



The Westminister Standard

Our Mission: TLC - Trust God, Love People, and Carry Christ into the World

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A Word From the Pastor

Joe Paterno coached football for 61 years, 46 at Penn State. He and his wife gave Penn State millions of dollars, and he touched countless lives positively and put Penn State on the map. We now know that he wasn't perfect. Late in the 4th quarter he fumbled. If he could do it over again, surely he'd do better. When the ugly story broke, the university he loved and served fired him. And within weeks, he is dead. Stan Caldwell (a local sports writer) wrote "by not taking decisive action at the first hint of scandal" he "was an enabler, and it cost him his job . . . and will color the way his is remembered. That may not be fair, but that's the way life is." That's probably true. With public opinion you can go from hero to goat overnight. But not with God! God treats us better than that—much better. God sent his Son into the world to save sinners—that's us! We've all done things we're not proud of. We've all fallen short. We've all kept silent when we should have spoken out. Fortunately for us, God is not like the Trustees of Penn State. God is faithful and just, and when we repent God assures us that we are forgiven and loved! That touches my heart. How about yours? It is a privilege to walk with you in faith. Thank you for the strong vote of confidence at the congregational meeting on January 29!

Steve

Worship

The 40 Days of Lent

In Western Christianity (which is different from Eastern Orthodoxy), Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday (February 22)**, and continues for 46 days, ending on Holy Saturday (April 7). We talk about the 40 days of Lent. Why are there 46 days? Because during Lent there are six Sundays, and they don't count. Each Sunday is like a little Easter, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection, signaling his victory over sin and death.

This year we will have a very simple meal on Ash Wednesday: soup, bread, water. At **6:30 pm** we will move into the Sanctuary for the solemn imposition of Ashes. On the next four Wednesday nights, we will eat together and move into the sanctuary for a vesper service of scripture, meditation, prayer, and communion (by intinction). The idea is to examine your conscience, identify things that are standing between you and Jesus, repent (forsake and change) those things, and devote yourself to the sacred heart and abiding love of Jesus. We don't do this to feel bad. We do this to acknowledge that we stand in the need of God's mercy and forgiving love, and to prepare ourselves for the betrayal of Jesus (Maundy Thursday), his cruel treatment and death on a cross (Stations of the Cross on Good Friday), and his glorious resurrection on Easter Morning (Sunrise Service and Worship). Please plan to join in this Lenten Journey as we walk towards Golgotha and the Empty Tomb together.

January average attendance: 146

Jan. 1 - 88

Jan. 8 - 133

Jan. 15 - 152

Jan 22 - 156

Jan 29 - 146

Belonging

Wednesday Night Activities

The Wednesday evening activities are back in full swing, and we are doing something new in 2012. The church will be providing the main dish on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We will announce the main dish in the bulletin and newsletter. All you need to do is bring a dessert or salad based on the announced menu if you are able. If you would be interested in being a member of a cooking team for one of the Wednesdays, please contact Ginny Graham at 601-329-9794.

February 1st: Nancy Johnson - Lasagna, Italian Salad, and bread

February 15th: Family Ministry Team - Baked Potato Bar

March 7th: Cooking Team Needed!

PW Women Circle 3

The February meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 1st, at 6:30 p.m.** after dinner.

WAMA Spring Enrollment

The Westminster Academy of Music and Arts has begun spring classes. Private Lessons in Voice and Instruments for all ages are offered. There is also class instruction for adults. Free computer Music Theory Instruction is offered with enrollment. Some new additions this spring include a Children's Choir for grades 3-6 and Dance Classes. All classes are taught by experienced professional musicians or dance instructors. You may still register for spring instruction. Please contact Dr. Connie Roberts by e-mail at connie@wpchattiesburg.com.

Souper Bowl of Caring

It's time for Westminster's annual Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch! This year's event will be held after the service on **Sunday, February 5th**. We will provide the soups for everyone to enjoy. The Youth will be collecting donations at the lunch. All of the monies collected will benefit the Domestic Abuse Shelter.

