

## Pastor’s Perspective

The Bible calls God’s people many things! One thing we are called time and time again is pilgrim. Webster’s Dictionary defines “pilgrim” as follows: “One who undertakes a quest for a goal believed to be sacred.” As Christians we are on a quest to reach a goal. Our goal however is not a shrine or a sacred place, our goal is a person, Jesus. As believers we do long for heaven but more so we long for Jesus. We long to be near Jesus, to see Jesus as the most beautiful thing, to delight in Jesus. As we live our lives, we are pilgrims who journey with a goal. We do not meander through life with no goal or purpose. Our goal is to be like Jesus, our goal is the Kingdom of God, and our goal is worth more than all the riches in the world. So, we are pilgrims!

Another thing the Bible calls believers to do is to persevere. In fact the entire book of Hebrews can be summed up in the word “perseverance.” Again, Webster’s defines persevering as “To persist in or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of discouragement or opposition.” The task of a Christian is to be faithful, faithfulness to God in the wonderful times and in the times of utter discouragement. Hebrews tells us that we can be faithful because Jesus was faithful. When we need faith, ask for it and we look to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith. We are called to persevere, to not turn away from Jesus, but to work out our salvation with fear and trembling and through trial, suffering, hardship, and time, the Holy Spirit will make us more and more like Jesus and less and less like our old self. We are called to persevere.

Taking these two into account we are called to be persevering pilgrims. As believers we journey through an often times very difficult land. But we continue moving, even if at times we must crawl, we continue moving towards Jesus, we continue being faithful to God. As persevering pilgrims we continue our walk in the same direction seeking to be faithful in the face of difficult seasons in marriage, broken relationships, loss of jobs, and any other difficult time in our lives. My goal in writing this is to encourage you, and hopefully we can encourage each other to persevere in our journeys, that though life can be difficult and we may think that all hope is lost, we can encourage each other to continue to be faithful, for we are called to be persevering pilgrims. We are called to be a people who stare difficulty and even death in the face and still persevere because we know our hope in Jesus Christ is so much more.

For the Kingdom,

Richard

## News from the Mission Field

### Craig and Stacy Pohl: MTW Ecuador

Craig and Stacy Pohl, MTW missionaries in Ecuador, will present their ministry to Westminster, at a noon lunch meeting, Friday May 20, 2011, at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a sack lunch.

**Notice of Congregational Meetings** - The Session has been in prayer concerning our upcoming formation of a Pastor Search Committee (PSC) and has approved a suggested form for the committee. The form is the same that we suggested for our last PSC: 7 members; consisting of 2 Elders, 2 Deacons, and 3 members of the congregation, of which at least 1 would be female.

The Elders selected by the Session to serve are Lee Coleman and Mark Barger. The Deacons have selected Gary Dyksterhouse and John Patridge to serve.

The approval of the format is a matter for the vote of the congregation. On Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Session called two congregational meetings: one for Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and one for Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, immediately following the morning worship, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on the format for the Pastor Search Committee, and to nominate those from the Congregation to be on the committee.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, immediately following the morning worship, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on those nominated to serve on the Pastor Search Committee.

As we approach these meetings, we would ask that you be in prayer. The job of serving on the PSC is a very important event in the life of our church. The task of serving on the Pastor Search Committee involves weekly meetings, some travel, and a lot of thought and preparation time. Should you be considering placing anyone’s name in nomination, we ask that you would have first spoken with that person to be sure that they would be willing to stand for election and fulfill the commitment that serving entails.

Additionally, one mark of a successful PSC is that it would be representative of the body as a whole. Consider this as you pray about your nominations and vote.

We would encourage you to speak with those who served on the committee in the past to get an understanding of the requirements demanded by service on this committee. Those who served on the last PSC include: Mark Barger, Stephen Pillow, McLeod Meek, Jeff Warren, Cyndi Savage, Kathy Coleman, Margaret Allen and Trey O’Brien.

**Prayer List** – Please pray for the following: Paul Franks and family, Ann Montgomery family, Wayne and LaNelle Tollison and family, Neil, Allison and Cole Pillow and family, Brad and Cindy Mercer’s move and transition, Chris and Keiva Shults move and transition, Bettye Jim Morgan, Mary Ann Bryan, Margaret Shipley and Sam Shipley, Gene Stansel, Guy Robertson (Keith’s father), Patricia Hodges (Channing’s mother), Jane Morgan, Mary Lou Robertson (Mary Elizabeth Makamson’s mother), Louise Fraiser (Johnny Smith’s aunt), Mary Nell Downs, 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, Joie Blount and Anne Marie Owens.

**Wednesday Night Children’s Ministry** - Hello from the Children's Ministry. Since the last report, we have been very busy. We continue with the Wednesday night study. On Wednesday the children are learning the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. We are beginning number 5 this month. Not only do the children memorize the verses, but we learn what they mean for us today. We also are studying some hymns. Wednesday nights continues to have a strong turn out. We have around 12 on average. We have added the Nursery children to our suppers, and everyone is enjoying having them with us during supper. Some of the activities we have participated in are Christmas caroling in December and making Valentine cards for members of our Westminster family, Thanks to all those who have prepared meals, helped in classes and drove us around. Also thank you for being faithful in bringing your children on Wednesday nights, Sundays for Sunday School, and encouraging them to learn these long passages. I continue to be encouraged by their understanding of God's word and its meaning for their lives. Ellen

**Vacation Bible School** - Wanted: YOU!...to help kids discover the Rock of Ages at Gold Rush on June 13-17. We're headed to the old west where we plan to mine God's word and uncover eternal truths. Our children will learn the answer to the important question that Jesus asks: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). This year's VBS is teeming with truth and with treasure, so join us as we dig into God's word together! VBS is such an amazing week for the children and anyone involved. We need many hands, so please save the date and let us know how you would be willing to serve... teaching, decorations, recreation, registration, sports, crafts, snacks, and more! Contact Kathryn Dyksterhouse, 458-0998, or Allison Pillow, 392-2363, for information or to volunteer.

