

# Westminster Times



Greenwood, South Carolina

Volume 1, Number 8

## Coming & Going~Promises or Predictions?

Hello, Church!

Here we are looking into the new year. Are you a resolution maker?

Do you make promises to yourself and are you good at keeping them? I find that when I do make resolutions, I generally fail miserably by day two and forget them all together by week two.

It's much more fun, I think, to make new year's predictions. I hedge my bets on this by predicting things that are sure to happen. For instance, I predict that in 2020, I will turn 55, and Jacob will finish 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and the citizens of the United States will elect (or re-elect) a president. And I ensure the success of my predictions by putting things on the calendar. For instance, in 2020, I will go on the Westminster All Church Retreat (February 28-29).



### **The Gate of the Year**

*Minnie Haskins 1908*

I said to the man who stood at the  
gate of the year

"Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness  
and put your hand into  
the hand of God—

That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way!"

*These opening four lines of Minnie Haskins' poem were used by King George VI to open his Christmas address to the nation in 1939, just a few months after the start of World War II.*

But I also use my imagination to dream some big dreams and work back from those predictions through the steps to achieve them. For instance, in 2020, the Dennises will move from their temporary lodgings into our permanent Greenwood residence – so we better start looking at houses!

I wonder what we can predict for Westminster in 2020? We can be sure that we will be worshipping on 52 Sundays this year (I counted them!). And we can be sure we will celebrate our one-year anniversary together in August. We can predict that we will be "Worshipping on the Water" out at Camp Fellowship this summer, because the session already put it on the calendar.

But what will our sanctified imaginations allow us to dream about Westminster in 2020 and beyond, and what are the steps to get there?

That is the question our session will be answering when they gather for retreat on January 11. Please pray for these servant leaders as they gather to discern God's will for this family of faith and work out the steps necessary to live into God's plan for us.

One prediction I can make with great certainty: no matter what happens this year, God will be with us, and God's light will go before us to guide the way, one step at a time.

Your pastor and friend,

*Caroline*

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## Stewardship Report

*A note from Len Bornemann, on behalf of the entire Session~*

Many thanks to the congregation for your excellent response to the annual Stewardship campaign. With 94% of the cards returned, the total pledged for 2020 stands at \$178,940.

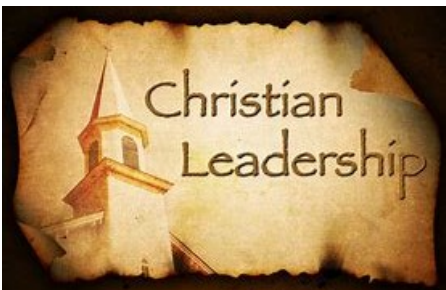
In consideration of these results, Session has received a proposed 2020 Operating Budget at their Stated Meeting of December 15th and will consider adoption of the final budget in January.



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## Session Report~Coming and Going

As Christians, we are called to support our church by giving of our finances, of course, and also of our time and talents. Service on the Session as a Ruling Elder is one essential opportunity for such giving, and Westminster is blessed to have three new elders stepping up to the challenge in 2020. **Kathy Gillespie, Emily Kienker, and David Hammond** have



already invested many hours in training and preparation for their new leadership roles. And they are prayerfully considering where their unique expertise and interests best align with the needs of the church. Support these courageous and generous volunteers by attending their ordination on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Of course, we need these new leaders because several elders are concluding their Session assignments as 2019 comes to a close. They leave behind big shoes to fill—**Len Bornemann, Rob Graves, and Flora Hobson** have given of themselves tirelessly. Their contributions—large and small, visible and invisible—sustained our church through some of its most perilous times. Please thank these soon-to-be-resting elders for all they have done. (*Resting* elders? Who are we kidding?!? You *know* they will continue sustaining Westminster, even though their official Session terms have ended.)

The incoming and the outgoing elders will join Caroline and the returning elders, **Nancy Dozier, Deb Jones, Claire Kuhl, and Clerk Bill Jacobs**, for a day-long retreat on January 11, 2020. The group will worship God, break bread, dream dreams, build foundations, and strengthen relationships. Ideally, the new Session will emerge with a refreshed sense of joy and purpose, and a clear, shared 2020 Vision.

