



The Westminster Standard

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

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A Word From the Pastor

The hottest summer I can remember is nearly over! As we enjoy cooler mornings, it's time for Presbyterians to gird up our loins and show up at church with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We have much to be enthusiastic about! The Long Range Plan we adopted last fall is already bearing fruit. We have an experienced Director of Discipleship in Tommy Suttle who worked this summer to revamp children's Sunday School and to strengthen our Wednesday Night Program. In addition to Tommy, we are proud to welcome Elizabeth, their five children, and Tommy's mother, the Rev. Margaret Suttle who is a retired Presbyterian minister. Margaret will preach occasionally and will take communion to our home-bound members. We also have Sarah Dixon on our staff. She is responsible for publicity and communications. She designed and produced this newsletter. Logan Blancett has filled in beautifully for Kay during her medical leave of absence and will continue to help us while Kay recovers. We have one of the finest music programs I've ever seen, and this fall we are launching a new outreach program: The Westminster Academy of Music and Arts (WAMA) under the direction of Connie Roberts. We have much to be enthusiastic about! The most important thing, of course, is that Jesus Christ is the head of this church, Lord of our lives, and His Spirit knits and holds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Because of Him, we can face tomorrow, we can celebrate today, we can gird up our loins, and we can rededicate ourselves to the work and witness of His church. It is a privilege to be your pastor.

Steve

Westminster Academy of Music & Arts (WAMA)

We are pleased to announce the beginning of the Westminster Academy of Music & Arts, directed by Dr. Connie Roberts. The mission of this newly formed Academy is to promote and nurture the enjoyment of music, dance, and visual arts, emphasizing the study of the Classical arts. Fall classes, beginning Wednesday, September 7 and continuing until December 2, will be available for children, youth, and adults. Choices of study include choral music groups, group lessons in singing, private singing lessons, and private or group instrumental lessons. Each class will be offered once a week in 45 or 60-minute classes. The Academy will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-7:00 pm. Faculty of the Westminster Academy of Music & Arts are trained professional musicians. Please visit www.wpchattiesburg.com for more information on the Academy.



Worship

Our New Scholarship Singers

We welcome our new students who will be offering their vocal talent to our Sunday morning worship. Brandy Cramer - She is a senior voice major at William Carey University. She grew up in Gulfport. She's a mezzo-soprano and played the lead role of Rosemary last April in WCU's production of "How to Succeed in Business."



Daniel Massey - Daniel is a tenor, who returns to Westminster after going home to Picayune last spring to student teach. He's a May graduate of WCU in Music Education, and he's beginning a graduate degree in Choral Conducting this fall at USM. He sang in operas at WCU and USM last year.

Join us in Worship This Month

- On the first Sunday of each month, we observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is also the week we ask our worshippers to bring a non-perishable food item or a donation to support Breadbasket.
- Once a month Sarah Nobles will have a children's sermon during worship.
- The children's choir, directed by Jenny Maul, will sing in worship once a month.
- On Wednesday nights, from 6:20-6:30, we will have a time for singing before the study. If you have a favorite hymn you'd like us to sing, please let Randall Harris or Wes Brooks know.

Installation of PW Officers

On Sunday, **September 11**, we will have the installation of officers of Presbyterian Women during the service. We appreciate these women and their willingness to serve in our church and community.

Sunday Liturgists

We are looking for people to help lead worship. Please contact Steve to learn more about this opportunity.

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 the church office at 601-584-7574 so that the name tags will be prepared correctly.

Sept. 11 Charles Brown & Frank Whitesell

18 Jim & Florence Myers

25 Janeil Harris & Margaret Shaw

June average attendance: 120

June 5 - 123

June 12 - 138

June 19 - 148

June 26 - 139

July average attendance: 126

July 3 - 132

July 10 - 127

July 17 - 115

July 24 - 133

July 31 - 132

August average attendance to date: 146

August 7 - 148

August 14 - 143

August 21 - 148

Belonging

Men of the Church Resume Monthly Breakfasts

Men of the Church will start their monthly breakfasts on September 10. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am, followed by a devotion and program.

