



# TRYON TRUMPET

Tryon Presbyterian Church

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## Allan plans seventh-year sabbatical

During Allan Purtil’s first sabbatical leave, he, Jenny, Syler and James embarked on a 32-day RV trip from Charlotte to Seattle. That was in 2017, and a lot has happened since then.

Allan was called in 2019 from Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville to serve our church. Jenny became executive director of the Lanier Library. Syler and James grew up. There was a pandemic, then a hurricane, then fires. Allan lost his mother. Jenny lost her father and her brother.

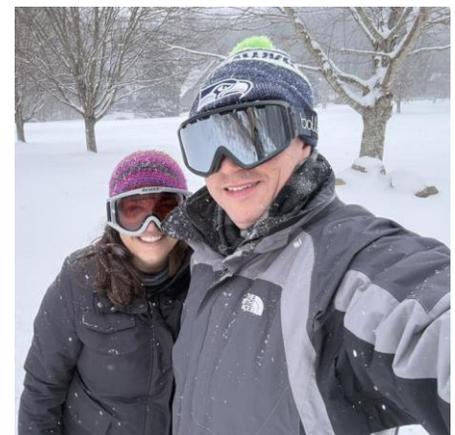
Now it’s time for another sabbatical. The first was a family sabbatical, Allan says. This will be an empty-nester sabbatical – 13 weeks, beginning in July.

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina recommends that churches grant their pastors a sabbatical of up to eight weeks in their seventh year of continuous service. Vacation and study leave may be added to that total.

The concept is biblical. The Sabbath is a time of rest on the seventh day. The sabbatical is a time of rest, renewal, reflection – as well as learning, travel, exploration – in the seventh year.

Allan looks forward to “revisoning what the rest of ministry looks like for me.”

**(See SABBATICAL on Page 2)**



Jenny and Allan Purtil

**(From SABBATICAL on Page 1)**

Even here at TPC, ministry has changed – in good ways, Allan says. We’ve gained young families with very active children. Also in difficult ways, as in December 2024 when Scott Foppiano died just a few months after becoming Music Director and organist. We’ve added and lost other staff members. The hurricane prompted Allan and others to think about how our church can help meet community needs in the aftermath of a disaster. Allan helped form, and now chairs, the [Polk County Long Term Recovery Group](#), a nonprofit that assesses needs, obtains grants and provides funds to fill gaps not met by other sources.



Rev. Dr. Allan Purtil

While our church will miss Allan during his sabbatical, we are very lucky. Former Pastor Dave Hosick has agreed to serve on a part-time basis. He will preach most Sundays, act as head of staff and moderate Session meetings. Rev. Lynnette Sills will increase her visitation duties and deliver a sermon or two. We have a reliable and experienced staff. And the Session has appointed a special committee to help plan and manage sabbatical details.

The congregation has its role, too. We must respect Allan’s time away – even if he’s not “away” the whole time. Although plans aren’t final, he and Jenny will travel during part of his sabbatical. But they’ll be home, too. They live behind the church! Tryon is a small town! We will see Allan around! But we should not interrupt his sabbatical. If we see him, it’s better to engage in conversation about the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks than about church matters!

Allan makes it clear that he isn’t burned out or overwhelmed by his job. He may admit to feeling a little “executive responsibility fatigue” occasionally. But he looks at sabbatical as an opportunity to pursue some new personal interests, maybe do some writing, take a longer look ahead and return refreshed.

“Sabbatical is a big gift,” he says, “and I appreciate the church giving me this time off.”

## One frozen week after another



Ice and snow led to cancellation of in-person worship on consecutive Sundays, January 25 and February 1, but our staff was ready. They prepared [this video](#) for the first iced-out Sunday and then [this online communion service](#) for the very cold and snowy second Sunday (with help from volunteers Susan Woodcock and Rodger Walker).

The church office was closed several days, and many activities had to be canceled or postponed, including the spaghetti supper. But the ever-resourceful Fellowship Committee and Cook Team came up with a brilliant snow date. The spaghetti supper is now set for February 18 at 5 p.m., just before the Ash Wednesday worship service.

# Ash Wednesday launches busy Lenten season

It starts with spaghetti. The Fellowship dinner, postponed from January 24, will now be served at 5 p.m. Ash Wednesday, February 18. We hope you have already signed up.

During the Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m., Pastor Allan Purtil will begin a series of sermons focusing on the seven statements Jesus made on the cross, as recorded by the Gospels. The series will continue on the six Sundays of Lent, concluding on Palm Sunday.



