

## Life that Really is Life

*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19

I write this morning having been given the passage above through the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and *Disciplines*, a devotion book structured around the RCL readings for the week. I am strengthened knowing that many Christians around the world are reading and praying the same passage today. Some are friends of mine who reach out to share their thoughts on the passage and devotion with me.



As of the publishing of this newsletter, we at Westminster begin a time of collective devotion. Each of us has received a copy of the "Bearing Much Great Fruit!" devotion book that accompanies our stewardship season, along with the invitation to use this time as a time of prayer, dwelling on God's generous goodness towards us and our grateful and faithful response.

Through daily time spent with God, we become rich in faith. Through daily time spent alongside others in prayer, we become rich in fellowship. Through the good works God calls forth from us, we become rich in life.

I pray that we will commit ourselves to this season to contemplate together through prayer and conversation, the goodness of God and together to enter into the life that really is life.

Abiding with you in Christ, I am your pastor and friend,

 Caroline

*"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine  
in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children...."*

*Deuteronomy 11:18-19*

---

## October Sermon Series: Fruit Fully Abiding Together in Love

Our Fall sermon series continues as we abide in Christ and grow more fruitful in the Spirit day by day, looking forward to the harvest with great anticipation.

### October 5: Not Ashamed

*World Communion Sunday/Food Bank*

*Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain*

*Testimony for Mission: Nigel & Christy Irons*

† 2 Timothy 1:7-14



### October 12: Patience, My Dears

† Psalm 46

† Exodus 14:10-14; 19-21

### October 19: Kindness—Love in Action

† Titus 3:1-8

† Luke 5:17-26

### October 26: Indiscriminate Goodness

† Matthew 5:43-48

† 1 Timothy 6:17-19

---

## A Fruitful September Planned for Children's Sunday School

*Submitted by Kathy Gillespie*

During October, the children's Sunday School class will continue their study of "The Fruit of the Spirit." Each week, they will read a Bible story that exemplifies a particular "fruit" and learn a new memory verse about that "fruit." They will learn how to see these fruits in others and how to let others see the fruit in them.

They will continue to illustrate their Memory Verse Journals and to develop skills that will help them participate in worship. They will also make more bookmarks for the new hymnals and the pew Bibles.

And speaking of fruit, the children are eager for a lesson about that popular fall fruit, the pumpkin. Did you know that there is even a pumpkin prayer (see page 24)?

*... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...  
Galatians 5:22-23*

---

## Adults Delve into the Book of Hebrews

**Adult Sunday Study: Hebrews, beginning October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Every Sunday Morning**

**9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom**



Many thanks to everyone who has engaged in our exploration of Faith & Science—the questions and conversations have been truly thought-provoking. The series wraps up on October 12 by inviting everyone to wrestle with the ethics of genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, and interplanetary colonization.

Then, beginning on October 19, we will work our way through the book of Hebrews. As we love to do, we'll take on a chapter or two a week, with the Bible as our text. Our team of volunteer facilitators will take turns bringing us enrichment material and leading discussion.

Any time is a good time to add scripture study to your personal spiritual disciplines. Plan to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M.

---

## Westminster Happenings

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday<br/>October 1</b> | <b>Books &amp; Brown Bags Study Group</b><br>Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.<br>Continue <i>Practicing the Way</i> , by John Mark Comer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Sunday<br/>October 5</b>    | <b>Sunday School</b><br>Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.<br>Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.<br><br><b>Not Ashamed</b><br><i>World Communion Sunday/Food Bank Offering (see page 9)</i><br><i>Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain (see page 7)</i><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.<br>Put your trust in Jesus and share his love boldly. |
| <b>Monday<br/>October 6</b>    | <b>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</b><br>Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.<br><br><b>BEMA Bible Discussion Group</b><br>Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>October 7</b>   | <b>Presbyterian Women's Circle</b><br>Bring a sack lunch to the Choir Room at 11:30 A.M.<br>Enjoy fellowship and a lesson from this year's study ( <i>see page 7</i> ).<br><br><b>Mindful Greenwood</b><br>Gather in the Branches Sunday school room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.<br>Experience the power of mindfulness meditation ( <i>see page 8</i> ).                                                                           |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>October 8</b> | <b>Books &amp; Brown Bags Study Group</b><br>Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.<br>Study the Rule for Life that Jesus provides for His disciples.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Thursday<br/>October 9</b>  | <b>Mission &amp; Outreach Ministry Team Meeting</b><br>Come together in the Choir Room at 6:00 P.M.<br>Interested in connecting with the community? New members welcome!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday<br/>October 11</b> | <b>Building &amp; Grounds Workday</b><br>Bring garden gloves and tools to the Courtyard at 9:00 A.M.<br>Combine fun and hard work as we beautify our campus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

---

## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday  
October 12**

### **Sunday School**

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

### **Patience, My Dears**

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

"Be still and know that I am God."

