

## *Table Grace*

Dear Westminster@Home,

He had been assigned to second lunch. *None* of his friends had second lunch. They were all in first lunch. He looked around. It seemed that only seventh graders were in second lunch, so he, an eighth grader, sat by himself.



But, they noticed him. Sitting by himself. They pointed at him and whispered among themselves. He tried not to notice them, noticing him.

The color was rising to his cheeks as they rose from their seats and came toward him. They surrounded him. They surrounded him with their laughter, and their smiles, and their friendship until... until all the seats and all the hearts were full.

*<sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."*

*<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.*



*Matthew 14:14-20*

At my table growing up, we often said this grace:

"Bless, O Lord, this food to our use, and us to your service. And make us ever mindful of the needs of others, for Christ's sake. Amen."

Where, I wonder, did these children learn to live it?

Your pastor and friend,

*Caroline*

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## July Sermon Series: Growing in Faith

During this month, we continue our journey with Jesus and his disciples in the gospel of Matthew. These are ordinary days, work days, travel days, school days, and yet each day offers extraordinary learning opportunities to discover who Jesus is, and to grow in faith. How are you growing in faith during these ordinary/extraordinary days?

We continue to remember the songs of our hearts, as we “sing” old favorites during the month of August.

**Please note:** On Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a Pulpit Exchange Sunday with First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood. Caroline will be preaching at First Presbyterian for their Presbyterian Women Sunday. We welcome First’s Parish Associate and our beloved friend, the Reverend Doctor Brad Christie, back to our pulpit.

*Sermon topics and lectionary readings:*

### **August 2: Eating Together**

† Matthew 14:13-21

*A song in our heart:*

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

### **August 9: Weathering the Storm Together**

† Matthew 14:22-33

*A song in our heart:*

“Amazing Grace”

### **August 16: Pushing the Boundaries**

† Matthew 15:21-28

*A song in our heart:*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

### **August 23: Pulpit Exchange with FPCG**

*See note at left*

### **August 30: Two Ways to Learn**

† Matthew 16:13-28

*A song in our heart:*

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”

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## Wednesday Night Study: Facing Racism

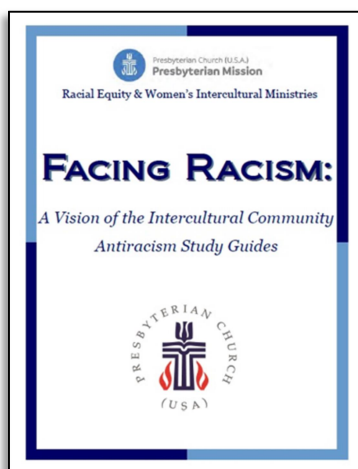
On July 29<sup>th</sup>, our weekly study group (now on Wednesdays rather than Sundays) will begin using a new curriculum provided by PC(USA)’s Mission on Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries. The study is titled “Facing Racism.” We are honored to pursue this as a joint study with our sister church, New Faith.

This is certainly a timely topic, in light of recent events on the national and international stage. And it ties directly to one of the three focal areas of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Vision: “**Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break

down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.” During this study, we will explore:

- Week 1: The Biblical Imperative to Antiracism
- Week 2: Envisioning a New Way of Life Together
- Week 3: PC(USA) and Racial Reconciliation
- Week 4: Racism 101
- Week 5: The Enduring Legacy of Racism in the US

You are encouraged to add your voice to the conversation every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom. Materials are available on our website for you to download.



