



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

In his recent speech at the Democratic National Convention, President Obama commented on how much America has changed in recent years.

These changes were reflected in the faces of the delegates and speakers at the convention: young white students standing next to African American members of the armed services; a Mexican American Congressman whose English is better than mine; turban-wearing Sikhs waving banners beside housewives from Ohio; LGBT activists bedecked in rainbow t-shirts dancing in the aisles alongside Texans sporting ten-gallon cowboy hats.

To some observers the delegation and speakers reflected the face of a new America, a country brimming with promise, its potential only enhanced by its very diversity. I happen to agree with this view. But looking out at all those diverse faces, I saw something more: I saw the kingdom of God, a place where everyone is valued and welcomed just as they are.

But not everyone saw it this way. To other Americans, the delegation reflected something different—the loss of the country they once knew and of a time when life seemed simpler, at least to them.

Perhaps with this latter group in mind, the president also pointed to a deeper truth, a more fundamental truth, about our country. The values that have always defined America – values he learned from his grandparents in Kansas – are the same today as they have always been.

As he put it: “They [his grandparents] valued traits like honesty and hard work. Kindness and courtesy. Humility; responsibility; helping each other out. That's what they believed in. True things. Things that last.”

I say this because, listening to the president, it felt like some of what he was saying might also be true of our congregation. Our church has certainly seen a number of changes in recent years. Our membership has changed, our relationship with the college has changed, our building has changed and, now, even our staff has changed.

And I suspect that what is true for the American people is also true of us. Surely most of us welcome the fact that we now have more children in our midst, and more comfortable and hospitable facilities in which to worship, than we did a few years ago.

But other changes are perhaps less welcome. Our changed relationship with the college, though helpful in some ways, is also hurtful to many of you who came to Warren Wilson when the church and the college were one institution. And for many of us, a future without Steve Williams' music enriching our worship services is difficult to imagine.

(Continued on page 3)



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ruth Currie and family, on Ken Orr's death; Neil Satterfield; Ellen Huggins, Beth Meriwether's mother; Bob Keener; Barbara Robinson; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-209 e-mail= deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 771-2095 e-mail= srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu

Associate in Ministry; Rev. Beth Newman 231-2588 e-mail= bnewman3668@gmail.com

Treasurers; Bob Gambrell 357-5064 e-mail= gambrell4@charter.net

Ray Stock 298-0955 e-mail= stoc5054@bellsouth.net

Assistant Treasurer; Alisa White 2986778 e-mail= aliswht@yahoo.com

Book Keeper; Nan Woodard e-mail= nan.woodard@yahoo.com

August Birthdays!

Beth Meriwether	Aug. 1	Ray Stock	Aug.1
Darcy Orr	Aug. 4	Alisa White	Aug. 6
Blake Joslin	Aug. 8	Elaine Barnes	Aug. 8
John Craven	Aug. 9	Pat Levi	Aug. 11
Bill Mosher	Aug. 11	Paulette Heck	Aug. 12
Vicki Collins	Aug. 14	Jerry Vaneman	Aug. 19
Ed Martin	Aug. 21	Tom Moore	Aug. 29



A Trip to the Ball Game



Join the fun on August 19 as we go to the ballpark to enjoy the ball game and fireworks!

Tickets are \$8.00 for adults
\$6.00 for seniors, military and children

Hotdogs are \$1.00 ea. throughout the night

Look in the Narthex for more information, or talk with Susan Laney!!

All are invited to the pot luck on August 21 following our 11:00 o'clock service as we welcome new and returning students. This is a great time to make connections with students through the fellowship of shared food and fun. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and bring your favorite dish to share.



Steve's Slant continued...

But while much has changed in the life of our congregation, there is also a deeper truth, a more fundamental truth, at work here, too, a truth that has become brilliantly clear during our forward planning process. The traits and qualities that define the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church are the same today as they have always been: a commitment to caring for one another and to being an inclusive community where everyone is loved, valued and welcomed just as they are; a commitment to beautiful and inspiring worship, and an abiding concern for the well-being of our neighbors and the world outside our doors.

These are the values that have always defined our community. I am confident that even as the world continues to change around us, these same values will continue to define the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church today, tomorrow and beyond.



All Souls Counseling Center has been providing mental health counseling services for low income, uninsured and under-insured people of Western North Carolina since 2000. Since that time they have provided counseling to more than 14,000 citizens of our community. This service results in improved health, job retention, and preventing over-utilization of more costly services such as emergency rooms and jails by people with unmet mental health needs.

