

# Westminster Times



Greenwood, SC

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## From the office by the fountain...

Summer is typically a *liminal* time, a time between. For many, it is the time between seasonal crops or school years. It is the time after taxes, between audits. This is why summer is vacation time for many, a time to get away from the routine, to spend some restful time elsewhere, often a time to do so looking back over the months past and looking forward to those ahead.

As far as I know, Jesus never took a vacation (although he knew well the beach at Galilee and spent many relaxing days with close friends on the Mount of Olives). Still, he often encouraged his disciples to take time away, to rest and reflect and always to pray. I urge you to do the same this summer.



This is an especially liminal time for Westminster, as you await Caroline's arrival and the new beginning of her ministry with you. Our focus this Easter season has been on the new thing that God is always doing. Always surprising, always gifting. The coming summer weeks are part of God's perfect timing for the church to reflect on where and what it has been, but also to look forward with eagerness for whatever the Lord has in store...

As part of your summer rejuvenation, I invite you to participate in Vacation Bible School for adults at First Presbyterian Church, July 7-11, 6:00-8:00 P.M. each evening. Stephen Ministry will be conducting a course on *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*. This is a powerful curriculum, including a detailed spiritual gifts inventory that will help you identify and understand your spiritual gifts, and explore ways to use them. As Westminster welcomes new ministry in the months ahead, this is a perfect time to visit or revisit this vital way God works in the church.

I pray for you every day, always thanking God for you and for our time together, and always hoping for you Christ's peace....

Easter blessings,

*Brad*

### Sunday Study--10:00 A.M in the Choir Room

Ready for a new view of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Join our Sunday Study to learn about *Four Gospels, One Jesus*, based on the book by Richard A. Burridge. Brad Christie shares his deep knowledge of and love for the Gospels as he brings to light the context that informed the writers of these familiar texts. You are encouraged to join us any time!

## Missions & Outreach Report: Potential Partnership with Greenwood Place

One of the top priorities since Westminster *re*-formed has been to maximize use of our beautiful, spacious facility. So it was an answer to many prayers when the leadership of Greenwood Place approached us about moving to our campus when their current location at First Presbyterian's Turner House, which is structurally unsound, has to be torn down.



Greenwood Place is an organization that assists the mentally ill by providing them with opportunities to work and socialize. Greenwood Place opened its doors three years ago with a handful of participants meeting one day a week. It has since grown to a 4-day-a-week program with more than 65 members, and is used by Clubhouse International (see box below) as a model of their best practices.

Members, most of whom struggle with long-term mental illness, such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, run the clubhouse and its programs, with support from three staff members and a few volunteers. Members plan the work, cook the food, create a daily newsletter, handle clerical duties and even keep track of the statistics that Greenwood Place will have to furnish later this year when it hopes to receive approval for Medicaid reimbursements.

“Greenwood Place is not a treatment facility, but rather, we provide complementary services to the existing mental health treatment in our area,” stated Carol Scales, president of the organization’s board of directors, retired psychiatric nurse, and former dean of Lander University’s School of Nursing. Every member has a medical home and must be recommended for participation by a psychiatrist.

Representatives from Greenwood Place toured and fell in love with our kitchen, Gettys Room, and nearby areas. In turn, representatives from the Session and the Missions & Outreach Committee have visited the operation at Turner House. Our visits to Greenwood Place included fellowship with the staff and members, and lunch prepared by the members of the Kitchen Unit.

Nancy Dozier, as Chair of the Fellowship Committee, is the person most directly affected by making our kitchen and adjacent areas available to Greenwood Place. She has been instrumental in vetting this possible partnership

### What is the “Clubhouse Model”?

According to Clubhouse International ([clubhouse-intl.org](http://clubhouse-intl.org)), a Clubhouse is “a community-based membership organization designed to support people living with mental illness.” Usually open daily from morning to evening, members gain free access to opportunities to rejoin the worlds of friendship, family, employment and education, and to the services and support they may individually need to continue their recovery.

The clubhouse model originated with psychiatrist James Beard who believed that individuals thrive better if they have a purpose in their life, and one of the purposes he thought was important was to work. So clubhouses are actually structured around what they call a ‘work-ordered day.’

Through over 300 local Clubhouses in more than 30 countries around the world, Clubhouse International offers people living with mental illness opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education and access to medical and psychiatric services in a single caring and safe environment – this social and economic inclusion reverses the alarming trends of higher suicide, hospitalization and incarceration rates associated with mental illness.

and assessing the impact on us. The visits in both directions included frank discussions about the opportunities and challenges of forging a facilities use agreement. Topics such as safety, liability, access, insurance, and maintenance have been discussed at length.

David Hammond, of the M&O Committee, has drafted a document that spells out how the relationship would work. That document is currently being reviewed and fine-tuned by responsible parties on both sides. Greenwood Place has to vacate Turner House before demolition begins, so all parties are working quickly and prayerfully to finalize the decision.

If Westminster does move forward, this partnership will give us new avenues for hands-on mission work. Volunteers are welcome to come interact with and support members as they pursue their daily work. Guests are always welcome to break bread and share fellowship with the members. And Greenwood Place is a logical complement to our existing relationship with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which meets in our building.

The Session and the Missions & Outreach Committee welcome your comments and questions about building this relationship.



## Coming and Going—Hello, Church!

Heading into the summer months, we are often more the church dispersed than the church gathered. We are headed out for vacations and family reunions, grandparent time, mountain time, beach time. I am excited that this is just the time that we are restarting a newsletter at Westminster, so that we can stay in touch with each other and our church during these summer adventure days.

Even as we are apart from one another, we are still church, still the body of Christ. Former Chaplain to the US Senate, Richard Halverson, says it better than I can in one of his famous benedictions:

We have been the Church Gathered.  
We are now the Church Dispersed.  
Remember: Wherever you go, Christ Goes.  
Whatever you do, Christ Does.  
If someone asks what your church is like,  
tell them, 'I am what my church is like.'  
If someone asks what your church does,  
tell them, 'My church does what I do.'  
Remember: You may well be the only authentic  
contact someone has with Jesus Christ because  
they will not come to church, but you can bring the church to them.

### Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your  
right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep your going out  
and your coming in from this time  
on and forevermore.

We are Westminster Church wherever we go, being the body of Christ in every place our footsteps take us. Showing those we meet what our church is like, what Christ is like.

This summer, the Dennises' footsteps are taking us ever closer to you. And we are excited! There is much to do as we finish up school and work, bid farewell to dear friends and beloved ministry, pack up a household and move to a new home. So, we are leaning hard these days into the promises of Psalm 121, often nicknamed, The Travelers Psalm. We are looking to "the one who made heaven and earth" to be our help as we make our way, step by step, to South Carolina. And we are remembering that God is watching over our going out from Indianapolis and Corydon and our coming in to Greenwood and Westminster.



We thank you for your prayers for us in this "moving time," and we pray God's blessing on each of you and the places God will take you this summer. You will be a blessing wherever you go.

Having blessed you for your dispersing, I will admonish you also for your gathering. Come, be the body of Christ in one place, sharing song and word, good news and encouragement, whenever you are able. We need the church gathered—it is our anchor, our touch stone, our home. It is the place we are reminded of who and whose we are.

With thanksgiving for Westminster Church, gathered and dispersed, bearing witness to the One who watches over us all,

Your pastor and friend,

*Caroline*

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## Westminster Session

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Rob Graves – 864.321.2845

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