We will also be celebrating Gordon McDonald's 90th birthday. Come help us celebrate and enjoy a special birthday cake!



Spotlight on Gordon McDonald

Growing up in Texas, Gordon enlisted in the Air Force in 1940, where he was assigned to Denver, CO. There he met Betty Jo Guthrie, but a wedding was postponed as Gordon left to fight in WWII. After returning, Gordon entered the University of Denver where he earned his Electrical Engineering degree. Along with two other partners, Gordon owned an engineering firm, from which he retired in 1985 and moved to Hattiesburg. He and Betty Jo are blessed with two daughters, Janet and Jo Ann, along with 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Westminster is blessed to have Gordon and Betty Jo. Gordon spearheaded a drive to raise money for our elevator. We have also benefited from his handy work in the stained glass that hung in the fellowship hall for many years. Gordon still enjoys to golf and shoot. We wish him a very happy 90th birthday!

Youth Super Bowl Party

The Youth will have a Super Bowl Party at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Michael Raggio (13 Grand Bayou Circle in Canebrake) on **February 5th** beginning at **4:30 p.m.** Please bring an appetizer to share.

New Beginnings

The New Beginnings group got off to a great start in 2012 with a luncheon at WPC on January 4th. If you were unable to attend the inaugural event of our new Older Adult Ministry, have no fear! There will be another New Beginnings luncheon **Monday, February 20th, at noon**. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a good lunch and an entertaining program. Billy Newman from the University of Southern Mississippi will be our speaker. Billy will share with us with his vast knowledge of the Presidents of the United States. Please mark your calendars for Presidents' Day, February 20th, and plan to join us. Please RSVP no later than **Thursday, February 16th** by calling Tommy Suttle at 601-408-2589 or by sending an email to tommy@wpchattiesburg.com.

Men of the Church Breakfast

January's breakfast will be **Saturday, February 11th, at 8:00 a.m.** This will be our special Valentine's Breakfast. All women (and girls) of the church are invited. We look forward to seeing you there!

February Birthdays

3 Mary Clayton West	8 Merle Meek	14 Mary Clare Shaw
5 Gordon McDonald	9 Neal Gregg	15 Holley Johnson
6 Jennifer Corley	12 Judy Harrell	16 Carolyn McLarnan
7 Cindy Nobles	12 Harry Hickman	19 Frank Roberts
7 Margaret Roberts	12 Ann Johnson	24 Marsha Taylor

Inviting

Westminster: A Friend-Making Church

In nature, healthy things grow. In business, companies that put customers first tend to grow. One sign of a healthy church is that it is growing both spiritually and numerically. We grow spiritually by engaging in spiritual disciplines: prayer, worship, stewardship, and service. We grow numerically by inviting people to become friends and fellow travelers. Westminster is a friend-making church. You can come as a stranger and quickly meet people who are genuinely interested in you and your family. Don't you love that? In December we received into membership Reagan Nelson, Kinlock Bell, and Carrie Creel (and her three sons: Jackson, Oliver, and Brody). Please welcome them warmly and invite others to join our growing family!

Growing Spiritually

Rotation Sunday School

Our children are having a blast in Sunday school! Currently, they are studying the story of Jacob and Esau. The next rotation will be "Jesus Calls the Disciples." There are opportunities for you to teach in this Rotation! The following are the available teaching slots: February 19th and 26th / ART, March 4th and 11th / COOKING, and March 4th and 11th / GAMES. The Family Ministry Team will be calling to recruit teachers, but you can sign up today on the Rotation Sign Up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The lessons are located in the black box below the sign up sheet.