Your prayers and support for the Session are invaluable. Please lift up each elder and all of your fellow Westminster worshipers in your daily devotions.

## Westminster Happenings

<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Jan 1</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b> Quest: Youth Fellowship will <i>not</i> meet
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Celebration of the Feast of Epiphany</b> 10:00 A.M. in the Westminster sanctuary Worship God through His Word and the Sacrament of Communion.  <b>Take Down Christmas Decorations</b> 3:00 P.M. in the Westminster sanctuary Wear your work gloves to put the holiday adornments back into storage.
<b>Monday</b> <b>Jan 6</b>	<b>The Feast of Epiphany (or Three Kings' Day)</b> The traditional end of the Christmas season See page 8 to learn about this important date in the liturgical calendar.
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Playtime for Us!</b> 9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) and their caregivers Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Jan 8</b>	<b>Bible, Beer, &amp; Pizza</b> 6:30 P.M. – location to be determined Continue exploring the Bible under the influence...of Rev. Phillip Dennis. Bring your own beverage; tell Bill Jacobs if you are coming, so you'll have a shot at a slice.
<b>Wednesdays</b> <b>Jan 8, 15, 22,</b> <b>and 29</b>	<b>Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children</b> 6:30 P.M. in the Senior High Classroom Come prepared for fun and for developing your faith.
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Playtime for Us!</b> 9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) and their caregivers Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Growth through Worship—<i>The Promise of New Life</i></b> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Come to the Lord's house with joy and thanksgiving.
<b>Monday</b> <b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women—Circle Meeting</b> 11:00 A.M. in the Choir Room See page 4 for details.
<b>Thursday</b> <b>Jan 16</b>	<b>NAMI Caregiver Support Meeting</b> 6:30 P.M. in the Parlor Contact Mary Linn Touchberry for details: <a href="mailto:mltouchberry1952@gmail.com">mltouchberry1952@gmail.com</a> .

## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday  
Jan 19**

**Growth through Worship— *The Promise of Faithfulness*  
& Ordination of New Elders**

10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary

Worship your Heavenly Father and support your rising elders.

**Stated Session Meeting**

4:00 P.M. in the Parlor

Conduct the business of the church, including committee structure review

**Thursday  
Jan 23**

**WPC Presbyterian Women Host Joint PW Dinner**

6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall

Indulge in a delicious dinner and fabulous fellowship with area PW groups.

**Sunday  
Jan 26**

**Growth through Worship—*The Promise of Discipleship***

10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary

Let the Lord speak to you through worship and praise.

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## Presbyterian Women~What's for Dinner?



Westminster's circle of wonderful, worshipful women is gathering on Monday, January 13. After the program, focus will shift to wrapping up plans for the joint PW dinner with First Presbyterian, Ware Shoals, Ninety Six, and New Faith PW groups. Westminster is hosting this much-beloved event here on January 23. Everyone is encouraged to bring gently used baby clothes for Joyce and Spears Alexander to take with them on their mission trip to Africa. Louise Taber notes, "We will also be discussing PW projects for 2020. Happy New Year to all. Hope to see you at circle in 2020!"

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## Sunday Study News and Notes

As we enter 2020, we resume our journey of confirmation, seeking to address the Big Questions that are essential for understanding our Big God and His plans for us, and that confirmation challenges us to address. Here's the agenda for January and February:

- Q#8 – Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching?
- Q#9 – Will you devote yourself to the church's fellowship?
- Q#10 – Will you devote yourself to the breaking of the bread?
- Q#11 – Will you devote yourself to prayer?
- Q#12 – Are you ready to cross over?
- Introduction to Lent



Copies of the study materials are still available. Contact Flora Hobson or Rev. Caroline Dennis to obtain a set.

# New Member Spotlight: the Scholars and the Keys

On Sunday, December 22, the Westminster congregation grew by *eight*—four new adult members and four children. What a glorious close to a pivotal year in our church history!

That beautiful bunch shown below at left is the Sholar Family: Ody and Jennifer, with their kids, John, Neveah, Danielle, and Gemma. You have already experienced Ody's care for and commitment to maintaining our facility. He says he finds unique moments of peace when he's alone in the sanctuary, savoring the silence. More about the whole family next month!

