

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Margaret

BY MARGARET LAMOTTE TORRENCE

Dear friends,

So many of you made time to come to the first of our Mission Study's "Holy Conversations" on April 21—thank you. Sharon Lytle arranged for a lovely meal, and your candid thoughts made for rich discussion. Pat Levi created a remarkable timeline of the church's 99-year history, as well as a graphic depicting this congregation as a tree fed by God's Spirit and leafing out in praise and mission. We hope to have those displays in the narthex over the next couple of weeks. If you missed the April 21 gathering, please stop by and add your marks to those images of our shared life.

Please also note on your calendars that our next conversation will be held on **May 19**. We'll celebrate Pentecost in the chapel at 11:00 and then invite the Spirit to keep moving in our conversations over lunch. The menu will be pizza, salad, and ice cream sundaes. We will end by 2:00.

There are other important dates upcoming, and one that you won't want to miss is a celebration of Donna's long and formative ministry as your Church Administrator. Donna's love for this place and its people is deep and wide. In addition to staying connected to all of you, she keeps lines of communication open between the campus and the chapel. Often I am moved by the exchanges I overhear as she supervises and mentors the students who serve on the chapel crew. She knows how to give clear instructions, to hold appropriate boundaries—but also how to delight in each student's gifts. She celebrates their victories and cheers them on as they face challenges. A blessing to witness.



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A Note from Margaret continued...

Planning is still underway for Donna's celebration, and details will be forthcoming, but this much we know: we will gather for an evening picnic at Owen Park on **Wednesday June 5**. We'll meet at the shelter nearest the basketball courts. And because Donna loves to be outside, she's asked that we plan to hold the event there, rain or shine. Please come and express your thanks and best wishes as Donna enters a new season of life and ministry.

As we all make our way through the Easter season towards Pentecost, we are reminded of the disciples' need to let go of the ways they knew and loved, in order to receive the new life and mission that God intended for them to inhabit. That dynamic belongs to us, too. We have the privilege of walking with each other as we grieve what must be released, and as we anticipate the joy that lies ahead. God holds us all in loving hands.

With gratitude for the privilege it is to share these months together,
Margaret

ADULT EDUCATION

Join the Adult Education Class at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We meet in the large classroom of the CE building beyond Fellowship Hall and the restrooms.

May 5 Adeeb Sayyar will present regarding his experiences in the Middle East and perspective regarding the crisis in Gaza

May 12 Kara Nash and Beth Meriwether will present about autism and how our congregation can be more welcoming & accommodating toward those with autism.

May 19 Walter Ziffer, UNC-A honorary degree recipient and holocaust survivor, will present regarding his life experiences and his book, *Confronting the Silence - A holocaust survivor's search for God*. Don Collins will contact Mr. Ziffer to schedule.

THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet in Fellowship Hall at noon on Thursday, May 9. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30. At 12:30 Corise will lead our discussion of *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom. New readers are always welcome!



JOYS AND CONCERNS

If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office (298-9092).

(We'll plan to leave celebrations listed for two Sundays—please call the church office if you'd like to add something!)

We celebrate: **Sharon Lytle** for representing WWPC at the April 30 meeting of the Presbytery of WNC ▪ **Donna** for her many years of faith-full service ▪ **Mason** up in the choir loft on soundboard. He's so attentive and invested, it's a joy to see him at work ▪ Everyone who came out for the first of our **Holy Conversations** ▪ Congratulations to **Alex Curcio** for winning the lettuce eating competition on campus to help raise money for the college ▪ Thanks to **Jim Storey** for the many hours spent painting the pastor's office. ▪ **Rodney Lytle** has accepted the presbytery's invitation to serve on the Nominating Committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Thank you, Rodney! ▪ Thanks to **Kay Stockdale** and **ChrisAnn Ohler** for updating the catalog of art and artists whose work is found in the chapel and fellowship hall. One copy of that catalog is available in the parlor ▪ that **Rebecca Hettrick** has moved into her own place on campus! You can drop her a note at 110 A North Lane Swannanoa, NC 28778; ▪

