



The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



Dear Family in Faith,

As I sit down to write these few words for a new year, I am still in the old one. It is a grey day in late December and I have been reading a bit of Howard Thurman's meditations. That has put me in a mood. Instead of looking forward, I am looking backward and remembering blessings. Maybe naming a few of those blessings will suffice for a January newsletter. Perhaps past might be prelude with this sort of thing. I guess my hope is also that the blessings I am thinking of are not all that unique; that maybe you have known similar blessings. So, today I remember with thankfulness the hard work of others and the fruits they have born that I have been allowed to share in.

I remember some of the beautiful things I have seen or heard. Perhaps I went looking for them. Maybe they just fell into my days. Regardless, they gave me perspective on what is holy and what is good.

I remember the difficult moments of the year and how they taught me old lessons (again). I am not in control. God is greater and steadfast and compassionate. Good can arise in unexpected places.

I remember faces. I see the familiar faces of family and friends that have smiled upon me, trusted in me, and encouraged me. I see the faces of the new people I met, too. Maybe I only shared a moment with them. Maybe I connected with them in a deeper way. Regardless, in each face I see something precious, something of God, something that speaks of basic dignity.

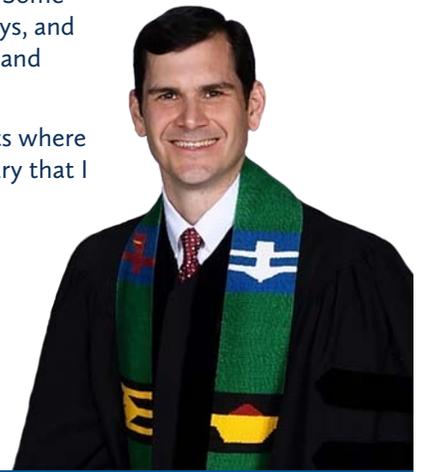
I remember dreams and goals. Some of them were realized. Some are maybe still before me. Some were unfulfilled and some were just abandoned. All have given me purpose, organized my days, and been opportunities to steer me towards deeper knowledge of my strengths and weaknesses and God's grace.

I remember the places where God's presence was undeniable. I remember the quiet moments where warmth filled the empty space and assured me in the midst of doubt or despair or the ordinary that I was not alone.

I remember the year and I find myself confronting the timeless Spirit of God. What follows from that is an abiding hope that carries across all years, not just for me, but for us all.

Yours in Christ,

Christopher



Thank you to all who donated to the Breadbasket Christmas Tree!

-Sharon Potin

A Word From the Director of Discipleship

Happy New Year! I trust that everyone had a blessed Christmas! 2020 at Westminster is sure to be a wonderful year.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RESUME JANUARY 8TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Make sure to come back to church on Wednesday the 8th as we resume our regular Wednesday activities. Dinner is served at 5:30—donations accepted. Adults remain in Montague Hall after dinner for a program, the kids and youth go upstairs for choir and a lesson respectively, and adult choir practice will resume. Hope to see you there! Don't forget! Our friends from Liberty Ministries will join us on the 8th and **Potluck dinner** will be January 29th!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Our regularly scheduled youth and children's programs will resume Sunday evening, January 12th at 5:00 p.m. We gather at 5:00 for recreation and then at 5:30, we go into our study groups. Dinner is served at 6:00 in Montague Hall and our evening ends at 6:30. Parents and other adult volunteers provide the meals. Shane Brooks will bring dinner on the 12th. Shane also will be working with Katie Ginn of the Diaconate to line up meals for the rest of the spring. If you are interested in helping to feed our young people, please see one of these ladies!

JANUARY 26TH YOUTH AND CHILDREN MISSION NIGHT

Make sure to join us in Montague Hall the evening of January 29 at 5 p.m. for a wonderful mission project. Ann Johnson and some other Presbyterian Women will work with our youth and children to make blankets to be given away to families in need. Once the blankets are made, we will present the finished products to the Hattiesburg Chief of Police who will make sure the blankets are distributed.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Beginnings group is just coming off of a productive meeting in December where they loaded all 100 of the Breadbasket Christmas Boxes! This month our regularly scheduled luncheon will be Monday, January 2, at noon in Montague Hall. Come and join us for a good lunch and a program.



