



Westwind

Westminster Presbyterian Church Newsletter

1941 Shorter Avenue
Rome, Georgia 30165
Church Office 706-235-8561



Dr. Greg Lund, Pastor
January, 2018

www.wpcrome.org

www.cherokeepresbytery.org

www.pcusa.org

Who? Me, Lord?

We know the stories of Bible heroes who responded to God’s call—people like Sarah, Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, Deborah and Mary. They bravely followed God’s call and spoke God’s word against great odds. But when they first heard that call, their responses were very human. Abraham said, “I’m too old.” Jeremiah said, “I’m too young.” Moses said, “I don’t talk so good.” Sarah just laughed, hoping nobody would notice. Only Mary said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.” In other words, “Sign me up. Bring it on.”

God is calling us to a new adventure. It is not a question of whether God has a plan, but whether we are listening. Toward the end of 2017, Rev. Bill Owen led us through a time of conversation about Westminster’s strengths and struggles. His response was a six-page report (copies are available). The key points were (1) we are a congregation with great heart and commitment, and (2) the next couple of years are critical for the future of our mission.

This month, Session will begin planning a season of prayerful listening and strategic visioning. You will be invited to speak up, to pray up, and to step up. Who, me? Yes, you. Together, we will seek a God-sized vision for our ministry. As Presbyterians, we believe that we hear God best when we listen to the Spirit and to each other.

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One of Session’s goals will be to create new channels of communication. Your hunches, your passions, and your concerns are part of what God is calling us to hear. So, expect God to call, and resist the temptation to answer, “I’m too old,” or “I’m too young,” or “I’m too broken,” or “I’m not talented.” God makes no mistakes, and you are at WPC for a purpose. No one can fulfill that purpose but you.

See you in the Visioning place,



WPC Hosts NAACP Choir Concert

Westminster has been invited to host an afternoon of music and praise, Saturday, January 27, at 3 PM in the Sanctuary. The concert will feature songs of praise from the Lovejoy Baptist Church choir, the Thankful Baptist Church choir, and the Chancel Choir of WPC. This invitation came as an outgrowth of our ongoing partnership with Lovejoy Baptist Church. Mark your calendars as we plan for an afternoon of joyful praise and unity in Christ. When we hosted the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, our sanctuary filled with the kind of energy and joy that only happens when congregations come together. Even the Presbyterians were seen moving and clapping! This concert promises to be another memorable event. Be sure to invite a friend!

Budget and Stewardship Committee Update

Thanks to all of our wonderful members who are so faithful in their financial giving to Westminster. Our November Operating Fund results are as follows:

November 2017 Financial Operations

	<u>Current Month</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	32,655	34,329	351,397	408,298
Expenses	33,006	34,909	387,401	412,344



SALT & PEPPER SOCIETY

FRIDAY, January 12, 2018

Noon

West Center



Please note change of meeting day to Friday for our first luncheon of the New Year. Our special guests will be *Applescraps*, a jazz trio made up of Sam Baltzer, Stan Pethel, and Marc Johnson. We'll play a game called "Stump the Chumps." You'll have to be present to learn more about this, so make your plans now, invite a friend and join us for a fun time. Lunch is still only \$5 per person, but bring extra cash as we will take a "love" offering to help pay the group's expenses. REMEMBER, meeting day is Friday, January 12th. Sign up on the appropriate Connect Card or phone the church office at 706-235-8561 to reserve your spot.

2018 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Westminster saints, sign-up sheets and reference verses for the 2018 Lenten Devotional Booklet will be placed in the Commons area on Christmas Eve, as the Lenten Season is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2018, and the booklet must be completed before the distribution date of Sunday, February 11, 2018. Therefore, Sunday, January 28, 2018 is the targeted date for all submissions. This will give us two weeks for final compilation and publication.