The Lenten study begins with breakfast February 22.

## Sunday breakfast

Our next Sunday breakfast, at 9:30 February 22 in the Fellowship Hall, will kick off six-week Lenten studies for all ages. Adults will study, “An Unlikely Lent” by Rachel Billups while the children will study “Growing in Grace & Gratitude,” a curriculum published by PCUSA. If you would like to participate, please contact Amy McGrath by Sunday, February 15, to ensure we have enough books for everyone and so that classes for kids can be organized based on their ages. We hope you will be able to join us as we prepare our hearts for Easter!

## ‘Love your enemies’

Rev. Lynnette Sills is planning another study and writes this:

*“You have heard it said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy; But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.’”*

Many of us know these words, spoken by Jesus and recorded in Matthew’s Gospel, but don’t always know how to *do*. How do we love people we consider to be our enemies? How do we pray for people whose words and actions seem to be the opposite of who Jesus calls us to be and what Jesus taught us to do? How do we pray for and love others we call enemies when we don’t want to?

During the season of Lent, you are invited to spend time considering what these words and directives from Jesus mean and how we might encourage one another in applying them to our lives and our prayer practices. We will look at books and resources that might help us as we turn our attention toward the paths Jesus invites us to walk, leaving behind the things that too often hinder our journeys.

Lynnette will lead this Lenten focus at 2:30 p.m. for five Wednesdays in the Sanctuary: February 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25.



Rev. Lynnette Sills

# Christians carry out the teaching of mercy

The Fifth Beatitude is “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Of all the Beatitudes, this is the one we most likely understand immediately. However, that would not be so for the people at the time when Jesus was involved in His earthly ministry.

Jesus was clearly aware that the Romans despised pity. The Stoics might offer to help someone but generally had suspicion of them. The Pharisees were harsh and showed very little mercy on anyone. Society at this time offered no mercy to the sick, blind, lame or to anyone who might be suffering. Most people thought one’s problem was because they or their parents had sinned and this was their punishment.

Because of Christianity, humanity eventually established all kinds of organizations and ministries to help those in need. There is the Red Cross, the Mercy Ships, all kinds of hospitals, and the list goes on. As centuries passed, help and aid came to all creatures, not humans alone. There have been all kinds of injustices. But it is no mercy if one’s body is healed and his spirit is neglected.

Jesus told His disciples that He is “the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father but by me.” He added that they can ask Him anything and He will answer. Then He told them, “Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it” (John 14:6-14).

I surmise, for example, that Franklin Graham and perhaps a few close friends had an idea to put together a ministry to help people all over the world when catastrophic events happened. When thinking how they would put together all that would be needed to realize such an undertaking, it must have felt monumental. I am certain there were hours of prayer. Obviously, the Lord answered his prayers, and so we have Samaritan’s Purse.

Samaritan’s Purse sees to the healing and spiritual care for all it helps, doing just what Jesus taught in His Parable of the Good Samaritan. It is a ministry of gigantic proportions, on the size of our Lord’s desires for our Christian faith. It is one man’s idea of asking Jesus for direction, and look what happened. Ask and it will be given to you!

**By Rev. Mary A. Potter**



Stained glass window in the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, Tryon.

# Music ministry continues to grow

While winter weather interrupted rehearsal schedules, Jane Wilson's music ministry continues to grow and thrive.

The Chancel Choir and Children's Choir have added new members – and a new group has launched. The Tryon Presbyterian Handbells have been rehearsing weekly (weather permitting), and Jane is delighted with their efforts.

"Every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 you will hear laughter and beautiful bells ringing through the church halls," she says. "I knew they were going to be great at their first rehearsal!"



**Our ringers, with Jane Wilson, include (from left): Joanie Hosick, Joanne Alderman, Linda Schutter, Barb Sherer and Deanna Bancroft. Other members are Lee Lindsay, Catherine Lynch, Gayle Casterline, Patra Sullivan and Charlie Speight.**

All three musical groups are preparing anthems for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Jane adds. Of special note will be Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" for Easter Sunday.

"Instrumental musicians will continue to bless and inspire our worship services," she promises. "To God be the Glory for all the talented participants at TPC!"

## Order your soup to support Black Mountain Home

Our Souper Bowl Sunday is normally held the same Sunday as the Super Bowl but was postponed to February 22. That's OK because, as Allan Purtill predicted, we're still celebrating the Seattle Seahawks' overwhelming victory in Super Bowl LX.

