

## October Church Calendar of Events

2 - Sunday	10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - World Communion Sunday & Peacemaking Offering
5 - Wednesday	5:15 pm - Children's choir 5:45 pm - Potluck dinner - Cooking Team 6:15 pm - Youth & children 6:30 pm - Choir & Study 6:30 pm - Presbyterian Women - Circle 3
8 - Saturday	8:00 am - Men of the Church breakfast
9 - Sunday	10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Service 12:10 pm - Diaconate Meeting 1:30 pm - Session Meeting
11 - Tuesday	9:30 am - Presbyterian Women Circle 1 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women Circle 2
12 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Potluck dinner & same Wednesday night activities
16 - Sunday	10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Service 12:00 pm - Presbyterian Women General Circle Meeting
18 - Tuesday	9:30 am - Presbyterian Women Prayer Group
19 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Potluck dinner & same Wednesday night activities
20 - Thursday	7:30 pm - Boston String Quartet
22 - Saturday	3:30 pm - USM Homecoming Game - parking at WPC
23 - Sunday	10:00 am - Sunday School - New Rotation of Children's Sunday School 11:00 am - Service
26 - Wednesday	5:45 pm - Potluck dinner & same Wednesday night activities
27-30 **	** Cursillo Retreat - at Camp Wesley Pines
24 - Monday	7:30 pm - USM Choir Concert
30 - Sunday	10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Service

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**115 N 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Hattiesburg, MS 39401**

O c t o b e r 2 0 1 1



# The Westminster Standard

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

WWW.WPCHATTIESBURG.COM • 601.584.7574

### A Word From the Pastor



On Sept. 25, the Buffalo Bills (0 for 15 against New England) beat the Patriots at Foxboro! Why? One huge difference was CONFIDENCE--they BELIEVED they were winners! St. Paul did too. From a prison cell he writes "I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance." Prison did not stop him from speaking for Jesus "with all boldness." Circumstances can't defeat believers. We are on a winning team. This is the right attitude for individuals, and it's the mindset that sets churches apart. Churches that truly understand what God is doing and work together in love accomplish amazing things. God is blessing Westminster in so many ways: with people (we had 168 in worship Sunday not counting the deacons who were frying fish), children, great music, resources, staff, ministries, and the desire to share the good news beyond our walls. Jesus said "from everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48). We've been given a lot! And I see us becoming more confident and bolder in our witness. I can't wait to see what new opportunities God will give us to speak boldly in His name. It is a privilege and a joy to be your partner in ministry.

*Steve*



Annual Fish Fry that took place on September 25th.

## Worship

### Join us in Worship This Month

**October 2** is World Communion Sunday. At the end of the service, we will form a large circle around the sanctuary to receive the Lord's Supper and to signify our unity in Christ. If the circumference of the sanctuary won't hold us, we will use the center aisle as well. When you sit in a pew, your view is limited. When we circle up, you can see everyone, and it is a joy to behold.

We will also ask for your participation in our annual recognition of the PC(USA) Peacemaking Offering, this year helping the Red Hand Campaign to create awareness about the use of children as soldiers in war in impoverished countries.

### Attendance Matters

Your attendance and active participation in worship encourages the pastor, the organist, the choir director, the choir, and other members. It says we are in this together. Unity at Westminster is strong. Keep up the good work!

### September average attendance: 141

September 4 - 85    September 11 - 156    September 18 - 158    September 25 - 168

## Belonging

### Our Friends from Boswell

It was a delight to welcome our friends from Boswell back to Westminster. For the 5<sup>th</sup> time the traveling choir (40 members) and 10 staff joined us for singing and pizza. Unfortunately, their bus broke down outside of Hattiesburg. Fortunately, several of our members ferried them to church and they were able to enjoy the event. Our choir joined them for the last two songs, which everyone enjoyed. Remember: buy your Christmas presents for Boswell early, so we can deliver them in late November. It's our way of saying "Thanks" and bringing joy to the permanent residents at Boswell.

### The Fabulous Fish Fry

We were packed like sardines in the Fellowship Hall for our Fish Fry on September 25th. Over 120 people stayed for lunch, including lots of visitors. David Young (Mary Clare's brother) supplied catfish and shrimp. The Deacons did an amazing job organizing, feeding, and cleaning up. We have the best deacons in the world. Please thank them for their efforts on our behalf.



