

## Pastor's Perspective

By Brad Mercer

### Giving Yourself "Clear Away"

Several years ago I came across this entry in Jonathan Edwards' diary. I was originally drawn to it because it was written on my birthday. I continue to be drawn to it because of its tone (passionate conviction) and its content (dying to self and living for Christ). I read it again last month. The vocabulary and punctuation are a little antiquated, but it is worth your time and effort! Allow me to share it with you:

Saturday, Jan. 12, 1723, in the morning.

I have this day solemnly renewed my baptismal covenant and self-dedication, which I renewed when I was received into communion of the church.

I have been before God; and have given myself, all that I am and have to God, so that I am not in any respect my own: I can challenge no right in myself, I can challenge no right in this understanding, this will, these affections that are in me; neither have I any right to this body, or any of its members: no right to this tongue, these hands, nor feet; no right to these senses, these eyes, these ears, this smell or taste. I have given myself clear away, and have not retained anything as my own.

I have been to God this morning, and told him that I gave myself *wholly* to him. I have given every power to him; so that for the future I will challenge no right in myself, in any respect. I have expressly promised him, and do now promise almighty God, that by his grace I will not. I have this morning told him, that I did take him for my whole portion and felicity, looking on nothing else as any part of my happiness, nor acting as if it were; and his law for the constant rule of my obedience; and would fight with all my might against the world, the flesh, and the devil, to the end of my life. And did believe in Jesus Christ, and receive him as a prince and a Savior; and would adhere to the faith and obedience of the gospel, how hazardous and difficult soever the profession and practice of it may be. That I did receive the blessed Spirit as my teacher, sanctifier and only comforter; and cherish all his motions to enlighten, purify, confirm, comfort and assist me.

This I have done. And I pray God, for the sake of Christ, to look upon it as a self-dedication; and to receive me now as entirely his own, and deal with me in all respects as such; whether he afflicts me or prospers me, or whatever he pleases to do with me, who am his. Now, henceforth I am not to act in any respect as my own.

### Richard's Sounding Board

As we shiver through the winter months is it always nice to look forward to warmer weather and fun trips. Well, if you are a member of the youth group I have some wonderful news about both! During the week of Spring Break (March 11-20) we will be taking two youth trips. The first trip will be March 11-14. During this time we will take a trip to Birmingham, AL. While in Birmingham we will shop, ice skate, Imax, picnic, hike, and zoo it up. The trip is open to both Jr. High and Sr. High and the cost will be \$150 per student (which isn't bad considering 3 nights in a hotel). If you would like to come, please let me know by February 16<sup>th</sup>. Do not let the cost hinder you from going, scholarships can be made available, just ask! I am very excited about the time we will have in Birmingham.

The second trip we will be taking is not for the faint of heart! March 16-18 I will be taking the guys of the youth group on a little excursion I will call "men vs. wild." We will go to Little River Canyon, camp, hike, live off the land, and be tough! Sorry ladies, though I am sure many of you could more than handle this trip, maybe I can talk my wife into leading a women vs. wild in the future. I wouldn't hold my breath! Guys, please let me know about this trip also by February 16<sup>th</sup> so we can make plans as to tents and food. The cost of this trip will be NOTHING, ZERO, just bring your own food for the time we will be surviving.

Again, it is very, very important that I know by February 16<sup>th</sup> if you are going on either trip. Letting me know by then will better enable me to plan more effectively so that maximum amazingness can occur! I look forward to the next months and look forward to our Spring Break trips. Call me if you need anything! (Richard 299-3313)

For the Kingdom,

Richard Owens

**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 February are: February 2 – John Downs, February 9 – Tripp and Candace Sanders, February 16 – Amy Coleman, and February 23 – Georgeanne Smith.

**Prayer List** – Please pray for the following: Elizabeth Barth, Ann Montgomery family, Wayne and LaNelle Tollison and family, Margaret Shipley and Sam Shipley, Gene Stansel, Jolene Rideout, 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, Ann-McKeel Durham, 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 February are February 6 – Keith and Tanya Robertson, February 13 – Johnny and Georgeanne Smith, February 20 – Walter and Stevie Pillow and February 27 – Kent and Cyndi Savage.

Those who have volunteered for March are March 6 – Joey and Lori Smith, March 13 – Ellen Hey, March 20 – Bob and Jeanette Morgan and March 27 – Paul and Quiana Franks.

**RYM** – Jr. High RYM is Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1. Registration begins February 1 and the deposit of \$100 is due February 16. Please let Richard Owens (299-3313) know if you plan to attend.

