



The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



From the Pastor's Desk

August represents a return to routines. Summer vacations are over. Our collegians have left home—again. The children are back in school, and our schedules are once again shaped by school bells. It is not that I dislike summer, but falling back into the familiar routine of autumn is something I value. I like the rhythm of life that comes with the beginning of fall.

The beginning again of familiar routines brings with it fresh starts. Our **Rally Day Kick Off** is Sunday, August 6. Sunday School is at the heart of who we are as a church. It is making disciples, it is “the proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind,” and “the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God” (The Great Ends of the Church, F-1.0304 *The Book of Order*). I was blessed growing up to have Sunday School teachers who cared for me, who taught me the Bible, and nurtured me in the Christian faith. Everyone needs to have a place in Sunday School. If you have not been part of Sunday School, now is the time to start or start back.

Work has begun on our **2018 Budget**. Committees and staff are submitting budget requests. The Administrative Leadership Team will prepare a proposed budget to be presented at the September Session meeting. Then the proposed budget will be shared with the congregation, and we will begin our annual stewardship emphasis. **Commitment Sunday will be October 8**. Pray now and ask God to show you what it means for you to be faithful in your Christian stewardship.

New starts. New beginnings. New opportunities to serve, learn, and grow in Christ. See you in church!

Blessings,

Mike



From the Administrative Leadership Team

Our ministry at Westminster could not be carried out without being faithful to God's command to be good stewards of His resources. “Trust God and tell the people” is a call to accountability for all of us. As a result, we are sure you have noticed two things. First, the Session is regularly reporting its action in the newsletter, and second, the bulletin contains a summary of our budgeted spending and giving to date and weekly.

Review of those budget figures has raised some legitimate questions from the congregation. Our budget is driven by our sense of God's call to mission. The budget is a means and not an end. By printing our status, we do not mean to imply we have become all about the money nor should any periodic shortfall be cause for alarm. Rest assured that the church is meeting all its obligations. In fact, thanks to the generosity of many, Westminster now has some reserves to deal with unknown contingencies, a cushion we have rarely enjoyed in times past.

That said, the shortfall to date in this year's budget is more than we are used to, and more than the summer doldrums would predict. The mission heart of the church beats year-round, and we must not rely solely on the end of the year when many “catch up their pledge.” The Session would like to encourage everyone to give incrementally year-round so that our mission can be carried out and the budget will not have to be adjusted.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.



A Word From the Director of Discipleship

I trust that everyone had an outstanding summer! My oldest has gone back to Starkville and my remaining kids are sadly watching their last week of freedom slip quickly into the ether. But, of course, we all know what this ultimately means—time for everyone to fall back into a reliable schedule!

The same holds true for Westminster as we kick off August. We begin the month with Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm on Wednesday the 2nd, and then we roll straight into Rally Day on Sunday, August 6th!

Rally Day 2017: Come join your Westminster family for a pancake breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in Montague Hall! There will be a few words said about our Sunday School programs, and then we will head to worship at 10:30 a.m. In worship, there will be a Blessing of the Backpacks during the Time With the Children. All kids PreK-12 are

encouraged and invited to bring their school backpacks to the sanctuary. Mike will have a prayer for the upcoming school year and will ask God to bless the backpacks belonging to our children. Following the sermon, our Sunday School teachers will be commissioned for the upcoming year. This will be a day of celebration and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for providing us with teachers and healthy, growing children.

Youth and children's activities will resume their weekly schedules beginning with a Back to School swim and cook-out party at the Graham's house on Sunday the 13th. The New Beginnings group will resume their monthly luncheon and program on the third Monday of the month (August 21). And the Brown Bag Bible Study group meeting at noon on Tuesdays will be back in full swing.

Regular Wednesday night programming resumes on September the 6th with the meal being provided and our kids giving a report on their summer trips. The fall is lining up to be a good one at Westminster, and I truly hope you all will get involved! See you at church!

Blessings,

Tommy

Exciting news for the fall! This year we're starting a new program called "Second Sundays" for those people who would like to sing in the choir but don't have the time every week. The second Sunday of each month we will sing a unison or 2-part anthem, still beautiful but easy to sing. We'll get it ready on the Wednesday night before in a half-hour rehearsal. Monthly notices in the bulletin will remind everyone that "Second Sunday" is coming. We start on Wednesday, September 6, practicing from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. (nursery provided). Just an extra half-hour once a month, and you can add your voice to the choir! All are welcome. Give it a try!

