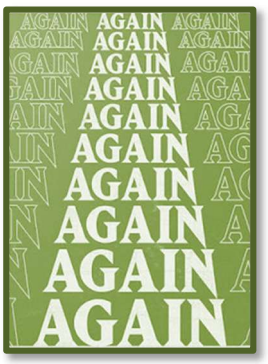
WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC [USA]

Greenwood, South Carolina Volume 8, Number 11

Again?

Right now, you will breathe…again. Tomorrow, you will make your bed…again . This week, you will fold your laundry…again. This month, you will pay your bills…again. This year, you will prepare or eat a Thanksgiving meal…again! So much of life is doing things…*again*.



I am reminded of the *againness* of life, when I look at the four weeks of our stewardship season. You read this newsletter and my weekly emails, you come to worship, and you say to yourself, "we're going to talk about this…*again*?!" The weekly topics themselves speak of *againness*. *Re*-member. *Re*-lease. *Re*-imagine. *Re*-store. Put it together, again. Let it go, again. Envision it, again. Build it, again.

Even the church year is about *againness*. Again, we begin with Advent. We begin by waiting for the Lord. Again, we decorate. Again, we sing our favorite carols. Again, we light the candles. And then there is Nativity and Epiphany, Lent and Easter, Pentecost and the long growing season of Ordinary Time, culminating in Reign of Christ Sunday. And then it starts all over… *again*.

It may seem like we are just going in circles. But then we think about it.

Once the bed you made was a twin, paired in a room with a sibling's bed. Now your bed is full of children…or memories of them. The laundry you fold today has different hues and styles than the ones you were folding ten years ago, and the ones you will be folding a decade from now. Maybe you're no longer paying a mortgage with your monthly bills, but your medical bill has taken its place. This year, a chair at the Thanksgiving table may be empty when last year it was full.

> …each repeat also comes with something new, for we—and the world—are *not* the same as when we did it last time

As it has been said, "one never steps into the same river twice."

Each time we do something again, it is layered with the stories, experience, and knowledge that comes with having done it before. But each repeat also comes with something new, for we and the world are not the same as when we did it last time.

So, I invite you, as you once again wake to a new day, what do you *re*-member? What needs *re*-leasing? What might be *re*-imagined? What might be *re*-stored? What might need to be *re*-aligned with God's story as we encounter the *againness* of moment?

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

We Presbyterians are fond of saying, "We are re-formed. And always being re-formed." In the *againness* of each day, each week, each month, each year, may we be open to God's *re*-forming hand and *re*-newing breath.

Your pastor and friend,

Caroline

November Sermon Series: A Season of Grace & Gratitude

This month, the church year ends and begins again. Fall always brings us to a season of grace and gratitude, as we re-dedicate ourselves to the stewardship of the good gifts God has entrusted into our care. So, this month, we continue to engage Our Money Story while also remembering the saints which have gone before us (All Saints Day), the lordship of Christ (Reign of Christ Sunday), and our anticipation of the Advent of the Lord.

November 1: Release Your Story
All Saints Day/Communion Sunday
Food Bank Collection/End Daylight Savings
- ✝ Deuteronomy 15:1-11
- ✝ Matthew 19:16-22

November 8: Reimagine Your Story
- ✝ Mark 12:38-44
- ✝ Leviticus 19:9-10 & 25:8-12

November 12: Peace by Piece
Evening Healing & Wholeness Service
- ✝ Psalm 34:18

November 15: Restore Your Story
Dedication Sunday
- ✝ Genesis 33:1-18
- ✝ John 21:1-19

November 22: Appointed by the King
Christ the King Sunday/Thornwell Offering
- ✝ Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- ✝ Ephesians 1:15-23

November 29: You are Eagerly Expected
First Sunday in Advent: Hope
- ✝ Isaiah 64:1-9
- ✝ Mark 13:24-37

Spiritual Growth

Monday Morning Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Christ instructed His diciples 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.

"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place..."

Matthew 6:6a

Westminster Happenings

Sunday
Nov 1

"Fall Back" to Eastern Standard Time at 2:00 A.M.

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Release Your Story/All Saints Day (*see page 6*)
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Heed God's call to willingly open your hand to those in need.

