



The Westminister Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



Dear Family in Faith,

I printed up a quote from John Calvin a while back and have left it by my desk so that I can't help but see it multiple times a day. "We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude." I like this quote.

It helps me understand my place in the world. I am surrounded by grace. In the clutter of the office, I can see this. There is a laptop in front of me allowing me opportunity to learn about anything that draws my attention. The phone allows me to call a church friend or ask about a chance to go see an excellent musical at William Carey. In my pocket is a debit card that will afford me a chance to grab a sandwich for lunch. On my desk there are calendars filled with notes on when I might visit with others or be a part of some project. On my shelf are volumes filled with thoughts that stir my brain and my heart. I turn my head to see pictures of my girls. The noise in the ceiling signals to me that even the air is being suited to care for me. I am surrounded by God's benefits.

My hope is that you can look around wherever you are right now and find that you too are surrounded. My hope is that your eyes are shaped by faith so that even ordinary things might be viewed as God's benefits. The bottle of water, the pen in your hand, a table to set things upon, car keys in your purse, a blanket on a couch, the music through the speakers, and the light through window, all of these things didn't have to be. And yet they are; miracles hidden in plain sight. We are surrounded by God's benefits.

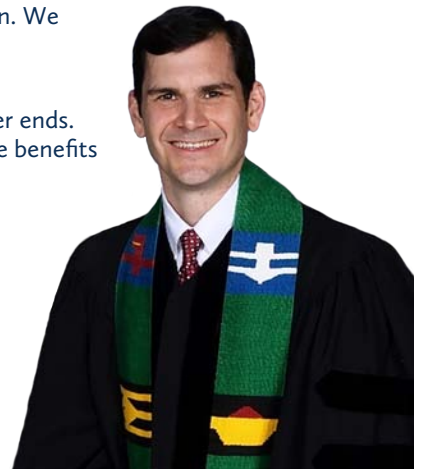
Calvin tells us what to do with them. He says use them in "unceasing expressions of gratitude." Use them, as Paul says, "to give thanks without ceasing." Use the benefits, enjoy the benefits, in a manner that gives God credit and in a manner that would please the Lord. I don't think anything pleases the Lord more than when we love someone else and share our benefits (our blessings) with another. Dr. Guthrie would tell us in class, "We have not just been set free from sin. We have also been set free for service." That was his way of teaching us that our justification and our sanctification are both rooted in God's grace. I think Calvin and Paul would agree. I know I do.

Stewardship as a season at Westminster has passed for the year. Stewardship as a way of life never ends. After all, God's blessings do not stop. "We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude."

Yours in Christ,

Christopher

PS—If you have yet to turn in a pledge card for 2020, and would like to do so, it isn't too late. Our shared expression of gratitude as a church family will be even greater if you do.



WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

About six months ago, the Session of Westminister Presbyterian Church voted to approve the Westminister Scholarship Fund for children of church employees. For the first time, scholarships were awarded early this past fall to Jacob Suttle and to Sarah Beth Suttle. Jacob is a senior at Mississippi State University and Sarah Beth is a sophomore at Jones College.

Members of the Westminister Scholarship Committee are Shane Brooks, Dan Davis, Mac Forsyth, and Mary Dayne Gregg. Please feel free to talk to any of these members if you have any questions.

The vital funds that provided for these scholarships were donated to Westminister and earmarked for this scholarship fund. I urge members of Westminister to consider donating to this fund so that we will be able to continue to award these scholarships.

A Word From the Director of Discipleship

INTERGENERATIONAL BONFIRE AND COOKOUT

I hope all of you will mark your calendar for Sunday, November 10th, at 4 p.m. This is the date for the annual Intergenerational Bonfire, Hayride, and Cookout at the home of Jeff and Judy Haydel (45 Moss Lane / Petal, MS). Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish—beans, potato salad, slaw, dessert—or whatever you'd like to share to fill in the meal. All you need to do is grab a chair, prepare a side, and come out for food and fellowship! This is always a fun evening!

A QUICK REMINDER

As we quickly approach Thanksgiving and Advent, our Wednesday night dinners and programs will soon be drawing to a close for 2019. Wednesday, November 13th will be our last meeting for the year. Christopher will be wrapping up the study on *How the Bible Really Works*. Thanks to everyone who has participated and volunteered to help make our Wednesday nights at Westminster special. We will resume Wednesday evening programming in 2020 on January 8.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Beginnings group will meet *twice* in November. Once at the aforementioned bonfire and cookout on the 10th at Jeff and Judy's, and then our monthly luncheon will be held on Monday, November 18th, at noon in Montague Hall. Our speaker will be the Reverend Mike Dixon, president of the Pinebelt Foundation. Please make a reservation and join us for this very informative program and a good lunch.

THANKSGIVING LUNCH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Come and join your church family in Montague Hall following worship on November 24th for our annual Thanksgiving lunch. The Diaconate and PW are preparing us a wonderful meal to share together—smoked turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkin and pecan pie. This is always a special day in the life of Westminster. I hope you will all be able to attend!

