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November 2022

Steve's Slant

As you likely have already seen, Joel has officially resigned from his position as our Director of Music.

His last day with us will be Sunday, November 13th. We will plan to host a reception after church on that day, during which we can say our farewells and express our appreciation to Joel for the many gifts he shared with us during his time here.

It's a long list:

- First and foremost the gift of his music.
- His leadership of our vocal choir.
- His leadership of our bell choir, and his role in revitalizing it.
- The scores and scores of hours he invested in recording the music for our online worship services, when we were shut down due to covid.
- The scores of hours he invested in cleaning out, cataloguing, organizing and archiving our music library, something that has needed to be done for, well, decades, I suspect.
- The scores of hours he spent making paraments to beautify our chancel, and then gifting them to the church.

Losing a Director of Music, particularly one as talented and gifted as Joel is, is almost always a painful and difficult experience in the life of a church. So it will likely take us some time to grieve this loss. I suspect this grief will be particularly acute for the members of our choirs who have sung with Joel, and played bells with him, and, in doing so, developed convivial and caring relationships with him.

I share in this grief. I am deeply saddened by Joel's departure. I have always found him to be a joy to work with—a delightful, generous, creative and conscientious colleague, and a wonderful organist. And so it's going to take me some time to process Joel's departure, as well.

But I also want you to know that our Worship and Music Team met on Thursday to begin the work of finding substitutes to play for our services. We also spent time outlining the process we will need to undertake to find our next Director of Music—a process that will of course need to be reviewed and approved by our Session.

Endings are often difficult, and this one certainly is. But as we all know, endings can also give way to new beginnings. So, as part of the process of finding Joel's successor, my hope is that we will give fresh consideration to what we value most in our music program, what are needs are moving forward, and how best to meet those needs.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if you might keep everyone effected by Joel's departure in your prayers, which is basically everyone: Joel and Rich, first and foremost, our choirs, our congregation, our Session, and our staff, including, if you would be so kind, me, as we discern the best way forward through this transition.

Grace and peace, Steve

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November Birthdays!

Kay Stockdale
Izzy Presnell-Smith
Ernst Laursen
Kathy Rouse

Nov. 3
Nov. 14
Nov. 24
Nov. 27

Tom Eller
Susan Daugherty
Sallt Broughton
Steve Runholt

Nov. 12
Nov. 16
Nov. 26
Nov. 29



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, November 10 in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30. At 12:30 we will begin our discussion of *Martin Marten* by Brian Doyle. Sue Wilson will lead the group's discussion. We are always glad to welcome new readers!

OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: The family of Barbara Howell, on her death (Carla Greenfield's sister); Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Milt and Sandee Butterworth, and family; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Bartley and Phyllis Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother and sister in law; 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.



November dates to put on your calendar

- Sunday, Nov. 6th All Saints Sunday
- Sunday, Nov. 13 Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- Sunday, Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Service with Harvest Display
- Thursday, Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Meal in our Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, Nov. 27 Our Harvest Display will still be up for those who may have missed it; first Sunday of Advent

HARVESTING A HOME FOR THANKSGIVING



It is time to refurbish our Warren Wilson two-bedroom apartment at Hope for Tomorrow. This apartment will house a mother and two or three children. Melissa and her three children are now in the Jasper apartments. We are happy for them and so appreciative of all they did to assist Farkhunda and Elham.

Melissa left chairs, table, and beds in the apartment, but we will need a few more furniture items as well as regular household goods. Thanks to Darrell and Mary Fran Spencer and Sally Broughton and Toby Ives, we have a futon and chair and ottoman.

Thanks to the generosity of Jackie Wintle and her neighbor, we have some kitchen goods. However, we will want to supply that family with all they need in the kitchen, towels, bed linen, and items for the bathroom. They will also need consumables such as detergent and paper products. In the next few weeks, we will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex for items we need to set up the apartment for a new family. We are also happy to accept monetary donations. Please contact Sarah Anne Eller and Corise Gambrell to help.

