



The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



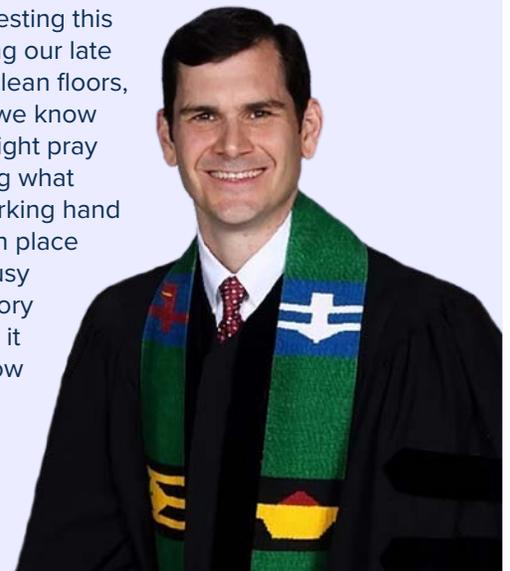
To the Family of Faith at Westminster,

It was with great joy and sincere humility that I heard your call this past Sunday. It was with wonder at God's grace towards a rascal like me and with deep gratitude that I accepted. I do not have the words to adequately demonstrate my enthusiasm for this opportunity to serve alongside you and share the road of faith. In truth, I have simply felt a deep wonder at how God works in the world and in our lives. I doubt I will ever truly be privy to how all of this came to be. I just know that it has and I am so very glad.

I honestly can't wait to meet you. I can't wait to hear your stories. I can't wait to see what puts a light in your heart and maybe sets a tear in your eye. I can't wait to just laugh with you, and maybe goof off a bit, and maybe do the hard work of chasing after some big dream together. But for a little while longer, I am still where I am and it is hard. I expect you understand that intuitively. Saying goodbyes is not a fun business, and there are people here we love mightily. I hope you won't mind saying a prayer or two for South Aiken Presbyterian Church in the coming weeks. I hope you won't mind saying a prayer or two for my family and especially for my girls either. This is the only home my little ones have ever really known. It has been a good one for them and while I know they have a good one waiting on them, they are just taking that on faith right now and grieving their loss. Their parents are doing some of that too, but we know all will improve once we finally get to you. We just have to get to you.

In the meantime, my girls are going to school, taking tests and apparently protesting this disruption to their life by not picking up their rooms. My wife and I are spending our late afternoons trying to console them with visions of what good awaits, while we clean floors, paint rooms, and wear out the cell phone number of this particular handyman we know (who may have gone into hiding in another country—come to think of it, you might pray for that guy, too). During the working hours, I am closing up a study (wondering what possessed me to ever buy so many books), tending to pastoral needs, and working hand in glove with the session right up until my last Sunday here so as to set plans in place that might make the transition as smooth as it can be. Which is to say, it is a busy time. But at nights I have begun to read Benjamin Morris' treatment of the history of Hattiesburg and imagine the life we will share and what that will be like, and it is a happy thing. Even happier is the thought that it will be here before we know it.

Yours in Christ,
Christopher



Reminder!

You newsletter submissions are welcomed at any time. However, in an effort to ensure consistency and that your newsletter reaches you in a timely manner, submissions received after the 25th day of the month will have to be pushed to the next month's newsletter (e.g., a submission received on 11/26 will not be seen until the January newsletter).



A Word From the Director of Discipleship

Intergenerational Bonfire and Cookout!

I hope all of you will mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 5**, at 4:00 p.m. This is the date for the rescheduled intergenerational bonfire, hayride, and cookout at the home of Jeff and Judy Haydel. Dinner and drinks will be provided and some of our New Beginnings crew will provide dessert. All you need to do is grab a chair and come out for food and fellowship!

As we quickly approach Thanksgiving and Advent, our Wednesday night dinners and programs will soon be drawing to a close for 2017. Wednesday, November 8, will be our last meeting for the year. Thanks to everyone who has participated and volunteered to help make our Wednesday nights at Westminster special. We will resume Wednesday evening programming in 2018 on January 10.

Bread Breakers is a unique opportunity offered by the folks of the Belonging Committee designed for you to get to know the members of your church around a dinner table. Beginning in November, be looking in the Narthex for a sign-up sheet. Write your name and contact information, and wait for the Belonging Committee to contact you. Groups will be put together randomly, and once formed, the groups will go out to eat together once a month. It is a fun and exciting way to have fellowship and strengthen relationships. Plus, the food is usually pretty good, too!

New Beginnings

The New Beginnings group will meet *twice* in November. Our monthly luncheon will be held **a week earlier** on Monday, November 13, at noon in Montague Hall. Our speaker will be our own Jeff Haydel. Jeff will be joining us again to field any questions that you may have regarding computers, cell phones, the internet, and probably even Beta-Max machines! You will have an opportunity to submit questions for Jeff prior to our meeting. Look in the church office and narthex for question sheets. An extra piece of dessert for anyone who can stump the Haydel!