They utilize licensed therapists with at least 5 years of individual clinical experience who donate a significant portion of their services in a way that is organized, equitable and safe while utilizing therapeutic best practices with clients. Therapists donate some \$400,000 worth of care each year. Counseling sessions for individuals of any age, couples, family and group therapy take place in a confidential and non-bureaucratic setting.

In July 2015, All Souls Counseling Center received a grant from the Department of Public Safety to provide free counseling and psychiatric services to victims of crime. They have also initiated a pilot project in the area of workforce development. Currently they are working with Green Opportunities (GO) in Asheville and hope to expand this work with other workforce development organizations in the area.

A recent satisfaction survey with clients showed 96% of clients rated their therapists' ability to help with their concern as "very good," the highest possible score. 94% of respondents rated All Souls Counseling Center "very good" for the overall quality of help provided. One client responded "We are really benefitting from our experience here and thanking our lucky stars that such a great center exists here (especially one that we can afford.)"

(Submitted by Pat Hardy)



Construction Underway for Habitat's 25th
Presbyterian/Methodist House

Sponsored and built with lots of volunteer labor from members of the Asheville area's Presbyterian and Methodist churches, construction has started on a three bedroom, one and a half bath house in the Creekside subdivision in the Shiloh neighborhood.

This will be the 25th house sponsored by the two denominations, and the partner family who will own it are Cynthia Hensley and her son and daughter, ages 14 and 12. An Asheville resident since 1989, Cynthia wrote "I would like a safe and family-friendly neighborhood to raise my children" in her application letter to Habitat for Humanity.

Sponsor families are required to donate 200 hours of sweat equity to their house or other Habitat projects before buying their house which is more affordable due to all the volunteer labor that helped build it. Sponsor families assume a 30-year, interest free mortgage, at the closing.

Volunteers helping build the house work from 8:15 until 3 on Tuesday through Saturday, except Friday when work ends at noon. No previous experience is required, and all tools and materials are provided. In recent years Warren Wilson Presbyterian volunteers have contributed around 170 hours, more than any other church, to building the Presbyterian/Methodist house due to the willingness of many different people to help.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for work dates in August, and a new sheet for dates in September and October will be there soon. If you would like to work on this house but cannot on the listed dates, talk to Larry Griswold because there are many other dates that need volunteers and Habitat would welcome your help on this important mission program.

(Submitted by Larry Griswold)



My sincere, personal thanks and appreciation to all who joined in my One (and only) surprise birthday celebration on July 29. Cards and donations made to Social Outreach programs are truly a blessing and received with real gratitude. In the words of Mother Teresa, "**Never be afraid of giving. There is deep joy in giving since what we receive is much more than what we give.**" Loving thanks to my family, Cynthia & John, Johnathan and Amber for their wonderful spirit of giving and all who assisted in this special day with humble thanks and praise to God.

Pat Crumpler

Commissioner Report on the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

I prayed when I was asked to serve as a delegate to represent the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. I knew that this was a great calling and when I decided to join our delegation for the training in Morganton NC I realized how much joy and grace was ahead. I want to thank all who were involved in our training, supporting our accommodations, arranging the booklet and materials both by email and mail that made it a wonderful and blessed opportunity for me as well as others. Second I would like to thank Bobbie White for being with us along the way as a shepherd of goodness and grace filled support. And third to thank our delegation from the WNC Presbytery as well as the alternates who were with us along the way in support and spirit.



I served on committee #13: BOP, PILP, PPC, and Foundations but prior to arriving in Portland at the Assembly many commissioners in our group received a large collection of books related to our work as Christian leaders. I was amazed and still looking forward to reading all of them. Our group shared two of the best moderators whose leadership and organization kept us focused and allowed for group discussion on the topics at hand. Our work was blessed with prayer to begin and end our meetings inviting the spirit of God's hand in our sacred work for the church. Our group bonded with one another, we shared small group sharing for all to participate and reported back to the large group before making our decision to be shared with the General Assembly Plenary where all of the commissioners and delegates could assess and vote on. I was thrilled to see the number of young people (The YAADS) who were called along with others to be advisors to commissioners. It was awesome to think of the wonderful work which we had to review, vote on and bring to the Church at large.

