

## Pastor’s Perspective

Have you ever enjoyed spending time with family or friends so that you didn’t want the time to end? Maybe you’ve left a party or dinner wanting to see your friends soon. It’s not an uncommon occurrence for the Apostle Paul to tell his friends that he hopes to see them soon (cf. 1 Tim 3:14). Those he once murdered (Acts 7-8), he now dies for. Being either imprisoned or on a mission, the Apostle is constantly expressing his earnest desire for fellowship. He just wants his friends to be around.

The more I think about this, the more I am made aware of how I long for the same. I want to be with loved ones without having to worry about them leaving. But it never fails does it? It seems that the enjoyment is always frustrated by separation. They may be with us now, but the clock is ticking. Geography will soon be placed between us. Death will soon take one of us away.

I write this thinking about the friendships I have enjoyed throughout my lifetime. The sweet friendships developed in Elementary, Jr. High, and High School. I think of the friends in college, some of which I consider as close as brothers. I think of friendships established in seminary. It was these friends who prayed for me and with me, helped me kill sin, and gave me relationship advice. I think of my brother Brad, who I consider to be my closest male friend. I think of how he is a warrior for Jesus and how he shows me how to love. I think of all we have been through together. From not liking each other, to loving each other. I think of sports, road trips, adventures, near death experiences, and learning the gospel with each other. I constantly find myself wanting more time. I wish to live in the same town as my friends. I also think of the friendships Anne Marie and I have made since in Greenwood. We cherish the brotherhood and sisterhood of friends here. I also find myself wishing for more time with Greenwood friends.

It shouldn’t have to be this way. Something is terribly wrong. Even the greatest parts of life are under inevitable attack. All good things must end. There’s just no getting around it. Some of my best friends will probably always live in another state. I will more than likely attend my mother and father’s funeral. Sophie will probably attend, with great sorrow, mine. These are the realities that we live with.

Our world has fallen from glory. And no amount of material possessions can fill the emptiness that fallenness brings. We need redemption. We must have hope.

At the end of the Apostle Paul’s life he wrote, "I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that Day, *and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing*" (2 Tim 4:7-8).

One day I will be with my brothers and sisters in Christ forever. As I get older, time goes faster. This is God’s grace to me. I know the end draws near. Therefore, I can endure. In glory, the redeemed laughter will never have to end, the glorified joy will be ever-flowing, geography will be easily overcome, and sin will frustrate us no more.

This, Christian, is our hope - the "inheritance of the saints in light" (Col 1:12). The more I long to be with my friends and family here, the more I long to be with them forever, in glory. This is Good News.

For the Kingdom,

Richard

## 2011 Women In the Church International Conference October 7-9 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Ladies, don’t miss this opportunity to fellowship and worship with other women throughout the world. This event happens every 5 years and traditionally, we have had a great group of women attend.

We will leave from the church Friday morning, October 7 and return Sunday, October 9 after the morning service in Atlanta.

The final day to register is Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in going, please contact Kim Pillow 662-299-8750 or Cyndi Savage 662-299-7976 or Debbie McCuan (at the Church office) 662-453-7608.

**Children’s Ministry Report** - Hello, from the Children’s Ministry of Westminster. I have been asked to give an up-date on what we have been doing. The summer months have been very busy. School ended and we finished our study of the Ten Commandments. We may not can say all ten perfectly, but most of the children can explain to you what the Commandments require of us and how we can never keep them. Also we lost several of our members. Some moved away (which made us sad) and one moved up to the Youth Group (so we were proud for him). We continue to have a large group and lots of fun. We have added the nursery children to our supper and song time. After finishing the Ten Commandments, we began a study on Wisdom from the book of Proverbs. You already know about the great opportunity for learning and fun that we had with our Vacation Bible School, so let me tell you about our opportunities we had for service and fellowship. First the older girls in the group met together and made cookies. We then carried the cookies to Indywood-Glen. We had the opportunity to visit with several of our members and friends who live at Indywood-Glen. The older girls also joined me for lunch one Wednesday and then we were off to Winona to Paint your Personality where they completed a mosaic project. Then it was the boys in the group who met me for lunch. After lunch we returned to Westminster for a water gun battle. I will admit I lost, but probably had more fun than they did. The younger girls and I had a tea party late in the summer, and made a “teacup”. Finally we had our End of The Summer Party on August 10<sup>th</sup>. For those who do not know, this is when we had our water balloon fight, which only lasted 5 minutes no matter how many balloons I had filled, and I lost again. This year we added sprinklers and a slip and slide. After enjoying the water and sand box, we had supper and went home to get ready for school the next day.

I am now looking forward to Wednesday night classes which began August 24th. We will study the Children’s Catechism. Also new Sunday school classes began August 28th. There will be many opportunities for the children to learn and play this fall.

Please continue to pray for the children’s ministry. Thank all of you for your support and prayers.

Ellen

**Congratulations** – We are so excited to welcome into the world and to our congregational family Sophia Anne Owens, daughter of Richard and Anne Marie Owens. “Sophie” was born Monday, August 1 at 10:05 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds and 4 ounces.

**Welcome New Members** – We are so pleased to welcome into our church family several new members who joined the church in August. They are Zeb and Robin O’Bryant, Tracy Patridge and Meagan Reans.