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## Westminster Happenings

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday<br/>July 29</b>   | <b>Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism</b><br>Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.<br>Kick off a new offering from Nurture & Christian Education ( <i>see page 2</i> ).  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 2</b>     | <b><i>Eating Together</i></b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.<br>Be nourished by God's word through worship.  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>August 5</b>  | <b>Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism</b><br>Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 9</b>     | <b><i>Weathering the Storm Together</i></b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.<br>Listen for God's voice as you navigate through life's storms.<br><b>Stated Session Meeting</b><br>4:00 P.M. via Zoom<br>Conduct the business of the church in the context of unfolding events. |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>August 12</b> | <b>Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism</b><br>Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 16</b>    | <b><i>Pushing the Boundaries</i></b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.<br>Know that God loves you...whoever you are, whatever your background.  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>August 19</b> | <b>Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism</b><br>Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 23</b>    | <b><i>Sunday Worship: Pulpit Swap with First Presbyterian</i></b><br>Caroline at First Presbyterian; Brad Christie with Westminster<br>Look for details on page 2.  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>August 26</b> | <b>Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism</b><br>Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 30</b>    | <b><i>Two Ways to Learn: Getting It Right and Getting It Wrong</i></b><br>Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.<br>Ask God for wisdom and listen carefully for His teaching.   |

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## PW Welcomes New Leaders

Westminster's Presbyterian Women report with sadness that Louise Taber has decided to step down as chair. She has been a true source of energy and engagement for the group—thank you, Louise, for sharing your gifts!

Fortunately, two able new leaders are stepping up as co-chairs: Mary Anne Wilson and Cindy Key. Here's a message from Mary Anne:

I hope all of you are able to find some rays of sunshine during these unusual times! I have all of you in my prayers and look forward to being your circle chair, along with Cindy Key as co-chair, on two possible conflict dates I may have.

Keep in mind that our plans for this fall will, at least for the present time, be somewhat fluid. Some information and tentative plans for your consideration and input (please!).

1. Circle will meet on the second Monday morning of each month, whatever the format.
2. Workbooks have been ordered, and I will deliver them to you.
3. After looking over the book, which month will you do the lesson?
4. Could we consider a service project for our meetings? Be thinking of some needs.
5. Would you prefer light snacks or going out for lunch when that becomes an option? (I am sure our wonderful Session will continue to monitor the situation and advise us.)



Please send me your answers by email, text, or call (*or I will sign you up to do all the lessons...ha ha?!*)

Look for an email form next month (*who can do a spread sheet??? Help!*) in the way of a sign-up sheet for our lessons. Thanks!

Mary Anne Wilson  
[matwilson4@gmail.com](mailto:matwilson4@gmail.com)  
223-8089  
992-7599

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## Congratulations on Your Big Day!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for our member enjoying his August birthday:

- ❖ 23<sup>rd</sup> – John Bacot

Congratulations are also in order for these amazing couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in August:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ❖ 3 <sup>rd</sup> – David & Beth Hammond   | ❖ 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Larry & Licia Duncan  |
| ❖ 6 <sup>th</sup> – Steve & Claire Kuhl    | ❖ 24 <sup>th</sup> – Joseph & Cindy Key    |
| ❖ 16 <sup>th</sup> – Bill & Theresa Jacobs | ❖ 30 <sup>th</sup> – Marvin & Ginny Cartee |



*Send your family's special dates to [wpcgwd1@gmail.com](mailto:wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.*

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# Becoming a Matthew 25 Church: Congregational Vitality

PC(USA) is building a denomination-wide initiative for a network of committed Matthew 25 Churches. The denomination's aim is to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace three focus areas. This article is part of a series to help educate us about this opportunity, so that we discern God's will for Westminster.



One of the three focus areas for PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision is **building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith, and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world. To help churches assess this, PC(USA) defines "7 Marks of Congregational Vitality." The language of the labels may seem foreign, but the heart of each mark is familiar:

- **Lifelong Discipleship Formation:** always growing in Christ and shaping Christ-like thinking and behaviors by providing training, resources, and models for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines for the purpose of living the way Jesus desires.
- **Intentional Authentic Evangelism:** Placing a high priority on reaching out to neighbors and those living in the neighborhoods and communities in the proximity of the church, inviting them to worship services and communicating the life-transforming truth of Jesus as commanded, not just acts of kindness.
- **Outward Incarnational Focus:** Placing high priority on serving the needs of people outside the walls of the church as Jesus, in the flesh, served outside the Temple in order to enhance the quality of the people's lives; not just mission across the seas, but also mission across the streets.

Challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith, and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world

- **Empowering Servant Leadership:** Following leadership practices in which the main goal of the leader is to serve by putting the needs of the people first; identifying and developing individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership; and challenging them to become servant-leaders, for the purpose of building a stronger, Christ-focused church, comprising prayerful leaders who are deployed for the transformation of the world.
- **Spirit-Inspired Worship:** Gathering regularly as the local expression of the body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul, and strength of the people; creating weekly worship experiences that lead worshipers into an intimate and divine encounter with the Triune God that results in them leaving the service not simply feeling good, but feeling that they have been in the presence of God.

*Continued on page 6*

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## Congregational Vitality, *continued*

- **Caring Relationships:** Building intentional, loving, caring relationships within families, between and among members, and within the community they serve; exhibiting a genuine, empathetic feeling and concern toward others; authentic interactions designed to connect the spirit of Christ to one another that creates a trusting relationship that allows for sharing stories and asking for help, if needed; ability to confront any conflict, work toward building consensus, and seek reconciliation by embracing diverse views.
- **Ecclesial Health:** Seeking the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for its daily life and ministry; teaches its members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenges them to sacrificial generosity in sharing with others; uses appropriate facilities, equipment, and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of its ministries; encourages believers to grow in their walk with God and with one another in the context of a non-toxic, safe, and affirming environment.



MATTHEW 25

*From the Office of Vital Congregations, Trinity Presbytery (All Rights Reserved)  
Dr. Phyllis W. Sanders, Vital Congregations Coordinator*

To learn more about becoming a Matthew 25 church, visit:  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>.

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## Greenwood Place Happenings

*Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director*

Greenwood Place successfully reopened to its Members on July 6<sup>th</sup>. As noted last month, this reopening follows a detailed plan that was established to provide our Members, and Westminster Presbyterian, with the safest environment possible for our Members and our work-ordered day. We are adapting to these new procedures and making adjustments as needed going forward. We have found that some of our Members have elected to not return to the Clubhouse due to the concern for the virus and their health. We understand this, and support their decision. As we were doing prior reopening, we continue to reach out to them on an ongoing basis. Based on responses from our Members, they are very happy to have Greenwood Place back open and available to them, even if it is on a limited basis.



GREENWOOD PLACE

Here is a short update on our ongoing funding request:

Senator Floyd Nicholson is working with Greenwood Place to have a budgeted line item in the amount of \$100,000 placed into the 2020-2021 State of SC Department of Mental Health Budget. At this time, we will need to wait until the budget for 2020-2021 is passed. It is my understanding that a final budget will not be passed until September. There is the possibility that there will not be funding available for Greenwood Place as the Department of Mental Health, like most State Agencies, experienced a significant decline in revenue.

Greenwood Place is attempting to work with Self Regional Healthcare on a grant for this year. Self Regional Healthcare has been very generous in providing support to Greenwood Place, but again we are waiting to see if they will be able to continue this support.

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## Who Can? You Can!

The can-do team of Beth & David Hammond has made our One Can ministry a priority. Every other Saturday, they are available at the church from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. to collect your donations of non-perishable food and transport them to the Greenwood Food Bank.

Feel free to drop by while they are there for a socially distanced chat, and to put your goodies in their car. Or stop by the church any day during office hours (M-Th 9:00 A.M. to noon) to deposit your donations in the box near the entryway.