I was moved to tears to see Moderator Heath Rada pass the leadership over to two co moderators Rev Denise Anderson and Rev Jan Edmiston who will lead us to the 2018 General Assembly in St Louis MO. I am looking forward when they can come to Western North Carolina. I also was moved to tears when J Herbert Nelson was voted in as Stated Clerk to the General Assembly to replace the legendary servant leader Gradye Parsons. I know that both Heath and Gradye's work in the church has been remarkable and will be greatly missed. I also know and pray that our new leaders are well equipped to do the job at hand keeping the focus of God's grace and blessings. Also, how fortunate for our delegation to have along with us Mel Bringle whose work with our new hymnal has brought much joy and celebrations. I was happy to stand with her and others as we sang songs that she herself had written as we shared in our daily worship services, what great joy to have our own copy of "The Glory to God Hymnal"! And I was moved to tears as the Belhar Confessions were added to the Book of Confessions along with the acts of commitments for forgiveness for crimes to Koreans, for the assaults on the LGBTQ&IA community, for the sad path of the First Nations people, the Native American, and very excited for the hope to be more involved with global issues for women helping with and identifying entrepreneurships. Also for the faith filled connections of support to aid churches with low interest loans to rebuild or to move to more environmental opportunities for sustainability. (continued)

I am currently working with my church Warren Wilson Presbyterian to address using solar panels to aid with long range efforts to reduce our costs. The General Assembly provided information and articulations on churches both on structural needs as well as support for church staff for retirement. There was a large group of vendors sharing all types of information which will aid in church relations, small interest accounts for monetary savings, global help and programming for servant leadership and many other sources of community engagement. We saw a short film that showed a church closing its doors making anew how the church can benefit and change venues. The church bought a train depot and had services there sharing with anyone focusing on the poor, homelessness and the new church innovations to reach people where they are. They had a coffee shop and a community center along with faith filled members rebuilding their part of God's home. Another short film showed the important work of the international church aiding in and supporting small businesses for women and to know that this work is ongoing and the beauty of our church at large reaching many places that has had so much destruction and the rights of women and children ignored and abused.

I am still signing with much joy from my experiences at General Assembly, the friends I made, my roommate Rev Bill Barnam from Long Island NY and being introduced to moderator Barbara Messerie of his Presbytery. I can't begin to name all of the people that I met but I have emailed several who shared their information and plan to email many more as time allows. I heard the joy shared from a minister from Alaska who knew a member of our delegation, people from all walks in life at this Assembly which I hold dear in my hear with hope that we will meet again. In review of all that was shared at the 222nd General Assembly would go without saying how the church services were moving and inspirational, the Korean choir performed with such wonder and the total time was remarkably blessed with much joy for our Presbyterian heritage. The Sunday service at First Presbyterian Church Portland had more visitors than members which filled the sanctuary. The morning service was rendered by the President of Princeton Seminary C M Barnes along with a host of family and friends. His inspiring sermon referenced "Getting Back to Life", here's the service: <<https://vimeo.com/171875127>>. He spoke of "Hope" focused on what the Lord can do and will do, and the mission of the church.

So I conclude with the word of an ecumenical focus of the General Assembly Plenary and the church's service on unity and social justice. And note that the experiences of being a part of the body of Christ hoping to bring our hope to a greater community in the world, trusting in God and believing that our work will be blessed and make a difference.

I give all praise to our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rodney Lytle, Ruling Elder





The Verner Center

The Verner Center was named after Hugh and Danny Verner, former members of our church. Many members of this church and WW College raised millions to build the center (formerly named Mountain Area Child and Family Center).

Other local partnerships now include Western Carolina University, Lenoir Rhyne University, and South College where college students enrich the educational experience of social work, nutrition (Yummy in my Tummy), nursing, and education. Warren Wilson students work in the classroom each week under college staff supervision.

Jacque Penick, the Executive Director, says “We are able to do this important work because of our community and a far reaching network that includes New York City’s Bank Street College, one of the nations most prestigious institutions of higher education dedicated to teaching community organizations, government agencies, and YOU. Verner has dreams to reach and promises to keep.”

If you would like more information or if you would like to take a tour of the Verner Center, contact Betty Siviter (828-298-2390) or go to their website, www.vernerearlylearning.org

(Submitted by Betty Siviter)

Music Director Search Report

The WWPC Music Director Search Committee appreciates the feedback we are receiving this summer as we have substitutes on the organ bench. We have had conversations with some of the possible candidates, but summer scheduling issues mean that there have been no formal interviews.

As we move through this process, the Committee is very cognizant of the wishes expressed in the survey. We are looking to the future in hopes that our candidate will be open to a children’s choir, contacts with - and musicians from - Warren Wilson College, and the use of our hand bells. Of course, the survey showed much appreciation for Steve Williams’ expertise and service and for our magnificent Schantz/Walker Organ. So naturally we want our candidate to have the musical and worship skills necessary to lead our congregation and choir.

We hope to have more news soon from the Search Committee.

Corise Gambrell, Beth Meriwether, Doug Orr, and Diana Sanderson



At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole. We are the many faces of humanity-yet as a community of faith, we are committed in our diversity to be one in Christ!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
CPO 6355/PO Box 9000
Asheville, NC 28815-9000
01-0001-1320

The Extended Family