



Thanks Giving

Dear Church Family,

It is a tradition, when one goes visiting, to bring a gift to the host, a small token of appreciation for the food, shelter, and friendship that they will provide. Of course, your host does not expect a gift at all. That is not why they invited you. Nor is the gift meant to repay your host for their generosity. It is a grateful response.



In this Thanksgiving season, we cannot even hope to count all our blessings, and yet we try. It doesn't take long for us to see that God has been so abundantly gracious to us.

I hope in this season you'll give yourself some time to enjoy God's hospitality, to walk in wonder through the home our Host has so carefully decorated, to rest peacefully in the security of the shelter He provides, to deepen your friendship with long conversations over the warm beverage He places in your hands or the rich food He places on the table before you. When you do, you will wonder, what gift can I possibly bring? And your Host will say, "Really, your presence is enough."

But then you'll find yourself helping with the dishes, spicing up the conversation with your own stories, assisting another guest with their luggage, bringing flowers in from the garden to adorn the table, popping out to the store to pick up a part to fix the leaky toilet.

Our grateful response is as natural as that, making ourselves at home in the household of God, offering whatever gift he has given us, so that his joy and ours may be complete.



With gratitude, I am your pastor and friend,

Caroline



What shall I offer to the LORD for all His bounty to me?

Psalm 116:12

Worship in November: Centered

In this month when we gather around ballot boxes to cast our votes, or around the offering plate to present our pledges, or around tables with family or friends, the writers of Epistles and Psalms remind us to live lives centered on God. In our great diversity, God is our center, reconciling all things to Himself through Christ. As you feel the gravitational pull of lesser things, take time to rest in these holy words and be drawn back to the center of your being.



November 6: Living Saints

All Saints Sunday

Communion

† Ephesians 1:11-23

November 20: Living in the Reign of Christ

Christ the King Sunday

† Colossians 1:9-20

November 13: Living between the Lines of God's Steadfast Love

Dedication Sunday

† Psalm 136

November 27: Attentive

First Sunday in Advent

† Isaiah 2:1-5

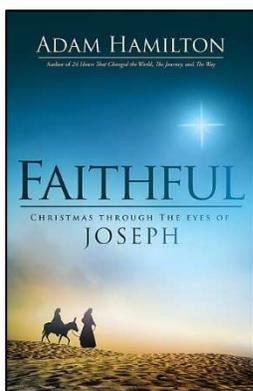
† Matthew 24:36-4

What's Next in *The Mighty Acts of God?*

Our exploration of *The Mighty Acts of God*, by Arnold B. Rhodes, continues through the first three weeks of November. When last we met, God's Chosen People were finally taking up residence in God's Chosen land for them. Learn about the ups and downs of Israel's earliest attempts to move from self-center tribes to God-centered nation.

New Advent Study Begins Sunday, November 27 at 9:00 A.M.

Advent comes early this year, right on the heels of Thanksgiving. And you can be thankful for a unique new Sunday Study series. The study is called *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*, written by Adam Hamilton. You may recognize this insightful author from powerful studies of his that we've experienced earlier, including the recent in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer.



You are encouraged to order a copy of the student guide from your favorite online bookseller. Here's an overview of the material:

“From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked, but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

“As you read this book, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away. Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.”

Westminster Happenings

**Sunday
November 6**

Sunday School

Meet at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.

Explore more of *The Mighty Acts of God* with Claire Kuhl.

Living Saints

All Saints Sunday

Communion

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

Remember the saints who have shaped and are shaping your life.

**Wednesday
November 9**

Wednesday Night Supper: Advent Arts & Crafts

Bring your appetite for food and fun to the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M.

Invest your creative energy in making something beautiful for Advent.

See page 8 for details.

**Sunday
November 13**

Sunday School

Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.

Join Bill Jacobs and the group for more *Mighty Acts of God*.

Living Between the Lines of God's Steadfast Love

Dedication Sunday

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

Present your grateful response to God's many gifts at His altar.

Session Meeting

Meet in the parlor at 11:30 A.M.