We remember in prayer: **Isaiah Bullerdick** (20), Rodney & Sharon Lytle's grandson recovering from a knee injury that ended his junior year football season; **Beth Newman**, as she continues to heal at home in Asheville; **Jackie Ligon Cole; Pat Crumpler; Will Dale** (Jamie's brother), anticipating cardiac bypass surgery in April, following lung cancer surgery in late February; **Vernon Daugherty, Sr.** (Derron's father); **Martha Dugger; Rick Garrison; Houston Huggins** (Beth Meriwether's brother); **Erika Lytle; Salyna Morgan**, recovering from an infection in her bloodstream; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, **Linda Briggs; Jon Hettrick** and his family; **Marjorie Hettrick;** Allyson Hettrick's mother, **Sylvia Revis**, as she recovers from a fall in assisted living; **Kim Reece** (daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison); **Shane Reece** (Nancy Garrison's son); Pat Wilson's son, **Kell**.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Elliot Newman
Tess Newman
Rick Garrison

May 10
May 13
May 30

Pat Wilson
Zach Pulsifer

May 11
May 28



PENTECOST OFFERING

Nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Invest in our greatest resource - Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BY SALLY BROUGHTON

Connections to Our Neighbors and Community

A portion of WWPC's annual budget is committed each year to supporting neighbors in need through organizations in our county as well as globally. The committee charged with overseeing how those funds are designated is the Community Engagement Team. We are also charged with coordinating the church's direct services into the community. Larry Griswold has been faithful in directing our partnership toward Habitat as well as offering his leadership for volunteers at the Veterans Restoration Quarters. Vicki Collins continues to maintain contact with Lutheran Family Services, and you can anticipate hearing more about the need for Circles of Welcome for refugee families. This team also promotes and offers guidance regarding the special offerings collected on behalf of our denomination, PCUSA.

Herein we convey the Community Engagement's gratitude for your generosity, celebrating all we are blessed to share with our neighbors, and offers you the gratitude of organizations we serve:

Asheville Poverty Initiative writes: "Grateful for your affirmation and faithful support, we offer thanks for your generous donation of \$300. 2023 was a year of renewal for API and 12 Baskets Café. We emerged from the pandemic to stabilize café operations at 4 days per week thanks to faithful volunteers, staff and food donors, and we re-started our Realities of Poverty education program. We're especially excited that long time Asheville resident, Ben Williamson, joined as our Executive Director.

ABCCM writes: thanks to your \$300 gift designated to the **Veterans Restoration Quarters**, the lives of 405 men were served with 80% restored from homelessness to good jobs and permanent housing.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance wrote to acknowledge our gift of \$730 to support their services at home in the US and globally.

April Burgess-Johnson wrote on behalf of **Helpmate** that our gift of \$350 offers safety, shelter, and support for survivors of domestic violence. It is, she says, "a gift of hope for which we are grateful."

From board members, Cari Barcas and Eileen Shea, on behalf of the **Ministry of Hope** we read: "know that your gift is already at work" to make an immediate difference in the lives of the incarcerated women at the Swannanoa Correctional Center. One of their chaplains is Shannon Spencer with whom we've been in much recent contact in her role as Dir. of Spiritual Life at WWC.

VP for Philanthropy, Jessica May writes: "On behalf of the families and children served by **Verner Center for Early Learning** we send our gratitude for your support. Thanks for coming to visit us! Feel free to send any other congregants who'd like a tour, and we'll be happy to serve them lunch."

Aiyanna writes from the '**Bounty and Soul** Family': "thank you for your steadfast support since 2018. We are blessed and thankful to have you as allies. Your donation comes back as fresh whole foods and local produce shared with those who need and deserve it. We are honored to have your loving support."