Rally Day - September 11th

Be sure not to miss this Sunday! This will be our kickoff day to introduce our fall Sunday School classes. Everyone is invited. There will be coffee, juice, and breakfast baked goods in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am.

Boswell Visits Westminster - September 14th

Approximately 45 of our friends from Boswell Regional Center in Magee, MS will be visiting us for our Wednesday night activities. Our relationship with Boswell goes back 30+ years, and we are fortunate to have them with us again this year. They will begin singing at 5:50 pm. The church will provide pizza and salad for everyone to eat at 6:30 pm.

Choir Notes

Beginning **September 14th**, the adult choir will begin its regular Wednesday night rehearsals at 6:30 pm. The rehearsal will conclude at 8:00 pm.

New Wednesday Night Schedule

Out of respect for everyone's time and busy schedules, we have made a few changes on Wednesday nights. Starting **September 21st**, the dinner will begin at 5:45 pm. Choir will begin promptly at 6:30 pm so that they will be finished by 8:00 pm. For our discipleship time, Tommy Suttle will lead a study that will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. This will allow those who wish to be a part of the study to remain in the same location as dinner. It will also allow latecomers the opportunity to finish their meal and participate in the study at the same time.

Annual Fish (& Shrimp) Fry

Join us on Sunday, **September 25th**, just after the service, for a lunch of fried catfish with all the fixings. We'll also have fried shrimp this year! We appreciate the deacons and all their hard work that goes into planning this event.

Cooking Teams to Take Over 1st Wednesdays

A new twist on the meals for our midweek meeting will begin in October. On the first Wednesday of each month, cooking teams will make the main dish for our potluck dinners. Other attendees will still be asked to bring a salad dish or a dessert. If you would like to be a part of a cooking team, please contact Tommy at 601-584-1014.

Bread Breakers

Due to the many activities taking place this fall, the Bread Breaker groups will be postponed until the spring.

Softball Team News

The Westminster adult co-ed team in the summer league is wrapping up their season. Currently playing in the double-elimination tournament, the team won their first game. If you are interested in playing fall ball, please contact Erik Graham.

A Special Note

Being a part of a family of believers, each of us can use our unique skills to offer encouragement, meet a need, or help in some way. Since the beginning of August, Ruthie Davis has made writing birthday cards to our members her ministry. We appreciate Ruthie and her acts of service through writing these notes each month!

Presbyterian Women Circles

Logan Blancett, Martha Anne Hogrefe, Ginny Graham, Judy Haydel, and Peggy Langnecker have been hard at work organizing the PW Circles and the hand book. All women who are members of Westminster have been assigned a circle. You are all invited to become involved and enjoy the rewards of friendship, bonding, and serving God's children. Copies of the hand book are available in the church office. Digital copies are available by request. Please send requests to westminster@wpchattiesburg.com.

- Circle Meetings:
 - * Circle 1 meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 am at the church.
 - * Circle 2 meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the church.
 - * Circle 3 meets the 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm after potluck dinner.
- The Bible study for this year is *Confessing the Beatitudes*.
- The groups will focus on Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and working in the community with:
 - * Domestic Abuse Center
 - * Christian Women's Job Corps
 - * Ellisville State School Parents & Friends Assoc.
 - * Salvation Army
 - * Visiting hospital cancer and heart patients
- The focus of worldwide outreach will be:
 - * Birthday offering
 - * Mission offering
 - * Thanksgiving offering
- Other focuses of benevolence will be towards:
 - * Stillman College Mission Haven
 - * Colombia Friendship Circles
 - * Student Affairs
 - * Presbyterian Historical Society
- Within the church, the circles host baby and wedding showers, provide casseroles for sick or disabled members, make food for special occasions, and arrange for meals and memorials should a circle member have a death in the family.