Conduct the work of the church with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

**Thursday
November 17**

Vocalizing with Dr. Keith Jameson

Meet in the sanctuary at 6:00 P.M. to learn an anthem for Nov 21 event.

Prepare to sing at the Community Thanksgiving (*see page 6*).

**Sunday
November 20**

Sunday School

Join the conversation at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.

Wrap up this season of the *Mighty Acts of God*.

Living in the Reign of Christ

Christ the King Sunday

Thornwell Special Offering

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

Celebrate the last day of the church year by praising Christ our King.

Sunday Sustenance with Chef Rob & Friends

Feast in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Bring little ones up for a Sunday sing-along, led by Denise.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday
November 20
continued

Decoration Day, with Carols and Cookies

Deck the halls of the sanctuary at 4:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.
Reward yourself for the work by sharing holiday songs and treats.

Thursday
November 24

Thanksgiving Day

Church office closed for the holiday

Friday
November 25

Church office closed for the holiday

Sunday
November 27

Sunday School: New Advent Study

Gather in the choir room at 9:00 A.M.

Join Kathy Gillespie as we begin seeing “Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph” (*see page 2 for details*).

Attentive

First Sunday in Advent

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

Pay attention and get ready for what God is preparing to do for you.

Sacred Celebrations in November

Excerpted from pcusa.org

All Saints Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God’s justice and peace in every nation.

ALL
SAINTS’
SUNDAY



The festival of **Christ the King** (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ’s coming again at the end of time. The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe.

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for His coming again. The four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

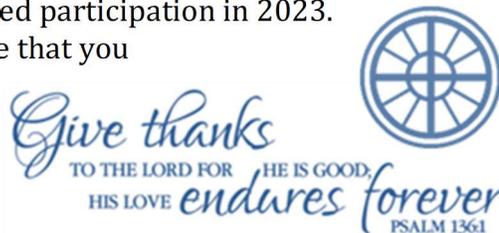


Dedication Sunday, November 13th—Our Grateful Response

You are a beloved child of God, and a valued part of the Westminster church family. You care about responding gratefully to God's grace, and making a positive difference in our community. Thank you for your faithful participation in the life of our congregation.

On November 13th, Dedication Sunday, you are asked to make an affirmative commitment to God and His body at Westminster about your planned participation in 2023.

On this special Sunday, you are encouraged to promise that you will include this congregation, its pastor, and its Session in your daily prayers. You are asked to choose some of the ways in which you plan to "serve the Lord with gladness." You are urged to make a financial commitment to help the Session determine what ministries and missions we will have the resources to pursue in the coming year. And you are invited to form a covenant with God by bringing your commitment to His altar.



Your commitment *matters*. Every individual prayer and penny is welcomed with rejoicing in heaven, knowing that it represents your grateful response to all that God has done, is doing, and will do in your life and through this congregation. Dedication Sunday is a special opportunity to "give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, and His love endures forever!" (*Psalms 136*)

You will soon receive via US Postal Service a packet containing stewardship information materials. Please prayerfully consider the asking budget and envision the impact your prayers, volunteer hours, and monetary gifts will have in helping Westminster fulfill the work to which God has called us. Complete the family commitment letter and put it in the envelope provided to ensure confidentiality. Then bring the envelope with you to worship on November 13th for dedication and blessing. **Note:** *You can rest assured that your financial information is kept in strictest confidence, seen by as few individuals as possible.* Thank you.

Giving as a Spiritual Discipline—*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*)

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.



September 2022

	September Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$16,570	\$15,574	\$125,487	\$141,668
Total Expenses	\$13,084	\$16,061	\$145,767	\$145,554
Net Gain/Loss	\$3,486		-\$20,280	

Please note the "rally" in member giving, mainly due to one pledge unit making the full annual giving amount in a lump sum. There is also a boost in non-member giving as well. Trinity Presbytery provided an \$883 grant for WOW audio equipment previously purchased. An offset to "routine capital expense" was made to show this. All told, operating revenue for September was \$16,570 and operating expense was \$13,084, for a net gain of \$3,486. The office roof repairs were completed, and the \$21,228 cost was charged to Major Capital Expense. \$21,000 was transferred from the church investment account to cover this cost.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to our treasurer, Len Bornemann, or any member of the Business Affairs Committee.