### Special Speaker at Men of the Church Breakfast

Men of the Church will meet on **Saturday, October 8th**. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am, followed by a devotion and program. Mary Cromartie will be a guest speaker at this month's breakfast, speaking on the importance of estate planning.

### Cooking Team Providing Your Meal on the 1st Wednesday

On October 5th, your Wednesday night meal will be provided by Westminster and prepared by some members of the church! Just bring a salad or dessert--and yourself!

### Guardian Angels Ministry

When Ralph Stallcup was a deacon, he made sure that our homebound were not forgotten or neglected. Currently, we have 7 members who are homebound. If you enjoy people and would like to be trained to make pastoral visits, please contact Steve, Larry Royals, or Margaret Suttle. Our seniors enjoy the visits and so will you!

### Presbyterian Women Circle 1

Circle 1 met at the home of Ann Johnson on September 13th. Sixteen women attended the meeting, with the lesson led by Martha Anne Hogrefe. The group served the ladies at the Christian Women's Job Corp by making them lunch on September 21st and 22nd.

### Presbyterian Women Circle 2

Mary Dane Gregg led the meeting of Circle 2 in the Westminster parlor on September 13th with eight members present. Circle 2 invites those interested to come to the October meeting on the 11th. This group works well for working women, as it meets at 7:00 pm at the church.

### Presbyterian Women Circle 3

Over the summer months Circle 3 took a break so that the members could be free to vacation and relax. Well, summer is officially over and Circle 3 is together again and charging ahead. The month of September found us with several things to keep us busy celebrating God's miraculous gifts. On September 6th, Jeff and Judy Haydel welcomed a little girl, Julia, into their family much to the delight of her older brothers, Sam and Henry. Before the expanded Haydel family was home from the hospital Circle 3 was in action having home cooked food waiting at their house and members lined up to bring more meals for their weeks of sleepless nights ahead. On September 18th, Circle 3 hosted a baby shower for Catherine and Robert Holland who are to be blessed with twin boys. As usual, all of the ladies of WPC out did themselves with their generous and thoughtful selections. And finally, on September 22nd, the ladies of Circle 3 gathered to have a nontraditional and artistic circle lesson. The lesson was prepared and e-mailed to all the ladies of the Circle to read prior to the meeting. Then, on the evening of the 22nd, the ladies of Circle 3 met at Bristles Art Studio in Oak Grove to paint "Whimsy Crosses" and discuss the lesson. Several hours later the ladies departed from the studio with feelings of enlightenment from the lesson, sisterhood with their fellow Circle members, and personal pride from the canvases they painted. October is rapidly approaching and the ladies of Circle 3 are excited to see what blessings the new month will bring.



### Presbyterian Women General Meeting, Thank Offering Lunch

The PW general meeting will be **Sunday, October 16th at 12:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a potluck salad luncheon and all women in the church are encouraged to attend. Come to learn more about Presbyterian Women and the wonderful ways we can reach out to each other and to those in the community.

### Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Ed and Glenda Brown as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 9, 1961 in Jackson, MS. Hattiesburg has been their home since 1965. Their son Eddie, his wife Julie, and grandchildren Christian and Addison also live in Hattiesburg.

### New Wednesday Night Schedule

Join us on Wednesdays at our new time of 5:45 pm for a potluck dinner. Then stick around for a study led by Tommy Suttle. If you can make it until 6:00--no problem! You can just bring a dessert!

### October Birthdays

1 Pam Dossett	16 Maggie Scheetz	26 Girdelle Dent
10 Rachel Harris	17 Jimmy Garraway	26 T. J. Fontaine
12 Sandra Bender	19 Butch Nobles	27 Janet Black
14 Barbara Stallcup	22 Althea Jerome	28 Aiden & Eli Burnham
16 Don Norris, Jr	25 Jayden Pulliam	28 Will Ruff
		29 Joy Garraway

## **Growing Spiritually**

### New Rotation Sunday School

Rotation Sunday school is in full swing for our young people. Through art, music, puppets, drama, and storytelling, our children are learning the story of Abraham and Sarah. The next rotation, beginning **October 23**, will be Abraham and Isaac. Look for the Rotation Sunday school board in the Fellowship Hall for your opportunity to sign up to teach a rotation!

