



Does It Really Matter?

It is stewardship season at Westminster. In this season, we consider the gifts God has given us and the portion of our time, talent, and treasure we will dedicate to our shared work as Christ's body in this time and place.

It is the hope of the Stewardship Ministry Team that 100% of Westminster's church body, members and friends will *know* that they have good and valuable God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to share.

Sometimes we doubt that our gift could make that big a difference. But think about it. The bag of rice you brought to church on Communion Sunday was on someone's table the next week. The time you took to listen to someone tell you their exciting news multiplied their joy. When you read God's word in worship one Sunday, it was just the word someone needed to hear. They heard it because it was *you* who read it. The money you placed in the offering plate months ago made it possible for someone to take a shower during the aftermath of a hurricane. The lesson you taught in Sunday School was shared the very next day at a coffee shop with a friend who was looking for some hope or direction. A child sang themselves to sleep with a song they sang with you at church. A college student was fed, body and soul, at Rainbow Fellowship.

Like good stewards of the
manifold grace of God,
serve one another
with *whatever* gift
each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10

Gini Gerbasi, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Georgetown, Washington DC, recently wrote an essay addressing the question, "Does the church matter anymore?" We remember when the church had significant impact in the lives of people and communities, and it just doesn't seem that way anymore, does it? As we are discerning where to put our time, talent, and financial resources, we might be wondering if someplace else might have more impact. In

her article, Gerbasi quotes the Reverend Bill Tully speaking of his church on Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. "This church needs to survive," Tully said, "if only as a temple to something *other* than money on this street."

Gerbasi, whose church is down the street from Georgetown University, writes that she is absolutely convinced that the church can and does have a profound impact in the world even today. She employs her church as an example: Neighbors are grateful for the church bells. College students say that the church's "Love Your Neighbor" banner is a healing balm.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The school down the street sheltered in the church when there was a small fire in their own building. A neighbor stops by for some quiet time in the sanctuary. Their Thursday food and clothing ministry in the park is a tangible sign of God's loving presence to neighbors in need. "Washington DC is a city where political and economic power are what matter,"



Gerbasi writes. But her church stands on the corner proclaiming a different truth—"Something more lasting, more beautiful, more powerful than those things." The church, Gerbasi continues, "[is a] beacon and source of love, compassion, forgiveness, healing, and hope. Those are, frankly, the things the world needs most."

Gerbasi's article reminds me of the holiday classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," and the lesson that the main character, George Bailey, learned. His life made a big difference—to his family, his friends, and his town. **Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure, make a difference here at Westminster in ways that you will never fully know.** And Westminster makes a big difference in the lives of our members and those beyond our membership in ways that we will never fully know.

May each of us know 100 %: You matter. Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure matter. And may we know that, as Christ's body in the world, the worship and work of Westminster Presbyterian Church, matters.

Your pastor and friend,

 *Caroline*

November 17 is Dedication Sunday: Building the Body

The October issue of *The Westminster Times* kicked off Stewardship Season 2024. Since then, we've explored the notion that to build the Body of Christ, Westminster needs to be filled with the **breath** of the Holy Spirit. We must have the living **water** of Christ, and the nourishing spiritual **food** of the Word of God. We must **exercise** our faith by transforming it into righteous living and into good works that show love to our neighbors. And we have come to appreciate that our gifts have the greatest impact when all of God's beloved children work together in love, **unity**, and harmony.

Building the 
Body of Christ

You will soon receive in the mail a Family Commitment Form that invites you to make a covenant with God and your church family. **On Sunday, November 17th, you will have an opportunity to present your completed form as an act of worship.** Please prayerfully discern what God is calling you to do—what God is calling *Westminster* to do—and pledge your time and talent, and a financial gift, large or small, to building the Body of Christ. Remember, we don't commit because we have bills to pay. We have bills to pay because we are committed to doing God's will and work, to being God's hands and feet in Greenwood.

November Sermon Series: Finishing the Foundation

This fall we have been exploring the foundations of the Reformed Faith, from God's sovereignty and grace to our election and grateful response. We finish our series focusing on the Reformed understanding of scripture, the church, and the engagement of the mind. The liturgical year ends with our celebration of Christ the King Sunday as we remember that our servant Savior is Lord of all!