**WIC Luncheon – Let’s Do Lunch Monday** – Westminster is Going Global! Join the Women of the Church Monday, April 18 at noon for lunch. Our very own Amy Coleman will share with us about her family’s recent Medical Mercy Mission trip to Guatemala. Come for a great lunch, fellowship and please bring a friend.

**Amazing Grace 360 Women In the Church International Conference** - Ladies, it is time for a road trip.

The Women in the Church International Conference has been schedule for October 7-9 in Atlanta. The theme this year is Whole Gospel-Whole Life-Whole World. As usual, it will be an extraordinary opportunity to worship, learn and fellowship with 4000 of our sisters. Nancy Guthrie, Brian Habig, Kevin Twit along with countless others will be participating this year.

Conference cost is \$145 for each woman and we need to register before May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will start working on hotel cost and will be able to have a package price for the entire conference soon.

Traditionally, we have had a large group of women attend from our church from all age groups. Please try to take advantage of this growth opportunity.

If interested, contact Cyndi Savage at 662-299-7976 or the church office (453-7608). Also visit the conference website amazinggrace360.com.

**Pictorial Directory** – Westminster is in the process of making a church pictorial directory. Pictures will be taken by Olan Mills at your scheduled time from Monday, April 4th to Wednesday, April 6th. The pictures will be taken in the choir room. Please arrive on time in order to keep the schedule. Also, Olan Mills will offer you an opportunity to purchase your pictures. You have no obligation to purchase these pictures if you are not interested. Please contact Elizabeth O'Brien if you have any questions at 392-4074

**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 April are: April 6 – Darla Kimes, April 13 – Meredith Fletcher and Tracy Patridge, April 20 – Ellen Hey and April 27 – Cathy Adams.

**GriefShare Ministry for the Community** – *Griefshare* ministry continues to meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall and has two sessions left to go. Please feel free to come to any of the following topics and pray for those individuals who come weekly to this ministry at our church that their hearts would experience healing from grief and they would hear the gospel and know the Father of Comfort. The topics for April are:

April 5 – Top Twenty Lessons of Grief, Pt. 2

April 12 – Heaven

A special thanks to the folks at Westminster who provided snacks each week for *GriefShare*. This has been such a blessing to this ministry. A very big thank you to Gene Stansel and Margaret Allen for their commitment and leadership each week.

Stephen and Kim Pillow

**Ushers** – We want to thank each member of the usher team that serves the congregation so diligently and faithfully every month.

The April team is Ray and Karen Archer (Head), Mike and Elizabeth Barth, David and Ellen Hey, Neil and Allison Pillow, Mischa McCray, and Anne Marie Owens.

The May team is Kent and Cyndi Savage (Head), Meredith and Margaret Allen, Bubba and Selena Nause, Charles Nause, Taylor Nause, and Devada Wetmore.

### Happy Birthday Wishes

April 3 – Harris Coleman	April 22 – Clare Dale
April 4 – Louis Coleman	April 22 – Mary Dudley Pillow
April 5 – Amanda Hall	April 22 – Neil Pillow
April 5 – Helen Clark	April 23 – Jim Gregory
April 10 – Devada Wetmore	April 24 – Mike Watkins
April 11 – Caroline Makamson	April 25 – Katy Coleman
April 14 – Ben Downing	April 27 – Emma Grace Hodges
April 14 – Gary Dyksterhouse	April 28 – Hal Coleman
April 14 – Deren Meek	April 29 – Alan Barger
April 15 – Michelle Hodges	April 30 – Eddie Ray
April 15 – Jophy Hey	
April 17 – Tanya Robertson	
April 18 – Marianna Tollison	

### Happy Anniversary

April 18 – McLeod and Allison Meek  
April 20 – Kirk and Darla Kimes  
April 26 – Ray and Karen Archer  
April 26 – Paul and Quiana Franks

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

## APRIL, 2011

### Sunday, April 3 and April 10 – Congregational Meetings

**On April 3**, immediately following the morning worship, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on the format for the Pastor Search Committee, and to nominate those from the Congregation to be on the committee.

**On April 10**, immediately following the morning worship, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on those nominated to serve on the Pastor Search Committee.

### Pictorial Directory – April 4-6

Pictures will be taken by Olan Mills at your scheduled time from Monday, April 4th to Wednesday, April 6th.

### Youth Parents' Meeting on Monday, April 4 from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Parents of youth will be meeting April 4 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss upcoming events.

### WIC Luncheon – Let's Do Lunch Monday, April 18 at noon

Westminster is Going Global! Join the Women of the Church Monday, April 18 at noon for lunch. Our very own Amy Coleman will share with us about her family's recent Medical Mercy Mission trip to Guatemala. Come for a great lunch and fellowship and please bring a friend.

### Youth Spring Retreat – April 29-May 1

Our spring retreat will be held at Lake Forest Ranch in Macon, MS. The cost of the retreat will be \$93 (call me about scholarships that can be made available.) We will spend two nights in modern cabins so you will need to bring sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, clothes you don't mind getting a bit dirty, your Bible, a notebook, and a pen. We will be spending the weekend with students from 4 other PCA churches. Mark it on your calendars and invite your friends. Please call me to reserve your spot. I only have 35 spots available right now and they are going fast. Don't miss a weekend of excitement, meeting new people, and great teaching! I will be sending out a letter to the youth specifying what to bring in more detail.

Once again, do not hesitate to call me if you need anything, I am here for you! (Richard 299-3313)