

AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 6

# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

## A Note from Margaret

BY MARGARET LAMOTTE TORRENCE

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of July. Before we know it, we will be welcoming friends back from their summer travels, and students ready to begin a new year of school!

These quieter summer weeks are an ideal time to get our facilities ready for the new program year. But if you've made your way over to the church offices in the last few weeks, you may think things are going in the wrong direction! We've emptied the pastor's office and the administrator's office so that they could be painted (thank you, Jim Storey!) and re-carpeted—which means that lots of things are out-of-place.

Pulling everything out provides us an opportunity to imagine how we might best use the limited storage space that we have. It's a wonderful building, but it does not have many closets!

To that end, we are planning to find good homes for some of the things that we can't easily store. For example, we have two wheelchairs, a rollator with a seat, various crutches, two halogen lights and a balance-ball chair—all of which might be useful out in the world. If you would like to lay claim to any of those items, please email or call Andrew in the church office by August 5. We'll be donating unclaimed treasures later that week.

In this transitional season, there are metaphors to be explored everywhere we look.

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## A Note from Margaret continued...

The beautiful new windows let in more light and invite us to see our surroundings and neighbors more clearly. And as we sort through the tangible reminders of decades of ministry, I find myself giving thanks for all the hands and hearts that have served here through the years. Transitional seasons are liminal spaces in which we hold things up to the light— sort, examine, let go, hold fast—all the while making room for the new life God promises.

It's a privilege to share this season with you.

### A Late-breaking invitation:

Dear friends,

As we prepare to welcome students for a new year, some of whom will be coming to the campus for the first time, it has come to the session's attention that some students feel apprehensive even about entering the chapel, because they suspect they might not be welcomed as they are. In an effort to be transparent about the unconditional love we believe we are called to share with one another, the session decided (during its June 23 meeting) to hang a "rainbow flag" to the left of the chapel doors, in a position parallel to the statement of welcome that hangs on the right. We hope that the symbols and text, hanging on either side of the cross, will invite a rich conversation about how we show up in the world as those who want to keep learning from our neighbors, and together experiencing the transformative love of God.

We intend to hang the flag in mid-August, before students arrive. But you are warmly invited to stay after worship on August 4, if you would like to learn more about the symbolism of the flag and the significance it carries for many. Thank for you being the kind of congregation that is willing to listen with care and respond with courage.

Gratefully,  
Margaret



## THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, August 8 in Fellowship Hall to continue our discussion of *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom. We'll also share any beach reads we've enjoyed this year. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship time from 12-12:30, when our discussion will begin.



# GREETERS NEEDED

## SUNDAY SERVICE GREETER SIGN-UP

The Greeter's main function is to warmly welcome people to the worship service.

The Greeter's duties include:

- \* Arrive about 30 minutes before the service begins and assist the Elder of the Day with the information table set-up and put out the bulletins on the stand and tables, as needed.
- \* Stand at the entrance to the sanctuary and welcome people while giving out Sunday worship bulletins as people enter the sanctuary.
- \* Point out the table with the large print hymnals, the hearing assist devices, and the new information sign.
- \* Encourage visitors to fill out information cards so they may join the church's email and paper mail lists to receive more information about upcoming services and events.
- \* After the worship service concludes, assist the Elder of the Day with a quick cleanup of the information table, bulletins and papers in pews, and ensuring that the pew hymnals and Bibles are put in the holders underneath the pews.

## NOTES FROM SESSION

Session has invited several guest ministers over the coming weeks in addition to the richness of speakers we were blessed with during June. You'll be hearing from Keith Grogg, Cindy Riley, and Kevin Frederick. You can find those dates on the church calendar at <https://warrenwilsonchurch.org/home/church-event-calendar>

Session is grateful to the vision offered us by Vicki Collins and Lutheran Services. Vicki has recruited the hearts and hands to recreate our Circle of Welcome extending God's love to refugees.