The second meeting of the New Beginnings group will be the aforementioned bonfire and cookout together with the young people and families of the church. Hope to see y'all at both events!

Thanksgiving Lunch Sunday, November 19

Come and join your church family in Montague Hall following worship on November 19 for our annual Thanksgiving lunch. The Diaconate and PW are preparing us a wonderful meal to share together. This is always a special day in the life of Westminster. I hope you will all attend!

As always, there is definitely a place for you to get plugged in at Westminster. We find ourselves in another season of transition as we await the arrival of our new pastor and his family. There will be plenty of opportunities to pitch in and help in all areas of the church from children and youth to adult programs to the various ministries we carry out during the Advent season. Please pray for generous spirits, the willingness to serve, and for God's continued blessings as he keeps his hand steady upon the congregation.

Blessings,

Tommy



MUSIC NOTES FROM CONNIE



The Choir is keeping busy, making preparations for the rest of the year. The last Second Sunday was derailed by the weather, but we are offering another opportunity for congregational singers to join us on the second Sunday of November when the anthem will be "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning," a super fun Andre Thomas

arrangement of a gospel tune. I guarantee you'll enjoy it! Just come for the first 20 minutes of choir practice the Wednesday before. I'll remind you in the bulletin announcements. This is a perfect chance for those who have sung in choirs before (even at WPC) and don't have the time to come to practice every week, to make an occasional appearance, swell our ranks and the beauty of our sound, and keep those vocal cords in shape!

If you want to join us for Advent, it's just a month (five short rehearsals) away! The choir has just begun to practice a set of carols arranged for us by Howard Keever, our WPC deacon, and composer-in-residence. Howard has set some beautiful pieces which are simple to learn and quite rewarding to sing. If you're not familiar with Howard's work as a composer and arranger you are definitely in for a treat. The choir and organ will be joined by flute and oboe. This special music will take place on Sunday morning, December 10. Come be a part of the joyful Advent music.

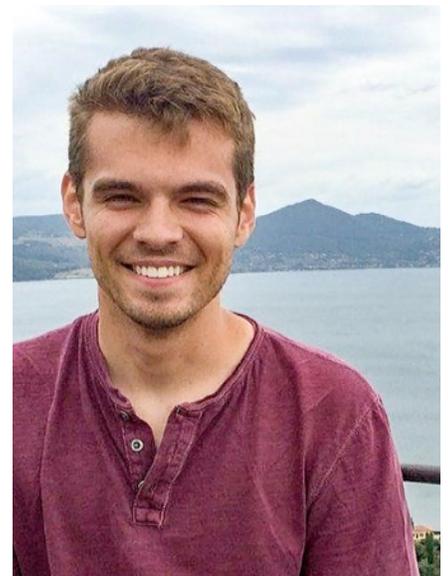


Meet Catherine Dean

Catherine is a graduate of Lee University in Cleveland, TN, and is a native of Yardley, PA. She studied with Dr. Jonathan Rodgers, a USM alum, which led her to pursue a Master of Music in choral conducting at USM. She graduates in May of 2018. In addition to singing at Westminster, she sings with the Southern Chorale, Chamber Singers, is rehearsal assistant for the Gulf Coast Civic Chorale, and student director of the female acappella group The Southern BelleTones.

Meet Matthew Gretz

Hello, my name is Matthew Gretz. I am very excited to join the Westminster community and sing with the Westminster Choir. Having studied voice and violin, I am grateful to take part in the liturgical music at Westminster! Currently, I am attending the University of Southern Mississippi as a first-year graduate student in the Brain and Behavior Ph.D. program. I am from Oxford, Ohio near Miami University, though I received my undergraduate degrees from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. There, I studied philosophy and psychology, which directed me towards the career path of education and research. I look forward to meeting the members of the church and am grateful to be welcomed into this community.



Presbyterian Women in Mission

For many years, Westminster's PW has provided financial support for Mission Haven, a home for missionaries on furlough. Presbyteries in two Synods support this agency, which is located in Decatur, Georgia. Each apartment in the complex is paired with a Presbytery. The Mississippi Presbytery is assigned to Apartment 2B. Martha Ann Hogrefe, who is the Mississippi representative on the Mission Board reached out to the current resident of Apartment 2B so that churches in our Presbytery might find ways to assist her during her stay. This could include donating household items for the apartment, funds for clothing and prayers. In her response to Martha Ann, Reverend Susan Rembert wrote:

My son Joel and I moved here in August after 4 years in Malawi. [He is an adopted 3-year old Malawi child.] I volunteered at Ebenezer School, a private Christian school serving over 200 children ages 3-13. Over the years I taught classes, worked on curriculum, and helped work with and empower the preschool teachers. My final project was updating our library with a barcode system, allowing students and staff to more fully utilize the library and all its resources. It was a rich time in my life of learning and growing in Christ- becoming more aware of my God-given gifts and limitations. I will always treasure the friendships I shared with some of my colleagues and others in the community. Throughout it all God was faithful and continues to be. Please pray as I look for a job and settle into life as a single mom in America.



