



# The Westminster Standard

Newsletter of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Hattiesburg

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

The more I study Christianity, the more I realize how “counter-cultural” it is. In Jesus’ day justice was based on *lex talionis* (the law of retaliation), a principle developed in early Babylonian law and expressed in Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and in Exodus 21:23 “you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, etc.” This was better than excessive retaliation and tribal warfare. However, in the sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, **but I say to you** do not resist an evil doer, but if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also . . . walk a second mile, don’t refuse people who want to borrow from you,” Matt. 5:38f. To a realist this sounds crazy. If you are a Christian it sounds . . . well, darn near impossible. Here’s my point: Jesus is challenging his people to be peace-makers. Don’t fight back. Don’t stand on your “rights.” Instead, demonstrate divinely inspired grace, love, and peace in situations where it’s not expected. The only way you and I can ever hope to pull this off is by deferring to Jesus as Lord. Christ resides in you (John 14:23). He is your Savior, but he is also your Lord. Is your ego yielded to him as a subject to a King? Several years ago we used to see on bracelets WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?). Maybe a little hokey, but it asks the right question. In this rough and tumble world we inhabit, let’s remember that our King has called us to a very high standard: let His light shine in us so that people will glorify our Father.



*Steve*

## COLUMBARIUM NEWS

The Columbarium is essentially complete. It now holds the urns of Bettye Arnold, Judy Harrell, Wayne Ramp, Kay Salter. We anticipate receiving the urns for Charles Short and Michael Laiche very soon. If you haven’t visited the Columbarium, we encourage you to do so. If you are interested in purchasing a Niche, see Ginny Graham or Martha Davis.

The Landscaping Committee is working on a plan to provide an attractive visual backdrop and barrier between our property and the commercial parking lot to our south. We are working with Dr. Martin Baker’s family to determine where foliage along our common border should be situated.

## R<sup>3</sup>SM NEWS (Ramp)

From 2006-2014 I (Steve) served on the Board of R<sup>3</sup>SM. Mary Cromartie and Barbara Stallcup served on this board as well. R<sup>3</sup>SM is a long-term recovery agency. It meets with people after a natural disaster and tries to help them find help to repair their home. When money was rolling in R<sup>3</sup>SM repaired 450 houses and built 20 from scratch. These days money is tight and no one wants to pay for “case-management” so R<sup>3</sup>SM has fallen on hard times. Sheila Varnado (former director, and George Gillespie (former board member) and I are working very hard to protect the Volunteer House and help R<sup>3</sup>SM survive so it can continue to help the poorest folks in our community. If you are interested in helping, I’d love to talk with you. I covet your prayers, any financial support we can offer, and your willingness to allow me to spend time trying to help solve some very tough problems.



## Presbyterian Women of Westminster

In the April 24th Worship Service, Audra Cummings gave a brief description of the Presbyterian Women's 2016 Birthday Offering. This annual offering which began in 1922, is one example of how Presbyterian Women at Westminster are connected to the work of the denomination. Over the years this offering has helped fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world. For several years, our own Carolyn McLarnan served on a committee of the PCUSA General Assembly that selects the recipients of this offering. In 2016, projects in South Sudan, Kansas, California and five presbyteries in Georgia, North Carolina and Kentucky will receive amounts from \$50,000 – \$100,000 through the Birthday Offering.

Westminster's three Circles actively participate in local mission projects in addition to supporting denominational projects of Presbyterian Women. As we consider contributing to this year's Birthday Offering, PW invites all women in our congregation to heed our calling to "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:24

### YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 22

Youth Sunday will be Sunday May 22nd. This is always a special Sunday in the life of Westminster! Our young people will plan and lead the worship service. Please be in prayer for our youth as they plan and prepare to lead our congregation in worship.



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### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

This is the final year of our 4-year capital campaign to rebuild and restore our church. Let's finish what we started in 2013. The generosity of this church and its members and friends is truly amazing. We also need your help with monthly operating expenses. Thank you so much.

### COOKOUT & DESSERT AUCTION

Everyone is invited to join together Wednesday, May 4th, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for grilled burgers and dogs and all the fixings! Following dinner, the youth will host their annual Dessert Auction. This is one of their biggest fundraisers for the year to help with the cost of their summer trips. Feel free to bake some desserts to contribute for auction, and don't forget your checkbook! This is always a fun event for the entire family. Our friends from Liberty Ministries will be with us also. We'll see you there!

