



The Westminster Standard

NEWSLETTER OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HATTIESBURG



Dear Family in Faith,

I have been thinking a great deal about the Apostle Paul these last few months. As a result, my image of him has been changing. I confess my default view of the man has been to think of someone intelligent and impulsive, occasionally abrasive, easily angered and always determined. I still think of him like this, I suppose, but something more is lurking behind all of this for me these days. In short, I have decided that Paul was a man who loved deeply. He loved God with zeal. He loved his churches with passion. Everything he did and wrote must be held in this light.

In some places this is easy to see. First Corinthians 13 comes to mind. First Thessalonians 2:7-8 is also an example:

"... like a nurse taking care of her own children. We were so devoted to you that we gladly intended to share with you not only the gospel of God but our own lives, because you became so dear to us."

In other places, this is not so easy to see. Several places in Galatians and 2 Corinthians come to mind. But even there, where anger and sadness (perhaps depression) can come into view, these emotions are secondary. They spring forth because he sincerely loves the people in these churches and he wants nothing but the best for them in their relationship with God.

I have known people who are like that: deeply passionate in wanting what is best for the others around them. Westminster is full of them. Today, though, one particular individual is in my mind, Randall Harris. Randall has been our organist for so long he can't remember when he actually started playing in our worship services (his last guess was around 18 years ago). He recently came to me, in the wake of his starting work in a position as an Associate Dean at William Carey, and told me that these new duties would keep him from offering his full energies to preparing and leading our worship services. As he spoke, he revealed that it was in his heart that God and the church deserved better than he could give anymore. With sadness, and conviction, he submitted his resignation (a letter from him is included in this newsletter). That was not an easy act on his part, but it was obvious there was much love in it.

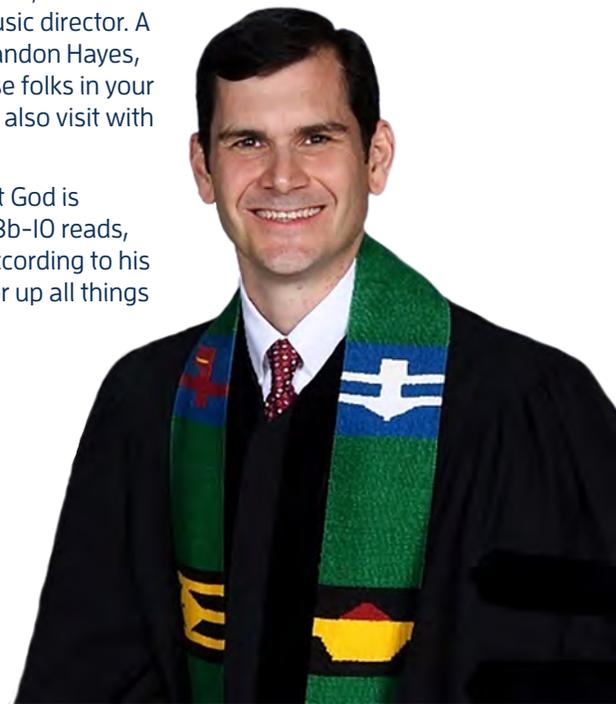
Randall will continue to be a part of this church family as we go forward. He will also continue to play during our worship services into September. Much like with Connie's expected departure, we will also look forward to an opportunity to celebrate him in the days ahead. For sure he and Janiel should be listed in our prayers of thanksgiving today.

Considering the amount of change before us, you might like to know that the session, with sadness and hope, has begun the process of looking for both a new organist and a new music director. A search committee has been created. They are: Althea Jerome, Dean Cromartie, Brandon Hayes, Lisa Forsyth, Carolyn McLarnan, Jenny Maul, and Michael Raggio. Please keep these folks in your prayers. If you have thoughts or questions, you can visit with one of them. You can also visit with me at anytime.

Change is a part of life, but even in the face of such things we must remember that God is sovereign and our tomorrow is not beyond the Lord's gracious reach. Ephesians 1:8b-10 reads, "With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and on earth." I told you Paul has been on my brain.