Not sure what to bring? Click here to find out: <https://foodbankgreenwood.org/greatest-food-needs/>



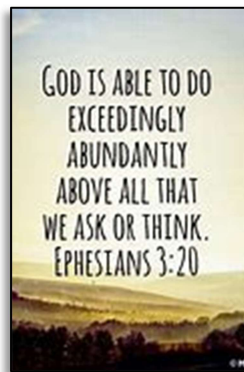
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## God Provides *Abundantly!*

Paul reminds us that our God provides for us abundantly, *always!* Being so richly blessed, we are called to share with those in need directly (see above). We are also called to support our church, which is also a source of help and hope for us and for many in the community.

Please send your offerings to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2330 Cokesbury Road  
Greenwood, SC 29649



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## Special Lady, Special Prayer

*Lynn Bornemann shared this powerful guidance about how to pray when we or those we love face chemotherapy treatments.*

One of my closest friends, Doris, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Her husband, Jimmy, is a band director. One of his students shared this prayer with Doris, and is praying it for her—as are many others. Doris is on very strong meds and has almost no side effects. Praises to God!!! I want to share this in case it might be of help and comfort.

**Step 1: Thank God for the medications/treatment. Your prayer of thanksgiving causes the medication to be sanctified, set apart, unto God.**

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” *1 Timothy 4:4-5*

**Step 2: Take authority over the medication and command it to do only good and do you no harm.**

“They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” *Mark 16:18*

**Step 3: Take authority over your body and command it to accept the good from the medication and reject the bad.**

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His Purpose.” *Romans 8:28*

**Step 4: ‘Thank God for working through the meds, so that at some point the meds will no longer be needed.**

”So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” *II Corinthians 4:18*

Around Westminster, Steve is generally known for his infectious laugh, his booming “Old Testament God” scripture readings, and his passion for science. We caught him sheltering in place while monitoring COVID-19 developments. He paused long enough to answer our traditional questions, and to share a bit of his life story and faith journey.

**2. What drives you crazy?** Hypocritical people.

**4. What's your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** Watching Indycar and NASCAR racing, and fishing when I get the chance (see above).

**5. What's your favorite meal?** Rock Cornish game hen, followed by pumpkin pie, chocolate mousse, or strawberry shortcake!

Although I grew up in a loving home with two wonderful parents, we were not faithful churchgoers. My grandparents were so rigid in their teachings (Lutheran and Catholic) that my parents lapsed once they were independent. So only on special occasions, such as Easter, would we attend church as a family. Growing up in Indianapolis, I attended Sunday school with some neighbors who had children my age. To be honest, I was not taken with the teachings of the Southern Baptists, so I stopped going.

Throughout my education, as a Biology major, I was constantly confronted with the tension between science and religion that too many people in *both* camps perceive. For example, as a Ph.D. microbiologist, conflict about the theory of evolution was a continuing problem when I taught Introductory Biology at major universities around the country. Inevitably, some students would object to this requiring their disapproval, making this unit a challenge. For me, creating mechanisms God uses to accomplish it!



*Steve loves all kinds of fishing! Here he is with an impressive catch he landed on an ocean pier in Florida.*



As a retired pathogenic microbiologist, Steve advises the Session regarding the pandemic. "Masks are vital," he stresses.

*Continued on page 9*

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## Steve's Faith Journey, *continued*

When I married Claire right after getting my doctorate, I began to have greater exposure to religion. I attended church with her occasionally, and with her parents when we visited them, but still not regularly. This began to change while we lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, when life circumstances conspired to lead us to a tiny Nazarene church, led by an interim pastor who also had a science background.



The faith journey that started there continued to grow when we moved to Greenwood and attended the Nazarene church. Then we visited Westminster, at Richard Whiting's invitation, and learned "How to Spell Presbyterian" when Bill Jacobs taught an Inquirers' class. Here for the first time, I found a faith that was compatible with my scientific beliefs, and a pastor and congregation who were extremely friendly and welcoming. As a result, I was baptized in 2005, and Claire and I have been members here ever since. I am also blessed to have had business partners who have a strong faith, and were committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards during the life of our alternative energy business.