Monday
Nov 2

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom (*see page 2*)
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday
Nov 3

Election Day—Remember to Vote

Presbyterian Women Bible Study (*see page 6*)
Meet in the room across from the Church Office at 11:00 A.M.
Study 1 Corinthians 5-6, and bring your lunch and PAA bag items.

Wednesday
Nov 4

Books & Brown Bags Study Group (*see page 7*)
Bring your snack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Share your insights from wrestling with Enneagram's personality types.

Sunday
Nov 8

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Reimagine Your Story
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Honor God and give thanks for our Veterans and their service.

Stated Session Meeting
Come to the Joe Gettys Room immediately following worship.
Discern God's will for Westminster and make it a reality.

Young Adult Bible Study
Bring your Bible to the former Senior High Room upstairs.
Explore God's Word with help from discussion leader Brian Purcell.

Monday
Nov 9

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Monday Nov 9, *continued*

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Veteran's Day (*see page 8*)

Wednesday Nov 11

Books & Brown Bags Study Group
Bring your snack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Conclude the discussion of Enneagram personality types and their meaning.

Thursday Nov 12

Healing and Wholeness Service (*see page 8*)
Worship in the Sanctuary at 6:00 P.M., followed by soup dinner at 6:45 P.M.
Trust your concerns to our faithful God.

Sunday Nov 15

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Restore Your Story/Dedication Sunday (*see page 9*)
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Join Peter in affirming your love for Christ and willingness to tend His sheep.

Monday Nov 16

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Nov 18

Books & Brown Bags Study Group
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Dive into *Unclobbered*, by Colby Martin (*see page 7*).

Saturday Nov 21

Advent Decoration Preparation (*see page 10*)
Gather in the room across from the Church Office at 9:00 A.M.
Move our Christmas decorations out of storage and into position for Sunday.

Sunday Nov 22

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday Nov 22, *continued*

Appointed by the King/Christ the King Sunday (*see page 6*)
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Celebrate the "immeasurable greatness" of our Lord and King, the Christ.

Sunday Sustenance
Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 A.M.
Contribute to our annual special offering for Thornwell (*see page 10*).

Advent Decorating (*see page 10*)
Return to the Sanctuary after lunch to spruce up for Christmas.
Make ready for the coming of the infant Immanuel.

Monday Nov 23

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Nov 25

Note: The Church Office is closed for Thanksgiving Holidays Wednesday through Friday

Books & Brown Bags Study Group will not meet

Thursday Nov 26

Thanksgiving Day

PFLAG "Friendsgiving" Luncheon (*see page 11*)
Join the feast from noon to 2:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring a friend, bring a dish, bring your appetite!

Sunday Nov 29

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

You are Eagerly Expected
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Join in the "Greening of the Church" to celebrate the beginning of Advent.

Young Adult Bible Study
Bring your Bible to the former Senior High Room upstairs.
Explore God's Word with help from discussion leader Brian Purcell.

Monday Nov 30

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Presbyterian Women Learning, Making a Difference

Submitted by Mary Frances Thompson, PW Moderator

Presbyterian Women meet the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 A.M. The November 3 meeting will be held in the former Choir Room.

Gloria Christie will lead the group in the next chapter of *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other,* a study of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. Come learn how church and society today are not that different from church and society in first-century Rome.

After the Bible study, the group conducts a brief business session and then enjoys a bring- your-own lunch time of fellowship and nourishment for the body, soul, and spirit. All women who are interest in Bible study and fellowship are invited to attend these monthly meetings.

Those attending the November meeting are reminded to bring items for the Piedmont Agency on Aging Holiday Gift Bags, which will be given to Meals on Wheels participants. Watch for an email with the meeting agenda and a list of items needed for the Holiday Bags.

Have you reserved April 17, 2027 on your calendars? That Saturday, all women are invited to a Women's Retreat at Camp Fellowship. Elise Collins, Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, will lead the retreat. (Men, help your wife with childcare and other family responsibilities so that she can attend this enriching experience.)

Sacred Celebrations in November

Excerpted from pcusa.org

All Saints Day (November 1) 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 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.

The festival of **Christ the King (November 22)** 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.

