

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

Just over eleven hours after I finish preaching on Sunday, I will board an American Airlines jet bound for Heathrow, and from there a British Airways connection to Edinburgh.

Naturally I am very excited about the opportunity to participate in this international pulpit exchange. I'm deeply grateful to Doug Orr for first suggesting the idea, and humbled that this exchange between our two churches -- Warren Wilson Presbyterian and the Dunkeld Cathedral -- is helping to inaugurate a broader cultural and economic exchange that is expected to arise following the signing last fall of a formal Sister Cities partnership between Asheville and Dunkeld-Birnam.

(Sidebar: Sister Cities International was founded in 1956 by then President Dwight Eisenhower. It aims to advance peace and prosperity through cultural and educational exchanges and through humanitarian and economic development efforts. This exchange between our two congregations is one of the first such exchanges of this new relationship between Asheville and the joint community of Dunkeld-Birnam.)

I hope -- no, I know -- you will welcome Fraser warmly to our pulpit. I also know that hearing his voice and gaining his perspective will enrich the life of this congregation. But these exchanges are meant to benefit not just the communities involved but the individuals, too. So if you'd like to help introduce Fraser and Susan to the joys of Asheville and the surrounding area, you are welcome to call the church office and schedule an outing with them -- maybe dinner at your favorite restaurant, or a hike to see a waterfall, or a visit to the Folk Art Center. Just use your imagination, and follow where it leads.

All of that is true: I'm excited to participate in this international pulpit swap, and I'm honored to represent our congregation as part of this broader cultural exchange.

But I must also say that I feel a little remorse that I am leaving at this precise moment in the life of our country. For many of us, it feels like decisions have lately been made (or are continuing to be made) by all three branches of government that assail our values and undermine our sense of what America is about, and what we stand for as a country.

These actions and decisions are making many of us feel acutely anxious about the future. So, part of me wishes I could remain here with you to help shepherd us through what feels like a foreboding wilderness.

But two things: One, I will only be gone for two Sundays. (I'm reminding myself of this, perhaps more than I'm reminding you.)

And two: There is cause for hope. To illustrate this point, I need to draw on a specific example from the political world for just a moment. Earlier this week, a young Latina candidate ran in a primary to represent a congressional district that stretches across parts of the Bronx and Queens in New York City.

(Continued on page 4)



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July Birthdays!

Larry Griswold	July 4	Allyson Hettrick	July 8
Bob Sigmon	July 12	Don Collins	July 18
Brent Roberts	July 23	Gretchen Williams	July 23
Bob Gambrell	July 27	Allee Williams	July 27
Pat Crumpler	July 29		



SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUP

The Spiritual Nurture group meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. This will continue throughout the summer. All are welcome.



A SPIRITUAL MOMENT

Meditations from Richard Rohr and the Center for Action and Contemplation
meditations@cac.org

Last month I shared thoughts on the courage it takes to accept the divine reality that is within each of us. The questions immediately arise.... Am I worthy?? How can this be?? God is MAJESTIC and POWERFUL and GLORIOUS! Our early childhood memories have images of God ascending into the heavens, surrounded by flowing white robes and a host of angels!!! Or perhaps clothed in white and sitting on the "Throne of God." I can still visualize the picture hanging on the Sunday School wall! But how do I fit into that concept of an Omnipotent God? How can it be that I have this divine reality within?

Jurgen Moltmann talks about the Transcendent God and the Immanent God. God is not only Transcendent – the God of the Universe and of all Creation, but God is also an Immanent God who is with us personally... a loving companion on our Christian journey. In the Genesis story we read that we are made "in the image and likeness of God." We have heard the phrase so often that it easily passes over us. Thru quiet contemplation we learn to accept the divine mystery that is ours to reflect... to trust our divine image and grow in God's likeness.

It is not an easy task but once we plug into the Divine consciousness, God can work thru us for the good of the world. Peace and Blessings.....Sandy



**CONSTRUCTION OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST HOUSE # 27
WILL BEGIN SOON; PARTNER FAMILY INTRODUCED**

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity has announced that Presbyterian/Methodist House # 27, a three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom green-built unit, will be the 18th of 21 houses along Jon Kraus Way in Arden where we helped build Presbyterian/Methodist House # 26 last year.

Construction of House #27 will begin later this month, with our church scheduled to work at the job site once in July, twice in August and four times in September.

Shaketia Simpson, and her children, Mahogani and DaMarion, will be the partner family homeowners of Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian/Methodist House #27 about to be built in Arden.

Volunteer labor is a key to making these houses affordable, and a sign-up sheet for the first three dates is in the narthex. If you have any questions or would like to sign-up for a date now, contact Larry Griswold at larrygris@gmail.com.

Habitat provides all tools and equipment needed for the build, and works with each volunteer to give them a job in line with their capability. The work day starts shortly before 8:30, and generally ends at 3 p.m. except for Fridays when the work day ends at noon.

Habitat also introduced the partner family who will become the owners of House #27, Shaketia Simpson, and her children, DaMarion, 10, and Mahogani, 8.