While I've been a member of this congregation, God has continually challenging me to become more involved in activities. These have included narrating the cantata, caroling with the youth at Christmas time, and at one time, coordinating the Hodges Good News Club. Recently, I have also become a member of the Nurture & Education Committee and the Tech Team. I am sure that in the future, other activities will be thrust onto me, since my journey is a relatively recent one.

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*Part of a series on mental health issues*

## To Build Resilience in Isolation, Master the Art of Time Travel

*Based on an article by Adam Grant*

Astronaut Scott Kelly knows something about isolation—he set the American record for endurance living on the International Space Station (ISS). At the time he traveled to the ISS, he faced considerable uncertainty: he wasn't sure exactly when his mission would end, and he didn't know exactly how he would get through it.



In an interview with author Adam Grant, Kelly shared a few of the techniques he used to maintain his mental health while in space. Once favorite way to refresh himself was time travel—to the past and to the future.

Memories of good times are just pure fun to relive. Memories of bad times are a reminder of what you have survived and learned from in your life thus far. Travel to the future is also vital. During this pandemic, you can build hope and resilience by envisioning how you want to feel on the day it's over. Psychologists find that looking to the future shifts our attention from the mundane "how" of our lives to the meaningful "why." So let your memory and imagination help you manage the inevitable bouts of anxiety and frustration of today.

**If you are feeling isolated, know first and foremost that your church family *cares* and is just a phone call, text, email, or smoke-signal away. Let us hear from you!**

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## Let Us Pray...



### **For Those in Our Church**

*We lift our prayers for those dealing with health and other issues, including especially these friends, families, and caregivers:*

*"Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will hear you."*

*Jeremiah 29:12*

- John Bacot
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Larry Duncan
- Arthur Gillespie
- Kathy Gillespie's sister, Betty
- Nathan Gillespie
- Laine Horowitz
- Emily Kienker
- René Wilson
- Charles Wendell Green, Tracy Rainey's brother, and his wife, Jane Green

*We pray daily for our prayer partners and the special concerns on their heart.*

*We pray always for our friends at our sister churches, New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and many others.*

*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
- TK Alexander
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Ronnie Case
- Clara Costello
- Scott Crandall
- Debbie Dill
- Kiersty Duncan
- Alberta Eichelberg
- Charlotte Gero
- Betty Gossam
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jo Heron
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Di Litwer
- Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Chris Murphy
- Margaret Rada
- Terrance Reece
- Howard Thomas
- Ray Wade
- Jack Waldrup
- Ed Watkins
- Frank & Karen Whitt
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis



### **For the World**

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

- For all those affected by the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic
- For those hurt by structural racism and systemic poverty
- For compassionate and wise discernment for all leaders and decision-makers
- For those living with mental illness
- For our enemies
- For the Gartrell family, our mission partners in Brazil

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## And God Saw That It Was Good!



Bornemann family fun—at home and  
in the mountains



Susan Pope reads to some of her grandchildren at their Little Yellow Beach Cottage



Breakfast time for the Dozier grandgirls at the beach ! ( *Left to right*). Sarah, Mary Grace, Meredith and Sanders keep Nancy and Larry busy, busy!



These two charmers complete the Pope delegation—nine grandkids in all, ranging in age from 3 to 10. Like the Doziers, Susan will need a nother vacation to rest up from the vacation!



Kathy Felder is hard at work, wrangling watch bands and managing the Fine Jewelry Department for Penneys in Greenville. Not a beach in sight! Sigh.



No, it's not the Brady Bunch—it's our first Wednesday Night Study Group Zooming into action. In addition to familiar Westminster faces, we are delighted to have several New Faith members participating.



Besides gracing our worship with his talents, David Bell has also just released a brand new CD, singing songs he wrote and arranged. He recorded it in Nashville, backed by a great group of studio musicians. Available online at [davidbellcd.com](http://davidbellcd.com).