"Jesus Calls the Disciples" memory verse: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." Matthew 4:19

Seekers Sunday School Class

If you are not currently plugged in to a Sunday school class, why not consider joining the Seekers upstairs in the conference room? We are a collection of "young" adults who gather Sunday mornings to enjoy fellowship and lively conversation about what the Bible has to say about our everyday lives and relationships. In February, we will be going through the book of Galatians. Come and join us!

Confirmation Class

Beginning **February 12th**, Amy Ruff and Tommy Suttle will be leading a Confirmation Class. The class will meet after worship in the Jones House for an hour and half through the month of March. Please be in prayer for the following Confirmands as they take this important step in their faith journey: Ben Ruff, Will Ruff, Catherine Raggio, and Sarah Beth Suttle.

Serving Christ in Mission

Youth Plan Garage Sale

The Youth are having a garage sale on **Saturday, February 25th**, at the Community Center on 4th Street & Weathersby Road next to Arnold-Line Water from **7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Donations of household goods, furniture, personal accessories, and electronics (basically everything except clothing) will be collected until Wednesday, February 22nd. This is a fundraiser for the youth mission trip to Jamaica June 9-16 and for The Great Escape July 23-28. Contact Amy Ruff at 601-310-2769 for more information.

Community Spotlight: The Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, Inc.



The Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, Inc. is dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse. Its purpose is to provide victims of domestic violence with the skills, tools, and understanding to make choices leading to violence-free living and to raise awareness of domestic violence in the community at large. As a local non-profit that relies on the generosity of the community, DAFS has a list of supplies that they often need as they serve those who come to them. Here are a few of the supplies they can readily use:

Cleaning Supplies:

Laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dishwashing soap, bathroom cleaners, disinfectant wipes, kitchen trash bags, heavy duty trash bags

Personal Hygiene Supplies:

shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, liquid and bar soap, razors, shaving cream, hair brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, deodorant

Household Items:

Pots, pans, silverware, dish towels, wash rags, kitchen paper goods, twin-size sheets and comforters, pillows, bath towels, light bulbs, batteries, paper products

More information about DAFS is available at www.domesticabusefamilyshelter.org or by calling 601-582-2102.

February Calendar of Events

1 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Dinner - Cooking Team has main dish 6:30 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Presbyterian Women - Circle 3
2 - Thursday	12:00 pm - ShareCare Potluck Lunch
5 - Sunday	11:00 am - Communion Sunday 12:00 pm - Souper Bowl of Caring
7 - Tuesday	9:30 am - PW Coordinating Team meeting
8 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm - Bible Study
10 & 11-Fri. & Sat.	Held at First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel
11 - Saturday	8:00 am - Men of the Church Breakfast
12 - Sunday	11:00 am - Sunday Service 12:15 pm - Confirmation Class in Jones House 12:15 pm - Diaconate Meeting 1:30 pm - Session Meeting 3:00-5:00 pm - Gaining Ground
14 - Tuesday	9:30 am - Presbyterian Women - Circle 1 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women - Circle 2
15 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Dinner - Cooking Team has main dish 6:30 pm - Bible Study
19 - Sunday	11:00 am - Sunday Service 12:15 pm - Confirmation Class in Jones House
20 - Monday	12:00 pm - New Beginnings luncheon
21 - Tuesday	9:30 am - PW Prayer Group
22 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Ash Wednesday meal 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday service
25 - Saturday	7:00 am - 2:00 pm - Youth Garage Sale at Arnold-Line Community Center
26 - Sunday	11:00 am - First Sunday of Lent 12:15 pm - Confirmation Class in Jones House
29 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm - Bible Study

A Special Note...

The Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts will be presented in Jackson on **Thursday, February 16th at 1:00 p.m.** It is a public ceremony taking place in Wells Memorial United Methodist Church located at 2019 Bailey Avenue. Our own **Althea Jerome** will be honored on that day as the 2012 recipient of the Arts in Education award. All are invited to attend this special ceremony. Westminster is fortunate to have so many talented and esteemed members in our congregation!