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER AT WESTMINSTER IN NOVEMBER

<i>Growing Spiritually Committee Meeting:</i>	Sunday, November 3rd, 11:30 a.m.
<i>Youth and Children Meet</i>	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
<i>Parking Lot Fundraiser:</i>	Saturday, November 9th, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
<i>Diaconate Meeting</i>	Sunday, November 10th, 11:30 a.m.
<i>Church-Wide Workday</i>	Saturday, November 16th, 9:00 a.m.
<i>Youth Mission Project</i>	Sunday, November 17th - lunch after worship followed by shopping for Boswell Christmas Gifts
<i>Parking Lot Fundraiser:</i>	Saturday, November 23rd, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
<i>Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service:</i>	Sunday, November 24th, 6:00 p.m. / at Westminster



Have you noticed that when you go into a store, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas? Long before Thanksgiving, retailers want us to be thinking about holiday gifts. Here at Westminster, we focus on gift-giving, too. In the coming weeks, PW and the entire congregation will put our faith into action as we reach out to people in need to show the love of Christ and celebrate His birth. Here are some ways to do that:

- **Shoebboxes** – Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, shoeboxes filled with gifts are sent to children in communities around the world. Please include postage for the boxes. The due date for filled boxes is November 22.
- **Boswell** – For many years, our church members have collected gifts for residents of Boswell, a group home for people with disabilities. A list of suggested gifts is available to help with the shopping. Plan to bring unwrapped gifts to the church by December 1. This year we need gifts for 107 men and 59 women.
- **Domestic Abuse Family Shelter** – PW will reach out to the director to learn about the particular needs of shelter residents who may spend the holidays at the shelter. Cash donations and/or PW funds will be used to purchase gifts for women and children.
- **Breadbasket Food Boxes** – One hundred local families receive ingredients for a holiday meal. Breadbasket donations pay for the food, which includes a turkey and items to make all the side dishes and dessert. New Beginnings will pack the boxes on December 16. Lots of people are needed to deliver the boxes. Check the bulletin for details.
- **Joy Gift** – The PCUSA collects this gift annually to provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. In addition, the gift supports future church leaders attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Looking ahead: Presbytery PW will host its annual Winter Retreat in a new location this year—Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, MS. The dates are January 17-18, 2020. More details will be distributed at upcoming Circle meetings and in the December newsletter.



It was a real pleasure to see all the renovations and improvements made to the Mission Haven property in the last few months when I was there in October for the Board Meeting. Alice Day, Executive Director, and Susan Adle, Director of Clothes Closet, gave us a tour and were enthusiastic about the improved safety of the new sidewalks and the progress being made on updating all the kitchens and bathrooms. I believe only one house remains to be done, and the facilities there are not as outdated as the original one in Apartment 2B which our PW Challenge focused on. Everyone expressed gratitude for the wonderful financial support from our presbytery. Mission Haven continues to serve our Mission Partners and stays over 90% occupied. Thank you for all your interest and support of this important ministry. —Martha Ann Hogrefe



1. Renovated bathroom in 2B
2. New sidewalk that replaced broken brick walkway at apartment building.
3. Mission Haven Board Members 2019-2020.
4. New sidewalk to exercise room.
5. Clothes closet



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Sarah Nobles	5 Lucy Parkman	16 Chazz Schertzer	20 Jeanne Herring
2 Elisa Suttle	6 Bailey Kate McDaniel	17 Mary Cromartie	20 Margaret Rose Shaw
3 Rob & Park Holland	10 Michael Ginn	17 London Schertzer	25 Elizabeth Suttle
4 Sandy Nicholas	11 Durwood Blackwell	19 Kathryn Cummings	26 H. A. Moore
4 Victoria Cruz Roberts	12 Bob Buckner	19 Chris Maul	

LIVING WATERS MISSION

Fall is here and that means that Christmas is not far away. It is time for us to start shopping for our friends at Boswell. This year there are 107 men and 59 women. This mission spreads joy and excitement throughout the halls of Boswell and also warmth and love in the hearts of those who give. To help you do your shopping copies of the approved list of gifts are available in the narthex. Soon you will see some big boxes in the narthex, one labeled Men and the other Women/Either. We ask that you deposit your gifts in these boxes for sorting later. Please do not wrap your gift. Provide gift bags instead. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Living Waters team has also been busy planning for the installation of a water purification system in Guadalupe, a small town in El Salvador about an hour and half from San Salvador. This is an exciting time for the team promising to bring clean water to a wonderful, small community in rural El Salvador. During the same trip we will be moving one system to provide greater accessibility to the

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community of Mediagua, about two and a half hours from San Salvador. Don't forget to purchase the team's bracelets that are being sold as a fundraiser for the mission. They are \$15 each and are displayed in the Narthex.

On the local front, the furniture ministry has been busy providing furniture and household goods to many families and people here in the Hattiesburg area. To date this year, the furniture ministry has provided much needed furniture and goods to 137 recipients.

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

October 6 114	October 20 121
October 13 124	October 27 127

NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>All Westminster members are invited to participate in the annual church workday on Saturday, Nov. 16, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help clean the inside of the church and the outside flowerbeds. The Property Committee will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and a signup sheet. The church will provide all cleaning supplies and equipment. Pine straw has been ordered for the landscaping. If you have questions, contact the church office at 601-584-7574</p>					1	2
<p>3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Growing Spiritually 5:00 PM Youth 5:00 PM Circle 3</p>	<p>4 6:00 PM Breadbasket Annual Meeting</p>	<p>5 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM SUPPER 7:00 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>7 12:00 PM ShareCare 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER LOT OPENS AT 12:30 P.M. </p>
<p>10 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM DIACONATE 4:00 PM Bonfire at Haydel House</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30 AM PW CIRCLE 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM CIRCLE 2</p>	<p>13 5:30 PM SUPPER 6:30 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>14 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 CHURCH WORK DAY 8:30 AM</p>
<p>17 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM SESSION 11:30 AM Youth Shopping for Boswell</p>	<p>18 12:00 AM New Beginnings</p>	<p>19 11:00 AM PW Prayer Meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>20 5:30 PM SUPPER 6:30 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>21 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>22 SHOEBOXES DUE</p>	<p>23 PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER LOT OPENS AT 12:30 P.M. </p>
<p>24 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Thanksgiving Lunch 5:00 PM NO YOUTH 6:00 PM Ecumenical Service</p>	<p>25 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE</p>	<p>26 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
BREADBASKET						