WPC Advent Devotionals



As usual, our creative Westminster family is stepping up to the challenge! Many authors, artists, poets, and photographers have already signed up to

provide us with unique daily devotionals for the coming Advent season.

But, we do still have a few open dates, so it's not too late for you to sign up!

The theme of our devotionals is "Advent through the eyes of _____," and *you* get to fill in the blank. Advent through your eyes, a child's eyes, a stable animal's eyes, the eyes of fear, the eyes of hope...you get the idea.

Devotionals should include the following:

- Title
- Suggested scripture reading
- Body of the meditation
- Prayer
- Prayer Focus—suggesting a theme for that day's prayers

Your meditation could be a story, a picture, a painting, a poem. It could be your own thoughts and creation, a child or grandchild's contribution, or even a favorite message from an existing source. Whatever communicates the message of grateful anticipation in your heart!

November 13th is the deadline for submissions. Please email your entry to vrconsulting@greenwood.net.

A Prayer for Election Day

From The Presbyterian Outlook, November 5, 2016 by Jill Duffield



Almighty God, as people go to the polls this day we pray first and foremost for peace. May the sense of community and connection be greater than any division or difference, no matter how entrenched. Knowing we will vote in schools, churches, synagogues, and other communal gathering places, may our commitment to care for one another grow as we stand in lines, talk to our neighbors and recognize we have more in common than we often realize. May we show one another kindness and respect, today and in the days to come.

We thank you for the freedom to vote our conscience, of which you alone are Lord. After this election, we are keenly aware that even if the political rhetoric fades, the acrimony it highlighted will remain. Grant us the courage to step into the breaches and not shrink back into our enclaves of homogeneity. Send your Spirit to drive us to the places where you are already working to bring reconciliation. Remind us relentlessly that you are greater than every category we devise, more powerful than any estrangement we have created, eternal, ever present and always calling forth justice, peace and abundant life. Show us today and every day how to live in the love of Jesus Christ, the perfect love that casts out fear. *Amen!*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

First Baptist Hosts Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

On Monday, November 21, ministers from several Greenwood churches (including ours) will celebrate a service of thanksgiving to God. The entire community is invited to join this uplifting event, which features music by Palmetto Girls Sing and a joint choir with singers from many area churches. The Rev. Steve Keck, pastor of Main Street United Methodist Church, will preach.



Worship begins at 7:00 P.M. An offering will be collected, with all proceeds being donated to Greenwood Pathway House. First Baptist is located at 722 Grace Street.

Lift Up Your Voice in Praise!

For those who have missed choral singing, here's a great chance to lift up your voice in praise and Thanksgiving. Dr. Keith Jameson, music director at First Baptist, is gathering volunteers from churches across the area to sing a simple anthem at the Community Thanksgiving on November 21 (*see left*).



Keith has graciously agreed to lead a rehearsal at Westminster on Thursday, November 17th for all who would enjoy singing—especially under the leadership of such a renowned musician! Plan to be in place, ready to warm up at 6:00 P.M. Music will be provided.

Plans for an Active Advent!

November 9th Workshop

Join us for an Advent Workshop after the meal on Wednesday, November 9. You will have the opportunity to make decorations for the church and for your own home. There will be adult crafts, as well as activities for the children. We especially hope you will help make these beautiful paper stars to hang in the Fellowship Hall.



Family Fun for Advent

Looking for family-friendly Advent materials? Consider *Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas*, by Traci Smith.

This is a great book for grandparents to buy for their adult children and their families. It's available from Amazon.com, Cokesbury.com, ChristianBooks.com, and other online booksellers.

For the Kids...

Let There Be Light!

Westminster children are participating in a seven-week study of Creation. We are reading from The Beginner's Bible, the Spark Bible, and books by Matthew Paul Turner.