MUSIC NOTES FROM CONNIE





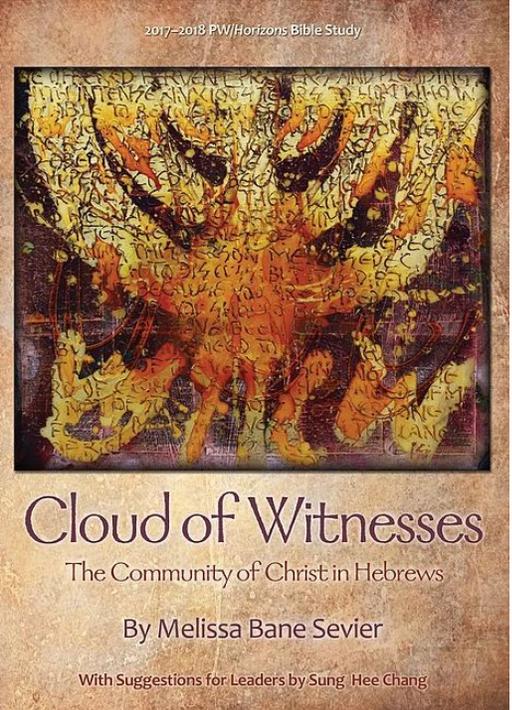
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
OF WESTMINSTER**

By ALTHEA JEROME

Rally Day on August 6th is a great time to commit yourself to active participation in Westminster's Presbyterian Women (PW). Monthly meetings and programs will resume along with the beginning of the school year. Our new Moderator, Mary Dayne Gregg, has been working through the summer to update our handbook and make plans for the coming year along with members of the Coordinating Team.

All of Westminster's adult women are automatically enrolled in one of three circles. These small groups meet once a month for Bible study. In addition, we have the opportunity to learn about and support ministries of PW in our congregation, the Presbytery, and the denomination. Throughout the year, it is this network of circles that provides support to members of our church family in times of need, or at special times such as a wedding, funeral, graduation or baby's birth.

This year, Presbyterian Women throughout the PCUSA will study various themes from the New Testament book of Hebrews. These themes emphasize ways that Christians live in community. "Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews" will reveal ways that early Christians were shaped by the communities of which they were a part, much as we interact within communities today. In an introduction to the study, the author wrote, "Our prayer is that the study of community in Hebrews will help us strengthen our own communities" in which we study and worship.



Rhonda Ann Patterson was born September 19, 1965 in Carthage, Missouri to Ronald Ray and Patricia Ann Patterson. The family which included an older sister, Elizabeth, moved to Kansas City where Rhonda's younger brother, David, was born and then settled in St. Louis. Rhonda graduated from Pattonville Senior High School in 1983, then from the University of Missouri, Columbia, earning a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Animal Sciences, in 1987.

Rhonda entered the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg set on earning a Master of Science with a study of echolocation in marine mammals, specifically dolphins, working in conjunction with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS and the United States Navy in San Diego, CA. Unfortunately, the dolphin she was working with became ill and died. Rhonda was advised to direct her studies towards a doctorate thereby skipping the master's program. Ms. Patterson earned her Doctorate of Microbiology with specific interest in Immunology from Southern Miss in 1998.

During her time at USM, Dr. Patterson was an active member of Westminster and served on the Diaconate.

Dr. Patterson passed away May 19, 2017, at her home in Brownsville, KY. She is survived by her mother, Patricia Streng; her sister, Elizabeth Schneider (Steve) of Kansas City, MO; brother, David Patterson (Vickie) of Austin, TX; four nieces, Erin Zimmerman (Tim), Meredith Schneider, Marilyn Robinson, Priscilla Robinson; and one nephew, Ian Schneider.

Dr. Patterson will be honored with a commemorative ceremony at W.K.U. on August 19, and a memorial scholarship has been established in her honor. Should you wish to make a contribution, please direct your gift to:

**Jessica Carver, Vice President
College Heights Foundation
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #41016
Bowling Green, KY 42101-100**



Children & Youth

On Sunday, August 6, we will have the "Blessing of the Backpacks." Everyone PreK-12 grade that has a backpack should bring it to church for a special blessing as the school year begins.

August 6

Grades 3-5 (4:15-5:30 pm) and Youth (5:00-6:30 pm)

August 13

Back to School Swim & Cookout at the Graham's (4:00-6:00 p.m.) Pre-K through Youth and parents

August 20

Grades 3-5 (4:15-5:30 pm) and Youth (5:00-6:30 pm)

August 27

Youth (5:00-6:30 pm)

JUNE ATTENDANCE

JUNE 4 88

JUNE 11 109

JUNE 18 102

JUNE 25 112

JULY ATTENDANCE

JULY 2 127

JULY 9 87

JULY 16 97

JULY 23 123

JULY 30 107



Pictured are Peggy Howell on the left; Janet James on the right, both members of Vernal Presbyterian Church. Peggy, who joined the Church Triumphant earlier in 2017, is Mac Forsyth's sister.

HONORING A FRIEND'S MEMORY WITH CLEAN WATER

By Sandra Plant, Living Waters of the World

Under ordinary circumstances, Janet James would have let the loss of dear friend Peggy Howell bring an end to their long-planned dream of joining a Living Waters for the World water team, but God had a bigger plan. Janet is a faithful Christian from a small town in southern Mississippi. "If I looked for reasons not to continue what God had started in my heart many years ago, I could have just given up on the mission trip," she said.