And every time I think of Hope for Tomorrow, I remember how hard Burnace Roberts and Cheryl Wilson worked to make this happen for homeless mothers in the Swannanoa Valley. We are grateful to them for their vision and their work.

From this year's SVCM Walk for Your Neighbor in October...



CLERK'S REPORT

At its stated meeting on 18 October, 2022 the Session:

1. Accepted the financial reports for September, 2022 with thanks to Leslie Sayyar and Barbara Escalante for their prompt preparation of these reports.
2. From the Moderator, heard a report on the status of the two Afghan refugee siblings our church is helping to support including that Pisgah Legal lawyers that recently accompanied them to Washington, D.C. for an asylum application hearing felt encouraged about how this hearing went.
3. Heard from the Clerk about the receipt of the annual Presbytery pledge request for next year and authorized the Clerk to submit the same pledge amount submitted last year pending a successful stewardship campaign for our church in October and November.
4. Heard a report from Pastor Runholt about members of our congregation with whom he has communicated recently with health and other concerns.
5. Received an update on our church's Trunk or Treat event planned for Sunday afternoon, 30 October.
6. Learned that two of our youth are planning to attend a Presbytery youth event at Camp Grier in November.
7. Heard that the Church-College Ministry Team is planning a Thanksgiving Dinner for Warren-Wilson College students who will be remaining on campus over the Thanksgiving holiday.
8. Heard a report on our church's participation in the recent "Walk for Your Neighbors" fundraising event coordinated by Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries.
9. Learned that although we have returned to in-person worship as the pandemic situation has substantially improved, the Worship and Music Ministry Team will be considering how to return to more traditional, pre-pandemic ways we have conducted some components of worship such as how the offering is collected.
10. Authorized the purchase of a new computer for our bookkeeper needed to run the current version of some of our financial software.
11. Heard the College is planning the usual harvest display in the Chapel in November and that in our communications with the College about this event we are looking into the possibility of Ernst Laursen being asked to participate in the planning.

united by love
TOGETHER
we serve

By now you've heard that our church is observing the calendar period we refer to as Stewardship Season. As we relayed in the letter that you received, this year's stewardship team was inspired by our reunion in person. We were grateful for being able to come together once again after years of covid separation.

Another group that has been active this fall is the Budget Planning Team. These volunteers are members of the Administration Ministry Team – those folks who keep tabs on our revenue and expenditures, our bank balances as well as our savings and endowments. They bring forward the target we have faith to attain. The AMT was charged some years back in the church's Ministry Plan with Strengthening the Church for a Sustainable Future. To that end the AMT has aimed to bring the salary of our Parish Associate into the annual budget. For some years now, we've relied on non-recurring funds – bequests and designated gifts – to support this beneficial staff position.

This year's budget initiates an optimistic challenge to increase our annual commitments by slightly more than 7%. This amount will allow us to offer standard-of-living salary increases as well as to move toward the day when the assistant minister position is fully funded through budgetary planning.

During the Stewardship Sundays, we've demonstrated how our congregation has rallied together, time again, even when we couldn't worship in person to serve our community. This season we're asking our church community to rally once again with our financial support to invest in the young people of our congregation. Though we all love and enjoy our kids, not all of us have the capacity to meet this need. We are grateful for your prayerful consideration of how your resources can support the continued wonderful work God has brought into our midst.

Below is what Anne Hamilton said for her Moment for Stewardship on Sunday, October 30, 2022:

Good morning, I am Anne Hamilton and I have been coming to this church with my family since I was about 6 years old. Ever since my family and I have attended this church, we have been treated kindly and have always felt included. My siblings and I have attended Sunday school, many potlucks, youth volunteer events, confirmation classes and special church events. We are so grateful to be a part of these things.

The years of the COVID pandemic have been some of the hardest years my family and I have ever had to face. Losing my dad has been the most difficult and tragic thing in my life. The church community has been a pillar of support for us through the hard times, even though we couldn't be together as we would have wanted. Coming back to church has been emotional and wonderful. It is wonderful to be back together in fellowship with this congregation, and I have a lot of memories here.

