

Do We Really Have to Talk About This??

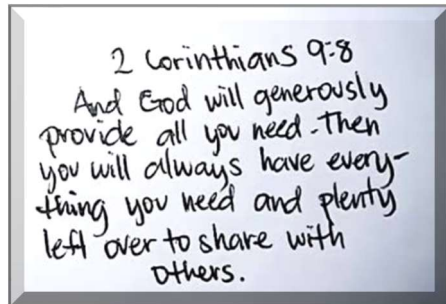
Dear Church Family,

Stewardship Season starts at the end of this month. Many of us recognize the necessity of it, but we *really* just want to get it over with. We don't consider this season to be a time to prayerfully realign our stories of scarce time, talent, and treasure with God's story of generous provision for us and desired partnership with us.



"Give me my pledge card. Let me turn it in. But, please! Let's not talk about it any more than we have to." Because talking about money is well... awkward... personal... uncomfortable... and definitely *not* spiritual! "It's something I discuss with my financial planner. Not with my pastor or my church friends! I mean honestly, what do God and money have to do with each other after all?"

It turns out that Jesus talked quite a lot about money. And probably made people feel pretty uncomfortable when he did, pointing out the extravagant gift of the poor widow ("she gave everything she had!"), telling the inquiring rich young man that the way to gain eternal life was to give away everything he had and follow Jesus, offering the quotable line, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," and warning that it would be more possible for a camel to get through an eye of a needle than a rich person to get into heaven.



It seems that Jesus wanted us to know that we had lost the thread of the story—that money, not God had become our security, our greatest desire, our hope.

Money is pretty important to us after all. It provides for our needs and our wants. Having it makes us feel secure.

Needing it makes us feel vulnerable, maybe even ashamed. Sharing it connects us with people and causes we care about. But what happens when money (or lack of money) becomes a main character in our stories? Might God and neighbor become minor characters or even disappear from the story all together?

During Stewardship Season this year, we are being given a good gift: the chance to talk about something difficult and important. Talking about difficult and important things is something we value at Westminster, because we know those conversations can be transformative.

We're being given the gift of four Sundays to **remember**, **release**, **reclaim**, and **restore** our personal and church money stories as we remember and reclaim God's hope for the story we

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

will tell together, that God (*not* money) is our security, that God (*not* money) is our treasure, that God (*not* money) is what connects us to people and causes we care about, that God (*not* money) provides more than we could ever need or want.

It's a chance to be honest with ourselves, with each other, and with God. It's a chance to let God write a new chapter in our stories as we are restored to a right relationship with God and with money.

What do you say? Shall we talk about it?

Your pastor and friend,

 *Caroline*



And my God will meet all your needs according to His
glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

October Sermon Series: Colorful & Diverse



Autumn tree

The Sundays this month are as colorful and diverse as the leaves on an autumn tree. On World Communion Sunday, we will make it back home after our long summer road trip with God, remembering that God is our home and when we make our home in God, our life can be a blessing for the whole world.

On the second Sunday in October we are blessed to hear a word from Elder Cynthia Rosemond, member of New Faith Presbyterian Church. Learn more about Elder Rosemond on page 9.

On the third Sunday, we'll participate in the ecumenical remembrance of Children's Sabbath (*see page 11*), remembering that God has admonished us to talk with our children about God's life giving, community building word.

The last Sunday of the month brings us to the first Sunday of our Stewardship Sermon Series: Our Money Story. Just as you wouldn't want to miss the fall color, you won't want to miss any of these days to be together and worship the One who created this world and all the beauty that is in it!

October 4: Home Coming

World Communion Sunday

Food Bank Collection

† Revelation 21:1-5a and 22:1-2

October 11: Positioned, Prepared, Respond

Guest Preacher: Elder Cynthia S. Rosemond

† Acts 13:1-3

October 18: Talk About It

Children's Sabbath

Deuteronomy 5:1-12 and 6:1-9

October 25: Remember Your Story

First Sunday of WPC Stewardship Season

† Exodus 16:1-18

† Luke 22:1-23

Westminster Happenings

Thursday October 1	Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting Gather in the former Choir Room at 5:00 P.M. Plan for the wonderful ways Westminster will be worshipping. Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting Congregate at 6:00 P.M. in the former Choir Room. Participate in setting our course for engaging with our community.
Sunday October 4	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Home Coming Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. “See, the home of God is among mortals!”
Monday October 5	Pastor on vacation October 5 through October 11 Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom will <i>not</i> meet BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday October 6	Presbyterian Women Bible Study (<i>see page 7</i>) Meet in the former Choir Room at 11:00 A.M. Study 1 Corinthians 3-4, and remember to bring your lunch.
Wednesday October 7	Books & Brown Bags Study Group on break
Sunday October 11	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Prepared, Positioned, Respond Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Welcome guest preacher Elder Cynthia S. Rosemond (<i>see page 9</i>). Lunch & Learn: Essential Training for Volunteers (<i>see page 9</i>) Come to the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 A.M. for lunch and training. Master our policies for protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Monday October 12	<i>Office Closed for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day</i> BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday October 13	Business Affairs Ministry Team Meeting Meet in the Parlor at 6:00 P.M. Come see how church business works behind the scenes. Congregational Care & Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting Congregate at 7:00 P.M. in the Choir Room. Bring your ideas for connecting, sharing, and celebrating.
Wednesday October 14	Books & Brown Bags Study Group on break
Thursday October 15	Souper-Special Sunday Sustenance Sign-Up Deadline Celebrate soup season by bringing soup, bread, or dessert this Sunday. Click on the RSVP link in today's "Come Sunday" email to sign up.
Saturday October 17	Fall Church Work Day (<i>see page 11</i>) Bring rakes, rags, work gloves, and energy to the Courtyard at 9:00 A.M. Help beautify and preserve our building and grounds for Fall festivities. Imani Miele African Children's Choir Event (<i>see page 10</i>) Spend a unique afternoon at Camp Fellowship starting at 2:00 P.M. Enjoy interacting with these young musicians and sharing supper.
Sunday October 18	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Talk About It Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Talk about God's words to everyone, all the time, wherever you are. Souper-Special Sunday Sustenance Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 A.M. Deposit your goodies in the Kitchen before worship to enjoy after.
Monday October 19	Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon. BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Wednesday October 21	Books & Brown Bags Study Group (<i>see page 8</i>) Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Explore <i>The Enneagram for Beginners</i> , by Kim Eddy.
Thursday October 22	PFLAG Meeting Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Find support with fellow members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies.
Friday October 23	<i>Deadline:</i> <i>Reservations for Fall Festival Parent's Night Out</i> (<i>see page 10</i>)
Sunday October 25	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Remember Your Story Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Participate in God's plan for living and loving generously. Building & Grounds Stewards Team Meeting Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 11:00 A.M. Continue mapping our facility's future. Nurture & Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting Gather in the former Choir Room at 11:00 A.M. Plan for faith formation for all ages this Fall.
Monday October 26	Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon. BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday October 27	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Share your insights from grappling with Enneagram's personality types.
Friday October 30	Fall Festival Parent's Night Out (<i>see page 10</i>) Drop off the kids at 5:30 P.M. and enjoy a peaceful adult evening. Relax knowing that your offspring are having a ball with church friends.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

