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November
2009

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

During the month of October I preached several times from the Book of Job. Job was a righteous man who lost everything overnight. Job's big question was why does God allow the wicked to prosper while good people suffer? Shouldn't it be the other way around? Job demanded an answer from God. Satan also challenged God. He said human beings are completely self-serving and will turn against God if the blessings stop flowing and we are pounded by adversity. God said "No." The faithful are grateful and love their Creator - with blessings or without blessings. Do you agree? I know personally that it's MUCH harder to feel loving towards God when I'm facing hardships. There are a couple of lessons here: 1) You can't always trust your **feelings**. If being a good spouse, a good parent, or a good friend depends on your feelings, you'd probably be good about 60% of the time. Paying too much attention to your feelings is a mistake. True Faith (trusting God) is a decision, an ethical and spiritual commitment that doesn't disappear or crumble when you feel bad. Decide to put God first in everything. 2) God loves you and has great confidence in you - so much that He sent his Son into the world to deal with the barrier (sin) that separated us from God. God wants you to be loving, loyal, faithful, content, committed to Him not because your life is easy, but because you have received and recognize his great love for you in Christ Jesus. If you get that, you will be able to handle anything and everything with grace.

It is a great privilege to be your pastor and friend.

WORSHIP NEWS:

Daylight Savings Time reminder: It's time to "fall back" by setting your clocks back an hour on Saturday night, October 31.



August 16 was the last Sunday we worshipped in the sanctuary. Our contractor has until December 31 to complete the work and get us moved back into it. However, thanks to excellent teamwork and cooperation between our contractor (Patrick Ward), our organ builders (David and Susan French), our subcontractors, notably Garner Electric, A-1 Heating and Air, and an amazing team of volunteers led by **David Garraway** and several other key members (**Raoul Jerome, Butch Nobles, Larry Royals**) it is likely that we can be back in our sanctuary on **November 15**. This will depend mainly on getting the new floor installed, sanded, stained, and cured in time to move the grand piano back. The organ itself will not be playable until it has been voiced. With 3,000 pipes and sophisticated electronics, this will take some time. In any case, it looks like we'll be back in the sanctuary for the beautiful Advent season and Christmas. Is God good or what?



In a matter of weeks . . . not months or years, Westminster will have a new **pipe organ**. Did you know that the organ dates back to antiquity? A hydraulis was an early type of pipe organ that operated by converting the dynamic energy of water into air pressure to generate sound through the pipes. Its design is attributed to a Greek scientist and engineer from 3rd century BC! The hydraulis was the world's first keyboard instrument, and was in fact, the predecessor of the modern church organ. Since the 14th century, pipe organs have had the same basic design and have used "wind" or air blown through pipes to produce the sound we recognize. Each organ pipe produces one tone at one pitch. Westminster's new organ has around three thousand pipes that will be operated from four manuals, each with 61 keys, and a pedal with 32 notes. The pipes rest on wind chests which force air through the pipes to create the sound. This long history connects us to Christians throughout the western world and across the centuries, who have worshipped God with the organ and their voices. Over

time, Westminster's congregation has consistently valued music as an important component of worship. The installation of a new organ will enhance our worship for years to come. Please share the story of how God has blessed our congregation with people you encounter from day to day. Invite them to worship with us. We are grateful for the financial support we've received and hope everyone will step forward soon to support this project.

WORSHIP NEWS: (continued)

This year the annual **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service** will be hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church. The service will be at 6 pm on November 22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The preacher this year will be the **Rev. Susan Bear**, priest at Church of the Ascension. Please make plans to participate in this annual event. The proceeds of the offering will benefit the BreadBasket.



October attendance average: 100

October 4 - 106

October 18 - 114

October 11 - 99

October 25 - 79

BELONGING:

The **Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday, November 14 at 8 am. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend. Immediately following breakfast we will proceed into a **church-wide workday** (around 8:30). The Diaconate has prepared a list of items to be addressed, and they really need everyone to help. We will be moving back in the sanctuary soon, so we want everything to be spic and span. The sooner we start and the more folks we have pitching in, the sooner we'll finish!

Our annual **Thanksgiving dinner** will be on Sunday, November 15 following the worship service. To keep it simple this year, the Diaconate will provide the dinner and the Session will provide the desserts. Members are not asked to bring anything but big appetites!



The **co-ed softball team** has been playing double headers this season, regularly playing on Tuesday nights at 6:30 and 7:30. The weather has "fouled" us up nicely so we have only played one night so far this season. I'm not certain how much longer the season is going to go, but anyone interested in coming out to cheer us is welcome and encouraged. Contact **Jeff Haydel** at 601-467-1091 for scheduling or information.



