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Steve's Slant

Summer time and the livin' is easy! Or is it?

On one hand, life is definitely easier and more pleasant this summer than it was last year at this time. It's such an odd thing to say, such a hard reality to acknowledge, but I have, we all now have, "COVID memories," specific recollections of what life was like during a global pandemic.

One of mine, and I would guess this is true for you, too, is how life kept getting steadily smaller last spring and summer. First we gave up attending church in person. And eating in restaurants. And going to the movies, or to concerts, or to social gatherings with friends.

Losing those things was really hard, and a big adjustment. And then life got smaller still.

At least it did for me. Probably for you, too. Robyn and I were determined to stay healthy and fit during the lockdown. Our plan centered mainly on spending more time out in nature, hiking with our sweet poodles. And then the state parks and local trail systems where we liked to hike, well, these, too, closed down.

We had one last option: a trailhead leading to the Mountain to Sea Trail, accessible via the Blue Ridge Parkway. And then the Parkway shut down. Where will we go, we wondered. How will we get out into nature? Is there any place left where we can safely and freely hike?

Answers were hard to come by. And we frankly struggled with the new limits we were forced to live under.

Turns out, we had it easy.

Yesterday I was talking about all of this with a friend of mine, a social worker who serves mostly elderly clients.

He noted that more and more people who contracted COVID and got better are showing symptoms of what doctors are calling "long COVID."

I had heard of that trend. But then he went on to say that he is seeing people who were *never* exposed to COVID who are now experiencing symptoms related to their mental and spiritual health.

The long period of being isolated from their loved ones, and of watching many of their friends and neighbors in their retirement communities and nursing homes die, has left many of his clients feeling anxious, hollowed out, depleted and depressed. These symptoms are similar to those experienced by soldiers who come home suffering from PTSD.

You don't have to live in a retirement community or a nursing home to experience such symptoms. If you are experiencing them, I hope you'll get help; that you will call me, or your doctor, or a counselor, or a therapist. These symptoms are real. But you are not alone in experiencing them, and they can be treated and addressed. Once they are, you can start feeling better again, more like yourself again.

(Continued on page 4)

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Please call 828-298-9092 to leave a message for us at the church. The phone will be checked remotely, or in person several times per week.

Thank you!

June Birthdays!

Emma Eagle Joslin	June 1	Mary Fran Spencer	June 6
Fran Roberts	June 13	Nancy Garrison	June 16
Anne Dale	June 17	Fitz Legerton	June 20
Gina Marvin	June 22	Kristin Williams	June 25
Jackie Wintle	June 25	Steven Hamilton	June 27

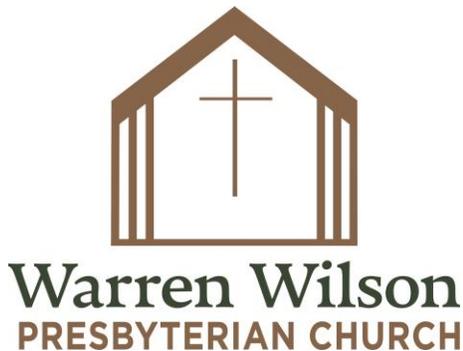


The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on the patio outside of the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 on Thursday, June 10. We will eat lunch (bring your own) from 11:30-12. From 12-1 Judi Repman will lead our discussion of Haben by Haben Girma. We welcome new members to our group of avid readers!

(Submitted by Judi Repman)

Our church Has a New Logo!

Thanks to Martha Dugger (member and designer), our Communications Team, and a few tweaks from session, we now have a new logo. Thank you Martha!



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



OUR HEALING PRAYERS GO OUT TO: Bill, and the Mosher family on Kathë's death; Tom Sinks and family, on the death of his mother Alice; Rick Garrison; Chuck Stephenson; Flo Bishop, as she transitions to a new skilled care facility; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Mark and Albert Laabs, friends of the Griswolds; Blake Joslin; Ric Morton and family; Vicki Allman, family friend of Sandy Brauer; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison, and Pat Crumpler.

WE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES: Carolyn Cole; Richard Riddle; Laura Bethany Riddle; Kristin Williams; 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.

OUR PRAYERS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS GO OUT TO: Natalie Cowal; Carla Presnell-Smith, and all those helping to keep essential services open for all of us.

"Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you:
Love, Prayer, and forgiveness."

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Clerk's Report

At its stated meeting on May 18, 2021, the Session

1. Approved a recommendation from the Administration Ministry Team to fund the part-time Associate in Ministry position with nonrecurring funds currently available in the church's accounts.

2. Approved the job description for the part-time Associate in Ministry position recommended by the Children and Youth Ministry Team

3. Approved the recommendation of the Children and Youth Ministry Team that the search team for the part-time Associate in Ministry should consist of Kristin Williams (chair), Sandy Brauer, Susan Daugherty, and Pat Levi.

4. Approved the expenditure of \$100 from the Waldrop Tithe to help Faith Communities Organized for Sanctuary assist an immigrant in need.

Ken Murchison, Clerk



Steve's Slant continued...

I'm grateful to say that, to a large extent, Robyn and I feel like we have our lives back. We can, finally, freely hike with our dogs most anywhere. We have joined a community pool and we look forward to swimming there and to reading, poolside, on our off days. We have taken the CDC at their word and have gathered indoors for dinner and socializing with family and friends who are also fully vaccinated -- without masks!