### Rotation Sunday school Memory Verse

*"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky."*  
Genesis 22:17

### Estate Planning Program

Fundamentally, estate planning is not about dying and avoiding the death tax. Instead its most important goal should be to provide A LEGACY FOR THE LIVING. Getting people to deal with this is not easy. When they fail to deal with things when the sun is shining, family members are forced to deal with them when the air is filled with pain and grief. This is not good stewardship. The Family Love Letter is a systematic way to put your affairs in order. It will require some work on your part, but it's worth it. Mary Cromartie will introduce this concept **at the Men's Breakfast on October 8**. Men and Women are encouraged to attend. If you want to participate in the program, it will cost \$25 for the materials. There will be a couple of follow up sessions to make sure you have completed the assignments. This is a very worthwhile opportunity. By doing this you can save thousands in legal fees and time and stress on your relatives. Please call the office if you are interested in the program.

### Cursillo Retreat - October 27-30

Six members of Westminster will attend the Spiritual Renewal Retreat as pilgrims and four of our members will serve on staff. Since 2007, 35 members of Westminster have attended. Nearly 300 people from across our Presbytery have participated. The Retreat is designed to rekindle the gift of faith that is in you and inspire you to return home with renewed zeal and joy. Steve Ramp says "it's easily the best thing I've experienced in 21 years as a pastor. I wish everyone could experience the love and joy of Cursillo." The Retreat has been moved to Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, MS (west of Magee) with fabulous facilities. The spring retreat will be April 26-29, 2012. For more information, talk with Mary Clare, Larry Royals, Sharon or Richard Potin, Mary Cromartie, Gene Owens, Althea Jerome, Butch Nobles, Eric Reidenbach, Claude Sanders, Pam Love, Ann Johnson, Jeanne Herring, or Steve.

## **Inviting**

In your neighborhood, office, workplace, and school there are people who don't have a vibrant love relationship with Jesus. In keeping with our theme of speaking with all boldness, here's what you can say: "I'd love it if you'd come with me to church next Sunday. I think you'd get a lot out of it. Would you be willing to do that?" You'd be surprised how many people would say "sure, I'd like that." They are waiting for someone to INVITE THEM. Your job is not to convince them to surrender to Jesus. Your job is to invite them into a loving congregation where they can hear how much God loves them!

### Letters to Our Congregation

September 19

*Thank You!*  
*To the members of WPC on the co-ed softball team--*  
*1st - Thanks for the opportunity to play ball again. I felt welcomed from day one.*  
*2nd - Thank you for your concern for my well-being after fracturing my collarbone while playing with your team. With my husband out of town, your calls, visits, text messages and food were a real comfort. I pray God will bless your congregation and its ministry.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Stacey Martin*

September 25

Dear Westminster Family,  
Since the arrival of Julia we have been overwhelmed by the number of phone calls, prayers, cards, and meals that have come our way. Sam, Henry, Jeff, and I cannot express how blessed we feel to be part of such a generous and loving church family. We truly believe it was God's hand that brought us to Hattiesburg and lead us to Westminster because no other church could feel quite as much like home as you do to us. We delight in knowing that our children will grow up surrounded by such love. Sam and Henry are as excited by their little sister as Jeff and I are and we cannot wait to show her off to her church family. Thank you so much for all that you have done and shared with us. You have proven, without a doubt, that Westminster is a special place populated by some very special people.  
With love,  
The Haydel Family (Jeff, Judy, Sam, Henry, & Julia)

## **Serving Christ In Mission**

### **Ladies To Serve as Mentors**

The Christian Women's Job Corp is looking for women who are willing to meet with, pray for, and help women who are trying to make good decisions and improve their lives. If interested, please contact Audra Cummings, Sharon Potin, or Steve Ramp.