So, order your chicken or vegetarian vegetable soup by signing up in the Narthex February 15 or by calling or texting Stephanie Greene at 646-612-0878. Pick it up February 22. Soup is \$10, and all proceeds go to [Black Mountain Home](#).



# Ben Woodward's Life Story delights listeners

Ben Woodward did indeed perform emergency surgery on his family's chickens at the age of 6, he confirmed when telling his Life Story during lunch at Calvert's in Columbus January 21.

No one fed the birds while the family was away at the beach for three days, Ben recalled. The hungry chickens then ate too many "cow peas" that subsequently swelled and restricted their breathing. Using a razor blade as a surgical instrument, and with his younger sister holding the stricken birds one by one, Ben made incisions, removed the obstacles and sewed up the patients. All survived!

Life Story is a new monthly program from our Fellowship Committee, and its launch was a huge success. Thirty church members

filled Calvert's back room and greatly enjoyed getting to better know one of our oldest and most respected members.



Ben Woodward told our first Life Story at Calvert's.

Ben's precocious medical intervention foreshadowed his career as an orthopedic surgeon. But that almost didn't happen. He attended a one-room schoolhouse in rural South Carolina for his early education. When he progressed to secondary school in the town of Aiken, the "country" kids were separated from the town children. Ben informed the principal that he wanted to go to college but was told, "No, you're not!" His classes were meant for teaching him a trade.



Next: Rachel Ramsey

It was only by accident that he found himself in more academically advanced classes when he reached eighth grade. He thrived, graduating from high school at age 15 and going on to the University of South Carolina, where he earned a degree on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. But, competing for jobs with men returning from service in World War II, he ended up working on a farm for a while.

Ben eventually went to medical school, met and married Peggy, and fixed backs and hips in Evansville, Indiana. He retired here to Tryon in 1986 because Peggy prefers the mountains to the beach. Thank you, Peggy!

Ben plays bridge, raises and arranges flowers and has an interest in beautiful koi fish. He built a pond for as many as 50 of them outside his home at Tryon Estates but a malfunctioning pump put an end to that. Sadly, no surgery was possible.

The second speaker, February 25, will be Rachel Ramsey.

When Rachel was asked to be the next Life Story subject, she wondered what she would say. But her daughter told her, "You've had an interesting life!" Rachel thought about it and concluded, "Yes, I have!" It will be fun to hear about it. Contact Janet Gilchrist at [jsg138@hotmail.com](mailto:jsg138@hotmail.com) to reserve your place at Calvert's.

## Session looks at future facility and campus needs

A committee appointed by our Session, working in close conjunction with the Property Committee, has been conducting a number of focus group meetings around the church in recent weeks with the aim of identifying current and future facility needs.

The process produced nearly 80 separate suggestions and ideas in a number of different areas, including worship, accessibility, Christian education, disaster preparedness, church grounds and fellowship.

In this photo, Ken Shull and Skip Taylor listen to suggestions from the Men's Bible & Breakfast group.



The results of these meetings, which are still being studied and prioritized, will eventually help shape a plan that addresses how to most effectively utilize our church campus and facilities.

In addition, the Session has decided to ask local architect John Walters to help develop a Master Plan to achieve our long-term facility and campus goals. Look for updates during the year.

## Warm up at the Chili Cook-off March 7

Join us for a warm and welcoming evening of food, fun and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Enjoy a variety of chili entries along with salad, potato soup, gluten-free options and delicious desserts. There is something for everyone.

Guests will also enjoy the always-popular "Not-so Newlywed Game," plus plenty of laughter and fellowship throughout the evening. The winner of the cook-off will receive an engraved spoon and their name on the plaque displayed in the Fellowship Hall.



The cost is \$10 for adults, free for kids 12 and under. Sign-ups will be available in the Narthex. Contact Deanna Bancroft at [dramateach51@yahoo.com](mailto:dramateach51@yahoo.com).

We hope you can join us for this fun-filled (and chili-filled) evening.

# We are called to be active in ministry

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37–39). These words call us to more than belief – they call us to action.



How can we live this out?

- Attend regularly: Worship together and grow in faith as a family.
- Serve others: Volunteer your time and talents to bless those in need.
- Engage in fellowship: Join church activities that build community and strengthen relationships.
- Share your treasure: Support the Lord’s work through generous giving, enabling ministry and outreach.

Active membership is a living expression of love for God and neighbor. Let’s commit to being present, serving joyfully and giving faithfully – because together, we make His love visible.

