



# The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG, MS

115 N. 25th Ave. • Hattiesburg, MS 39401 • (601) 584-7574

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

As Israel was preparing to inhabit the promised land, Moses laid down the law a second time (hence Deuteronomy): "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land'" (Deut 15:11). Lately, it seems that needs are skyrocketing! Programs are being cut. Charitable giving is down. Worthy causes are begging for money. I received solicitations this week from the YMCA, the March of Dimes, National Public Radio, and the United Way. And, of course, the church requires (and deserves) our support. Earlier this month we delivered beds and mattresses to over 50 students from Nepal. One student asked, "How does the church get its money?" I said, "It's all from voluntary contributions." He was amazed. Westminster is amazing! I'm especially pleased that we've been reaching out to folks who lost homes and property due to flooding. Our determination not to forget the poor is inspiring other churches to step up and help. We do this not for credit but because Jesus told us to love our neighbor and, when we help the least of these, we are actually serving Him. What a privilege He is giving us: to do something meaningful and helpful with our time and talent. Well done, Westminster!

*Steve*



## *World Communion Sunday*

On October 2, come to Montague Hall at 9:30 a.m. to hear Drs. Neeraj and Nihar Ekka talk about the seminary they founded in Northern India. They are friends of the Ramps from Luther Seminary days. They are in Minnesota for the year, and our Session invited them to come to Westminster to talk about their work which we have supported for the past 10 years. They will also help us celebrate World Communion Sunday during worship. Please plan to join us.

## *Boswell*

The Boswell Regional Center Choir came to Hattiesburg September 14 and performed an uplifting concert of sacred hymns followed by a pizza party in Montague Hall. More than 30 residents and staff from Boswell made the trip to say "Thank You" for the Christmas gifts that we collect and deliver to them every year.

## *September Attendance*

**4TH—100**

**11TH—148**

**18TH—158**

**25TH—138**

## STEWARDSHIP

We will be talking about our 2017 budget next month. Meanwhile, please do your fair share in helping us meet our normal operating expenses. One of the fruits of the Spirit is generosity, which is very evident here at Westminster.

## *A Word From the Director of Discipleship*



October will be a busy month in the life of Westminster, and there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved!

The Wednesday evening schedule is well under way. Please join us each Wednesday night at 5:30 in Montague Hall for dinner which is followed by children's choir, children's study, and youth group. For our adults, don't forget to join us in the sanctuary on the first Wednesday of the month (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>) for a Vespers service led by Steve. On the following Wednesday evenings, however, two offerings are available. Tom Sikes is

leading study on Jonah in the Parlor, and Tommy Suttle is leading a study on the book of James in the sanctuary.

One additional note concerning Wednesday evenings, Trunk or Treat will be Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>! The Men of the Church will be grilling hamburger and hotdogs, the kids will dress up in their costumes, and YOU are invited to decorate your cars and to hand out candy in the back parking lot. Don't miss this fun event, and be sure to invite your friends!

### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

New Beginnings is the name of our Older Adult Ministry at Westminster. On the third Monday of each month (October 17<sup>th</sup> this month), this group gathers in Montague Hall at noon for a hearty lunch and a program. Everyone is invited to attend. Additionally in October, we are excited to announce an **Intergenerational BLOW OUT!** On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the New Beginnings group and our pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups will gather together at the home of Jeff and Judy Haydel (45 Moss Lane—*next door to the Suttle's*) for a bonfire, cookout, and HAYRIDE! The event will begin at 5 p.m. More details will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The start of a new year for Presbyterian Women began with a flurry of activity in September. Our three Circles studied the question, "Who is Jesus?" through the lens of Mark's gospel. On the last Saturday of September, Sharon Potin graciously drove a car full of ladies to Gulfport for the Fall Cluster Meeting. The Thank Offering was received at a luncheon the next day, when we also honored Holley Johnson with a wedding shower.

Through the month of October, PW will collect lightly used or new purses to be filled with a prayer and scripture cards and other personal items. The purses will be donated to the Christian Women's Job Corps, the Light House Mission and the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter. Please bring purses and small personal items to fill them to the church building and place them on the pew nearest the office. Suggestions: hotel shampoo, soap and lotion, emery boards, coin purses, tissue packs, etc.

Thanks to Geraldine Jones and Westminster members who helped to provide lunches for the Christian Women's Job Corps during the month of September. If you would like to become more involved in the ministries and programs of Westminster's PW, please speak to Althea Jerome or Mary Dayne Gregg.

## **CROSBY TRIPS**

Great trip yesterday to Crosby, a small town in southwest Mississippi that was hurt by floods. Over 100 homes in very rough shape. We took seven from Westminster and three Dismas volunteers in a van donated by our friends at Parkway Heights. Hung and finished sheetrock in three houses. We've gotten the "hang" of it. This was our third trip to Crosby, which is still waiting and hoping that MEMA will help them. So far, NADA. Another trip is planned for Wednesday, October 5. Workers are welcome. Free lunch and all the water you can drink.



