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March 2019

Steve's Slant

Buckle up, friends, because March promises to be a zoomy ride!

On Sunday, March 10th, we SPRING AHEAD one hour, with the start of Daylight Savings Time. (Pro tip: set your clocks ahead when you go to bed on Saturday night or risk being late to church!)

On Wednesday, March 20 -- at 5:58 P.M. to be exact -- the sun will pass over the Equator on its journey back to the northern hemisphere, ushering in the first day of Spring. Hooray! (Side note: Let me assure the amateur astronomers among us that I am aware it's really the earth, not the sun, that's doing most of the traveling in this scenario, but you take my point: Spring is coming!)

On the church calendar, it's a busy month, too. On Wednesday, March 6th, we will mark our entrance into the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. in the chancel area of the sanctuary.

Then, over the weekend of March 22nd and 23rd, first our Session, and then the leaders and key stakeholders of our Ministry Teams, will gather for a leadership retreat at William Black Lodge. I'd like to share a little bit more about what our plan is for the retreat, to invite you to join us as we ponder some important questions.

It's coming up on three years since we launched our Ministry Plan. So the main purpose of this year's retreat will be to review the progress we have made on implementing our plan. What has worked well? What hasn't? What course corrections do we need to make on our continuing journey toward a bright, hopeful future?

You may recall that when we started writing the plan, we sought to discern answers to two questions: Who is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do?

I believe those questions are still relevant, and we would be wise to continue asking them, to continue discerning ongoing answers to them.

But they were, in turn, informed by another set of questions: How can we grow our congregation? What is the best way to remain a viable faith community in the years to come?

These latter two questions remain vitally important for us. And on that point -- how to grow our church -- I saw some data recently about what brings people to a new church for the first time. The results may surprise you. They certainly surprised me.

Here are the four main drivers that bring people to a new church for the first time, ranked in order:

1. A friend invited me - 86%
2. Organized visitation/outreach - 6%
3. Invited by the pastor - 6%
4. Advertising - 2%

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March Birthdays!

Betty Siviter Mar. 2
 Beth Newman Mar. 6
 Patrick Sanderson Mar. 10
 Bill Sanderson Mar. 15
 Anne Craven Mar. 18
 Harriet Cowal Mar. 22
 Jonathan Crumpler Mar. 26
 John Bishop Mar. 29

Evva Hamilton Mar. 6
 Catherine Showalter Mar. 7
 Amber Crumpler Mar. 11
 Wendy Meyer Mar. 18
 Anne Hamilton Mar. 20
 Dennis Stockdale Mar. 24
 Andrew Pulsifer Mar. 27



This Sunday, (March 3) the children's Sunday School class is hosting Coffee Hour. They have been working on a mural this year during class and they are having a reception after worship to share it with others! The kids are encouraged to help serve and escort interested members of the congregation down to the Youth Room to view it. We will have Coffee Hour set up in the Fellowship Hall instead of the Narthex.



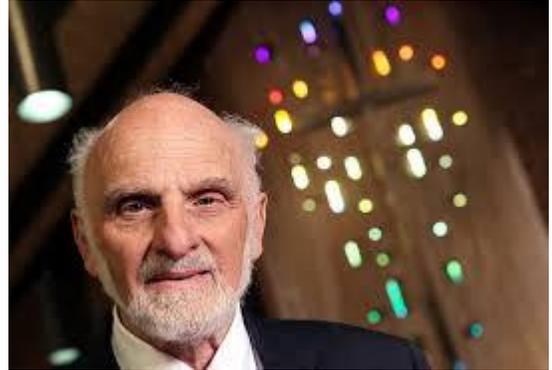
The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on March 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Carolyn Dickson will lead the discussion of "Cloudstreet" by Tim Winton. Gayle Flickinger will provide refreshments. Bring a sandwich and join the group. Carolyn suggested we "go with the flow" in reading the book as it has very little punctuation... um-um -

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES-- WISH LIST

Looking for a way to help the children and youth in the church as they grow in their faith? The children's Sunday School classroom is in need of some supplies. If you can provide any of the supplies, just place them in Grace Boyer's office OR on the table down in the Youth Room. Needed are: large scissors, markers, glue, pencil sharpener, a CD player or tablet, a gallon of water, some bottled water (small). Thank you to anyone who has already donated!

Adult Education

Lenten Study March 10-April 14. The class will be reading *Sabbath As Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of Now*, by Old Testament Scholar Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann. He writes that the Sabbath "is about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society." See Grace about books.



Music Director Search

The search for a new Music Director (part time) proceeds apace. We posted a notice of the position opening on the website of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. We have also encourage the congregation to tap into their networks to get the word out. It is those personal contacts that have borne fruit.

To date we have received materials from two applicants, both of whom bring outstanding strengths. Telephone interviews with both are complete (and very positive). The decision, even with no further interest, will not be easy.