Several elders met with Rev. Dr. Kathryn Johnson Cameron, WWC Ex Officio member of the Board of Trustees as the Presbyterian Representative. The conversation led to in depth review of the Church-College Covenant, which is being refined before resubmitting to the session and BOT in the fall. Subsequently, Session authorized a gift of \$1000 to the WWC annual fund, which helped to boost the college to a record fundraising campaign.

Session recently authorized an action team to explore options for replacing the chapel piano. We are grateful to Dir. of Music Ted Stewart for spearheading this effort. Perhaps you noticed in July a hybrid offering of the Lord's Supper. The Worship & Music Team considered returning to the practice of intinction, and session suggested we offer both the option of receiving an individual cup or sharing from the common cup. You'll have a choice for receiving the sacraments again in August; your feedback is welcome.

Our treasurer reported that receipts of commitments has been strong in recent months, for which we give thanks. Your generosity and steadfastness are indeed gifts. Forty percent of your offerings for the PCUSA Pentecost offering stay in our community. This program focuses on ministries to children at risk, so each year, we offer our young people the opportunity to select the community recipients. Being well-versed in the needs of community and the value of service, our young folks selected the Black Mountain Children's Home as this year's Pentecost Offering recipient.





# GOOGLE REVIEWS

BY JOHN BISHOP

In today's digital age, online reviews play a crucial role in shaping people's perceptions and decisions. For churches, Google reviews are not just about feedback; they are a reflection of community engagement and outreach. Positive reviews can attract new members, which we need at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church! How can you help?

Write a Google Review! It is easy and takes only a few minutes. The only caveat is you have to have a Google Account. If you do, please tell everyone about what you love about our church!

- **Step 1: Open Google Maps** - Launch the Google Maps app on your mobile device or visit [Google Maps](#) on your web browser.
- **Step 2: Search for the Church** - In the search bar, type "Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church" and press Enter or search icon.
- **Step 3: Select the Church Location** - From the search results, tap on or click on the specific location our church.
- **Step 4: Click on the Reviews Section** - On the church's profile page, click on the Reviews tab at the top. You should see star ratings and a button labeled "Write a review."
- **Step 5: Be sure you are signed into Your Google Account** - If you're not already signed in to your Google account, you'll be prompted to do so. Sign in using your Gmail credentials.
- **Step 6: Click on "Write a Review"** - Click or tap on the "Write a review" button. This will open a review window where you can compose your feedback.
- **Step 7: Rate the Church** - First, select a star rating (from 1 to 5 stars) based on your overall experience with the church. This rating will appear next to your review. (Note, the more 5-star reviews we get, the higher we will get placed on web searches!)
- **Step 8: Write Your Review** - In the text box provided, write your detailed review. Include specific details about your experience, such as the warmth of the community, the quality of the services, or any particular programs or events that stood out to you.
- **Step 9: Add Photos (Optional)** - Optionally, you can add photos to accompany your review. This could include pictures of the church building, events, or services that you attended. Click on the camera icon to upload photos from your device.
- **Step 10: Preview and Post Your Review** - Before posting, take a moment to preview your review to ensure it accurately reflects your thoughts and experiences. Make any necessary edits if required. Once satisfied, click on the "Post" button to publish your review.

Leaving a Google review for our church not only provides valuable feedback to the community but also helps others make informed decisions about attending services or events. Your honest review can contribute to the church's online reputation and outreach efforts.





# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING HOUSE OF FAITH #4

In a note to Asheville Area Habitat friends on the first day of its new fiscal year (July 1), Habitat CEO Andy Barnett said “With your help, we will serve over 100 local families by building 18 new homes and completing 87 repair projects.”

Stating “it promises to be our most ambitious year ever,” Andy explained why the goals have been set so high with these words:

“Why do we keep pushing? Because stable housing keeps slipping out of reach for our neighbors. Because homeownership means more than a roof overhead. Because working together builds life-changing connections. Because we have a gritty hope that this movement is building a world where everyone has a place to call home.”

One of next year’s new homes will be House of Faith #4 which our church will support with monetary donations and volunteer help at the job site.