BELONGING: (continued)

November birthdays
1 Tom McKegney
2 Sarah Nobles
3 Lynn Davis
4 Sandy Nicholas
9 Carolyn Bedenbaugh
17 Mary Cromartie
17 Brent Gatch
17 Mary Montague
18 Linda McLain
19 Kathryn Cummings
20 Floyd Cannedy
20 Jeanne Herring
20 Margaret Shaw
25 Brandon Pulliam
26 H. A. Moore

December birthdays
4 Bryan Hernandez
9 David Arnold
21 Bob Lochhead
25 Robert Cummings
27 Ben Ruff
28 Tami Dossett
29 Asa Bryant



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.

Nov. 1	Floyd & Iola Cannedy	22	Mary Cromartie & Margaret Pearson
8	Gordon & Betty Jo McDonald	29	Erik & Ginny Graham
15	Jan Bozeman & Bonnie Revicki		
Dec. 6	Mac & Lisa Forsyth	20	Larry Royals & Mary Clare Shaw
13	Wally & Mary Dayne Gregg	27	Sarah & Mary Kathryn Nobles

GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

The K-2 Sunday School had another swim gathering at Mary Clare Shaw's house on September 27. Fun was had by all. It's wonderful to get the children together to continue their bond as they grow within the church as little believers in Christ. I do believe it's important for them to have childhood memories of their church family and the fun things they did. It builds positive memories and as they get older they can reflect upon. I know growing up in the church these positive experiences were very beneficial to me in knowing where to find the "right" kind of love. Praise be to God that our children are in this environment as so many are not so fortunate. We'll have more fun swim gatherings next summer and "Splash for Christ". Thank you for continuing to let me serve your children.



Mary Clare Shaw

GROWING SPIRITUALLY: (continued)

While **Mary Dayne Gregg** is experiencing the miracle of healing through the Lord, **Audra Saunders** will be teaching the High School Youth Sunday School class. Audra has been working on some informative and fun lessons and will be providing snacks. Please bring a couple friends to enjoy the lessons and how they affect your daily life as a youth. **NOTE:** Class will **not** be held on November 8 or 15 due to the Saunders/Cummings wedding celebration.

INVITING:

Healthy organisms grow. Our church is healthy. We should be growing. We will grow if you invite friends, co-workers, neighbors, acquaintances to meet you at your church. Offer to pick them up. Love them and they will break the doors down to join.

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:

It was pure joy, laughter and music on Wednesday, October 7 as we met and worshipped with three Brazilian missionaries. Themis Mello, Nataniel Silva and Marta Carriker were part of a team of eight Brazilians who came to Mississippi to share the gospel and thank us for our support, both financial and through the cistern project. The eight people were divided into groups with translators and were sent to various clusters in Mississippi.

On Thursday, David and Bettye Arnold took the three on a tour of Hattiesburg, including Christian Services, Parkway Heights daycare facility, Eve's House and Wesley Manor. They were delighted with lunch at the Cracker Barrel and a trip to Wal-Mart. The team was then transferred to Pineview Presbyterian to continue their music, testimony and tours.

Mac Forsyth, with Lisa and Ellie, drove the team back to Natchez for their final week with our Presbytery. Mac and the group attended the Presbytery meeting that Saturday.

Many people made the visit pleasant and smooth: Jeanne Herring, who hosted Themis; Robin and Connie Roberts who hosted Marta and Nataniel; Butch Nobles, Richard and Sharon Potin, Brent Gatch (who loaned two bicycles); David and Bettye Arnold who toured Hattiesburg and sites of interest, and Mac Forsyth who provided the final transportation. Barbara Stallcup was the coordinator of the visit.

Can you spare two hours? Once again, Westminster will work with the **Salvation Army** to tend the **Angel Tree** signup table in Turtle Creek Mall on November 20 and 21. This volunteer work was begun by **Margaret Boyd** many years ago, and is now spearheaded by **Barbara Stallcup**. A signup sheet is in the narthex.



SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION: (continued)



An annual food drive hosted by Oak Grove Upper Elementary School is donated to **Breadbasket** each year. Volunteers are needed to sort the items on Tuesday, November 17 at 8 am at the parish hall of Church of the Ascension. Juice, coffee and donuts will be provided for the workers. The process takes a few hours, and it is fine if you can only work for part of the time or if you come late.

