

Pastor’s Perspective

Some think of life as a “connect the dots” picture. We go through life connecting dots, all the while hoping that in the end a picture will be made apparent. We also hope that this picture will be worth the wait. Many people are busy connecting the dots and trying to create the “masterpiece” of their life. They go through life hoping to find meaning in the end. As Christians, we believe our lives to be ones where the dots are connected. We go through various seasons of trials, tests, joys, and celebrations. However, there is more to just life than “enduring” and “running the race” and being “faithful” in our pilgrimage through life. The people of Hebrews 11 are commended for their faith and they certainly lead exceptional lives. But they did not entirely perceive of the end picture. They were doing their best connecting the dots all the while having faith that in the end there would be a picture and that the picture would be of a redeemer, a rescuer, a messiah. They were commended for their faith in the unseen Christ.

Christians today are at a tremendous advantage. We live on this side of the cross. The cross changes everything. We still do pilgrim through life, “connecting the dots,” but we don’t have to hope that maybe one day all our efforts will reveal something. Instead, we already know what the picture looks like, and we know what life is all about. We know that life is all about Jesus. We also know that in the end, Jesus and his people win. We know that we will partake in the biggest celebration ever in the wedding feast of the lamb, and we know that we will be in the presence of God. We are assured that things will be different, that things will be made new. Thus, we need to view our lives through a different set of lenses. The lens of Scripture! Furthermore, we can live our lives, enduring the hard times, not simply because we are to be “good” Christian soldiers who hold their heads up. Instead, we can now endure with joy and hope. We can run the race faithfully and finish because we already know the end result. We know that Jesus has won; we know that things will be made right. We also know that the end is not the end. So, we don’t simply connect dots in hopes that it will make something beautiful, but we connect the dots with confidence that even in our misery, shame, failures, and disasters, God is working all things for good. Things will indeed end up as beautiful. This is our reason to get out of bed in the morning and to run with endurance the race. Christians are able to have joy in the “bad” times and are truly be able to celebrate in the good times. Thus, our sorrows can be less sorrowful and our joys can be truly joyful.

May we seek to see Jesus as he is, our Lord, King, Prophet, and Priest. He is the beautiful one, the one in whom our souls find rest, peace, and joy. May we be thankful for the final picture of the gospel, the truth that in the end God calls us more than conquerors, we are winners!

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, in the fireside room at the church. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Please bring a sack lunch and come to hear what God has been doing in Ecuador. The drinks will be provided.

Bill and Suzanne Scott, MTW Atlanta, GA: Outreach to Muslims

Over the last few months my focus has been on the refugee church plant to be launched on Easter Sunday. Last month at a preview worship service about 25% of the adults attending were from outside the US. I met a man and his wife from Myanmar (Burma) who have just come to Christ. They are from a Buddhist background and had to flee persecution. The woman had a tea shop in Myanmar and was so excited to be able to supply tea for the worship service.

Although our ministry in this refugee community has been among Muslims, the church plant is directed towards refugees in general. The Gospel is going out to Muslims, Hindus, animists, Buddhists, anyone! God is at work drawing people to Himself and raising up more staff.

My role as the team leader in this part of our ministry is to be an advisor to Jay, our church planter, and to train the team in cross-cultural ministry. Jay leads the church as the pastor. About a month ago I began to teach a bi-monthly team workshop which focuses on cross-cultural issues. With so many religious backgrounds represented here, I can feel overwhelmed at the challenge of how to help our staff navigate a variety of worldviews. Pray for much wisdom for us all as we seek to enter into so many different worlds with the Gospel.

We are also committed to reaching out to the Muslim communities here in the suburbs. This June will mark our sixth year in this ministry. We continue to minister through hospitality in our home and among Muslim families we have come to know. At the heart of this is our desire to build relationships which provide the context for sharing our faith. I am often amazed at how the Lord opens doors to deeper friendships with Muslim leaders. It is very humbling to watch the Lord set up opportunities for me to bring the Bible and particularly the Law of God to bear on different issues. May our Muslim friends see their need of a Savior.

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, Bettye Jim Morgan, the Pastor Search Committee, Mary Ann Bryan, Deb Ray, Margaret Shipley and Sam Shipley, Gene Stansel, Keith Robertson, 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, 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, Suzanne Shaw, Joie Blount and Anne Marie Owens.

Senior Dinner Celebration – To honor our graduating seniors this year we will have a special dinner for our graduating seniors and their families on **Monday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall at the church. They are David Hey, Clay Mapp, Charles Nause, Chandler Robertson, Erik Walters, Richard Shaw and Will Brown. Please be in prayer for our seniors as they graduate and move on to new endeavors.