Yours in Christ,

Christopher





Dear Members of Westminster,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation as Westminster’s organist, with my last Sunday being September 8. I have come to this decision with great difficulty and after much prayer. As many of you know, in January of this year I accepted a new position as the Associate Dean of Preclinical Sciences with the College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University. Since then, it has become clear to me that the duties of this position will require my full energy, time, and talent for some time to come. As a result, I fear that the important task of helping to lead the congregation in worship at Westminster will suffer, and so I believe it is time for me to step down and allow someone else to lead from the organ bench.

Participating in corporate worship alongside the congregation has been one of the greatest joys of my life, and I cannot begin to express what a privilege it has been for me to serve in this position for so many years. Thank you all for the never-ending support, encouragement, and love that you have shown to me during my time as organist.

In Christ,

Randall



A Word From the Director of Discipleship

School is out and summer break is here, but Westminster will still be busy! Our older adult ministry New Beginnings group will continue to meet on the third Monday of the months of June, July, and August for lunch and a program. Brown Bag Bible Study will

also meet during the summer. We meet in the Generations School room at noon every Tuesday. We are currently studying the Minor Prophets.

And don’t forget that Sunday School classes will also meet throughout the summer. Check out some of the other things going on at WPC this summer!

Family Vacation Bible School (June 2-4)

PAUL GOES TO MARS!

Make plans to join us for Family VBS at the beginning of the summer. Beginning Sunday evening the night of June 2nd, we will meet at 5:30 for dinner, fellowship, and programs for adults, youth, and children. Our friends Bufford and Pastor Christopher will be joining us again! This is sure to be an awesome experience.

Camp Hopewell for our elementary aged kids will be June 16-22.

WPC’s annual **Red, Hot, and Blue BBQ** will be Sunday, June 30th immediately following worship. Every one is invited to join their church family for a barbecue lunch sponsored by the Diaconate.

Our Senior High group will travel to the **Montreat Youth Conference** July 6-13, and the Jr. High group will head to the **Montreat Middle School Conference** July 8-12.

On August 8th at 5:30 p.m. in Montague Hall, we will have a **Potluck Dinner** followed by a program presented by Martha Ann Hogrefe on Mission Haven. I hope to see you all at church, and have a great summer!



MUSIC NOTES FROM
Connie

Summer vacation has arrived, and your friendly neighborhood Chancel Choir will be taking some well-

deserved time off. Some weeks we will sing anthems; other weeks we’ll highlight the wonderful vocal and instrumental talents of our choir and congregation. You can look forward to flute, violin, French horn, piano, saxophone (I hope!), and a variety of other wonderful service music—even harp! If you play or sing and want to offer a solo or ensemble one Sunday, just give me a call. I promise we can find a place for you.

Now is the time to spread the word: WPC will present John Rutter’s Magnificat on Sunday, December 1. This beautiful advent piece, based on Mary’s song “My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord” from the Gospel of Luke, was presented at Westminster several years ago to a packed sanctuary. We will again have a full orchestra and guest singers from the community. This evening will mark my last major choral offering to WPC, and it will also serve as a “choir reunion.” Anyone who has sung with us in the past 32 years is invited to join us for this Magnificat. We are planning to bring back our former scholarship singers and choir members who have moved away or haven’t sung with us in a while. It’s your last chance (before I retire) to join us as we pull out all the stops to welcome the season of Advent. If you are in contact with any former choir members, please pass the word along to them—I’m planning a massive Facebook campaign.



In Memory of Dr. Lynn Hartwig October 6, 1947–April 26, 1996

Lynn was a professor and the Founder of the Center for Community Health (1988) at The University of Southern Mississippi. This is a copy of the oil painting portrait of Lynn which hangs near the offices of the Program in Public Health at USM and was placed there after its unveiling on April 18, 2019.

