

FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Margaret

BY MARGARET LAMOTTE TORRENCE

Dear friends,

Dan Barber writes in *The Third Plate*: “There is a phenomenon in nature called the edge effect. The edge is where two distinct elements in nature meet and thrive. A continent's coastlines are a good example. The most productive and diverse habitats for marine life are where the vast sea finally meets the shore. These edge zones are hotbeds of energy and material exchange, thriving with life in a way that makes the deep sea or a large stretch of land seem dull by comparison. “Fragile ecosystems,” as these are often called, is something of a misnomer. They are fragile because they are so full of life.”

One can think of transitional seasons in this same light. A significant chapter has come to an end—and the shape of the future is not yet clear. Few of us seek out these liminal spaces, but when we look back on our lives, the unsettled stretches are often the times in which we made the discoveries that propelled us forward with new courage and joy.

I am delighted to be among you. The work of a transitional pastor is sometimes described as holding up a mirror to the congregation, allowing the community to see itself in a new light. I’ve been with you for four weeks, and what I have glimpsed in that mirror are imprints of God’s grace. You bring such rich gifts and experiences. You don’t settle for easy answers. You clearly enjoy each other’s company and are ready to welcome others into your hearts. You have a deep level of commitment, and you want your lives to count.

(Continued on page 2)



This issue:

A Note from Margaret
[PAGE 01](#)

Book Group
[PAGE 02](#)

Joys and Concerns
[PAGE 03](#)

Honoring Black Heritage
[PAGE 04](#)

New Members
[PAGE 06](#)

Noteworthy Events
[PAGE 07](#)

Congregational Meeting
[PAGE 08](#)

Educational Opportunity
[PAGE 09](#)

A Note from Margaret continued...

I am not alone in thinking this. When the presbytery first announced that I would be coming to serve as your transitional pastor, Grace Boyer wrote to me and described you this way: “The members there are some of the most loving, generous, spiritually deep, hard working folks I’ve ever worked alongside, with a heart for children, education, and social justice mission.”

Those qualities will make for a rich mission study, which we will engage after Easter. I so look forward to witnessing your discernment process, as together you envision the ministry that God is calling this community to embrace.

In the meantime, I am so grateful for the leadership provided by your session, by Ted and the choir, by Donna in the office, and for all the willing hands and hearts that open as needs emerge.

My bout with COVID has kept me from getting out and making the visits I had hoped to make in these first weeks, but I am now free of the virus and looking forward to connecting more personally. Please know that there is nothing I would rather do than share time with you.

I hope that you will mark your calendars for what is rumored to be a grand Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in the fellowship hall on the 13th at 6:00 , and then a brief but meaningful Ash Wednesday service on February 14 in the chapel at 6:00.

In gratitude and hope,
Margaret

THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, February 8 in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30 when Chris will lead our discussion of *The Reader* by Bernard Schlink. We'd love to welcome you to our group!



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our Healing Prayers go out to: Mary Kells’ family, on her death; Catherine Showalter and family, on John’s death; Martha Dugger; Beth Newman; Susan Runholt, Steve’s sister; 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; 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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Diana Sanderson	Feb. 1	Jack Ballard	Feb. 9
Clotilde Guisasola	Feb. 11	Karen Crusier	Feb. 12
Georgena Millar	Feb. 13	Brownie Newman	Feb. 16
Joyce Cucinella	Feb. 18	Edythe Wiener	Feb. 19
Milt Butterworth	Feb. 22	Burnace Roberts	Feb. 24
Pat Hardy	Feb. 25		



HONORING BLACK HERITAGE

*The Office of Inclusive Excellence at
Warren Wilson College Presents...*

**Beloved Community
Lecture Series**



DR. DWIGHT MULLEN

The State of Black Asheville

The Beloved Community Lecture Series (BCLS) kicks off on with a Lecture and Discussion with Dr. Dwight Mullen, Chair of the Asheville and Buncombe County Community Reparations Commission and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at UNC Asheville. His topic will be "The State of Black Asheville: A Review."




Warren Wilson College
Building: Canon Lounge in
Gladfelter Hall



Wednesday, February 7, 2024
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Doors open at 5:30 PM



MLK PRAYER GATHERING




Swannanoa
Valley Dr.
Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Memorial
Corporation

2024 Swannanoa Valley MLK Prayer Gathering

February 10
9:00am

Upper Anderson Auditorium
Montreat, NC

Speaker:
Ernest J. Grant, PhD, RN



2024 Swannanoa Valley MLK Prayer Gathering

February 10, 2024 at 9:00am

Upper Anderson Auditorium, Montreat, N.C.

SVMLK - our organization's purpose is to promote the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of justice and equality by awarding college scholarships to deserving local students. The scholarships are funded through patrons and businesses that take a personal interest in our work by purchasing tickets or ads on our webpage. Your support of our scholarship fund supports students of C. D. Owen High School in Black Mountain and Community High School in Swannanoa. More info here: <https://www.svmlk.org/>

Our speaker will be Dr. Ernest J. Grant, Interim Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Duke University School of Nursing, originally from Swannanoa, N.C. A community choir of members of local churches will provide music.

As we experience the unrest in our nation relating to racial peace and justice, we are reminded that our country continues to be filled with anger, prejudice, and misleading information. One person who put his life on the line for positive change was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You too can help make a difference by contributing to the work of the Swannanoa Valley Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Corporation. Help us make history together and be a part of making a difference in our community and beyond.

