



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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April 2017

Steve's Slant

Lent is always, at least in part, a journey of reflection and discovery. But this year that has been especially true for us here at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. Recent changes in federal policy (some of them proposed, some of them already in effect), regarding our Muslim and immigrant friends and neighbors have concerned many of us. So, in Sunday school, in worship and in shared conversations, we have been exploring together over the last several weeks how we might respond, as a congregation to these changes.

Specifically, we've considered together the question of whether to become a Sanctuary Congregation. This process culminated last month when our Session voted to become what's called a "Sanctuary Supporting Congregation." As this was a consequential decision (one I personally support), I'm going to devote the balance of this column to addressing what this decision does and does not mean for us.

First, this vote does not mean that we all agree on the specifics of how to fix the immigration system here in the United States. As we learned in much more detail when Marisol Jimenez made her presentation on this topic after worship here on March 19th, immigration is an extremely complex issue, with a long history and many different aspects -- economic, political, social and cultural, to name just the most prominent ones. We are certainly not all going to agree on how best to address it as a country.

But that does not mean we can't find common ground for addressing the issue as a congregation. I believe this vote signals that as a community of faith, we are united in our desire to obey Christ's command to love our neighbors. This command does not come with conditions or qualifications, or with a set of procedures we're meant to follow before we take any specific actions. We are not instructed first to determine where our neighbor is from, or to check their residency documents before we show them care and compassion. We are only expected to love them.

And so, taking this vote, with what Session felt was the strong support of the congregation, is our way of declaring our intention to do just that.

But first a couple more words about what this vote to be a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation does *not* mean. It does not mean that undocumented immigrants will be seeking shelter and taking refuge in our sanctuary in order to avoid detention and deportation. The Chapel belongs to the college, not to us. And so we do not have the right or authority to unilaterally decide to make the sanctuary available to immigrants seeking shelter.

Finally, this decision does not commit us to any specific actions at the present time. This is mostly because (at least to my knowledge) no local churches are currently providing sanctuary, so our support is not yet needed.

(Continued on page 5)



PRAYERS WELCOME FOR: Tom Moore's family, on his death; Neil Satterfield; Barbara Robinson; Calvin Clark; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

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April Birthdays!

Josh Eagle-Wilkinson April 3
Molly Hamilton April 10



The Warren Wilson Book Group will be meeting on Thursday, April 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Kathy Rouse will be leading the discussion of "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. She suggested that if time permits we read our Adult Sunday School Book, "Waking up White" by Debby Irving. The two books would be a balance of the past perspective with the present. Bring a sandwich and join the group for an interesting discussion of a relevant issue. (Submitted by Sandy Brauer)



**LENTEN
SERVICE
SCHEDULE**

**Lenten Luncheon Schedule
Services begin each Wednesday at noon**

April 5	Tabernacle United Methodist (Blk. Mtn.)
April 15 (Good Friday)	Black Mountain Presbyterian



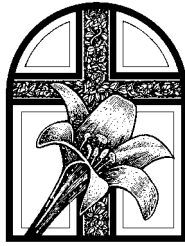
April 9th is Palm Sunday. It's also one of the days to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. The funds support the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%), and the Self Development of People (32%). Funds are used locally and internationally. We will also be collecting this Special Offering on Easter Sunday.

In late February, a Lenten Giving Calendar was given out for use from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It prompts reflection, and giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing. What will a "unit" be to you? A penny, a nickel, a dollar?

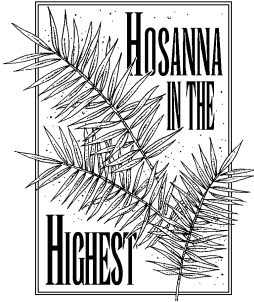
Safe water is important here in the United States and in other countries. Please be generous with your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. (Anne Dale, Social Outreach)

Coat drive

We will be collecting coats on Palm Sunday to lay on the chancel steps with our palm branches. Please bring your extra coats no longer in use to donate to SVCM on Palm Sunday.



HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday, April 9

On Palm Sunday we will meet in front of the Chapel at 10:55 to gather our palms and begin the service. Remember to bring any extra coats you no longer use from your closet for our coat drive. Coats will be placed on the Chancel steps under our palm branches and be donated to SVCM.

