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### *Steve's Slant*

At the time, I remember feeling grateful, but also a little deflated.

We had worked hard on our ministry plan, spending the better part of a year fleshing out a new mission statement, a new vision statement, a new values statement, and a new set of goals that, we all hoped, would guide our congregation forward, into a bright, hopeful future.

Our goals were inspirational, even ambitious. To achieve them would require a full-on team effort from the congregation, and, on the staff side, we were definitely going to need Beth Newman (our then-Associate in Ministry) to help us hit the marks we set for ourselves.

But that was not to be, for two reasons.

One, our finance team realized our budget was likely going to be too thin to keep Beth on staff indefinitely. Two, Beth made the impossible decision to let her go easier, by announcing that she was feeling called to take the next step on her life and vocational journey.

It turned out she would be leaving us right around the same time we were set to unveil the ministry plan to the congregation. I understood and supported Beth's decision. I felt grateful for all the time we had with her, all the wonderful ministry we were able to do together. And I felt deflated at the thought of losing her.

And then everything changed.

Out of the blue we received a substantial bequest from someone -- a Mr. Waldrop -- a man whom most of us had never even heard of, let alone met.

Suddenly we had enough guaranteed income to fill Beth's position moving forward, at least for a few years. We hoped, and believed, this would be enough time to grow our congregation -- and our budget -- to the point where we could continue funding the Associate in Ministry position indefinitely.

So, just when we needed her the most, Grace arrived. And once again, everything changed.

Over the course of her nearly three-year tenure with us, Grace has made an extraordinary contribution to our shared life: quietly but diligently supporting the work of the Congregational Life Team; helping to plan our fellowship events, then turning up to help set up for them, and for the many memorial services we hosted, and then staying to clean up afterward. Not glamorous work. Indeed, work that no one really loves doing, but she did it anyway. Again, and again, and again.

She greatly enriched our worship life, with her animated children's messages -- among other things, teaching us all, children and adults alike, to "sing" with our hands, and showing us that a pair of hats are the only props you need to help tell the Bible's stories. Her lovely sermons were always somehow both gentle and powerful. And her prayers consistently spoke directly to what was happening in the life of the world, and in the life of our congregation.

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**Church contacts:**

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-2097 e-mail= [deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 712-7803 e-mail= [srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Associate in Ministry, Rev. Grace Boyer 713-1491 e-mail= [graceeboyer@gmail.com](mailto:graceeboyer@gmail.com)

Director of Music, organist; Joel P. Rogers= [joelprogers1967@gmail.com](mailto:joelprogers1967@gmail.com)

Treasurers; Leslie Sayyar, 333-8867 e-mail= [treasurerwwpc@outlook.com](mailto:treasurerwwpc@outlook.com)

Jack Ballard, 777-6156 e-mail= [Joballard67@gmail.com](mailto:Joballard67@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper; Barbara Escalante e-mail= [bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com](mailto:bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com)

During this **STAY SAFE** period, the church office phone will be checked remotely every day. Feel free to call 298-9092 and leave a message.

**September Birthdays!**



Liam Pulsifer  
John Laney

September 4,  
September 23,

Natalie Cowel  
Elizabeth Cook

September 15,  
September 27



The Warren Wilson Book group will hold their regular monthly meeting via Zoom. The format has worked extremely well as the discussion continues as usual - minus the hugs and personal greetings. Since Barbara Hempleman began the group in 2000, I sent her biography and information regarding her life to everyone.... she has contributed so much in so many areas... her smile and interest in life will be missed.

The meeting begins at 11:30 on Thursday, Sept.10th. A Zoom invitation will be sent to members the day before the meeting. If you care to join, contact Sandy Brauer - [sandra\\_brauer@yahoo.com](mailto:sandra_brauer@yahoo.com) - and your name will be added to the list. Marion Sigmon will lead the discussion of **FIRST: Sandra Day O'Connor** by Evan Thomas. Rather than bringing your sandwich to an in-person meeting, bring your coffee or tea to the meeting and enjoy the fellowship!!  
(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)



Remember how blessed we are to have the Blue Ridge Parkway at our fingertips!

If you are able, go for a drive and view God's beauty which has not changed during these trying times. A calming ride on this beautiful road can bring you back to the realization that God is always with us.

(Submitted by Donna Eagle Joslin)



**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:** The family of Barbara Hempleman, on her death; Ernst Laursen and family, on Pat's death; The family of Ray Stock, on his death; Jon Hettrick and his family; Ric Morton and family; Joel P. Rogers, and his husband Rich Holst, and Rich's mother Joan Holst; Salyna Morgan; Diane Sharp, friend of Babs Guardenier; Lee Dugger and his family; Blake Joslin; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole; Rev. Dr. Lee, friend of the Corbin family, and Pat Crumpler.