Sincerely, The Swannanoa Valley MLK Board - Sheila Showers, Levon Lindsey, Diana Hutchins, Sylvia Carpenter, Barbara Gaw, Anna Marcel de Hermanas, Rhea Bockhorst, Rochelle Daniels, Linda Brinson, Dionne Greenlee-Jones, Dorothy Woodruff, and Rev. Teresa Steward



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



I was 4 weeks old when my parents moved to Warren Wilson, and I lived on campus my entire childhood. I got a behind-the-scenes view of the church and college through my parents, Fred and Bev Ohler. I was an undergrad at UNC-Chapel Hill and went to veterinary school at Purdue University. I then practiced veterinary medicine in California for 35 years, first at a large referral hospital, and then at my own practice. I felt the mountains calling me back, so I built a home in Black Mountain. I have always treasured the friendships made through Warren Wilson, and it feels wonderful to have come full circle. (**Chrisann Ohler** comes to us by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Pres. in Tiburon Ca.)

Joyce Cucinella has joined us by reaffirmation of faith. You may have thought Joyce was already a member, as she has been attending our church services since they were in the Williams Chapel! Joyce worked for Kearfott (Aerospace Company) for 34 years, taking on many jobs and working her way up to manufacturing engineer. If you'd like to hear a good story, ask about her travels around the United States. We found out at our new members lunch that Joyce used to babysit on campus, and Chrisann Ohler was someone she took care of!



Winn Legerton has joined us by transfer of letter from Grace Covenant Church in Asheville. Her Presbyterian roots over the past seven decades began with growing up at Oglethorpe Church in Atlanta, GA, and include twenty years at First Prez in Greensboro, NC. She has served as both a ruling elder and a teaching elder as well as participated in Quaker, UCC and ecumenical faith communities. Winn (also called Winifred) looks forward to learning and growing as a member at WWPC.



We also are delighted to welcome **Amanda Branscombe**, who joined the church in November, 2023.

Amanda has deep roots in the Methodist Church, but was drawn to what she describes as this "community of seekers, doers, and loving spirits."

Amanda was a professor at Athens State University, with specialties in Early Childhood Teacher Education, Children's Writing and Early Literacy, Early Childhood Curriculum, and Administration of Child Development Centers.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is on February 13th at 6:00, one last hurrah before we begin Lent! A sign up sheet will be in the narthex for pancake cookers (for those who would love to share their favorite pancake recipe), egg casserole, juice, fruit, or protein (meat or vegetarian). Please join in for a fun evening and wear those Mardi Gras beads!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship has been called “the most honest service of the year,” for it brings us face to face with the vulnerability of human life, and invites us to self-examination in the assurance of God’s redeeming love.

You are invited to a brief service of worship at 6:00 on Wednesday Feb. 14, as we begin this year’s journey through the season of Lent. Come reflect, pray, and lift your voices in song.

Margaret will offer ashes to those who wish to receive them, on their heads or hands. May God bless you as you open your heart to the one who will never stop seeking you.

Souper Bowl of Caring

In addition to the NFL Super Bowl football game next Sunday, another national event takes place on the same day. That event is the annual Souper Bowl of Caring.

This will be the 15th consecutive year for Warren Wilson Presbyterian to participate in this one-day event which collects both food and monetary donations to address hunger in our local area. No funds are sent to any national event office. All donations remain here to be donated to an organization of our choice.

The largest one-day monetary donation from WWPC has been \$1,245.50 and the largest number of food items collected the same day was 167. Can we do even better this year?

Please come prepared on Sunday, February 11 to support the organizations that address hunger in our own area. Donations will be collected by our youth following the worship service.



Congregational Meeting

The session has called a congregational meeting to take place following the 11:00 worship service on February, 11. The meeting will provide an opportunity to receive the annual report and congregational updates, and to elect our Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee consists of five persons: two elders currently serving on the session and appointed by that body, and three members elected by the congregation.

Appointed by the session:

Kay Stockdale, Chair

Natalie Daugherty

Willing to serve if elected by the congregation:

Barbara Griswold

Rodney Lytle

Elaine Barnes

Please plan to join us for this brief meeting. This promises to be an exciting year in the life of the church, and we will share brief sketches of upcoming plans!



SVCM is currently in need of the following items:

Soap, body wash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, wash cloths, and household items like pots and pans.

Your gifts directly impact the lives of those in need in the Swannanoa Valley. Only through the generosity of this amazing community is our work made possible. Thank you for thinking of your neighbors in Christ.



Educational Opportunity

**The Weatherford Series at St. Lukes Episcopal, Black Mountain
presents**

Name & Reclaim Mary Magdalene

Art & Lecture Friday, February 23 | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

An exploration of Mary Magdalene depicted through the eyes of four contemporary artists highlighting both Gospel stories and the tradition of her later life in Southern France. \$15/person

A Journey Through Scripture, Early Christian, Medieval, & Contemporary Art

Saturday, February 24 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Participants of this retreat experience an embodied journey through scripture, art, and history to better understand Mary Magdalene of whom Jesus declares in Mark 14:9, "Truly I tell you, wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Participants are invited to engage with the material through embodied practices including body postures, writing, and small group sharing. \$50/person

Presenter:

Beth Maczka is a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School. Beth's work is centered in the Divine Feminine and grounded in deep exploration of the images of women in Early Christian and Medieval Art and why Mary Magdalene is absent from much of art and liturgy. Beth speaks passionately about the importance of Mary Magdalene to the contemporary church and the need to commission art that depicts women in positions of authority as noted in the Gospels.



CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office: 828-298-9092

Church Admin.: Donna Eagle Joslin, 825-298-9092, deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence, mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu

Interim Dir. of Music: Ted Stewart

Treasurer: Leslie Sayyar, 828-333-8867, treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Treasurer: Brent Roberts, 919-844-6311, brentbroberts@icloud.com

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

