



# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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## *Steve's Slant*

The only thing constant is change. The longer I live, the more I appreciate the truth of this maxim.

Ordinarily in this, the January/February issue of the Extended Family, I devote this space to my annual State of the Church column. And I will come back to that. But first I want to address a very big change in our life together.

In just four Sundays, and after nearly eight years here -eight wonderful, eventful years- Beth will be officially leaving us. (I'm not using the phrase "saying good-bye" because I'm hopeful we'll still be seeing her in church from time to time in an unofficial capacity.)

Speaking personally for a moment, it's hard for me to express what a gift Beth has been to me over the course of her time here. Fortunately, I don't have to express that because many of you know from your own experience what I'm talking about.

But let me try anyway. Beth is the kind of colleague every head of staff hopes to have. She is conspicuously gifted for ministry, but also highly collaborative and easy to work with. She is grounded and mature, creative-minded and kind-hearted. And, not least, she is completely trustworthy. Whenever I had to be away, I knew that the congregation, and the Sunday service, were in highly capable hands.

Honestly, it's hard to imagine ever having a better colleague, and I will miss her greatly.

Of course Beth has developed deep bonds with many of you, too. So we want to make sure we send her off in style, in a way that celebrates her time here, and lets her know how much we love, value and appreciate her. I've asked a small group of people who worked most closely with Beth (Kristin Williams and Sandy Brauer from our Christian Education team, and Sarah Anne Eller, Corise Gambrell and Susan Laney from Congregational Life) to help us plan the specifics of what this celebration will look like.

But I hope you will plan now to join us for a special luncheon in her honor, which we'll hold after worship on February 26, her last Sunday here. (And if you have ideas or thoughts to share about this, please contact me or Kristin, Sandy, Sarah Anne, Corise or Susan.)

Obviously, Beth's departure does have a significant bearing on the state of our union here at WWPC. So let me now focus more specifically on that question.

Looking back, it felt like 2016 was something of a fallow season for us, the first half of the year especially. Participation in our programs -- Sunday school, Just for Fun, Back Porch Sessions -- stayed at roughly the same level we saw in 2015, or even declined slightly.

And, of course, in June we marked another major transition in our staff when Steve Williams retired from his role here as our Director of Music to focus full-time on his faculty duties at the college. Perhaps because of Steve's pending and subsequent departure, worship attendance declined slightly as compared to 2015, particularly over the summer. (Continued on page 4)

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**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Neil Satterfield; Barbara Robinson; Chuck & Lue Stephenson and Mary Moorrees.

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**February Birthdays!**



Diana Sanderson	Feb. 1	Mike Levi	Feb. 5
Jack Ballard	Feb. 9	Rocky Ward	Feb. 10
Clotilde Guisasola	Feb. 11	Karen Cruser	Feb. 12
Georgena Millar	Feb. 13	Brownie Newman	Feb. 16
Edythe Wiener	Feb. 19	Milt Butterworth	Feb. 22
Burnace Roberts	Feb. 24	Pat Hardy	Feb. 25
Marian Sigmon	Feb. 27		



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thurs. Feb. 9th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Betty Smith will be leading the discussion of "That Bright Land" by Terry Roberts. Roberts has recently received the 61st Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award for his writing of this book. Bring a sandwich and join the discussion. All are welcome!  
(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

**THE REAL SOUPER BOWL IS COMING**

**On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> our youth will be collecting the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. Beginning in 1990 at the Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C. with twenty-two participating churches and a total collection of \$5,700.00, this one day effort has now spread nationwide and has collected over 125 million dollars for local community efforts to alleviate hunger. Please assist our youth in this project by making both food and monetary donations on Souper/Super Bowl Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**All collections remain in local communities. Our youth decided our food donations would be directed to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry and monetary donations would be divided equally between SVCM and MANNA Food Bank.**  
(Submitted by John Laney)



**Just For Fun meets Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!**

**Join us on Tuesday, February 28 for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm in Ransom Fellowship Hall.**



**"Kudos to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) because we are the only denomination that came and responded."**

In Hoosick Falls NY, a carcinogen was traced to a plastics factory. After discovering that private and municipal wells were contaminated, the PDA sent a National Response Team. A temporary water filter is making the water safe (Presbyterian Outlook, 1/23/17, p. 6).

April 9th is Palm Sunday. It's also the day 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.

In late February, a Lenten Giving Calendar will be available for use from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It will prompt 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)



The Communications Committee is currently updating the information found in the Church Directory. Please help them by checking to see if your information is current. You can do this by looking through the roster in the Narthex following church. The roster will be in the Narthex for several Sundays to make sure everyone has time to make corrections or additions as needed. There will be a photographer available.

Thank you for your help with this bi-annual project!

(The Communications Committee)

## Social Outreach Agency of the Month



Helpmate, Buncombe County's primary agency for dealing with domestic violence, is one of the area agencies chosen by your Social Outreach committee to receive financial support. It is an independent non-profit that is primarily funded by local donors, both individuals and institutions. It has been operating for over 35 years in cooperation with other governmental and private agencies to provide free, confidential, life saving services to local victims of family related violence and abuse.

Helpmate's services include:

- A 24/7 crisis hotline that provides confidential support, counseling, and assistance in creating a safety/exit plan to escape an abusive relationship
- A twenty bed emergency shelter for women and children that is always full and must refer over half of its callers to other shelters
- Individual, group, and family counseling for victims and children
- Criminal and civil court advocacy to help obtain restraining orders and aid in child custody issues

- Case management that integrates a wide variety of support services to help empower victims to develop a new life, free of violence, abuse and intimidation
- Community outreach programs to raise awareness and to educate the public about domestic violence issues

Helpmate is a leading partner in the new Family Justice Center recently opened in  
 Downtown Asheville. (Jerry VanEman, Social Outreach)

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*Steve's Slant continued...*

But then it felt like something shifted. In September we welcomed Vivian as our new Director of Music and under her leadership the choir quickly returned to full strength, with many new faces and voices gracing our choir loft.