The focus of the booklet will be on the word **TRUTH** as used in selected Old and New Testament scriptures. Thank you for past participation in the Lenten Devotional Booklets and we look forward to your thoughts as you express them in writing for the 2018 booklet.

The Worship Committee wishes to thank all the participants in the Hanging of the Greens service - the "Fluffers," the Readers and Musicians, and the actual Hangers - who made the sanctuary so beautiful to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. It was truly a team effort. Thank you for being willing to step up when we needed you. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who helped with the memorial service for Shelia Jackson and the lunch for the family on December 9th. The Bereavement Committee really appreciates all the loving hands of our church family. Once again, we came together as a family, helping out where needed in the many, many areas in honor of Shelia. We know that her family appreciated all of your efforts as well. Thank you.



Session Highlights



The Session met on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7PM in the Conference Room.

(A complete copy of the Session minutes can be found on the Session bulletin board in the Office Wing. Below are a few highlights from that meeting.)

We were delighted to meet with the Elder class of 2020 and participate in their examination. All proved to have been good students during Dr. Lund's preparation for their service as elders. A motion to approve their examination and to proceed with Ordination and Installation on December 17, 2017 was unanimously approved. Barbara Elliott and Raymond Murray will be ordained and installed and Craig Duhamel and Teresa Dulaney will be installed.

The following persons were elected to continue in their service for 2018: Sarah Whitley, Clerk of Session. Susan Henley, treasurer of Westminster Presbyterian Church Inc., Dan Sweitzer, Tim Tarpley, and Stephen Williams, Tellers.

While December is a busy month for all kinds of church activities, this did not give much time for committee meetings. **Anita Errickson, Christian Education** chairman, reported that the Family Advent Event went well with some members' grandchildren joining our own children for an afternoon of food, activities, and a movie. **Dan Sweitzer, Budget & Stewardship** Chairman, presented a final budget for 2018 which was unanimously approved. And **Gail Wilkes, Fellowship** Chairman, reminded folks that the Fellowship committee will sponsor a pizza and game night at 6PM on December 27th.

Westminster will host a community choir concert sponsored by the NAACP on January 27, 2018. Thankful Baptist, Lovejoy Baptist, and Westminster will be the featured choirs.

The Session retreat has been rescheduled to February 3, 2018 from 9AM-1:30PM due to the conflict with the community choir concert.

SESSION FAMILY PRAYER LIST FOR JANUARY 2018

During the month of January, the Elders will be praying for the following individuals and their families: Carolyn Walker, Bob Walther, Lauren Ward, Jenny Watkins, Jonathan & Hope Weaver, Doug & Chris White, Leonard & Paula White, Jennifer Whitley, Johnny & Sarah Whitley, Gail Wilkes, Brandon Williams, and Ethel Williams.

2018 ON-GOING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

With the coming of a new calendar year, please check the BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE COMMONS AREA to sign up for the following special opportunities. Thank you for your participation.

MEALS FOR WILLIAM DAVIES SHELTER – WPC members prepare meals for 18 people at the Davies Shelter on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month. We invite you to sign up to cook one meal or more this year. If you wish to partner with another person a list of participants is on the sign-up sheet. Those who would like to remain with their 2017 times, please sign up on the new calendar.

FLOWER CALENDAR - Fresh flowers in the sanctuary always beautify our worship space on Sundays. Please check the new 2018 Flower Calendar and sign up for the special date(s) you would like to offer an arrangement for worship. Flowers may be ordered from any florist you choose. We are in a real need for January and February dates.

And don't forget these special on-going mission opportunities too!

SEWING/KNITTING FOR THE HOSPITAL – WPC members make blankets for newborn babies at Floyd Hospital. You may knit or crochet a blanket that is 36" square, or hem a flannel piece 36" X 45". We also make very small blankets – 12" to 15" square - for families to share with a miscarried baby. These may be placed on the PW Mission table.