All Hallow's Eve

**Saturday
October 31**

Thornwell Farm Trunk or Treat

Bring little ones to LushAcres Farm in Clinton, SC at 4:00 P.M.

Note that this is the culmination of Thornwell's Fall Festival (*see page 7*).



Much More than One Hour a Week!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. The call to honor church leaders can be traced back to Paul, who advised giving “double honor” to the elders of the church, “especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17). In 1994, the Focus on the Family organization began promoting Pastor Appreciation Month at a national level to encourage the faithful to outwardly show gratitude for their clergy.

It is tempting to imagine that the life of a pastor is an easy one—just show up for an hour on Sunday morning. The reality, of course, is quite bit more challenging.

The PC(USA) Book of Order sets six expectations for all teaching elders:

- Encourage people in the worship and service of God (worship development and leadership; preaching)
- Equip and enable the people for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world (education, teaching, and mentoring; professional and spiritual development)
- Exercise pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, and the dying
- Reach out in concern and service to the life of the human community as a whole (evangelism and new member outreach; mission leadership and involvement)
- Participate in governance (Session, ministry teams)
- Share in the ministry of church councils higher than the Session (Presbytery, Synod)

Make time this month to let Pastor Caroline know that you appreciate the *many* ways she cares for us all. A note, a smile, an affirming word all make a difference.

C'mon In—the Water's Fine!

Wondering about how to get more involved with your church family?
Whether you just want to dip your toe into the pool or are ready to plunge in
head-first, consider exploring Westminster's ministry teams!



Every aspect of our life together as baptized siblings in Christ is connected to one or more ministry teams. Whatever your particular gifts, talents, and interests may be, you have something valuable to share...and to gain...through ministry team service.

Not sure where to start? Drop in on a meeting (see Happenings). Or visit the Westminster webpage (wpcgwd.org), click on “Our Life Together” in the menu bar, and scroll down to “Ministry Team Overview.” That page skims the highlights of each team and includes links for those interested in a deeper dive. C'mon in! The water's fine, so get into the service swim.

Presbyterian Women Plan Ahead

Submitted by Mary Frances Thompson, PW Moderator



Presbyterian Women meet the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 A.M. The October and November meetings will be held in the former choir room. This year, the group is studying *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*, a study of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth.

After the Bible study, the group conducts a brief business session and then enjoys a bring-your-own lunch time of fellowship and nourishment for the body, soul, and spirit. All women who are interest in Bible study and fellowship are invited to attend these monthly meetings.

Spring 2027 seems a long time away, but, since calendars tend to fill up quickly, the Presbyterian Women ask you to save Saturday, April 17, 2027, for a Women's Retreat at Camp Fellowship. This will be a one-day event for women young, old, and in-between. If you don't think you fit one of those categories, that's OK—the retreat is for you, too. Elise Collins, Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, will lead the retreat. (Men, help your wife with childcare and other family responsibilities so that she can attend this enriching experience.)

From M&O: Volunteers Needed for Thornwell Fall Festival



Fall is a busy time of year for Thornwell Children's Home, a long-time mission partner with Westminster. Thornwell is a Christian nonprofit serving children and families across South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. LushAcres Farm is a working farm and an extension of that ministry.

Every Saturday in October, we invite our community out for a Fall Festival with a corn maze, hayrides, corn cannons, a pumpkin patch, gem mining, a barnyard, face painting, and a jump pad. It's our favorite Fall tradition! We need approximately 30 volunteers each Saturday to make it happen. Here are the details:

- Dates: October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31
- Address: 1875 W. Maple Street Ext., Clinton, SC, 29325
- Shifts: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Minimum volunteer age: 16
- Ideal volunteer group size: 10-12 individuals (groups of all sizes are welcome!)

Volunteers receive a LushAcres Farm volunteer t-shirt, a meal credit, snacks, and free admission to the festival for the day! That means that morning shift volunteers are welcome to stay and enjoy the festival afterward at no cost, and afternoon shift volunteers are welcome to come early and enjoy the morning at no cost, too.

To register, go to the flyer on page 24 and use the QR code provided there. Groups are encouraged to serve together, though each volunteer needs to submit an individual application to keep our children and families safe.

Please direct any questions regarding shifts or volunteer responsibilities to Becca Dobbins, our Community Engagement Coordinator, at bdobbins@thornwell.org or 864-923-5127.

World Communion Sunday

Excerpted from pcusa.org

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters



around the world. Paul tells us (I Cor. 11:21) that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ.

Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need. [Visit pcusa.org to make a contribution.]

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday began in 1933, and was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

Books & Brown Bags

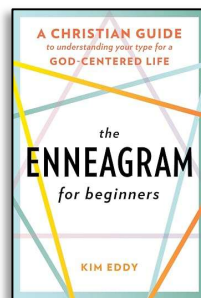
Discussion Group

Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom



Beginning on October 21, Tim Rogers and Denise Waldrep will facilitate our inquiry into personality types and their impact on our faith journey, using *The Enneagram for Beginners: A Christian Guide for Understanding Your Type for a God-Centered Life*, by Kim Eddy. Newcomers are always welcome to join!

The Enneagram is an ancient spiritual tool for teaching discrimination between good and evil, between sin and virtue. It has foundations in all three of the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Sufi Islam, because the wisdom is universal, deep and life-changing for all searching peoples.



