



www.WPCHattiesburg.com

September 2009

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

I want to talk about the difference between a “Churchianity” and true Christianity. Many people know ABOUT the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They may even know something about church history, the Council of Nicea (325), the Reformation (1520). They may know that Augustine wrote Confessions and the City of God; Calvin wrote the Institutes, and so forth. They may know about the doctrine of predestination. But none of that matters if they are not on a first name basis with Jesus. Oswald Chambers puts it bluntly: “Do I have a personal history with Jesus Christ? The one true sign of discipleship is intimate oneness with Him - a knowledge of Jesus that nothing can shake.”

You can listen to sermons till the cows come home. You can give to the poor and support the budget of the church. I hope you do, and that you will continue to do this. But the most important question is: Do you know and love Jesus? THAT, dear ones, is the key to the whole thing. That is the basis of my preaching and what I've tried to do at Westminster. I hope that you have come to know, trust, and love Him and that this love shapes everything in your life. If so, then there is virtually no challenge that we can't handle.

It is a privilege to be your pastor.

P. S. Thank you for all the informative submissions to this month's newsletter! However, due to space limitations, if your article did not make it into this month's edition, stay tuned for October. Keep up the good work! To view our schedule of events for September, go to www.WPCHattiesburg.com and click on the calendar tab.

WORSHIP NEWS:

Starting August 30 we will be worshipping in the Fellowship Hall while our contractor and organ builder are working to prepare our sanctuary for the new organ we purchased from First Baptist. If all goes according to plan, we will be back in our sanctuary by January 1, 2010. Our church was founded in 1954. The Fellowship Hall was finished in 1955. Our present sanctuary was not built until 1963. Our forebears were tough people. If they could enjoy worshipping in the Fellowship Hall for eight years, surely we can do it for four months!



On Sunday mornings, we ask you to take a seat by 10:55. Please try to enter from the narthex and not through the kitchen. If it's raining, we'll ask you to come through the parlor. On Wednesday nights we will practice singing as a congregation and this will help us when we worship together on Sunday.



It is an exciting time for those of us who lead the music in worship each Sunday. We're making some changes all over - moving our files, changing our rehearsal place, and one very important change is that after Labor Day, we're moving our rehearsal time to **Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.** Think of the advantages! Now, you can go home after Wednesday night supper and still have most of the evening free. You can rehearse the anthem thoroughly the same day we'll sing it. You can really warm up your voice and feel comfortable on the anthem. We will meet at 8:30, go over other selections for the coming weeks, polish the day's anthem, and finish by 9:30. I'll provide a quick bite of breakfast for everyone and you can still get to Sunday School on time. In a world of competing tasks and priorities, we are offering you an opportunity to participate in the musical life of our church - to add your voice to those who make worship at Westminster special - and we are only asking for a Sunday morning commitment. Over the years our choir membership has slowly changed in composition - from mostly members to mostly scholarship students and a few members. We have leaders - we only need a few more singers to swell our ranks (especially baritones). While we're out of the sanctuary this fall, we are going to sing less complicated music and more relaxed styles of anthems. I am boldly praying for **20** choir members by the time we move back into the sanctuary. It will be glorious to hear those voices accompanied by our beautiful new pipe organ! Please carefully consider your ability to help us with this vital component of worship.

Yours in Christ, Connie Roberts

Your pastor's **thyroid surgery** on August 24 went smoothly. This *could* have adversely affected his vocal chords, but thankfully, that did not happen. Please pray for a full and speedy recovery and for him to be back in the pulpit soon.

WORSHIP NEWS (continued):

June attendance average: 130

June 7 - 118

June 21 - 155

June 14 - 129

June 28 - 117

July attendance average: 94

July 5 - 116

July 19 - 73

July 12 - 84

July 26 - 103

August attendance average (to date): 108

Aug 2 - 101

Aug 16 - 112

Aug 30 - TBD

Aug 9 - 101

Aug 23 - 115

BELONGING:

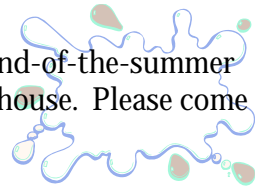
On September 9 we will resume regular **Wednesday night potluck supper and worship**. Please come and participate in this time of table fellowship, singing, and prayers. It is a great way to strengthen your ties with the Body of Christ and to grow in your faith.



Men of the Church start back on the Second Saturday of the month starting September 12. Come join the men at 8 am for a high carb breakfast.

On September 16 we will once again host the **Boswell Regional Center choir**. They are excited about coming our way. We will serve pizza, salad and sugar-free desserts. Please come and show your appreciation for these friends. Over the years our commitment to Boswell has grown. This year we're going to get ahead of the mad December dash. When you see some really good prices on gifts that are suitable for Boswell (no liquids, food or candy, perfume or lotion, computer games, etc.), please buy it, place it in a gift bag, label it so we know what's inside, and put in the box upstairs in the Generations classroom (the library). This will allow more people to participate and make it easier on everyone when we finalize the gifts for delivery in early December. **Robert Cummings** and **Audra Saunders** will assist **Jimmy** and **Joy Garraway** this year.

