



THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Steve's Slant

Last Friday night Robyn and I had the great joy of watching Gretchen and Izzy perform in a song and dance show at the ArtSpace School. The adorable performance brought an end to their week at Disney Dance Camp. (I think there may have been other children involved, but I didn't notice.)

Following the performance, we were invited to an after-party at the home of another family who live on campus at Warren Wilson.

Robyn and I gladly accepted. We drove over to campus, made our way up to her friends' lovely home off North Lane, loaded up our bowls with some delicious Texas-style chili, and took our seats on their back deck. While we sat, enjoying the yummy food and beautiful setting, a neighboring couple stopped by with their children. The house and yard were now filled with adults talking and laughing, and with children who were squealing and yelling with joy and excitement.

As I took the experience in, it made me aware of what it must have been like for so many members of our church who lived on campus, back when their children were young. It was a beautiful place to raise kids, a beautiful way to raise kids — with neighbors dropping in regularly to visit and socialize with one another, and children running around everywhere, always.

So I was deeply happy to see that things are still this way today for the many families who live on campus with their young children, but with one big difference. Back in the day, most of the families who lived on campus also worshipped together on Sunday mornings.

They did this partly because they were expected to. This was in the late 60s and very early 70s, when Chapel attendance was required of students and expected of faculty and staff.

But I think it's also true that most of them wanted to attend church. They came to work at Warren Wilson College -- you came to work at Warren Wilson College -- not in spite of the fact it was a Presbyterian-affiliated college but because it was. Faith was the ground in which the college's famous triad of work, service and learning was rooted.

That was a long time ago now. Forty-seven years to be exact. While some important things remain much the same as they were back in those days, many other things have changed quite dramatically on campus, including the fact that church attendance is not only no longer required, it is very uncommon.

But as Robyn and I were driving down North Lane after the party, I said that I believe we may be on the cusp of a return to those days, to that wonderfully vibrant time when the Chapel played a more integral role in the lives of the families who lived on campus.

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PLEASE HOLD THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pat Wilson and family, on the death of Ron; Ray Stock; Barbara Higgins; Dr. Steven Williams; Marta Rodriguez, friend of the Stockdales, Jeff Toney, friend of Sandy Brauer's son and Mary Moorrees.

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July Birthdays!

Larry Griswold	July 4	Allyson Hettrick	July 8
Don Collins	July 18	Brent Roberts	July 23
Gretchen Williams	July 23	Bob Gambrell	July 27
Allee Williams	July 27	Pat Crumpler	July 29



CENTERING PRAYER Sundays from 9:30-9:45 am in the Adult Class room through the summer. Centering prayer is a practice of letting go in order to calm the mind and increase openness to God's presence. We will begin with guided prayer, followed by ten minutes of silent prayer using a word or phrase from that morning's scripture to re-center when the mind wanders.

Fellowship with your Warren Wilson Church “neighbors”

Have you ever had a brief conversation with “an acquaintance” during coffee hour that you wished you could continue? Have you greeted someone with the peace of Christ, but never actually had a conversation? Have you had the pleasant opportunity at a church breakfast to sit with people you didn’t know well and realize that you all had really interesting lives and stories to share?

Beginning in 2015 when our congregants participated in in-depth conversations about what they longed and hoped for, there was a repeated refrain to re-start “Caring Groups”. That’s what we called them back in the 80’s and beyond.

If you were one of the “choir members” singing that chorus, the answer to your prayers is here. “Caring Groups” will commence in the fall. But here’s the deal: we don’t really remember exactly how they were in the past, and, regardless, they don’t have to be that way in the future. We’ll be inventing this as we go, but the thing is, we’re collecting the names of those interested NOW, in preparation for the organization of groups in the fall. Even the name may change, so if you have a catchy name for how we might label these fellowship groups, please let us know!

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you think you might be interested, please sign up. If you have suggestions or hopes for these groups, please contact us. And stay tuned for more info toward the end of summer.

Sally Broughton and Gina Marvin

WORK ON HABITAT PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST HOUSE # 28 IS STARTING WITH CHANGES INCLUDING ONE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO VOLUNTEER

Construction of Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's Presbyterian/Methodist House #28 is underway in Candler, and one of many changes this year is that faith partner volunteers will be offered a choice of up to five different things to do on the days they work.

Other changes include building eight two-family townhouse units at this site, and having one volunteer calendar for people from many faiths instead of separate calendars as in the past.