The Enneagram outlines nine distinct personality types (sometimes also referred to as *enneatypes*). These types are mapped onto the points of a geometric figure known as

an *enneagram*, which illustrates the principal connections between them. An individual's personality type is determined early in life and rarely changes.

Recognized as a valuable tool for identifying recurring patterns of unhealthy behavior and the ways we try to earn God's favor, the Enneagram is used by churches, ministries, and families to grow more like Jesus and be closer to one another. In this highly accessible spiritual guide, Certified Enneagram Coach Kim Eddy breaks down the essentials to help beginners discover their type and break free from fear and shame by knowing and experiencing the unconditional love, forgiveness and freedom in Christ.

Elder Cynthia Rosemond to Bring Message on October 11



Elder Cynthia Rosemond is a proud native of Abbeville, South Carolina, and currently resides in Greenwood, South Carolina. She is a graduate of Abbeville High School and earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Piedmont Technical College. She serves her community as a Pharmacy Technician at Self Regional Healthcare.

Cynthia is the daughter of John Wallace Johnson Jr. and the late Linda Slappy. She is happily married to Edward Rosemond, and together they are the proud parents of three children and grandparents of six.

A woman of deep faith and a devoted servant of God, Cynthia is an Elder at New Faith Presbyterian Church. She is also the Founder and CEO of Women of Worth Global Ministry, LLC, and the Founder of The Safe Haven, a women's Bible study community where women come together to study God's Word, pray, fellowship, and grow in their faith.

Through Women of Worth Global Ministry, Cynthia is committed to encouraging, empowering, and equipping women to become all that God has called them to be. Her ministry extends beyond the walls of the church through community outreach, including feeding and serving those in need. Each year, she hosts transformational women's retreats that provide an atmosphere for women to release, rejuvenate, relax, and reconnect with themselves and with God while surrounded by a supportive sisterhood.

Cynthia is the author of three books of encouragement and is a Certified Life Coach, Certified Professional Coach, and Certified Christian Coach. She is passionate about studying and teaching the Word of God and believes that in order to help others become better, we must first be willing to do the work within ourselves.

Known for her transparency, authenticity, warmth, and joyful spirit, Cynthia believes that her greatest assignment is to allow God to use her for His glory and to remain aligned with His will.

Her life motto is: *"I overcame everything that was meant to destroy me."*

Required Annual Training for N&CE Volunteers

**SAFEGUARDING
for children, young
people and
vulnerable adults**

Sunday, October 11

Lunch & Learn Volunteer Training Event

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

We have an ethical, spiritual, and legal obligation to ensure that the most vulnerable among us—of every age—are kept as safe as possible whenever they are in our care. In fact, we have a very clear and strictly enforced church Protection Policy about this (available on our website Resources page).

Everyone—volunteer and staff—who works with our Nurture & Christian Education ministries *must* receive training every year on that child, youth, and vulnerable adult protection policy and on Westminster's standard procedures for ensuring safety and consistency in our interactions with those populations. Lunch and maybe even a little fun will be provided! If you are a current volunteer or a future volunteer, this training is for you!



N&CE Previews a Packed Fall Schedule

Submitted by Ginny Cartee, Chair of Nurture & Christian Education Ministry Team

The Nurture and Education Committee at WPC has been busy planning fun and informative Fall activities for Children, Youth, and Adults. Please check this list and call the church office to reserve your spot.

Opportunities to Read, Study and Discuss. The team has planned relevant and interesting study sessions for all ages. Adults and children will continue with Sunday School topics that promote understanding scripture and living the Word:

- Children will continue their study of the books of the Bible followed by an in-depth look at the Women of the Bible.
- Adults will finish a study of Will Willimon's *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love* and then study *Christian Prayer for Today*, by Martha Moore-Keish, from October 18 through November 22. During Advent, adults will read *The Women of Christmas*, by Liz Curtis Higgs.
- Presbyterian Women meet the first Tuesday each month and are continuing their study of First Corinthians using the *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other* study book.

Imani Miele African Children's Choir intergenerational event at Camp Fellowship. The Imani Milele Children's Choir will perform in Greenwood on October 13 and be in residence at Camp Fellowship through the following weekend. We have the opportunity to spend Saturday afternoon, **October 17**, with the choir. The Camp has planned a fun afternoon, with supper included. Limited transportation will be available by carpool from Westminster Presbyterian. This is a unique opportunity to sharpen the work of the Presbyterian Church in Africa into a focus on the people and the challenges they face as they keep the Faith.



We will leave the church at 1:30 P.M. (following the Fall Work Day) and return after supper. Watch weekly announcements for details. Call the church office or email Ginny Cartee (gcartee600@gmail.com) to RSVP. Please make your reservation Saturday, **October 10** so we can plan transportation, supplies and supper.

Fall Festival Parents Night Out. While parents enjoy a quiet night out, we have a fun night planned for children and youth on Friday, **October 30**. Kids can be dropped off at 5:30 P.M., and activities (such as games, crafting, music, and a snack supper) continue until 8:30 P.M. Reserve a spot for your family no later than Saturday, October 23 so the team will know what to plan.

Call the church office or email Ginny Cartee (gcartee600@gmail.com) to RSVP or if you would like to volunteer—last time, the adults had as much fun as the kids did! We would also welcome volunteers to provide the snack supper.

Advent Activities. Throughout November and December, children and youth will “Aim for Advent.” This series invites children and youth to practice holiday music and prepare a skit to share as part of celebrating the season. Watch the bulletin for details. What a terrific way to prepare our children for the coming of the Christ Child!

Fall Work Day: October 17

Submitted by Richard Whiting

As you know, our fall workday in and around the church is October 17. We launch at 9:00 A.M. and wrap up by 1:00 p.m. Members are invited to sign up in the Narthex on Sunday, October 4. The more people who pitch in, the more we will accomplish in the time available!



Among the plans:

- Cleaning up limbs/branches
- Removing "volunteer" plants/trees in various areas, to include around the fence of the playground
- Distributing pine straw (not as much as in the spring!)
- Trimming overhanging branches at the recycling/trash can area
- Creating designated spaces for recycling cans using painted blue lines and the recycling symbol
- Cleaning around door frames and light switch plates
- Touching up paint on the wall outside the Pastor's Office
- Washing windows (bring rags & cleaner)
- Filling paint cans behind church with sand for disposal
- Removing a couple of small trees

Please mark your calendars today, sign up on Sunday, and show up with your tools in hand (and work gloves on those hands!) on Saturday, October 17.