What is your response to the Lord’s call?

- Sign up to serve: Pick up an Opportunities Form in the Narthex.
- Join a ministry group: Connect with others and grow in faith.
- See Christian Growth Committee Moderator Michael Meissner to ask about small groups today!
- Give online or in person. Your generosity fuels ministry.

By Janet Gilchrist, Fellowship Committee Moderator

## Please sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary

A new flower chart for 2026 is available for sign-ups. Providing flowers for worship is a meaningful way to beautify our sanctuary and honor or remember loved ones or simply to give thanks. Please remember that flowers do not need to be expensive. A simple arrangement is just as lovely, and flowers from your own garden or backyard are always welcome.



When signing up, we kindly ask that you include a phone number. This will allow us to send a gentle reminder as your selected date approaches. Thank you for helping make our worship space welcoming and beautiful throughout the year.

(These flowers were given by Jane Wilson and family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Victor M. Wilson, devoted husband and father.)

# Cookie sales build skills in our Girl Scouts

## Let them sell you this Sunday!

Did you know that, like Presbyterianism, the Girl Scouts also have roots in Scotland? When she lived in Scotland, Juliette Gordon Low found the inspiration for her Girl Scouts of the USA from the UK's Girl Guides!

The Girl Scouts' mission is to "(build) girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place." One way courage, confidence and character are built is through the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world – Girl Scout Cookie sales! Not only do the proceeds of cookie sales stay with our local Columbus troop, but the opportunity to practice and hone their customer interaction, budgeting and sales skills helps set the girls up for success in the future.

Please join us in supporting our church's Girl Scouts (Alma Willis, Viola and Sylvia Meissner) on Sunday, February 15, after church by purchasing your favorite cookies – after you hear their sales pitch and ask some questions, of course! Helping develop confidence in our youth will rarely taste this good!

Details: \$6/box – check, cash, pay apps and credit cards accepted.

Cookie flavors: Thin Mints, Samoas/Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Sandwich/Do-si-dos, Peanut Butter Patties/Tagalongs, Trefoils, Lemonades, Adventurefuls, Exploremores, Caramel Chocolate Chip (gluten-free).

(If you miss us at church, please reach out to Carolyn Thompson or Brittany Meissner to arrange a private sales pitch at a later date!)



## Help stock our Blessing Box with peanut butter and jelly

What do peanut butter and jelly do around the campfire? They tell "breadtime" stories!

During February, we are collecting peanut butter and jelly to stock our Blessing Box. Help us to show love for our neighbors with these simple, nutritious pantry staples.

# John's question reflected his humanity

John the Baptist is a key figure in the early ministry of Jesus, but his story takes one puzzling turn.

We understand John as the prophetic voice crying in the wilderness, who draws people to the Jordan River for a baptism of repentance. There he fearlessly calls out the religious leaders from Jerusalem as a “brood of vipers,” warning that “the ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

When Jesus shows up at the river, John demurs. “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus is the one, John has said, who “is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry.”

Later, King Herod has John arrested and thrown into prison. Languishing behind bars as Jesus launches his ministry, proclaiming the good news of God, John appears to lose faith. Both Matthew and Luke tell us, in the former's words, “When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

How could John, of all people, who in his mother's womb leapt for joy in the presence of the unborn Jesus, ask such a dispiriting question? It's only a guess, but I think it's because John was human.

To me, one strength of the Gospels is the humanity they reveal. The disciples, earnest as they are, often seem bumbling and slow-witted. They misunderstand, they fail, they doubt, they deny, they fear, they even fall asleep when Jesus needs them to stay awake. In short, they are human like us. And they're real.

In my mind, their imperfect humanity confirms the authenticity of the Gospels. The authors put down what they saw and heard and didn't try to clean it up to make anyone look more brave or noble than they were.

John's question reveals the same humanity. He's in prison, facing death. He's missing the excitement Jesus is stirring throughout the country. And he's hearing reports of what Jesus is saying, things like:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

“What about me?” John might have thought. “I'm a prisoner. Where is my freedom? I'm oppressed! Where is the Lord's favor for me?”

He must have given in to at least a moment of despair when he sent his disciples to ask Jesus that question.

John's sense of abandonment foreshadowed that of Jesus himself on the cross. But neither one was ever forsaken by God. Herod called for John's head. Pilate ordered Jesus to be crucified. But Easter followed for Jesus, for John and for us all. God redeems us, even out of our fear and weakness.