Lynn was also an Elder and Co-Founder, with Jane Rayborn, of The Bread Basket food ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church. She was the wife of Dr. Geoffrey B. Hartwig and the mother of Melanie Lynn Hartwig-Davis and Dr. Matthew G. Hartwig.

ATTENDANCE

MAY 5 135

MAY 19 101

MAY 12 130

MAY 26 105

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Tabitha Raggio	11 Bill Mitchell	24 Catherine Raggio
3 Ellen Ramp	14 Erik Graham	24 Carrie Creel
4 Oliver Creel	14 Jacob Suttle	25 Mac Forsyth
7 Vaughn Calvin Roberts	15 Charlie Parkman	28 Jan Bozeman
8 Buddy Bedenbaugh	16 Larry Royals	28 Margaret Brooks
11 Wilson Ruff	17 Ellen Arnold	28 Jackson Creel

28 Mary Kathryn Nobles Edwards

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Carleigh Blake Cummings	7 Christian Schertzer	21 J.T. Johnson
2 Sam Dossett	10 Ruthie Davis	22 Eric Reidenbach
2 Martha Ann Hogrefe	11 Chad Edmonson	25 Pam Love
3 Shane Brooks	13 Kinlock Bell	25 Catherine Edmonson
4 Bradley Graham	14 Michelle Coleman	25 Audra Cummings
5 Codie Cummings	16 Dudley Westbrook	25 Tripp Cain
5 Katie Ginn	19 Drew Suttle	28 Mike Gerald
6 Matthew Gretz	21 Martha Davis	29 Alicia Westbrook
		31 Kate Roberts



Presbyterian Women of Westminster

by Althea Jerome

Presbyterian Women at Westminster have enjoyed a banner year! When summer comes along, the schedule may seem to lighten a bit. Even so, the Coordinating Team will spend some time making plans for a new series of Bible studies to begin in September. A new yearbook will be created, and

there will be a baby shower on June 9th for Chrissy Yelverton. Please look for details about the shower in the Sunday Bulletin.

Here are some highlights of the 2018-2019 year of activity in Presbyterian Women:

- ➔ Every month there were donations to the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter (clothing, purses, personal items), Forrest General Hospital (heart monitor bags) and the Cancer Center (turbans). In addition, assistance was regularly provided to RISE throughout the year.
- ➔ PW continued to collect casseroles and homemade soup to store in the freezer. These are taken to members who could use a meal following an illness or a hospital stay.
- ➔ Monetary gifts were sent to local, Presbytery and Denominational benevolences.
- ➔ Members of Westminster's PW attended the Presbytery Fall Gathering at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Meridian in October.
- ➔ In November, PW coordinated the promotion, collection and delivery of Christmas Shoe Boxes.
- ➔ In January, several members attended the Presbytery Winter Retreat at St. Mary of the Pines in Chattawa.
- ➔ In March, our PW hosted the Presbytery Spring Gathering here at Westminster. More than seventy ladies attended. The offering from this event was applied to the Mission Haven Challenge Fund.
- ➔ In May, brunch was served to celebrate the PW Birthday Offering. Will Raggio was presented with a gift to acknowledge his graduation from Presbyterian Christian School.