If you can't join us that day, consider gathering a small group to tackle one of the many tasks one day this month.

Children's Sabbath Celebration: October 18

Excerpted from pcusa.org

The National Observance of Children's Sabbath, sponsored and resourced by the Children's Defense Fund, is a time for people of all faiths to unite in shared concern for children and common commitment to improving children's lives and working for justice on their behalf. Children's Sabbath is typically observed sometime in October.

Observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend unites faith communities of every religious tradition across the nation to:

- Raise awareness of problems facing children and families in our nation (such as poverty, gun violence, and lack of health care)
- Explore the texts and teachings in religious traditions that call us to nurture and protect children with love and justice
- Engage people of faith in immediate and long-term action to nurture, protect, and seek justice for children

By participating in this multi-faith, nationwide celebration, people of faith gain the inspiration of participating in a larger movement for children and help amplify the voice of our faith communities calling for justice, especially justice for the youngest and the "least of these."



Reader challenge:

How many children/youth-related items can you find in this newsletter or on our website?

All Hallows Eve

Excerpted from <https://www.christianity.org.uk>

Halloween is not a Christian concept—many of the activities associated with it have their roots in the ancient Celtic pagan festival, Samhain. But there *is* a link to the Christian faith and the church calendar and that link explains the name.

Halloween falls on October 31. The next day, November 1, is recognized by many Christians as

All Saints' Day.

In the Middle Ages, this day was called All Hallows, and so the evening before was known as **All Hallows' Eve**. This became modified over time to **Halloween**.



All Saints' Day commemorates the Christian belief that there is life after death. It is when Christians celebrate that all people who follow Jesus Christ and his teachings will be reunited one day in the new heavens and earth. Christianity teaches that this was made possible because of Jesus' own life, death and resurrection from the dead about 2,000 years ago.

In some countries All Saints' Day is a national holiday. In Mexico, for example, it is known as the Day of the Dead, and is marked by colorful celebrations and parties.

All Saints' Day originates from the 7th century when the Pope established All Martyrs' Day in honor of all Christians who had been executed for their faith since the days of Jesus.

In the following century the scope of the day was expanded to include all Christian saints—individuals who were particularly revered by the Church for their lives and faith—and the name was changed to All Saints' Day.

Seeking Treats to Share at Thornwell Trunk or Treat



Our Mission & Outreach Ministry Team is organizing cars full of volunteers and candy to participate in the Trunk or Treat event hosted by Thornwell Children's

Home on October 31. So far, we have two groups, with plenty of room for more. And of course, those groups need to be equipped with *lots* of delicious candy to give away!

A basket will be provided in the Narthex so you can drop off your donations every Sunday in October. For more information, contact Laine Horowitz, cochair of the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team.

Church Family Special Days

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with birthdays in October:

- ❖ 1st – Tori Miller
- ❖ 6th – Hamp Watkins
- ❖ 9th – Tracy Rainey
- ❖ 10th – Rey Wicker
- ❖ 14th – Susan Pope
- ❖ 16th – Robert Tinkler
- Josh Warner
- ❖ 19th – Ginny Cartee
- ❖ 22nd – Christy Irons
- ❖ 24th – Arthur Gillespie
- ❖ 31st – Spears Alexander



And a hearty Happy Anniversary to these amazing couples:

- ❖ 12th – David & Cecilia Bornemann
- ❖ 15th – Joyce and Spears Alexander
- ❖ 20th – Autumn & Tim Mossman

Did we miss your special day? Don't forget that you can now update online using WPC's confidential [instantchurchdirectory.com](https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com).

Honoring God and Country Part I: Flags

At the September stated meeting, your Session received and approved a motion from the Worship & Music Ministry Team regarding the appropriate placement of the American and Christian flags in our church home. The full motion and rationale are provided below.

Motion: Relocate the American and Christian flags from the chancel to the narthex for all worship services and activities held in the sanctuary except for the following: (a) worship on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day weekends and (b) weddings and funerals when requested. On occasions where the flags are brought into the sanctuary, they will be placed at the front, below the chancel (i.e., on the walls with the sconces).



Rationale: [1] Although the American flag is viewed by some as a symbol of national unity and a reminder of the religious freedom we are privileged to enjoy in the United States, the flag reminds others of state policies and structures, both historic and contemporary, that have excluded some Americans from the promise of “liberty and justice for all.”

As members of Christ’s Church, we profess that our unity is found first and foremost in the reconciling life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, any symbol that threatens to diminish our unity and identity as siblings in Christ should not have a permanent place in our sanctuary.

[2] Although not an exclusively national symbol, the Christian flag has traditionally been displayed alongside the American flag and so similarly reminds some congregants of injustices and exclusions practiced by the Church. In addition, the Christian flag has at times been used to promote a Christian nationalist theology that we find to be antithetical to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[3] Placing the flags in the chancel elevates them to a height that is taller than the pulpit, signifying a greater reverence for the nation than for God, whom we worship through the Word read and proclaimed from the pulpit. Placing the American flag in such a way that it competes visually with the cross and pulpit creates a conflict of allegiance that both dilutes our worship and dishonors the flag.*

Hope: By designating a new permanent home for the American and Christian flags—and providing for their occasional display in the sanctuary—we hope to establish a more appropriate context for the place of these symbols within the life of our church that recognizes the supremacy of God over our lives, the inclusive welcome of Christ’s gospel, and the ideals of freedom and justice that many who pass through the doors of our sanctuary have fought to protect.

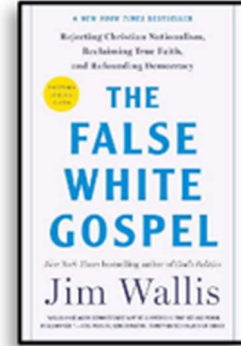
*See Dack, David. “Navigating the stars and stripes in the sanctuary.” *Presbyterian Outlook* 2025-03-19 (<https://pres-outlook.org/2025/03/navigating-the-stars-and-stripes-in-the-sanctuary/>).