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From **Pisgah Legal Services** we received an acknowledgement for the \$319.75 we sent. Why such an odd number you might ask. It represents 25% of the **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** which PCUSA directs us to keep locally in service of peacemaking and reconciliation. Rev. Robert Gamble, a member of our Presbytery, writes from Izmail, Ukraine where **This Child Here** received families displaced by the Russian invasion.

You get the picture. I could go on and on. If this invites your interest, please come to our next team meeting. Contact Bob Gambrell, convener.

PERSONNEL REVIEW TEAM

BY JIM STOREY

Each year WWPC completes a review of its entire staff —Margaret, Donna, and Ted for this year. The purpose of the review process is to assess the health of the church and to focus on how we can all work together to strengthen the ministry of the church. Although some of our staff are currently transitional/interim the review team believes that it is valuable to engage all staff members in this process. Several years ago, the Session voted to conduct the review in the spring at the end of our normal program year. This year, the Administration Ministry Team named Bob Gambrell, Beth Meriwether, and Jim Storey as the action team to prepare the annual review for the church staff. To complete its work, the team needs input from the entire congregation.

Please share with the team your words of praise for the work our staff members have done in the past year and your suggestions as to how we can improve our ministry in the future.

The following questions may help individuals prepare their responses:

1. What staff members' work have you noted over the last year?
2. For each staff member you identify:
 - In what ways has the staff member assisted our ministry?
 - What strengths did he or she display in their work?
 - Can you suggest any ways in which the individual's support for our ministry might be enhanced?

These questions should not limit anyone's response. The team would like everyone's insights regarding what the staff has done well and how the church can improve. The team will also appreciate your general observations about our church – what is going well, what concerns do you have.

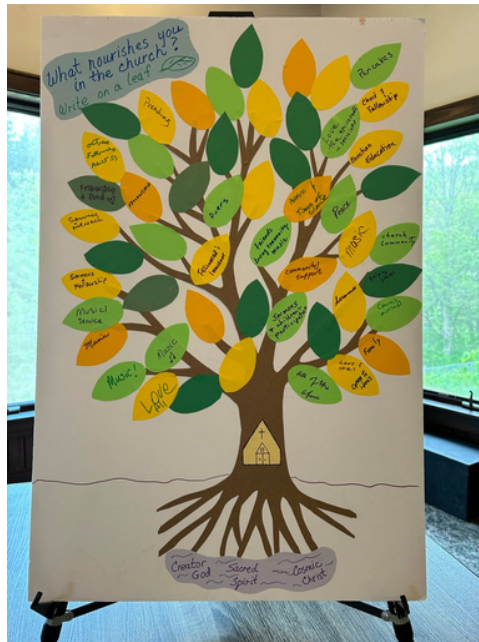
Please address written responses to Jim Storey at the church office (101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa 28778) or place it in the AMT mailbox in the office.

Alternatively, you may email your response to jstorey57@gmail.com. The team will keep your observations in confidence, but it does ask you to sign your comments. Anonymous comments are very difficult to evaluate.

If possible, please submit your responses to the team before the end of May so it can complete its report for the Session in a timely matter. The team appreciates your assistance in this most important process.



HOLY CONVERSATIONS



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Pentecost Offering

Sunday, May 19 Pentecost offering will be collected.

The Pentecost Offering connects us with children, youth and young adults — each with gifts to share — and offers them opportunities to build a solid foundation of faith to last a lifetime. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks out to WWPC, with Pentecost Offering on the memo line.

Holy Conversations

Sunday, May 19, 12:00-2:00: our next congregational gathering for "Holy Conversations," our Mission Study. We'll share salad, pizza, and ice cream sundaes, as well as lots of food for thought!

Margaret on Leave/Vacation

May 22-June 2—Margaret out on study leave/vacation

Celebrate Donna - Picnic

Wednesday, June 5, 5:30-7:30 an evening picnic at Owen Park, to celebrate the ministry of Administrator Donna Eagle Joslin, retiring June 1.