An organizational meeting in mid-August will provide many more details about this house which, like House of Faith #3, will be built in Habitat’s newest neighborhood, Glenn Bridge.

We will also have our annual Habitat Moment for Mission at the start of our Sept. 29 worship service, and, for the first time in many years, have a new Habitat homeowner with us that morning.



A side and back view of Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's House of Faith #3 which 11 of our church members helped build. It is one of the first five of 34 homes including single-family, aging-in-place and townhome units that will be built in Habitat's Glenn Bridge neighborhood.



# SVCM

BY CINDY RILEY

Hello WWPC family,

My husband Dennis and I have been attending WWPC a few months and very much feel like WWPC is home. We are slowly getting to know people. So, when Margaret asked if I wanted to share a little about myself and a project I am involved in, I welcomed the opportunity.

I am a Swannanoa Native and a graduate of Owen High School. I found my way back home to the valley in 2017 after being away for over 30 years. Dennis and I moved into Bee Tree Community last year. I love being back in these mountains, hiking the trails, walking alongside creeks and riverbeds, and enjoying the hospitality of the people. Dennis and I have 4 daughters and 5 grandchildren with one on the way. They live in Asheville, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, and Los Angeles. Good thing I enjoy traveling! I currently serve as the Program Director for Hope for Tomorrow (HFT) at Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry (SVCM). I am ordained to Word and Sacrament with the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) whose closest congregation is in Greensboro, NC. I think this is enough about me to at least start a conversation. So, don't be shy when you see me around.

And now a little bit about the project I am involved with. The ECC denomination invited me to help shape a "Compelling Preaching Cohort" funded by a grant from the Lily Endowment. My focus during the cohort is to develop a mindfulness of those who may have neurodivergent challenges, are dealing with traumatic stress, or have experienced life from a different vantage point than me so the sermons I preach are compelling for the broad audience I may find myself called to share God's word with. Paramount to developing this mindfulness is creating a feedback loop. To that end, I am forming what I am calling a Preacher's Guild comprised of lay persons who might have experience in these areas either personally or professionally, or simply have a passion for the church being a safe place for everyone. The feedback would be focused on how the words spoken are received by people of varied personalities and experiences. The feedback is not focused on Theology in this case. I want to include the WWPC family in this process. If you would like to participate in this feedback loop, please let me know. There are some details I would like to share with you. The first guild meeting would be early August. You can reach me at [Cindymriley@gmail.com](mailto:Cindymriley@gmail.com), 808-927-1757. You can also reach me here if you just want to get to know each other. I am so grateful to be part of the life of WWPC during this season.



# THIS CHILD HERE

This Child Here is a validated ministry created by Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble in the early 2000's in Odessa, Ukraine. You may remember when Robert offered a presentation at WWPC a year or so ago. The original mission focused on serving "street children", but since the Russian army invaded Ukraine in February 2022, they've supported women and children displaced by war. Our Community Engagement Team supports this ministry in its annual budget. Robert was here in WNC this summer, and spoke to churches about the opportunity for some of "his kids" to come to the US to study. Please see his letter below:



With the support of **This Child Here**, these students from Ukraine will be seeking to reclaim their hope for a better future by coming to America. They will enter two schools: Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM (home to Route 66) and Rabun Gap Nacoochee in North Georgia, both founded by the Presbyterian Church years ago. Tuition, insurance, room, and meals for each student will cost \$8000 per year, or \$667 per month. Ten people, churches, or mission committees giving \$66.70 each will cover the cost for one student for one year. (\$2.15 a day per donor). We are looking for individuals, churches, and organizations to help. Could you pledge \$66 per month for a year with PayPal's monthly giving option? Together, we can change the lives and future of these students and their families.

Robert Gamble, D.Min

To learn more about **This Child Here** or to give, go to <https://www.thischildhere.org/students-usa>

This Child Here is a validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA), working with families displaced by the war in Ukraine





## NEW WINDOWS

If you get a chance, visit the Fellowship Hall and see the world around it once again. If you've been in there recently, you know the windows have had a moisture problem, making them obscure the natural beauty around us. Thanks to a generous gift, 46 of the windows in the upper and lower Fellowship Hall have been replaced!