Honoring God and Country Part II: A Sacred Duty?

Submitted by Mary Frances Thompson

Books & Brown Bags recently completed reading and studying The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy, by Jim Wallis. Wallis uses six key Bible passages to explore and compare the teachings of Christian nationalism to historical Biblical interpretations of the passages. The passages used are:

- *Luke 10:25–37 (The Good Samaritan)*
- *Genesis 1:26 (The Image of God)*
- *John 8:32 (The truth will make you free)*
- *Matthew 25:31–46 (The Judgment of the Nations)*
- *Matthew 5:9 ("Blessed are the peacemakers")*
- *Galatians 3:28 ("All one in Christ Jesus")*



Wallis emphasized the importance of citizens using their votes to help make their voices heard. Below is a personal reflection, inspired by Wallis' book, on voting and making our voices heard.

Two hundred fifty years ago, the American colonists declared their independence from Great Britain and fought to secure that independence. A constitution was written to guide the governance of the new nation. That constitution begins.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We live in a country in which “we, the people” have a voice in how we are governed. Having that voice creates a responsibility—some would say a sacred duty—to use that voice to let our elected officials know how we want our country to treat all its citizens and to communicate the morals and values we want used to guide all decisions that are made.

Someone has said that voting is a kind of spiritual discipline and perhaps even a form of prayer. Certainly, as Christians, we want to spend time in prayer asking for discernment to guide our decisions and in becoming as informed as possible before we vote. Some sources for information:

- League of Women Voters: [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) is the one-stop-shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot
- Citizens Count: <https://www.citizenscount.org/how-to/vote/how-do-i-thoroughly-research-my-candidates>

To be clear, I am a firm believer in the separation of church and state. I do not want my government to tell me who to worship, or how, when, and where to worship. If I want the freedom to determine my own spiritual beliefs and worship practices, I believe I should give others that same freedom.

Continued on page 15



I also do not want the church or any faith group to dictate how the government operates. Church and state can work together without either controlling what the other one does. I do believe that elected officials, as well as citizens who are voting, should allow their individual faith to guide how they act, how they treat other people, and how they make decisions. That is not the same as one faith dictating what everyone has to believe or how they should act. Most, if not, all major religions expect their followers to live by some form of what we call the “Golden Rule.” What a different world we would live in if everyone truly tried to treat others as we want to be treated.

Midterm elections will be held November 3. In South Carolina, the deadline to register to vote in those elections is October 4. Early voting begins October 19 and continues through October 31. Visit scvotes.gov to check if you are registered to vote and to learn how to register if you are not. Help your friends, families, and neighbors register. Help them get to locations where they can cast their votes. Every voice, every vote is important. The surest way to make sure your vote does *not* count is to *not* vote.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and thanksgivings be made for everyone,
for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead
a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Men’s Lunch Group Learns about Feeding the Hungry in Ware Shoals

Submitted by Tim Rogers



I joined the “men of our church” for our weekly lunch last month. A guest, David Baird, joined us. He volunteers (“has pickup truck and trailer”) with the Food Pantry of Ware Shoals. We learned that it is an entirely independent charity begun in 2024 by a small group of locals. They provide monthly free food distributions in the parking lot next to the First Presbyterian Church in Ware Shoals. David said anyone who needs food is welcome.

The pantry provides canned and boxed food, and, when available, fresh bread, meat, and fresh fruits and vegetables. David said over 100 families participate each month, benefiting 300 persons. It is entirely funded by donations and operated by volunteers, so every dollar goes to purchase of food. David drives to Greenville each month to pick it up from a food bank there.

“The guys” all enjoyed the food, fellowship and conversations at lunch, and we learned about an important ministry in our area. Please join us!

WPC men and friends gather at noon on Wednesdays.

Contact Bill Kimler to be added to their text group for info on meeting location each week.



Westminster's Money Story: Oil for Our Lamp

The Bible, Old Testament and New, overflows with stories about light, lamps, and the need to always be ready with plenty of oil so that your light will reliably shine when and where it is needed most.

Our culture often treats money as a way of keeping score, as a major life motivator, ultimately even an idol. In thinking about our congregation's money story, it's valuable to reframe money away from its negative connotations and instead, consider money as **fuel**—the oil that is absolutely necessary to keep God's Light shining in and through us.

Pretty much as soon as the Presbytery decided to plant a new church on the north side of Greenwood, the issue of money had to be considered. Burrowing into the scrapbooks of our origins, you'll find a financial statement for September & October of 1980 (at right). **The projected monthly expenses for 1981: \$2,500.** That equates to \$30,000 per year.

Income		
Back	Benevolence	\$3,981.55
Members	& Gifts	260.00
		\$4,241.55
Expenses		
Minister & Manse		\$1,487.87
Presbytery Benevolence		208.29
Cambridge Academy		200.00
Church & S.S. Misc.		409.28
		\$2,305.44
Available		
Building Fund		\$ 335.00
Gifts (Special Fund)		225.00
Checking Account		1,376.11
		\$1,936.11
Projected Monthly Expenses for 1981		
Benevolence (10% of total)		\$250.00
Rent & Utilities		450.00
Minister's Salary & Expenses		1,650.00
Bulletins & Other current Expenses		150.00
		\$2,500.00



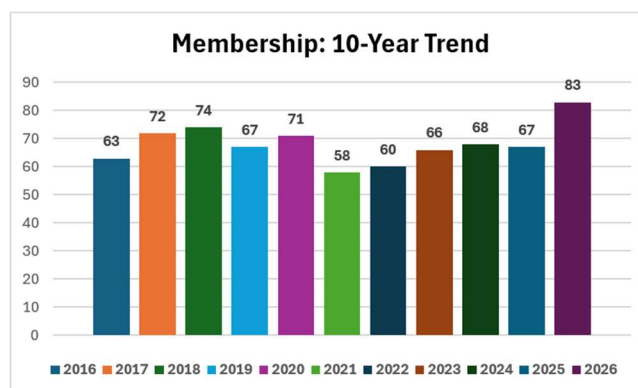
When it came to time to move out of borrowed space and build our own home, the church leaders took a novel approach—**Westminster sold Church Security Bonds** to members and interested investors in the community. The plan was to raise \$100,000-\$125,000 with the bonds. At one point, the bulletin noted: "There are only six \$1,000 bonds remaining to be sold. There are two 2-year bonds paying 12% and four 3½-year bonds paying 13%. If you or any of your prospects are still

interested in these, you'd better hurry. They won't last long!" Can you imagine getting 13% return on an investment in today's world??