Mary Clare Shaw's PreK-2 Sunday School class is invited to an end-of-the-summer **swimming party** on Sunday, September 27 from 2 - 4 pm at her house. Please come for a splish-splashing good time!



It's time to sign up for **Bread Breakers**. Bread Breakers is a small group (7 - 10 people) that will meet once a month for six months in each other's homes, bring potluck, and get to know one another. It is a wonderful way to make new friends and become more deeply connected with people in our church. You don't have to host the meal if your living quarters are too small. We will let you know your group members in October so everyone can plan their meetings.

BELONGING (continued):

Westminster is committed to visiting our homebound members: **Marilyn Keys, Jeanne Little, Bea McRae, Delores Milling, Betty Norval, and Rachel and Wesley Owens.** Through the **Guardian Angel** program, the pastor and a deacon take communion to them once a month. That leaves plenty of other days for you to call, visit, or drop them a card to say “hello!”



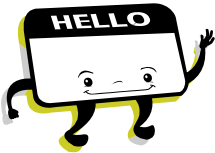
FORE! Several guys have talked about having a **church-wide golfing event.** If you're interested, contact **Eric Reidenbach** or **Robert Cummings.**

September birthdays:

3	Robin Roberts	22	Betsy Potin
8	Laurie Herring	23	Charles Brown
11	Keara MacNeil	23	Lola Norris
13	Connie Roberts	25	Sinclair Lundy
15	Carrie Cromartie	27	Janet Burke
15	Charles Hogrefe	27	Raoul Jerome
15	John Meek	27	Ivie Pulliam
17	David Garraway	29	Keith McLarnan
17	Carol Hickman	29	Cheryl Gaudet
21	Margaret Buckley	29	Rebecca Gaudet



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



Copies of the **new greeter list** (September 2009 through August 2010) are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not have one, feel free to take one off the board. If you cannot serve on a specific date, please **switch** with someone and notify Kay so she can prepare the nametags for Sunday mornings.

Sept. 6	David & Bettye Arnold	20	Charlie & Greer Ramp
13	Ray & Maggie Scheetz	27	Butch & Cindy Nobles
Oct. 4	Wilson & Amy Ruff	18	Peggy Langnecker & Barbara Stallcup
11	Janet Burke & Lola Norris	25	Franklin & Dutchie Bryant

GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

Rally Day will be September 13 and will focus on ***Growing Spiritually, Together.*** We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am and talk about our various Sunday school classes. You will be dismissed to your class, so please come and support the wonderful teachers who are excited to see you back from summer break. The PreK - 2 class has been making posters for Rally Day, so we're looking for a big turnout.



GROWING SPIRITUALLY (continued):

Teachers: If you want to grow in your faith, become a **team teacher**. You will not have to teach every Sunday. You will be part of a team. It works well and spreads the responsibilities. Nurturing our students is a big deal, so please talk with **Mary Clare Shaw** about this if you feel that you could do this as part of your service to God.



Cursillo is a spiritual renewal movement in the Presbyterian Church. If you would like to learn more about Cursillo, we are hosting a quarterly Ultreya (gathering) at Westminster on Saturday, September 12 at noon. We will eat and then worship from 12:45 - 1:30 pm. You are encouraged to attend even if you have not been to a retreat. The retreat in October is fully subscribed, so the next retreat will be in the spring of 2010. Please pray about this and contact **Robert Cummings** or **Mary Cromartie** if you'd like to attend. It will be one of the best things you've ever done. *We guarantee it.*

INVITING:

Healthy organisms grow. Naturally. Invite your friends to church. This is a wonderful church family and we welcome new members. When you see people you don't recognize, introduce yourself!



SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:



Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization of the PCUSA and functions on the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels - we are connected! On August 16 we installed the new officers of **Presbyterian Women**. **Martha Ann Hogrefe**, Moderator, made an interesting presentation detailing the local and world mission that PW supports. **Local assistance** includes the Domestic Abuse Shelter, Christian Women's Job Corps, Ellisville State School, the Made-by-Hand Ministry (making layettes for stillborn babies, turbans for cancer patients, and heart monitor bags), collecting eyeglasses (32 pair in 2008) for the Lion's Club, and Christmas gifts for Boswell Regional Center (203 in 2008). The PW's **international assistance** involves support for Networkers malaria prevention program, Project Christmas Child (22 gift boxes in 2008), Blanket Sunday, missionary support to the McKinnon family in Brazil, and sending infant caps, booties, bed sheets and blankets to Malawi. We are proud of the PW's many accomplishments and their commitment to making this a church that serves.

The **Peacemaking Offering** is one of four special offerings designated by the PCUSA's General Assembly. We will receive the offering on World Communion Sunday, **October 4**. Our congregation will retain 25% of the offering received to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and our community.