Our plan is to continue to receive materials until March 15. If you know of anyone who might have the skills and background to make a great Music Director, encourage them to check us out. The job description is here <http://www.warrenwilsonchurch.org> at the bottom of the page.

(Submitted by Jamie Dale)

CLERK'S REPORT

At the February stated meeting, the session took the following actions:

1. Received David and Carla Greenfield as affiliate members.
2. Approved hiring a part-time sound technician for worship services.
3. Approved making a gift of \$100 to Bounty and Soul in memory of Bob

Martin.

4. Accepted the recommendation of the children and youth to divide the Souper Bowl offering between Manna Food Bank and Bounty and Soul.

5. Authorized the expenditure of up to \$1500 from the General Endowment for the session and leadership retreat.

6. Authorized the expenditure of up to \$2000 from the designated student fund to assist an international student at Warren Wilson College who faces a large medical bill. (Continued on page 4)



The session also received the 2018 statistical report. It indicated that the total giving to mission causes was \$33,058. The session also received a report from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina indicating that the presbytery had received total gifts from Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church of \$16,124.70. (Submitted by Ken Murchison, Clerk)

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA MISSION TRIPS

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina has announced two mission trips to help with flood damage in eastern North Carolina: to Wilmington from April 28 to May 4 and to Lumberton from May 6 to May 11. The cost is \$50 plus meals for each trip, and volunteers are expected to arrange their own transportation to the sites. Anyone interested can obtain further information on main page of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina website (<https://presbyterywnc.org/>).

Community Worship Services During Lent

Sponsored by the Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association



The Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association is sponsoring Community Worship Services for the Wednesdays of Lent and on Good Friday. Each service begins at noon and lasts for about 30 minutes. A light lunch follows each service (with the exception of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). An offering will be taken at each service for the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries' "heating fund." All are invited to these services which help us to prepare ourselves for our holiest day of Easter. The schedule is as follows:

- March 6 - Ash Wednesday, St. James Episcopal (No Lunch)
- March 13 - Black Mountain United Methodist
- March 20 - Montreat Presbyterian Church & Montreat Conference Center (In Upper Anderson Hall)
- March 27 - Tabernacle/Swannanoa UMC (at Tabernacle UMC)
- April 3 - Warren Wilson/Black Mountain Presbyterian churches (at Black Mountain Presbyterian)
- April 10 – First Baptist Church Black Mountain
- April 19 - Good Friday Service, First Christian Church (No Lunch)

Each event will begin at 12:00 pm. We welcome everyone to walk the Lenten journey with us.



Shrove Tuesday Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is just around the corner! Join us on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall as we once again celebrate with pancakes and all the trimmings. Sign-up in the Narthex to make pancakes or bring other breakfast goodies. This is a favorite annual event with good food, fellowship and a Marti Gras atmosphere. Wear your Marti Gras beads if you have them!

We will have our Ash Wednesday service in the Chancel area of the Chapel at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 6.



*“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us,
to shake us from our lethargy.” -- Pope Francis*

Thanks from Black Mountain Home President, Tom Campbell

As our youth reflect on what’s been done for them both at Christmas and throughout the year, their gratitude becomes action as they choose to bless others. Examples include the two youth who chose to volunteer at a local food pantry once they realized how the pantry had benefitted them and our Youth Leadership Team purchasing Christmas presents for a young mother who couldn’t afford to buy gifts for her own children.

Please know that your financial contributions, volunteer service, and faithful prayers throughout the year are having an eternal impact. Needs are being met and the result is overflowing thanks to God who has given us the best and most important gift of all – Jesus!

WWPC contributed funds for Christmas outings for children during the holidays and funds each month for operating expenses in the budget of Community Engagement Team. This team expresses heartfelt thanks for these gifts from the church.

(Submitted by Pat Crumpler)

Steve’s Slant continued...

Surprising, right?

I mentioned these results to my friend, the Rev. Tommy Brown, who will be serving as the facilitator for our leadership retreat, noting that “a friend invited me” topped this list by a mile.

“Yes,” Tommy replied. “That’s not surprising. But invited them to what?”

That response went off like a bell inside of me: Invited them to what?

I think this speaks to the importance of continuing to imagine ways for us to be church together outside of Sunday morning at 11:00, and to give thought to how we can invite our neighbors into fellowship and service opportunities, or musical offerings, or to events we haven’t even thought of yet.

But Tommy wasn’t done ringing my bells.

“And once they get there -- once people come to whatever it is you’ve invited them to -- what messages are you sending?”

Invite them to what? And once they get there, what messages are we sending?

There is a lot to unpack in these questions. Certainly too much to fully cover over the course of a weekend retreat. But I hope these are questions we can explore together in the days and weeks and months to come:

Invite them to what? And once they get there, what messages are we sending?



Ash Wednesday

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!

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The Extended Family ◻