### **Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting**

Meet in the Choir Room at 11:15 A.M.

Tell us what you love about worship, and your ideas for improving it.

### **Jamming at the Lake** (*see page 7*)

Meet at Suzy Holloway's lake place at 4:30 P.M.

Come to make music, enjoy listening, and break bread together.

**Monday  
October 13**

### **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.

**Tuesday  
October 14**

### **Business Affairs Ministry Team Meeting**

Meet in the Parlor at 6:00 P.M.

Wondering how church business works behind the scenes? Come see!

### **Mindful Greenwood**

Gather in the Branches Sunday school room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.

### **Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee Meeting**

Congregate at 7:00 P.M. in the Choir Room.

Come share your ideas for promoting positive relationships.

**Wednesday  
October 15**

### **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**

Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Put your love into action by setting up for the College of Elders dinner.

**Thursday  
October 16**

### **College of Elders Annual Dinner** (*see page 17*)

Enjoy a celebration of your service at 5:15 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Refresh your spirit and renew your Stewardship Covenant.

---

Abide in me, as I abide in you. I am the Vine, you are the branches. John 15:5

---

## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>October 19</b>    | <b>Sunday School</b><br>Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the <b>Joe Gettys Classroom (Note location)</b> .<br>Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.<br><br><b>Kindness: Love in Action</b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.<br>Translate your Christlike love into worship, work, and service. |
| <b>Monday<br/>October 20</b>    | <b>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</b><br>Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.<br><br><b>BEMA Bible Discussion Group</b><br>Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>October 21</b>   | <b>Mindful Greenwood</b><br>Gather in the Branches Sunday school room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>October 22</b> | <b>Books &amp; Brown Bags Study Group</b><br>Bring your sack snack to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.<br>Make space for God's transforming work by following Jesus.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Thursday<br/>October 23</b>  | <b>PFLAG Meeting</b><br>Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.<br>Share stories with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>October 26</b>    | <b>Sunday School</b><br>Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.<br>Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.<br><br><b>Indiscriminate Goodness</b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.<br>Take on Christ's challenge love even the unlovely and unlovable.                         |
| <b>Monday<br/>October 27</b>    | <b>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</b><br>Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.<br><br><b>BEMA Bible Discussion Group</b><br>Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.                                                                                                                                                       |

---

## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Tuesday  
October 28**

### **Mindful Greenwood**

Gather in the Branches Sunday school room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.

### **Interfaith Discussion** (*see page 8*)

Meet with other knowledge-seekers in the Joe Gettys Room at 7:00 P.M.

Explore the relationships between humans and creation across religions.

**Wednesday  
October 29**

### **Books & Brown Bags Study Group** (*see page 6*)

Bring your sack snack to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Meet *Theo of Golden*, a pleasant but mysterious stranger.

**Thursday  
October 30**

### **Rainbow Fellowship**

Be welcomed by Pastor Caroline at 6:00 P.M. at her home.

Discuss plans for the coming program year.

---

## Encouragement for Putting Faith into Practice



### **Books & Brown Bags:**

***Practicing the Way*—October 1 & 8**

**Service project/Elder Dinner Set-Up—October 15**

***Theo of Golden, by* —October 22 & 29**

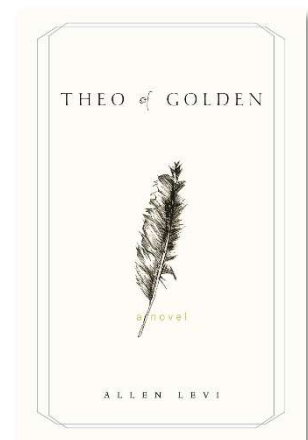
**6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. in the Joe Gettys Room**

The B&BB folks conclude their study of *Practicing the Way* over the first two Wednesdays in October. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, they will put their love into action by devoting their usual discussion time to preparing the Fellowship Hall for the College of Elders celebration (*see page 17*).

Then, starting October 22<sup>nd</sup>, they will turn their attention to a new book, *Theo of Golden*, the debut novel of Allen Levi, an attorney, judge, and singer/songwriter from middle Georgia. The book follows the enigmatic yet kindly actions of Theo, an elderly Portuguese man who arrives in the southern town of Golden and discovers 92 pencil portraits displayed at a local coffee shop.

The novel traces Theo's response to the artworks, and in the process, explores themes of cultivating connection through art and kindness, the transformative power of being truly seen, and finding redemptive value in sadness and joy.

There's always space at the B&BB table for newcomers! You are welcome *any* time. Of course, you may find the start of a new book to be a particularly graceful entry point. So mark your calendar for Wednesdays, locate a copy of *Theo of Golden*, and prepare to discover insights about your fellow-travelers, your loving God, and yourself.



