



# The Westminister Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG, MS  
 115 N. 25th Ave. • Hattiesburg, MS 39401 • (601) 584-7574

## From the Pastor's Desk...

I watched the Rio Olympics faithfully. I'm struck by the self-discipline, self-sacrifice, and heroic dedication the athletes devoted to compete at the Olympics. The record-breaking performance of the world's fastest human, Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt, was impressive. At 17 he failed to get out of the qualifying heats, but in the next three Olympics he won gold in three events. Years of training and self-discipline, just to run three races on the world stage. You and I aren't sprinters, and we're training for something far more important than Olympic gold. Hebrews 12:1 says, ". . . let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us.**" Life is not a sprint; it's more like a marathon or the decathlon. Life doesn't have well marked lanes to run or swim in. Life is messy and, at times, can be brutal. As the saying goes, "Sometimes you eat the bear, and sometimes the bear eats you." Our race has many twists and turns. To run this race well requires tremendous endurance, stamina, hard work, grit, and *companions*. One of our great strengths as a church is walking with people through joys, sorrows, trials, and transitions, without judgment, and with love. May we continue to strengthen one another in Christ while we run the race that is set before us. It is a pleasure being your partner in ministry.

*Steve*



## Stewardship

This year completes our 4-year capital campaign we kicked off in 2013, shortly after the tornado. We wrap this up amazed at God's abundant grace and the generosity we've experienced. If all goes well, we could enter 2017 with virtually no debt, which is miraculous! In 2017 we need to turn our attention to the "normal" operations and the expanding mission opportunities God is giving us. It's time for us to step up for our Presbytery, which will be sharing an Executive Presbyter with South Alabama. We need to crank up the clean water initiative in El Salvador and start sending teams to change lives. I hope we will beef up our support for R3SM, which helps the poorest souls in our area find decent housing. God is giving us many ways to lead in this community and to serve Him. Let's be faithful and generous with God's gifts.

### August Attendance

AUGUST 7	134
AUGUST 14	156
AUGUST 21	100
AUGUST 28	156

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The cooking pad is now cleaned and sealed and fully operational. Thank you Butch Nobles and Eric Reidenbach. The Session decided to leave the grassy area near our drainage ditch and retention pond "natural." If you have thoughts about future needs, please let the Diaconate or Session know. Great work, Westminister.

## *A Word From the Director of Discipleship*

Wednesday night church is getting ready to crank up again! We will resume Wednesday nights on September 7<sup>th</sup> with dinner and a report on the youth group trips from the summer. Our friends from Boswell will be in town the following Wednesday to sing for us and share some pizza. However, beginning on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, our Wednesday evenings will have a new shine to it!

Everyone will gather to eat dinner at 5:30 in Montague Hall, and then we will all move to the sanctuary for a hymn and a word of prayer. From this point, two classes will be offered. A course based on Jonah offered by Tom Sikes, and a course based on the book of James offered by Tommy Suttle.

I refer you to the Tom Sikes article (pg. 3) regarding his class in this edition of the newsletter. The course offered on James will be discussion based time as we look at how James emphasizes a type of Christianity that is recognizable by others through good deeds and a faith that is marked by a consistent Christ-like life style. James is quite simplistic in how it is written and organized; in other words, it's an easy read!

If you so choose, please join us as we explore and discuss James. We will discover that James parallels beautifully with the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew. James also pulls from and utilizes the Proverbs from the Old Testament. James is a powerful, user friendly book that will be exciting to tackle!

One more thing! On the first Wednesday of October and November, everyone will gather in the sanctuary following dinner for a time of worship with a Vespers service led by Steve. Get excited, everyone! Westminster is alive and vibrant, and everyone has an opportunity to plug in somewhere!



## **GOLF SCRAMBLE SUCCESS!**

The Inviting Team of Westminster hosted an event to introduce our friends to the people and mission of Westminster. Thank you to the 37 players plus the many sponsors and volunteers who made the Westminster Golf Scramble a big hit!

We also raised money for the Living Waters for the World Water Missions Project in El Salvador coordinated by Eric and Karen Reidenbach.

Westminster is a missional church whose members are joining Christ in the mission field in our community and beyond. For more information on the water project, go to [www.LivingWatersfortheWorld.org](http://www.LivingWatersfortheWorld.org)

Thank you especially to Dudley Westbrook and the Reidenbachs for helping secure sponsors, Sinclair Lundy for handling the money, Dave Daves for his photography, Trey Wilson and his Canebrake staff for an excellent day of golf and fun. Thank you Wes Brooks for the publicity and online registration support. Wow! It was a "do-over" as we were rained out in July! Thank you Tommy Suttle and Jeff Haydel for helping with the tent in July!

The winning teams with an incredible score of 58 (par is 71!) were Erik Graham, Thomas Barton and Lawrence Ingram (who also won the putting contest). They won along with Claude Sanders, Adam Speights, Jay Halford and Bryan Kellar. We added mulligans and even a "free throw" to raise money for missions. It was a great day to celebrate our faith in the fairways and rough of life!