*Suggested personal spiritual discipline: read the scriptures in the week prior to Sunday.
Your Sunday worship experience will be enhanced by engaging with these texts.*

November 3: The Revealing Word of God

What do Presbyterians believe about the Bible?

All Saints Sunday

† Psalm 19

† 1st Reading: John 1:1-18

November 10: Body Building

What do Presbyterians believe about the Church?

† 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-10

† 2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

November 17: Think About It

Presbyterian hearts, hands, and minds are employed in service to Jesus Christ!

† Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

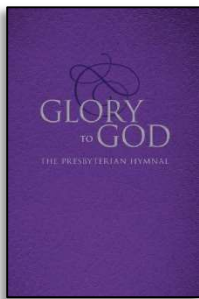
November 24: Reigning Truth

Christ the King Sunday

† 1st Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

† Gospel: John 18:33-37

Glory to God—Our New Hymnals are Finally Here!



Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Psalms 98

Your Music & Worship Ministry Team works diligently to offer a variety of new and exciting music options. After more than a year of exploration, testing, and discerning, Westminster has finally purchased Glory to God hymnals. The beautiful purple books are in the pew racks, and many of them contain bookplates recognizing saints honored or memorialized by generous gifts. The Glory to God hymnal retains many of our long-time favorite hymns and will allow incorporating some new and more modern music a little at a time. Our goal is “to make a joyful noise to the Lord!” Your hymn requests are always welcome. Thumb through the new hymnal and let us know what song is in *your* heart.

Westminster Happenings

**Friday
November 1**

All Saint's Day (*see page 9*)

"Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord. 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.' "

Revelation 14:13

**Sunday
November 3**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.

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

The Revealing Word of God

All Saints Sunday/Communion/Food Bank Collection

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

Remember with gratitude those who have gone before us.

Middle Schoolers Fellowship Time

Find your way to the Youth Room at 11:15 A.M.

Enjoy a light snack and a lively lesson.

**Monday
November 4**

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Look for the Monday prayer list email and click on the Zoom link at noon.

Be intentional in praying for the concerns of this congregation.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday
November 5**

Election Day: Prayerfully Discern and Cast Your Vote (*see page 10*)

Presbyterian Women's Circle

Gather at Wesley Commons at 11:30 A.M.

Explore environmental stewardship via this year's Bible study (*see page 7*)

**Wednesday
November 6**

Books & Brown Bags Study Group

Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Continue reading *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

**Thursday
November 7**

Rainbow Fellowship

Connect with friends in the Youth Room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.

Enjoy time with God's word and your peer group.

**Sunday
November 10**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.

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

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday November 10, <i>continued</i>	Body Building Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Reflect on what Presbyterians believe about the Church.
	Veteran's Day
Monday November 11	Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom Look for the Monday prayer list email and click on the Zoom link at noon. Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the larger world. BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday November 13	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Discuss the next chapter of <i>Life Together</i> , by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
Sunday November 17	Think About It <i>Dedication Sunday (see pages 2 and 13)</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Use your mind, as well as your hearts and hands, in service to Christ. Sunday Sustenance Stay for a relaxed lunch provided by Chef Rob and his sous chefs. Bring some extra cash to contribute to the cause of the month. Middle School Youth Group Enjoy lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 A.M. and help with clean-up. Fasten your seatbelt for an interesting outing.
Monday November 18	Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom Look for the Monday prayer list email and click on the Zoom link at noon. Share your praises, intercessions, and supplications with our loving God. BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday November 19	Trinity Presbytery Stated Meeting Travel to Westminster <i>in Columbia</i> at 9:00 A.M. Join fellow Presbyterians for work, worship, and networking.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Wednesday November 20	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Ponder together the next chapter of Bonhoeffer's <i>Life Together</i> .
Thursday November 21	End of Life Seminar Series: Caring for the Caregivers (<i>see page 8</i>) Come to the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M.—session begins at 5:30 P.M. Receive helpful insights from the South Carolina Department on Aging.
Sunday November 24	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Sanctified <i>Christ the King Sunday/Thornwell Special Offering</i> (<i>see pages 10 & 11</i>) Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Consider Paul's guidance on what God's chosen people do and don't do. Sanctuary Preparation for Advent (<i>see page 11</i>) Assist in setting up the tree and festooning the hall with firs (<i>time TBD</i>). Prepare the sanctuary for adorning the Chrismon tree on December 1.
Wednesday November 27	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Church Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday• B&BB is <i>not</i> meeting this week
Thursday November 28	Note: The Church Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Rainbow Fellowship Thanksgiving Feast for All God's Children Bring your gratitude and appetite to the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 P.M. Come as you are to this feast; bring a dish to share, if you can.
Friday November 29	Note: The Church Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

“Rejoice always, pray continually, and
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Westminster Happenings: Holiday Preview

**Sunday
December 1**

The First Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens

Communion/Food Bank Collection

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

Enter the season of preparation with candles and Chrismons.