Baby Shower x2

In November PW will honor Jenny Maul and Ashley Roberts with gifts to welcome new babies. The Roberts are expecting a girl, and the Mauls are expecting a boy. Please bring diapers or gift cards to church no later than Wednesday, November 8 to help these families when the babies arrive. The gifts will be presented during the Circle 3 meeting after Fellowship Supper.

Meet the Co-Moderators of General Assembly

In mid-October, the General Assembly of the PCUSA hosted concurrent conferences in St. Louis, MO. Regional Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Rachael Knoll, Mississippi Presbytery Stated Clerk, Susan Sumrall and Althea Jerome, Moderator-elect of Mississippi Presbytery, attended the Moderator's Conference and the Mid-Council Leader's Gathering. The PCUSA elected Co-Moderators for the first time in 2016. Denise Anderson (left) and Jan Edmiston (center) are pictured with Althea Jerome. At the October meeting, the Co-Moderators spoke about their travels throughout the US as they visit churches in the denomination.

They also shared stories of their experiences as they visited mission outposts in Africa and the Middle East. Also during the conference, the Stated Clerk of General Assembly, J. Herbert Nelson, spoke about a recent trip to Puerto Rico, where the Presbyterian Disaster Agency is actively working in hurricane recovery efforts.



Children & Youth

NOVEMBER 5

Bonfire & Cookout at the Haydels
All ages and parents
4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12

Grades 3-5 & Youth after church

NOVEMBER 18

Parking Lot Fundraiser
Lot opens at 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 19

Community Thanksgiving Service

NOVEMBER 26

NO ACTIVITIES

Calling on all members of Westminster!

All hands on deck! If there is a Children's and/or Youth event on the calendar and you feel you could contribute, we can use you! Areas of need include, but are not limited to, the following:

Parking Lot Fundraiser

Sunday School Rotation

Wednesday Night Activities

Sunday Evening Activities

Contact Tommy Suttle or Wes Brooks to let them know when and where you might be available to help.

Your help is most appreciated!

Hope for Years to Come

4TH NOVEMBER, 2017

MISSISSIPPI *Presbyterians* IN HISTORY AND MISSION

Join Presbyterians from across Mississippi on November 4 to celebrate 200 years of shared history and mission. Be inspired through God-honoring preaching and worship; be enriched through a keynote address on history and vision; be equipped for mission through opportunities for Christian service; be joyful through music and song. Presbyterians and Presbyterian congregations from all historic Presbyterian denominations in Mississippi are welcome at this homecoming celebration as we look toward Christ, our "hope for years to come." (Ps. 90)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service: Rev. Dr. David Jussely (PCA)
Belhaven University Center for the Arts
835 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39201

11:00 a.m. Keynote Address: Dr. Milton Winter (PCUSA)
Mississippi Presbyterian History and Its Future
Belhaven University Center for the Arts
835 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202

12:30 p.m. Complimentary Luncheon
Belhaven University Dr. Billy Kim Int. Center
1500 Peachtree St., Jackson, MS 39202

12:30-2:30 p.m. Campus Tours and Mission Fair
Belhaven University Dr. Billy Kim Int. Center
1500 Peachtree St., Jackson, MS 39202

3:00 p.m. Concert
Covenant Presbyterian Church (EPC)
4000 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson, MS 39211

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

OCTOBER 1 95

OCTOBER 8 (No service)

OCTOBER 15 117

OCTOBER 22 99

OCTOBER 29 132

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Choir	2 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's 12:00 PM ShareCare	3	4 8:00-12:30 PM ShareCare Garage Sale SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT!
Cursillo Nov. 2-5						
5 8:30 AM Inviting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 Property 11:30 Belonging 5:00 PM Cookout at the Haydels	6 6:00 PM Breadbasket	7 9:30 AM Coordinating Team 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	8 4:30 PM Administration Meeting 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Choir	9 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	10	11 9:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM DIACONATE 12:30 PM SESSION	13 12:00 PM New Beginnings	14 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM Circle 2	15 6:30 PM Circle 3 7:00 PM Choir	16 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	17	18 11:00 AM YOUTH PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER 
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Thanksgiving Lunch 6:00 PM Ecumenical Service at Heritage UMC	20	21 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	22 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES	23 THANKSGIVING DAY	24	25 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	27	28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	29	30 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Sarah Nobles	6 Bailey Kate McDaniel	17 Mary Cromartie	19 Chris Maul
2 Elisa Suttle	10 Michael Ginn	17 London Schertzer	20 Jeanne Herring
3 Rob & Park Holland	12 Bob Buckner	17 Margaret Suttle	20 Margaret Rose Shaw
4 Sandy Nicholas	16 Chazz Scherzten	19 Kathryn Cummings	25 Elizabeth Suttle
			26 H.A. Moore