Junior High Experience The Great Escape

The Great Escape, in Florence, MS, was an intense, high energy, no rest, fun-filled extravaganza! The theme was "Metamorphosis" and centered on being transformed within by Christ. The youth swam, rode horses, shot rifles, shot bows and arrows, and did a very high ropes course. They played lots of large group games and the day did not stop until way after sun down. There were morning speakers, a band, evening skits, and an evening speaker. Fun was had by all! Attendees were Amy Ruff, Frank Powell, Ben Ruff, Will Ruff, & Sarah Beth Suttle.



September Birthdays

3	Robin Roberts	15	Carrie Cromartie	21	Margaret Buckley	27	Janet Burke
8	Laurie Herring	15	Charles Hogrefe	22	Betsy McDaniel	27	Raoul Jerome
9	Catherine Holland	15	John MEEK	23	Charles Brown	27	Ivie Pulliam
11	Keara MacNeil	15	Catherine Sampson	23	Lola Norris	29	Keith McLarnan
12	Sharon Lebsack	17	David Garraway	24	Toby Davis	29	Cheryl &
12	Jimmy Myers	17	Carol Hickman	25	Sinclair Lundy		Rebecca Gaudet
13	Connie Roberts	19	Rhonda Patterson	26	Florence Myers	29	Henry Haydel

Growing Spiritually

New Rotation Sunday School

It's a new school year and a great time to begin a new model for our children's Sunday School. Rotation Sunday School is an education model that teaches children Bible stories and concepts that are illustrated through art, drama, games, audio-visual, puppetry, computers, and cooking. The children rotate through different workshops each week. The teacher for each workshop teaches the same material each week for the duration of the rotation. This curriculum will give the kids a multimedia experience as well as allow members of our church to serve as teachers for only a few weeks at a time and with specific media in which they are skilled or interested. This new format will begin on **September 18th**. There will be an informational meeting on **September 7th at 5:15 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please call Tommy at 601-584-1014.

Generations Class Begins New Series

The Generations Sunday school class will begin a new lesson series on **September 18th**. We welcome anyone to the class who is interested in a caring, relaxed study group. Throughout the year we pursue either a Bible study, or we read through selected books that help us examine our faith and reflect on our response to God's call. Now is a good time to become a part of a Sunday school class.

Cursillo

If you would like to deepen your faith and rekindle the gift that is within you, sign up for a Cursillo retreat. You can talk with Mary Clare Shaw, Butch Nobles, or Steve Ramp. The next Cursillo retreat is **October 27-30** at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, MS (near Jackson). Several members from Westminster will be on staff and several more have already signed up to attend. We have three openings if you would like to attend, the cost of which is free.

Inviting

New Members

Westminster please to have the following individuals and families now calling our church home:

- Kala & Faren Raborn
- Tommy, Elizabeth, & Jacob Suttle
- Bob Buckner

We have reached a milestone with the addition of the Suttle family. Jacob became our 201st member on our current membership roll!

People come to church for all kinds of reasons. People join a church largely because they feel loved and welcomed. If you know people who are not active in a church, invite them to Westminster. Pick them up or meet them at our door. Introduce them to people. Take them to lunch. We are a loving church and we welcome new faces!

Serving Christ In Mission

June Pentecost Offering

Each year a special Pentecost Offering is taken, obtained from setting aside 25% of a regular Sunday offering. The offering taken in June provided funds for the South Mississippi Children's Home. These funds were used to purchase luggage and personal clothing items for children in the shelter. We thank everyone who gave to help support this important local ministry.

Upcoming Special Offerings

Westminster will participate in the Worldwide Communion Sunday on October 2nd. On that day, we will set aside 25% of the offering for our Peacemaking Offering. The designated funds for this offering will go towards Tommy Suttle's Mississippi licensing for his counseling work to be offered at the South Mississippi Children's Home.