## *From the Clerk of the Session*

We are definitely living during interesting times here at Westminster! Your Session has been busy tackling issues and requests and ensuring the church continues to tick along.

We recently heard a report from the Presbytery meeting by Althea Jerome and Steve and the exciting news that our Presbytery of Mississippi and the Presbytery of South Alabama are collaborating to hire an Executive Presbyter to serve both Presbyteries!

Our Inviting Committee reported that they are looking into how to invigorate our greeting process and to train greeters so that our guests truly feel welcomed amongst us. Feel free to reach out to Robin Roberts for details or to help with this.

Our Mission Committee presented wonderful news about the money they are raising to help Westminster's various mission efforts, and we formalized the concept of the Westminster Disaster Recovery Team which is already in full swing providing assistance after the flooding in August. Please reach out to Karen Reidenbach or Michael Raggio for information about any of our mission efforts.

Looking towards 2017, the Session determined that we will be best served by hiring an Interim Pastor to help us during the "interim" time between Steve's retirement and when we call a new pastor. The search for the right Senior Pastor takes time and having a good interim in place will help us maintain momentum as we move forward in preparation for our new called minister. This also gives our Search Committee the flexibility to do their job on God's time instead of our own. More to come as this develops.

Looking to the more urgent future, the plans for a wonderful and insightful World Communion Sunday have come together for October 2nd. And our own church continues to grow as we approved two new baptisms for the end of September and the beginning of October. God, certainly, is great!

*Jeff Haydel*



## OCTOBER YOUTH

**1 PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER 4:00 P.M.**

**2 YOUTH 5:00-6:30 P.M.**

**9 NO ACTIVITIES (FALL BREAK)**

**16 YOUTH 5:00-6:30 P.M.**

**23 GRADES 3-5 & YOUTH ACTIVITY TBA**

**26 TRUNK OR TREAT & RAFFLE DRAWING**

**29 PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER 4:00 P.M.**

**30 NO ACTIVITIES**

## Youth Wednesdays in October:

The Youth (grades 6-12) meet upstairs after supper for Bible study and the Children (grades K-5) meet upstairs after choir for a Bible series entitled, "Finding Jesus Under the Sea."

The college group, Presbyterian Fellowship, also meets on Wednesday nights upstairs in the Youth room at 7:30 pm for dessert, Bible study, and fellowship. Anyone of this age is welcome to attend. Contact Amy Ruff if interested, 601-310-2769.

A special note of thanks to Erik and Ginny Graham for opening their home to all of the children and youth of the church and their families on Sunday, September 11, 2016. The weather held out long enough for everyone to enjoy the pool and cookout. A good time was had by all. Thank you Graham family!

### WPC Cross Raffle

Erik Graham has made a beautiful cross from some of the broken stained glass from the tornado. The cross will be available to view before and after Sunday School each Sunday until October 23. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase. The raffle drawing will be held on Wednesday, October 26 before Trunk or Treat. All of the proceeds will help fund the 2017 summer trips for the Youth and Children.

# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday												
<p><b>SAVE THE DATES!</b></p> <p>OCTOBER 8 • 1st Responders Breakfast                      OCTOBER 22 • 2016 Walk for Alzheimer's                      DECEMBER 11 • Celebration Honoring Steve Ramp</p>						<p>1 4:00 PM USM Football Youth selling parking spaces</p>												
<p>2 Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School (all attend in Montague Hall) 10:30 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>5 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper Circle 3 meet after supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>6 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's 12:00 ShareCare</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRST RESPONDERS BREAKFAST</b></p>												
<p>9 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 Diaconate 12:30 Session</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM Circle 2 @ Martha Davis' home</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEISTERSINGERS CONCERT</p>	<p>12 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>13 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>												
				<p><b>Cursillo in Gallman</b></p>														
<p>16 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth</p>	<p>17 12:00 PM New Beginnings Luncheon</p>	<p>18 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>19 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>20 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>												
<p>23 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Grades 3-5 &amp; Youth Activity TBA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE</p>	<p>26 5:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUNK OR TREAT! (Burgers &amp; Hot Dogs)</p>	<p>27 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 4:00 PM USM Football Youth selling parking spaces</p>												
<p>30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">1 PAM DOSSETT</td> <td style="width: 33%;">14 BARBARA STALLCUP</td> <td style="width: 33%;">17 JIMMY GARRAWAY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 RACHEL BLANCETT</td> <td>16 REN CROWELL</td> <td>19 BUTCH NOBLES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 ASHLEY ROBERTS</td> <td>16 DON NORRIS, JR.</td> <td>22 ALTHEA JEROME</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 SANDRA BENDER</td> <td>16 MAGGIE SCHEETZ</td> <td>23 RUBY MAUL</td> </tr> </table>					1 PAM DOSSETT	14 BARBARA STALLCUP	17 JIMMY GARRAWAY	10 RACHEL BLANCETT	16 REN CROWELL	19 BUTCH NOBLES	10 ASHLEY ROBERTS	16 DON NORRIS, JR.	22 ALTHEA JEROME	12 SANDRA BENDER	16 MAGGIE SCHEETZ	23 RUBY MAUL
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