Each week, they listen to a story about another day of creation and create a piece of art to add to the Creation Banner.

The banner started with "Let there be light!" We have added the sky and the seas, and the land and plants. The children and their teachers are working hard, and are looking forward to Day 7, when they can rest!

Recommended reading—books by Matthew Paul Turner:

- *God Made Light*
- *When God Made the World*
- *When God Made You*
- *When I Pray for You*
- *All the Colors of Christmas*

Reaching the Unchurched: Project Regeneration has Begun!

Our October 26 Food for Thought Wednesday Night Supper marked the official kickoff of Westminster's Project Regeneration process. We were guided in our conversation by Olanda Carr, Senior Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation's East Region.

Because he will be our facilitator and friend throughout this experience, Olanda explained that this first evening would be devoted to "the edification of Olanda"—in other words, introducing him to our perceptions of who we are, laying the groundwork for discerning who we will become. About thirty members and friends attended, offering lively and honest responses to questions such as: How is Westminster perceived in the community? What do you feel you are doing well? What are your strengths? What would you like to see change?

The evening concluded with a thought-provoking exercise targeting the list of attributes that we need to bring to the process to ensure success. The group generated a challenging list of vital things such as faith, prayer, gentle honesty, humor, and courage. Olanda will transform our list into a covenant that will be our touchstone for how we proceed together. See pages 10 and 17 for additional articles related to this event.



New Member Spotlight: Bill Kimler

If you enjoy chatting about “big data” and “analytics,” then you need to connect with new member Bill Kimler. After all, even his email address confesses that he can be found “dreaming of data”! Or you can engage with him on community involvement and civic responsibility—other areas about which he is passionate.



Bill paused for a moment from the busy whirl of business and politics to answer our traditional silly...I mean, important... questions for new members:

1. What gives you joy? *Solving a problem*
2. What drives you crazy? *Illogical people*
3. What's your favorite piece of music? *Progressive rock in general, specifically the classics of the band Yes*
4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time? *Read*
5. What's your favorite meal? *Black & Bleu burger at Buffalo Grill in Greenwood*

Here’s a little more background about Bill, his wife, Carla Bryan (*see photo below*), and his beautiful family:

After earning a BA in Physics and Mathematics from Drew University, and an MS in Physics and Masters of Arts in Teaching from Binghamton University, I taught college and high school Physics.

I then entered into a 20-year career in technology with a family-owned food distribution company. During that time, the business grew nationwide and I worked up the ranks eventually becoming Chief Information Office (CIO) of a \$4 billion enterprise.



After relocating to Greenwood, SC, I worked as a software product manager for a global company and became heavily involved in the community. I’ve volunteered for the Bowers-Rodgers Children’s Home, am a subcommittee chair of the Greenwood Counts Community Consortium, and in 2020 was elected Chair of the Greenwood County Democratic Party. In 2022, I also felt moved to run for public office. I’m also proud to be a living kidney donor.

My wife Carla and I have made a permanent home in Greenwood. I’m proud of my two grown children, a daughter who is a nurse and a son who is in cybersecurity, and love my two stepdaughters dearly. I’ve also fallen in love with the people of Greenwood, our rich history, our diversity in culture and ideas, and our love for our country.

Give Yourself a Gift

Submitted by Arthur Gillespie

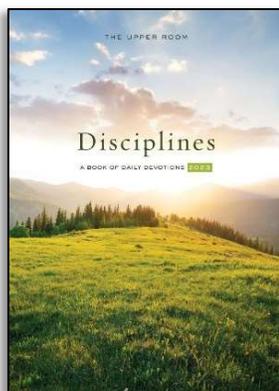
Last year for Christmas, we received a devotional book entitled *Disciplines*, put out by the same people responsible for the tract series “The Upper Room.” We had been looking for a new set of daily devotions, and this was a timely gift.

Being relative newcomers to a daily devotion, what we had been using was good, but not quite this good. This is lectionary-based, and each week the net effect is for us to be subtly prepared for the sermon.