Members Serve Our Neighbors in Smithville

Smithville, MS, a small town of approximately 900, was destroyed by a EF5 tornado on April 27, 2011. It had winds of 205 miles per hour, killing 14 and injuring 40. 98% of the town's businesses were destroyed.

On July 21st, Mary Clare Shaw, Reagan Nelson, Butch, Cindy & Sarah Nobles went to Smithville to help rebuild. Their project was to build a 12x12 storage building with a 12x12 porch for Mr. William Ford, an elderly gentleman whose wife had survived the storm, but passed away just 3 weeks prior to our arrival. Their mission was to provide HOPE and the LOVE of Jesus Christ.



High Schoolers Experience Life in Montana



The Senior High Youth went on a mission trip this summer to Lodge Grass, Montana to the Crow Reservation. They stayed at a Catholic church on the reservation and ministered to the community through a Kid's Club and by working on homes in the area. In the evenings they would have fun activities such as going to an area lake for fireworks, learning about a sweat lodge, going to the Battle of Little Big Horn, and participating in a community wide cook out. They all had a great time serving in and learning about the Crow culture. Those who traveled to Montana were Amy Ruff, Mary Clare Shaw, Margaret Shaw, Mary Hannah Ruff, Rebecca Gaudet, and Lucy Robinson.

Christian Women's Job Corp Has New Home

You will soon see the official new sign going up in front of the Wright House on N 24th Avenue for the Christian Women's Job Corp. This ministry offers a 10-week program for women who wish to better their lives through education and mentoring, all within a Christian context. With an open house held on August 14th, they welcomed supporters in to see the spacious house that will now serve as their office and education center for the women in the program. Their next session will start on **September 12**, with sessions from 9:00 am-2:30 pm Monday-Thursday. Westminster is partnering with CWJC to mentor, teach, and serve women in the program lunches. We invite individuals, Sunday School Classes, PW Circles or other small groups to be involved. Please contact Sharon Potin, Audra Cummings, or Steve Ramp for more information. Please also be in prayer about their efforts to begin a Christian Men's Job Corp.



Administrative Leadership

Westminster Presbyterian Church is pleased to have Tommy Suttle join our staff this summer as our Director of Discipleship. He has already been very busy finding new curriculum for our children's Sunday School, planning new programming for our Wednesday night fellowships, and working with committees to implement the plans. Tommy's wife Elizabeth is teaching at Petal Primary School. They live with their five children in Petal.



Under our 2010-15 Long Range Plan, we determined that we need to be more intentional about letting the world know about Westminster. Sarah Dixon is working with us 10 hours a week towards this end. If you have any news to pass along to her, feel free to contact her at sarahdixon@me.com or 601.307.3791. Sarah is a member of Ekklesia Hattiesburg, where her husband Mike is pastor.

Presbytery Meeting in Vicksburg

October 20th is the date for the Presbytery meeting taking place in Vicksburg, MS. If you would like to attend, please contact Steve Ramp at 601-584-7574.

Stewardship

If you have special needs that will need to be reflected in the budget, please let Steve know as soon as possible.

New Email Address

In order to have a more user friendly email address, we have changed the church email address to westminster@wpchattiesburg.com.

A Note on Our Beloved Kay

Our Secretary, Kay Salter, is fighting cancer and has completed eight tough weeks of radiation and chemotherapy. We are praying that the tumor in her lung is overwhelmed and on its way out. We'll know more in the next month. Meanwhile, Kay is in good spirits and remains optimistic. She works part time, often from home. We appreciate Logan Blancett helping in the office this summer as well.

Letters to Our Congregation

July

*Dear Westminster Church Family,
Thank you so much for the loving and warm welcome you have extended to the entire Suttle family. We are all thrilled to be "back home" in south Mississippi and are grateful to God that He has led us to be a part of such a special church family. We look forward to many years of fun and fellowship in Christ with each of you and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Thank you again for all of the kind words and warm greetings. It's great to be home!
In Christ,
Elizabeth, Tommy, Margaret Suttle and kids*

July 22

*Westminster Congregation,
Thank you for donating luggage, toiletry items and undergarments to our children. Imagine a child coming into the shelter with all his/her worldly goods and leaving with them in suitcases. You have, perhaps, changed the way a child feels about him/herself. Thank you for always thinking of the children.
Annie Jackson,
South MS Children's Center
Program Director*



August 17

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for your support of Palmer's children. You are a blessing to us!