Thanks to all Presbyterian Women who assisted with the reception honoring Connie Roberts in December, and to those who helped with the reception following the Ecumenical Service in November. Both events provided good food and hospitality to our members and the guests from outside our church family. All three circles participated in setting up, preparing food and cleaning up for these two events that showcased Westminster's engagement with local churches and the broader community.

Presbytery's annual PW Winter Retreat will take place January 17-18 at Camp Wesley Pines. The theme of the retreat is "Secret Blessings." Nash Noble, who is a chaplain at Baptist Hospital and Hospice Ministries, will share some of her stories, and there will be an opportunity to share our own stories, too. Check-in is at 3:00 p.m. on Friday; dinner will be served at 5:30. The retreat ends after lunch on Saturday. If you're planning to go, be sure to bring sheets, blanket, pillow and towel. The cost of the retreat is \$70 (double room), or \$24 for Saturday only. Riding to the retreat with fellow WPC friends is part of the fun. Please let Mary Dayne Gregg or Althea Jerome know you're going, so that we can plan how many cars we need to take.



Thank you to all who attended and helped us celebrate our very own Connie Roberts and her 32 years of service, guidance, and leadership at Westminster!

First, I want to thank Connie for blessing us through her many years of service and I love that she wanted to sing on her last Sunday. The choir is back together on the 8th and we have a ton of beautiful anthems coming in the next few week. I'm excited about prepping for the season of Lent and for Holy Week and I've already started listen to new music (and digging through our library) in preparation for Easter.

Thank you all for your support of the children and youth Christmas program. It was very well attended and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you. I let the kids pick the name of the choir each year. Last year they chose "The Young Doves," and this year they are the "Choir of Faith" (Duncan came up with it and we all loved it). "The Young Doves" will continue music rehearsal when Wednesday night activities resume.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Geraldine Jones	5 Michael Brooks	14 Gary West	25 Nancy Johnson
2 Margaret Lochhead	5 Charlie David Maul	15 Andrew Gaudet	30 Campbell Brooks
2 Sam Ruff	7 Mae Westbrook	15 Lavon Smith	31 Chloe Cain
4 Anthony Cafalone	9 Ann Aldridge	19 John Walker Steven West	31 Gene Owens
4 Betty Mitchell	10 Brenda Owens	24 Dean Cromartie	31 Connie Raggio
4 Howard Keever	13 Mary Hannah Ruff		

Memories of Westminster Presbyterian Church

by Kathryn Cummings

Whenever my parents came down from Memphis to visit, my father loved to take pictures of meaningful places and events in the lives of the children. Before "the tornado," we had this signage on 25th Ave. Notice the tall pines in the background. This photo was circa 1969 with Stephanie standing with her cousin. Westminster was our neighborhood church and frequently the children would walk back home to Emerson Drive after church activities.



One of my fondest memories is the three Galbreath sisters who lived across the street from us. Mrs. Marian was the church secretary and the family chauffeur and the sisters always sat in the same positions. Mrs. Marian loved to pick up Robert and take him to church with them. No need for car seats in those days! In her last year, in college Stephanie was also the church secretary.

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DECEMBER ATTENDANCE</p> <p>DEC 1 127 DEC 22 142</p> <p>DEC 8 143 DEC 24 191</p> <p>DEC 15 131 DEC 29 96</p>			1	2 12:00 PM ShareCare	3	4
<p>8 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM PW Coordinating Team</p>	6	<p>7 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>8 5:30 PM Wednesday Supper 7:00 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>9 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	10	11
<p>12 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate 5:00 PM Circle 3 5:00 PM Youth</p>	13	<p>14 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 6:30 PM Circle 2</p>	<p>15 4:30 PM Admin Meeting 5:30 PM Wednesday Supper 7:00 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>16 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>17 PW Annual Meeting at Camp Wesley Pines</p>	
<p>19 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Session 5:00 PM Youth</p>	20	<p>21 11:00 AM PW Prayer Meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>22 5:30 PM Wednesday Supper 7:00 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>23 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	24	<p>25 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE</p>
<p>26 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Youth and Adults make blankets</p>	<p>27 12:00 PM New Beginnings</p>	<p>28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM POTLUCK 7:00 PM CHOIR</p>	<p>30 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	31	