Shaketia attended Habitat's recent kickoff meeting for faith partner volunteer coordinators, and her application to become a Habitat homeowner included this sentence: *I want to show my children that if they work hard and prepare financially, it is possible to make the dream of owning a home come true.*

Encouraged by her mother to help other people, Shaketia began volunteering at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at age 13. Now she is an educator specializing in very young children at Discovery Montessori, and her children attend Asheville schools.

The Simpson family will visit our church to meet the congregation in September.

The Chancel Choir is enjoying their summer break. But it won't be long before fall, and it's not too early for others to think about joining the choir.

There are numerous benefits for those who sing together. (studies have shown it improves our mood and lowers anxiety and stress) But, we also sing to the Glory of God each week in worship...and the choirs music adds beauty and inspiration in our worship experience. Please consider this opportunity and contact Vivian Hare, our Director of Music if you are interested.

Father's Day Cards Received

El Refugio Hospitality House in Lumpkin, Ga. sent a newsletter saying that a total of 520 Father's Day cards were sent to Fathers in 4 detention centers in Georgia. The 520 cards included the ones sent from Warren Wilson Church. We wrote notes of care and concern in the cards as well as special pictures and notes from our children!! In keeping with the scripture of Micah 6: 8 we were doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with our God.

Many thanks - Kathy Rouse and Sandy Brauer

Annual Picnic



*Join the celebration in Fellowship Hall and around the church grounds on **July 8** following church as we welcome Rev. Fraser Penny and his wife Susan to our church family and celebrate Independence Day. Bring a side dish to share, something fit for a picnic and a day of grilling! The church will provide the burgers and dogs (some vegetarian options as well).*

Steve's Slant continued...

Her name is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. I'm not endorsing her as a candidate, nor am I necessarily endorsing her policy positions. But I am endorsing her story.

She is just 28 years old. Coming from a working class background, she has no personal fortune of her own of the kind that so often fund political campaigns nowadays.

So, an inexperienced newcomer, with no name recognition and no money at her disposal, went up against a highly placed, well-funded, long-standing incumbent. And guess what?

She won. She did so --- and this is the point I'm getting to --- in large part because she employed one of the best campaign slogans I have ever heard:

"They have the money," she said in one of her campaign ads. "But we have the people."

That sentiment is inspiring in and of itself. In a democracy, the power is always, ultimately, with the people. We just have to use it, and make common cause with others who share our commitment to a bright, hopeful future for Americans of all kinds -- including newcomers who aspire to join us as citizens.

But we have something else, too. We have faith. The scriptures are filled from start to finish with stories about how "the little people" go up against big powerful interests -- sometimes literal giants -- and win. And they win because they are not alone. God is with them and for them.

It is true that defeating powerful interests who work against God's divine purposes is rarely easy and it's often not quick. Looking back over the historical record, we see that the moral arc of the universe does indeed bend toward justice. But sometimes bending that arc can feel like bending a steel rod. It takes lots of people, exerting a lot of effort, sometimes over a sustained period of time, to usher in the reign of God and to realize the kind of progress we all wish to see in the world.

So, be brave and wage hope. Keep singing and praying, and working and worshipping together, and I will see you again very soon!

CROSSROADS ANTIRACISM TRAINING

August 17-19, 2018

Looking for an opportunity to counter institutional racism in your church, community, or organization?

Check out Crossroads Antiracism Training in Montreat. With workshops on preaching, church leadership, engaging youth and young adults, there's something for every church member and leader to learn at this weekend training.

Commuter Fee: \$77

www.montreat.org/crossroads

WORKSHOPS



With Youth and Young Adults

Engaging in the work of eradicating racism

At Home and Church School

Anti-bias education for children & families

In the Pulpit

Strategies for preaching

In the Public Square

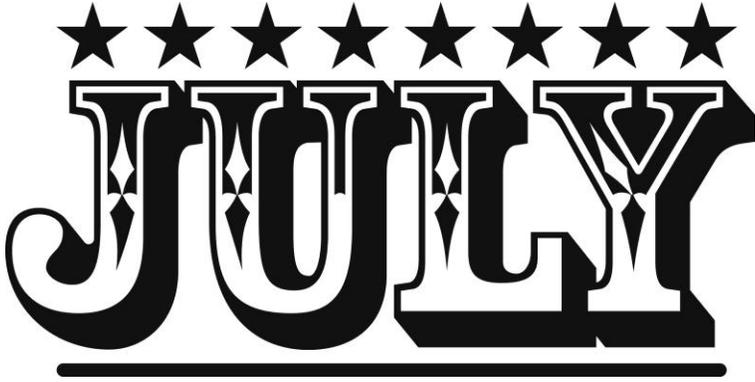
What does it look like to show up in town?

As Church Leaders

How do we move the church beyond clubs & symbolism toward becoming antiracist, anti-oppressive institutions?



This event is sponsored by Montreat Conference Center in partnership with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training.



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!

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The Extended Family