I'll confess, all of that feels glorious, mostly because it feels so normal.

But I am also brightly aware that not everyone shares that feeling, or is ready to resume these kinds of activities. And still other people can't, for a variety of medical reasons. Families with young, unvaccinated children must still be cautious about resuming their normal lives. Same with people who suffer from auto-immune diseases, or who are immuno-compromised in some way. They, too, must exercise caution and restraint in living their lives.

So, summertime and the living is . . . complicated. COVID is still with us, still out there. And we can't yet fully return to the lives we lived before they started getting smaller. And we might never fully return to those lives for that matter, if only because we may choose to leave some things behind.

All that said, we can celebrate the fact that all of the metrics around COVID continue to trend in the right direction: the number of Americans who are vaccinated continues to climb. The rates of new infections and hospitalizations have, consequently, dropped precipitously, as has the number of daily deaths. And these latter numbers continue to drop steadily, both nationally and locally.

So I hope you will enjoy yourself this summer, within the limits of your own comfort zone. If you're vaccinated, I personally believe you can trust the CDC and that you can resume at least some of your normal activities. But that is for you to decide.

If you're not yet vaccinated and are otherwise healthy, I hope you will take the time to get the vaccine. Because you're not just protecting yourself, you're also protecting everyone around you. (Remember that if you are not vaccinated, you may be infected and not know it. And even if you are not symptomatic, you can still spread COVID to other unvaccinated people.)

So, summertime. I hope you'll enjoy it, perhaps even savor it, even if life is still a little complicated.

RECENT PURCHASES FROM THE GENERAL ENDOWMENT

After a year of recording its service for posting on YouTube, WWPC took a major step forward by purchasing new video equipment that allows us to live stream the service for viewing as it occurs and also to record it for those who would prefer to view it later. We have two cameras mounted in the chapel together with additional equipment in the choir loft. The cameras can provide both shots of the entire chancel as well as more detailed views of those leading the service.

Our website is also undergoing a major update. Although John Bishop is completing most of the upgrade as a volunteer, certain technical aspects required us to contract with a consulting firm to help us convert to the new format. Sometime this summer, we and any potential visitors will be enjoying the improved website.

How, you may wonder, could the Session allocate \$7,500 to these important improvements in an extremely tight budget year without making a special appeal to the congregation? The answer goes back to a decision the Session made in 2012. Having received an unexpected bequest, the Session created an endowment with five endowment funds totaling \$140,000. Most of the money (\$100,000) went to a general endowment account with the Social Outreach (now Community Engagement), Christian Education (now Spiritual Nurture), Music (now Music and Worship), and Church College Relations accounts receiving \$10,000 each. Up to 3% of the earnings from the endowments can be used to support aspects of the church's ministry that are not covered by the church budget with the remainder helping to grow the principal of the endowments.

Thanks to the careful stewardship of the Funds Ministry Committee headed by John Laney, the endowments have grown substantially. They total more than \$250,000 and produce more than \$5,000 a year to supplement our church budget. In 2020, the Session used the bulk of the gift from Steven Williams to add an additional endowment to maintain the organ and to enhance the music program of the congregation. That endowment fund provides \$4,000 a year to support our organ and music program, and the Session can use the remainder of earnings and the principal to maintain our organ.

As a result of these decisions of the Session, we had sufficient funds in the general endowment to upgrade both our video capacity and our website. Both of these upgrades will be important as we reestablish our worship and program after the pandemic. We should all be grateful for the generosity of our congregation, and the wisdom of the Session in providing for our future.

Gifts to the endowments at WWPC should never replace regular giving to our operating budget. But whenever anyone is in a position to make a special gift to the church, giving to the endowments is a way to make certain that our ministry extends to the indefinite future. Assuming a seven percent earnings rate and our current withdrawal rate, each \$1,000 given will produce more than a \$1,000 in earnings to support the church's ministry over the next 20 years. During the same time period, principal of the gift will grow to more than \$2,000.

(Submitted by Ken Murchison)

Our Donations From Last Years Habitat Moment for Mission Will Soon Help Make Leesa Flowers Homeowner Dream Come True

House of Faith The Flowers Family



Future homeowner, Leesa Flowers has completed her sweat equity hours. She enjoyed working on the jobsite and was always curious about the construction process. For the first time in her life, Leesa's 9-year old daughter will have her own room! Leesa will close on her 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhome in June.

Leesa's future home is made possible by a diverse coalition of faith communities across Buncombe County, generous individual donors, and most recently by hundreds of donors to the *Stay Home with Habitat* giveaway. The Adopt-A-Lot sponsors are Steve and Debbie Miller.



Free Food Distribution MANNA FoodBank Mobile Express

Thursday, June 10 | 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
(102 Andrews Place | Swannanoa, NC 28778)**

- Fresh produce and other fresh food items available!
- Baby Diapers and Hygiene Products while supplies last!
- Open to All! No paperwork, forms, or ID required.

**For More Information Contact:
MANNA HelpLine 1-800-820-1109
Catholic Charities Western Region Office: 828-255-0146**

**Special thanks to Diocese of Charlotte Hispanic Ministry, Asheville
Vicariate & our host, St. Margaret Mary.**



**Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte**

Strengthening Families. Building Communities. Reducing Poverty.





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