## News from the Mission Field

### Stan and Donna Armes: MTW South Africa

Stan finished up his lectures at the Bible Institute. This was a milestone for him. He started working for the college in 2000 developing and teaching at least 11 courses. He also developed and ran the missions program. He took the students out on a weeklong mission two times a year. We have learned much about the culture from the students and fellow lecturers. With the support of Mission to the World Southern Africa we resigned from the classroom to develop a marriage seminar for those living in the townships. We don't see much literature directed to this people group. A few years ago Port Elizabeth had the highest divorce rate in the world. South Africa is known to have a high rate of rapes and violent crimes. The society is without direction. Marriages are broken down. Evidence of this is the divorce rate, the number of single parents, the children who are heads of families. The marriage is at the heart of society. We believe if we can minister to the marriages we will see a difference in the country. If we return to God's way our family life will improve.

**GriefShare Ministry for the Community** – The 13 week *GriefShare* ministry continues on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. 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](mailto:khpillow@yahoo.com). This ministry is open to anyone in the community or Delta area. Please tell your family and friends. The topics that will be covered in February are February 1 – When your Spouse Dies  
February 8 – Your Family and Grief  
February 15 – Why?  
February 22 – The Uniqueness of Grief, Part 1  
March 1 - The Uniqueness of Grief, Part 2

**WIC Luncheon – Let's Do Lunch Monday** – Do you have a heart for Greenwood? Join us **Monday, February 21** for lunch at the church. Our very own T Mac Howard will speak about Delta Street Ministries, a ministry devoted to reaching the underprivileged youth of Greenwood through mentoring and relationship building. 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.

**Welcome** – We are so excited to welcome Andrew Craig as our new choir director. Andrew is originally from Chicago and is a senior at Belhaven College in Jackson. He is majoring in Music Education. Andrew will be here all day most Sundays. Please help to make him feel at home.

**Usher Teams** – We want to thank each member of the usher team that serves the congregation so diligently and faithfully every month. The February team is Keith and Tanya Robertson (Head), Joe and Margie Makamson, Stephen and Kim Pillow, T Mac Howard and Luke Uithoven.

The March team is William and Vicky Patridge (Head), Justin and Eleanor Braswell, Johnny and Robbie Nichols, Trey and Elizabeth O'Brien and Ann Marie Owens.

**Reminder** – The deacons request that you not take any food or drink into the carpeted area of the church. Thank you for your help.

## Activities for February

- Tuesday, February 1 GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)  
Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.)  
Cindy Mercer's home
- Wednesday, February 2 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, February 3 Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.)  
Brad Mercer's home
- Tuesday, February 8 Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.)  
Cindy Mercer's home  
GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 9 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, February 10 Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.)  
Brad Mercer's home
- Sunday, February 13 COVERED DISH LUNCHEON (11:30 A.M.)
- Tuesday, February 15 Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.)  
Cindy Mercer's home  
GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 16 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, February 17 Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.)  
Brad Mercer's home
- Monday, February 21 Let's Do Lunch Monday (12 noon)
- Tuesday, February 22 Women's Discipleship Groups (10 a.m. and 6 p.m.)  
Cindy Mercer's home  
GriefShare ministry (6:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 23 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, February 24 Men's Discipleship Group (6:30 a.m.)  
Brad Mercer's home

## Happy Birthday Wishes

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| February 2 - Taylor Nause       | February 18 - Kay Downing             |
| February 3 - Carter Kimes       | February 19 - Mary Elizabeth Makamson |
| February 4 - Lauren Coleman     | February 21 - Quiana Franks           |
| February 10 - Lauren Adams      | February 22 - David Kosko             |
| February 10 - Julie Day Warren  | February 27 - Kim Pillow              |
| February 12 - Madeleine Coleman | February 27 - Harrison Mercer         |
| February 13 - Suzanne Shaw      | February 27 - Candace Sanders         |
| February 16 - Levi Blount       |                                       |

## Happy Anniversary

- February 5 - Rob and Amber Joiner  
February - Robin and Peggy Henry  
February 14 - Clyde and Carolyn Manning  
February 18 - William and Vicky Patridge  
February 19 - Hal and Kathy Coleman  
February 20 - Stephen and Kim Pillow  
February 22 - Keith and Tanya Robertson

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

## February, 2011

### **Sunday February 13. Covered Dish Lunch**

We invite everyone for the covered dish lunch immediately following the worship service on February 13. All Sunday School classes will resume the following Sunday, February 20.

### **Tuesdays. Women's Discipleship Groups**

The Women's Discipleship groups meet each Tuesday. The morning group meets at 10:00 a.m. and the evening group meets at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Cindy Mercer.

### **Thursdays. Men's Discipleship Group**

The Men's Discipleship group meets each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in the home of Brad Mercer.

### **WIC Luncheon - Let's Do Lunch Monday - February 21**

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