

## Pastor's Perspective

Since the passing of Steve Jobs on October 5, 2011, there has been much written about his life. For many, Jobs is a hero of epic proportions. He was an innovator, entrepreneur, visionary, and CEO (just to name a few) who enabled us to hold the world in our hands. Personally, I have not jumped on the "I love Steve Jobs and Apple products" bandwagon, maybe they are out of my price range, but many have. However, what most interests me about Jobs is what the Lord has taught me as I have considered his life. Walter Isaacson, Jobs' biographer, commented on the effect Jobs' cancer had on his life focus. Isaacson said of Jobs, "He talked a lot to me about what happened when he got sick and how it focused him. He said he no longer wanted to go out, no longer wanted to travel the world. He would focus on products. He knew the couple of things he wanted to do, which was the iPhone and then the iPad."

Though Jobs was not a Christian, we can learn much from that quote. Jobs was living in the shadow of his own funeral and that focused him. He realized that if you are a Jack of all trades, you will master none. Jobs' only focus was making the iPhone and iPad and making them really well. As a Christian I consider this, and my mind immediately gallops to Colossians 3:23-24, "23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Are you focused? Do you work "heartily?" Steve Jobs did not do his work for the Lord, but he sure did it heartily. Jobs focused to produce a product that would change the technological world. His reward was nothing more than a quality product; nonetheless, his focus is something a Christian can learn from.

Steve Jobs realized once he got sick that many of the things he was pursuing were not in line with his ultimate goal. He focused on his goal. What is your ultimate goal? As Christians our ultimate goal is to glorify God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 states, "31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." May we seek to glorify God in everything we do! May that be our passion and our obsession! As Christians we are reminded that the reality of the universe is found in the Kingdom of God. What are we doing to build the Kingdom and what are we doing to advance the Kingdom? In a society of sound bites, text messages, and abbreviations, it is hard to "work heartily" at anything because there is so much we try to do. Between soccer, football, softball, hunting, watching sports, movies, TV shows, video games, cell phones, vacations, and work, it is very easy to be overwhelmed and to feel as though you do nothing more than spin your wheels.

Christian, focus! May whatever you do be done with your whole heart as for the Lord! If you have too much going on in your life to do that, maybe you should take a lesson from Jobs. Simplify, and do what you do well. Ultimately do what you do for the Lord, to make His Kingdom beautiful and His name glorious, knowing that you will receive an inheritance as your reward. That inheritance is Jesus and Jesus is better than all the iPhones and iPads you could imagine. May you work and live your life with the confidence that you are building something that will last longer than technology and even time itself. Work for the Kingdom!

For the Kingdom,

Richard

## News From the Mission Field

### Kenton and Karen Wood, MTW Guadalajara, Mexico



Dear Family and Friends,

Many of you have asked about how Karen is progressing health wise. In our March letter we shared that the cancer in Karen's body had metastasized into a left rib and some nodules in her lungs. Not good news.

Aside from this was the painful atrophying of her left arm due to a fibrosis in the plexus brachial nerves of her left shoulder and arm, a consequence of radiation two years ago.

Surgery was performed in March to uncover the nerves and the surgeon warned that recovery of her arm and hand could take up to two years. Adding to this is the frequent filling of her arm with lymphatic fluid which adds to the pain.

Since then a therapist works with her three times a week to regenerate the nerves, reduce the fluid and swelling, and get some muscle tone. Progress has been painful, slow, and yet hopeful. We are full of faith waiting on the Lord to fully heal her.

Karen cannot lead worship on Sunday from the piano as she usually does, but out of our 5 services she is now able to participate as a singer in at least three services.

But, we have great news! Last week the oncologist told us that the cancer nodules in her lungs had significantly diminished. We have noticed that her voice is stronger too. Continue to pray that the cancer from her lungs disappear, and that she regain full movement in her hand.

Someday we expect her to once again use that left hand at the piano and on the guitar to worship our Lord. Keep on praying for her complete recovery!

### **VERITAS Sunday School Report**

The Veritas Sunday School Class is currently studying Generous Justice by Tim Keller. Gary Dyksterhouse and Zeb O'Bryant are co-teaching the class. God has made it clear in his Word that we are to give aid to the needy, the downtrodden, the poor, and the oppressed. The difficulty we find as Christians is determining exactly how to accomplish this seemingly impossible task. First, we built a basis for Social Justice in the church by establishing what it is, and why it is important. Secondly, we have looked at Justice in the Bible. Specifically we have looked to apply the social laws about Justice of the Old Testament to our current situation as 21<sup>st</sup> century Mississippians. Next we are beginning to look at Justice and Poverty in relation to our current political system, local economy, and other wide reaching social constructs. As we dive deeper and deeper into this complex issue, we are looking to obtain a practical knowledge of how we are to care for the needy, the destitute, and the oppressed in both our church and our community. We are looking to fill our hearts with the Gospel so that it will overflow into radical acts of love and generosity in our community.

Gary Dyksterhouse



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 – 8:00 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. To register, call Kim Pillow at 299-8750; email - [khpillow@yahoo.com](mailto:khpillow@yahoo.com)) or the church office at 453-7608.

### **Westminster Quarterly Financial Update**

2011 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (July, August, September)

Budget:	107,840.07
Expenses:	103,426.63
Income:	91,476.61
NET:	-11,950.02

Stated above is the promised quarterly financial update from your Diaconate. We report these numbers with the following disclaimer: The Mississippi Delta and our church are heavily reliant on agriculture. Therefore our month to month finances often experience large swings in income. While we would like for each quarter to balance out to a net gain, that is not always the case.