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION (continued):

A **Serving Christ in Mission Committee** is being formed to make Christ visible in the world through serving others and to show the world how much God cares. We serve a God who loves the least, the lost, the widow, the orphan, the poor and those who have not. We are commanded to love others as neighbors and share our resources with them. When we reach out to people outside the congregation, we advance the cause of Christ, which is to draw people to himself. If you are interested in serving on this committee or have any ideas for mission projects, please contact **Butch Nobles** or **Sharon Potin**.



Exciting news! Two Brazilian missionaries, **Nataniel Silva** and **Themis** (pronounced *tim-mis*) **Mello**, and their interpreter **Paul Fahnstock** will visit Westminster on Wednesday, October 7. 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. **Jeanne Herring** has already agreed to host Mrs. Mello at her home. If you can house Mr. Silva and Mr. Fahnstock on October 7 please contact **Sharon Potin**, **Butch Nobles**, or **Barbara Stallcup**. A volunteer to take them on a tour of Hattiesburg on Thursday, October 8 is also being sought. Pineview will host them Thursday evening and Friday morning. Please pray for the success of this visit.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

Need a ride? If you need a ride to church or know someone who does, please contact the church office, and we will give your request to the Diaconate. If you can't get to church because of a transportation problem, please let us know!

Organ Update - Work on the new organ began August 24. Our organ will be dismantled and moved. Then the First Baptist organ will be dismantled and moved to our space. **David Finch**, organ builder, will reassemble it in our space with the help of **Patrick Ward**, a local contractor. We ask you not to go into the sanctuary for safety reasons during construction. We will be starting a **capital campaign** to retire the debt we will incur from buying the new organ. Please pray about your willingness and ability to give sacrificially to this project, so we can pay off the debt quickly. You will be hearing more about this shortly.

Status of Pledges for 2009

Pledges through 2 nd quarter	\$139,020
Receipts through 2 nd quarter	<u>133,214</u>
Deficit	<\$ 5,806>

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP (continued):

Presbytery News - **First Presbyterian Church in Natchez** is in the process of calling a new pastor. Things look very good for them. **Vernal Presbyterian Church** is also close to calling a new pastor. We are excited about that. **Gautier Presbyterian Church** is beginning to search for a new pastor. **Chris Bullock** left there in May after ten years and is now serving Central Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL. **Cory Stott** recently resigned as pastor of **Trinity Presbyterian Church** in Meridian, so please keep Trinity in your prayers. Other prayer requests from our Presbytery include **Chai, David St. John's wife**, who is suffering from arthritis and knee problems. David is an elder at Ruth Memorial Presbyterian in Poplarville. He and Chai are in Thailand doing research to help farmers grow beef cattle. **Sgot** (two syllables), David's nephew's son, is now out of a coma which was caused by a motorcycle accident 17 months ago. David writes, "Sgot is very slowly getting better but still cannot talk. He makes noises and points. He still cannot walk on his own but he has started using a walker with assistance. Most of the time he feeds himself. He can move from his wheel chair to his bed or chair on his own when he really wants to, and no one is available to help. He is left alone for short periods in the day when he sleeps, listens to the radio, and looks at comics. Please pray for a miracle."

Jerome travelogue entry: On August 9, Raoul and Althea attended worship services at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York. The church is only a few blocks from where their daughter Rachel and her family live. The visit to the church was prompted by the fact that Althea's mother was baptized there in 1915 and became a member of the congregation in 1935. The church was built in 1860 and still uses the baptismal font from that era. The worship service was informal and the hymns were familiar. The church's Austin organ was installed in 1910 and was expanded in 1950. It's a very fine instrument which is now in need of new wiring, parts, cleaning, tuning, etc. This fall the congregation plans to initiate a **capital campaign** to raise funds to restore the 100 year old organ during 2010 for the 150th anniversary of the church. Now, how's that for an interesting accumulation of coincidences?



Dear friends at Westminster,
Please accept a big thank you for your prayers, love, food, cards, phone calls, and taking time to visit and sit with me. You have helped me so much in my recovery. The doctors say I am doing well, and I look forward to returning to church soon.

God bless each of you! Janet Burke

Y The Youth will be pre-selling some of the church parking lot spaces for the home USM football games. Be *guaranteed* a space for \$40 for the entire home football schedule. Contact **Amy Ruff** if interested.

O The Youth will have a **carwash fundraiser** at the church on Wednesday, September 23. Come enjoy the potluck supper at church and the youth will wash your car while you relax. Donations will be accepted.

U Calling all cooks: The Youth will be putting together a Westminster Cookbook. You may submit recipes by e-mail to amyruuff@yahoo.com or by writing/typing them out and placing them in a box next to the church office.

T All recipes should include whose recipe it is and the recipe category (appetizers & beverages; soups, salads & vegetables; main dishes & casseroles; meal, poultry & seafood; breads & rolls; pies, pastry & desserts; cakes, cookies & candy; or this & that). Deadline is September 30.

C O R N E R



The congregation, visitors, minister, secretary, and pretty much anybody who's ever been to Westminster in the summertime wish to thank **FRANK WHITESELL** for keeping us in vegetable heaven. Your giving spirit is a true example of sharing and caring for others.



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