***Advent* (November 29)** means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for His coming again. The four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

Books & Brown Bags Discussion Group

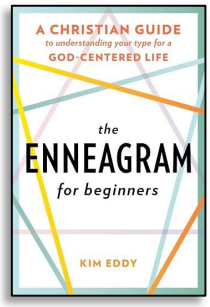
Submitted by Tim Rogers

Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.
In the Joe Gettys Classroom

In October we began studying *A Christian Guide to Understanding Your Type for a God-Centered Life: the Enneagram for Beginners,* written by Kim Eddy. She says "No other personality system offers the gift of revealing the fears and longings that help us cope in this uncertain world, encouraging each other and pointing one another to Jesus, each in our own unique way."

The Enneagram helps a person to more clearly see and understand their primary desires and fears—views that shape the way we see and respond to the world. For example, one of the nine types responds primarily from the heart center, and is guided by his or her emotions. Another personality type is more head-centered. They primarily use logic in responding to the events the day.

There is no right or wrong type with the Enneagram. The information helps persons to see how their primary focus may be, at times, unhealthy and counterproductive.



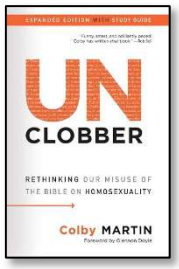
We all have different personality types. Gaining insight into our primary focus of our personality type is important as it affects how we make decisions about ourselves and others. Similar to Myers-Briggs, the Enneagram is a tool that can help us to see the strengths and weaknesses of our own behaviors more objectively.

The author has written the book to also help us reflect on scripture that speaks to the stress we experience in life. For example, one of the nine Enneagram types fears being unsuccessful and mediocre, and may struggle with being overly competitive. But when this personality type is functioning in a healthy manner, the Enneagram points out that these persons can display self-confidence, positivity and be uplifting. And the following scripture provides reassurance to the fears of this personality type.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.
Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
Luke 12:6-7

Want to find out more about the Enneagram? Contact Denise Waldrep or Tim Rogers. They will be happy to share information on how the Enneagram has helped them.

Coming Attraction: Following the Enneagram exploration, B&BB will shift gears and tackle *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*, by Colby Martin. Armed with only six passages in the Bible—often known as the "Clobber Passages"—the conservative Christian position has been one that stands against the full inclusion of our LGBTQ+ siblings. *UnClobber* reexamines each of those frequently quoted passages of Scripture, alternating with author Colby Martin's own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality. The new study begins on November 18 and continues through December (with a break on Thanksgiving week).



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

Peace by Piece

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18

A Service of Healing and Wholeness: November 12

Worship in Sanctuary 6:00 – 6:45 P.M.
Supper in Fellowship Hall 6:45 – 8:00 P.M.

Like a quiltmaker, God stitches the patches of our lives—the patches of our world—into something new and useful.

The pieces tell a story of garments worn when our mothers held us in their laps and when laps could no longer contain us; when we were active and engaged, learning and growing, gardening and cooking, building and deciding; when we were traveling and resting, struggling and grieving. There we find memories of disagreements and disappointments, wins and losses, people and places, unmerited graces.

In our healing and wholeness service, we will bring ourselves, our neighbors, our family and friends, our nation and world, to the Lord, and allow our quilt-making God to piece us back together, one stitch, one breath, one song, one prayer at a time.

Following worship, a simple soup supper will be provided in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a friend and let us pray together for the piecing together of our lives, our homes, our world into something beautiful and warm, peaceful and new.

Dedication Sunday, November 15th—Our Grateful Response

You are a beloved child of God, and a valued part of the Westminster church family. You care about responding gratefully to God's grace, and making a positive difference in our community. You appreciate that your money story is linked to God's and to Westminster's. Thank you for your faithful participation in the life of our congregation.

On November 15th, Dedication Sunday, you are asked to make an affirmative commitment to God and His body at Westminster about your planned participation in 2027. On this special Sunday, you are encouraged to promise that you will include this congregation, its pastor, and its Session in your daily prayers. You are asked to choose some of the ways in which you plan to "serve the Lord with gladness." You are urged to make a financial commitment to help the Session determine what ministries and missions we will have the resources to pursue in the coming year. And you are invited to form a stewardship covenant with God by bringing your commitment to His altar.

