



The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



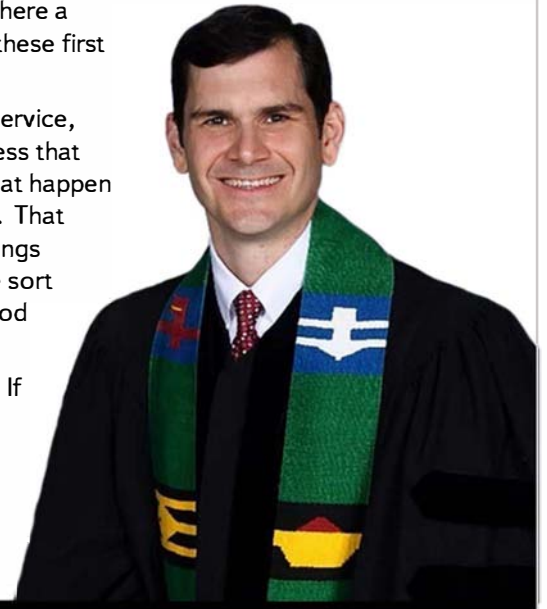
Dear Family in Faith,

Sometimes people can get a bit blind to their environment when they have been there a while. If that is so, let me tell you what I have already seen with my fresh eyes in these first few weeks at Westminster.

There is a heart and a kindness, and intelligence and a playfulness, a sincerity in service, and depth of faithfulness here that is remarkable. There is a steadfast graciousness that inhabits the notes, the meetings, the conversations, the work, and the worship that happen here. There is a love for Christ and for each other that is genuine and committed. That love, to borrow from Paul, hopes all things, endures all things, and believes all things because it is a love that is modeled on the very ways of Jesus Christ. And it is the sort of love that humbles me so much that each night before I close my eyes I thank God for this opportunity to serve and grow alongside you.

Speaking of which, please know that I am very eager to get to know each of you. If I can swing by your work, your home, a favorite hangout spot or wherever is convenient for you to grab a few minutes with you, please let me know. I would like that very much. I know I can't see you all at once... but I just might try!

Yours in Christ,
Christopher



HELP THANKS WOW

THE THREE
ESSENTIAL PRAYERS

ANNE
LAMOTT



Join us Wednesday night (February 7) for Dr. Crotwell's final survey of Ann Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. This small book is sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and, for many, very helpful in understanding how we might respond in faith to life's challenges and blessings. You do not need to read the book or attend every Wednesday night program to follow along. You are invited!

From the Amazon page for the book:

New York Times Bestseller Author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life.

Readers of all ages have followed and cherished Anne Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about her own faith through decades of trial and error. And in her new book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, she has coalesced everything she knows about prayer to these fundamentals.

It is these three prayers—asking for assistance from a higher power, appreciating what we have that is good, and feeling awe at the world around us—that can get us through the day and can show us the way forward. In *Help, Thanks, Wow*, Lamott recounts how she came to these insights, explains what they mean to her and how they have helped, and explores how others have embraced these same ideas.

Insightful and honest as only Anne Lamott can be, *Help, Thanks, Wow* is the everyday faith book that new Lamott readers will love and longtime Lamott fans will treasure.

A Word from the Director of Discipleship ...

Bread Breakers is a unique opportunity offered by the Belonging Committee designed for you to get to know the members of your church around a dinner table. We are currently putting together the groups, so stay tuned! Bread Breakers is a fun and exciting way to have fellowship and strengthen relationships. Plus, the food is usually pretty good, too! If you signed up for Bread Breakers, heads up! We will be contacting you soon about your groups.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Beginnings group will be welcoming back Billy Newman as their speaker on Monday, February 19. Billy is an expert on the Presidents of the United States of America, and his presentation is absolutely Informative and delightful! Make your reservations today; you don't want to miss this program.