**Tuesday
December 3**

Presbyterian Women's Circle

Come to Beth Hammond's home: 504 Eagle's Harbor Drive, Hodges, S.C.

Pause your holiday hustle and enjoy brunch with your PW friends.

**Tuesday
December 24**

Christmas Candlelight Service

Worship the newborn king in the sanctuary at 5:30 P.M.

Hear the familiar story once again about Immanuel—*God With Us*.



PW Goes to WC

Submitted by Beth Hammond

Presbyterian Women will meet at Wesley Commons on Tuesday November 5, at 11:30 A.M. We will continue with the study book, *Let Justice Roll*. Since we missed our October meeting due to Tropical Storm Helene, we will combine lessons 2 & 3: "Land Justice" and "Air Justice." Hope to see everyone at Wesley Commons!

Children's Sunday School: So Much to be Thankful For!

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

The children recently learned about the fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple, and the exile of God's people. As they continue their journey through the Old Testament, they will learn about some of the people that prevailed during the Exile, including Daniel and Esther. They will learn about Ezra and Nehemiah, the return to Israel, and the rebuilding of the temple.

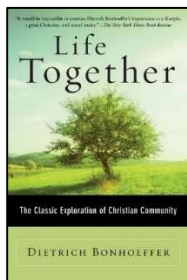
Students will learn that Thanksgiving contains *two* important words—*Thanks* and *Giving*. They will discuss that *Thanks* reminds us to be **grateful** for our blessings, and *Giving* calls us to be **generous** and share our blessings.

During the fall, the children continue learning to participate in worship. Through lessons on seasons and harvest, they will learn that one way to respond to God's Word is through offering our time, talents, and money.



They will discuss how they can contribute to worship by showing reverence and respect, and being considerate of others that are worshipping. They will practice using soft voices as they move *slowly* through the Sanctuary and elsewhere. Please help reinforce this by **complimenting** them when they remember and **gently reminding** them when they forget. It takes a village to raise a child, and you, the Westminster church family, are that village. Let us all work together to teach the children about enjoying worship and making it meaningful for everyone.

"Daniel answered and said: 'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.'" Daniel 2:20-21



Books & Brown Bags Share *Life Together*

Wednesday, November 7th, 14th, and 20th

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Joe Gettys Room

Our Books & Brown Bags group is reading *Life Together*, by famed theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In this 1939 masterpiece, the author recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany and shares advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups.

Even if you haven't been part of the discussions up to now, it's not too late to get a copy and join in this thought-provoking journey. Bring a snack supper to the Joe Gettys classroom, along with an open heart and inquiring mind.

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God
is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalms 73:26

Caring for Caregivers

Westminster's seven-part End of Life series continues on Thursday, November 21. The purpose of each program is to provide information and insight on a specific topic that addresses the unique needs of older adults, those who love and care for them, and those who will someday *be* older adults. Taking care with a few last things brings peace to this season of life for those going through it and those who care for them.

End of Life
TAKING CARE WITH A FEW LAST THINGS
A SEVEN PART SERIES

Caring for Caregivers is the November program. Representatives from the South Carolina Department on Aging will share their expertise on the special needs of caregivers, especially spouses and children. No matter how much you love for someone, being a primary caregiver can require 24/7/365 vigilance, massive amounts of patience, and often significant physical strength and endurance. Our experts offer perspective, tips for families working as a caregiver team, and especially techniques for avoiding and managing burnout.

You are encouraged to **share this invitation with your friends and family** who have similar interests. Feel free to attend as many or as few as meet your personal needs. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; sessions run from 5:30 to 7:30. Please note that dinner is *not* part of this event. Here are the dates and topics:

November 21: Caregiving: Spouses and Children

January 16: Where is God at the End of Life: Rev. Bob Todd

February 20: Walking Your Loved One Home: Dr. Nancy Hart Wicker, Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care of the Piedmont

March 20: Celebrating Life: Making Funeral Plans (*speaker to be determined*)

April 24: Good Grief (*speaker to be determined*)

What is All Saints Day?