The church congregation has taught me a lot. I have learned from example how to be kind, generous and inclusive. My siblings and I have enjoyed our church buddies and all the small wonderful gestures given by so many people in the congregation. I hope that the continued generosity of time and finances will give further generations of children the love and support that I had.

This church congregation has also shown me how God's love is given in the real world. Thank you.

TRUNK OR TREAT, WAS GREAT FUN!



TRUNK OR TREAT was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated, spread the word or attended. What great joy it was to engage with our congregation, the college community and the community that surrounds us. Great fun was had by all, and the love of Christ was shared (along with A LOT of candy!)



THE CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PRESENTS

24TH Annual EMPTY BOWLS Dinner

BENEFITTING BOUNTIFUL CITIES

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

RANSOM UPPER FELLOWSHIP HALL

6:00PM-8:00PM



WWC Student Ticket \$15

Regular Ticket \$25

Raffle Tickets \$2

All proceeds will go directly to Bountiful Cities.



Warren Wilson
COLLEGE

The Warren Wilson Community Engagement Office invites you to attend our Annual Empty Bowls Dinner on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Students and community members will share a meal together in hand-crafted ceramic bowls and continue the conversation about creating an equitable food system that works for all. All funds raised will be awarded to Bountiful Cities for their FEAST program, which provides hands-on cooking and garden education at local schools, after-school programs, and with community partners around Buncombe and Madison Counties.

Ticket information: \$25 General Admission, \$15 Students

Ransom Upper Fellowship Hall
100 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778

Tickets can be purchased via cash/check/credit card at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church on: Sunday 11/6 and 11/13 from 10:45-11:00 am and 11:45-12:15 pm

Tickets are also available for purchase online here: <https://empty-bowls-event.square.site/>

Please contact engagement@warren-wilson.edu for more information.

NOVEMBER 20 IS OUR HARVEST SERVICE...

Have you ever wondered how our church's Thanksgiving tradition began?

"All is safely gathered in, now let the winter storms begin" words to a familiar Hymn has set the tone for 88 years the Sunday before Thanksgiving.



Bernhard Laursen, a Dane who had immigrated to Boston and became a citizen, came to teach and work at Asheville Farm School in 1931. He began the tradition of "gathering in" for the Church's Thanksgiving service in 1933. At that time, the school was holding its church services in the parlor of Sunderland, the men's dormitory. He brought in a shock of corn, several grains, potatoes, apples, and other produce grown on the farm as a display for the service, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

As the farm manager, he felt that sharing the visual aspect of the harvest would add to the air of thanksgiving. He continued the tradition until his retirement in 1956 and his son Ernst became the farm manager.

Ernst continued the tradition until his retirement in 1996. The students on the farm crew were always involved in the "gathering in from the fields", the gathering of animals and the creation of the display each year.

Beginning in the 1940's the Churches of the Swannanoa Valley met together in the decorated chapel for services Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving with the different churches taking part in the service. This practice continued until the mid 1960's.

This year, we continue to "gather in" on **November 20 at our 11:00** service of worship. We would ask all who would like to bring items to place at the front of the church during the offertory, to bring canned goods that will be distributed to the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry.

Join us for this special gathering in the sanctuary, and make sure to thank the student crews for all their hard work!

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER?"

Congregants, college students, faculty and staff, friends and neighbors, you are invited to the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Community Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 24 in the Fellowship Hall. We will start gathering at 1:00pm for fellowship and appetizers with dinner at 2:00pm. Turkey, ham, vegetarian options and all the traditional fixings will be served. More details and a sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.



If you can believe it...

it's almost that time again!!

Look for an order form in upcoming November bulletins. Order a beautiful poinsettia in honor of, or in memory of your loved ones. They will be displayed in the chapel during the Advent season and taken home on Christmas Eve.



On Friday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary for

"The Hanging of the Greens"

*Bring evergreen cuttings from your yard,
Wear your gloves, and bring your clippers!
Enjoy good fellowship, hot cider and treats
while listening to Christmas music.*

All are welcome!

We may also be putting up a Christmas tree

In Fellowship Hall.



November

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



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Extended Family