## MISSION STUDY TEAM REPORT

Your mission study team began meeting back in March! A lot has happened since then, though it seems we've been quieter this summer. The team planned two congregational gatherings, "Holy conversations" in which at least forty of you participated each time, and shared thoughts about the history and hoped for future of our church community. In April you offered your stories of the church's history and filled in our timeline. In May you gave thoughtful consideration and feedback on our Mission Statement. We've collated that treasure trove of wisdom and are grateful for your participation. Afterwards, we identified leaders and partners in the community whose perspectives we value. During June and July nearly 20 team members and congregants have formed pairs and conducted 15 out of 18 of our planned interviews. The process of synthesizing all this data into a report will keep us busy in the coming weeks. We welcome your thoughts and ideas! If there's anything you wish to share as part of this discerning process, please be in touch with one of the Mission Study Team members: Brent Roberts, chair; Beth Meriwether, Barbara Griswold, Natalie Cowell, Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison, Don Collins, Pat Levi, Sally Broughton



# OTHER NEWS

## Warren Wilson College Has Record Breaking Fundraising Year!

Thanking their donors for their support, Warren Wilson College announced that they have reached the highest WWC Fund total in the College's history! That means that the incredible WWC Fund total of \$1,337,628 will go directly toward increasing access for students, improving learning spaces, providing resources for research, and much more. Additionally, their alumni donors are up 9% from last year, and they are ahead of last fiscal year in Restricted, Endowed, and Total Giving.

President Fernández said, "Achieving this fundraising milestone is an indicator that our vision for the renewal of Warren Wilson College is resonating with our supporters. The world needs WWC and our students, who graduate empowered to be ethical thought leaders and doers, serving as entrepreneurs, environmentalists, artists, scientists, and humanists. Thank you to our donors who share this vision that WWC should be available to all students who want to live lives of purpose in service to the common good."

**Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church** contributed \$1000 to the annual fund to support the college in this record breaking goal.

## Doug Orr Awarded Honorary Doctorate

Congratulations to former Warren Wilson College President Doug Orr, Ph.D., who was awarded an honorary doctorate from his undergraduate institution, Davidson College on May 12. Doug was President of Warren Wilson for 15 years and was instrumental in founding the Swannanoa Gathering on campus. Davidson College noted that Doug has carried out "random acts of community building with an abiding sense of wonder."

## News From Presbytery

**Jim Storey** will be the session delegate on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 8:45 a.m. for the 140th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (virtual). At that meeting, reports will be received from our Commissioners to the recently concluded General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

## Women's Conference Speaker Announced



Becca Stevens, founder and president of Thistle Farms and the Center for Contemplative Justice, will be the keynoter for Women's Connection conference at Montreat Conference Center. One-night-only tickets for Aug. 10 are available. Doors will open to the public at 7:15 pm, with the event beginning at 7:30 pm. Tickets cost \$50 per person.

<https://montreat.org/events/an-evening-with-becca-stevens>





# WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

## Donna's Retirement Party

On **Wednesday, June 5** we had an evening picnic with live music at Owen Park, to honor the ministry of Donna Eagle Joslin, who retired after years of faithful service. It was a great evening filled with fun and friends and festive celebration of her work and her gifts.



## Personnel Review Team Thanks

The WWPC 2024 Personnel Review Team has completed the review of the church staff for this year. The members of the team, Bob Gambrell, Beth Meriwether, and Jim Storey would like to thank everyone who contributed their comments and ideas, and the church staff who were involved in the process. 2024 was an unusual year with recently arrived and soon to depart staff members participating in the review. Your thoughtful contributions played an important part in the review team's work, making it possible to complete this necessary task in a timely manner. Thank you for your participation.