---

## Welcome Back Guest Preacher, Cliff Cain

**Sunday, October 5**

**The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain, Theologian in Residence at  
First Presbyterian-Greenwood**

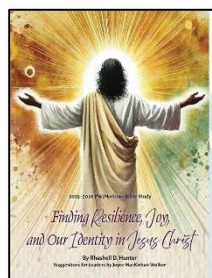
Cliff is a retired professor who moved to Greenwood from Missouri a few years ago. He loves to learn, and he loves to teach. He believes that the commandment to “love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind” (Luke 10:27) has been one of the beacon biblical texts that has motivated his personal and professional life. He holds a doctorate in systematic theology and a doctorate in environmental science, so he has a passion for our taking good care of nature and all the splendor of God’s creation of so many diverse human and non-human species. A former athlete and college coach, his hobbies are sports, photography, archaeology, traveling, and music.



---

## Presbyterian Women

*Submitted by Beth Hammond*



**Presbyterian Women’s Circle  
First Tuesday of the Month  
11:30 A.M. in the Choir Room**



All Westminster women are invited to grow as disciples by participating in our Presbyterian Women group. Copies of this year’s study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, are available from the church office. The cost is \$12.

The lesson for October 7 is “Mary ‘of a Certain Village,’” which revisits the often-told story about sisters Mary and Martha. The author focuses on Mary’s role as a witness to and a female disciple of Jesus.

Bring a brown bag lunch and a beverage to the Choir Room at 11:30 A.M. We will enjoy fellowship together before beginning our study. We look forward to seeing everyone, especially our newest sisters in Christ! For more information about the history, life, and work of the Presbyterian Women organization, visit the website: [presbyterianwomen.org](http://presbyterianwomen.org).

---

## You’re Invited! Jammin’ at the Lake on October 12<sup>th</sup>

Join us on Sunday, October 12 at 4:30 P.M., when Suzy Holloway welcomes her church family to her lake place for a time of table fellowship and music-making. Anyone who knows Suzy knows that she loves her church family, loves music, and especially loves having a good time! Don’t know her yet? This is a great time to connect!

Suzy’s lake house is located at:

**637 Doc Holloway Road  
Chappells, SC 29037**



Bring a dish to share, and your musical instrument if you play one.



---

## Meditation and Interfaith Dialogue: a New Opportunity for WPC and Our Community

Beginning in October, we are delighted to again host two growth opportunities for folks at Westminster and in our community.

Ricky McCarter, a friend of Westminster (husband to Nicole and father to Makena and Arabella) is also a Buddhist priest. Ricky will be leading a mindfulness meditation class every Tuesday evening and leading an interfaith dialogue group on the fourth Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Curious?

Research shows that meditation has many benefits. Also, "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) believes that ecumenical and interreligious relationships are central to the gospel and key to the church's ethos of connection." Check the calendar for dates and times, and check out these offerings.



## Church Family Special Days

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

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> – Isaiah Dawkins
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> – Hamp Watkins
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> – Tracy Rainey
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> – Rey Wicker
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> – Susan Pope
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> – Josh Warner
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> – Elliot Gargus
- ❖ 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christy Irons
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> – Arthur Gillespie
- ❖ 31<sup>st</sup> – Spears Alexander



And a hearty Happy Anniversary to these amazing couples:

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

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

---

## Pastor Appreciation Month: More Than Just an Hour a Week!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. 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
- Equip and enable the people for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world
- 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
- Participate in governance
- Share in the ministry of church councils higher than the Session



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



## 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](http://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.

## Children's Sabbath Celebration October 19<sup>th</sup>

*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. This year, we will celebrate on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

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.”

---

## WPC Supports Filling Empty Bowls on October 16<sup>th</sup>



Soup, bread, dessert and hundreds of decorative bowls go a long way to fight hunger in Greenwood, and tickets are now available for Empty Bowls Greenwood, the signature fundraiser for Greenwood Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen is an onsite program of Food Bank of the Lakelands.

The food bank has a number of food and nutrition programs: food boxes for senior adults, a food pantry and a mobile one, a weekend backpack program for school-aged children and more.

Empty Bowls Greenwood has sold out every single year since its inception. According to Andrea M. White, Greenwood Soup Kitchen's executive director, "Our desire is to exceed what we raised last year, which was \$42,590. People understand the mission of the soup kitchen — to take care of our community, with hot meals, six days a week, Monday through Saturday. From January 31 to July 30, Greenwood Soup Kitchen has prepared 12,263 meals. And the soup kitchen is all volunteer-led."