Each week has a common author, a common theme, and very effective scripture. The authors come from many different denominations, but all with one Christ. A typical devotion (with prayer) generally lasts about 10-15 minutes; however, if the subject is stimulating enough, our discussion often goes much longer.

Any day we forget to do it is almost always notable for its absence. This book brings the Holy Spirit into our lives with little effort. Every day. Most Christians can do this on their own. Others (like me) need this reminder. Highly and unequivocally recommended. We *will* be getting next year’s version.

If you would like a copy for your family or as a gift for others, *The Upper Room Disciplines Devotional Guide* is available from your favorite online bookseller in a variety of formats, including print (regular and large-print versions), ebook, and digital subscription (via website and app).



WPC: Rowboat or Sailboat?

A key element of Project Regeneration is learning how to think differently about our church, neighborhood, and ministries. To equip us for this often-difficult journey, we have some “required reading” homework: *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink its Mission and Practice*, by Joan S. Gray.

The central premise of Gray’s book is that there are two kinds of churches:

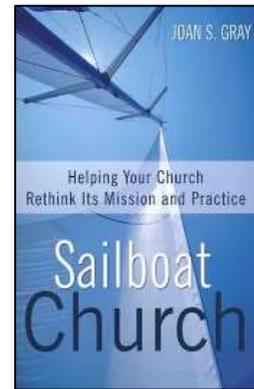
Rowboat churches depend largely on *human effort*. In a time of often shrinking budgets and membership, rowboat churches frantically row harder against a current, often frustrated and disappointed at their efforts.

Sailboat churches, on the other hand, take up the oars, hoist sails, and *rely on the Holy Spirit* to guide them.

Arguing that churches *should* be **sailboats**, author Joan S. Gray encourages readers to shift focus from the many daily, practical concerns of their local church to consider how new directions might be found by allowing the Holy Spirit to provide fresh ideas. The book includes quotes from Scripture, brief reflection questions, and an extensive bibliography, arranged by theme.

About half of the book is devoted to forty days of “sailing prayers.” WPC will take on this prayer challenge later in our Project Regeneration process.

The Presbyterian Foundation has provided, at no cost, copies of *Sailboat Church* for every family. Pick up one in the narthex, or call the church office to get your copy.

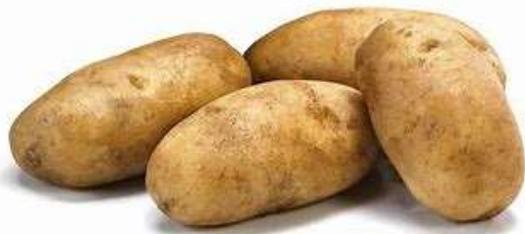


Poetry Corner

Growing Potatoes

By Joyce Alexander

Growing potatoes takes
Care and nurturing
To have the best
In taste and texture.
Whether you roast
Or fry, mash or chop.
Potatoes are just right
For any meal.
To make them
A part of your life
Requires maintenance
Of care and nurture, too.
If you desire to be a spectator
Choose carefully what you watch.
If you become a commentator,
Choose wisely what you say.
If decisions are difficult
And a hesitator you become,
You could lose out on opportunity.
If you become an agitator,
Discern with caution
What you stir up.
If dictator becomes your choice,
Be sure your motives are pure.
The most important "tator"
You might produce is *imitator*.
Copy and emulate
Characteristics that enhance,
Bringing rich flavor to your life.



Autumn Praise

By Bob Hostetler, in "Power of Prayer"
Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: for
falling temperatures and morning chill,

Trees turned gold and red, brown and
orange, falling leaves and blowing
leaves, the smell of burning leaves,
the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the
interplay of outside temperatures
and inside warmth,

The promise of cider and pumpkin
bread, the blessing of blankets
and sweaters.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn:
the beauty and hope in the change
of season,

The promise that the coming of
autumn heralds another ending, a
new beginning, and the wonder of
another winter, another spring,
another summer, yet to come.

