

# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

## Steve's Slant

BY REV. DR. STEVE RUNHOLT

*Sometimes a light surprises.*

As you will read on page 7 of this newsletter, this lovely, evocative phrase, borrowed from a hymn by the same title, is the theme for our Stewardship Season this year.

*Sometimes a light surprises.* To be one hundred percent honest: I love it.

I love it because that's how faith works.

You are living in exile, you and all your people, living as slaves under Pharaoh's whip. Until one day a voice booms out from a burning bush, calling a lowly shepherd to lead you and your enslaved cohorts to freedom.

*Sometimes a light surprises.*

You are living under the weight of Roman occupation. Your land has been taken, your temple destroyed. Your hopes for the future, such as they are, are rooted in stories of the past: about how a shepherd brought down the most powerful man on earth and led your people to freedom, about how a young boy -- yet another shepherd -- took down a fearsome, giant warrior with nothing but a slingshot and a stone.

But those stories feel old, your future far off. Until one day a voice begins speaking from the mountainsides, proclaiming the most amazing message, the best news ever:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."

*Sometimes a light surprises.*

I love this phrase because that's so often how faith works: we wait in darkness until, yes, one day a light surprises.

I also love the phrase because it tells the story of how this church and this college have functioned when the future is uncertain, going all the way back to the very beginning.

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## Steve's Slant continued...

"No, I'm sorry, you can't start a school for farm boys in these mountains. It's far too remote. will never work."

"Okay, well, we'll see about that."

Sometimes a light surprises.

"I am sorry to tell you this but the time has come for the church and the college to separate. You'll have to find a way to pay the pastor and your staff." But how will we do that? "I'm so sorry, that's just where we are now. Budgets are shrinking."

"Well okay then. We'll find a way to do this on our own. We'll make the transition from a college chapel to a Presbyterian congregation, with our own members and staff."

Sometimes a light surprises.

This is a significant time of transition in the life of WWPC. It is a time when big questions are in play. Who will come to play our music? Who will come to help lead us into the future, to preach to us on Sundays, to care for us on the days in between?

Someone will. And not just someone. The right person will.

Because sometimes a light surprises.

I believe wonderful things are in store for you after January 1, beginning with a fruitful season of discerning your ongoing calling as a congregation, of reimagining your mission. I believe compelling answers will come out of that process because, well, sometimes a light surprises.

I believe wonderful things are in store for us between now that then. I believe we still have beautiful services to look forward to, fruitful ministry in which to share together: Trunk or Treat. All Saints Sunday. Thanksgiving Sunday and our Harvest Display. Advent, when we wait in the darkness for...Christmas...that moment when God's own light surprises.

All of which raises one final question, as we head into our Stewardship Season. With so much uncertainty in play at the moment: uncertainty in the life of our country, uncertainty in the life of our congregation, will we be able to make our budget?

I believe we can and we will because, well, sometimes a light surprises.

And because that's how faith works.

And because these holy surprises have always been part of the story of this church.

## THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, Oct. 12 to discuss *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Sandy F. will lead the discussion, which begins at 12:30. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30 before the discussion begins. New readers are always welcome!



## 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.



We want to celebrate more joys with our congregation. If you have something you would like to share (birth of child/grandchild, anniversary, wedding or any type of good news), please complete this [form](#) or scan the QR code at the right of the screen to take you to the form.



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Hettrick	Oct. 4	Donna Eagle Joslin	Oct. 6
Betty Smith	Oct. 15	Mark Meriwether	Oct. 17
Evan Williams	Oct. 21	Carolyn Cole	Oct. 21
Salyna Morgan	Oct. 22	Susan Laney	Oct. 25
Toby Ives	Oct. 25	Barbara Griswold	Oct. 27
Margaret . Montgomery	Oct. 31		





# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE OF FAITH #3 HAS STARTED.  
HABITAT JUST ANNOUNCED THE FUTURE OWNER OF THIS HOME.  
OUR FIRST VOLUNTEERS WORKED AT THE SITE ON SEPT. 29 AND 30.**

Asheville's Habitat for Humanity affiliate, the first in the state of North Carolina, and one of the first in the nation, has started construction of its 50th house built by a coalition of dedicated faith partners including our Church.