STAMPS – WPC members save ALL STAMPS for the Alliance Stamp Company in Ft. Myers, FL. Clip them carefully from your envelope without damaging any of the edges of the stamp. Put your stamps in the bottom front drawer of our WPC mailbox marked "*stamps*". Alliance uses the proceeds from selling stamps to collectors to operate a printing press that publishes Sunday School materials printed in Spanish. These are used by many different denominations in Spanish speaking countries around the world.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: WPC is collecting box tops and soup labels for Thornwell. Please put them in Sue Howel's mailbox.

PULL TOPS ON ALUMINUM CANS – Joni Nelson and Marilyn Hendrickson are collecting can pull tops for the Ronald McDonald House. Please put them in either of their mailboxes.

Presbyterian Women



Day Circle: *Date:* Tuesday, January 9th
 Time/Location: 2:00PM, Conference Room
 Bible Moderator: Barbara Elliott

Night Circle: *Date:* Thursday, January 11th
 Time/Location: 6:30PM, Conference Room
 Bible Moderator: Joni Nelson

Bible Study for January - Horizons Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews

Lesson Five - Hebrews 3:1-6, 11

It is assumed that the author of the book of Hebrews is writing to an audience familiar with the stories of the Old Testament because many details of those stories are not spelled out. “This explains why Bible Scholars believe that the original audience of this book was composed of either Jewish Christians, Gentile Christians who were God-fearers, or a combination of both. As we examine the tradition from which Hebrews draws, and our own personal faith tradition, we lay another stone on the supporting wall of our faith. The cloud of witnesses grows exponentially because we recognize the uncountable multitudes of those who have come before us.”

Restoration Rome

Rome and Floyd County has 350 children in need of Foster care due to poverty, abuse, neglect and the court system. Currently there are only 50 Foster homes. This critical problem has led to the creation of a new organization, RESTORATION ROME, which brings public, private, and faith-based partners together to strengthen and restore our children and families in Christ’s name. Restoration Rome is designed to be a hub for foster and adoptive services. This one stop training center, housed in the newly renovated Southeast Elementary School at 1400 Crane Street, Rome, 30161, offers space for training of foster parents and volunteers, DFAC personnel and supervised visitation, legal services required for adoption, YMCA after school activities, and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Co-Founders of Rome Restoration are Mary Margaret and Jeff Mauer who have much support from passionate individuals, churches, businesses, service organizations, and local and state government. Carol Willis, Chair of Rome-Floyd Commission on Youth works at Restoration Rome as well Courtney Cash, husband of WPC Choir Director Stefanie Cash, who is Vice President of Development.

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MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to help out in the “resource” closet at Restoration Rome, Saturday January 13 from 9AM-Noon. We will help sort toys and clothes for boys and girls of all ages. They would like us to commit to 2 to 3 hours as a group. It is fine if you can only come for part of the time. While there, you can take a tour around the facility to see the services that are being offered by this wonderful resource center for foster children and their families. Thank you for your support and watch for other opportunities to support Restoration Rome. We hope to host either a morning or an evening out for the caretakers of these children at our church in the coming months. *Restoration Rome is a wonderful place to donate new or used toys and children’s clothing.*

JANUARY MISSION PROJECT

There is a constant need at Restoration Rome for NEW SOCKS and UNDERWEAR for boys and girls. On many occasions the children must leave their home without any personal items or clothing. January Mission - we will collect socks and underwear for Restoration Rome. Please consider purchasing socks and/or underwear for boys and girls – any size, any age - and place them on the Mission table. THANKS!

Mission Updates

Scrip Cards: Our next Scrip order will be on Sunday, **January 7th**. Remember that order forms are always available on the chest in the Narthex. Please complete the order form and attach a check made payable to Westminster and place it in Susan Henley’s mailbox. The cards will be in on Wednesday, January 10th.

