

Our Mission: **TLC**
Trust God, **L**ove People, and **C**arry Christ into the World

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP:

One of my favorite stories in the New Testament is when John the Baptist's disciples complained that this new guy (Jesus) was baptizing folks and everyone's "going to him!" We're losing customers! They expected John to be angry, but John rejoiced. He said I'm not the bridegroom. I'm the friend of the bridegroom. "He must increase but I must decrease." (John 3:30) Isn't that exactly what you and I are: friends of the bridegroom? We're here to help, to cheer him on, to support his work, to further his goals, to strengthen his church. It's not about us. It's about him. This month I was privileged to be a friend of the bridegroom with Bettye Arnold and her family, and with my dad, Wayne Ramp, and our family. I lost count how many times we gathered around a hospital bed, held hands, and prayed that the bridegroom would gather this lamb to his bosom and carry them home. Jesus heard our prayers, and answered them with amazing grace, and compassionate love. Jesus is especially attuned to our prayers concerning suffering because he agreed to stand and suffer in our place. God's final, crushing verdict on sin as well as enormous human cruelty fell upon Jesus (instead of on us), so that we need not fear suffering or death. Our mortal bodies must return to the earth, but we who have died in Christ have eternal life and will never die. We love this life and do our best, but we know that this world is not our home. We are heaven bound. And we are friends of the bridegroom who loves us perfectly.

I hope you will use this season of Lent to indwell the mystery of life and death and the promise of the eternal life which is ours by faith in a beautiful Savior. Thank you for your prayers and support during this season of loss and change for my family.

Steve

WORSHIP NEWS:

Be sure to mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 13, when the **children of Westminster** will present an **Easter program** following potluck. Come to enjoy an Easter experience through scripture and song.



HOLY WEEK - April 17-23: On **Wednesday night** (no supper) we'll gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm for *The Seven Last Words*. This is a special musical presentation written for Hattiesburg choirs based on Jesus' final words. Some Parkway Heights folks will join us in the choir and the congregation. This is new, so please support this. **Thursday** at 6:00 pm (no supper) is our **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Communion service. At noon on **Good Friday** we'll observe the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (readings, singing, and prayers). In addition to the 11 am worship service on Easter Sunday, there's also a sunrise service in the outdoor chapel at 6:30 am. The Session strongly encourages you to attend and participate in these activities as a sacrifice of praise to God.

March average attendance: 120

March 6 - 131

March 20 --127

March 13 - 92

March 27 - 129

The Youth and interested adults will lead worship at **Boswell Regional Center** on the evening of Tuesday, May 10. We meet at the church and carpool to Magee. If you haven't done this, you need to. It's loads of fun, and they love greeting us. Stay tuned for details in May's newsletter.



BELONGING:

Come one, come all! To the **Men's Breakfast** and church-wide work day on Saturday, April 16 at 8 am. Anyone that breathes is invited because we need every able-bodied member to help prepare the church for Easter. Childcare will be provided for the little ones. **All Sunday School leaders and classes are encouraged to make work day a time to spring clean your classrooms.**

Please join us at 9:45 am Easter morning for **brunch** and an **Easter egg hunt**. The **Diaconate** and **Generations** and **Seekers Sunday School Classes** are responsible for the great food. Please participate. A signup sheet will be in the Sunday School rooms.



Westminster's **adult co-ed softball** games are currently scheduled to start the week of April 7 (schedule and times TBD). Members of both the 2010 and 2011 teams and their families are invited to a **crawfish boil** at 3 pm on Sunday, April 3 at the **Graham's**. Contact **Jeff Haydel, Erik Graham, or Mary Clare Shaw** for more information.

BELONGING: (CONTINUED)

April birthdays:

1	Gregg Graham	11	Meredith West		
2	Emily Hindrichs	18	Wesley Hughes	24	Robert Cummings, Jr.
6	Emma Bryant	19	Robert Holland	27	Gene Fair
6	Shawn McDaniel	20	Delores Milling	29	Wally Gregg
7	Steve Ramp	22	Sandy Jordan	30	Amy Ruff

We want to include **ALL** members' birthdays. If you know of one we missed, let us know **ASAP!**

Sunday Greeters: Please help us greet visitors and members at the front entrance on Sunday mornings. Please **switch** with someone if you cannot serve on a specific date, and notify Kay at 601-584-7574 of the change so she can prepare the nametags.

Apr.	5	Claude & Susan Sanders	17	Katie Walker & Rachel Harris
	10	Ray & Maggie Scheetz	24	George & Sandy Nicholas
May	1	Marty & Ivie Pulliam	22	Nate & Sandra Bender
	8	Kathryn & Robert Cummings	29	J. T. & Nancy Johnson
	15	Dennis & Jeanne Hunt		

GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

Westminster continues to participate actively in the spiritual renewal movement known as **Cursillo** (short course). Twice a year Presbyterian churches in our presbytery participate in this retreat at Paul B. Johnson State Park. **Pam Love, Richard Potin, Larry Royals, and Steve Ramp** will serve on staff and several Westminster members will attend as pilgrims. There are still some openings. The dates are April 28-30, and it's free. You will be glad you did!



RESCHEDULED: Because there will be no potluck supper on April 20, Circle 3 will meet on Wednesday, April 27 instead.

INVITING:

Westminster is fortunate to have many visitors. Please greet them warmly and invite them to return. Studies indicate that 88% of people join a church because a friend invited them to attend.

