

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Steve's Slant

BY REV. DR. STEVE RUNHOLT

Sometimes the shortest phrases can convey entire paragraphs of meaning and emotion. I would like to share two such phrases with you here.

First: *Thank you.*

When I announced in July that I would be concluding my ministry here at the end of December, I suspect that some of you probably thought: *Great. Just when it feels like our church needs a boost, now everyone is just going to hang back and wait until Steve leaves to see what happens next.*

That is not an unreasonable assumption. It's entirely possible such a thing would happen.

But it has not happened. Instead – and I privately predicted this because I know you – the opposite seems to be happening: lots of you are stepping up to support the life and ministries of this church – just when it needs a boost.

And I know that for some of you, that means stepping into roles that are entirely new for you. Maybe you're on the Transition Team, which Session has appointed to oversee and coordinate the details of this transition. Or maybe you've volunteered to serve on our Stewardship Team, or maybe you're serving on one of the other teams that are still busily at work searching for your next Music Director and Associate Pastor.

The list goes on.

Our inward-facing ministries – our Congregational Life team supporting the annual Welcome Students potluck this past Sunday; the Adult Education Ministry Team planning the fall curriculum for the class; the Children's Spiritual Nurture team, doing the same on the kids' side; the Administration Ministry Team doing a ton of heavy lifting, considering all kinds of requests: from Session, from the Associate Pastor Search Team, from the College; requests for allocations from our various music funds to pay for our hand-bells to be refurbished; for some help in paying for the Fellowship Hall and office building to be freshly painted – all of these inward-facing ministries are going on almost as I type these words.

(Continued on page 2)

This issue:

Steve's Slant

PAGE 01

September Birthdays

PAGE 02

Joys and Concerns

PAGE 03

Habitat for Humanity

PAGE 04

Inauguration

PAGE 05

Adult Education

PAGE 06

Ministry Transition Team

PAGE 07

Noteworthy Events

PAGE 08

Steve's Slant continued...

Same on the outward-facing side: the lunch-making brigade continues to turn up the last Friday of every month to feed our neighbors at the Veterans Restoration Quarters; the Habitat crew is gearing up to help build another house (on that point: God bless you, Jimmy Carter for all the houses you built, all the houses you made possible!); support for Homeward Bound as they apply for a grant for affordable housing.

You all are amazing!

But in case you're wondering, there are still plenty of opportunities to jump in and get involved in the work of our Ministry Teams:

- Our children's education program still needs volunteers. Call Natalie Daugherty.
- Do you like to sing? Feel a call to join our choir? Call Beth Meriwether.
- Interested in playing bells? Again, call Natalie Daugherty.

There will be other opportunities down the track:

- Eventually our congregation will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- Session itself will need some capable, experienced elders to come on board next year.

Short version: Even during this time of transition, a lot of great work and quality ministry is well underway. So thank you!

And do keep your ears and your heart open to where God might be calling you to serve!

Now, I am also aware that many of you are feeling some anxiety about what the future looks like here at WWPC. Again, that is totally understandable. Will there be anyone left on our ministerial staff, and who is going to lead and support us, you might be wondering.

Which brings me to the second two-word phrase I'd like to share with you, the phrase that recurs more frequently in scripture than any other:

Fear not!

Yes, change is coming, but you will be okay!

Yes, perhaps things feel a little unstable right now, but that's normal, even healthy during times of transition.

Short version: Growth without change is impossible. So I would encourage you to lean into the uncertainty of this present moment. Trusting that God is faithful, embrace the change that is coming because new growth, individually and collectively, is always the key to becoming who we are, who we are called to be, who we are meant to be.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Liam Pulsifer	Sept. 4	Natalie Daugherty	Sept. 15
John Laney	Sept. 23	Michael Montgomery	Sept. 24
Elizabeth Cook	Sept. 27		



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our Healing Prayers go out to: Steve White, friend of Beth Meriwether; Derron Daugherty and family, on his accident; Dolores Coulter, Derron's sister; Beth Newman; Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Lee Dugger and family; Betty Smith; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; Jackie Wintle's sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Erika Lytle; 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.

ICE CREAM PARTY FOR LANDSCAPE CREW

BY DONNA EAGLE JOSLIN

On Thursday, August 24 from 4-5:00 pm, on the hottest week of the year thus far, the College Landscape Crew was invited to Fellowship Hall for an ice cream party. I was told that 15 students would be there...but almost the whole crew showed up, around 30 students. It was a serve yourself event with ice cream and fruit bars that had been purchased the day before at Ingles.