Our greatest privilege at Palmer Home is to have the opportunity to tell our children about Christ and His great and tender love for them. A house mom shared a sweet story at a recent campus staff meeting about a boy who has only been at Palmer a short while. She said that it was just the two of them sitting at the table one morning, and out of the blue he said, "Ms. Cyndi, I'm not sure I'm going to Heaven." She began to share with him about Jesus, and said she had his undivided attention for a short while. But just as suddenly as he brought it up, he dismissed it as he ran out to play. But not before a seed was planted. And now it's our job to see that it is watered.

It's an honor to be a part of something eternal for our children. You take part in that great honor, also. Your gift not only makes provision for their physical needs, but even more importantly, their spiritual needs. What you do changes lives and makes a difference that counts. And we are eternally grateful.

Charles L. (Charlie) Guest
Interim President, Palmer Home

August 21

My name is Bob Buckner. I was associate pastor in Baptist churches for forty-two years, in Texas, Oklahoma and finally in Mississippi. I retired early to take care of my wife who had Alzheimer's disease. I retired from Pinelake Baptist Church in the reservoir community of Brandon. I had been twelve years on their staff. We moved to Hattiesburg in June of 1995... just in time to enjoy Katrina! I've been a family of one for 18 months now. I've not really attended church for quite a while. Guess I was resting up! I knew Westminster, because you guys provide a meeting place for "ShareCare," a group that means a great deal to me. You also provide an office for us in the Jones House. It was a Saturday evening a couple months ago. I had an impression, "I think I'll get up and go to Westminster in the morning." I knew Steve Ramp as a friend and as one of the most Godly preachers I have ever met. I haven't missed a Sunday since! Richard Potin said to me, "When are you going to join us?" I said, "Join you for what?" He said, "Join the church." That thought had been in the back of mind for a week or two. Richard's question came at the perfect time for me. I joined the church today, Sunday, August 21. I have never felt more welcome in a church!

Community Calendar of Events

Eve's House Art Gala Fundraiser

"Celebrate Life....Celebrate Freedom" will take place on **Sunday, September 11 at 12:00 pm** at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center, 723 Main Street, in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg. There will be a sub sandwich lunch available for \$6.00. Lunches may be purchased at the door or ordered in advanced online. This event includes a "Buy It Now" Section called the Boutique and Sweet Shop, a silent auction, and a live art auction beginning at 2:00 pm with auctioneer Mary Clare Shaw. Many of the items at this event have been donated by outstanding local artists and craftsmen. Additionally, there will be a Kid's Corner full of activities for the children so you can browse and shop. For more information, please contact us at www.eveshouse.com, by emailing eves.house1@yahoo.com, or by calling 601-299-2202.

Guest Speaker at Local Temple

Temple B'nai Israel, Hattiesburg, will be hosting a presentation entitled "Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber" on **Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 pm**. Temple B'nai Israel is located at 901 Mamie Street. Dr. Anat Berko, a world renowned terrorism expert and criminologist will be the featured speaker. There will be a reception following the presentation.

South MS Children's Center Silent Auction

The 2011 "Vines of the World" Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction will be held in Historic Downtown Hattiesburg at The Venue at the Bakery Building on Friday, **September 30th from 6:00-10:00 pm**. This event supports the region's primary emergency placement shelter for abused, neglected, runaway and homeless children ages 9-17. When these children walk through the shelter doors, they often only have the clothes on their backs and are scared and hungry. The South Mississippi Children's Center provides these kids a safe haven. At the shelter, the children are provided room, board, medical, dental, education and so much more. Tickets are \$50 each and are available at www.mchscares.org or by calling 601-709-1203.