Our Supporters and Sponsors included Owens Business Machines, Roberts and Associates Law Firm, David Daves, Johnson Insurance, Friends of Southern Pines Animal Shelter and Spay and Neuter Clinic, Hattiesburg Medical Supply, ServiceMaster of Pearl, Carter's Jewelry, Lawn Ranger, Bop's, Mary Kay, Baker Painting Group and Missionscape.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3	Robin Roberts
6	Julia Haydel
7	Cliff Snellgrove
7	John Turner
8	Laurie Herring
9	Catherine Holland
12	Sharon Lebsack
12	Jimmy Myers
13	Connie Roberts
15	Carrie Cromartie
15	Charles Hogrefe
15	Catherine Sampson
17	David Garraway
17	Carol Hickman
21	Margaret Buckley
22	Betsy McDaniel
23	Charles Brown
23	Lola Norris
25	Sinclair Lundy
26	Florence Myers
27	Janet Burke
27	Raoul Jerome
29	Keith McLarnan
29	Cheryl & Rebecca Gaudet
29	Henry Haydel



*Presbyterian Women of Westminster*

September is here! Summer's relaxed pace is giving way to new beginnings, and PW is ready to get started. This month, Circle Bible studies begin anew with a series of lessons examining the question, "Who is Jesus?" The Reverend Dr. Lynn Miller, from our Presbytery, contributed to the study book. Make plans now to participate in one of our three circles, which are open to every woman in our congregation. Circles are an excellent way to grow spiritually and to build lasting friendships within our church family.

Martha Ann Hogrefe and Mary Dayne Gregg have compiled a new PW directory and handbook. This is a valuable resource filled with contact information for all the women in our congregation along with a calendar and other helpful content. You can pick up a copy from Circle leaders or from Martha Davis, who assisted with the printing. Thanks to all three ladies for their good work.

Presbyterian Women throughout our denomination gather during September to receive the Thank Offering. This year's observance will be a special occasion at Westminster. On Sunday, September 25th, all ladies are invited to bring a salad to share for lunch right after the worship service. During lunch we will learn about the Thank Offering. After lunch we will enjoy some cake while we honor Holley Johnson with a wedding shower. Please check the bulletin in the next few weeks for details about Holley's wedding shower.

It is my hope that every woman in our church family will participate in some of the many ways that Presbyterian Women serve our LORD, our church family, our community, and beyond.

Althea Jerome, Moderator  
Presbyterian Women

*A Five Week Study of Jonah on Wednesday Nights*

**WITH TOM SIKES**

We will meet a reluctant missionary who is called to Ninevah and chooses instead to hop a boat to Tarshish. This study will open our eyes to God's love for the lost and our call to ... GET UP AND GO!

We will be going chapter by chapter and conclude with a reflection on how we are called to share the good news. It has been a delight to be with you this year in worship and witness, to come alongside you in spreading hope in word and action. You have graciously welcomed me into your church with open arms and I am deeply grateful. To share the pulpit with Steve, Tommy and Joe Pack has been an honor. I look forward to a very special Fall season ahead.

Here are some key thoughts on our mission together:

1. Nowhere is now here. God lives in between and is there for us, guiding us, paving our way between Christ and culture
2. Four Life Questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?
3. Five Aspects of the Spirit: Convicts Converts Cleanses Comforts Controls
4. We are not concerned with the seating capacity of the sanctuary but the sending capacity of our member missionaries!
5. God calls, shapes us by scriptures and sends us in the Spirit to our mission fields of home, school, work and beyond.

Join us and together we will invite friends to Westminster.



# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SAVE THE DATES!</b> SEPTEMBER 24 • Rotary Bike-A-Thon (disentangleAD) OCTOBER 8 • 1st Responders Breakfast OCTOBER 22 • 2016 Walk for Alzheimer's DECEMBER 11 • Celebration Honoring Steve Ramp				1 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's 12:00 PM Sharecare	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service NO YOUTH	5 <b>LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	6 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	7 5:30 PM Pot Luck Supper & Youth Presentation of Summer Trips FMT Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	8 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	9	10 8:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast  USM Football (Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser)
<b>BREADBASKET WEEK</b>						
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 Diaconate 12:30 Session 4:00 PM Youth Swim Party (Graham residence)	12	13 9:30 AM Circle 1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 PM Circle 2	14 5:30 PM Boswell Choir Wednesday Night Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	15 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	16	17 USM Football (Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser)
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 5:00 PM Grades 3-5 & Youth	19 12:00 PM New Beginnings Luncheon	20 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	21 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	22 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	23 <b>NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM PW Thank/Offering Luncheon & General Meeting 5:00 PM Youth	26	27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	28 5:30 PM Potluck Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	29 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	30	31
<b>WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK!</b> Our regular Wednesday night program resumes September 7, when the Youth will report on their summer mission trips. The Liberty Ministry men will be with us then. On September 14 the Boswell Choir will perform at 5:30, and we'll eat together afterwards. This is always a wonderful blessing for Boswell and for us. Please join us for that. Starting September 21 we will offer two classes following dinner on the grounds. Let's rally and make Wednesday nights rich in food, fellowship, and learning.						