A Christian Book Review

By Trey O’Brien

The Enduring Community By Brian Habig & Les Newsom

Why do we go to church? Seriously, think about that for a moment....when so many people enjoy a lazy morning sleeping late, drinking coffee at home, reading the newspaper, or catching up on yard work why do the people of God commit to meeting with each other in a building of “worship”? Furthermore, what is the church? Is the church a building (physical structure) or is there another way for the “church” to be understood?

The Enduring Community (Copyright 2001, Reformed University Press) was written to challenge the common and sometimes misguided understanding of who the church is by using the Bible to clarify who Christians are and how they are to live together. The authors, Brian Habig and Les Newsom, address head on the “disappointments” and confusion over the origin and purpose of the church by portraying “Ekklesia” (the eternal church) from the perspective of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In a time in which the perceived importance of the church is in question and churches are rarely filled to capacity, “*The Enduring Community* transverses the Bible to paint God’s grand plan for His people locally, worldwide, and eternally.”1 Despite the fact that the church is filled with sin-doers, the authors draw the reader back to the reality that “Jesus has honeymoon affections for His Bride.”2 *The Enduring Community* is a must read for anyone who longs for a fresh look at the beauty, the hope, the mission, and the importance of God’s church.

- 1 *The Enduring Community* –Introduction pg. v
- 2 The Enduring Community-page 34

Vacation Bible School - Hey pioneers! We KNOW you have some great mining skills and tools out there, SO let's put them to use discovering THE ROCK OF AGES with all our eager children! **Gold Rush VBS will be June 13-17**, and we are still in NEED of teachers and teacher assistants. Look hard at your calendars, and let us know which days you want to mine with us. If you cannot commit to the entire week that is alright...even just 2 days will be a help. Kathryn and I are excited about the week and the new curriculum which is very teacher friendly! Everything is there and ready to be presented, so JOIN US! Our Vacation Bible School week is always such a blessing to the children and adults. The Lord has used our many willing hands to pour out HIS blessings in the past, and we anticipate the wonders HE will perform this year as well all to HIS GLORY! Call us: Allison Pillow 392-2363 or Kathryn Dyksterhouse 458-0998.

Congratulations – We are so excited to celebrate with Channing and Michelle Hodges on the birth of Channing Whitten Hodges II, born Thursday, April 21. He weighed 8 lb. 7 oz. and was 20.25 inches long. Congratulations to all!

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 31st. 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.

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 May are May 4 – Selena Nause, May 11 – Margie Makamson, May 18 – Luke Uithoven and May 25 – Katherine Cole.

GriefShare Ministry Thank You – *Griefshare* Ministry wants to thank the congregation for all the support that has been given during the 13 weeks. Everyone has been so generous to help with the snacks and wherever there was a need. The ministry has been a huge help to the grieving. This is an excerpt from a lady and her daughter who attended. *"I missed seeing ya'll last night! I thought of times our group had been together and thought of what a blessing that time was to me and to Emily. We would spend the ride home discussing how just the right word or scripture seemed to speak to each of us through the video or the sharing time. I just want to thank you and Westminster Presbyterian Church for sponsoring such a very helpful Christian ministry. For all those who were involved (and there were obviously many) just know that this is a far reaching ministry and much needed by those of us who have suffered loss. I will fill out the evaluation sheet and send it to you, but in the meantime, I just needed to say once again, Thank you! and God's blessing to you."*

Harris and Jean Coleman – Harris and Jean will be leaving us the first week of May and want us to stay in touch. Their new address is Merrill Gardens, 3275 CR 47, Apt. D150, Florence, AL 35630. Their email address will stay the same - leflorecole@bellsouth.net

Happy Birthday Wishes

May 1 – Beth Barger	May 18 – Charles Allen
May 6 – Stacy Hall	May 21 – Elizabeth Hey
May 6 – Emily Patridge	May 21 – Tripp Sanders
May 12 – Trey O'Brien	May 26 – Tracy Patridge
May 13 – Allison Pillow	May 28 – Dustin Blount
May 14 – Cyndi Savage	May 30 – Debbie McCuan
May 17 – Chandler Robertson	May 31 – Emmett McClary

Happy Anniversary

May 19 – Harris and Jean Coleman
May 22 – Johnny and Georgeanne Smith
May 25 – Bob and Jeanette Morgan
May 26 – Tripp and Candace Sanders

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

MAY, 2011

Monday, May 9, 2011 – Graduating Seniors Dinner

There will be a dinner honoring our graduating seniors on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 in the fellowship hall.

Friday, May 13, 2011 – Pillow Graduation

Pillow's graduation will be Friday, May 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Pillow Academy.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 - CHEC Graduation

Chandler Robertson will graduate at First Baptist Church in Jackson Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Friday, May 20 - Lunch with Craig and Stacy Pohl, MTW missionaries in Ecuador

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Tuesday, May 24 - Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery Meeting will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Indianola, MS on Tuesday, May 24 beginning at 9:30 a.m.