### **Our Furniture Ministry**

In partnering with Eve's House, CWJC, and the Domestic Abuse Shelter, we've discovered how expensive it is to buy basic things like a bed, chair, table, couch, pots and pans. In response to a felt need, we solicited furniture and rented a storage unit. One thing has led to another and we now have 3 storage units filled with furniture, mattresses, and other household items. We need:

- a) good quality furniture
- b) people willing to pick it up
- c) people willing to help deliver it.

We are like firefighters: we don't have a schedule. When there's a fire, we respond. If this appeals to you, please contact Richard Potin.

### **Westminster Academy of Music and Arts**

Did you know that we have a new ministry at Westminster called WAMA—Westminster Academy of Music and Arts? Connie Roberts is the Director. Although it is not a paid directorship, it is a labor of love. WAMA is starting small and hopes to grow. Expert musicians and music teachers will provide individual and group lessons in voice, choral music, violin, piano, and other instruments Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons from 3 until 7 p.m. We have a small computer lab (in the old crib nursery) so students can learn music theory. The budget is small now, but we have big plans for WAMA. We believe God wants Westminster to extend the reach and knowledge of sacred music in our community. If you would like to support this outreach ministry, please contact Connie Roberts or Althea Jerome.

### **Wright House Upgrade**

We are in the process of creating a storage space in the carport at the Wright House. This will allow us to store things there instead of in the basement, which is dark and dank.

## **Administrative Leadership**

### **Greetings From Our Office**

Kay Salter, our peerless secretary, continues with chemotherapy. She feels better (now that the radiation is behind her), looks great, and is hopeful that God and her doctors are whipping the cancer cells in her lung. Kay does not keep regular office hours, but she is involved via computer and cell phone and she comes in during quiet times to make the weekly deposit, pay bills, and do things that only she can do. Logan Blancett did a great job this summer filling in. He is a senior at USM and is working Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings in the office when he's not in class. Logan is responsible for the weekly bulletin. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nathan catches the phone and directs traffic.

### **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 the church office.

### **A Larger Fellowship Hall?**

Our Long Range Plan (2010-2015) calls us to assess our space and facility needs. Thanks to getting so many new members, it may be time for us to build a new Fellowship Hall/kitchen and use our existing fellowship hall for offices, handicapped accessible bathrooms, and a gathering area before and after church. If you have thoughts along these lines, please see Mac Forsyth who is in charge of this piece of the Long Range Plan.

### **Our Technology Savvy Members**

We are fortunate to have several computer experts in our church. Gene and David Owens have been most helpful, and Jeff Haydel is a wizard at upgrading and connecting our internet. Raoul Jerome maintains our web page. Larry Royals and David Garraway (now living in Starkville) handle our sound system. Recently we've added 5 security cameras at our entrances that will allow Kay and Tommy to see who is seeking entry. This should help us protect the property and serve the public.

### **It's Budget Time**

This month we are putting together our annual operating budget for next year. If you would like to make suggestions for projects or ministries that need our support, please let Steve or Kay know. Because of the economy, Salvation Army's donations are down 23%. People need food and help with their utilities. This is an opportunity for churches (like ours) to step into the gap and reach out with the hands of God to people who need help. Please pray about what you can do as a steward of God's resources in these challenging times.

### **Let's Communicate How Great it is to Be at Westminster**

Sarah Dixon is responsible for the monthly newsletter. If you have items to be included, you can reach her at sarahdixon@me.com. We are in the process of redesigning our brochure that's in the pews. We want our WPC logo to appear on the bulletin, stationary, T-shirts, ball caps, and all printed material. Dean Cromartie was asked the other day about the sticker on his car (WPC). The person asking was new in town and looking for a Presbyterian Church. There you go!



## **Community Calendar of Events**

### **Fine Arts Committee Gumbo Sale**

First-Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel is having their annual Seafood and Chicken Gumbo and Rice Sale to benefit their Fine Arts Projects at the church. Gumbo is \$14/quart. Place orders by calling 601.428.8491 or by e-mailing ftpc@first-trinity.org.

### **R3SM, Inc. 10K Race**

R3SM, Inc. will be having their annual 10K/5K run on November 5th at 8:30 a.m., beginning at the volunteer house on Buschman Street. Visit [www.r3sm.org](http://www.r3sm.org) to register for the race or to find out more information about this organization seeking to provide lodging for volunteers in our area.