Since those early days, **Westminster has persisted in its holy mission through decades of change**, internal and external. As our theme scripture reminds us, "...God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). We have squeaked through lean times, blossomed in plentiful times, and done our best at all times to share in every good work God calls us to do.

As we look ahead to 2027, analyzing **trend data** offers a helpful perspective on our money story. The graph on the right illustrates how our membership numbers have evolved over the last 10 years.

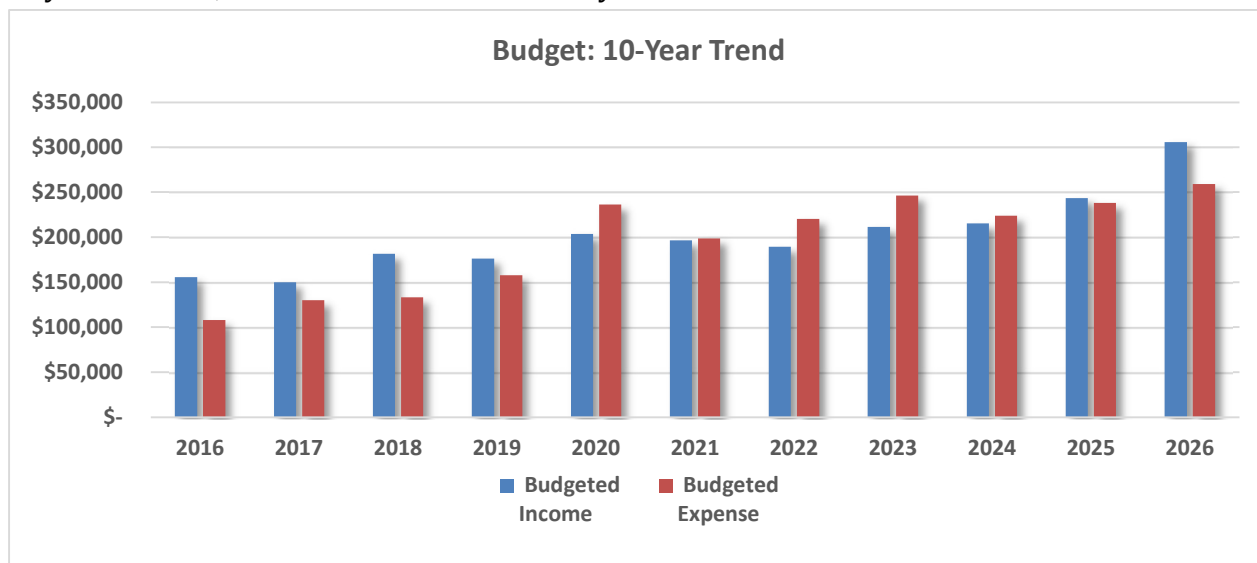
The impact of COVID on our membership numbers is pretty clear. Since the pandemic was officially declared over in 2023, we have seen good growth. Sadly, we have also lost several beloved saints in that time.



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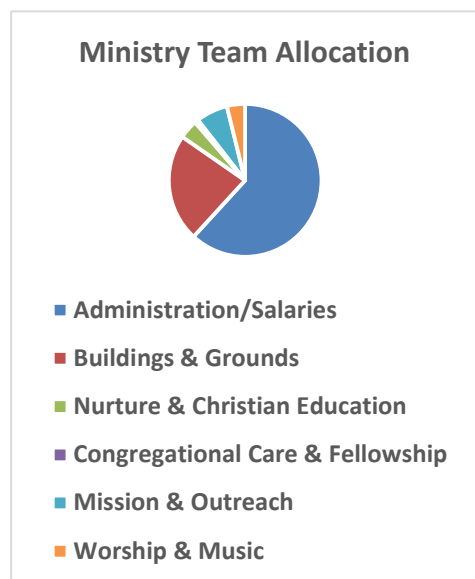
An analysis of our budget over the past 10 years shows just how far we have come from the days when \$30,000 was sufficient for a full year's needs.



Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of Westminster's congregation, we have been able to consistently fulfill our commitments. **Even in the face of rising expenses, an aging campus, and endless Matthew 25 needs in our community, God has provided—God has used *you* to provide—and will continue to do so.**

Your Session is finalizing the asking budget for 2027, and it will likely be around \$285,000. If that amount were to be spread evenly across each member, you would be expected to contribute **almost \$4,000 each**. For some, that would be a piece of cake; for others, that's a number to choke on!

Fortunately, Westminster is blessed with many "cheerful givers" (2 Cor 9:8) who contribute significantly more than their official fair share. In fact, **approximately 50% of pledged giving comes from only 5 families**. It would be fiscally prudent and more sustainable to spread that support across a greater number of families.



Where does the money go? The pie chart at left shows how the budget is allocated across our Ministry Teams and their areas of responsibility.

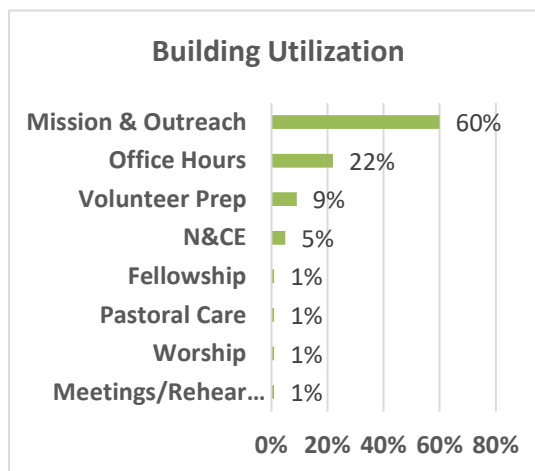
At first glance, you may think these numbers are out of whack. Why spend so much on utilities, supplies, and staffing costs? Do we really need to invest so much in facilities maintenance? Shouldn't we be more mission- and outward-focused???

A critical part of understanding Westminster's money story is to appreciate that **our investment in Administration and Buildings & Grounds actually is mission-focused**. Without an active pastor and a flexible facility, we could not live into our Mission at all.