For more information, contact Laine Horowitz or Richard Wilson, co-chairs of our Mission & Outreach Ministry Team, or visit the Empty Bowls Greenwood Facebook page.

---

## Celebrating Healing and Wholeness at Camp Fellowship

*Submitted by Ginnie Cartee*



**October 21, 2025 – 10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

**Camp Fellowship**

**457 Camp Fellowship Road**

**Waterloo, South Carolina 29384**

*A Red Letter Day is a day of significance or opportunity.*

It's a day for cancer-survivors and their caregivers to celebrate friendships and fellowship as we embrace healing and wholeness in community. It's a day to engage in shared experiences in the out-of-doors (fishing, boating, and strolling through nature)! It's a day to experience creative expressions—including music, art, and crafting—that help us to share in our common journey. It's a day to give back through service, caring, and sharing!

Red Letter Day is a program of the Fellowship Camp and Conference Center offered to the local community, including individuals involved in Self Regional Health Care Cancer Center, the Cancer Support Community at Prisma Health—Greenville Memorial and Friends, the YMCA of the Lakelands, neighbors, friends, and other local organizations supporting the Fellowship Camp and Conference Center.

This program is provided free of charge to cancer survivors and their caregivers, thanks to the generous support of donors. Register online at [campfellowship.org](http://campfellowship.org). And remember the word of James 1:2-3:

*My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

---

## Stewardship Snapshot

The Stewardship Snapshot is a regular report from the Session to the *Westminster Times* newsletter. Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



### August 2025

|                | August Actual | Monthly Budget | Year-to-Date Actual | Year-to-Date Budget |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Income   | \$11,632      | \$20,295       | \$163,912           | \$162,357           |
| Total Expenses | \$34,189      | \$19,797       | \$172,264           | \$158,377           |
| Net Gain/Loss  | —\$22,557     |                | —\$8,352            |                     |

Operating income in August was \$11,632, while operating expenses were \$21,103, resulting in a net operating loss of \$9,471. Committee expenses were \$1,306 above budget due to higher than normal expenses in Worship & Music and Mission & Outreach Committees. Additionally, a major capital expense of \$13,086 was paid out to replace a broken heat pump. This resulted in a net reduction in the checkbook of \$22,557.

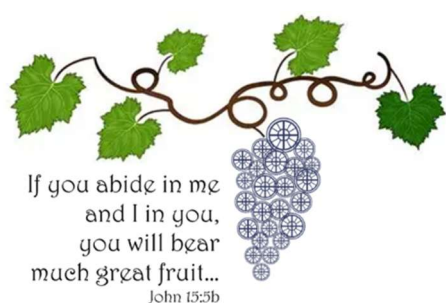
*Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer Len Bornemann or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.*

---

## Financial Reality Check: Budget Brainstorming Lunch

When we think about bearing good fruit of the Spirit, our hearts zoom in on the many ways that our congregation enjoys God, follows Christ, and grows disciples. The *last* thing we want to devote time and energy to is dealing with money.

**But the reality is, it takes money for this particular congregation of the Body of Christ to do the work we are called to do.**



In addition to receiving a narrative asking budget (see page 16) that summarizes our financial needs and hopes, you are also invited to take a deep dive into the details!

**When:** Sunday, October 26  
**Where:** Fellowship Hall  
**What:** Walk through the *complete* 2026 asking budget; snack lunch provided

The floor will be open for you to ask questions, offer ideas, and share thoughts. The Session is eager for you to have a clear understanding of our fiscal situation and for you to help us be the best possible stewards of all our resources.

The snack lunch—chips and sandwiches—is free. Contact the church office if you are planning to attend, so that we can know how much food is needed.

---

## Westminster Wonders Raise Funds for Healthy Learners



Once again, Westminster's ace team of spectacular spellers made a strong showing at the annual Healthy Learners Adult Spelling Bee on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Laine Horowitz, Nancy Hart Wicker, Autumn Mossman, and Elizabeth Watkins (*clockwise, at left*) demonstrated their prowess... and made good use of the buy-back fund that was raised at Sunday Sustenance.

Although the Wonders didn't bring home the trophy, we take solace in knowing that the same

word that took out our team also took out a *lot* of fine teams, including last year's winners from First Presbyterian. A little friendly rivalry just adds to the fun, and the fundraising!

Healthy Learners is on a mission to transform the futures of children in poverty in South Carolina by keeping them healthy so they can learn. Working with teachers and healthcare providers, Healthy Learners identifies children with medical or dental needs, and provides both transportation and access to top professional care.

---

### Interested in Visiting the Greenwood Genetic Center?

As an offshoot of the Faith & Science Sunday school series, Westminster is exploring the idea of a guided tour of the Greenwood Genetic Center, a world-class research and treatment facility nestled in the heart of Greenwood County.