### CASSEROLE MINISTRY

We have restarted our Casserole Ministry at Westminster, and everyone can participate! This ministry was designed several years ago to help out our members who might be in need of a meal for whatever reason—death in the family, temporary illness, birth of a child, moving into a new house, etc.

There is a display in the narthex near the elevator with aluminum trays and a list of instructions on how to participate. The casseroles are stored in a freezer in the church. So if you are willing and able, please stop by the display, pick up a tray, and make a casserole for the ministry!

## April Birthdays

2	Gregg Graham
2	Emma Bryant
3	Shawn McDaniel
4	Steve Ramp
5	David Daves
7	Frank Steen
9	Meredith West
10	Lisa Forsyth
11	Robert Holland
12	Clint Butler
13	Brody Creel
13	Sarah Brannon
16	Judy Haydel
18	Sandy Jordan
22	Robert Cummings, Jr.
24	Liz Butler
26	Gene Fair
29	Wally Gregg
30	Amy Ruff
31	Sharon Potin

## Attendance

APRIL 3	124
APRIL 10	139
APRIL 17	142
APRIL 24	129

## Children & Youth Activities—April

<b>MAY 1</b>	Grades 3-5 (4:15-5:30 pm) & Youth (5:00-6:30 pm)
<b>MAY 4</b>	Church and Youth Dessert Auction
<b>MAY 8</b>	No Activities—Mother’s Day
<b>MAY 15</b>	Grades 3-5 (4:15-5:30 pm) & Youth (5:00-6:30 pm)
<b>MAY 22</b>	Youth Sunday; no evening activities
<b>MAY 29</b>	No Activities - Memorial Day Weekend
<b>JUNE 1</b>	Church
<b>JUNE 5</b>	Grades 3-5 & Youth fun activity TBA
<b>JUNE 6-9</b>	VBS @ WPC Vacation Bible School will be June 6-9 from 9am-noon and the theme is "Turn It Up". All children ages PreK4-grade 5 are welcome. Sign up will begin soon and volunteers are needed. See Amy Ruff if you are able to help.
<b>JUNE 12</b>	The Great Escape/Lee University
<b>JUNE 19</b>	No activities
<b>JUNE 26</b>	Youth fun activity TBA
<b>JUNE 27-30</b>	Student Life for Kids/Shocco Springs
<b>JULY 1-7</b>	Noah's Ark/Buena Vista, CO
<b>JULY 3</b>	No activities
<b>JULY 6</b>	Church
<b>JULY</b>	TBA



On Saturday, May 14, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. we hope you all will join us on the campus of Westminster Presbyterian Church for an afternoon of fantastic food, live music, and fellowship as Westminister Presbyterian of Hattiesburg holds its inaugural Westminister BBQ Jam. Tickets for this event are \$10 each and will provide the holder with his/her choice of chicken or pulled pork which will be served with baked beans, cole slaw, corn and a roll.

Should you choose to dine at the church, you'll get to enjoy some quality live music provided by Adam MacAdory and his band and our very own Larry Royals.

Our Mission is to "Trust God. Love All People. Carry Christ into the World." As you are all well aware, that last point of our mission statement requires funding. Know that 100% of the proceeds from this event will go to support those mission efforts.

Tickets may be purchased at the Westminister Church office, from any member of our congregation, or you can purchase them online on our website at: [westminster-hattiesburg.com](http://westminster-hattiesburg.com). It's safe, secure and very quick!

# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:05 AM Reception, Ben Ruff's Graduation</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM PW Birthday Offering/Luncheon</p> <p>12:00 PM Baby Shower for Audra Cummings, Catherine Holland, and Ashley Roberts</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 PM Dessert/Casserole Auction for Youth</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p> <p>12:00 PM ShareCare</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p><b>MOTHER'S DAY</b></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Circle 1 in Parlor</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag</p> <p>7:00 PM Circle 2 in Generations Room</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 AM <b>WESTMINSTER BBQ JAM FUNDRAISER</b></p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Congregational Meeting/Elections</p> <p>11:30 AM Diaconate</p> <p>12:30 PM Session</p> <p>4:15 PM Children Grades 3-5</p> <p>5:00 PM The Youth</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 PM New Beginnings Luncheon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 AM Circle 3</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 AM Men Of the Church Monthly Breakfast in Montague Hall</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>5:00 PM The Youth</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>5:00 PM The Youth</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>MEMORIAL DAY-OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study</p>				