WEDNESDAYS AT WPC

Our Wednesday evening programs have resumed in full force. Come and join us Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. for a good meal and fellowship. Dinner is followed by programs for our adults, youth, and children. Christopher is leading a study on prayer in Montague Hall for the adults, Michael Ginn is leading our children's choir, and Tommy is meeting with the youth. The adult choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. after the dinner and programming ends. Please come and join your church family for a much needed mid-week break!

Quick reminder! Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year. As most of you know, since the tornado, WPC and Parkway Heights United Methodist Church have been worshipping together for Ash Wednesday. This year it is our turn to host. So please make sure to attend and welcome our friends from across the street as we enter in to the Lenten Season together.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
OF WESTMINSTER**

By ALTHEA JEROME

Winter Retreat

On a very cold weekend in January, five of our Presbyterian Women from Westminster participated in the Presbytery PW Winter Retreat at Chattawa. The theme for the retreat explored ways that music supports our faith journey. We sang familiar hymns, listened to recordings of hymn arrangements, and considered ways that hymns enhance worship. It was good for us to spend time with one another and with other women from our Presbytery, too.



Pictured L-R: Rhoda Pickett, Althea Jerome, Ann Johnson, Jeanne Herring, Martha Ann Hogrefe, and guest speaker for the Winter Retreat, Nell Adams.

HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANS IN MISSISSIPPI

Recently, Westminster’s Presbyterian Women purchased a three-volume set of *The History of Presbyterians in Mississippi* by Milton Winter. These books are on display on a table near the Generations classroom along with a lovely sign made by Lola Norris. There are fascinating stories about churches all over our state, some dating back to the early days of statehood. Before long, these books will be stored in the tall cabinet in the Narthex. Be sure to take a look.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY

In 2005, a few months after Hurricane Katrina, Westminster responded to a plea for casseroles to help feed volunteer workers on the gulf coast. A freezer was purchased, and a casserole ministry was begun. In its current form, this ministry provides a meal for a family with a new baby, some soup for someone who has been discharged from the hospital, or an easily prepared meal for a member who doesn't do much cooking. Aluminum pans and containers for soup are available on the table by the Generations classroom. When you prepare some food, please be sure to label the items you bring. PW appreciates everyone's help to keep the freezer stocked with items that will bring some comfort to our members.

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 7	131
JANUARY 14	147
JANUARY 21	135
JANUARY 28	130

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>REMINDER: Newsletter submission are due no later than the 25th of each month. Submissions received on the 26th or later will not be seen until the next month, e.g. a submission received on February 26 will not be seen until the April newsletter.</p> <p>Is there something you'd like to submit or see in the newsletter? Your comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcomed!</p> <p>Please contact: Wes Brooks at wes@wpchattiesburg.com.</p>				<p>1 6:30 AM Men of the Church Breakfast at Shoney's</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
				<p>Presbytery Meeting (Laurel)</p>		
<p>4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30 AM Inviting Committee Meeting 9:00 AM Belonging 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team Meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>7 4:30 PM Administration Meeting 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 PM Christopher Crotwell presentation: <i>Ann Lamott's Help, Thanks, Wow The Three Essential Prayers</i> 6:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8 6:30 AM Men of the Church Breakfast at Shoney's</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast</p>
<p>11 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Chancel Choir 11:30 AM DIACONATE 12:30 PM SESSION</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM Circle 2</p>	<p>14 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 6:15 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15 6:30 AM Men of the Church Breakfast at Shoney's</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>19 12:00 PM New Beginnings</p>	<p>20 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>21 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>22 6:30 AM Men of the Church Breakfast at Shoney's</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE</p>
<p>25 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>28 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper—POTLUCK 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>			

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Marshall Bell	7 Cindy Nobles	14 Mary Clare Royals	24 Marsha Taylor
3 Mary Clayton West	7 Margaret Roberts	15 Holley Holifield	
3 B.J. Lambert	12 Harry Hickman	16 Carolyn McLarnan	
3 Jean Menefee	12 Ann Johnson	19 Frank Roberts	