

Pastor's Perspective

By Brad Mercer

A Special Letter to the Congregation from Kathy Coleman

This month I am happy to give up my space in the newsletter to Kathy Coleman. Kathy wants to express her deep appreciation for Westminster's ministry to her family and the community.

Over the years, Meredith would comment on her wedding day. Her thoughts and ideas would come and go, but the one idea that never changed was that she wanted the choir to sing at her wedding. Originally, she wanted every choir member she could remember through the years to reunite and sing for her wedding! The memories of those individuals singing in the choir meant so much to her while growing up.

Well, as you all know, her wedding is now history. Graciously the choir did sing and they sang beautifully and sweetly. They accepted the request to sing at Meredith's wedding with love and duty. They worked hard, along with Amy and Cyndi, to make sure it was everything Meredith wanted. For their efforts, they had the best seat in the church!

And from where I sat, I had a few thoughts of my own. How many times have we participated in a covenant child's baptism and promised to help nurture and raise that child in the Word of God? As I heard those members singing during the service and looked at their faces as they watched Meredith and Alex exchange their vows, I felt like our church family was marrying them. It was not a wedding ceremony but a worship service that our church was providing for their covenant child.

Brad's charge to Alex and Meredith was super. So many people from the community and out of town specifically commented on his message and how much we all need to hear it – married and unmarried. Alex's family members expressed to me their joy in knowing that he was in a church with such a loving church family and where the Gospel is taught.

Our church had an opportunity to outreach to the community and you were fantastic. People left the service having heard the Gospel and feeling the love that our church family has for each other. Hal and I cannot thank you enough for helping make this occasion so wonderful. There are so many who helped by doing, encouraging, and praying. The list is too long to name each one. We do not express often enough just how precious this church is to us and our children. Thank you for being a special part of our family.

Kathy Coleman

Richard's Sounding Board

2010 was a year of fun, excitement, and getting to know the youth. Hopefully with the arrival of 2011 the youth of Westminster are more unified, grounded in the gospel, and living more and more out of the Holy Spirit. It is my prayer that 2011 will afford me more opportunities to serve the youth and families of Westminster. I say this from time to time, but I wish to remind you that I am here for you! Use me!! I am always available to the members of Westminster; I very rarely turn my phone off. I am excited to serve you anyway I can.

The Youth Ministry of Westminster is kicking off a new year with several opportunities for the youth of Westminster and the community. We will resume our weekly youth group meetings on Wednesday nights at 6:00. Please invite your friends! Wednesday nights are spent in fellowship, sharing a meal, singing, and studying God's Word. Every Saturday we will be having youth lunches at a specified Delta eatery. One Saturday a month will be set aside for a service day. For those who would like to serve church members, show Greenwood the gospel in action, or those who need community service hours, this day is for you. The second Saturday of every month will be called S.O.S. or Service on Saturday. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude with lunch at 12:00 noon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build character, grow as a youth group, serve church members and the community. I hope you all consider S.O.S. and try to pitch in and serve.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord will do in the youth ministry of Westminster in 2011! I am excited about some new opportunities as well as the several events we are planning for the year.

Upcoming Events:

Service on Saturday- January 8th (meet at church 9:00)

Spring Break Trip- TBA

Spring Youth Retreat- April 29-May 1

RYM Pre-registration- Feb. 1 (Please let me know if you plan on attending)

Wednesday Night Youth Meals – The youth group wants to thank all who have volunteered to help feed them on Wednesday nights. Those who have volunteered to provide supper for the youth for the month of January are: January 5 – Vicky Patridge, January 12 – Mary Elizabeth Makamson, January 19 – Kathryn Dyksterhouse, and January 26 – Midge Brown.

Prayer List – Please pray for the following: Margaret Shipley and Sam Shipley, Gene Stansel, Jane Morgan, Mary Lou Robertson (Mary Elizabeth Makamson's mother), Louise Fraiser (Johnny Smith's aunt), Mary Nell Downs, Charles Houston, McKee Guenther, Harrison Mercer, Ann Watkins, Georgia Seale (Georgeanne Smith's mother), John Sharp Pillow, MEM and Bobby Morton, Bettye and Bill Montgomery, JoAnn Woody, Jean and Harris Coleman and our expectant mothers, Michelle Hodges, Anne Marie Owens and Allison Pillow.

Little Worship – All children ages 4 and 5 are invited to participate in Little Worship. Those who have volunteered for January are: January 2 – Rob and Amber Joiner, January 9 – Dustin and Joie Blunt, January 16 – Stephen and Kim Pillow, January 23 – Trey and Elizabeth O'Brien, and January 30 – Neil and Allison Pillow.

Congratulations – We congratulate and celebrate with Alex and Meredith (Coleman) Fletcher who were married on Saturday, December 18 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Birth Announcement – Mr. and Mrs. Brad Hawkins (Claudette) of Memphis, announce the birth of their daughter, Ann Hollis Hawkins, on December 20, 2010. She weighed 6 lbs. and 8 oz. and was 20 inches long. Mother and baby (and father) are doing well and are at home at 3840 Cardinal Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111.