Everyone was very happy to have some time in air conditioning, and enjoy something sweet with hardworking friends. As a former Landscape crew member on this campus (years ago), I know what hard work it is, and let them know how much the church appreciates what they are doing. A good time was had by all!



THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, Sept. 14 to discuss Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral by Kris Radish. Janice will lead the discussion. September is our annual salad luncheon so bring a salad to share and join us for a great book discussion!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Have you ever looked at the Habitat house photos on the walls in room 204 of Fellowship Hall?

There were 18 different ones with homes our church members and friends helped build over the years. Now there are 19 as the newest one, with this is the photo, has been added.

The young man in the photo is Jesse Coffee, a single Dad for three children including Peter, sitting on his lap. Jesse worked hard to become the owner of the newest Habitat House of Faith, and this picture was taken at the closing for his family's house.

Some of you receiving this message helped build that house by working at the job site last May or June. Construction of the next Habitat House of Faith, to be built in Habitat's new neighborhood, Glenn Bridge in Arden, will start next month. It will be cooler outdoors than it is now, and an information sheet for volunteers is attached.

Habitat's plan is for 10 volunteers to help each day, so I have reserved three spaces on each of the following dates for WWPC members and friends (age 16 or older).

Fridays, 8:15 - noon Sept. 29, Oct 20, Nov. 10

Saturdays, 8:15 - 3:00 Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 11

If you have helped build a Habitat house before you know that the only thing you need is the desire to help. Habitat provides all tools and a supervisor who will find the right job for you, even if it's at a different house that is farther along in construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this, and please reply to me if you would like to sign up for one or more of these dates for this important mission project.

Thank you.

Larry Griswold



INAUGURATION TO BE IN WWPC CHAPEL



PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN THE WARREN WILSON
COLLEGE COMMUNITY FOR THE

Inauguration of Damián J. Fernández, Ph.D.

TENTH PRESIDENT OF WARREN WILSON COLLEGE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

CEREMONY

3:30 P.M. | WARREN WILSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND
COLLEGE CHAPEL | 101 CHAPEL LANE
*(Overflow seating with livestreaming
available in Ransom Fellowship Hall)*

HOMECOMING BBQ COCHINILLO ASADO

4:30 P.M. | SUNDERLAND LAWN | 901 UPPER COLLEGE ROAD



PERSONNEL REVIEWS

BY JIM STOREY

Personnel Review Team Thanks

The WWPC Personnel Review Team has completed the review of the church staff for 2023. The members of the team, Bob Gambrell, Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison, and Jim Storey would like to thank everyone who contributed their comments and ideas during this process. Your thoughtful contributions played a key part in the review team's work, making it possible to complete this important task in a timely manner. Thank you for your participation.

WELCOME STUDENT POTLUCK

Following our service on August 27, we welcomed WWC students at our annual potluck.



ADULT EDUCATION THIS FALL

We're excited about Adult Education!

This fall we'll be looking at two books by local authors.

Maybe you've had a chance to meet the warm, wise and welcoming Gareth Higgins. His husband is Brian Ammons, the former WWC chaplain. Gareth grew up in Northern Ireland during The Troubles. His book is ***How Not to Be Afraid: Seven Ways to Live When Everything Seems Terrifying***. Nadia Bolz-Weber says "I totally trust Gareth Higgins when he writes about his own fear and how it's actually possible to transform it into something powerful, something capable of healing us and the world." Pádraig Ó Tuama says "Gareth Higgins is a friend. This book is too."

We'll also be focusing on David LaMotte's new book, ***You Are Changing the World Whether You Like It Or Not***, where he challenges some deeply held, though seldom examined, ideas we have about how large societal changes happen and what our own roles in those changes can and should be. And we're excited to report that David will be with us at WGPC on October 15 for preaching and teaching, so mark that date on your calendars.

Both books are on order and will be available soon.



EXTERIOR PAINTING PROJECT

BY JIM STOREY

Fellowship Hall Repainting

President Fernández has invited Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church to participate in the College's ongoing beautification campaign by painting the Fellowship Hall/Christian Education building. He asked that this be funded by the Church, outside the normal 50-50 expense sharing agreement in the Church-College Covenant, as a WWPC contribution to the College's campaign.

The Session has approved a plan whereby the Church will fund the \$16,880 cost of this badly needed work using Church funds for 50% of the cost and by appealing to the congregation for special contributions to cover the remaining 50%. To that end, members and friends of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and Warren Wilson College who so desire can designate funds for this purpose by identifying contributions for the Fellowship Hall Repainting Project.