Backpack Buddies Mission: Please continue to help us with this project by donating items such as individual packets of grits, oatmeal, fruit cups, pudding cups, Ramen noodles, snack crackers, hot chocolate, small jars of peanut butter, or breakfast bars and placing them on the Backpack Buddies’ table in the Commons. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Just make your check payable to Westminster, earmarked “*Backpack Buddies.*”

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN AND PACK UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

Anyone who is able please meet on **Saturday, January 6th at 10AM in Westminster Hall.** Thank you for your help!

**See Calendar
for this page**



**See Calendar
for this page**



MUSIC MATTERS

It has been a wonderful beginning to the Advent season. Lessons and Carols was a wonderful time of worship through music and it was a joy to join Westminster in this long-standing tradition. A huge thank you to the choir for all of their hard work and wonderful enthusiasm during the preparation time.

We hope you will join us on Christmas Eve, both morning and evening, for a wonderful celebration of the birth of Christ. At the request of many, we will be singing "The First Noel" one last time, an arrangement that has become a favorite of many of the choir members!

I pray blessings on you and your family as you enter into the holiday season. Emmanuel, Christ with us. The hope of glory! Amen!

Dr. Stefanie Cash

Youth Supper Schedule for December

- Jan. 7 No Youth
- Jan. 14 Covered-Dish
- Jan. 21 Richard Merritt
- Jan. 28 Stephen & Beth Williams

Youth Chaperone Schedule for December

- Jan. 7 No Youth
- Jan. 14 Lauren Ward
- Jan. 21 Richard Merritt
- Jan. 28 Stephen & Beth Williams

***Youth supper begins at 6:30PM and will be in Fellowship Hall.
Youth Chaperones are needed from 5:30PM-8:15PM
Please contact Joseph Cleveland at 843-452-2626 for more info.***

Many thanks to Joseph and the Youth Leadership Team for putting together a wonderful Youth Ski Trip to Banner Elk, NC last weekend. I think the youth group, Victoria, Grady, David (friend of Grady), Sabrina, Renya, Alex, and especially myself had a blast. Beautiful cabin, Bible lessons, good food and fellowship were the order of the weekend. The kids has great fun ice skating, but I think the hit was the skiing. The instructor spent a full 2 hours with the kids that needed instruction and I would say that the kids won't need to go to ski school in the future.

Thanks for letting me go along!
Richard Merritt

Youth News

Our first semester has come to a close and a new one is on the horizon. I write this just after returning from our ski trip, which was our last scheduled activity until our lock-in on January 5th. We enjoyed a beautiful view in a cabin on top of a mountain looking over the town of Banner Elk and the adjacent Sugar Mountain, which hosted the ski resort by the same name. There were group and individual talks, games, a thought-provoking movie, and interactive lessons. Thanks to Richard Merritt who was our chaperone.

Our last lesson at church left us just after Pharaoh let the people of Israel go, and all were surprised how quickly the people would change their hearts or attitudes. Those who have read more of the Bible know that this is a pattern not only of the children of Israel, but of ourselves, as we struggle between flesh and spirit. Therefore, we focused on defining the fruits of the flesh and spirit on the trip. I have found that youth respond when things are in their own words and are made relevant by giving examples of things they experience in their own lives. I watched as each would almost claim certain fruits as their "struggle" and others as their "strength." I then pointed out how each of us have gifts, strengths, and talents, and we can use those to help those who are weak in those areas, while others can help us with their strengths. This led to an open question and answer session, where there were questions about the nature of God, the church, the world, and many about the Presbyterian faith and specifically Westminster. I believe that the youth are really beginning to see a bigger picture, and are looking at what their part in the church as a whole should be. When we returned to the church, families came to greet us, both young and old, from both the neighborhood and church. At one point, we had about 15 people crowd around us, and I saw pure wonder, enjoyment, and a Christian family atmosphere. Almost as if what we shared on the trip, we shared to the group around us. What a great close to a great semester, and I look forward to the new year.

