



www.WPCHattiesburg.com

Summer 2009

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

St. Paul writes "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even through we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way." II Corinthians 4:16. What Paul means is this: before you receive a new identity, a new pair of eyes, a new outlook, a new self-understanding from the Holy Spirit, your perspective is limited to what you can see and know through your five senses. Common sense and "normal" arithmetic are all you have to work with. One plus one always equals two. But when you realize that you truly are a child of God with a new heart, an eternal destiny, and that your purpose is to let Jesus' life be manifested in yours (so people will encounter Him through you), you are participating in the multiplication of grace.

When this happens, a wedding is no longer simply a pretty ceremony. It is a moment when time stops, heaven and earth kiss, and two people (and a whole community) are transformed by the mystery of grace. Birth is not simply a physical event - it's an amazing miracle authored by God and involving a cast of thousands. A baptism is not just H₂O on a baby's forehead - it's a sign that we belong to God! God is doing all these amazing things in our midst. Westminster is very blessed. So are you. So am I for the privilege of being your pastor.

Steve

WORSHIP NEWS:

At the heart of every vibrant church is great worship. Come join us Sundays at 11 am. We will adore and honor God, lift your spirits, and spare no effort to get you to your favorite restaurant ahead of the crowds.



Summertime is a good time to try out the **choir!** We have a relaxed, fun rehearsal time on Wednesday nights, and we sing easier music in the summer. We really need a few more singers, especially men. So give us a try! No experience necessary. Talk to **Connie Roberts** or just show up on Wednesday nights at 7 pm (7:30 when we have potluck supper).

May **attendance** average: **114**

May 3 - 100 May 17 - 113 May 10 - 122 May 24 - 123 May 31 - 108

We examined the **new officers** on June 14 and will ordain and install them on June 21. This is an important day in the life of our congregation. Please join us on June 21, which is also Father's Day.

We will not be praying officially for the **Golden Eagles**, but it's OK to pray for them in your personal devotions. How exciting for USM to receive recognition for years and years of hard work and dedication.

BELONGING: (See Schedule of Events for summer activities.)

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.



June	7	Dan & Martha Davis
	14	Shayne & Lori Burnham
	21	Cindy Nobles
	28	Margaret Pearson & Frank Whitesell
July	5	Eric & Karen Reidenbach
	12	Ginny & Erik Graham
	19	Tom McKegney & Lavon Smith
	26	Christopher Napier & Sunny Davis
August	2	Dennis & Jeanne Hunt
	9	Claude & Susan Sanders
	16	Nate & Sandra Bender
	23	Rich & Doris Harnist
	30	Mary Clare Shaw & Larry Royals

BELONGING: (continued)

Movers and Shakers:

Betty Norval

Hattiesburg Convalescent Center
514 Bay St.

Hattiesburg, MS 39401

601-544-4230

Girdelle Dent

Provision Living

217 Methodist Blvd, Box 116

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

601-329-2030

*** Neva Odom ***

Recent mailings to Neva have

been returned with no forwarding address.

Please contact **Kay Salter** if you have current contact information on her.

Linda McLain

1648 Beacon Hill Blvd. N.E.

Atlanta, GA. 30329

Her cell number (501-529-9665) will stay the same for a while.



Summer birthdays: We want to include ALL members' birthdays.

If you know of one we missed, please let us know **ASAP!**



JUNE

3	Ellen Ramp
8	Buddy Bedenbaugh
11	Wilson Ruff
14	Erik Graham
16	Jeanne Little
16	Larry Royals
17	Ellen Arnold
17	Matthew McKinnon
28	Jan Bozeman
28	George Nicholas
28	Mary Kathryn Nobles

JULY

2	Sam Dossett
2	Martha Ann Hogrefe
10	Lori Burnham
12	Bobbie Bryant
12	Dorothy Gatch
12	Brandon McKinnon
15	Nate Bender
17	Madison Bryant
21	J. T. Johnson
21	Stephen Wild
22	Peggy Hsieh
22	Eric Reidenbach
25	Pam Love
25	Neva Odom
25	Audra Saunders
27	Betty Norval
28	Peggy Speed
31	Katie Roberts

AUGUST

1	Glenda Brown
2	Sandra McLaurin
10	Ed Brown
10	Randall Harris
13	Annie Richerson
15	Frank Whitesell
16	Janeil Harris
18	Beth Richmond
20	McKenna Bryant
25	David Owens
26	Frank Montague
27	Ginny Graham
28	Sunny Davis
28	Beverly Grice
30	John Buckley
31	Stella Fair

GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

Vacation Bible School for K-6th Graders is set for June 22-26. There will be a special schedule for the Preschoolers of Westminster. Children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighborhood children are all welcome. Registration forms are available in the narthex or on our home page at www.WPCHattiesburg.com. The daily schedule will include singing, arts and crafts, recreation, snacks, and devotion. Each child will also receive a t-shirt. A final program will be held Friday, June 26 at 11 am, and everyone is invited to stay for lunch afterwards. ***This is gonna be fun!***



GROWING SPIRITUALLY: (continued)

When Jesus came to earth he essentially did four things: preaching, teaching, healing, and modeling obedience unto death. His death paid the penalty for your sin and restored you to God's family. What's YOUR job? The Great Commandment: Love God and Love neighbor, and the Great Commission: Make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them all things.