Pictured at right below are Cindy and Joseph Key. Their answers to our Five Essential Questions, plus some extra info about Joseph's background are provided below.



## Cindy Key: The Five Essential Questions Answered

- 1. What gives you joy?** Children bring me joy... I tend to be an optimist, so I see all the good in them, even when they're bad.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** People who lie. Therefore, I do not partake in listening to or being a part of politics!
- 3. What's your favorite piece of music?** My favorite Christian piece of music is the Hallelujah Chorus performed by the Philharmonic Orchestra. My father listened to the entire recording of "The Messiah" every year during the Christmas season. He said it brought him peace. I do this, too, and I believe he is correct. It brings me peace.
- 4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Hahahaha...what spare time?????
- 5. What's your favorite meal?** I think my favorite meal would be a broiled seafood plate. Especially shrimp and scallops.



## Joseph Key: The Five Essential Questions Answered

- 1. What gives you joy?** Comfort in Christ, my wife, pets, good food, completing a project, working with high voltage, sharing something valuable with a child.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** Self-centered politicians.
- 3. What's your favorite piece of music?** I'm a classic rock and roll fan. Back in the day, I saw many of the great rock bands in concert - Kansas, Journey, Santana, Fleetwood Mac, Yes, Elton John, Styx, Allman Brothers, etc., but if I had to pick one piece, it would be *The Turn of a Friendly Card* by The Alan Parsons Project.
- 4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Camping & kayaking.
- 5. What's your favorite meal?** Ribeye steak (cooked on my charcoal grill) with baked potato and salad.

### *More About Joseph...*

Joseph is from Mt. Airy, NC and has spent most of his life in various NC cities. He earned a degree in electrical engineering from NC State in 1986. Since then, he has worked for several electric utilities in power distribution, including an electric cooperative in eastern NC where he and his wife Cindy met in 1999. Cindy and her daughter, Katie, quickly became the loves of his life, and they united as a family.

In 2000, a job change took the new family to central Virginia. They lived in Amherst, a town smaller than Ninety Six, for 18 years before Joseph joined Greenwood CPW as the Director of Electric Utilities in 2018.

Joseph has been active in several Baptist churches, serving on building and grounds committees, sound system committees, and others. He chaired a building committee and oversaw construction of a fellowship hall, kitchen, library and an educational wing at West Edgecombe Baptist in Rocky Mount, NC.

When time permits, Joseph enjoys camping, kayaking, and some occasional woodworking. He and Cindy live in the Saddle Hill subdivision in Greenwood.

## Something to Celebrate!

Two of our younger members are celebrating another year of growing older and, presumably, wiser! Congratulate **Emily Kienker** (January 3) and **Laine Horowitz** (January 16) on their birthdays!

The **West family** has *extra* cause for celebration this month. **Gary and Kathy's** wedding anniversary is January 1—what a great way to start a New Year! Then only a couple of weeks later, they enjoy another excuse to party as they honor Gary's birthday on January 21. Congrats to all!



## Let's Go!

How long would it take for the same 40 people to spend 24 hours together at church? Twenty-four weeks...if everyone came to worship every Sunday? 12 weeks if everyone came to worship and Sunday Study every week. But because of travel and illness and other reasons, it would be hard for the same 40 people to be here every Sunday for an hour or two. So I think it might take, well... forever!

But, what if 40 people from age 2 to 92 went away for a weekend? It would only take, well, only twenty-four hours! And what would happen if while they were there they prayed together and ate together? What if they sang some old songs and learned some new ones? What if they read scripture together? What if they laughed and told stories while working together on a banner for church? Probably they would make memories, and friends, and plans for the next time. Imagine! Imagine how that church and her people would grow deeper in faith, broader in service, and more joyful in fellowship. That's the power of time to BE together.

As part of our Confirmation 2.0, our year of exploring and confirming our faith, Westminster Church will retreat together at the end of February. It's leap year, so we get a whole extra day! Let's spend it together.

*Caroline*



### Westminster Church Family Retreat

**Mark your calendar now, and look for registration details coming soon.**

**Location:** Camp Fellowship

**Starts:** 5:00 Friday, February 28

**Ends:** 5:00 Saturday, February 29

Retreats are a wonderful time to *BE*...

- ❖ Be with God.
- ❖ Be with friends.
- ❖ Be with yourself.