According to their mission statement, "For over 50 years, the Greenwood Genetic Center, a nonprofit institution, has strived to improve access to genomic testing and services, offer state-of-the-art technologies, find long-awaited diagnoses, and lead patients to personalized treatment plans. We are focused on serving patients and their families with care, compassion, and experience."

Steve and Claire Kuhl are collecting names to determine the level of interest. Thanks!

---

### 150 Years of Caring: Celebrating Thornwell

*Submitted by Nancy Hart Wicker*

For 150 years Thornwell has faithfully answered the call to serve children and families.



#### What is Thornwell?

Founded by Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, a young Presbyterian minister, Thornwell was originally opened in 1875 as safe haven for children orphaned by the Civil War. The community and the Church rallied around Dr. Jacobs and his wife Mary to help make their dream a reality. The first home, The Home of Peace, housed the Jacobs family and 10 orphaned children.

*Continued on page 18*



## WPC's Got Talent! Which of Yours Will You Share?

As Christians, we are charged with giving our time, our talent, and our treasure to God's glory. So what talents do *you* have that you can commit to service? If you've got the interest, we've got the opportunities!



**Photographer:** capture pictures of our church in action. If you can help us preserve and share Westminster memories, please contact Pastor Caroline.



**Nursery Volunteer:** assist with the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you can help, contact Kathy Gillespie.



**Worship Volunteer:** serve as a worship host, lead as a liturgist, or prepare Communion elements. Talk with Luke Christie to learn more.



**Newsletter Editor:** gather items of interest, format the newsletter, and deliver to the congregation. If you enjoy listening, writing, and designing, let Claire Kuhl know you are interested.



**Social Media Maven:** share the good news of Westminster through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram—wherever we might reach those looking for a church home. Visit our Facebook page regularly, and share our posts on your page. If you can help with these and other channels, contact Bill Kimler with your ideas.



**Musician:** provide special music during worship. Perfection is *not* required! Accompaniment is available if desired. If you are willing to make a joyful noise, tell Gloria Christie.



**Gardener:** plant and maintain raised beds, tend the courtyard, and assist with pruning, trimming, and other landscaping tasks. Connect with Nigel Irons for information.

# Serve the Lord with gladness!

Psalm 100:2a

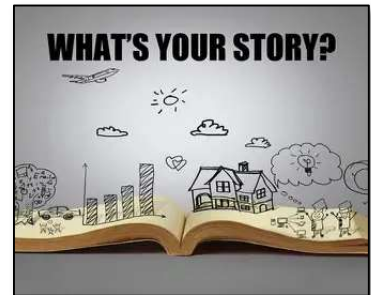
## Share Your Story

*Submitted by Luke Christie, W&M Chair*

Presbyterians value the participation of all God's people in worship. That's why worship services at Westminster include not only the Pastor, but also liturgists, vocalists, hosts, Elders...*you*! In keeping with this

commitment to worship as our collective offering to Christ and the Church, the Worship & Music Ministry

Team invites you to participate in worship by offering a new kind of "mission moment."



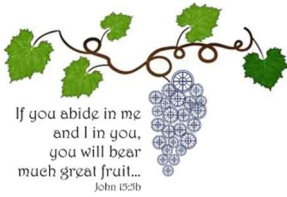
Specifically, we invite you, in three minutes or less, to share one way that you seek to live out one component of WPC's mission statement:

- 1) Being/building an inclusive community of faith
- 2) Abiding in God's love
- 3) Enjoying God
- 4) Following Jesus
- 5) Growing disciples

If you feel led by the Spirit to offer a "mission moment" in worship, please let Pastor Caroline or Luke Christie, Worship & Music chairperson, know. Caroline will help you develop your statement, and we will coordinate a Sunday for you to present.

---

# To Bear Great Fruit, Be a Great Branch!



Westminster strives to be a vibrant and effective part of the Body of Christ as we diligently pursue our unique mission: to be an inclusive community of faith, abiding in God's love and committed to enjoying God, following Jesus, and growing disciples.

Did you notice that work, *abiding*? Jesus emphasized this idea when speaking to His disciples in the Gospel According to John, chapter 15, verses 4-5:

*"Abide in me as I abide in you.  
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,  
neither can you unless you abide in me.  
I am the vine; **you are the branches.**  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much great fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing."*

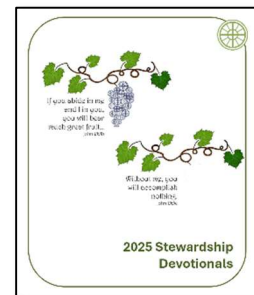
Westminster has the potential to bear *much* great fruit! When we faithfully abide in the love of Jesus, God can and will use us to bear witness and make this world a better place!