**By Doug Clark**

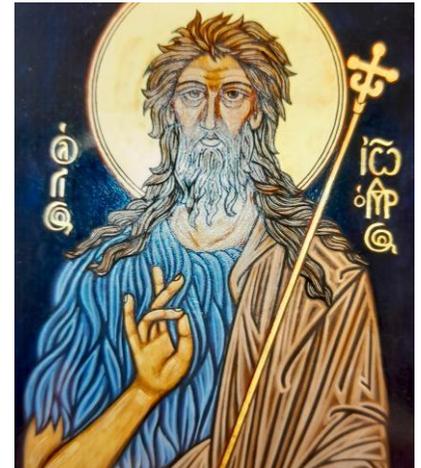


Image in the Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Ein Karem, Israel

# ‘The Correspondent’ author plans visit to Tryon

Do you remember when we wrote letters regularly? Maybe you have a stack your mom wrote to you in college, or a bunch of old love letters tied in pink ribbon that is currently in your shred box, but which you keep rescuing for one more trip down Memory Lane. Or maybe you are already a fan of the epistolary novel. If you found yourself nodding in affirmation to any of the above statements, you’ll probably be interested in reading “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans.

Sybil Van Antwerp, a retired attorney who lives in Annapolis, Maryland, maintains through strict discipline a very active relationship with family members and former colleagues, with friends near and estranged, even with authors she has read, because she is an avid reader, too. (Admittedly, the authors’ responses are fictional as well.)

She spends two to three hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at her desk with a cup of tea or a glass of water, listening to classical music as she composes her responses, creates her diatribes and crafts her missives to the writers of the novels she has recently completed.

Your first response may be that Sybil is a curmudgeonly retiree, a lonely soul who is depressed and unapproachable, but as you continue reading, you will likely discover her sense of humor, her great concern for a young friend, and her awkward attempts to mend old wounds. You may even detect a hint of romance. As the novel closes, you will find yourself dreading her final “Regards, Sybil.”

Epistolary novels reveal character in a varied and personal way. The letters give us a firsthand look at the writer as well as at the recipients. The tone changes with the reason for writing as well as for the audience. Evans never has to explain Sybil’s emotional state. Without being told, we *get* that she is angry or miffed, impatient or entertained, outraged or engaged, warmly engaged.

We also get that letters with an intimate – friend or relative or an unidentified someone – are a safe place to express one’s most secret thoughts, one’s hidden desires, the long-buried bits of one’s past. Letters can be saved or burned; they cannot be hacked. They require the effort to gather pen and paper, stamp and envelope, time for the composer to collect his or her thoughts. No LOL, no LMAO, no IMHO.

A bonus for reading this book soon is that Virginia Evans will be in Tryon on March 22 at 3 p.m. at Tryon Fine Art Center as the guest speaker for the Lanier Library Annual Meeting. It’s free and open to the public. But you need to [register](#).

Please let me know what you think about Sybil when our paths cross.

**By Gloria Underwood**

**Live @ Lanier**

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**New York Times #1 Best Seller**

*“This year’s breakout novel no one saw coming.”*  
Wall Street Journal

Register now.\*  
Seating limited for author’s program at TFAC and reception at Lanier Library.

**Virginia Evans**  
Sunday, March 22, 3 PM  
at Tryon Fine Arts Center

# Show your happy face for pictorial directory

Smile! We want to see your beautiful faces in the next TPC pictorial directory.

Photography is scheduled for March 21 and March 22 – all day Saturday and after Sunday worship. Sign-up has already begun. You can schedule your photo shoot in the Narthex or at various church events. Don't wait.

The directory won't be complete without your face!



# Thank you, Pete Bellamy

We don't know how many church breakfasts and dinners Pete Bellamy has cooked over how many years. Let's just say we'd all be hungrier without him.

Not only is Pete handy at preparing meals, but he and others have worked long and hard to update and improve our kitchen. It's now well-equipped to meet the needs of a congregation that loves to get together and eat good food.

So, we're sad but filled with appreciation to report that Pete has decided to retire from the Cook Team. He deserves a rest from kitchen chores as well as time to devote to other things.

We are lucky to have other great cooks – and others are always welcome to step up. But we'll hold on to fond memories of Pete's savory fare. Thanks, Pete!



# Presbytery news

## A photo record of Microloan trip to Guatemala

A delegation from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina visited Guatemala in January to meet participants in the women's microloan program. Our Presbyterian Women and Missions Committee provide financial support for the program. Recipients use their loans to start small businesses and repay loans with their proceeds.