Summer Worship Field Trip

Sunday, June 9: The whole congregation is invited to take a field trip as we join summer worship in **Anderson Auditorium in Montreat**. Margaret will preach. Please note that the start time is 10:30. (There will be no service at WWPC that morning.)

Evening of Conversation

Sunday, June 23: Austin Seminary's Eric Wall (who also serves as Conference Musician in Montreat during the summers) will be here for an evening of conversation and song as we consider the role of music in the life of faith.



APRIL 8, 2024 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

BY DONALD AND VICKI COLLINS (PHOTO BY DON)

A total eclipse of the sun is an emotional as well as an intellectual experience. The sudden darkness, temperature drop, and appearance of stars and planets in the sky shakes our senses. Three generations of the Collins family gathered in the Cleveland suburb of Shaker Heights to enjoy this spectacle on April 8, 2024. Don took this photo with a digital camera attached to his 4-inch telescope.

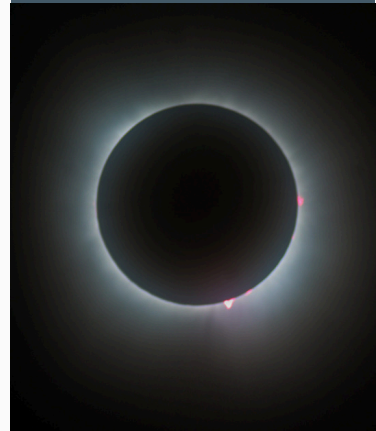
A total solar eclipse is a very rare event when the Earth's Moon passes directly in front of the Sun and completely blocks the photosphere – the incredibly bright surface of the Sun. By coincidence the apparent size of the Moon is a tiny bit larger than the angular size of the Sun. This coincidence makes total solar eclipses possible. If the Moon were further away from the Earth (currently about 30 Earth diameters), the Moon's apparent size would be too small to block out all the Sun.

Astrophysicists, astronomers, and amateur astronomers often travel great distances around the world to view total solar eclipses. The Sun's ghostly corona becomes naturally visible only during the few minutes of solar eclipse totality. The corona consists of a very thin atmosphere of protons and electrons being emitted from the solar surface at very high velocities. The temperature of the Sun's corona is about 2 million degrees C – much hotter than the surface of the Sun (about 5800 degrees C). The physics of coronal heating is not very well understood

The region of totality is a relatively narrow path across the Earth as the Moon passes in front of the Sun. The path is about 100 miles wide – about twice the width of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario which were almost entirely within the path of totality. The Moon casts a shadow onto the Earth when it eclipses the Sun. Because the Sun is much larger than the Moon (about 400 times larger in diameter) the shadow of the Moon tapers down to a small shadow (about 100 miles or less in width) making the chances of viewing a total solar eclipse anywhere on Earth about 1 chance in 300 years.

Ancient civilizations have been mystified and terrified by the presence of eclipses. The Chinese, Babylonians and Mayans – with the aid of their calendars – were able to predict eclipses of the Sun and Moon by discovering the patterns of the occurrences of eclipses with mathematical insight. The prophet Joel (about 880 BC) and early Christians interpreted eclipses with the coming of the Apocalypse. The scientific revolution beginning with Galileo, Kepler, and Newton was able to explain eclipses and planetary motion with the laws of physics. In the 20th century physicists accurately viewed star positions observed during the darkness during a solar eclipse to test Einstein's theory of Relativity that predicted the bending of starlight due to the gravitational attraction by the Sun.

More about this eclipse can be found on Don's Physics Photo of the Week blog:
<https://physicsphotooftheweek.blogspot.com/2024/04/special-physics-photo-of-week.html>



WITH MUCH GRATITUDE



Sometimes, if we're lucky...
we find a great match.

A place of hope, guidance and healing.

Where grateful people help each other to love and grow,
and teach the giving ways of the heart.

That place is this church. Those people are you.

Thank you for all you have given me.

Donna

CHURCH CONTACTS

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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