R3SM, Inc. Upcoming 10k

Several members of Westminster are on the Board of R3SM, Inc., which is a local agency that coordinates recovery services designed to alleviate suffering and stress for the people of Forrest, Lamar and Perry counties who have unmet needs due to the occurrence of disaster. R3SM, Inc. is trying to finish remodeling the Volunteer House across from the Train Depot in downtown Hattiesburg. Once finished, it will be able to house 100 volunteers. As similar volunteers previously stayed in our Wright House, we would like to see this project succeed. Their annual fundraiser is a 10k run/walk event at **8:30 am on November 5th**. Why not make plans now to participate in this fund-raising event! Information and online registration can be found at www.r3sm.org.

Ministry In Focus

Breadbasket Ministry

by Jane Rayborn

Realizing that many of our newer members may not know much about this ministry and since we are commemorating our 30th anniversary this year, it seems a good time to remember the purpose of Breadbasket and how it got started.

The idea for establishing an emergency food pantry in Hattiesburg began with the Mariners Sunday School Class at Westminster and the project soon expanded to include our entire congregation and four other nearby churches. We now have nine member churches of various denominations and this ecumenical approach has been a valuable part of the ministry as we work together "to proclaim God's love in Christ by providing food both to members of our community who find themselves in emergency situations and to transients" as the original purpose of such a ministry was stated.

Each member church has a representative on the Breadbasket Council, and each church decides how it can best provide resources to support the ministry. For example, at Westminster we encourage donations on Communion Sundays (there are special envelopes in the pew racks). In addition we receive support from other interested organizations in town that sponsor food drives for Breadbasket or contribute monetary donations. Breadbasket is also the recipient of the offering received at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. Each member church takes a week at a time to be "on call" to receive requests for assistance and to provide volunteers to go to the pantry to pack baskets and deliver food. Westminster is "on call" every nine weeks and we are always grateful to have new volunteers.

Food was first delivered from the pantry in June of 1981 and through December of that year eighty-three households including 283 individuals (126 adults and 157 children) received food baskets. In the second quarter of this year, April through June 2011, one of the busiest quarters ever, 178 households received food baskets, 617 individuals were served (332 adults and 285 children). In that quarter \$5,092.56 was spent to purchase groceries to ensure that we have a well-balanced inventory of good nutritious food in the pantry. We assist three to four families each day, providing enough food to last for at least three days. We also deliver special baskets at Christmas time providing as many as one hundred baskets for the past several years.

Breadbasket has become known as a dependable resource in our community and many of our requests are received from other agencies that are aware of families needing assistance. Breadbasket has been able to respond to these requests for assistance because of the faithful and generous support of our member congregations throughout the years. Ministries such as Breadbasket give us a tangible way to put our faith into action.

Westminster will have Breadbasket duties September 6-9th. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the designated sheet in the narthex.



September Calendar of Events

4 - Sunday	11:00 am - Communion Sunday
7 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Rotation Sunday School informational meeting - No Potluck dinner
	7:00 pm - Choir
10 - Saturday	8:00 am - Men of the Church breakfast
11 - Sunday	10:00 am - Rally Day
	12:10 pm - Diaconate Meeting
	1:30 pm - Session Meeting
13 - Tuesday	9:30 am - Presbyterian Women - Circle 1
	7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women - Circle 2
14 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Pizza & Singing with Boswell Guests
	6:15 pm - Youth & Children
	6:30 pm - Choir & Study
20 - Tuesday	9:30 am - Presbyterian Women Prayer Group
21 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Potluck dinner
	6:15 pm - Youth & Children
	6:30 pm - Choir & Study
22 - Thursday	6:30 pm - Presbyterian Women - Circle 3 - at Bristles Art Studio
25 - Sunday	12:00 pm - Annual Fish Fry
28 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Potluck dinner
	6:15 pm - Youth & Children
	6:30 pm - Choir & Study

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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