

Easter People

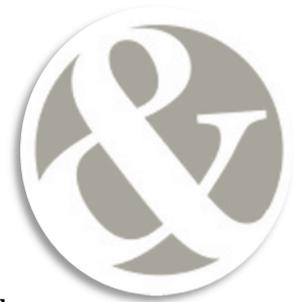


Hello, Church!

Several years ago, our middle daughter, Hannah, taught us a modern Mexican proverb: “They tried to bury us, but they did not know we were seeds.” Perhaps you have heard it. It is actually traced back to a poem by a 20th century Greek poet, Dinos Christianopoulos, who was protesting the suppression of his work by the Greek literary establishment. Christianopoulos’ words have

been adopted, especially by students in Mexico, and more recently by immigrants seeking asylum in the United States.

To me, these words capture the glorious truth of the resurrection of Christ that we look forward to celebrating on Easter morning. They tried to bury Christ. But they did not know he was a seed. That within him, there was everything needed for new life, new growth, new abundance, new creation.



This season of sheltering in place, an unexpected turn on our “road in between,” has felt for me a little like the planting of a seed that waits in the darkness for the coming spring, for the water and warmth that will call it forth.

As a church and as individual members of it, we are each of us and all of us, seeds. We are confident that we will emerge, when the time is right, into glorious new life. The life that is within us, through Jesus Christ, will not be suppressed.

May the living and enduring word of God be your strength and your hope, for we are an Easter people.

In Christ,
Caroline

“May the Lord keep watch between me and thee while we are apart, one from another.”

Genesis 31:49

What is Maundy Thursday?

Excerpted from pcusa.org

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days (or *Triduum*), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.



A New Commandment

Excerpted from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 113-116, 131-132)

The name is taken from the first words sung at the ceremony of the washing of the feet, "I give you a new commandment" (John 13:34); also from the commandment of Christ that we should imitate his loving humility in the washing of the feet (John 13:14-17). The term *mandatum* (maundy), therefore, was applied to the rite of the footwashing on this day.

The opening service of the Triduum is not inherently mournful. The penitential acts of Maundy Thursday have celebratory aspects as well: restoration through the bold declaration of pardon; the act of footwashing connoting humility and intimacy; the celebration of the Lord's Supper embodying the mystery of Christ's enduring redemptive presence. Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service.

Westminster's Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 9, 2020
6:30 P.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel

April Sermon Series

Holy Week and Beyond

Sermon topics and lectionary readings:

April 5: From Triumph to Tragedy *Palm Sunday*

- † Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- † Matthew 21:1-11
- † Matthew 26:14-27, 66

April 9: A New Commandment *Maundy Thursday*

- † Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10)
- † John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 12: He is Going Ahead of You *Easter!*

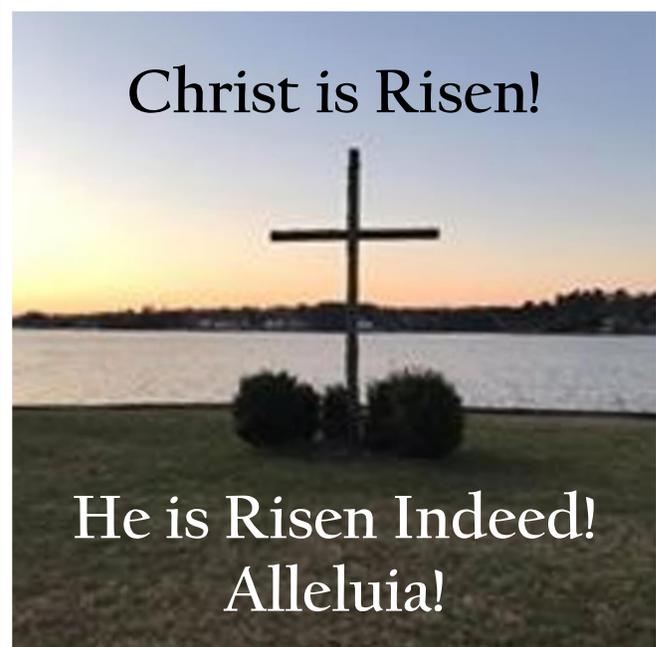
- † Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- † Matthew 28:1-10