Your commitment *matters*. Every individual prayer and penny is welcomed with rejoicing in heaven, knowing that it represents your grateful response to all that God has done, is doing, and will do in your life and through this congregation. Dedication Sunday is a special opportunity to "give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, and His love endures forever!" (*Psalm 136*)

You already have or will soon receive via US Postal Service a packet containing stewardship information materials. Please prayerfully consider the asking budget and envision the impact your prayers, volunteer hours, and monetary gifts will have in helping Westminster fulfill the work to which God has called us. Complete the family Stewardship Covenant and put it in the envelope provided to ensure confidentiality. Then bring the envelope with you to worship on November 15th for dedication and blessing. ***Note:*** *You can rest assured that your financial information is kept in strictest confidence, seen by as few individuals as possible.* Thank you.

N&CE Winter Schedule Update

Submitted by Ginny Cartee, Chair of Nurture & Christian Education Ministry Team

N&E Details to Engage God's People in November and December: During the months of November and December, WPC will continue to provide Bible Study of interest to every group within the church.

- Our children will continue learning about the women of the Bible, with a focus on the women of Christmas.
- Adults in the Brown Bags and Books group will look at *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin and *Let Them Theory,* by Mel Robbins.
- During Advent, adult Sunday School will use *Women of Christmas,* by Liz Curtis Higgs to take a look at Christmas from the perspective of prominent women in the story.

As we head into Advent, our team hopes to involve our children and youth, as well as interested adults, in a Lessons and Carols worship service on December 13. Watch the weekly announcements for details and updates.

Annual Special Offering in Support of Thornwell Home

Thornwell Home for Children began as a dream in the heart of a young Presbyterian minister, William Plumer Jacobs, of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC. (ancestor of our own beloved Bill Jacobs!)

Dr. Jacobs' dream was energized when 10-year-old Willie Anderson of a nearby community gave Reverend Jacobs fifty cents and said, "This is to help build your orphanage."

For nearly a century and a half, Thornwell continues to meet the call for help from society's most vulnerable—its children and families in need. Whether providing the safety and security of a place to call home, reuniting families after a crisis, or supporting families through a time of crisis, Thornwell has kept the faith with its mission of healing and hope.

Every dollar you donate to Thornwell goes toward fulfilling that 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 22nd. Make your checks payable to Westminster and note "Thornwell Gift" on the memo line.

Advent and Christmas are Just Around the Corner!

Purchasing Poinsettias

As we approach the Advent 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 November 22 through December 4 by using a form from the Narthex table, 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 13 and may be picked up after Christmas Day.

Greening of the Church

This year, the Greening of the Church will be incorporated into our worship on November 29, 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 Saturday, November 21 to help 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. Contact Worship & Music chair Luke Christie for details.

Community Thanksgiving Choir

One glorious element of the Community Thanksgiving event is the massed choir. Dr. Will Cleveland, Music Director at both Immanuel Lutheran Church and The Church of the Resurrection, has invited interested WPC vocalists to join a joint choir rehearsal to prepare for the Community Thanksgiving Service. Copies of the Anthem are available on the sideboard in the Narthex. Rehearsals will be from 6:00 P.M. (arrive 10 minutes early) to 6:15 P.M. on Thursdays, November 5, 12, and 19. If you plan to participate, please email Dr. Will at will@episcopalgreenwood.org.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service: November 23

On November 23, clergy, choirs, and congregants from churches of all types from across Greenwood will join together at Main Street United Methodist Church to give thanks for God's gracious abundance.

This ecumenical worship service, which includes special music by Palmetto Girls Sing, is a beautiful expression of the unity we have in Christ. Come pass the peace with your extended family.

Westminster Welcomes "Friendsgiving" Feast

Submitted by Doris McInnes

When: November 26, Noon to 2:00 P.M.
What: A semi-potluck holiday meal
Why: To eat, obviously

Our PFLAG group is hosting this Friendsgiving meal for folks who may not have family with whom to gather for the holiday. Everyone is welcome!

We are also inviting students from the local college and university who may not have access to cooking facilities, so we're asking for volunteers to provide additional traditional Thanksgiving fare. PFLAG will provide the proteins (meat and vegetarian options), and we need side dishes, breads, maybe salad, and desserts. Cash donations are also quite welcome!

