

APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Steve's Slant

BY REV. DR. STEVE RUNHOLT



I'll confess up front that I am not an expert on resurrection. I mean, who is, really? What I can say with some confidence is that resurrection always seems to take a fair bit of work. We know this because even Jesus couldn't do it by himself. Either time.

Last Sunday our gospel text was centered on the first great resurrection story in the New Testament: the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

The story begins in grief. Jesus weeps when he is confronted with the reality that his friend, Lazarus, is dead. Even the one whose resurrection we will soon celebrate seems to feel the power of death, the pain of it.

Tears shed, grief expressed: after that is when the work starts.

"Take away the stone!" Jesus commands the onlookers. It's a large stone, too heavy for Jesus to move by himself.

Stone removed, he issues a second command: "Lazarus, come out!"

No one knows how this next part happens, but Lazarus obeys Jesus's command. He rises from his death bed and comes stumbling out of the tomb.

Well, almost. He gets to the opening and stops. It turns out the story is not over, the work or resurrection not yet complete.

Lazarus is a mess. He is literally bound up in the bands of death.

And so Jesus issues a third and final command: "Unbind him and set him free!" As we noted on Sunday, that's where the story stops. It's as if it's up to the readers to finish it.

We'll see this pattern repeat in just a couple of weeks. It seems likely Jesus had some help with his own rising: someone to roll that heavy stone away; someone to unwrap him from the bands of death that held him tight, arms to his chest.

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I say all this because, to me, it feels like we might need a little help effecting our own resurrection. After two years in the tomb, we have in fact risen from the dead. But now it feels a bit like we find ourselves standing in the mouth of that dark cave, still not quite fully alive. If Lazarus's friends had work to do, if the "two angels in white" attending Jesus had work to do, what is ours? I think it might start with asking ourselves some important questions. And with not one but two staff searches now underway, this is the perfect time to ask them. We have done -- you have done -- some of this work already. You've completed surveys about our music. And we've gathered in listening sessions to hear from you directly, as to what is most (and least) important to you in terms of our music program and the person we hire to lead it. But I think there are still more questions to ask:

- Who are we now?
- How has the world changed since Covid?
- How have we changed?
- How important is to attract more students?
- How important is it to attract members of the campus community— faculty and staff?
- How important is it to attract new members more generally, young families more specifically?
- How are other churches doing this?
- How might we do this?
- What graveclothes might we need to shed in order to do this, to rise fully from the grave?

So, that's what we're going to do. After worship on Sunday, April 16th, Session will gather with the members of our two search teams – for our next Director of Music, and our next Associate Pastor – and we're going to ask ourselves some of these questions.

Our hope and intention is to build some of these answers we agree upon into our two job descriptions, as best we can.

That said, I think all have a role to play in rising from the dead.

So one last question:

What's yours?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Eloise Murchison April 4
Molly Hamilton April 10
Mary Craig April 13
Claudia Nix April 21

Walt Roberts April 7
Leslie Sayyar April 11
Angie McDonald April 14
Ken Murchison April 24



Happy
Birthday

Beautification Team



As the seasons change, liturgically or otherwise, there are members of the congregation who like to keep things fresh and beautiful in the areas outside the Chapel and Fellowship Hall.

Have you noticed?

We are always looking for people with green thumbs that would like to share their talent in this area. Are you interested?

If so, contact any of the folks below.

Kay Stockdale, Jack Ballard, Donna Eagle
Joslin, Susan & Derron Daugherty.

Historical Society Spring Tour

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society's Spring Tour will be held this year on Friday and Saturday, April 14-15 at Montreat, Warren Wilson College, and Asheville. On Friday we will explore the resources of the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat and stay at Assembly Inn.

Saturday morning we will leave for Warren Wilson College in the beautiful Swannanoa Valley. Established by the Women's Board of Home Missions (PCUSA) in 1894 as the Asheville Farm School, it became a junior college in 1942 and a four-year liberal arts college in 1966. It remains dedicated to "learning by doing" with a universal work program and emphasis on original student research. Environmental sustainability is of key importance.

On Saturday we will also visit the historic (1794) First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Registration \$25. Assembly Inn (828-419-9844) must be booked by April 1 using the ID number 482875. For details and to register for the meeting, go to www.ncphsociety.org or call Don McLeod at 910-695-5550.

THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



Please join the Warren Wilson Book Group at noon on Thursday, April 13. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship with your fellow readers from 12-12:30. Our discussion of

Robert E. Lee and Me by

Ty Seidule begins at 12:30.

Sandy Brauer will lead the April discussion.