In October we celebrated the completion and roll out of our Ministry Plan. From that point on our fall programs saw a surge in attendance and vitality, in large part because, following our plan, we made an intentional effort to promote them on campus and in the wider community.

Our October Trunk or Treat event was a huge success, with the Chapel parking lot filled with children and families, many of whom we'd never seen before.

Ditto for our December Christmas party: our fellowship hall was bursting with "children of all ages" -- older adults and younger adults, high school students and young children, all the way down to toddlers, many of whom were new to us.

Then, a week later our fellowship hall was again filled with college students and with our members, who all came together for a fun-filled evening of cookies and carols. And *caroling*, as some of us headed out afterwards to sing the great songs of the season around campus--to the surprise and delight of the students we encountered.

So on the programmatic side of the ledger we finished the year on a high note. That said, it's also true that we were not able to close the gap between our income and our expenses and so, financially, we finished the year with a deficit. Clearly, this is not sustainable. In order to help close this gap for 2017, we've been forced to make some painful cuts to staff salaries and benefits, and (perhaps even more regrettably) to our social outreach programs.

But I truly believe that in our work together over last year, particularly the investments we've made in our ministry plan, we have laid the foundation for a vibrant new chapter in our life together. I also firmly believe that we will continue seeing measurable returns on these investments in the weeks and months ahead.

It's important for you know that I am not alone in this belief. Even with a very tight budget, Session has voted to fill Beth's position later this year. This decision was driven in large part by strong feedback we got from you, our members, especially from those of you who work most directly with Beth and know first-hand how vitally important her ministry is here.

I see this investment as an act of faith in our future, and in our ministry plan, and, most importantly, in God's goodness and generosity.

So for all the changes we've seen in the year that is behind us, and all the challenges we met, and for the changes, challenges and opportunities that await us in the year ahead, we give thanks to the One who does not change, and whose faithfulness endures forever.

## February is African American History Month

The Library of  
Congress,  
National  
Archives and  
Records  
Administration  
, National  
Endowment  
for the  
Humanities,  
National  
Gallery of Art,



(Photo by Alan Karchmer for the National Museum of African American History and Culture)

National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all color on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) (Submitted by Donna Eagle Joslin)

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# Stated Clerk opposes order banning refugees' entry into U.S.

JANUARY 28, 2017

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*Office of the General Assembly*

J HERBERT NELSON II  
*Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

## LOUISVILLE

Yesterday President Donald Trump signed an executive order to allegedly protect the nation from terrorists entering the United States. In practice, however, this order serves to further harm those who are the very victims of terrorism, genocide, religious and gender-based persecution, and civil war.

Right now, across the globe, there are families grabbing their bags and clinging to each other as they tearfully flee the home they love, the home they never wanted to leave, because home is no longer safe. And many, after being fully vetted by a legal refugee entry process, are not being allowed to enter the U.S. and are being wrongfully detained at airports across the country.

This is a miscarriage of justice and goes against everything we stand for as a country shaped and formed by people who

emanated from other lands.

As the top ecclesial officer of the nation's largest Reformed body, I urge the president and his administration to reverse this very harmful decision regarding refugees. Presbyterians are not afraid of this so-called terror threat. We are not afraid because we profess a faith in Jesus, who entered the world a refugee.

We are not afraid because, just as we welcome Jesus every advent, we have chosen to welcome our brothers and sisters into this nation from across the globe. Presbyterians chose welcome after World War II when we, as a denomination, demanded that the U.S. allow more refugees to enter then. We chose welcome when our very congregations served as the host sites to refugees in the years before resettlement agencies. And, Presbyterians choose welcome now as we co-sponsor families resettling to the U.S. from Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, and other countries.

With every choice of welcome we enter into relationship with people who become neighbors, friends, and family. No administration can convince us to fear.

We oppose this administration's decision to prolong each and every refugee's wait for a place to call home under the false pretense of security. We stand ready to welcome our new neighbors, friends, and family of all faiths and nations.

(Submitted by Donna Eagle Joslin)



**W-1**  
**Presbytery of Western North  
Carolina**

**Spirituality Retreat**

**March 31-April 1, 2017**

**Topic: Challenges for the  
Church in a Time of Change**

**at Bonclarken Conference Center outside Flat Rock, NC**

**Description:**

We face a significant number of challenging issues as a nation and as people of faith. The divisive and differing viewpoints related to these issues were laid bare in the rhetoric and conduct of our recent elections. Our nation, communities of faith and even our families remain wounded and in some cases deeply divided around a number of issues. This year's spirituality retreat will provide a setting to consider some of these vexing issues for ourselves and for the church. We'll share perspectives, engage in spiritual practices, and consider the role of the church in the intersectional work of reconciliation, engagement and advocacy. In a world of challenge and change, we'll look at how the Season of Lent can be a time of both compassionate healing and prophetic witness for ourselves and for our worshipping communities.

**Retreat Leader: Carl Horton**



**Carl Horton** leads the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program for the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is a lifelong Presbyterian and has served in installed and transitional pastorates in California, Nebraska and Kentucky. He spent a number of years doing leader development for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and now focuses that work within the denomination's Peacemaking Program. He is highly committed to equipping peacemakers and strengthening the church at all levels for its engagement in peacemaking. In his free time he is a backyard farmer, piano student, and kayaking novice.



(For more information and the complete flyer, please see Sally Broughton)



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* ◻