April 19: When You Doubt It *First Sunday of Easter*

- † 1 Peter 1:3-9
- † John 20:19-31

April 26: Unseen Presence *Second Sunday of Easter*

- † 1 Peter 1:17-23
- † Luke 24:13-39



Westminster Happenings

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday
Apr 1 | Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children
6:00 P.M. via ZOOM
Stay connected, even if not in body—no foolin'! |
| Sunday
Apr 5 | Palm Sunday—From Triumph to Tragedy
10:00 A.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel
Come together in spirit to worship the omnipresent Lord. |
| Wednesday
Apr 8 | Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children
6:00 P.M. via ZOOM
Continue your faith journey with your church friends. |
| Thursday
Apr 9 | Maundy Thursday—A New Commandment
6:30 P.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel
Remember the Last Supper and Jesus's instructions to us. |
| Sunday
Apr 12 | Easter—He is Going Ahead of You
10:00 A.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel
Celebrate the risen Lord with praise and prayers, wherever you are! |
| Wednesday
Apr 15 | Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children
6:30 P.M. via ZOOM
Enjoy [virtual] fellowship and faith development with friends. |
| Sunday
Apr 19 | When You Doubt It
10:00 A.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel
Come into his presence with praise—know that the Lord is good. |
| Wednesday
Apr 22 | Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children
6:30 P.M. via ZOOM
Explore God's plan for you and your life. |
| Sunday
Apr 26 | Unseen Presence
10:00 A.M. via the WPC YouTube Channel
Worship the Lord and find his peace in these unsettling times. |
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What does the future hold? Only God Knows!

As this newsletter is being written, it looks like the need to “maintain social distance” and “shelter in place” will continue into May, or even beyond. Your Session and Pastor are prayerfully making the best decisions they can with the information available. *Your* prayers for wisdom and discernment are deeply important, as we strive to understand God's path and plan for us. Thank you for your support and flexibility!



Member Spotlight: Kathy Gillespie

This month, our spotlight shines on new Elder Kathy Gillespie. She has taken on a huge job, serving as chair of the Nurture & Christian Education Committee. She has jumped right in and is courageously building our N&CE capacity. For example, the Nursery Team is now prepared to cover both Sunday Study and worship hours, and wheels are in motion to have both adult *and* youth studies going, once we all complete our Confirmation 2.0 journey.



Kathy took a few minutes to answer our silly...I, mean our *essential*... questions. And she also shared a brief biography of her life and adventures.

- 1. What gives you joy?** Spending with my family and spending time alone. I need a balance of these.
 - 2. What drives you crazy?** My own procrastination.
 - 3. What's your favorite piece of music?** "Rhapsody in Blue," by George Gershwin, and Paul McCartney's "Oh! Darling."
 - 4. What's your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** Read or create art or cook.
 - 5. What's your favorite meal?** Seafood, especially Louisiana style "barbeque."
 - 6. How long have you been a member of Westminster?** 25 years.
 - 7. What makes Westminster special to you?** In all its incarnations, WPC has felt like family to me. When the church was larger, the church was the "village" that helped raise my children; since we re-formed, it is a very close-knit family, always there for each other.
- Bonus Question. What do you miss most while "sheltering in place"?** Working out at the Y.



Kathy's Brief Bio

I grew up on a farm in north Mississippi, near New Albany. Our family was Methodist. After attending Northeast Mississippi Junior College, I earned a BFA in Art Education from Mississippi University for Women, and an M.A. in Art Education from the University of Mississippi ("Ole Miss"). I taught art for 41 years, in Arkansas and Louisiana, before moving to South Carolina in 1981. I taught art in Greenwood District 50 for 36 years. I also worked as an adjunct instructor for Lander for a few semesters. Since I retired in 2017, I have had time to become more involved in my church and my community. I volunteer in the Infusion Center at Self Regional's Cancer Center.