But if we fail to abide...we can do *nothing*.

Our job, then, as stewards of God's gifts to us, is to be the best branches we can possibly be. **So what does it mean to be a great branch?**

This year, you are urged to pray every day during Stewardship season, thanking God for the great fruit you enjoy in your own life and seeking to hear God's call. To help you do that, the Stewardship ministry team has prepared a daily devotional guide. These devotions provide you with information to help you plan for what your Stewardship Covenant with God and Westminster will be in 2026. You can pick up one in the narthex or the church office. It's also available as a PDF for download on our website's Resources page.



As the devotional guide explains,

"A physical vine branch serves as a **conduit**, carrying water and nutrients from the vine to the growing fruit. It provides **support** for the fruit while it grows. And a branch itself grows, getting **stronger** and longer, all the better to allow even more fruit to be produced.

In the same way, as metaphorical branches, we are inspired to be conduits of God's love into all the world (Mark 16:15), to offer support for all of God's children (Matthew 25:31-46), and to grow stronger as disciples (Ephesians 6:10-18)."

Take time today and every day leading up to Dedication Sunday, November 16, to prayerfully consider how you will show your gratitude to God by being a great branch. Remember that **God *always* provides for us, and one way that God provides is through you.**



---

## Invitation to Stewardship 2025-2026

Fall is the time of year when your Session invites you into a Stewardship Covenant—a promise to commit some portion of your time, talents, and financial resources to the glory of God and the work of this congregation. It's a special chance to demonstrate your gratitude to God and your commitment to building Westminster into an ever-more robust and fruitful “branch,” abiding firmly in Jesus, who is The Vine.

*“Abide in me as I abide in you.  
... I am the vine, you are  
the branches.”  
John 15:4-5*

Please spend time each day praying for your church and for discernment about your participation in the coming year. The Stewardship Devotional Guide (*see page 14*) provides short prayer prompts to stimulate your conversations with God. There's also space provided for you to note your own prayers and especially to journal your gratitude for the many blessings and gifts that God *has* provided, *is* providing, and *will* provide.

During worship in the coming weeks, you'll hear testimony from fellow members of this congregation about their experience serving as “faithful, fruitful branches” through their prayers, participation, and financial support for their church. Giving is a spiritual discipline that promotes congregational engagement and fosters personal spiritual growth.

Be on the lookout for a stewardship packet mailed to your home. In this packet, you will find materials to assist you in prayerfully determining what your grateful response will be to God's generous gifts to us: creation, boundless love, the saving grace freely given through Christ's sacrifice, and the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit within you.

Materials include:

- A letter from your Session and Pastor
- A brochure describing some of Westminster's major focus areas, along with estimated 2026 budget needs for each
- A Stewardship Covenant form for you to use to communicate your commitment for how you will glorify the LORD and serve His church in 2026

**The size of your contribution doesn't matter; your willingness to commit yourself to God's mission for Westminster *does*.** Every prayer, every volunteer minute, every dollar helps Westminster fulfill our call to be God's hands and feet, salt and light in the world.

Please prayerfully consider how you are being called to engage with God as a faithful, fruitful branch in the coming year:

- ✝ How will you make sure all God's children feel included?
- ✝ What will you do to strengthen your relationship with God and to abide in love?
- ✝ How will you enjoy God in worship and praise?
- ✝ How will you follow Christ through service to your church and your community?
- ✝ What will you do to grow as a disciple yourself and lift up others who are also seeking deeper faith?

---

# 2026 Asking Budget: Narrative Summary



Here's an overview of how each ministry team plans to use its 2026 budget. If you have questions and/or ideas for improving the budget, attend the Budget Brainstorming event on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, or contact any member of the Session.

## Worship & Music

We are called "to glorify and enjoy God forever," so gathering for worship, in person or online, is essential for bearing good fruit. Your support for this work ensures that worshippers are warmly welcomed, and that our worship reflects our gratitude to God. Flowers, honoraria, communion supplies, Dinner Church, and WOW support are among the items included in this request. This year, we're planning ahead for special music and for kirkin' o' the tartans to continue.



**2026 Budget Request: \$12,000**

## Mission & Outreach

The exhortation to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" makes it clear that mission and outreach are core elements of bearing good fruit. Your support in this area allows us to reach out to the local community and to the world to proclaim the good news, work for justice, and provide for the needs of others. This budget request includes support for local mission partners, Camp Fellowship, special offerings, and outreach materials.

**2026 Budget Request: \$13,500**

## Nurture & Education

Our goal of Being [More] Foundational encourages us to grow our knowledge of the Bible and our Reformed tradition. This team establishes curricula, recruits teachers, secures supplies and study books, and maintains the church library. In 2026, we hope to revitalize our youth and college ministries.