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 claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (*Te Deum*). 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.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Hebrews 12:1a

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like

a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

Taken from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)

A Litany for Veterans

From pcusa.org

We pause to remember those who go to war in our name.

We give thanks for courage, for love of country, for those who work to bring peace to our world.

Remind us, O God, that the goal of any war need be justice and peace.

On this day, we pause to give thanks to God for veterans.

And seek to bind up the wounds of those who served.

Enable us to know how to comfort, how to bind up their wounds.

And remind us, Dear God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran all know the cost of war.

Challenge us to love the warrior, but hate the cost of war.

And we pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

And we give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain with us as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name. Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified. Remind us that war is a failure by us to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace.

We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures. May we truly be Your people and be makers of peace.

Amen!

The Rev. Tom Williams



Christ the King Sunday: Jesus Reigns Supreme!

Excerpted from pcusa.org

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. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme.

Christ's truth judges falsehood. **As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people.**

In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.



Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.

Taken from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 151)

A Prayer for Election Day

From The Book of Common Prayer PC(USA)

Under your law we live, great God, and
by your will we govern ourselves.

Help us as good citizens to respect
neighbors whose views differ from ours,

so that without partisan anger, we may
work out issues that divide us,

and elect candidates to serve the common
welfare; through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen!

**Remember to vote on
November 5**

Christ

himself gave

the apostles,

the prophets,

the evangelists, the pastors and

teachers, to equip His people

for works of service, so that the

Body of Christ may be

built up...



Ephesians 4:11-12



November 24th: Annual Special Offering in Support of the Thornwell Home for Children

For more than 145 years, Thornwell has met the call to care for and support children and families in need. Today, the same spirit that guided our Founder to create a home for orphans provides hope and healing for some of society's most vulnerable.

We believe in a world where everyone belongs to a thriving family, and this belief guides everything we do to heal and build up children and families.

Every dollar you donate to Thornwell goes toward fulfilling its mission: To prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and strengthen healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Westminster has a long history of supporting Thornwell, including participating in the annual Thanksgiving Offering. This year, we'll collect that special offering on Sunday, November 24. Make your checks payable to Westminster and note on the memo line that your gift is for the Thornwell Home for Children.

In 2018, Westminster donated over \$1,000 to support the essential work that Thornwell does. Let's see if we can't contribute even more this year, in recognition of the ever-growing challenges facing families and children.



Advent and Christmas are Just Around the Corner!

Greening of the Church

This year, the Greening of the Church will be incorporated into our worship on December 3, the first Sunday in Advent. You won't want to miss this meaningful celebration in anticipation of the coming Christ Child.



Before we do the greening, however, volunteers are needed on November 24th to position the materials in readiness for worship. We need a few strong backs and willing hands to hang wreaths and especially to set up the Christmon tree so it can be decorated by all God's children.

Purchasing Poinsettias



As we approach A dvent season, it's time once again for our traditional poinsettia display in honor or in memory of those whom we love and respect. You can place your order now by using the form in the narthex or order online from the Westminster website: wpcgnwd.org.

We are purchasing our plants this year through Piedmont Technical College. They provide their own home-grown plants, which are healthier and more beautiful than the grocery store options, and this also allows us to support our local college. The cost is \$20 per plant. Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 15th and may be picked up after Christmas Day.

Rainbow Fellowship Hosts Thanksgiving Feast



Not everyone can count on getting home for a cozy family feast on Thanksgiving Day. So the college students who make up our Rainbow Fellowship are stepping into the breach and hosting a Thanksgiving Day potluck dinner for participants, friends, and church family.

According to organizer Oliver Danner, “We’ll be eating at 4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Anyone who would be willing to bring a dish is ever so welcome to do so—they would be *much* appreciated!”

The Rainbow Fellowship serves those who are interested in learning about Christ and making friends. While LGBTQ+ individuals form the core of the group, all college-age young people are encouraged to connect with new friends on the first and third Thursdays of the month throughout the school year.