I met Arthur in a bookstore in 1986. We married in 1988. Anna was born in 1990 and Nathan in 1995. They both graduated from Greenwood High School and the College of Charleston. Anna married Eric Schneider at WPC in 2012. After teaching high school physics for five years, Anna is a graduate research assistant and a PhD candidate in Science Education at University of Georgia in Athens. Nathan is married to Kayla Sanders. He is in his last year of law school at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Making a Difference Right Here: PW Turns the Tables

Submitted by Louise Taber

Thanks to the Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men who so graciously supported the Tablecloth Project, we were able to purchase new elastic tablecloths for Westminster's Fellowship Hall. Hopefully, we can be together soon for a meal so everyone can see how great the cloths are. Many kudos to Theresa Jacobs, who did such an outstanding job researching and taking care of this project.

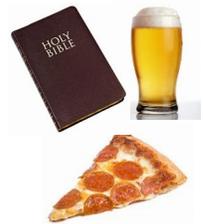


April and May circle meetings are in limbo at this time. The guidelines for Coronavirus will govern when and if Circle can gather in person. So until then, wash your hands often, practice social distancing, and be safe!

DIY BB&P

Submitted by Bill Jacobs

Gatherings for Bible, Beer, & Pizza are officially delayed until further notice. In the meantime, all Presbyterian Men are encouraged to send up a prayer every time you pop a top or scarf a slice. Here are some suggestions for folks to lift up to the Lord:



- Each of the men in our church family
- Our youth group members
- Those who are incarcerated
- First responders and medical personnel
- PC(USA) missionaries
- Government leaders and decision-makers around the world

A Great Excuse to Party!!

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



- ❖ 4th - Mary Corley
- ❖ 11th - Margaret Funke
- ❖ 18th - Lynn Bornemann
- ❖ 21st - Phillip Dennis
- ❖ 25th - Callie Rose Watkins
- ❖ 27th - Claire Kuhl

Congratulations are also in order for this amazing couple celebrating their wedding anniversary:

- ❖ Richard & Mary Anne Wilson

If you haven't already done so, please send your family's special dates to Lee Haskins at the church office (wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.

WPC Work Day Successful Despite Covid-19 Challenges

Submitted by David Hammond

WPC had a successful work day on March 21st. Bushes and hedges were trimmed, the fountain courtyard weeded and spruced up, and 30 bales of pine straw spread—all while maintaining a safe social distance. Much thanks to all who participated!

Your Stewardship is Essential



Although it may *seem* like the whole world has ground to a halt, many things roll along unchanged at WPC...like paying the Duke Power bill and meeting payroll for our hard-working staff.

Westminster is blessed to have many faithful givers! Please remember to mail in your check for His tithes and your offerings:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2330 Cokesbury Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Greenwood Place April Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director



Because our Members are in a high-risk group, Greenwood Place has elected to pause operations until April 1st. At that time, we will evaluate what is happening in our community to determine future actions. Greenwood Place has developed a communication plan so that we will be able to maintain communication with our member population.

While we do not have a physical presence at the Clubhouse right now, there is still a lot going on at Greenwood Place. We are taking this opportunity to work on our accreditation plan for Clubhouse International. We are working with Gateway House in Greenville and with Clubhouse International to prepare ourselves for this accrediting process.

Greenwood Place has also been working with the State of South Carolina to be included in its 2020-2021 state budget. We have received positive feedback on this process and we are looking to be able to receive funding this year. In addition to seeking funding from the State of South Carolina, Greenwood Place is also looking to obtain approval from the Department of Human Services to be allowed to receive Medicaid reimbursement for the services we provide. Greenwood Place met with DHS in February, and we are waiting on them to lift the moratorium on service providers. They indicated that this is something they are working on now.

Greenwood Place is now celebrating its newest Member—Sibyl had a baby boy the first of March. They are doing well.

On another note, because Greenwood Place suspended its onsite activities for April, we had some supplies and food that could be used by other non-profits. Greenwood Place was able to provide some food to Pathway House for their clients.