**2026 Budget Request: \$10,000**

## Congregational Care & Fellowship

Fellowship and fun are absolutely essential for building the relationships that define who we are and how we work together to bear good fruit. Part of this team's purpose is to foster relationships by creating opportunities for food, fun, and friendship throughout the year. This includes providing programs and activities for events, managing kitchen operations, and ordering and organizing food and other supplies. The CC&F team also plays a critical role in demonstrating love and providing support for those in our church family who need assistance or encouragement, by praying, visiting, sending notes, and delivering meals.

**2026 Budget Request: \$2,000**

## Business Affairs

Sustaining the Body of Christ requires constant vigilance, action, and frankly, investment. This team handles the important-but-boring "back office" business of the church, including maintaining the facility and grounds. This team oversees church finances, personnel, insurance, office operations, risk management, and administrative needs, such as utilities, office supplies, and the like. This budget covers all of those diverse areas. Staff salary and benefits are included. In 2026, we anticipate significant investment in the building, such as replacing HVAC units.

**2026 Administration Request: \$175,000**

**Building & Grounds Request: \$51,000**

---

## Celebrating Service: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual College of Elders Dinner

Serving the Body of Christ as an Elder is a blessing, a privilege...and a lot of hard work! Westminster is hosting our second annual College of Elders dinner on October 16<sup>th</sup> to show our thanks for all who in our midst are ordained Elders, wherever they have served.

In addition to a reception and dinner, our honored Elders will enjoy a presentation from keynote speaker Denise Holland, new Executive Director of United Way of the Lakelands. Her topic is "Living United." Denise describes her role as "working to inspire, and support involvement in various health and human services in the communities in Greenwood, Abbeville, McCormick, and Saluda Counties of SC."



The College of Elders event is also an early invitation for Elders to once again model servant leadership for this church family by entering into a Stewardship Covenant for 2026. The covenant represents a faithful commitment to continue using their spiritual gifts and financial resources to the glory of God and the work of God's church. Elders are urged to bring their completed Stewardship Covenant forms to the dinner, so that they can set a strong giving pace for the rest of the congregation.

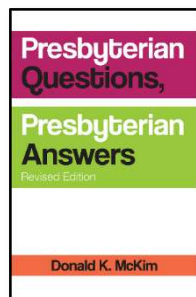
---



### Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

*A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention*

Back in January, your Session established three strategic directions to guide us in prioritizing our worship and work efforts. The first of these is for us to **"Be [More] Foundational."** Note that *more* is enclosed in brackets. It's not that we aren't already focused on fundamentals, after all. The point is that, as we make decisions as a church family, our intention is to build on those strengths and do even *more*.



Looking back over our programming in 2025, you see clear evidence that Westminster has made significant strides in this direction. For example, Pastor Caroline designed and delivered a "Presbyterian 101" course that was grounded in an excellent book by Donald K. McKim on PC(USA) beliefs and organizational structures: *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*.

The book was well-received by both newcomers and long-timers. Copies of this book are available at no charge to anyone interested in boning up! Similarly, free copies of the *PC(USA) Book of Order*, *PC(USA) Book of Confessions*, and a study catechism (i.e., beliefs presented in Q&A format) are all available to those in our family who enjoying digging deeper.

Selection of sermon topics has also been guided by this strategic direction. The series on Good Words, for example, shed light on Biblical and Presbyterian terms that are often misunderstood or even misused, such as *predestination*.

Looking ahead to 2026, how would you like to see Westminster become [more] foundational? Your Session and Pastor are always eager to receive your wisdom and inspiration for moving our church family toward fulfilling our mission, vision, and goals.

**Next Month:** What does it mean to "be [more] Matthew 25"?

---

# 150 Years of Caring: Celebrating Thornwell Home for Children

*Submitted by Nancy Hart Wicker*



*Continued from page 12*

## Thornwell Today!

Today, Thornwell is the longest-serving children's and family ministry in South Carolina and one of the oldest in the Southeastern U.S. Thornwell's programs and services have innovated and adapted over the last 150 years to meet the current needs of children, families, and communities. Thornwell offers family therapy, parenting classes, residential care, foster care, transitional living, and education services. These programs have expanded to serve areas across South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

## Meaningful Partnership

Thornwell is a Christian ministry and has a close partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA), sharing values of faith, service, family, acceptance, excellence, and teamwork. Thornwell has special connections to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood through legacy relationships, giving, and serving. Due to the proximity to the main campus in Clinton, SC there are many ways to serve, support, and get involved.