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES, IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Carolyn Cole; Jack Ballard; Richard Riddle; Laura Bethany Riddle; Kristin Williams; Blake Joslin; Lisa Mallory; Stacy Balzano, Toby & Sally's niece; and all those working to provide medical care to others in this time when both need and risk are great.

**PLEASE KEEP THOSE WORKING ESSENTIAL SERVICE JOBS IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Natalie Cowal; Carla Presnell-Smith; Susan Daugherty, and all those helping to keep essential services open for all of us.

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Warren Wilson College has opened its campus and classes have been in session for two weeks. As of September 1, 2020, there are no cases of the virus.

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### 5 Cents a Meal Offering

A reminder from our children and youth regarding the 5 Cents a Meal offering that they normally collect on the first Sunday of every month:

The 5 Cent a Meal offering helps feed hungry people in North Carolina and around the world. Food for hungry people is needed now more than ever. Because we have not been meeting in person for worship, we have not been passing the red buckets to collect our coins. Please consider giving to the 5 Cent a Meal offering so we can continue to help hungry men, women, and children in our neighborhoods and around the world.



You can mail your contribution to the 5 cents a meal offering to the church at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Attn: Receiving Treasurer, 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778. In addition, you will be able to make your gift online at <http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/>. As always, we remain grateful for the generosity you have shown in this particularly difficult time.

**Session Available:** If you have any questions about the operations and ministry of the church, please contact Pastor Steve Runholt or any other member of the session. The elders currently serving on the session are:

Class of 2020: Sandy Brauer, Carolyn Cole, Nancy Garrison

Class of 2021: Susan Daugherty, Bob Gambrell, Fran Roberts

Class of 2022: Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison (clerk), Tacci Presnell-Smith

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## Clerk's Report



The session held its regular stated meetings via Zoom on July 21, 2020 and August 18, 2020.

At the July meeting, the session agreed by common consent that it was not yet appropriate to begin face-to-face gatherings for worship. The action team reviewing this issue is developing criteria to guide the session in making the decision as to when it is safe to begin face-to-face gatherings. The session also:

1. Elected Ken Murchison as commissioner for the July meeting (via Zoom) of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
2. Approved the purchase of a video camera using funds from the Worship and Music Endowment Fund earnings.
3. Approved recommendations from the Administration Ministry Team to reserve funds from the Waldrop Fund and Memorials Fund to support the Associate in Ministry position for 2021.

At the August meeting, the session discussed plans for the 2020 Stewardship Campaign and, by common consent, authorized the pastor to contact individuals to serve on the team. The session also:

1. Approved recommendations of the Administration Ministry Team to create the Ray K. Stock Memorial Fund with funds to be used for the Warren Wilson Cemetery; to endorse the creation of Warren Wilson Cemetery, Inc. in anticipation that the real property of the cemetery and all funds dedicated to the cemetery will be transferred to the corporation once it is granted tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(13) of the Internal Revenue Code; to participate in the college contract to clean the chapel buildings on a weekly basis with the church's share to be 50% of the contract cost; and to continue to pay 100% of the individual rate for medical insurance for non-ordained, full-time employees of the church.
2. Received an update on the beginning of the semester at the college.
3. Approved the recommendation of the youth to use the proceeds of the Pentecost Offering to support children at the Steadfast House of the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry.
4. Approved fall plans for Sunday School for children and adults.

Ken Murchison  
Clerk of the Session

## Special Offerings

One of the consistent signs of our congregation's generosity and its concern for the vulnerable in our community has been our support of the seven special offerings we receive each year. We distribute 100% of the proceeds of these offerings to the causes for which they are collected, and you have always been generous in your support of them.

Because we normally make our appeals for these offerings during our worship services, some of us were concerned about how support for these important mission activities would fare when we were not meeting in face-to-face worship. As usual, we should have had more confidence in your faithfulness and generosity. Our bookkeeper recently prepared a report of our giving to special offerings through July. It indicated that we had given \$4714.50 to special offerings this year; the specific totals were:

Souper Bowl Offering	\$ 846.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1445.00
Nickel a Meal Offering	\$ 872.00
Peacemaking	\$ 25.00
Pentecost	\$1501.50
Christmas Joy Offering	\$ 25.00.

Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries of our church. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article about Habitat for Humanity, our special offering in September. As that article explains, you may give to this offering by sending a check to the church or by using the on-line giving option on our website.

The Administration Ministry Team

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### **A Talk in the Woods: Conversations about Our Place in Creation**

**Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

Those of us who live in western North Carolina appreciate its beauty and many blessings. How can we both enjoy and respect the natural world that is all around us?