We have several things coming up: The aforementioned lock-in, a youth spring cleaning of the youth rooms, lessons continuing on Exodus, and youth working on getting involved with the band. We also have recently welcomed the help of Liz Holder, who has a passion to minister to youth, and have already seen a warm response to her. Looking forward to a new season with you, Westminster!

Joseph Cleveland



We had a wonderful time caroling to our church family members on Sunday, December 17th. We were able to go to Renaissance Marquis, Riverwood Retirement Senior Living, and Brookdale Rome.

Calling all Men! Start Your New Year Off Right!

All men are invited to the weekly Men's Breakfast which meets Wednesday mornings at 7AM in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a delicious homemade breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, just to name a few items, all for the low cost of \$5 per person. This money is used to pay for the food but the remainder of the money supports the monthly Meals and More program. Breakfast is followed by a short devotional and things are wrapped up around 7:30AM leaving the 8AM-5PM workers plenty of time to make it to your job by 8AM! Start your year and your Wednesday off right by enjoying food and fellowship with your Westminster brothers in Christ!

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



The hustle of the Christmas season has subsided and the staff of Westminster Christian Academy can begin to regain a sense of “normal” again. Each day at WCA has a different version of “normal”: we never know what is in store for us when it comes to working with very young children.

One thing we are sure never changes is the commitment of the WCA staff. These ladies work many long hours and are committed beyond just getting a paycheck. The WCA teachers get to know the families as well as the children and often develop very close bonds. I’ve heard MANY times from prospective parents that a “sense of peace” is what they notice most about WCA. Families feel like ...well....family because of the devotion of the WCA staff. Of course, we have less than perfect days occasionally, but the dynamic is much like our families at home. Ups, downs, good days, not-so-good days, joy and sadness. But the common bond we have is the children we have in our care.

The hard work of the staff is noticed and remembered by so many. In case you missed it, WCA was voted “Best Daycare” in the Rome area for the 4th year in a row.....but who’s counting?

Please continue to support our ministry with your prayers. We also welcome guests who like to read to children, or help with an art project. Just let me know if you’d like to visit!

Heather Davis
Westminster Christian Academy

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Children’s Ministries! December brought our Advent Event for families, which proved to be a happy time, despite a bout of snowy wintry weather. Westminster families, as well as members from the general congregation, joined together for an afternoon of holiday treats, Christmas crafting, and a showing of “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” It was great to warm up with spiced cider, sing some Christmas carols, create family Advent wreaths, and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. By the end of the afternoon, I think everyone (along with little Joseph Errickson, who answered the question aloud) knew that Christmas is about Jesus coming from Heaven to Earth to be our Savior. That’s a great message for any season of the year!

Kirsti Lund
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

**Worship Material for
the January Sermon Series:
God's Call, Our Response**

Jan. 7 "The Mighty Voice of God"

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14 "Never Invisible to God"

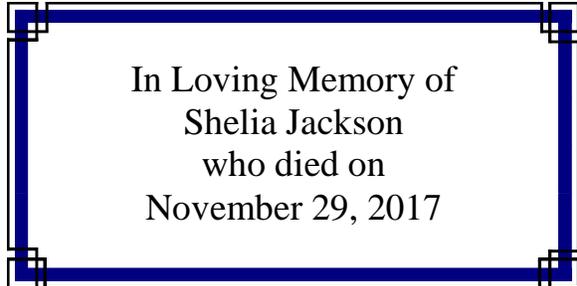
1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51

**Jan. 21 "God Speaks To and
Through Us"**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
Mark 1:14-20

**Jan. 28 "Expecting and Confronting
the Enemy"**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



In Loving Memory of
Shelia Jackson
who died on
November 29, 2017

William Davies Homeless Shelter

Volunteers for January 7:
Joe & Martha Holder and Gail Wilkes

Volunteers for January 21:
*Craig & Kim Duhamel and
Tim & Sue Tarpley*

* The 2018 Flower Calendar, located on *
* the Common's bulletin board, is now *
* available for you to sign-up to provide *
* flowers for Sunday worship. *We really* *
* *need help with flowers in January if* *
* *anyone is willing.* Thank you for your *
* participation. *

Wednesday evening activities
resume on January 10th. Please see
the January *Westwind* calendar for
specific times and activities.