More than Just One Month

While the "official" Pastor Appreciation Month has passed, it's important to remember that pastors are people, too, and blossom when they receive your words of appreciation and encouragement. Kathy Felder notes, "I see just how hard Caroline works, day in and day out. Being pastor is a lot more than just preaching on Sunday!" Tell your pastor you appreciate her, and keep her in your prayers!



New Member Spotlight: Tina Corley

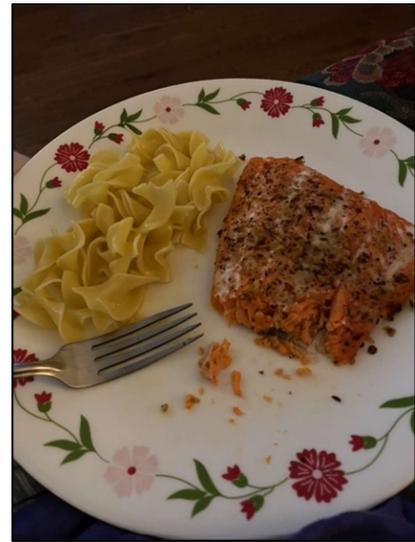
High on the list of things that Tina Corley loves are kids and books! Tina found Westminster during the worst of the pandemic, proving that even bad things can have good results—Tina has blessed us with her avid focus on putting our church library into “good order” once again, with her commitment to the task force evaluating a new mission opportunity, and with her faithful participation in worship and in fellowship. She was kind enough to tackle our traditional “getting to know you questions”:



1. What gives you joy? *Walking outside in nature*
2. What drives you crazy? *Malfunctioning electronics*
3. What's your favorite piece of music? *Works by Pachelbel*
4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time? *Reading, even if I don't have spare time. Those dishes can wait!*
5. What's your favorite meal? *Baked salmon*

Speaking of New Friends and Fish...

Another new member, Autumn Brown, also loves baked salmon. One of her hobbies is blogging about food and posting *extremely* tempting recipes on Facebook. When I asked her to share one of her favorites here in the newsletter, she submitted...baked salmon! So for Tina and all the other heathy eaters in the congregation, here's Autumn's recipe.



Dry Seasoned Baked Salmon

Ingredients

1. Your favorite dry seasoning blend—I use *steak seasoning*.
2. Salmon—for this specific meal, I recommend getting *salmon steaks from the seafood department rather than canned*.
3. Extra Virgin Olive Oil



Instructions

Grease a baking dish with olive oil. Place salmon in pan. Lightly coat the salmon with olive oil, and generously sprinkle your preferred seasoning on top. Bake at 375° for 30-40 minutes, and enjoy! Serve with whatever sides you prefer. I chose egg noodles.

By the way, Autumn's fiancé, new member Tim Mossman, gives a big thumbs-up for his lady's culinary skills!

Great Hymns of Our Faith: “Now Thank We All Our God”

Excerpted from Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories, by Robert J. Morgan

An old English preacher once said, “a grateful mind is a great mind,” and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are



powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” I Thessalonians 5:18 adds, “In everything, give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful, we do have is “Now Thank We All Our God.” The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the “Doxology,” and it’s loved on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training, began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years’ War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls, there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous train on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last, only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days, he conducted as many as fifty funerals.



Finally, the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended. Rinkart, knowing that there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenbert. It has been sung around the world ever since.

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his earth rejoices;
Who, from our mothers’ arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given.
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav’n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Greenwood Place Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director



GREENWOOD PLACE

Last month, we listed 3 of the Standards under which the Clubhouse functions. The following Standards deal with Relationships within the Clubhouse and its Members:

#8. All Clubhouse meetings are open to both members and staff. There are no formal members-only or formal staff-only meetings where program decisions and member issues are discussed.

#9. Clubhouse staff are sufficient to engage the membership, yet few enough to make carrying out their responsibilities impossible without member involvement.

#10. Responsibility for the operation of the Clubhouse lies with the members and staff, and ultimately with the Clubhouse director. Central to this responsibility is the engagement of members and staff in all aspects of clubhouse operation.