Please keep Greenwood Place and its Members in your thoughts and prayers and we go through this difficult time.

Greenwood Place Hosts First-Ever Fundraiser

Assuming the community health situation permits, Greenwood Place is planning a Spaghetti Dinner to raise much-needed financial support for clubhouse programs and operations. Advance tickets are available. And if you are interested in being a sponsor for the event, contact Fred Murphy at: fm.greenwoodplace2016@gmail.com.



- ❖ **Date:** Thursday April 23rd
- ❖ **Location:** Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
- ❖ **Dine in or take out**
- ❖ **Cost:** \$10.00 per plate (cash or check – no credit or debit card)
- ❖ **Time:** 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Camp Fellowship to the Rescue!

Imagine being part of a youth choir touring for months in a strange country and suddenly everything shuts down because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where can you go? What can you do?!



If you happen to be in Laurens, SC when the world goes wonky, you just might be rescued by the, compassionate, capable team at

Camp Fellowship. And this is exactly what happened to The Imani Milele Choir, made up of 21 children plus their support team of 16 adults.

According to WPC Elder and Camp Fellowship Associate Director Emily Kienker, it's delightful to have the choir group on site, but tough to maintain social distancing. "We'd love to give each kid a hug every time we see one. They have their own teachers with them for lessons, they sing, and they especially love to play outside. We are just so happy to have them here—safe, busy, and happy."



Naturally, this rescue operation has significant financial costs (about \$6,000 *per day*), and is coming just at a time when all normal camp revenue streams have dried up because of the pandemic.

To learn more about Camp Fellowship and especially to make a donation, visit the camp's website: campfellowship.org.

Now More
Than Ever:



One Great Hour of Sharing Deserves Your Support

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, received during Lent, has a 74-year history as an ecumenical endeavor that now involves nine denominations and Church World Service. Founded in 1946 by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, a goal was set to raise one million dollars in one hour for World Relief. Presbyterians have been involved since 1947.

Over time, many aspects of the offering and its participants have changed, but the purpose remains the same: to collect special gifts for those in need around the globe.

Allocations within our denomination have also changed over the years, but the 202nd General Assembly (1990) voted to accept the current structure:

- 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- 32% to Self-Development of People
- 36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program

Westminster also has a long history of supporting this special offering, and this year is no exception! Even though we aren't physically "passing the plate" down the pew, the Missions & Outreach Committee is passing the challenge into your hands!

First, visit the PC(USA) website to see the amazing impact the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering had in 2019 (<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>).

Second, please mail your One Great Hour of Sharing offering to the church office. If you are sending a check, please make it out to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write "One Great Hour" on the memo line. No fancy special offerings envelope required! Thanks for your continued generosity.



Expect Drama at First Presbyterian's April Luncheon

At the time of this writing, a firm decision has not yet been made about whether or not the events mentioned here will be held. Please stay tuned for updates.

On April 21, 2020 Stephen Gilbert, Executive Director of the Greenwood Community Theater, will talk to us about the Penguin Project and their production of *The Lion King*. The Penguin Project gives children with special needs an opportunity to participate in the performing arts. This is a valuable experience for them. It gives the participants an opportunity to display their creative talents and have an enjoyable experience.

The *Lion King* will be performed at the Greenwood Community Theater April 23-26, 2020. This is another way our community helps children with special needs. Be sure to put the dates of aGAPe April meeting and the performances of *The Lion King* on your calendar and make a reservation.

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

Be sure to save these dates and keep your fingers crossed that we'll be able to gather in person by then! For reservations, call Melvyn Davis (864.229.9282).

Part of a series on mental health issues

Coronavirus: Mental Health Awareness

Adapted from <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/March-2020/Coronavirus-Mental-Health-Coping-Strategies>

The coronavirus can significantly affect mental health for everyone, but especially for those with mental illness. Both the anxiety of contracting the disease as well as the increase in loneliness and isolation can worsen and trigger symptoms. Acknowledging, recognizing and acting on mental distress in these uncertain times is key to lessening the impact.