Westminster does a good job emphasizing love. We aren't so hot at coaching members to make disciples. Frankly, to make a disciple, you first need to BE a disciple. The two go hand in hand. Teachers are first students, and every good teacher is a life-long learner.

The point is: we need to get more serious about GROWING SPIRITUALLY around here so we can be more effective in carrying Christ into the world. Christianity is not just "me and Jesus." It's carrying Jesus into every situation and being ready, willing, and able to introduce people to Jesus. That takes some courage and some training.

As your pastor, I want to challenge you to kick it up a notch or two in the area of discipleship. On June 21 we will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour and talk about **Adult Sunday School Awareness**, and ways we can all be better disciples (students). One of the best ways to learn is to become a teacher. Think about it. Pray about it. And join us on Father's Day to learn more.



On June 21, the **adult Sunday School classes** will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am. We will talk about Growing Spiritually, the importance of Sunday School and using your gifts in this area or other areas that you may be called to do. All adult teachers will be there to talk about what they do in their classes and what it means to them (kind of a testimony).

On the 4th Sunday of each month we will begin having a **Children's Sermon** during the worship service led by **Sarah Nobles**. We encourage you to have the little ones there to participate in this time. It should be fun.

INVITING:



Do you have friends who are not active in another church? If so, do them a huge favor: **invite them to ours**. If a person will worship with us for a month and participate in Sunday School and Wednesday nights:

- 1) they will be blessed and
- 2) chances are excellent that they will want to be part of this community of faith.

If you will invite them, your pastor, elders, deacons, organist, choir director, singers, Sunday School teachers, greeters, and fellow members will welcome them and encourage them to get on board. We need help with that first part: **inviting**. As they say at Home Depot: "You can do it, we can help!"

SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:

Our Brazilian Partners are coming in October! Our Presbytery has a partnership with a large Presbytery in Brazil. **Kathryn Smith** was our representative at the presbytery on this. They will be bringing teams of Brazilians to Mississippi in October. They will be with us for several days, so we need to organize some Southern Hospitality for them. We will need housing and several people to provide transportation, meals, and activities. You will be greatly blessed if you take on this project. Please pray about this and let **Steve** or **Barbara Stallcup** know if you can help.



Dear Westminster Family,

(This letter was received May 4)

It is the end of summer [in Brazil] and the end of our time here. Our mailing address will be changing to New Jersey in the near future. Thank you for extending friendship to us for these years as well as support. We love getting birthday greetings, a rare treat! Spending this weekend packing and saying "He Is Risen"!

In Him, Simone, Matthew and the rest of the McKinnon family

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

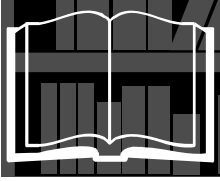


Good news! Thanks to your generosity and our elders' wise stewardship, we are now **debt free**. There's an important lesson in this. Back in 2003, you got a new pastor, a new roof (\$157,000), a new HVAC system (\$209,000). In 2004, we bought the Schamber property (\$75,000). We didn't have the money lying around so we borrowed it. Six years later, we paid it off. **Well done!** These investments allow us to be a more visible, welcoming, vibrant church. God has blessed us with resources, generous spirits, and the skill to handle money responsibly. The Bible says "You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21) So, we should expect some bigger assignments in the future. When they come, know that God will bless us and accomplish his purposes through us.

Speaking of opportunities, your **Organ Task Force (Lisa Forsyth, Randall Harris, Martha Ann Hogrefe [chair], Althea Jerome, Tom McKegey, Keith McLarnan, Butch Nobles, Steve Ramp, and Robin Roberts)** is hard at work. The Session has authorized the Task Force to work out the numerous details for purchasing First Baptist Church's magnificent organ. At that point, the Task Force will present a final proposal to the Session that would allow us to complete the transaction. We have met with a structural engineer, a reputable, licensed contractor, an electrical contractor, three architects, and our organ builders (David and Susan Finch) who maintain our current organ as well as the First Baptist organ. We have done due diligence regarding the quality of the new organ and are hoping to bring you a detailed report on this exciting project sometime this summer. We have an Organ Fund, originally established by Yetta Alexander, with approximately **\$50,000** to use toward this project.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP: (continued)

When **Ralph Stallcup** left us, **Barbara** donated his golf cart to the church. We used it for a Cursillo Retreat, but it requires regular use to stay in top condition, so we decided to sell it. Thanks to the marketing skill of **Gene Owens** and **Claude Sanders**, we sold it for \$1,500 "as is." *Great work.* Barbara has requested that the funds be used to help purchase new choir robes.