We feel comfortable with our current financial position when compared to our historical monthly averages. As we start reporting these numbers more regularly, you will see patterns, and have a better feel for where we are as a church financially. Our goal is to keep you informed and involved. God has, does, and will provide for our church, so please be encouraged in your giving. As your officers, we are doing our best to make wise, tough decisions regarding where God's money is invested. Please feel free to pull a deacon aside and ask any questions you might have regarding our expenditures. If he cannot answer your question, he will be able to point you to a leader who can. Thank you for your support of God's work. It is truly our blessing to invest God's resources for the kingdom.

**Prayer List** – Please pray for the following: Becky Coleman, Neil, Allison and Cole Pillow and family, Bettye Jim Morgan, the Pastor Search Committee, Gene Stansel, Guy Robertson (Keith's father), 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, Harris Coleman and family and our expectant mother Amber Joiner.

**Baby Congratulations** – We are so excited to congratulate Chris and Suzanne Shaw on the birth of their new baby boy, William James Shaw. He was born Friday, October 14, 2011 and weighed 5 lbs. and 12 oz. We welcome William into our covenant fold.

**Wedding Congratulations** – We celebrate with Lauren Boyd and Ryan Robertson on their recent wedding. They were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Greenwood.

### Memories of Jean Coleman –

When I wanted to know Mrs. Coleman’s opinion, all I had to do was to be around her. For this reason I felt that we were kin. I don’t recall that we ever disagreed, maybe with one exception. For some unknown reason, she always thought that Big Watson Pillow was wonderful and she loved him. Never could understand that, maybe I was just jealous. Mrs. Coleman, you will never be replaced in this community, or this church or in my heart. I will always love you. ~ William Patridge

The thought of Ms. Jean makes me smile. Oh, how I loved that lady. I never had to wonder what she was thinking, because she would tell me. If I dared to complain, she would quickly remind me of my many blessings with Joey at the top of the list. She adored Joey Smith. When I joined the choir, she insisted on caring for my children during Worship. The first time they sat with the Coleman’s, I held my breath as I watched from the choir loft. Of course, she came armed with crayons, candy, and most importantly, love. I have so many fond memories that I could write a book, but there is one thing that I will never, ever forget. Every time I visited with Ms. Jean, she would say, “Lori, you know I pray for you and your family every day.” Ms. Jean was a faithful servant and a gift from God to our family, as well as to many others. ~ Lori Smith

### Activities for NOVEMBER

- Wednesday, November 2 Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)  
Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study
- Sunday, November 6 Communion
- Tuesday, November 8 Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m. at WPC)  
Election Day
- Wednesday, November 9 Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)  
Adult Bible Study, Children Bible Study
- Sunday, November 13 COVERED DISH LUNCHEON (11:15 A.M.)
- Tuesday, November 15 Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m. at WPC)  
Grief/Share one night seminar (6 – 8:00 p.m.)  
“SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS”
- Wednesday, November 16 Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)  
Adult Bible Study, Children’s Bible Study
- Saturday, November 19 S.O.S. – Youth Service on Saturday
- Tuesday, November 22 Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m. at WPC)
- Wednesday, November 23 No Wednesday Night Meeting
- Tuesday, November 29 Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m. at WPC)
- Wednesday, November 30 Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.)  
Adult Bible Study, Children’s Bible Study

### Happy Birthday Wishes

- November 5 – Sara Butler Makamson
- November 6 – Murry Adams
- November 8 – Hayden Pillow
- November 13 – Nichole Henry
- November 14 – Larry Joe Makamson
- November 18 – Brady Warren
- November 19 – Walker Kimes
- November 21 – Scott MacIntosh
- November 23 – Lou Adams
- November 24 – Courtney Myers
- November 25 – Cathy Adams
- November 26 – Rob Joiner
- November 26 – Meagan Reans
- November 27 – Peter Houston
- November 28 – Sue Lott
- November 30 – Kent Savage

### Happy Anniversary

- November 1 – Richard and Anne Marie Owens
- November 6 – John and Tracy Patridge
- November 7 – Ted and Freda MacIntosh
- November 12 – Wilson and Diane Gaillard
- November 20 – John and Mary Nell Downs

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
804 East Park Avenue  
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Westminster Presbyterian Church | Greenwood, Mississippi

## November, 2011

### Time Changes Sunday, November 6

REMEMBER to set your clocks **back** 1 hour this Sunday.

### Youth Night at Mallard Manor, November 5

Meet at Westminster at 3:30 p.m. We will drive to Drew, MS. At Mallard Manor, activities (weather permitting) will begin at 4:45 p.m. We will have activities for the youth such as angle ball, Ultimate Frisbee, fishing and clay shoot! Those desiring to shoot clays will need to bring \$10 with them to participate (gun & ammo will be provided. If youth desires to shoot more, he will need to bring \$15. Fishing equipment will NOT be supplied). Supper will be provided followed by S’mores around the camp fire. If you plan on going, let me know. Your parents will need to sign a release form. Activities will be over by 8:30 p.m.

### Fall Youth Retreat, November 11-12

Paul and Sister Kosko have offered to host our Fall Retreat at “Willing Wait,” this year. We will leave the church at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> and will return to the church after lunch on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost for this retreat, but if one wishes to purchase a WPC T-shirt, \$15 will be charged. Meals will be provided! Invite your friends, but please let Richard know you are planning on going by November 7 so he can plan accordingly.