What Are The Mental Health Implications?

A working knowledge of different mental health implications can help us understand and address the mental health risks of this global health pandemic. Here is a brief list of potential symptoms to watch out for:

- Anxiety—extreme fear of possible physical, economic, and mental impacts
- Obsessions—unwanted, obtrusive fixation on the disease and on avoiding it
- Loneliness—depression linked to lack of positive interactions with others
- Traumatic Stress—continued problems caused by stress of being quarantined for an extended period

To learn more about issues related to mental health, visit the website of the National Alliance on Mental Illness: nami.org.

Being Social Across the Distance



Out of respect for each other and for the health and safety of our entire community, Westminster and most other organizations, aren't gathering in person. But that doesn't mean that we are no longer *connected* and *connecting* using technology old and new. Here are some links and ideas. Please send your additional ideas to the church office: wpcgwd1@gmail.com. And of course, "pray without ceasing" for each other and the world.

Church Activities and Family

- **Westminster Church Directory**
You can't beat a telephone call or a personal note for keeping in touch!
- **Email Epistles**
Check your electronic inbox for timely information and uplifting thoughts from your Pastor and church family.
- **WPC Facebook Group**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/592075471372757/>
- **Westminster Website**
[currently being refreshed]
<https://www.wpcgnwd.org/>
Note: a link to our virtual worship service will be posted here weekly
- **March 22 Worship Service**
<https://youtu.be/7efLVAtxCbI>

Reliable Pandemic-Related Resources

- **Center for Disease Control Website**
<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>
- **SC Department of Health & Environmental Control**
<https://www.scdhec.gov/>
- **National Alliance on Mental Health**
<https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/March-2020/Coronavirus-Mental-Health-Coping-Strategies>
Good information for all of us—the pandemic can have profound impact on anyone's mental health

Let Us Pray...

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

“...be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18



For Those in Our Church

We lift our prayers for those struggling with their health, including especially:

- Kathy Felder
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Fred Taber
- Lee Haskin’s sisters

We pray for those who are caring for friends and family.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially Faye Tillotson, whose brother Hoyt died last week.

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Quest: Youth
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Camp Fellowship
- Greenwood Food Pantry
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Charles Alexander
- Sissy Brockenbrough
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Ronnie Case
- Clara Costello
- Debbie Dill
- Kiersty Duncan
- Charlotte Gero
- Betty Gossam
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Di Litwer
- Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Margaret Rada
- Terrance Reece
- Howard Thomas
- Jack Waldrup
- Ed Watkins
- Frank & Karen Whitt
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis
- Greenwood HS Theatre
- Emerald HS Band



For the World

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

- For all those everywhere affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- For those seeking work
- For those living with mental illness
- For the Gartrell family, our mission partners in Brazil

Cancelled: April 4th Highway Cleanup

After receiving wise guidance from medical professional René Wilson and our microbiologist-in-residence, Steve Kuhl, the Missions & Outreach Committee voted to postpone the highway cleanup and lunch that were scheduled for the Saturday before Palm Sunday. While social distancing would probably be doable, concerns remained about the health implications of coming in contact with potentially contaminated litter. A new date will be announced when this activity is once again deemed to be safe.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**You shall be called
repairers of the breach**

— ISAIAH 58



Westminster is collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering throughout Lent and Easter Sunday. When you mail in your offering, be sure to note that it is for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian.

Save a Live—Give Blood

The U.S. surgeon general is urging healthy Americans to give blood as agencies warn of a possible shortage due to canceled blood drives and collections as the novel corona virus continues to spread throughout the U.S. The Red Cross has estimated that thousands of blood drive cancellations have resulted in more than 150,000 fewer donations.



“Blood centers are open now and in need of your donation,” Surgeon General Jerome Adams said in a press conference at the White House on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Adams said that blood donations are “safe,” and that collection centers are taking extra precautions based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including placing donation beds 6 feet apart, and encouraging donors to schedule their appointments ahead of time.