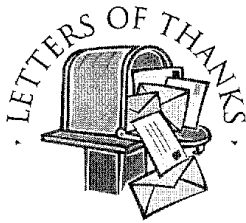
A copy of *Beyond Darkness*, the autobiography of Hattiesburg resident **Jim Robertson**, has been donated to the library by **Betty and David Arnold** in honor of **Judy Harrell**, a good friend of Jim and Linda Robertson.

Members in the news:

Congratulations to **Frank Montague** for being honored by **Best Lawyers**, the country's original and most well-respected lawyer-rating directory.

William Wild has been selected as one of Mississippi's 21 National Merit Scholarship winners. He will receive a \$2,500 scholarship along with the title.

Rachel Harris took second place in epidemiology at the State HOSA Leadership conference in Jackson.

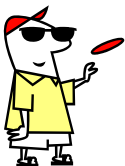


I want to thank everyone at Westminster. For everything. From apple pie to roses to red beans and rice to birthday cards to well-wishes for my mother to . . . well, you get the idea. I hear it all the time from people outside the congregation who use the church facilities: "This is such a beautiful church filled with the most loving, caring people." I just smile and say "I know. And I get to work here!" With love and thanks to you all, Kay Salter

Greetings friends,

Just a note to thank everyone connected with Westminster who supported Charlie and Greer in their wedding. For your presence, your presents, and your love, support and prayers, we are forever grateful. It was a beautiful occasion for Ellen and me and our whole family. Thanks to my sister Susan, my folks got to come for the week-end from Louisville despite some health issues. They had a ball and wouldn't have missed it for the world. Unfortunately, Ellen's mother is still hospitalized almost a year after breaking her hip and was not able to be with us physically. Ellen and I consider Westminster to be part of our family and we want you to know how much it means at pivotal times like these to look out and see so many friendly faces cheering you on. So, thank you.

Blessings, Steve



SUMMER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(subject to change)



JUNE

Sunday	June 14	Diaconate 12:15: Session @ 1:30 pm, new officer examination
Mon-Fri	June 15-19	Youth trip to The Great Escape
Saturdays	June 20, 27	Softball practice @ 9 am; games begin Tuesday, June 23
Tuesday	June 16	PW Prayer Group @ 9 am
Thursday	June 18	ShareCare Potluck lunch @ noon
Saturday	June 20	Ultreya: council @ 10 am, lunch @ noon; worship @ 1 pm
Sunday	June 21	Adult Sunday School Awareness @ 10 am; new officers installed
Mon-Thurs	June 22-26	Discovery Canyon Vacation Bible School
Sunday	June 28	Red, Hot & Blue picnic after worship service

JULY

Sunday	July 5	Communion Sunday; joint Session/Diaconate meeting @ 12:15 pm
Sun-Thurs	July 5-9	Sr. High trip to Big Stuff Camp, Panama City, FL
Wednesday	July 8	Potluck Supper with men from Liberty Ministries @ 5:45 pm
Thursday	July 9	4 th Day brown bag @ noon
Saturdays	July 11, 18, 25	Softball practice @ 9 am; games TBA
Sunday	July 12	Youth Cookout & Swimming Party @ Nobles' house
Thursday	July 16	ShareCare Potluck lunch @ noon
Sunday	July 19	Youth trip to Ship Island following worship
Tuesday	July 21	PW Prayer Group @ 9 am
Sunday	July 26	Youth bowling @ 5 pm
Mon-Fri	July 27-31	Fill BreadBasket applications

AUGUST

Sunday	August 2	Communion Sunday; the Youth will not meet
Sunday	August 9	Diaconate @ 12:15 pm; Session @ 1:30 pm
Wednesday	August 12	Potluck Supper with men from Liberty Ministries @ 5:45 pm
Thursday	August 13	4 th Day brown bag @ noon
Tuesday	August 18	PW Prayer Group @ 9 am
Thursday	August 20	ShareCare Potluck lunch @ noon
Tuesday	August 25	PW Coordinating Team meeting @ 10 am PW General meeting, installation of officers, And Thank Offering Luncheon @ 11 am





When on vacation, be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer, be with us in
person!

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