Recently, Westminster has participated in serving children and families connected to Thornwell through Supply Drive Luncheon (Pastor Caroline had a special shout-out in 2024) and packing Grab n' Go Meals through the Summer Meal program (total 94,000+ meals served by Thornwell in Summer 2025). Westminster cares deeply about children and families. While Thornwell does so much more than just foster care, we know that foster care and adoption have special impact on the families that call Westminster home.

Looking for ways to connect with Thornwell's mission? Consider these:

- Help celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with fun upcoming events; Christian Contemporary duo Caleb + Kelsey will be the headline act at the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration concert hosted in Belk Auditorium at Presbyterian College on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm (Tickets are \$25, available soon)
- Support LushAcres Farm at Thornwell by shopping the Farm Market (in person or online) – all proceeds support the ministry; great meats, produce, local artisan gifts, and Christmas trees, wreaths and more
- Attend the Fall Festival at LushAcres Farm, Every Saturday in October
- November is Thornwell Emphasis Month; learn more, hear stories of impact, share the mission
- Volunteer: So many ways to get involved. Contact Becca at **864-923-5127** or email **Bdobbins@Thornwell**.
- Donate: Every gift makes a difference!

*Continued on page 19*



---

*Continued from page 18*

- Become a foster parent! Or support foster parents through gifts, encouragement, and support. Donate gently used clothes and toys to Thornwell (or to the local Greenwood foster closet “Foster the City” at Legacy City Church). Foster closets always need NEW socks, underwear, and pajamas. Contact Kaley Lindquist at Thornwell to learn about more ways to support local foster parents at [klindquist@thornwell.org](mailto:klindquist@thornwell.org)
- Be an advocate! Learn about the needs of children and families in your community and share what you learn. Together, we can champion children and families right here in our neighborhood! Greenwood currently has 24 kids in foster care and not nearly enough homes to welcome them in! Additionally, 119 kids in Greenwood from 55 families are under Family Preservation services, meaning their families are at risk for separation.



### **Celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> with Thornwell**

- Shop the new Thornwell store (available August 15) and rock your Thornwell and 150<sup>th</sup> commemorative swag.
- Visit Thornwell’s website (fun 150<sup>th</sup> updates coming soon) and be inspired by all that’s happening at Thornwell.
- Read new stories of life-change and share your own stories.
- Check out Thornwell on Youtube! Watch the 150<sup>th</sup> hype video “Tomorrow Starts Today” and look-out for the Thornwell Documentary coming soon.
- Register for events ASAP so you don’t miss out on the fun! More info coming soon.

### **Thornwell’s Legacy: Our Legacy – A partnership of hope, for children and families**

What began as a dream in the heart of a young minister in 1875 has blossomed into a network of support that spans communities in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Today, Thornwell is a strong pillar of hope and healing, but there is more work to be done! With your support, **Thornwell will continue to transform lives for generations to come.**

Thank you! We are so much better together! Here’s to the last 150 years, and to 150 more!





## Let Us Pray...



### For Those in Our Church

*We share one another's joys and concerns:*

*"Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
pray in the Holy Spirit"*

*Jude 1:20*

- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Dashe & Aaron Hoang
- Denise Waldrep
- The Watkins Family
- Ed Watkins
- Kathy West
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Our New Members
- 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 of our church, especially:*

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank
- Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- 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):*

- Greg Anderson (*Theresa*)
- Dan Blimline (*Mary Anne*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- John Gettys (*Mary Anne*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Lori Holloway (*Suzy*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Patricia Lytle (*Beth*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Cameron Murphy (*Sarah*)
- Richard Pinkney (*Len*)
- The Radas (*Joyce*)
- Lorene Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Tatum Foley (*Heather*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Michaela (*Sarah*)
- Jodi (*Lucia & Laine*)
- Elle (*Rogers*)



### 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 Pakistan and other war-torn areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world

---

## And God Saw That It Was Good



Westminster's Inaugural Kirkin' O' the Tartans





---

## Welcome, New Members!



Paul & Robyn Agnew



David Alexander



Kaitlyn Burton



David Grier



Samantha Hefty



Karl Schwarzmann



Wendy & Richard Whiting

Tori Miller (not shown)

***We celebrate Westminster's  
latest Disciples and affirm  
our commitment to grow  
with them in love and grace.***





---

## Pop-Up Presbyterians “Come From Away”



# The Pumpkin Prayer

## The Pumpkin Prayer

Dear Jesus,

As I carve my pumpkin,  
help me pray this prayer:

Open my mind so that

I can learn about You;

(cut the top off the pumpkin)

Take all my sin and forgive

the wrong that I do.

(clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see;

(cut eyes shaped like hearts)

I'm sorry for times I've turned up

my nose at what You've given to me.

(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

Open my ears so Your word I will hear;

(cut ears shaped like a Bible)

Open my mouth to tell others You're near.

(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do!

(place candle inside and light it)