The Blood Connection
341 Old Abbeville Highway
Greenwood, SC 29649
864.227.8333

Blood donations in Greenwood County are handled by The Blood Connection. In a recent telephone conversation, TBC staff confirmed that they are open and operating, and following all of the safety precautions specified by the Surgeon General and other State and Federal agencies, including those noted above.

Not surprisingly, hours of operation are a little irregular during this crisis, so donors are urged to go online (thebloodconnection.org) or call (864.227.8333) to make an appointment. You can even download an app that allows you to handle all the “paperwork” electronically, thereby eliminating another point of hands-on contact.

“Social distancing doesn’t mean social disengagement,” Adams said. “So give blood today, you’ll feel good about it.”

And God Saw That It Was Good



Boston College volunteers made a big difference for Greenwood's Habitat for Humanity efforts



Rush HVAC team + Business Affairs team = comfy sanctuary



We bid a fond adieu to Larry Dozier's organ-playing shoes, after a mere 3 or 4 decades of making beautiful music!



Office manager Lee Haskins with her husband (l) and pastor (r) was ordained by Faith Community Church as a Certified Pastoral Counselor.



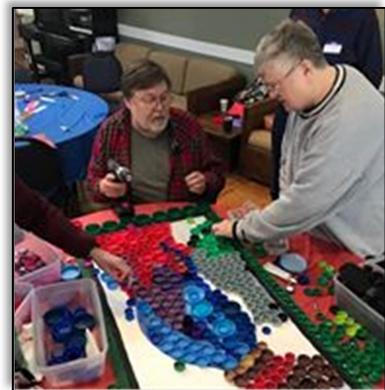
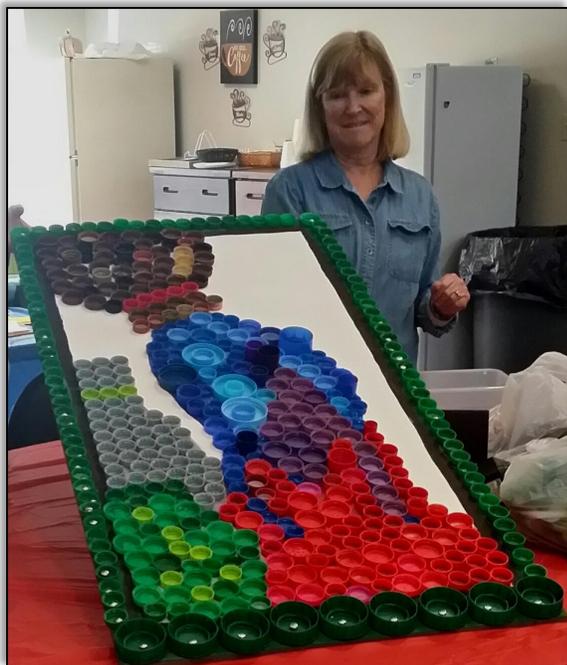
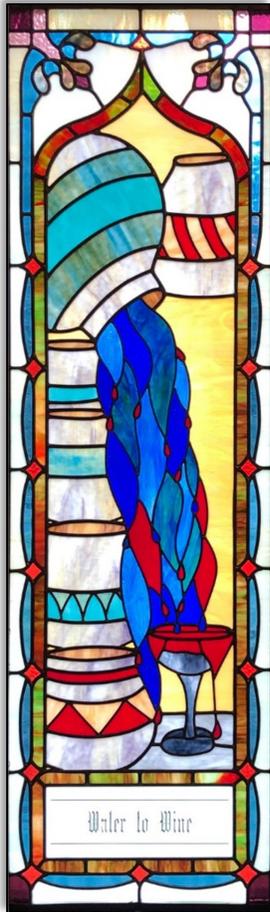
Our planning wall—"Man proposes, God disposes!"



Wendy, Caroline, and Claire at Communications Seminar

From Water to Wine and the Road In Between

*The first annual Westminster All-Church Retreat
February 28-29, 2020 at Camp Fellowship*



Flora displays the bottle-cap mosaic designed by Kathy Gillespie, based on Caroline's stained glass inspiration