#11. Clubhouse staff have generalist roles. All staff share employment, housing, evening and weekend, holiday and unit responsibilities. Clubhouse staff do not divide their time between Clubhouse and other major work responsibilities that conflict with the unique nature of member/staff relationships.



For the month of September, Greenwood Place averaged 10 individuals coming on a daily basis. In all, we have around 18 members who are active in the Clubhouse. Social for September was moved to the first Friday in October because of weather. The Social was a picnic at Grace Street Park. We had 10 individuals join us at the park.



Greenwood Place Future: Three factors will most affect the future operation of Greenwood Place:

- The first and most impactful is continued funding for Greenwood Place. To return Greenwood Place to full operational status, we need to achieve a funding level of at least \$150,000. This would allow for additional staff hires and for expansion of our services.
- In addition, Greenwood Place will need to begin the search for a new Executive Director. As mentioned before, Fred is looking to retire in the near future. The addition of new staffing should allow Greenwood Place to return to a more fully functional Clubhouse.
- The third factor that needs to be determined is the future makeup of our Board. Additional Board members are needed to help in the management and governance of the Clubhouse and to assist in the fundraising needed to sustain the Clubhouse. I have contacted a couple of individuals who have expressed some interest in Greenwood Place and providing guidance to the program. We are working to identify and have a minimum of 4 additional Board Members on board by January 1st.

Thanks always to our Westminster friends for their continued support and prayers.

An Attitude of Gratitude has Profound Mental Health Benefits



What if we stopped for just 5 minutes a day and wrote down something that we are grateful for? Instead of letting our day-to-day troubles pull us under, what if we allow our blessings to help us rise? Studies have shown that by taking just a few minutes in the morning or before bed to reflect on our blessings, we can significantly benefit both physically and emotionally!

The benefits are clear: research shows that having an attitude of gratitude changes the molecular structure of the brain, keeps gray matter functioning, and makes us healthier and happier. When you feel happiness, the central nervous system is affected. You are more peaceful, less reactive, and less resistant. (UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center, 2008 Gratitude Study)

Moreover, the act of gratitude journaling—of writing down what you are thankful for—has been associated with enhanced optimism, life satisfaction, and decreased negative outlook. (Journal of School Psychology, April 2008)

You can start your own gratitude journal right now—no special equipment or training required! Just begin recording the moments, all the ways and things for which you are thankful. Start big or start small. Record one a day or jot down ten. There are no rules.

Thanks be to God through
Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:25a



New York Times best-selling author Ann Voskamp took this idea one step further to share her gratitude with those people for whom she is most thankful. She created a Grateful Jar (see illustration at left). Her jar was intended as a gift for her mother.

The decorated jar contained a collection of notes about all of the ways Voskamp was thankful for her mama. This simple token of love and thanks became a gift more meaningful than anything money could buy.

As Thanksgiving approaches, make time to foster your own sense of gratitude. And perhaps make a few Grateful Jars to spread love and joy to the people in your own life for whom *you* are most thankful.

Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- John & Mishie Bacot
- Kerry Cooper, Autumn's uncle
- Family of Betty Butler Gaither
- Josh Wicker
- Kathy Felder
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kelli Lott & daughters Savannah and Gabby
- Meg Templin Smith, niece of M. A. Wilson
- Ed Watkins
- Gail & Glen Yonce, and Georgianna
- Our pastor and her family, staff, elders, and elders-elect

"...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

1 John 5:14

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
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank of Greenwood
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries
- Camp Fellowship
- Community Initiatives



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Betsey Blimline
- Chris Brown
- Lib Colough
- Nancy Cooper
- Dean & Albert Fadden
- David Gillespie
- Lois Grice
- Beverly Grier
- Stephanie & Eve Horton
- Joan Herin
- Michael Knight
- Corrie Manis
- Terence Reese
- Trae Steelmon
- Dave Watson
- Abigail
- Candy
- Diana
- Geri
- JK



For the World

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

- For peaceful, fair elections throughout our nation
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all who experience exclusion, or who struggle to meet basic needs
- For those whose lives and well-being are at risk because of war or natural disasters
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world
- For peace and wisdom in our community, country, & among world and local leaders
- For those serving in the American armed services, especially those in harm's way
- For our enemies, that their hearts may be transformed by your love and truth

And God Saw that It was Good



Olanda Carr facilitates a lively crowd of about 30 folks in the Project Regeneration kickoff. The evening featured lots of fried chicken and frank conversation. Special thanks to everyone who helped make the event possible, especially the valiant volunteers who handled food preparation and kitchen clean-up!