## PWNC meets by Zoom January 31

The 145<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina took place by Zoom January 31. Scribe Rick Leissner produced this report, which has been further edited.

Departing Moderator Ken Murchison called the meeting to order, then installed our new moderator, Wanda Neely, and Vice Moderator Robin Honeycutt. Stated Clerk Ann Philbrick confirmed a quorum and gained approval of the timesaving consent agenda.

(See PWNC on Page 14)

**(From PWNC on Page 13)**

A worship service, based on the "Theology 101" Of Micah 6:8, was led by Libby Sigmon of Olney Presbyterian Church, Toby Mueller of New Hope in Gastonia, Janet DeWater of FPC Mount Holly and musician Dean Newkirk.

"Speak Out" provided added info and insights on the scope and richness of the activities and good news of our Presbytery. Comments about immigration issues were featured.



Don Scofield from the finance team gave a fine review, and the 2026 proposed budget was discussed and approved.

Disaster Recovery Coordinator Anne Waple gave a thorough report of recovery work. One point noted was that \$650,000 was donated for Helene relief. New Coordinating Ministry Chair Ken Murchison reported on that committee's activities.

New Chair Keith Grogg reported on our busy, vital Commission on Ministry. Presbytery approved and welcomed James "Jim" Ewing as pastor of FPC Newton and Jessica "Jess" Rigel as pastor of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

Dick Guess reported on the Preparation for Ministry Team with more good news. Inquirers Susie Burns and Mary Taneti both spoke passionately about their calls and faith journeys and were approved to advance from Inquirer to Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Beth Gunn gave an exciting, optimistic report on the many youth ministry activities. Doug Michael reported on our Guatemala Partnership. Multiple mission trips are planned. He gained approval for continuing our partnership with our two partner presbyteries.

General Presbyter Byron Wade announced our theme for 2026: "Building and sustaining relationships." They can always be strengthened and are crucial to our identity and growth. Welcoming new members into the Presbytery is another priority. The Stewardship Team will reach out to less-active churches, educating them about Presbytery activities, rather than just soliciting funds. We will have our July Presbytery meeting in neighborhoods, Byron added. He also noted how well Camp Grier is doing.

Matt Horne offered a beautiful, inclusive, comprehensive intercessory prayer. Robin Honeycutt lifted our work for God's blessing, offered benediction, then adjourned us.

Want to receive weekly newsletters from our Presbytery? Sign up [here](#).

# In and around Tryon Presbyterian



What did you do in the snow and ice? Clockwise from top left: Benny and August Buckmaster made a snowman; Jenny Purtill and Carolyn Baughman cleared steps and sidewalks at the Lanier Library; Deanna and Brian Bancroft bundled up for a selfie; the McGrath brothers, John, Jesse and Sully (and Amy, their mom), delivered supplies to Charlie and Susan Speight at Camp Skyuka.



**Two very different winter storms struck our area in late January. A windy, snowy day January 31 gave our church grounds an arctic look at times.**





**Top:** Our church looked perfectly serene after the snow/sleet/freezing rain storm in January. **Right and above:** Terri and Brad Hendrix recently visited the Maasi Mara National Reserve in Kenya, where they saw and photographed the “Big Five” – elephants, rhinos, buffalo, leopards and lions. We assume this lion was not invited to lunch.



Top left: The next men’s Bible & Breakfast will be Thursday, March 5, at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Above: Rev. Lynnette Sills visited Arches National Park in Utah in January. Left: Ed Harrelson, center of photo in the gray blazer, plays Lawrence Jameson in Tryon Little Theater’s production of “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” March 12-15 at the Tryon Fine Arts Center.

### The Tryon Trumpet

The Tryon Trumpet is a digital publication of Tryon Presbyterian Church and its Fellowship Committee, moderated by Janet Gilchrist. The editor is Doug Clark, [dougclark55@gmail.com](mailto:dougclark55@gmail.com). Submissions are welcome. Thanks for help with this edition go to Mary Potter, MaryAnn Sloan, Rev. Allan Purtill, Gloria Underwood, Skip Taylor, Janet Gilchrist, Jane Wilson, Rev. Lynnette Sills, Amy McGrath, Charlotte Grabman, Deanna Bancroft, Terri Hendrix, Brittany Meissner, Susan Speight, Wes Elam, Kim McPherson, Tryon Little Theater, Rick Leissner and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

This is a combined February/March issue. The next Trumpet will come out in April.