



# *The Westminster Standard*

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



## Dear Church Family,

The Dear Church Family,

Some of you have figured out that I like to hike. That's true. What you may not know is that I also love studying trail maps, perusing hiking gear online, and reading books about hikes other people have taken. One such book is titled, *AWOL On the Appalachian Trail*. It is an autobiographical telling of one man's 2,190 mile walk through 14 states. I was fascinated by his story.

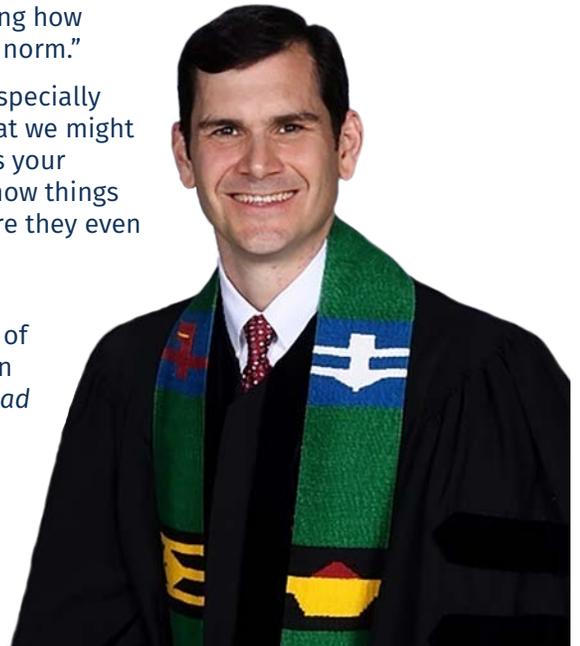
At the end of the book the author writes, "I do think of how regrettable it would have been had I ignored the pull to hike the trail. A wealth of memories could have been lost before they had even occurred if I had dismissed, as a whim, my inkling to hike. It is disturbing how tenuous our potential is due to our fervent defense of the comfortable norm."

That sounds like the voice of wisdom to me. Perhaps wisdom that is especially important to consider as we round into a new year and think about what we might do in 2019. What trails are calling to you (they come in many forms)? Is your potential being limited by your fervent (or even knee-jerk) defense of how things "have to be" in your life? What memories are you at risk of losing before they even occur? Maybe this is the year that you might step out in faith?

I use the word faith on purpose. As a child I was taught that one of the oldest names for Christians is "People of the Way." I like that. The Way of course refers to Jesus Christ and how we are to follow in his footsteps in faith. But get this, the word for Way in the Greek is also the word for *road* and *path*. That sounds like it could even mean *trail*. Isn't that something? People of the Trail... go hike your hike.

Yours in Christ,

*Christopher*



## A Word From the Director of Discipleship

With 2018 in the rearview mirror, Westminster is gearing up to step into 2019!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning January 6, the children will begin a brand new rotation in Sunday School and all the other youth and adult classes will resume meeting. Sunday School is a very important part of the life of the church! If you have not been to Sunday School lately, why not resolve to join a class this year? It's a great time to join us! There are three adult classes that meet downstairs, and another adult class that meets upstairs next to the elevator. Our children and youth also have Sunday School upstairs. Everything begins at 9:30 on Sunday mornings!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Our regular Wednesday night schedule will resume January 9. We meet in Montague Hall at 5:30 p.m. for dinner. Kid friendly menus are always available. All adults, youth, and children have programming following supper. The children go upstairs with Micheal for choir, and the youth also go upstairs to the youth room. This January, for four weeks, the youth will be meeting with Christopher. The adults will remain in Montague Hall with me where we will have a study entitled "How Your Church Family Works." Come join us on Wednesday nights!

### YOUTH AND CHILDREN

The youth and children will begin their regular schedule on January 9 with the aforementioned Wednesday programming. Regular Sunday evening meetings will resume January 13. All kids and youth meet at 5:00 p.m. and then split into age groups for games and study. Everyone meets in Montague Hall at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Also, this year our young people will be doing  
(Cont. on pg. 4)





## Presbyterian Women of Westminster

Did you know that January 1 is only the seventh day of the twelve days of Christmas? On Sunday, January 6, we will celebrate Epiphany (the 12th day), a time when we commemorate the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Therefore, as you read this, Christmas isn't officially over. Yet, by this time, many of us have already put away the decorations and have moved on to a fresh page on the calendar for 2019. Presbyterian Women have some exciting plans for the new year. This month, several of our members will attend the PW Winter Retreat. Through the early months of the year, PW will promote support for Mission Haven to the entire congregation. In March, our PW group will host the spring gathering of PW for the churches in our Presbytery. In May, we will celebrate our annual PW Birthday with a time of fellowship and an offering for a mission project that is supported by members of churches throughout the denomination.