Getting into the Swing of Accessibility

Lander’s Call Me MISTER program and Council for Exceptional Children are raising money to purchase and install a wheelchair-accessible swing for West Cambridge Park. Their target is \$1,900.

Greenwood has few playground structures that can accommodate individuals who use wheelchairs. Adding this swing would allow



children with disabilities to share the joy of swinging with their peers, fostering camaraderie and belonging.

Oliver Danner is our WPC contact. You can donate to this worthwhile project by cash, check, or Venmo to Lander CEC.

Church Family Special Days

Prayers and best wishes prayers for our church family with birthdays in November:

- ❖ 1st – Mac Hubbard
- ❖ 3rd – Benjamin Watkins
- ❖ 11th – Rick Hobson
- ❖ 12th – Joyce Alexander
- ❖ 13th – Larry Duncan
- ❖ 17th – Nancy Hart Wicker
- ❖ 23rd – Holly Hubbard
- ❖ 26th – Mary Anne Wilson
- ❖ 28th – Nancy Dozier



And a special hug to John Bacot as we remember Mishie and the anniversary of their wedding.

Send your family’s special dates to the church office (wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Christ instructed His disciples to “meet me in the upper room” to share in fellowship and prayer. In today’s world, we can meet for the same purposes in the upper *Zoom*.

Each Monday morning, an updated prayer list is emailed, along with a Zoom link. At noon, you are urged to click the link and join the Westminster prayer circle. Prayers are offered for our family, our neighbors, and the larger world.



You’ll find no better way to start your week or nourish your soul on your lunch hour! Meet me in the upper Zoom Mondays at noon.



Red Letter Day: November 5th

Join us at Camp Fellowship for the 2024 Red Letter Day. This program is provided at no charge to cancer survivors, thanks to the generous support of donors.

What's a **Red Letter Day**?

A Red Letter Day is a day of significance or opportunity! It's a day to celebrate friendships and fellowship as we embrace healing and wholeness in community.

It's a day to engage in shared experiences in the outdoors (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!

This year's festivities are scheduled for Tuesday, November 16 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Make your reservation online at www.campfellowship.org.

Red Letter Days are a program of the Fellowship Camp and Conference Center offered to our local community in cooperation with Self Regional Health Care Cancer Center, the Cancer Support Community at Prisma Health-Greenville Memorial, YMCA of the Lakelands, along with friends, neighbors, and other local organizations.



Building the Body in 2025

Westminster is called by God to do incredibly significant work as the face, hands, and feet



of God's love in our corner of the earth. To do that work, we must continually attend to the health and well-being of the Body. So how will *you* help build the Body of Christ in 2025?

The needs of a thriving, effective Body of Christ parallel our human needs:

- † The *breath* of the Holy Spirit
- † The living *water* of Jesus
- † *Nourishment* from studying God's Word
- † *Exercise* faith by living God's Word
- † *Unity* with all the members of the Body

Now is the time for each of us to prayerfully consider how we will show our gratitude to God by helping build up Westminster as part of the Body of Christ.

God *always* provides for us, and one way that God provides is through *you*. Please prayerfully consider how you are being called to engage with God as a member of the Body of Christ in the coming year.

The size of your contribution doesn't matter; your willingness to commit yourself to God's mission for our church *does*.

Every prayer, every volunteer minute, every dollar helps us fulfill our call to be God's hands and feet, salt and light in the world. Thank you for being part of this church family—we cannot be a healthy and whole Body without you!

In the Spotlight: Elliot Gargus

Westminster is blessed to have a new friend in our midst. Please welcome Elliot Gargus to the family! Because Elliot is an ordained pastor, they cannot join the church as an official member; however, they have connected strongly with WPC and our mission. Elliot provided this thumbnail biography to help us get acquainted:



"I moved to Greenwood a year ago to be closer to my In-laws. I'm an ordained minister through the United Church of Christ and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Previously, I worked as a chaplain in a children's hospital. I am currently working on my Master's in Counseling, and I hope to work in the intersection of faith and mental health when I graduate. I live with my husband, Michael (*at left*), and two cats (*see page 18*). I'm so glad to be at Westminster!"