News from the Mission Field

Reformed Theological Seminary: Jackson, MS

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Words don't adequately express our thanks and appreciation for your recent gift. To be quite honest, we can't do it without you. Our students come from all over the world because they believe God has called them to Reformed Theological Seminary to be prepared for active and exciting ministries. We never take lightly or for granted the students that come our way. In fact, we believe that in a very real sense we become partners with them in "... going to the whole world, baptizing and teaching, and making disciples ...". In that same sense, you, too are their partners. Not everyone can be a pastor or missionary or Christian counselor. But, when we support our students financially we are partners with them in their preparation. Lives will be impacted for eternity because of your help! So, you see, we don't take this casually, at all.

I want you to know that the entire board of trustees, faculty, staff and students at RTS thank you. These are hard times and for you to share the way you have is encouraging to us all. We can't do it alone but with your help we will send forth a well-trained ministry to serve the church.

May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness!

For a new Reformation now and with the joyful hope of the New Heavens and the New Earth to come,

Robert C. (Ric) Canada, Jr.
Chancellor

Westminster to host 2nd GriefShare Ministry for the

Community – Starting Tuesday, **January 4** at 6:30 p.m. the 13 week *GriefShare* ministry will begin. It will meet every Tuesday night thereafter. This is an amazing grief recovery program for anyone who has lost a family member or friend. Workbook cost is \$15.00. A nursery will be provided. Please join us by praying for this ministry, helping with snacks, attending as a participant, or sharing this with others outside of our church. Contact Kim Pillow (299-8750) or the church office (453-7608) to volunteer. To register as a participant email khpillow@yahoo.com. This ministry is open to anyone in the community or Delta area. Please tell your family and friends.

WIC Luncheon – Let's Do Lunch Monday – Happy New Year!

Emily Jones from Indianola First Presbyterian Church will kick off our **Monday, January 17th** luncheon. Emily will be speaking about her time working with African Bible College. Come at **12 noon** for a great lunch, great fellowship and an inspiring talk and **please bring a friend**. Although it is not necessary, please call Robbie Nichols (299-4115) to reserve a spot. This helps us determine how much food to prepare.

Mid-South Men's Rally – The yearly Mid-South Men's Rally at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson will be **Friday, January 28**. Dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. and the Sessions will be from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Please see the poster in the church hallway for more details or call the church office (453-7608).

Usher Teams – We want to thank each member of the usher team that serves the congregation so diligently and faithfully every month. The January team is Larry Myers (head), Jennifer Burgess, Ted and Freda MacIntosh, Bob and Jeanette Morgan, Johnny and Georgeanne Smith and Wayne and LaNelle Tollison.

Activities for January

Tuesday, January 4	GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
Sunday, January 9	COVERED DISH LUNCHEON (11:30 A.M.)
Tuesday, January 11	Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) Cindy Mercer's home GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, January 12	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Children's Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)
Thursday, January 13	Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.) Brad Mercer's home
Monday, January 17	Let's Do Lunch (12 noon)
Tuesday, January 18	Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) Cindy Mercer's home GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, January 19	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Children's Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)
Thursday, January 20	Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.) Brad Mercer's home
Tuesday, January 25	Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.) Cindy Mercer's home GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, January 26	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Children's Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)
Thursday, January 27	Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.) Brad Mercer's home
Friday, January 28	Mid-South Men's Rally – Jackson, MS

Happy Birthday Wishes

January 1 – Dr. Paul I. Kosko	January 15 – Ann Montgomery
January 1 – Joey Smith	January 19 – Baylor Pillow
January 3 – Justin Braswell	January 20 – Lucille Pillow
January 3 – Mary Laine Dyksterhouse	January 20 – Robin Henry
January 4 – David Hey, Jr.	January 22 – Mary Colquett
January 12 – Brad Mercer	January 23 – Jere Stansel
January 15 – Camryn Jean Joiner	January 28 – Laura Hall
January 15 – McKee Guenther	
January 15 – Deb Ray	

Happy Anniversary

January 4 – Wayne and LaNelle Tollison
January 6 – Neil and Allison Pillow
January 18 – Meredith and Margaret Allen
January 20 – Ben and Kay Downing
January 29 – Walter and Stevie Pillow

If you notice someone missing from the Birthday or Anniversary list or have something you want to put in the newsletter, please contact Margaret Allen (455-9397 or margareta@windjammercable.net).

Westminster Presbyterian Church
804 East Park Avenue
Greenwood, MS 38930



Westminster Presbyterian Church | Greenwood, Mississippi

January, 2011

Tuesday, January 4, GriefShare Ministry

Starting Tuesday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. the 13 week Griefshare ministry will begin. It will meet every Tuesday night thereafter.

Sunday, January 9, Covered Dish Lunch

We invite everyone for the covered dish lunch immediately following the worship service on January 9. All Sunday school classes will resume the following Sunday, January 16.

Tuesday, January 11, Women's Discipleship Groups

The Women's Discipleship groups will begin meeting on January 11. The morning group will meet at 10:00 a.m. and the evening group will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Cindy Mercer.

Thursday, January 14, Men's Discipleship Group

The Men's Discipleship group will begin meeting on January 14 at 6:30 a.m. in the home of Brad Mercer.

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