For information and to tell us what you're bringing, contact: Amanda Gouldsmith (phone: 864-554-3183 email: Agouldsmith0626@yoahoo.com) or Autumn Mossman (phone: 864-376-2119 email: roryautumn@yahoo.com).

Church Family Special Days

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

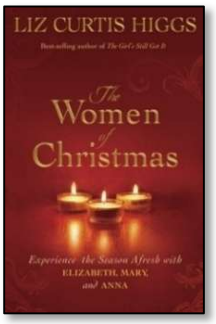
- 6th – Autumn Mossman
- 11th – Rick Hobson
- 12th – Joyce Alexander & Larry Duncan
- 13th – Henry Schwarzmann
- 17th – Nancy Hart Wicker
- 18th – Atticus Irons
- 21st – David Alexander
- 23rd – Holly Hubbard & David Grier
- 26th – Mary Anne Wilson & Steve Hodges
- 28th – Nancy Dozier & Mary Rogers

And a hearty "happy anniversary" to Josh and Charleston Warner!

Did we miss your special day? Log on to InstantChurchDirectory.com to create and maintain your contact information. Accessible to authorized Westminster family users only.

New Advent Study Begins Sunday, November 29

Advent comes early this year, right on the heels of Thanksgiving. On Sunday, November 29, the Adult Sunday Study will dive right into a new series, *The Women of Christmas*, by Liz Curtis Higgs. A rotating crew of skilled facilitators will lead discussion. Here's a glimpse of what awaits:



"A sacred season is about to unfold for three women whose hearts belong to God. Elizabeth is barren, yet her trust in God remains fertile. Mary is betrothed in marriage, yet she is willing to bear God's Son. Anna is a widow full of years, yet she waits patiently, prayerfully for the Messiah to appear in the temple courts.

Following in their footsteps, you too can prepare for the Savior to enter your heart, your mind, and your life in a vibrant, new way this season. Bestselling author Liz Curtis Higgs explores the biblical stories of Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna, unwrapping each verse with tender care and introducing you afresh to The Women of Christmas."

According to author Nancy Guthrie, author of the Bible study series *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*, "Liz Curtis Higgs ably mines the Scriptures, revealing undiscovered treasures in the familiar story. Through the pages of this powerful little book, we get to peer into the hearts of these women and find our own hearts melting at the beauty of God's grace."

Stewardship Snapshot

Please note that because of newsletter publication vs. month-end close schedules, these reports are typically about six weeks behind.

September 2026

	September Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	$23,769	$17,707	$242,383	$225,059
Total Expenses	$24,184	$24,283	$229,012	$220,749
Net Gain/Loss	—$415		$13,371	

Unrestricted contributions and donations were 24% above budget due to the payment of a full annual pledge during the month and proceeds from the yard sale. Note that there is an additional $282 in yard sale proceeds that will be reflected on the October financials.

Expenses for Buildings & Grounds, Worship & Music, and Missions & Outreach were above budgeted levels; however, except for B&G, the increased amounts were largely offset by donations during the month and/or prior periods. The increased contributions were offset by the higher expenses resulting in a breakeven position for the month.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer David Hammond or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.

In The Spotlight: David Grier & Sandy Chaney

The spotlight this month shines on David Grier and his wife, Sandy Chaney, who have returned to Greenwood and Westminster after spending several years in Nevada, Missouri. They have jumped right back into the life of this congregation, with David stepping in to serve as an Elder on our Session and Sandy lending her talents in many wonderful ways. David and Sandy took time to answer our traditional questions and to provide us with a few photographs from their travels (to Norway, at right, and China on page 14). Welcome, Sandy and David!

David's Answers

1. **What gives you joy?**
   Living in a foreign country for an extended period; listening to good music; fixing a nice dinner with Sandy.

2. **What drives you crazy?**
   Current politics and idiots.

3. **What's your favorite piece of music?**
   I don't know if I can narrow it down to one: “While my Guitar Gently Weeps,” by the Beatles; “The Handing Down,” by Ed Gerhard; “Fair Annie,” by Martin Simpson.