All women of Westminster are encouraged to participate in PW in whatever way works best for you. The officers and leaders of our organization encourage you to participate in all of the events mentioned above, or to attend circle meetings, make a dish for the casserole ministry, or donate clothing or other items to the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter. As you start out the new year, please consider how you will lend your support to Westminster's PW. You'll be glad you did!

**Many thanks to all who helped "decorate"  
the Breadbasket Christmas Tree!**



(Cont. from pg. 2)

something a little different. On the last Sunday of the month, the kids and youth will either do a fun activity "off campus," or they will participate in some type of mission project. Stay tuned for details of our first outing to be held Sunday, January 27.

**New Beginnings and Brown Bag Bible Study**

The older adult group at Westminster will be swinging back into action in January as well. Each Tuesday at noon in the Generations Classroom downstairs, the Brown Bag Bible Study group meets. Anyone is more than welcome to attend! Beginning January 8, we will start our study of the book of Amos as we make our way through the Minor Prophets.

The New Beginnings group meets the third Monday of each month at noon in Montague Hall for lunch and a brief program. The next New Beginnings luncheon will be January 21.

**Dates to Remember**

- Vacation Bible School for the whole family: June 2-4
- Camp Hopewell: June 16-22 (grades K-8)
- Montreat Middle School Conference: July 17-21 (grades 5-8)
- Montreat Senior High Conference: July 8-12 (grades 8-12)

On the afternoon of **Sunday, February 24**, we are pleased to host Ann Phelps at Westminster. Ann is a highly sought after musician and teacher. She will lead a workshop that will look at contemplative worship styles through a modern lens (and with a jazz influence).

This workshop will conclude with a worship service open to all at 6:30 p.m. This event is being funded through a grant Westminster received from the Presbytery of Mississippi.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                            |                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 GERALDINE JONES    | 7 MAE WESTBROOK            | 24 DEAN CROMARTIE  |
| 2 MARGARET LOCHHEAD  | 9 ANN ALDRIDGE             | 25 NANCY JOHNSON   |
| 2 SAM RUFF           | 10 BRENDA OWENS            | 30 CAMPBELL BROOKS |
| 4 ANTHONY CAFALONE   | 13 MARY HANNAH RUFF        | 30 BETTY GARRAWAY  |
| 4 BETTY MITCHELL     | 14 GARY WEST               | 31 CHLOE CAIN      |
| 4 HOWARD KEEVER      | 15 ANDREW GAUDET           | 31 GENE OWENS      |
| 5 MICHAEL BROOKS     | 15 LAVON SMITH             | 31 CONNIE RAGGIO   |
| 5 CHARLIE DAVID MAUL | 19 JOHN WALKER STEVEN WEST | 31 HAYES TRELXER   |



During our recent Rhine River Cruise in Europe we were privileged to drop-in on an incredible concert of the music of Frank Pesci. The perks for taking time out of our vacation were attending the concert, seeing Emily Hindrichs Pesci, literally surprising Frank with our attendance, representing Westminster Presbyterian's love & Southern Miss to Emily, Frank, Sophia, & friends. It was truly a fun, Godwink experience!!

-Nancy Johnson

**The New Beginnings crew loading gift boxes for delivery!**



# JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER ATTENDANCE</b>		1	2	3 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	4	5
12/2	131	<b>Office Closed</b>				
12/9	142					
12/16	133					
12/23	150					
12/24	238					
12/30	102					
6 <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	7	8 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	9 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	10 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	11	12 8:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast
					<b>Winter Retreat</b>	
<b>Breadbasket Week</b>						
13 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate 5:00 PM Grades K-12	14	15 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM Circle 2	16 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	17 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	18	19
20 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session 5:00 PM Grades K-12	21 12:00 PM New Beginnings	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	23 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	24 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	25	26
27 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Grades K-12	28	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	30 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>		