Pathway House woodworking students made this beautiful cross as a thank-you gift to supporters.



When Nancy Dozier alerted the Wednesday Night Supper crowd that the Greater Greenwood United Ministries food bank pantry was bare, she received \$185 in donations. Another grateful response by Westminster to the abundance we have received.

Feed Them and They Will Come



Buz Wilcoxon, PC Chaplain, enjoys Break at the Lake with some new Westminster friends.

Did Somebody say “Lunch”?!?



← David & Beth Hammond
Katie Henderson
Emily Hughes

Theresa & Bill Jacobs →
Kathy Felder
Lucia Horowitz



← Phillip Dennis
Denise Waldrep
Nancy & Larry Dozier
Chef Rob Graves
Len Bornemann

Josh Wicker →
Willow Wicker
Oliver Gouldsmith
Rey Wicker
Callie Rose Watkins

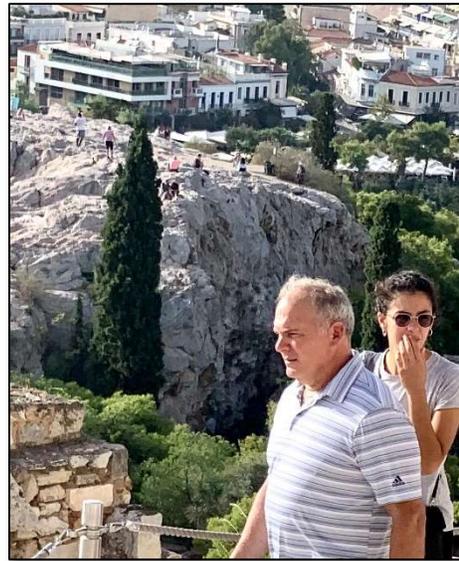


← Tina Corley
Elizabeth Watkins
Callie Rose Watkins
Hunter & Maggie Raborn
Andrea Paschal (*CRE-at-large for Trinity Presbytery*)

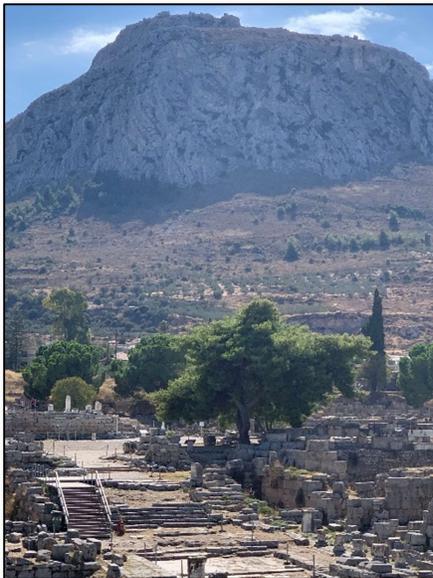
“I Walk Today Where Jesus Walked...”



View from below of Mars Hill in the ancient marketplace area of Athens, Greece. It was here that Paul preached to and narrowly escaped from the Athenians.



View of Mars Hill as seen from the Athens Acropolis. If the Athenians didn't like what they were hearing, they would toss the speaker from the hill. Paul talked his way out of being tossed!



While in Corinth, Paul preached to the Corinthians under the large tree in the photo. You can see the ancient Corinthian Acropolis on top of the mountain in the background.



This is the ancient marketplace of Corinth where Paul preached to the Corinthians. He set up his tent-making business in town to sell or rent to people coming in for their annual festival.

Photos and captions from Denise Waldrep