Elliot took time to answer to our five traditional getting-to-know-you questions:

- 1. What gives you joy?** Getting to hear the stories of others! Whether it's through my work or socially, I love to hear about people's lives, joys, and challenges.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** When I tell people I work in mental health and they respond with a joke about being "crazy" or "insane." Everyone can benefit from mental health care, and I hope people will view mental health with less stigma the more we talk about it.
- 3. What's your favorite piece of music?** This is a hard one! I think I would have to say the album *Blue* by Joni Mitchell.
- 4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** I love to sit with a cup of coffee and a book!
- 5. What's your favorite meal?** My favorite meal is a grilled cheese sandwich from Vintage Coffee Cafe in Greenville. It's so good!

An Attitude of Gratitude has Profound Mental Health Benefits

Part of a continuing series

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). So let your giving of thanks be a daily spiritual discipline, not just a one-day feast.



Building a Culture of Discipleship and Service

A series on Westminster's 2024 Area of Focus

As we seek to build a culture of discipleship and service throughout this year, our values shape both what we do and how we do it. This series explores each value in depth.



Core Value: Rationality

We believe in a mysterious, ultimately inexplicable God. We also recognize that this same God created us to have curiosity, to have the gift of rational thought, to have and use intellectual capabilities. Faith and reason are not incompatible—both are to be used in service to God.

At Westminster, we proudly count educators, scientists, medical professionals, and technologists among our family of faith. We rejoice in the ways that God is revealed to us through science and research, and in the ways that each answer simply shows us the next mystery in his unfolding will. In his first letter to the Corinthians (14:15-19), Paul pointed out the importance of engaging the mind in our Christian worship and work:

“What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the **mind** also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the **mind** also. Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say the ‘Amen’ to your thanksgiving, since the outsider does not know what you are saying? For you may give thanks well enough, but the other person is not built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my **mind**, in order to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.”

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 2024

	September Actual*	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$50,935	\$17,938	\$176,990	\$161,441
Total Expenses <i>(includes Major Capital Expenditures)</i>	\$24,908	\$21,495	\$178,478	\$193,457
Net Gain/Loss	\$26,027		-\$1,489	

*** Note that September Actual reflects income from prepaid annual pledges moved into the checking account.** Prepaid pledges are held in the investment account to earn interest until they are needed to cover Operating expenses. This transfer typically occurs in fourth quarter. It does not affect the “Rainy Day” funds still in the Investment account.

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

Let Us Pray...

"Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- John Bacot
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Chase Gear
- Lucia Horowitz
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Dashe & Aaron Hoang
- Claire Kuhl
- Tin Mossman
- Kim Purcell
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Ed Watkins
- Kathleen Watkins
- The Watkins Family
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- Our pastor & her family

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):

- The Boltons
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Frances Garrin (*Mary Anne*)
- Drenda Heydel (*Len*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Patricia Lytle (*Beth*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Cameron Murphy (*Sarah*)
- Richard Pinkney (*Len*)
- Meg Templin (*Mary Anne*)

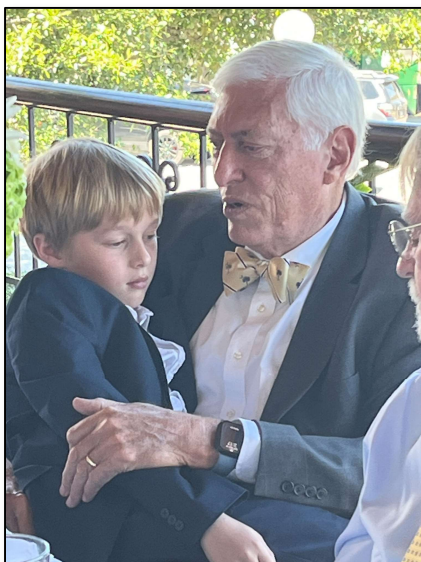
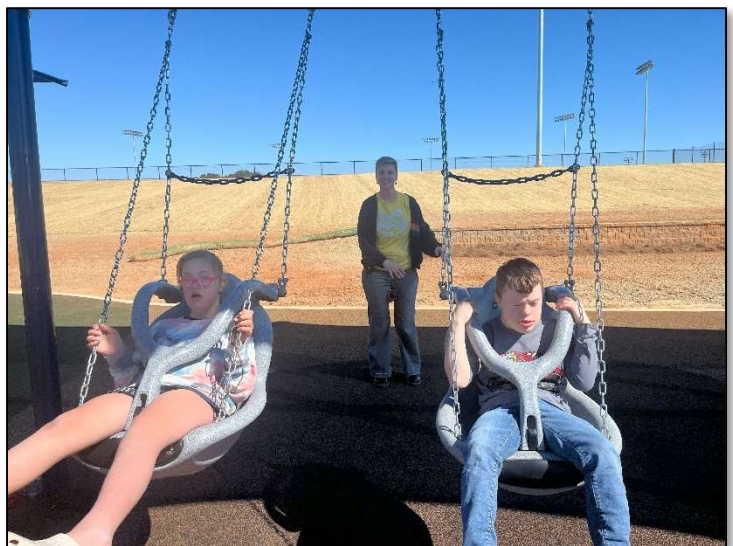