4. **What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?**
   I like to read, play guitar, and watch college football.

5. **What's your favorite meal?**
   That's hard to narrow down to one, too: I love fried chicken, a Chinese dish named Hui Mian, and a hearty breakfast (hash browns, sausage and 2 eggs over easy with habanero sauce).

Sandy's Answers

1. **What gives you joy?**
   Slow mornings with a cup of coffee and conversation with David, spending time in nature, being useful by helping others, traveling abroad, living in another culture and knowing enough of their language to make myself understood.

2. **What drives you crazy?**
   My husband will say that the list of things is very long. But I'm most irritated by noise that isn't necessary (non-stop AC units, leaf blowers, loud "bangy" music blaring from open car windows, neighbors target-practicing in the early morning weekend hours, loud cell phone conversations in medical waiting rooms and airports, etc.).

3. **What's your favorite piece of music?**
   Two pieces of music that always seem to stir an emotional response are 1) Handel 's “Hallelujah Chorus,” The Messiah Part II, which lifts me up spiritually; 2) The Star Spangled Banner, which inspires a sense of pride in the US and reminds me that Americans, despite many differences, can be united behind shared ideals.

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4. **What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?**
   I love to hike in the mountains, take long walks, read a good book, play the piano, try out a new dinner recipe with my husband, work outside in my herb garden, and hang out with family and friends.
5. **What's your favorite meal?**
   Spaghetti Carbonara that David and I make. Anything with potatoes in it ranks a close second.

David and I met at UNC-Chapel Hill in the late 1980s when we were earning our PhDs in modern European history. We got married in 1993. We both taught history at Erskine for several years (Dave from 1991 until retiring in 2020 and Sandy from 1995 until 2017, when I took a job at Cottey College in MO, retiring in 2026). As historians of Germany, we have enjoyed regular summer research trips to Berlin, Munich, and Freiburg, combining archival work with weekend outings.

In 2004 we adopted our delightful daughter, Anna Mei, from China. She graduated from Wofford in 2025 and lives in Charleston. Through Anna Mei, we have developed a deep interest in China and its people. David and I twice taught for an academic year at a Chinese university in rural Henan province, most recently returning there to teach for one semester in 2023. We're grateful for the lasting ties we've made with several former students and colleagues.

In the Spotlight: Catie McKee

Also in the spotlight this month is new member Catie McKee. She is active in the Young Adult Fellowship, and shares with us her expertise with and love of children in many ways. Welcome, Catie!

1. **What brings you joy?**
   Being around like-minded people. And my dog, Peanut (*see below*)!
2. **What drives you crazy?**
   ....*also* Peanut. That and bug bites.
3. **What's your favorite piece of music?**
   Very, very hard choice—I like most music. I've been listening to a lot of folk music lately.
4. **What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?**
   I love to crochet and read. Specifically fantasy and sci-fi.
5. **What's your favorite meal?**
   A sesame seed bagel, toasted. Smeared with cream cheese and lox.

I was born and raised in Mauldin, SC. I have three brothers, two sisters, and one sibling. I went to Lander University and got my bachelors in Early Childhood Education with emphasis in Montessori and in Spanish. I worked in Florence, SC for two years and moved back to the upstate in the summer of 2025. I love being in this community. This church really feels like a home.

Let Us Pray...

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."
Colossians 4:2

For Those in Our Church
We share one another's joys and concerns:

- Mary Corley
- Kathy Felder
- Lucia Horowitz
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Henry & Kaye Schwarzmann
- Ed Watkins
- Joan Wilkins
- Kathy West
- Richard Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis 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 in our community, especially:

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank & Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- Montreat Center
- 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):

- Brian's Dad (*Brian*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Will Holloway (*Suzy*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Neill McKenna (*Kathleen*)
- Family of Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Bill Stonesifer (*Tracey*)
- Tamika Williams (*Tracey*)
- Nancy, Jean, & Barbara (*Purcells*)
- Jodi (*Lucia, Laine*)
- Wendell (*McInneses*)