When we play together and pray together, we grow together in faith and friendship.

\$90 per person  
\$160 per couple  
\$225 per family

*Part of a series on myths vs. facts of mental health issues*

**Myth:** I can't do anything for a person with a mental health problem.

**Fact:** Friends and family can be important influences to help someone get the treatment and services they need by:

- Reaching out and letting them know you are available to help
- Helping them access mental health services
- Learning and sharing the facts about mental health, especially if you hear something that isn't true
- Treating them with respect, just as you would anyone else
- Refusing to define them by their diagnosis or using labels such as "crazy"



## What's Special about January 6?

From PCUSA.org

January 6<sup>th</sup> is the twelfth and final day of Christmas, according to the Christian liturgical calendar. It is known as Three King's Day, or the Feast of Epiphany.



### EPIPHANY

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word *epiphany* (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means *appearance* or *manifestation* of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

## From First Presbyterian... Greenwood in Bloom

For the aGAPE program on January 21<sup>st</sup>, Kelly McWhorter will talk about Greenwood's participation in the *America in Bloom* program. This award-winning project is spearheaded by the Greenwood Visitors Center, in partnership with the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce. Be sure to put the date on your calendar and make a reservation.



As usual, the meeting will include a delicious lunch, a delightful program, and fellowship. Fellowship begins with people beginning to arrive after 11:30 AM with lunch served at noon. The cost is only \$8 and includes lunch. Reservations are required.

Be sure to put the date on your calendar! For reservations, call Melvyn Davis (229-9282) by Monday, January 9, 2020.

## This Ordinary Time Sermon Series

Sundays after Epiphany are part of ordinary time, the seasons marked by green paraments and stoles. I like to call it *growing* time. It is a time when we listen to the stories and teachings of Jesus and his disciples. It is a time for growing individually and together, day in and day out, as followers of Jesus. In this ordinary season, we look to God's extraordinary promises to build us up and carry us through. January sermon topics are:



January 12: The Promise of New Life

✝ Acts 10:34 - 43

✝ Matthew 3:13 -17

January 19: The Promise of Faithfulness

✝ Psalm 40:1 - 11

✝ 1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9

January 26: The Promise of Discipleship

✝ Psalm 27:1, 4 - 9

✝ Matthew 4:12 - 23



## Let Us Pray...

Please keep these and other Westminster family and friends in your prayers.

*"Comfort, O comfort my people," says your God.*

*~Isaiah 40: 1*

### *For Health and Wholeness:*

- Kiersty Duncan
- Kathy Felder
- Lynn Bornemann
- Larry Dozier
- Lucia Bryson
- Lucia Horowitz
- Fred Taber
- Bill Mitchell
- Margaret Rada
- Ashley Mahan
- Hoyt Jenkins
- Sarah Willis
- Howard Thomas
- Lois and Frank Grice
- Charlotte Gero
- The Whitt Family
- Betty Gossam
- Terrance Reece
- Debbie Dill
- Ed Watkins
- Sissy Brockenbrough
- Ronnie Case
- Norma Noviss

### *For Strength, Guidance and Hope:*

- Kathleen Watkins
- Tracy Rainey
- Eric Gardner
- John Walden
- Laine Horowitz
- Norma Jones (Dave's mother)
- Family of Bubba Fennell
- Stephan Botchie and Family
- Hodge's Presbyterian
- The Gartrells, missionaries in Brazil
- Thornwell Home for Children
- Arthur Gillespie, Bill Mitchell, and the Greenwood County Detention Center Ministry

### *With Praise and Thanksgiving For:*

- Our Youth Quest Players and Cooks, who provided us with a fun program and delicious dinner last Sunday evening, and for Joyce Alexander, their director
- Our new members: Cindy and Joseph Key, Ody and Jennifer Sholar and their children, Danielle, Nevaeh, Gemma, and John.
- Elders stepping aside, and new elders stepping up
- Our partner ministries:
  - Camp Fellowship
  - Greenwood Food Pantry
  - Greater Greenwood United Ministries
  - Greenwood Place
  - NAMI



*Abbeville/Greenwood area PC(USA) pastors and friends gathered at WPC for a cluster working session*

## And God Saw That It Was Good...

