

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

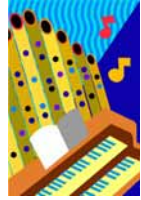
It's easy to lose perspective and start focusing on problems instead of blessings. The Book of James reminds us: "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of **first fruits** of his creatures." That's an eternal perspective. Our attitudes, our conduct, our kindness towards others, our willingness to be generous, all *reflect* God's love and God's purpose in our lives. Your fruitfulness is proof of God's faithfulness! God is doing something special at Westminster this fall. You and I are caught up in the extravagant grace of God. The important thing is to see this from the proper perspective: we are blessed and privileged to be part of something on earth that resembles, in a small way, what heaven is like. Our job is to be faithful, joyful, committed stewards of the mystery of God. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

It is a privilege to walk with you on this pilgrimage of faith.

Steve

WORSHIP NEWS:

Organ Update: Work on our new organ is now in full swing. The electricians have run wires to the balcony and are nearly finished. The 10 inch wind pipes are being put in place so the organ will get the necessary air pressure. The organ builders, David and Susan Smith, are installing new pipes daily. The pulpit has been moved. Our carpenters, electricians, and heating and air conditioning specialists have worked very hard to get our space prepared. If you've looked in the sanctuary lately you realize that this is a huge undertaking. We hope you recently received a letter soliciting your prayers and financial support. The Hattiesburg American wants to publish an article on this project. That should appear soon. So far, everything has moved forward as planned. We need your support so we can retire the debt and enjoy this organ for the next 50 years! Thank you.



The **choir** now rehearses on Sunday mornings at 8:30. While we're out of the sanctuary this fall, we are going to sing less complicated music. If you've ever considered singing in the choir, please carefully consider your ability to help us with this vital component of worship

September attendance average: 110

Sept. 6 - 104 Sept. 20 - 115
Sept. 13 - 114 Sept. 27 - 104

BELONGING:

Due to the status of the sanctuary and the resulting layout of the fellowship hall, the **Fish Fry**, originally scheduled for October 4, has been postponed until spring.



Westminster finished in 2nd place in the **summer co-ed softball league**. *Way to go, team!* Fall league has started, so come cheer the team on at the games at Tatum Park.

October birthdays:

1 Pam Dossett	19 Butch Nobles
10 Rachel Harris	22 Althea Jerome
12 Sandra Bender	25 Jayden Pulliam
14 Barbara Stallcup	26 Girdelle Dent
16 Don Norris, Jr.	28 Aiden and Eli Burnham
16 Maggie Scheetz	28 Will Ruff
17 Jimmy Garraway	29 Joy Garraway
18 Chang Tseh Hsieh	31 Rick Davis

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

BELONGING: (continued)

The **BreadBreaker** groups have been formed. If you signed up, you will be contacted by one of the four group conveners. They will ask you to bring something to their home to kick off the 2009-2010 BreadBreaker meetings. If you didn't sign up and are interested in starting a new group, please see **Steve Ramp** or **Mary Clare Shaw**.

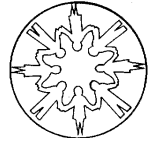


Sunday Greeters: Please help us greet visitors and members at the front entrance on Sunday mornings. Please **switch** with someone if you cannot serve on a specific date, and notify Kay at 601-584-7574 of the change for the bulletin announcement.

Oct. 4 Butch & Cindy Nobles 18 Peggy Langnecker & Barbara Stallcup
11 Janet Burke & Barbara Stallcup 25 Franklin & Dutchie Bryant

GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

We enjoyed **Rally Day** on September 13. The theme this year is *Growing Spiritually, Together*. You are encouraged to join a Sunday School class. This year our faculty are as follows:



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten – 2	Mary Clare Shaw
Grades 3 – 7	Butch Nobles, Christopher Napier
Junior/Senior High	Mary Dayne Gregg, Audra Saunders (substitute)
Young Adult	Amy Ruff, coordinator
Generations	Althea Jerome, Ellen Ramp
Covenant	Wally Gregg
Adult/Agape	Martha Ann Hogrefe, coordinator

FELLOWSHIPS

Young Disciples	Sarah Nobles
Youth	Amy Ruff
College Fellowship	Amy Ruff

INVITING:



Westminster loves visitors. Let's encourage them to become active members. Before and after worship, instead of talking with your friends, **FIRST introduce** yourself to people you don't know and tell them you're glad they are here. Extend the right hand of fellowship and tell them how much you enjoy being part of Westminster. You'd be surprised a) how few churches do that and b) how much some personal warmth and attention mean to people who are not yet members. This is a wonderful church. Let's **ENCOURAGE** others to get on board. **Erik Graham** and **Gene Owens** are elders who focus on inviting. If you know someone who might enjoy becoming part of Westminster, please tell them.