**LOCK-UP SCHEDULE
FOR JANUARY
Sue Tarpley**

**Red Cross
Blood Drive**

Our next blood drive
will be on Wednesday,
February 21st at 3PM in
Westminster Hall.



Join your Westminster
family for **Pizza and Game
Night on Wednesday,
December 27th at 6PM** in
the West Center. Bring
money to offset the cost of
the pizza and the Fellowship
Committee will supply the
drinks and dessert. **Hope to see you there!**

Usher Schedule

(contact John Hendrickson at 232-6872)

- Jan. 7 Michael Elliott, Les & Kaye Gordon, and Johnny Whitley
- Jan. 14 Youth Co-captains: Grady Davis and Victoria Merritt
- Jan. 21 Jordan Askew, Ann Peery, and Drew & Jane Tate
- Jan. 28 Bill Byars, John Hendrickson, Jim Ivison, and Dan Sweitzer

Flower Schedule

(contact Susan Henley at 706-235-8561)

- Jan. 7
- Jan. 14
- Jan. 21
- Jan. 28

Nursery

(contact Jennifer Jones at 706-853-9611)

- Jan. 7 Jennifer Jones/Laurie Johnson
- Jan. 14 Jennifer Jones/Laurie Johnson
- Jan. 21 Jennifer Jones/Kathy Smith
- Jan. 28 Jennifer Jones/Linda Sipp

Acolytes

(contact Susan Henley at 235-8561)

- Jan. 7 Carolyn Richardson
- Jan. 14 Cailey Askew Pam Bibb
- Jan. 21 Amiah Gattenby Rickey Dorman
- Jan. 28 Victoria Merritt Kristi Elkins

Leaders

Readers

(contact Susan Henley at 235-8561)

- Jan. 7 Sarah Whitley
- Jan. 14 Youth
- Jan. 21 Anita Errickson
- Jan. 28 Joe Tribble

Liturgists

(contact Sarah Whitley at 331-8003)

- Jan. 7 Sarah Whitley
- Jan. 14 Craig Duhamel
- Jan. 21 Anita Errickson
- Jan. 28 Martha Holder

Office Volunteers

(contact Susan Henley at 235-8561)

- Connie Barris, Elizabeth Busby, Joanne Campbell, Shirley Castor, Rickey Dorman, Gloria Eberhart, Janette Edwards, Jean Fricks, Mary Gooch, Marilyn Hendrickson, Bobbie Ivison, Jim Ivison, Ted Johnston, Katharine Lovvorn, Richard Merritt, Ann Peery, Carolyn Richardson, Joel Turner, Johnny Whitley, Sarah Whitley, and Gail Wilkes.

THE WESTWIND DEADLINE
 for the **February Westwind** will be
Noon on Friday, January 19, 2017.
 Please send your articles to
shenleywpc@bellsouth.net.

*WCA will be closed December
 22nd through January 2nd.
 The church office will be closed
 December 22nd through
 December 26th and December
 29th through January 1st.*

**Please turn in your final 2017
 contributions by
 Sunday, December 24th.**
*Thanks for your continued
 financial support.*

*Merry Christmas and
 Happy New Year!*

Westwind *January 2018*

The staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Dr. Greg Lund Pastor
Dr. Stefanie Cash Choir Director
Elizabeth Busby Director of Handbells/Instrument Groups
Joseph Cleveland Youth Director
Kirsti Lund Children's Ministry Director
Susan Henley Office Administrator/Treasurer
Heather Davis Dir. of Westminster Christian Academy
Sunny Knauss Custodian
John & Marissa Johnson Caterers

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