

Pastor’s Perspective

Mister Rogers is a name we are all familiar hearing. Whether you have grown up watching Mister Rogers, or been around children, who watch Mister Rogers, you have become familiar with his neighborhood. I can still remember sitting in my grandparents’ living room while eating vanilla wafers with peanut butter, and sipping on a coke just singing along with Mister Rogers. As my brother and I say, we asked along with him, “won’t you be my neighbor?” I was not aware of it at the time, but the message Mister Rogers conveyed is more profoundly true of God’s intention for humanity, than we might initially realize. To put it another way, Mister Rogers presents in seed form what the gospel more fully teaches about community. Through this children’s program, I learned about what it means to be someone’s neighbor. This is quite significant for me, considering our only neighbors were our grandparents. However, I learned that even though I did not physically live in a neighborhood, I still needed community and could be a neighbor.

The concept of community seemed to build in my life throughout high school and college, as I played team sports. The brotherhood I experienced on the practice field and in the locker room was God’s means for continuing to grow my love for community. However, despite my positive community building experiences, I still faced the temptation to be the “Lone Ranger” and to pull into a self-sufficiency mindset.

Alex Harris writes, “American popular lore tries to persuade us that our destiny was won only by rugged individuals who stood tall, acted alone, rarely talked, and drank their whiskey straight. We’re taught to admire the rebel, the loner, the maverick.” However, this is not reality. Great achievements are accomplished through individuals coming together to co-labor, to agree on a common goal, and to build upon each others’ various strengths and talents. I once heard an interesting statistic that illustrates the principle of strength in numbers. A study was conducted revealing that a single horse can pull up to 2,500 pounds. Logically, one would assume that two horses could pull 5,000 pounds. However, that assumption is incorrect. Two horses working together can pull 12,500 pounds, which is five times the amount one could pull alone! As God’s word says in Ecclesiastes 4: 9, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.”

The Gospel story illustrates and emphasizes the concept of community over and over. We were designed from the beginning of time to need one another. In the book of Acts we meet the early church, where we find people are continually meeting together, helping each other out, and encouraging each other. The early church was an exciting time in which the value of both “neighbor” and “community” were clearly understood. While I am thankful for the introduction to community, which I gained through Mister Rogers and team sports, I am most thankful for the gospel! Galatians 3:28 states, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” This verse means as Christians we are unified and we are a part of a community. Our community is built upon the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ and we have strength in numbers as we encourage one another to believe the Gospel and to love Jesus in our everyday lives. Through God’s grace, as the Bride of Christ, we are a redeemed community. We are a colony of hope living in the country of despair.

I wish to conclude as Mister Rogers does by asking, “won’t you be my neighbor?”

For the Kingdom,

Richard

News from the Mission Field

French Camp Academy

French Camp Academy is holding its annual Harvest Festival Saturday October 8th. An auction will be held in the Cain-Patterson Gymnasium, and all proceeds will go directly to French Camp. The Harvest Festival begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes sorghum molasses processing, blue grass music, craft demonstrations, dinner on the grounds, concessions, and a country store. French Camp Academy has extended an invitation for the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church to attend the Harvest Festival and the auction.

Westminster Mission Team

The mission team is in the process of evaluating which missionaries Westminster Presbyterian 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.

Hallelujah Hoe-Down

You are WANTED for the HALLELUJAH HOE DOWN! Round up at WPC Ranch on **Wednesday, October 26th at 5:00 P.M.** until Sundown.

It’s not just for the little sharp shooters. WE WANT ALL THE WPC POSSE!!!! Saddle up in western duds and mosey on over for a stompin' good time.

We are calling all cowpokes for the 1st ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF. Winner takes home a \$100 Viking Gift Certificate and braggin' rights.

Carnival games, inflatable jump, dunking booth, hayride, laser tag, bake walk, cotton candy and corndogs for all the buckin’ broncos.

Be there or we'll send the Sherriff lookin' for ya!

AGAPE Sunday School Report

The Agape class not only began the fall with new subject material, but a new location. This class has moved from the fellowship hall and is now meeting in the friendly confines of the choir room. I am teaching a study on the book of Habakkuk that we are calling “Have Faith Anyway!” Our discussion has been reflective of the source material: war, violence, complaint, lament; basically what you’d expect from an Old Testament prophet! But believe it or not, we’ve managed to find the lighter side to the dark themes of this book and work through the drama to get to the heart of Habakkuk’s message: no matter how dire, hopeless, or even Godless your situation might appear, God is in control ... so you might as well have faith anyway! Please come join us as we continue our time of learning and fellowship.

Lee Coleman

GriefShare Ministry

We will have a one night GriefShare seminar on “*Helping those dealing with Grief: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS.*” No matter how long it has been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there is Hope. Join us for a one night session, Tuesday, **November 15 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. This will be an encouraging seminar that will help you or a friend survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again. A nursery will be provided. For more information, call Kim Pillow at 299-8750.

Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study

Before Zeb and I moved to Greenwood, we came to see the town, look around at Pillow Academy and look for houses. My best friend drove me around as we looked at houses on the market and occasionally she would say, “That’s Allison Pillow’s house,” or “That’s where Elizabeth O’Brien lives.” She told me about the Tuesday morning Bible study at WPC and she said, “I can’t explain it Robin. It is the sweetest time in my week. The presence of God is so strong there.”

We found a house and moved to Greenwood and while I was still unpacking boxes Kathryn and Gary Dyksterhouse showed up with cinnamon rolls and kind words. I started attending Tuesday morning Bible study while Zeb and I visited every church in town, trying to find the place God had for us.

My first day at Bible study I could barely speak. I cried the entire time the other women prayed. I had just left a precious group of friends in Charleston, SC that it had taken me two years to make. We had built relationships based on trust and had such sweet prayer and study times together, and when we moved to Greenwood I grieved the loss of those relationships. As I sat in Cindy Mercer’s apartment that morning I cried because I was so overwhelmed that God had plucked me out of one amazing group of women, then carefully, and purposefully, without skipping a beat, He placed me right in the middle of another group.

I cried because their prayers were so earnest and heartfelt and I cried because they were praying about the concerns that were on my heart.

A few months after we had been in Greenwood and I became ill, those same women became the hands and feet of Christ to me. They prayed for me but they didn’t stop there. They served me, they fed me and they took care of my children when I couldn’t do it myself.

The Tuesday morning Bible study has been a lifeline to me since we’ve been in Greenwood. It was a huge factor in our decision to attend WPC and the power of these women’s prayers has had direct impact on our church, our community and my heart.

*If you are a woman and available on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30**, please join us in the Fireside Room. We are so excited to see what God has in store for us this year!*

Robin

Baby Shower for Suzanne Patridge Shaw - The Women in the Church (WIC) have the pleasure of hosting a baby shower for Suzanne Patridge Shaw on Sunday, October 16 at 2:30 in the home of Allison Meek, #7 Rosemary Lane. The invitation is to follow. Suzanne is registered at Babies R Us, Fincher’s, and Monograms and More. We look forward to helping supply the nursery of William James Shaw.

Women in the Church (WIC) Committee

We would like to thank Cyndi Savage and her committee Beth Barger, Ellen Hey, Stevie Pillow and Selena Nause for all their hard work.

Our new committee members are Cathy Adams (Facilitator), Vicky Patridge, Lorie Guenther, Kathryn Dyksterhouse and Sister Kosko. Please help them in any way you can.

Prayer List – Please pray for the following: Neil, Allison and Cole Pillow and family, Bettye Jim Morgan, the Pastor 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.

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 for the month of October are October 5 – John Downs; October 12 – Tracy Patridge; October 19 – Meredith Fletcher; October 26 – Hallelujah Hoe Down

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

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

Activities for October

Sunday, October 2	Communion
Tuesday, October 4	Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.-WPC)
Wednesday, October 5	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study
Friday, October 7 – Sunday, October 9	WIC International Conference, Atlanta GA
Sunday, October 9	COVERED DISH LUNCHEON (11:15 A.M.)
Tuesday, October 11	Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.-WPC)
Wednesday, October 12	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children’s Bible Study
Saturday, October 15	S.O.S. – Youth Service on Saturday
Tuesday, October 18	Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.-WPC)
Wednesday, October 19	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study
Tuesday, October 25	Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.-WPC)
Wednesday, October 26	Hallelujah Hoe-Down – (5:00 p.m.)

Happy Birthday Wishes

October 1 – Freda MacIntosh	October 17 – Fisher Southworth
October 1 – Molly Downing	October 18 – Crystal Downing
October 1 – Larry Myers	October 19 – Bettye Jim Morgan
October 1 – Watson Durden Pillow	October 20 – Jean Coleman
October 4 – Anderson Smith	October 22 – Ray Archer
October 11 – Brady Warren	October 25 – Amber Overstreet
October 12 – Charles Nause	October 25 – Brittany Overstreet
October 13 – Wilkes Meek	October 30 – Diane Gaillard
October 14 – Chase Downing	

Happy Anniversary

October 1 – Mark and Beth Barger
October 30 – Bill and Bettye Montgomery

Westminster Presbyterian Church
804 East Park Avenue
Greenwood, MS 38930



Westminster Presbyterian Church | Greenwood, Mississippi

October, 2011

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 Gutherie, Brian Habig, Kevin Twit along with countless others will be participating this year.

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**.

Hallelujah Hoe-Down – Wednesday, October 26

You are WANTED for the HALLELUJAH HOE DOWN! Round up at WPC Ranch on **Wednesday, October 26th at 5:00 p.m.** until Sundown. There will be a Chili Cook-Off this year and the winner will take home a \$100 Viking Gift Certificate and braggin’ rights.

GriefShare Ministry – November 15

We will have a one night GriefShare seminar on “*Helping those dealing with Grief: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS.*” No matter how long it has been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there is Hope. Join us for a one night session, Tuesday, **November 15 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. This will be an encouraging seminar that will help you or a friend survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again. A nursery will be provided. For more information, call Kim Pillow at 299-8750.