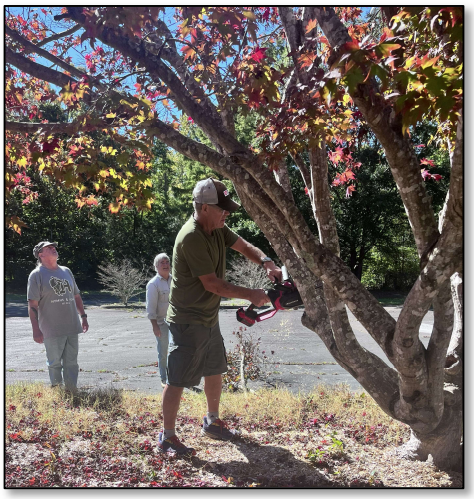
For the World
We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:

- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For a fair, free, and undisputed midterm election in the United States
- For an end to violence, especially politically motivated attacks of all types
- For the safely of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, and other oppressive areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon
- For all decisions of those in positions of power to be informed by your grace and mercy
- For those affected by natural disasters, including floods, fire, and weather
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For all those oppressed by systemic poverty and structural racism
- For those struggling with food insecurity
- For those wrestling with tough decisions and seeking discernment
- For those dealing with mental illness

And God Saw That It Was Good

Westminster shows up for our community!
Above: Players and buddies at the Burton Center Home-Town Heros baseball game
Below: Representatives enjoy a “culinary Experience” hosted by the Greenwood Food Bank

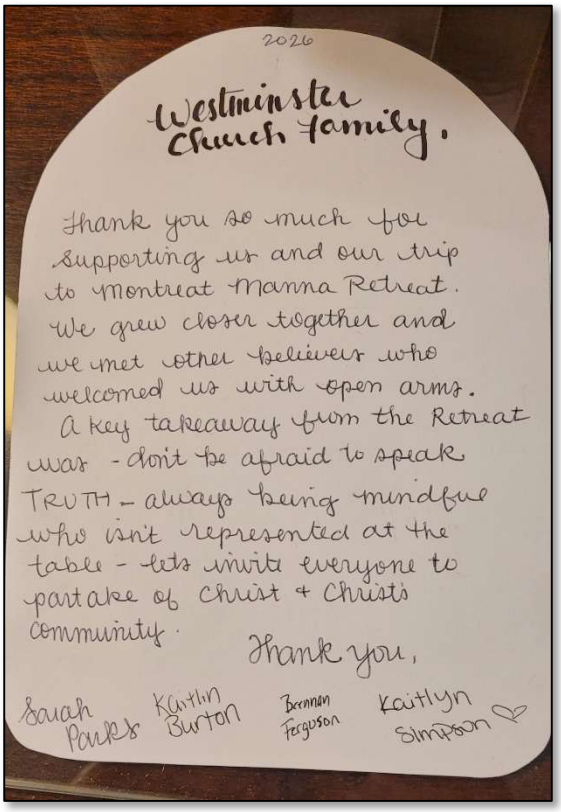
Beautifying our Building & Grounds: Fall Workday



So Much to Celebrate!

New members: Steven Brittain, Luann Vinson, and Miles Nuckolls

Newly engaged: Karl Schwarzmann and Laine Horowitz



Thank-you note from Montreat Young Adult Retreat participants

90th Birthday best wishes for Joyce Alexander's on November 12

Souper Sunday Sustenance: Tomato Herb Soup

Submitted by Tracey Jackson/Original source: Farmer and the Cook

Ingredients:

1½ tbsp olive oil
2 cups chopped onion
3 minced garlic cloves
3 cups water
6 cups tomato puree (use fresh*, frozen, or canned)
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp dried basil
½ tsp dried thyme
½ tsp dried rosemary
1½ tsp salt
⅔ cup of cream cheese or tahini
Freshly ground pepper

Heat olive oil over low heat in a heavy-bottomed soup pot. Sauté the onions and garlic until tender, about 15 minutes. Add the water, tomato puree, herbs, and salt and simmer, covered, for 30-45 minutes. Add the cream cheese or tahini. Puree using an immersion blender or, if you are using a standing blender, puree a small amount at a time, because hot liquids will rise dangerously when blended.

Grind freshly ground black pepper on top before serving.

Yield: 2½ quarts

*The soup is *twice* as good if you use farm-fresh tomatoes!

Greenwood Community Thanksgiving Invitation