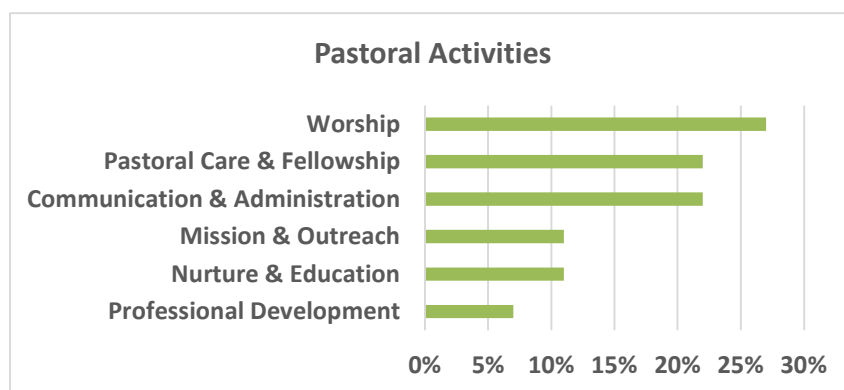
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The first graph on the right illustrates the key purposes for which our facility is used. Clearly, Mission & Outreach takes the top prize, partly due to our hosting the Toddler Learning Center. Office hours offer a reliable point of contact for community and congregation members alike. Now that we have conquered clutter through the Big Clear Out, we'll find even more creative ways to use our space to include, abide, enjoy, follow, and grow! Need an example? Check out the gorgeous new Sewing Room upstairs!



Similarly, our Pastor's time is well-used for both inward and outward service. As of last year, Westminster was the *only* congregation of our small size in Trinty Presbytery that was able to sustain a full-time pastor.



To bring you up to date on Westminster's money story, here's our monthly financial report. Please note that because of newsletter publication vs. month-end close schedules, these reports are typically about six weeks behind.

August 2026

	August Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$18,908	\$18,507	\$218,614	\$207,352
Total Expenses	\$19,597	\$21,366	\$164,180	\$173,133
Net Gain/Loss	—\$789		\$13,785	

Unrestricted general fund contributions were slightly below budget. Total contributions and donations, including designated and restricted gifts, were in line with the budget. Designated and restricted gifts include WOW offerings, Angel Fund contributions, and a grant from the Presbytery for Bible 101.

Program area expenses as a whole were well managed and below budget. The result was a small deficit of expenses in excess of contributions and donations of \$789. A deficit of \$5,776 was budgeted for the month.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer David Hammond or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.

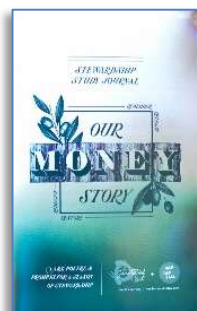
Your Money Story: Oil for YOUR Lamp

Just as Westminster's money story has many twists and turns, your own relationship with money has probably varied significantly at different ages and stages of your life. Your individual history and experience with finances—good and bad—inform your emotional response, consciously or unconsciously. For that reason, investing time in surfacing and sorting out your own money story can be a significant way to grow as a disciple.



Stewardship season is meant to be a time of preparation and learning, a time to:

- Reflect on your own personal money stories: when it comes to money, what are your motivations and inhibitions? What emotions drive your fiscal behavior and response to conversations about money? What inspires you to support your church financially?
- Better understand God's money story: how are you called to embody that? Why does Jesus talk about money so much, and what is he telling you? What is he asking of you?
- Consider how you are to “share abundantly in every good work” individually and as part of the congregation. God *always* provides enough—how will you use that provision to help others?



To guide you in discerning your personal money story, you are invited to use the “Our Money Story Stewardship Study Journal,” a resource Westminster is making available to everyone interested in taking this journey. The journal offers four weeks of scripture, prayers, poetry, art, and probing questions to use as you unearth your story's setting, characters, plot, tone, conflict, and themes. Each week focuses on a particular stage of the process: Remember, Release, Reimagine, and Restore.

As you prayerfully discern how your money story intersects with God's story and Westminster's story, you may find it helpful to consider these words about stewardship from the *PC(USA) Book of Order*:

We respond to God's grace through practices of discipleship: keeping sabbath, studying Scripture, contemplation and action, fasting and feasting, **stewardship** and self-offering. All of these practices are meant to help us attend to the presence and action of God in our lives. (*Excerpted from W-5.0103*)

Christian life is an **offering** of one's self to God. In the Lord's Supper, we are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ for the life of the world. As those who have been claimed and set free by His grace, we **respond with gratitude**, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods.

Every service of worship shall include an opportunity to respond to Christ's call to discipleship through self-offering. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Tithes and offerings are gathered as an **act of thanksgiving to God**. (*Excerpted from W-3.0411*)

Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

Colossians 4:2

- Grace Esme Autry
- The Blanchett Family
- Kaitlin Burton
- Mary Corley
- Kathy Felder
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Henry & Kaye Schwarzmenn
- Ed Watkins
- Joan Wilkins
- Kathy West
- Richard Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Your Session

We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.

We pray for the ministries in our community, especially:

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank & Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- Montreat Center
- Community Initiatives
- Toddler Learning Center
- Trinity Presbytery



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for members of our wider community (and our connection to them):

- The Bolttons (*Mary Anne*)
- Brian's Dad (*Brian*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jack Cauley (*Mary Anne*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Will Holloway (*Suzy*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Elle Willis (*Rogers*)
- Bill Stonesifer (*Tracey*)
- Tamika Williams (*Tracey*)
- Shaneequa Young (*Caroline*)
- Nancy, Jean, & Barbara (*Purcells*)
- Jodi (*Lucia, Laine*)
- Wendell (*McInneses*)



For the World

We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:

- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For an end to violence, especially politically motivated attacks of all types
- For the safety of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, and other oppressive areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon
- For all decisions of those in positions of power to be informed by your grace and mercy
- For those affected by natural disasters, including floods, fire, and weather dangers
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For all those oppressed by systemic poverty and structural racism
- For those struggling with food insecurity
- For those wrestling with tough decisions and seeking discernment