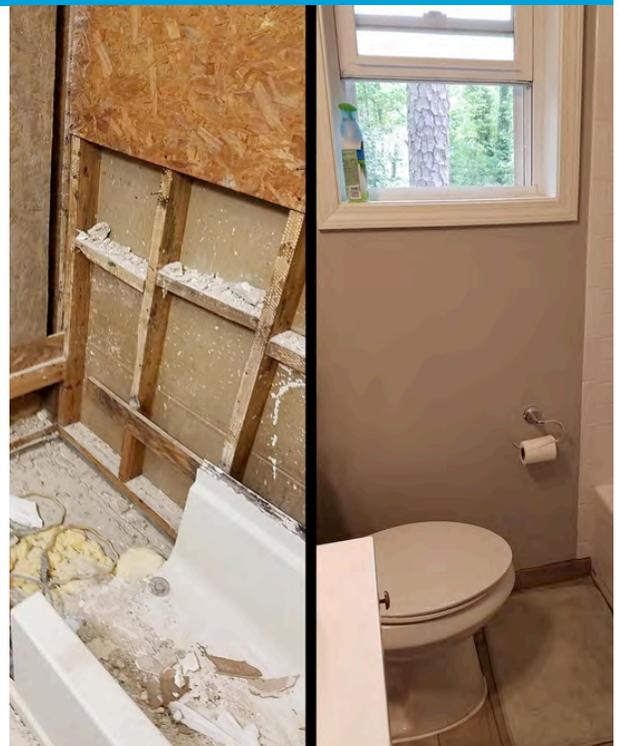
Looking ahead, the Coordinating Team Search Committee has identified some new members to join the team. We are grateful for the service of Rhoda Pickett, who has held the position of Spiritual Leader. We also bid adieu to Secretary, Susan Turner as she and John move to Starkville.

The PW Prayer ministry will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month through the summer at 11:00 a.m. Please pass along prayer requests to Alice Crotwell, who will maintain the prayer list for PW Circles and the Prayer Ministry.

MISSION HAVEN by Martha Ann Hogrefe

On my recent trip to Mission Haven I was pleased to see that the repair and renovation of the bathroom in Apt. 2B was almost complete. You can see the before and after pictures below. This unit had to be vacated early because of a serious plumbing problem, and it was necessary to begin the repair immediately. These costly repairs are not part of the Mission Haven operating budget, and the funds raised by the PW Challenge in the Presbytery of MS have been hugely helpful in paying the bills for demo, repair, and renovation. I was told many times while I was there how much it means to the volunteers in Atlanta that PW in Presbytery of MS has been diligent in its effort to raise money for these needed repairs.

I was impressed again with how important it is that we remember that Mission Haven belongs to us and is run completely by volunteers. These friends in Christ do an amazing job of making Mission Haven attractive and welcoming, but they need money to keep things in working order. Thanks to all of you who have helped make this Challenge a success. Please remember that the ministry of Mission Haven is ongoing and will need our support in the coming years. It is important that this vital service to our mission partners continue. I'll give a final report on the total raised by the Challenge when the campaign ends in September. Again thanks for your prayers and support!



June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Property Committee has placed an Automated External Defibrillator in a cabinet by the water fountains on the first floor of the church. This Phillips HeartStart machine is a popular, safe and simple machine. All the info you might need to know about it is in the cabinet with the machine. The bottom line is we just want folks to be aware that we have one. Let's pray we never need to use it.</p>						1
2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	3	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	5 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	6 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	7	8
<p>Family Vacation Bible School</p>						
9 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate	10 3:00 PM Festival South Organ/Trumpet Concert	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	12 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	13 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	14	15
16 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session 3:00 PM Meistersingers	17 12:00 PM New Beginnings	18 11:00 AM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	19 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	20 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	21	22
<p>Children @ Camp Hopewell in Oxford, MS</p>						
23 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	24	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 11:30 AM RED HOT & BLUE LUNCH	31					

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	3 (NO CHOIR)	4 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY 4TH!!	5	6 Montreat
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	8	9 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	10 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	11 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's 12:00 PM ShareCare	12	13
Living Waters for the World in El Salvador, July 7-13						
Senior High @ Montreat in North Carolina, July 6-13						
14 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate	15 12:00 New Beginnings	16 11:00 PM PW Prayer Ministry 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	17 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	18 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's	19	20
Middle School in Maryville, TN, July 17-21						
21 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session	22	23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study	24 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	25 6:30 AM Men of the Church Weekly Breakfast, Shoney's NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27
Maryville	BREADBASKET WEEK, July 22-26					
28 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	29	30	31	COMING IN AUGUST 8/10—Presbytery of MS in Meridian, MS 8/25—Presbytery "Back to School" Youth Event		



westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • PC (USA)

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