As a result, 10 WWPC members including Steve Runholt, and three friends of our church members, who have already signed up to volunteer for a day may find themselves working alongside of volunteers from temples, the Baha'i Faith and many other churches including UU, Elevation and Jubilee.

The Habitat work day is 8:30 - 3:15 Monday - Thursday, and Saturday, and 8:30 - noon on Friday. Volunteers are needed on those days from July 9 through September 14.

Volunteers do not need building experience or skills, or tools which Habitat supplies. All that is needed is a willingness to help with the Habitat mission of providing affordable homes in safe neighborhoods.

There is a limit of 10 volunteers per day, and some dates are already filled, but most are open. If you have questions about volunteering or would like to talk about signing up for a specific date, please contact Larry Griswold at larrygris@gmail.com or 575-2020.

Our area is blessed with an especially good Habitat for Humanity chapter, and our church has a long and proud history of supporting it.



Habitat's Curry Court site will include eight two-family townhouse units like this one. One unit will be an interfaith house and Presbyterian/Methodist House #28.

This is a birds-eye view of Asheville Area Habitat's newest building site in Candler. Affordable new homes for 20 families will be built there this year.

Steve's Slant continued...

Here are some reasons why I believe this--and if this reads like an affirmation of faith, or a reaffirmation of our values, that's good, because that's exactly what it is:

I believe the changes we are making to our spaces and facilities are a crucial first step in making the Chapel a more welcoming and inviting place, particularly for people who may be new to faith, or who may not attend church regularly -- or ever.

I believe the updates we are planning for the narthex and the parlor will convey to everyone who walks through our doors -- visitors, neighbors, faculty, staff, students -- that we may be modest in size but we are, in fact, a vibrant church, one that values its present and cares about its future as much as it values and cares about its storied past.

I believe that creating a more intimate worship space in our sanctuary on Sunday morning will convey to guests and visitors that we value community, and we treasure the close connections that bind us together as a church family.

I believe the playground that we're planning and will soon install will serve to convey to our closest neighbors that we value and care about all children, including theirs.

So I am excited about what these changes might mean for us, and about their potential to help us grow and add vitality to our congregation.

But I also understand that change can be hard. And I suspect that some of us will likely warm to, and welcome, these changes more enthusiastically than others will.

But I was reminded on Sunday that change is in the DNA of our congregation. After the service, our Communications Team met briefly and we talked about some of the updates we're planning to make to the narthex and parlor. We agreed that it is vitally important for us to continue to find new ways to communicate who we are, and what we believe and value, to our neighbors on campus and beyond.

Brent Roberts then pointed out that updating the narthex and parlor, and making the sanctuary more welcoming, were a natural evolution of what the Chapel has always been about. He noted that when he was a student here, Fred Ohler challenged him, and challenged all his students, to be open to new ideas and new possibilities-- about God, about the world and about themselves.

Why? Because God is too big to fit in a box, even one as beautiful as ours. And because life is not static. Change is constant. Everything -- every organism, every species, every business, every person, every family, and every church -- that hopes to survive must adapt to these changes in order to grow and to thrive.

And so we shall. And so we will.

This I believe.

SAVE THE DATES:

July 7 Church Picnic following the service in and around Ransom Fellowship Hall

Vacation Bible School July 29-August 2 (Monday-Wednesday, & Friday) 5:30-7:15 pm

Asheville Tourist Baseball Game August 1 (Thursday) for all ages at 7:00 pm

Church Retreat August 24 for all ages at Camp Grier beginning at 9:30 am. Adults and children daytime only retreat. (Middle/Highschool overnight retreat).

Pot Luck for Students August 25 Following the service in Ransom Fellowship Hall.

It's Time to Celebrate!

Please join us for the dedication and celebration of our new camp buildings!



We have been working hard over the past few years to make Camp Grier great! In addition to all the renovations we have made to our buildings in main camp we have also completed construction of a new boat house/swim dock in Lake Refuge and a new riding arena for our equestrian program. We want to take a minute to celebrate and thank you for making it all happen.

As a supporter of Camp Grier you are invited to a celebration and building dedication on August 31st from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Grier.

12 p.m.- Lunch

1:30 p.m.- Dock and Arena Dedication

2:30 p.m. Play! Pool, Lake Time, Hiking, Horses, etc!

You're welcome to spend the weekend, or just stop by for lunch and the dedication.

Please RSVP to 828-668-7793 or <https://bit.ly/2WP9owS>.

CHURCH PICNIC

July

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