# JOYS AND CONCERNS

If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

**We celebrate:** a successful heart ablation procedure for **Anne Dale**, restoring her heart to healthy rhythm • **A freshly painted administrator’s office**, thanks to **Jim Storey**! • **Rodney and Sharon Lytle’s 50 years of marriage**, celebrated on July 13 • **Donna Eagle Joslin’s gift of bright summer blossoms** in the planters that welcome us to the chapel • **Jack Ballard’s skillful work with broken chancel benches**, and **improved organ chamber access** • **Sharon Lytle and Susan Daugherty** for **cleaning out the Fellowship Hall refrigerator**

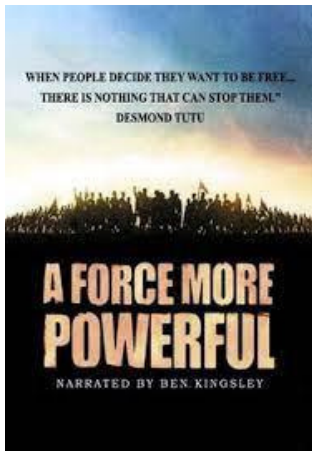
**We remember in prayer:** **Friends and family of Kim Reece**, (daughter of **Nancy and Rick Garrison**), following her death on July 12 • **Friends and family of Austin Jordan**, following his unexpected death on June 29 • **the family of Elda Pineda**, our faithful church cleaner,after her brother’s death in El Salvador • **Sandee Butterworth and family**, following **Milt’s death** on June 26 • **Amanda Branscombe**, as she consults with her cardiologist on August 1, in preparation for a spinal fusion surgery, scheduled for August 15 • **Bill Christy**, as he continues to heal following a heart transplant • **Susan Laney**, discharged from Care Partners for at-home care • **Bubba Lytle, Rodney and Sharon’s son**, making excellent progress recovering from a serious motorcycle accident • **Thurman Slone, Joyce Cucinella’s brother**, now under Hospice care • **Carol Lee Joslin, Blake Joslin’s mother**, suffering from Alzheimer’s • **Beth Newman**,who is back at work but continuing to recover her strength following a bone marrow transplant • **Jackie Ligon Cole** • **Pat Crumpler** • **Vernon Daugherty, Sr. (Derron’s father)** • **Martha Dugger** • **Rick Garrison** • **Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether’s brother)** • **Erika Lytle** • **Salyna Morgan** • **Fran Roberts’ sister-in-law, Linda Briggs** • **Jon Hettrick and his family** • **Marjorie Hettrick** • **Kim Reece (daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison)** • **Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison’s son)** • **Pat Wilson’s son, Kell**.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Beth Meriwether	August 1	Darcy Orr	August 4
Alisa White	August 6	Blake Joslin	August 8
Elaine Barnes	August 10	Pat Levi	August 11
Bill Mosher	August 11	Janice Collins	August 12
Vicki Collins	August 14	Mary Wheeler	August 14
Chrisann Ohler	August 30	Jerry VanEman	August 31



## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS



### Strategies for Transformation

Dan Snyder is inviting you to a workshop on **Saturday, September 7** from 9am to 4pm at the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting in Black Mountain - Lunch will be provided. There is a suggested cost of \$20, but no one will be turned away.

From 9am – 12:30 will be an introduction to the history, core principles, and strategies of nonviolence then a showing of the film **A Force More Powerful** which is an extraordinary documentary covering successful nonviolent movements in India, U.S., South Africa, Poland, Chile, and Holland.

After lunch from 1:30 – 4:00 there will be responses to the film and further discussion to dig deeper into core principles and strategies

Attendance will be capped at 50 due to space limitations, so please reserve your place by emailing Dan. His email address is [dan@danielosnyder.com](mailto:dan@danielosnyder.com)

# Welcome

### Annual Welcome Potluck

On September 8th following our service from 12:00-2:00 PM, we invite you to bring your favorite dish and join us for our Annual Welcome Potluck. We will welcome new, and returning students, as well as community members to enjoy food and friends in our Fellowship Hall and on the patio. All are welcome and bring a friend!

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Church Office: 828-298-9092**

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence, [mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Interim Dir. of Music: Ted Stewart

Church Administrator: Andrew Tripp, (828) 298-9092, [andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu)

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