This one, House of Faith #3, is being built in Habitat's new Glenn Bridge Neighborhood in Arden where 17 buildings will be home for 28 families when it is completed. The Adopt-a-Lot sponsors have designated this property In Honor of All Faith Partner Volunteers.

The recent spike in Asheville area real estate prices has directly impacted renters too, making it even more of a challenge for many people to find affordable housing. Deborah Humphries, just named by Habitat to be the owner of this House of Faith, moved in with a sister after another steep increase in her rent.

In her application she wrote "I just want to have a place of permanence and knowing that it's mine and I can stay there forever. This will give me a great feeling of freedom."

Our church's first volunteers worked at this site on the last two days of September. Others have signed up to help in October and November, but there is always room for more. If you have questions or would like to help, contact Larry Griswold at [larrygris@gmail.com](mailto:larrygris@gmail.com)

You can also help by making a donation to Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity with a check to the Church and Habitat on the memo line, or by going to the *Give Online* button near the top right corner of the church website home page <https://warrenwilsonchurch.org/>



With construction supervisor Matt Grant, left, showing the way, on Sept. 29 Larry Griswold, Ken Murchison, Habitat core volunteer Georgina Millar, and Andrew Pulsifer helped with the early building of House of Faith #3. Don Collins and Brent Roberts from our Church helped the following day.



Deborah Humphries, future owner of Asheville Area Habitat House of Faith #3.



# OCTOBER 22 PASTORAL TRANSITION INFORMATION SESSION

Join us after the Service on Sunday, October 22, 2023 for a Congregation Information Session with Presbytery representatives, Rev. Schaap Freeman and Committee on Ministry members. The pastoral transition process will be explained, along with the status of our effort. It will also be presented as a Live-Stream event via the Church's YouTube site. Coffee Hour/Refreshments will follow in the Church Parlor. 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](mailto:jancollins58@gmail.com).

## BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

Submitted by the Administration Ministry Team

The church and college have made a number of improvements to the chapel, fellowship hall, and education building over the last year or so.

Most of the recent changes are not readily visible, although they have made our buildings more comfortable. The college has installed a new boiler for the education building and fellowship hall and repaired one of the boilers for the chapel. The college also installed several mini-split HVAC systems for the fellowship hall. The cost of these improvements approximated \$100,000; in accordance with the covenant signed in 2013, the church and college split the cost. The additions have already made the chapel, fellowship hall, and education building more comfortable. The hope is that they will also help control utility costs in the future as well.

More recently, the college proposed the most visible of the recent improvements: repainting the exterior of the fellowship hall and education building. The college asked the church to pay the full cost of this project as a contribution to President Fernandez's plan for beautifying the campus. Because of the generosity of several members of our congregation, the church was able to absorb the college share without borrowing money or spending from reserves.

Many people have assisted in making these improvements a reality, but the contribution of one individual – our Administrator, Donna Eagle Joslin – was especially important for the recent painting project. When the college first sent a \$24,000 estimate, it seemed high and so Donna went to work to get a second estimate. Not only was the estimate she obtained more than \$7,000 lower than the original one, but it also had a much better description of the work that would be done and it provided for two coats of stain rather than one. Once the contract had been awarded, Donna served as the project manager scheduling the work and reviewing the finished project. The Administration Ministry Team encourages you to look carefully at the newly stained buildings and remember to thank Donna for bringing the project to completion.



## HOMECOMING POTLUCK



Following our World Communion service on October 1, we welcomed WWC Alumni and friends to our annual potluck.



## CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

Our newly formed Creative Arts team is off to a great start! You may have seen the colored banners we've made hanging in the Narthex that represent the six colors of the LGBTQ flag. If you're interested in joining this team, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17 at 5:30 pm. The meetings begin with sharing bread and soup in Fellowship Hall, then we move into the Sanctuary to discuss our creative ideas. Please give special thanks to Susan Daugherty, and Carolyn Cole for their sewing skills on this project.