Instead, Janet found sadness turn to joy as she met and came to love the people at Pinos Nuevos de Norte church in the city of Sancti Spiritus (which in English means Holy Spirit), in central Cuba. Janet served as lead teacher of the 102 health education training with much help from fellow team members Verniece Goode and Rosemary Leach as well as Saray, their very supportive translator.

"During the installation week I struggled with nervousness and sadness, yet in it all I experienced the joy of the Lord. Being in a place and time when His will was so obvious and knowing that He allowed me to be a small part of it was truly the joy I felt." - Janet James

Janet and friend Peggy, both retired science teachers with a love for teaching, had planned to team-teach the 102 training. "Peggy so wanted to be a part of this trip that she was with our team in many ways through good memories and memorial gifts in her honor." Janet said the 102 education classes were a blessing for everyone involved. "We had nine trainees in the morning classes who taught 14-18 adults plus three children in the afternoon. Ten health care professionals, including a nurse and a pediatrician, participated and were very excited that the training stressed hand washing techniques and hygiene that can be used in homes, churches and schools in Cuba.

The pediatrician told Janet, "You have no idea how much the clean water is helping my people."

(Cont. on pg. 5)

History Reminds Us

By Lola Norris

History reminds us to remember and to celebrate what has come before. And that is just what our own Ellie Forsyth is doing. In June Ellie represented the state of Mississippi in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland. Earlier in the year she placed first in Senior Exhibits in the Mississippi History Day competition with her project, "Betty Ford: Taking a Stand in History." This is her second year to win first place in the state competition. As part of the national recognition, her exhibit board, including a portrait of Betty Ford that she painted, and her process paper were on display at the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington, D.C.



When asked why she selected Betty Ford as the subject for her project, Ellie said she wanted to call attention to someone who affected real change in the lives of others. "When you look at first ladies through history," she said, "most are celebrated as partners for their husbands, but few are remembered for a defining project or program." Betty Ford was someone who stepped out and took a stand on behalf of women and women's issues at a time when women rarely were seen beyond their traditional roles. She was visible and vocal in her advocacy for research on breast cancer, equal opportunities for women in the workplace and equal pay for their work, and for those afflicted by alcoholism and drug addiction. These, said Ellie, are but three of the many efforts on behalf of women that Mrs. Ford promoted during and after her years as First Lady of the United States.

At College Park, Ellie was among the best and brightest from around the world. Each year nearly 3,000 students, grades 6-12, along with their families and teachers gather at the University of Maryland for the week-long National History Day event. These groups come from all fifty states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia.

While there, Ellie said, "I met and interacted with other young people from around the world. It was great to see their projects and to learn how they came about. And, to learn how different their lives are from ours."

Ellie is a 10th grader at Sacred Heart High School and is the daughter of Mac and Lisa Forsyth.

Well done, Ellie! We look forward to next year!

(Cont. from pg. 4)

Four system operators were trained by team leader Jerry Goode. Janet's pastor, Philip Williams of Vernal Presbyterian Church, and Myra Cook assisted with all the training while also serving as photographers.

Janet said that going to Cuba is like going to any other country where the education system is universal and generally quite good. The health and hygiene training was well received because the participants understood the concepts. "They made my job easier," she said.

Because clean water is not readily available throughout the country, some of the people suffer from health issues such as kidney stones and diabetes, possibly linked to not drinking enough water. Infants and children are prone to gastrointestinal upsets. Bottled water is expensive to purchase in a country where the average income is so low that a week's supply of bottled water could take as much as ten percent of a family's monthly income, Janet said. Jerry and Verniece Goode, of First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel, Mississippi, have participated in installing nine LWW systems in Cuba since 2009. First Trinity has supported the installation of six systems including the most recent at Pinos Nuevos de Norte.

The water celebration on March 30, 2017, was held in a packed church with more than 150 happy people holding cups of clear, clean water.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	2 5:30 PM Potluck Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's 12:00 PM ShareCare	4	5
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 9:30 AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST 10:30 AM Worship 4:15 PM Grades 3-5 5:00 PM Youth	7	8 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	9 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	11 1:30 PM Living With Cancer	12
13 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate 12:30 PM Session Meeting 4:00-6:00 PM Back to School Cookout at Graham Residence	14	15 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	16 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	18	19
20 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:15 PM Grades 3-5 5:00 PM Youth	21 12:00 PM New Beginnings	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	23 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
27 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Youth	28	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	30 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Glenda Brown	10 Ed Brown	13 Annie Richardson	19 Miriam Crowell
4 Jan Mesrobian	10 Randall Harris	16 Janell Harris	25 Susan Turner
5 Jenny Maul	12 Wes Brooks	17 Janet Bennett	27 Ginny Graham
6 Michael Raggio	13 Jeff Haydel	18 Beth Richmond	27 Dylan Snellgrove
9 Jackson Edmondson	13 Olivia Reid	18 Brandon Hayes	31 Stella Fair