If you have ever planted a garden, hiked a mountain trail, recycled, thought about a rain barrel, tried to save money on your utility bills, bought a new car, driven by a strip mine location, or driven through a poor neighborhood, you have something to share. The Earth Care Team of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina invites you to a monthly Zoom gathering where we can talk, listen, and explore what it means to be a part of planet Earth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our first get-together will happen on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. To join the conversation, please register in advance at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkcuytrTkVH9Ss7jW8q6G-3Jw3heeASJmj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information about A Talk in the Woods or the Presbytery's Earth Care Team contact Jane at [janelaping@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janelaping@sbcglobal.net).

MEET THE PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST HOUSE # 28 PARTNER FAMILY  
AT OUR SEPT. 27 HABITAT MOMENT FOR MISSION AND  
CONSIDER DONATING TO HABITAT IN SEPTEMBER

Though we must continue to worship with on-line services due to Covid, our annual Habitat for Humanity Moment for Mission on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of September will happen, this time with a short video Asheville Area Habitat is now creating with the partner family for Presbyterian/Methodist House #28 in Candler.

Holly Brock, a city bus driver who grew up in Asheville and is raising three children and a niece, will be able to move from a two-bedroom apartment to the four-bedroom town house because the previously approved owner decided she did not have enough free time to meet Habitat's sweat equity requirements.

Holly and her family were on the list for a future house at Habitat's newest site, New Heights in West Asheville, but this change will enable her to own and move into a new house even sooner.

This annual Moment for Mission is when we typically receive a special offering of donations for Asheville Area Habitat, and if you would like to make a donation in September, there are two ways to do that through our church.

The first is through the church website at <http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/>  
Select the link to **GIVE ON-LINE** near the top of the page on the right side.  
Clicking on that will open a page for donations, and Habitat for Humanity will be a choice below Operating Funds. Follow the instructions from there.

The other way to donate is by personal check payable to Warren Wilson Church with Habitat for Humanity written on the lower left corner *For* or *Memo* line.  
Checks should be mailed to 101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

Habitat also recently announced that construction of its next faith partner house is scheduled to begin on September 22 in the New Heights neighborhood in West Asheville.

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*Steve's Slant Continued...*

But most notably, perhaps, Grace teamed up with the members of our Spiritual Nurture Team and, working in close, collaborative partnership with them, promptly helped transform our educational and family ministries--a difference that was on display every Sunday, as the number of kids who came forward for the time with the children steadily increased, year after year.

So, now, as Grace prepares to take the next step on her life and vocational journey, I again find myself feeling grateful for all the shared ministry we were able to do together -- and also a little deflated at the thought of losing her.

(Continued on next page)

But again, and again over the course of my time here, I have seen how God has surprised us. How God has provided for us. How God's own grace has always been sufficient for us.

So, as we buckle up and buckle in for the start of a new programmatic year, I take it on faith that God will once again meet us where we are, and provide for us, and sustain us as we travel together on our ongoing journey of faith.

I have no idea what that might look like, but I am sure of this: The God who has always been with us and for us, will be with us and for us still.

One final point, in case you missed our church-wide mails about this:

We are encouraging anyone who feels so inclined to send in a financial contribution in honor and celebration of Grace's ministry with us. (Make your checks payable to WWPC and note "Grace's gift" in the memo line.)

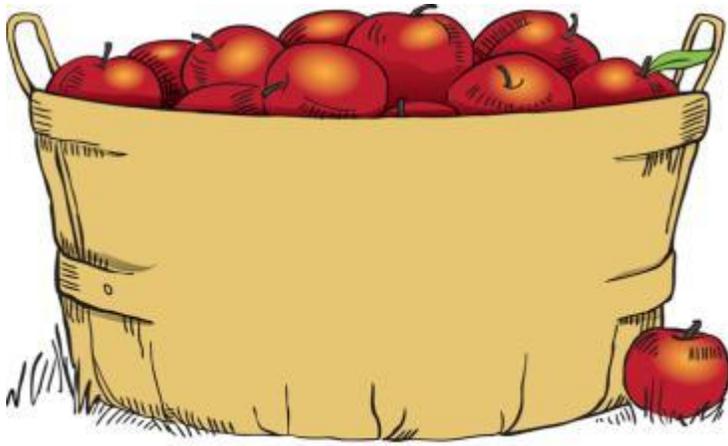
We will collect your gifts and present them to Grace during her farewell celebration on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> -- one final gift of love from us, in return for the great gift of love, and service, she gave to us.

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## Habitat Family



Holly Brock with her children, Tynasia, 16, Shawn 12, Elias 7, and her niece, Camilla, 7.



# September

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 - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are committed in our diversity to be one in Christ!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
101 Chapel Lane  
Swannanoa, NC 28778

# *The Extended Family*