Our Creative Arts Team members are, Cadence Cowal, Carolyn Cole, Donna Eagle Joslin, and Susan Daugherty. All are welcome!

## ADULT EDUCATION THIS FALL

We will conclude our study of Gareth Higgins book, *how not to be afraid* on October 8. October 15 through Thanksgiving, we will be discussing David LaMotte's book, *You are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not*. David will be preaching for us on October 15, and leading a discussion on his book following the service. See Noteworthy Events on [page 9](#) for details.



# SOMETIMES A LIGHT SURPRISES

## STEWARDSHIP AND YOU

We are the worshippers, we are the sharers, we are the needy, we are the caring.

We are an enlivened, involved, connected group of people.

In this time of transition, we could be fearful and see ourselves in place of uncertainty; we could sit back and wait to see what happens. But that's not what's happening! We look after each other, we get things done, we move forward, we love one another.

How do we do that? Maybe some answers lie in the lyrics for the hymn we chose to guide our season for Stewardship:

"Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings, It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings; when comforts are declining, He grants the soul again a season of clear shining".

Sunday October 15 marks the beginning of what we refer to as Stewardship Season: a challenge budget will be prepared, letters and commitment cards distributed, a cardboard "thermometer" appears in the narthex to mark our progress. During this season from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19, we'll consider how stewardship is a year-round commitment. Each Sunday we'll highlight a goal of our Ministry Plan, and the Ministry Teams that share the gifts our church has been given.

We do well to contemplate how the Spirit lives in and moves through us to reveal God's plan for us. Stewardship is a season of discernment. As we review our goals, we also open our hearts to what lies ahead. What is the story we are telling ourselves? Is this a time of uncertainty or a time of opportunity? Are we suffering a loss or are we on the threshold of a new beginning? Certainly, there's room for ambiguity, but as the hymn reminds us, "yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice; for while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice."

In the weeks to come you'll be receiving a letter that shares the needs and visions for our congregation in the coming year. To be the body of Christ in the world, we need more than money. We need folks to prepare the communion elements, serve as liturgists, lead meetings, participate on ministry teams, sing in the choir, help with children and youth. When you share your time and talents, we all win. What does being a good steward look like in your life?

"In holy contemplation we are set free from present sorrow; cheerfully we can say 'Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may'."

Stewardship Team Members: Diana Sanderson, Susan Daugherty, Beth Meriwether, Sandy Stanford, Steve Runholt, Donna Eagle Joslin, Elizabeth Cook, Sally Broughton



## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Walk for your Neighbor - October 8



# 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.

## David LaMotte - October 15

**David LaMotte**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**

David LaMotte will lead our 11:00am worship service in the chapel. Lunch and talk will follow immediately after service in the Ransom Fellowship Hall.

**REGISTER NOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON**



[Registration Link](#)

## Pastoral Transition Information Session - October 22

Be sure to join us for this important session. Details can be found on [page 5](#).

## Trunk or Treat - October 29

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

OCTOBER 29, 2023  
3PM TO 5PM

WARREN WILSON CHAPEL  
PARKING LOT



# PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



September 3 - October 1, 2023

## Peace & Global Witness

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

The special offering we collect in October emphasizes two topics that are important to the Warren Wilson community: peacemaking and the global reach of the Christian faith. It celebrates those who work for peace in our local community and throughout the world.

To fulfill this dual goal, the church divides the proceeds among the various units of the church. Half supports the work done by Presbyterians around the world; a quarter goes to presbyteries and synods for regional projects, and a quarter stays to support peacemaking in the local community. At Warren Wilson, the Session has approved giving the local portion in 2023 to Pisgah Legal for the work of its staff in supporting refugees, including Farkhunda and Elham. Pisgah Legal assisted both in obtaining refugee status, a result that would have been impossible without expert legal help.

You may give in various ways. You may put cash or a check in the special envelopes provided for the offering. You may place a check in the offering plate or mail a check to the church; please remember to note Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering in the memo line. Finally, you may donate on-line. The Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering will remain available as an option throughout the month of October.

Please give as generously as you are able. Individually, we can do little; together, our gifts can accomplish great things.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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