of places, actually! Our Administration Ministry Team allocates a portion of the annual budget for Community Engagement to support ministries, missions, charitable organizations in our community and throughout the world. Also, our congregation receives the Special Offerings encouraged by the PCUSA quarterly. Percentages of two of those offerings – at Pentecost and World Communion Sunday (Oct. 2) – remain locally. We also have annual special offerings for Habitat (September) and for Souper Bowl. In addition, our church leadership generally chooses to tithe a portion of major bequests to the oversight of the CEMT, as it did with the PPP funds WWPC received as part of the Covid Relief Bill.

So, we could use your wisdom, counsel, input in our endeavor. What local organizations are you aware of that are doing great work in addressing needs in our community? What organizations do you volunteer with, are involved with, about which you can share firsthand knowledge of their accountability, their dedication, their success? We'd be glad to share our current budget for your review. And we'd be happy to hear your thoughts. Contact Sally at sallycallaham@gmail.com

What else are we up to? WWPC members volunteered for a number of Habitat Construction Days in the spring and early summer. While we have no more dates scheduled for our church this year, interested congregants are welcome to contact Habitat to offer to work any date as a representative of WWPC. We will be hosting a Habitat representative at a worship service in Sept. We have a faithful contingent who continues to prep and serve lunch at the Veterans Restoration Quarters on the fourth Friday of each month. In fact, we have one of the most experienced crews of all the volunteers that work there. Some additional help or relief would be appreciated from time to time as it's basically the Dales, Daughertys and Griswolds that do this each month. For more info contact Larry Griswold.

Jamie Dale and Vicki Collins continue to provide amazing leadership for a large cohort of volunteers to support our Afghan refugee family – their work assures there is insurance or Medicaid and health care, access to Pisgah Legal Services to move toward asylum status in the US. Vicki is in close contact with Elham's school which he seems to be enjoying. Our leadership team would like volunteers to encourage Farkunda towards driving. Jamie still coaches her in English once/week and uses that as an opportunity to review the drivers manual. We are currently paying their rent through the end of the year; the Lutheran Services rent subsidy was for six months.

Corise Gambrell reports that our Hope to Home apartment will soon be vacant; Melissa and her three children are moving to the Jasper apartments. Corise and Sarah Anne will be getting the apartment ready for a new family. Thanks to the Spencers for the futon frame, to Grace Boyer for a double bed. They will determine what else we need depending on what Melissa leaves and what the new family has. Wanna get involved? Join us. We're a lively and dedicated crew!



Church Beautification

A big shout out goes to our two person Chapel Crew for their work on weeding the stone area along the side of the chapel where the sidewalk is. They were able to finish the job prior to Homecoming as planned. If you see students in or around the chapel or fellowship hall, ask if they're on our crew and thank them for their good work! Crew members names: Olivia Crescitelli, and Elm Petitcolas.

A Halloween-themed poster for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. The background is black with various Halloween icons like pumpkins, candies, and lollipops. The text is in purple, white, and orange. The event is on Sunday, October 30, 2022, from 3:00-5:00 PM. It encourages people to sign up in the Narthex and decorate their trunks to offer treats to the youth of the church and community.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
Trunk or Treat
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022
3:00-5:00 PM
Look for signups in the Narthex before or after worship!
Decorate your trunk and offer up a treat for the youth of our church and community.

Save the Date for the return of our **TRUNK OR TREAT!** We are looking for several volunteers to decorate their trunks and offer a treat to the kids of the church and community! There will be a sign up sheet before and after worship to let us know you will participate.

Youth and Children's News

Several things are happening with the Youth and Children of the church.

Sunday School has resumed for Kindergarten through 12th graders. We start at 9:45am each Sunday. The playground opens at 9:30 for those who need to drop off early and head to Adult Sunday School.



We will soon be adding some music and movement fun to our Sunday School hour!

Presbytery Youth Events have started up for the year! Two of our Middle Schoolers, Evan and Cadence enjoyed the Youth Rally at Montreat on Sunday, October 2. This Rally was led by the Presbytery Youth Council, a group of High School aged leaders from churches throughout WNC. Our own Allee Williams is one of those leaders! The next event is the Presbytery **Middle School Retreat** at Camp Grier November 5-6. *We are in need of an Adult Male Chaperone to accompany our Middle Schoolers to this event.* Please let Sarah Grace know if you are willing to serve!

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for these youngest disciples!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support this hurricane season. In the wake of catastrophic impacts from Hurricane Ian, recovery is ongoing in places hit by Hurricane Fiona, including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Storms are becoming more frequent and more severe, and this early in the hurricane season we must prepare for these broad and anticipated catastrophes that have not yet formed. Give today to enable our response, from emergency needs through the long-term recovery phase.





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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Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Extended Family