Joys and Concerns

Our Healing Prayers go out to: Pat Wilson on the death of her sister, Mary Rose; Lee & Martha Dugger and family; Betty Smith; Bob Gambrell; Walt Roberts, Fran & Burnace's son; Erika Lytle; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Carol Lee and Brooks Joslin, Blake's parents; Jackie Wintle's cousin, Richard Taylor and her niece, Jessica Brown; Bob & Janice Kesterson, Mark Meriwether's aunt and uncle; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Bartley and Phyllis Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother and sister in law; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Bobbie Galgaro and daughter Lisa, friends of the Daugherty family.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday

10:55 Meet out in front of the Chapel

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Service in the Sanctuary (communion will be served)

Easter Sunday

9:30 Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

11:00 Service in the Chapel

12:00 Special Coffee Hour

12:15 Egg Hunt for Youth - Meet on Fellowship Patio

Music Director Search

The Music Director Search Team is currently collaborating on creating an updated job description that will reflect the aspirations for the direction of our music program as described by the input from the congregational survey and listening sessions. We have met with our interim music director to gain insight into matching the scope of the job and compensation based on his considerable experience. We are also working with our Administration Ministry Team on a draft of a contract that may be offered. Once a final job description has been approved by Session, we will be in a position to develop and post advertising for the position. Thank you for your continued support on this important journey into the next phase of our music programming!

Search team members: Derron Daugherty, Beth Meriwether, Anne Dale, Donna Eagle Joslin and Steve Runholt.





CAN YOU READ THIS?

I began learning to read when I was four years old because of a deep need to explore the depth and breadth of philosophy and theology, otherwise known as the Sunday comics. But I really learned to read well in first grade where Mrs. Jones had a stock books I'd never seen before.

Fast forward a few years. Now I have been tutoring a couple from Colombia in English for over seven years. As I hoped, their English has improved greatly, though it is admittedly a slow process. Just as satisfying has been the friendship we have developed. We share meals together, and they invite Anne and me to family celebrations.

OK, so if you just read the paragraphs above, you possess a gift—the gift of literacy. It's a great gift, rooted in skills, in education, and just as important, in imagination.

Can you imagine sharing your gift? Literacy Together* can help you do that. Children, teens, and adults from Buncombe County and from other countries, need help.

Literacy and English language proficiency help people rise out of poverty and get better-paying jobs to support their families. Literacy allows parents to read to their children. Improved literacy skills benefit not only the struggling reader but everyone in our community regardless of age, race, gender, or background. Literacy Together offers its students personal instruction and top-rate materials. As a result, we improve individual lives, our community, and our economy. Learn more about volunteer opportunities or send an email to volunteers@lit-together.org. Or you can ask me.

formerly The Literacy Council of Buncombe County

Jamie Dale



FINISHING STRONG: PREPARING FOR LIFE'S FINAL STAGES

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES



Mar. 26 End of Life Wisdom

Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Pastor, WWPC

April 2 Affording End of Life Care

Andrew Atherton, Advising Attorney

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

JUST FOR FUN

IDEAS WELCOME! Just for Fun is a social gathering that focuses on fellowship and FUN! Ice Cream Sundae Stations, Game night, Talks about different countries or lands, dances, etc. The sky is the limit! This program will run through the church programmatic school year. Any ideas are welcome, please contact Susan Daugherty, Sharon Lytle, or Vicki Collins with your suggestions. Thank you!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Our Maundy Thursday service will begin at 7:00 pm on April 6 in the sanctuary. This intimate service, is a favorite of many as we gather for prayer, singing, and communion. A time to reflect on the last supper Christ had with his disciples.

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us on April 9 for our Easter brunch at 9:30, and 11:00 am Easter service in the sanctuary. We will be joined by our Bell Choir, a guest trumpeter, and we'll share communion on this day of resurrection.

Following the service, there will be a special coffee hour, and an Egg Hunt for any youth attending. ALL ARE WELCOME!



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

Spring Gathering
Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina
Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, North Carolina

Featuring Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Our speaker for the 2023 Spring Gathering is the Reverend Margaret LaMotte Torrence. She will introduce our 2023-2024 Bible Study: Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. The Reverend Torrence is a graduate of Davidson College and Princeton Theological Seminary. She has served several interim pastorates including Black Mountain Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Sarasota, and University Presbyterian, Chapel Hill.



Contact Gloria Hickson for information, hghickson@aol.com

Register by April 7, 2023

All Presbyterian women are invited to come and bring a friend for the Gathering and Lunch. Off the Streets, Gastonia will receive the offering that day.





APRIL 29, 2023
10:30 AM-6:30 PM
\$20/PERSON

JOIN WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL
 AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
 GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE
 PRESBYTERY FOR A DAY
 FILLED WITH RECREATION,
 ADVENTURE, LAKE FUN AND
 WORSHIP AT CAMP GRIER!

PWNC YOUTH
ADVENTURE
DAY @ CAMP GRIER

Schedule:
10:30 - NOON
 Registration and Group Games
Noon
 Picnic Lunch (BRING YOUR OWN!)

1:00 - 5:00 PM
 Adventure On Campus (AOC)

5:00 - 6:30PM
 Dinner, Music and Worship

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES*:
 FARM/GREENHOUSE
 CLIMBING WALL
 HORSES/OUTDOOR GAMES
 ORIENTEERING RELAY
 CANOEING/LAKE ZIPLINE
 ARTS AND CRAFTS
 *FINAL ACTIVITY DETAILS TO COME

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 22



Church Contacts

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