For the World

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

- For those who have been affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters
- For wisdom, peace, and goodwill during this election season
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, and elsewhere
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all who experience exclusion, or who struggle to meet basic needs
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world

And God Saw That It was Good

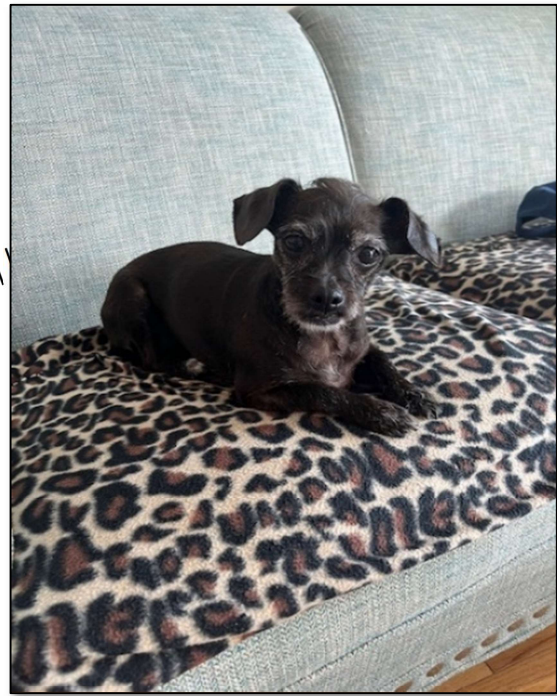


The Dennises with Irish Rector Nicolas Motterhead

Celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis...*a little late*



Aly and Tide Hammonds



Coco Wilson



Sammy↑ and
Blue→ Gargus



Bailey, Bella, and
Daisy Warner ↓



Donner and
Delilah Kuhl

St. Francis Friends, *continued*



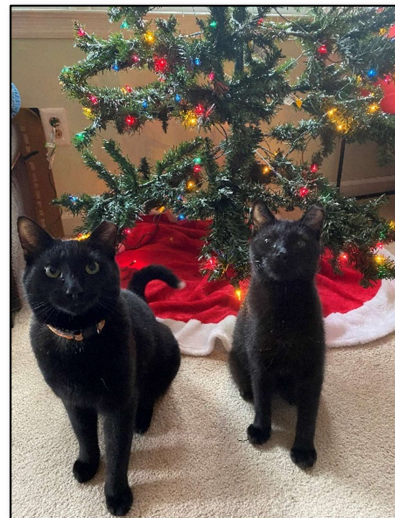
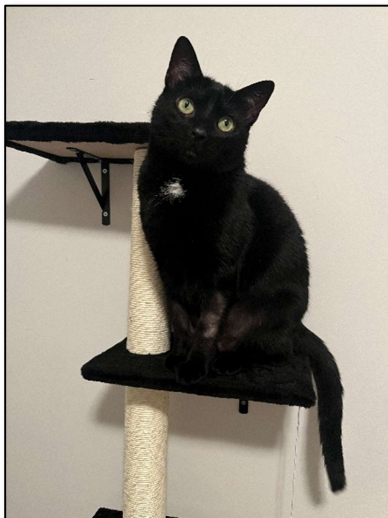
Curious Crazy Whiskers Wicker



Sunshine Parks, a.k.a. Cuddlebug



Carolina Wren and Cardinal—photos by Mitch Litwer



Binx, Harriet Jones, Crayola, and Shadow Woodrum

Yet More St. Francis Friends



Wrangler Warner



Caroline's Irish Bovine

In Memorium—Beloved Pets Over the Rainbow Bridge



Oscar Christie



Celeste Waldrep