And God Saw That It Was Good



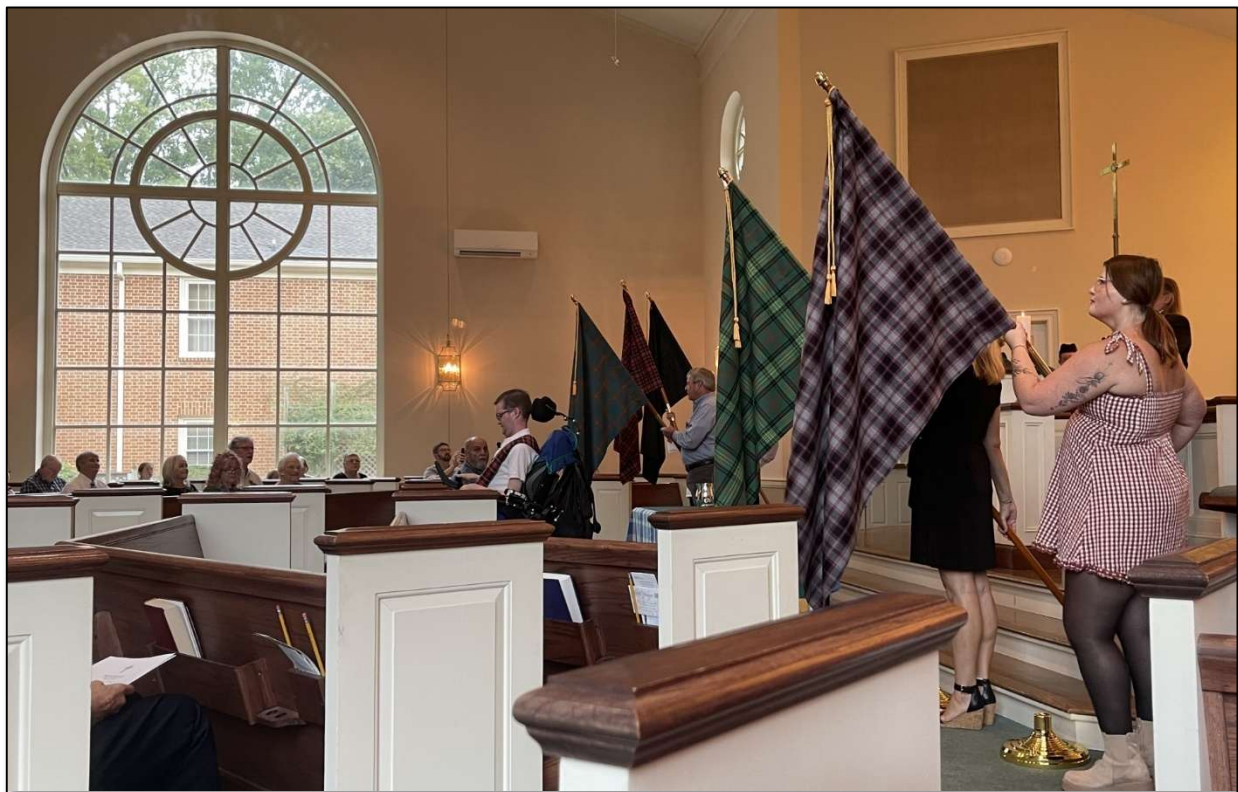
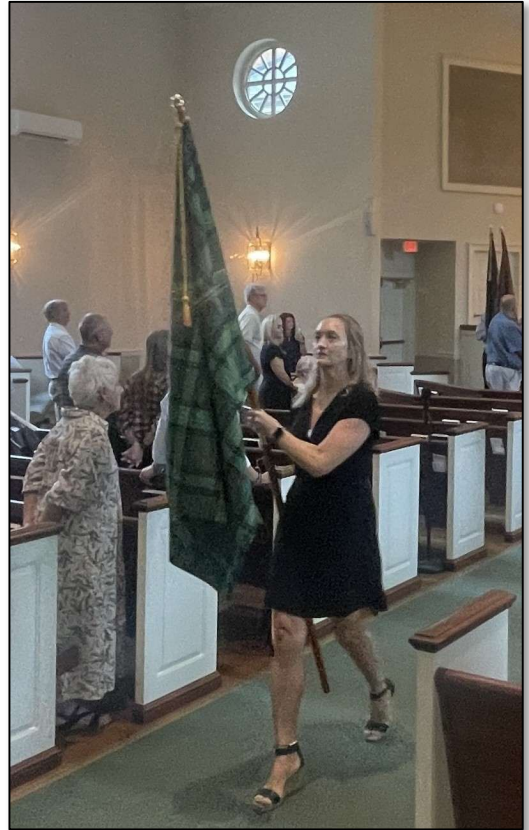
The Big Clear Out yard sale brought in 350 shoppers and \$1,000. Well done, and many thanks to the whole hard-working team, especially The Big BaG himself, Richard Whiting (with frog).



↑ The Westminster Wonders Spelling Bee team acquitted themselves with aplomb

← Bill “Dreams of Data” Kimler offers insights from research gathered by Lakelands Counts

2nd Annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans



A tip o' the tam to the many participants and organizers Gloria and Luke Christie.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry!

Ecclesiastes 8:15



A happy, hungry crowd feasted at this Fall's first Sunday Sustenance meal. If you'd like to be on the Culinary Crew, contact Tim Rogers or Rob Graves. Opportunities abound!



The Young Adult Fellowship makes merry at Game Night. For more information about their Bible study, fellowship, and service activities, contact Luke Christie.

Thornwell Fall Festival Sign-Up





LushAcres Farm
At Thornwell



Fall
Festival

Volunteers Welcome!

Since 2021, LushAcres Farm at Thornwell has proudly welcomed the community to our annual **Fall Festival and Corn Maze**. With the help of generous volunteers like yourself, we provide children and families with an **unforgettable experience**. This year, we hope to repeat that success and then some!

But we can't do it alone. We're looking for volunteers to help make this year's Fall Festival a fun and memorable event for all involved. Volunteers make a boundless impact in the lives of those Thornwell serves because they give the gift of themselves. There's no greater act of love than that.

If you're interested in volunteering at this year's Festival, scan the QR code below for more information or visit lushacresfarm.com/volunteer



 SCAN ME

Becca Dobbins
Community Engagement Coordinator
bdobbins@thornwell.org
864-923-5127



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