On **April 13**, our Maundy Thursday service will be different this year, beginning with a presentation at 6:30 by WWC Art Faculty member Julie Levin-Caro in Ransom Fellowship Hall. She will lecture on *Representations of the Black Christ in American Art*. This will be followed by our service in the Chapel at 7:45 pm featuring a performance of the spiritual *Were You There?* Some of the artworks featured in Dr. Caro's talk will be on display in the Parlor and Sanctuary.



On Good Friday, there will be a Community Lenten Service at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church at noon.



On Easter Sunday, we will begin the day with our Annual Easter Breakfast at 9:30 in Ransom Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious breakfast with friends and stay to watch the festivities as the children and youth enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15.

Our Easter Service will begin at 11:00 am.

WNC Sanctuary Movement

During this Lenten season the Fellowship class has been deeply engaged in reading and discussing a book about racism and white privilege, *Waking Up White, And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. We are reminded of the commandment of Jesus Christ that followers are to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Unconditional love)

In this community the Sunday March 19 issue of the Asheville Citizen Times reported that a group of over 200 faith leaders presented a declaration of solidarity signed by more than 1750 people from 133 congregations across 19 counties in support of WNC undocumented population. This critical issue is foremost in the concern of all people of faith and fairness.

The Rev. Maria Mount Shoop of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church challenged congregations "to discuss and speak truthfully how issues like policing, housing, education and health care enforce defacto segregation and inequity across political, economic and religious landscapes" to create a culture of sanctuary. "Learn ways to get involved and commit your time and resources."

As part of the Sanctuary Western North Carolina Movement some churches are considering providing physical shelter short and long term for immigrants in need of protection. Others plan to provide specific support for these congregations such as:

1. Committing specific assistance to persons with individual and family needs
2. Raising money for legal assistance
3. Pursuing Federal, State and Local actions that allow immigrants their civil rights.

Following the worship service on March 19, 2017, a number of members remained to hear a presentation by Marisol Jimenez, articulate leader of the undocumented immigrant group in this area with information and responses to questions on the issue of immigration in these days.

In response to the question of what can individuals do to affect the actions of government, she recommended that personal phone calls, e-mails and office visits were most effective. A list of the NC General assembly members is available in the Narthex for everyone who will contact them.

(Submitted by Pat Crumpler, Social Outreach)



Experience Navajo Educator, Mark Charles
Understanding the Roots of Social Injustice

Friday, April 21 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel
Truth Telling on Racial Conflicts & Doctrine of Discovery

Event sponsored by Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
with the support of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

Event is free, (donations welcome) & open to the public.

Building Hope - Presbytery of WNC Campaign

Your Presbytery, as the vital connecting link between its 109 congregations, has the responsibility of promoting a Vision – by helping its congregations work together to achieve far more than any one church could ever hope to do alone.

Carefully listening to its people, the Presbytery of Western North Carolina has designed a Vision of four empowering Ministries, which will be funded by a Presbytery-wide campaign. The Vision is to better train its leadership, strengthen the relationship between pastors and congregations, and enable them to reach out more effectively to those seeking spiritual growth, including youth, and the needy in the world.

In a balanced campaign, the PWNC will be seeking support for two local Ministries – Vital Churches, and Camp Grier – and two Ministries abroad – Malawi, and Guatemala. This response to the Lord Jesus' commands to "make disciples" and "tend my sheep" will reinforce the unity of God's people in the PWNC and show Christ's practical love to all.

- **At Presbytery meeting on Jan. 28, Dick Larson and Feild Russell** stated that the H.O.P.E. Campaign had reached \$1.7 million of its \$2.25 million goal, with the anticipation of additional contributions by the end of March. They also praised several good projects already being funded.
- Gifts to the campaign may be made through a local church or directly to the PWNC Ministries Campaign. <http://buildinghope.wncpresby.org/>

(Submitted by Sally Broughton)

Steve's Slant continued...

What, then, does this vote do? Mostly, it puts us on alert and lays the ground work for a rapid response. If immigration enforcement actions do begin to take place here, and if Sanctuary Churches are pressed into this role of providing safe space for residents whose status in the United States is in jeopardy, we are ready to act. We can immediately engage in conversations with those congregations -- and, more importantly, with the residents they are sheltering -- about how we can support them.

What might this look like? These individuals or families may request help with getting their kids to and from school. Or with shopping for groceries. They may need legal counsel, and they may also need help paying for it. Or they may request -- or the host church may request -- support or assistance that we can't yet foresee or anticipate.

What we do know, is that we are ready to put our love and support into action, should that be necessary. Speaking as a concerned citizen and as your pastor, that makes me both grateful and proud.

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'”

Martin Luther King Jr.



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