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:

The **Peacemaking Offering** was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. 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. This offering will be received on October 4, World Communion Sunday.

Two Brazilian missionaries, **Nataniel Silva** and **Themis** (pronounced *tim-mis*) **Mello**, and their interpreter **Paul Fahnstock** will visit Westminster on October 7 and 8. They wish to strengthen the bond between our Presbytery and our sister Presbytery of the Northeast of the Independent Church of Brazil and will share their message of hope and joy with us after our family night supper. Our Presbytery has sent delegations to Brazil; now it's our turn to host them. Pineview will host these visitors Thursday evening and Friday morning. Please pray for the success of this visit.



Volunteers are needed to fill **Breadbasket** applications during the week of October 19-23. It takes only about 1½ hours of your time and is a great way to help those less fortunate in our community. Please contact **Margaret Lochhead**.

This year, **Jimmy and Joy Garraway** have recruited **Robert Cummings**, **Audra Saunders**, and **Brenda Owens** to assist in collecting and delivering gifts to our friends at **Boswell Regional Center**. Please bring your gift in a colorful paper bag with a tag stating if it's for a male, female or either and what it is so the counselors can give it to the person who needs it most. We need to have 194 gifts (122 for males and 72 for females) in hand by sundown, November 30, so we can get them delivered in a timely manner for the residents to enjoy.



ANNOUNCING: Men of the Church Mini Maintenance Program. Are you having trouble changing your ceiling light bulbs? Furnace filters? Have leaky faucets or toilets? The Men of the Church are now offering their handy-men services on each second Saturday after their monthly breakfast. If you are frustrated by small repair problems, email Robert Cummings (email4rc@megagate.com), Jeff Haydel (jeff@jhaydel.com) or Eric Reidenbach (eric@marketvaluesolutions.com) to place your name on their to-do list. They intend to eventually add handicapped ramp construction to their scope as funds and participation allow.

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION: (continued)

Report from the Presbyterian Women Creative Offering Committee

WHO CHOOSES THE GRANT RECIPIENTS?

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) of Presbyterian Women meets in the spring to review Thank Offering applications and the fall to review Birthday Offering applications and make selections.

The CMOC is composed of eight members - six from the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women (CCT/PW) and two from the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC). I have been privileged to be a member of this committee since 2004 and will rotate off in February 2010 after the next Thank Offering meeting.

The Thank Offering grants are made with money that has already been collected. At least 40 percent of this offering supports hospitals and other health ministries throughout the world. International projects are reviewed by staff, which helps the committee in determining whether or not to fund

The Birthday Offering is a challenge that is made to the women of the church once the recipients have been selected.

Each member receives the applications to read through and is also assigned five to six projects to examine in more depth. The projects are then ranked by the members: (1) is favorable, (2) is discuss, (3) is do not fund. The rankings for each application are posted and this is followed by discussions of the projects to determine selections. Selection is by consensus: only projects with ranking of (1) will be funded and those with rankings of (3) only will not be funded. Most projects have a selection of ratings so lively discussion takes place in determining who gets funded.

The numbers of applications to review varies. Thank Offering can have up to 150 applications and Birthday Offering up to 50. They all have to be read which is time consuming but they are all interesting applications and it has been one of the best committees I have served on.

Submitted by Carolyn McLarnan

Endowment News. In September, the Session voted to allow members to contribute to an Endowment Fund to be managed by the **Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation**. The Foundation grew out of a civics project by **Leaders for a New Century** (Area Development Partners). For a fee of one percent, they will invest and distribute funds in what is called a Donor Advised Fund. Our fund is called Westminster Presbyterian Outreach Fund. When it reaches \$10,000, they will make distributions based on recommendations from our Session. If you would like to contribute to this, you may do so. We will have pertinent information in the office. If you would like to set up an Endowment Fund for your family, we will be happy to help you with that also. Good stewardship is not something we do in November. It's something we do daily, monthly, annually, perpetually. This is one way that can help you manage the resources God has entrusted to you.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:



The Youth will be selling **parking slots** (\$8 each) at the USM home football games on October 17 against Memphis and October 24 against Tulane. Both games start at 6 pm, so parking will start at 3 pm.

Everyone is invited to join the youth and their parents to tailgate - just show up and bring a dish!

Kay Salter will be out of the office on Tuesday, October 6 for Grand Jury duty and Tuesday, October 13 for a training seminar.

Karen Reidenbach is President of **Southern Pines Animal Shelter**.

They recently opened a low cost spay/neuter clinic on Hwy 49 South near Pearl River Community College. They desperately need volunteers from 7 - 8:30 am to check in animals and from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm to keep pets fed and clean. If you can hold a pet, fold a towel, or help clean up a few hours each week, it would be very helpful. Please contact Karen at kqreidenbach@aol.com or Katie Mapp at 601-544-5678.



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

Westminster Presbyterian Church
115 N 25th Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401