MINISTRY TRANSITION TEAM

Ministry Transition Team Formed

The Session has formed an adjunct team of church volunteers, Janice Collins, Jamie Dale, Dennis Stockdale and Rodney Lytle, to support the process of transitioning our pastoral leadership. The Transition Team and Session members met with the WNC Presbytery representatives, Rev. Byron Wade, Rev. Schaap Freeman, and Rev. Wanda Neely (member of the Committee on Ministry (COM)), for guidance on activities to pursue through the remainder of Rev. Steve Runholt's tenure, up to the time when an interim pastor installed. The near-term focus of the team is to support the process to recruit an interim pastor candidate, with guidance and concurrence from the Session, the WNC Presbytery COM, and the congregation. The Presbytery also recommended that we start planning our farewell celebration for Steve (and Robin), potentially including a special service and party. The Transition Team will reach out to the other church teams to help plan this celebration.

Note the WNC Presbytery does not appoint an interim pastor. The Church is responsible for recruiting and contracting with the interim pastor, defining the job responsibilities and budgeting the compensation package. The typical contract is 12 months. The WNC Presbytery will share a list of potential candidates with us, but the Church is also welcome to find their own candidates. An interim pastor is an ordained minister, specifically trained to support a pastoral transition.

Once an interim pastor is in place, this pastor will provide leadership and guidance to the Transition Team to perform a ministry study. Based on the study, the Session and Presbytery will give approval to form a Pastor Nominating Committee, elected by the congregation. The Pastor Nominating Committee will then have the task to work the process to recruit and recommend a candidate to call as the pastor. Once the Session and Presbytery have concurred, the congregation will elect the permanent pastor.

We are planning an "after church" Congregation Information Session with Rev. Schaap Freeman (our Presbytery representative) and the other Presbytery COM members for Sunday, October 22, 2023. The pastoral transition process will be explained in more detail, along with the status of our effort. If you have thoughts or questions before that meeting, please reach out to the Transition Team members. You can email Janice Collins, the Team lead, at jancollins58@gmail.com. We welcome your input!



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Remembering Gina Marvin

Gina's family would love for you to join them in a celebration of Gina's life.

When: Saturday, September 2 at 1:00 pm

Where: The Chapel at Givens Estates (on Sweeten Creek Road)

Who: Everyone who remembers Gina is invited to this celebration!

Following the service in their Chapel, everyone is also invited to join the family for a brief interment service in the columbarium, where Gina will take her place beside Frank, her husband of sixty years.

A picnic will follow in a local park.

Labor Day Weekend Service to be held in Chapel

Due to the excessive heat this summer, our Session decided at it's August 15 meeting to hold the Labor Day service in the Chapel instead of the pavilion. Our September 3 service will begin in the chapel at 11:00 a.m. See you there!

Homecoming Pot Luck

Save the date!

Homecoming this year is going to be chock full of big events and will culminate with our Church Homecoming Pot Luck in Fellowship Hall following our service on October 1. Bring a dish to share with alumni and friends.

Rafting Trip

Let's go rafting y'all!

Hope you will join us in a rafting trip on the French Broad River, Monday, October 2 (Teacher workday for BCS). Need to be there by 1:30 (directions later). You must be at least 8 years old to join us. The cost is \$60 and we will be on the river 2-3 hours depending on the river flow. No experience needed, they will teach you all you need to know and provide life jackets. Guides are very good and the river is lovely; the guides will select the best route according to the experience the rafters have. At present they can take 42 rafters on the PM trip. So we need to sign up by September 10 to make sure we get our names in the pot. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex by September 3 and money must be in by Sept. 17. You may make the checks out to Warren Wilson Presbyterian (or WWPC) with Rafting in the memo line. If you'd like to make a donation to help someone be able to go, please put your donation in the envelope in the Narthex. Thank you! Sarah Anne Eller



Walk for your Neighbor



WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

& Block Party

WALK WITH US TO HELP
SUPPORT OUR
NEIGHBORS AND
FRIENDS OF THE
SWANNANOVA VALLEY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
828-669-9404
svcmdirector@gmail.com
svcmblackmountain.org

First Baptist Church
130 Montreat Road,
Black Mountain NC

Sunday, October 8th
Registration: 1:00 pm
Walk begins at 2:00

Block Party: Food Trucks,
live music, family fun
station, and games!



SCAN TO REGISTER

JOIN THE WALK

Funds raised will help
our neighbors:

- WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- KEEP THEIR LIGHTS OR WATER ON
- WITH FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY
- AND SO MANY OTHER NEEDS OUR NEIGHBORS ARE FACING

*5% of contributions will go to Black Mountain Counseling Center and 5% to Food Connection

SVCM is a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status that seeks to build a stronger community one life at a time.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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