## A Christian Book Review

By Gary Dyksterhouse

*Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* by John Piper

Why didn’t Jesus hold out for a better offer? When Jesus was presented with the job description of being Savior of mankind, what on earth made Him sign on the dotted line? As a member of our Pastoral Search Committee this is the question I was led to as I wondered why a man would choose to uproot his family and move to Greenwood, Mississippi to become our shepherd. Why would a man submit himself and his family to such uncertainty, turmoil, and potential strife? John Piper’s *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* was recommended to the Search Committee by Reverend Tim Starnes as an excellent way to learn more about what it means to be a pastor. The book was written as an exhortation to ministers, but I am a more informed, better prepared worshipper after having read it. Piper’s call in this book is twofold:

**That pastors might realize the sacred calling of shepherding a flock.** Piper desires that pastors focus their efforts on feeding and nourishing their flock, and warns pastors of the dangers of advancing their ‘career’ with the next step up in salary, congregational size, and responsibility.

**That congregational members might properly support their shepherds.** Our entire existence is predicated on magnifying the glory of God. Yet often we expect our pastors to make their life existence about us. It is one thing for a pastor to be cold towards his flock, but it is another for a congregation to evaluate a pastor on whether their personal needs are being met.

When I asked earlier why Jesus would risk everything to come to earth and die a sinner’s death, my guess is that many of you whispered to yourself: “Jesus came to earth for me”. Piper makes a clear argument that while Jesus did come to earth for his elect, that was not his primary purpose. Jesus’ primary purpose was to bring glory to the Father. Piper argues that most Christians today are willing to be God-centered as long as God is man-centered. Fortunately God does not give us that option. God’s redemptive plan was and is centered on the only holy, perfect, omnipotent being that ever existed, Himself. The mere idea that the God of the universe allows rebellious, sinful people to be a part of His master plan should drop us to our knees in worship. This truth frees us as congregational members to love our pastor because he loves Christ and because he is sacrificing a life of his own to serve us. This truth frees our pastor to give up his career ambitions and pride as he seeks to weave the gospel into every fiber of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

*Brothers, We Are Not Professionals* is thirty short chapters of God glorifying worship. Piper challenges both the shepherd and the sheep in a variety of applicable topics ranging from Justification by Faith, Prayer, Biblical Meditation, Repentance, and Piper’s standard topic of Christian Hedonism. If you have ever read Piper you would know that he is a firm believer that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. So as we search for a pastor, and as you pray for a pastor, let us not lose sight of the prize. We serve a great God who is in complete control, and who for our sake, sacrificed His own Son on the cross.

**Prayer List** – Please pray for the following: Neil, Allison and Cole Pillow and family, Bettye Jim Morgan, the Pastoral Search Committee, 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, 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 Joie Blount, Suzanne Shaw, and Amber Joiner.

**Little Worship** – All children ages 4 and 5 are invited to participate in Little Worship. Those who have volunteered for the month of September are: September 4 – Neil and Allison Pillow, September 11 – Johnny and Georgeanne Smith, September 18 – Walter and Stevie Pillow and September 25 – Kent and Cyndi Savage.

**Wednesday Night Activities Resumed** – Our Wednesday night Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies and Children’s activities started back on Wednesday, August 24. Activities start at 6:00 p.m. The men and women will meet together in the library. It is a great time of study and fellowship and everyone is encouraged to come. The Jr. and Sr. High are continuing their Bible Study also.

**Westminster Mission Team** – The mission team is in the process of evaluating which missionaries Westminster supports. If you would like to be a part of this process, please talk to Gary Dyksterhouse or Lee Coleman, and they will tell you how you can be involved.

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

The September team is John Downs (Head), Jeff and Brady Warren, Kirk and Darla Kimes, and McLeod and Allison Meek.

The October team is Craig and Jamie Brewer (Head), Wally and Ann Montgomery, Gene and Jere Stansel, and Tripp and Candace Sanders.

### Activities for September

Sunday, September 4	Communion
Wednesday, September 7	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study COVERED DISH LUNCHEON (11:15 A.M.)
Sunday, September 11	
Wednesday, September 14	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children’s Bible Study
Saturday, September 17	S.O.S. – Youth Service on Saturday
Wednesday, September 21	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study
Wednesday, September 28	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study

### Happy Birthday Wishes

September 2 – Robin Wessman  
September 3 – Keith Robertson  
September 3 – Qua’Niya Head  
September 8 – Stephen Pillow  
September 8 – Sarah Frances O’Brien  
September 10 – Mary Virginia Morgan  
September 21 – Ellen Hey  
September 21 – Lorie Guenther  
September 23 – Betty Morgan  
September 24 – Wayne Tollison  
September 27 – Jason Archer  
September 28 – Sister Kosko

### Happy Anniversary

September 21 – Jeff and Brady Warren  
September 23 – Kent and Cyndi Savage  
September 25 – Bob and Mary Ann Bryan

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
804 East Park Avenue  
Greenwood, MS 38930



Westminster Presbyterian Church | Greenwood, Mississippi

## September, 2011

### Sunday School Kickoff

Westminster kicked off its new year in Sunday school on August 28 with new teachers and new studies. Join us!

### Wednesday Night Activities Resumed

Our Wednesday night Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies and Children’s activities started back on Wednesday, August 24. Activities start at 6:00 p.m. The Men and Women will meet together in the Library, the Children will meet in the Fellowship Hall and the Jr. and Sr. High Youth are continuing their Bible Study in the Fireside Room.

### The Usher Team for September

John Downs (head usher), Jeff and Brady Warren, Kirk and Darla Kimes, and McLeod and Allison Meek.

### Friday, October 7 – Sunday October 9 - 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 scheduled 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.

**The final day to register is Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

If interested, contact Kim Pillow at 662-299-8750 or Cyndi Savage at 662-299-7976 or the church office (662-453-7608). Also visit the conference website [amazinggrace360.com](http://amazinggrace360.com).