The **Peacemaking Offering** received in October yielded \$675. Your gift to the Peacemaking Offering makes a difference in our world. Because of these donations, hundreds of high school, college, and seminary students are able to attend seminars sponsored by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to learn ways to be a voice for change. Thank you for your generous support!

The **Boswell** gift collection boxes are in the narthex. We need to have 194 gifts (122 for men, 72 for women) ready to go by **November 30**. It's really easy. Go to Dollar General or Wal-Mart and purchase items that cost less than \$10. Decide if they are for a man, a woman, or could be for either. Buy a nice gift bag for \$1.00 and put a sticky note inside: "Man, size large" etc. Put it in the box. The Boswell residents look forward to getting our gifts as a sign of God's love for them. **Jimmy and Joy Garraway** have recruited **Robert and Audra Cummings** and **Brenda Owens** to help this year. Let's pitch in and buy three or four gifts each so Jimmy can sleep at night.



On Wednesday night, November 4, following our potluck dinner, **Ben Mathes** will be our speaker. You owe it to yourself to hear Ben's report of serving God's people through **Rivers of the World**. ROW is a not-for-profit Christian ministry that targets remote river basins. ROW partners with local people and helps people with issues they deem important. This is not a top down program, but a very respectful bottoms up approach. Westminster supports ROW annually. This is a tried and true ministry that you can trust and support without reservations. Come and hear the good news. Ben is an exciting speaker and you will go away blessed and fired up. *Full Steam Ahead!*

For the past two years we allowed **Kim Gowdy** of **Big Brother/Big Sisters** to have a free office in the Jones House. Sadly, the organization is contracting and Kim is no longer with them. The good news is that the Session voted to allow the **ShareCare** ministry, (**Stella Fair, Peggy Speed, Tom McKegnie, Ivie Pullium**) to take over the office space. ShareCare has a monthly potluck and helps strangers become friends through fellowship and service projects. They will help us with the church-wide work day on November 14.

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION: (continued)

The Men of the Church wish to thank everyone who participated in the fall blood drive. Thirteen units were donated to United Blood Services.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

Soon you will receive a stewardship letter and a pledge card for 2010. Don't just read it once and pitch it. Read it daily for several days and ask God what amount of my income should I return to the Lord in response to Your love and grace? Remember: this is not the Organ Fund. This is the money we use to operate the church year-round.



On November 8 we will meet during the Sunday School hour to talk about the budget for 2010. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. The Session believes our goal for next year should be to aggressively retire the bank debt we've recently incurred to pay for the renovations in the sanctuary and proposes to freeze salaries and tighten our belts on the cost side so we can aggressively retire the debt.

On November 15 we will dedicate our pledges for the 2010 operating budget. Won't it be wonderful if it works out that we can dedicate God's tithes and our offerings in the sanctuary? That will be a very special day. Afterwards, we will enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together.



The church office will be closed November 26 and 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dear Westminster Family and Friends,

Jeff, Judy and Sam Haydel would like to thank everyone for the prayers and well wishes regarding the birth of Henry. The outpouring of cards, phone calls, e-mails, and personal inquiries about how he and we are doing is just a testament of the loving and family centered nature of our congregation. It has been a big adjustment for all of us, especially Sam, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Henry's jaundice has finally cleared up and now that he is healthy we can see him growing before our very eyes. We are looking forward to introducing Henry to his church family in a few weeks and know that he will be welcomed with open and loving arms in just the same way as his parents and his brother were when they first arrived at Westminster. Our thanks to you all and the one that watches over us.



Much love from above, The Haydels

YOUTH:

The Youth will be going on a **mission trip** June 25-July 5, 2010 to the Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico). This trip is also open to **adult church members** that would like to participate. The approximate cost is \$1,100 which includes airfare, lodging, and meals. A passport is required. If you are seriously interested in joining the mission group going to the Yucatan next summer, please contact **Amy Ruff** (601-310-2769) immediately so that she can lock in flight and hotel bookings before rates go up on November 1. A deposit of \$150 payable to "WPC Youth Fund" is due to Amy by Wednesday, November 18.



The Youth will have a **Lock-In** on November 13 and 14. They will start at the mall with a scavenger hunt and then head to the Jones House to spend the night.

The Youth will sell **parking slots** (\$8 each) starting at 3 pm on Saturday, November 21 for the USM vs. Tulsa football game. Kickoff is 6 pm.



To view Westminster's calendar of events, go to www.WPCHattiesburg.com and click on the "calendar" tab.

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