Relationships grow churches. We have a wonderful church family that is welcoming and inviting. Share this good news with your friends.

Westminster - Feel the Spirit
submitted by "Mystery Writer"

Have you been to Westminster recently?
There's something going on there!
There's a special SPIRIT in the place.
You feel it everywhere!
There's a new out-pouring of LOVE;
And I've seen JOY and PEACE there too!
The fruits of the spirit are ripening!
Come on in! It might be the place for you!

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:

One of the ways that we serve Christ in Mission is by allowing musicians to use our sanctuary to perform music for the general public. This spring we are hosting:

April 4, 8:00 pm	USM Concert Choir
April 10, 6:00 pm	Anastasia Talley, voice recital
April 26, 7:30 pm	Eowyn Morrow, voice recital
May 1, 6:00 pm	Catherine Cox, voice recital
May 3, 6:00 pm	Zack James, trombone recital
May 3, 7:30 pm	Joey Short, trombone recital
May 29, time TBD	Melanie Gardner, voice recital



Looking ahead: Be sure to join us for the potluck supper on Wednesday, May 4 when **Annie Jackson**, Director of South Mississippi Children's Shelter will talk about a little-known but highly-praised children's shelter.

The PW is again working with the PCUSA International Health and Development office to offer Mother's Day cards in exchange for a donation to the **Healthy Women Healthy Families** program. Donations made for the Mother's Day cards will support malaria prevention, family health education, primary care, health screenings and immunizations for children, and obstetrical care, fistula surgery, and cervical cancer screening for women. Donations of any amount are welcome. The Mother's Day cards and additional information will be available in the fellowship hall.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:



The Long Range Planning Group recommended, and the Session unanimously agreed and offered the new position of Director of Discipleship to **Tommy Suttle**. Tommy is currently the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Tennessee. He is a life-long Presbyterian who grew up at Covenant Presbyterian in Jackson, MS. He and Elizabeth Heard (Natchez) have five - count them - five beautiful children. Elizabeth, daughter Sarah Beth, and Tommy's mother, the Rev. Margaret Suttle, were here recently looking for a house and a job. Elizabeth is a kindergarten teacher and hopes to teach in the public school system. They have stepped out in faith and are in the process of buying a house in Petal. Please pray that Elizabeth will find a teaching job so the family can be with us in June. This is an exciting time for Westminster and the Suttles. Many things need to happen for all this to come together, but God is leading the way, so we know that all will be well.



The church office will be closed Monday, April 25.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP: (CONTINUED)

Orders for Easter lilies, in honor and memory of loved ones, are being taken by the Youth as a fundraiser for \$12 each. The lilies will be arranged at the front of the sanctuary on Easter morning, and the honorees will be listed in the bulletin. Sign-up sheets and a box for your payment are in the narthex next to the office. To help us keep an accurate count, please sign a separate line for each lily you order.



Notary services are now available at the church. Kay Salter is certified to notarize documents for church members. There is no fee for these services. Office hours are 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 8:30 am - noon on Friday.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Nick and Sandy Nicholas have recently moved into the same neighborhood as Ann Johnson and Harry and Carol Hickman. Their new address is 105 Creek Side Manor, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Please make a note of the change in your directory. If you do not already have a copy of our most recent directory (published in 2010) please contact Kay Salter.

*Dear Members of Westminster,
Thank you again for all your help with the Sustainable Living Conference. I can't imagine how we could have pulled it off without each of your support. Our survey results are very positive. People loved the conference and the location. They said it felt "warm, friendly, community-centered, and homey." Westminster is certainly alive with God's love.*

*Peace to you all,
Alison Ramp Buehler*

*Dear Westminster,
Thank you for allowing me to use the church for my recital! The sanctuary is such a beautiful place to sing, and I am thankful that I was able to hold my recital there.*

Sincerely, Jennifer Hayes

*Dear Steve,
I wanted to thank you for the use of the church and the reception thrown by the ladies of the choir. It doesn't seem like seven years since I left Hattiesburg – not when the faces I love are still there and the arms to hold are still open. I'm so very grateful for you and the very blessed community of Westminster. I send my love, my prayers, and my good wishes to all of you and hope to see you again soon.*

*With love,
Emily Hindrichs*

*Dear Westminster Family:
On behalf of my entire family I'd like to express my sincere thanks for your many kind expressions of sympathy during the recent loss of my father. Your outpouring of Christian love has been truly heart-warming and humbling, and a true source of comfort during this difficult time.*

The Forsyths

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP: (CONTINUED)

Eve's House has relocated to Main Street in Hattiesburg. We wish them well. We hope to have some news for you soon about a new tenant for the Wright House. These details are being worked out, and we will be able to report something to you soon.

Westminster has worked a swap with Jeff and Judy Haydel. The Haydels have a big storage unit on Lincoln Road and need a smaller one. We have a small one and need to expand. *Presto Chango!* We use our unit to store furniture and beds for people who need help getting a fresh start. If you have beds, other furniture, or kitchen items that are in excellent shape, let Richard Potin know, and we will pick them up at no charge!



Want to know what's going on but you can't find your copy of this week's bulletin announcements? Forgot what last month's newsletter said? You can find it [ALL](http://www.WPCHattiesburg.com) online at www.WPCHattiesburg.com. There's an online calendar showing church events too. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource, administered by **Raoul Jerome!**

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