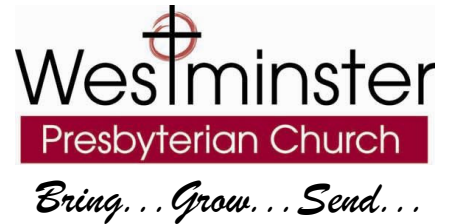


February 2012

The Messenger



A monthly publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Lent: Same Old Story or Something New?

This month we enter the season of Lent, the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Historically, the notion of a forty-day period set aside for a specific purpose has deep Biblical roots, from the flood of Genesis to Moses' stay on Mount Sinai to Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. Traditionally, the purpose of Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and self-examination to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the early church, for example, this season of preparation held special meaning, as those desiring to be baptized would spend the forty days of Lent learning what it means to be a disciple of Christ as they prepared to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. It's an old story rooted in history and tradition. But is there something new you and I might discover in it this year?

As a congregation, we have several opportunities to help us experience the old story of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection in new and fresh ways. During our Ash Wednesday service on February 22, we will be given a special gift to carry with us throughout Lent as a reminder of Jesus' love and sacrifice. Each Sunday morning in worship we will look at one of the figures around the cross, people who witnessed firsthand Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We will have Lenten devotionals available for personal study. Finally, on Wednesday nights, we will take a close-up look at the events that took place in the twenty-four hours between the Last Supper and Jesus' death. Got questions about those events? We want to hear them! In fact, this study will be designed around questions from our own congregation. Join us as together we take a fresh look at familiar events.

In addition to these corporate opportunities, how will you personally set aside this season as a special time in your spiritual life? Many traditionally give up something for Lent – chocolate, TV, or, in recent years, Facebook. Instead of giving up something, some choose to add something to their spiritual routine – spending 5 minutes in silent prayer in order to make space for listening to God, committing to read through a particular book of the Bible, or setting aside regular time during Lent to serve with one of our local mission partners as a reminder of Christ's call to love our neighbor. Perhaps you wish to recapture the tradition of the early church by spending these forty days remembering your baptism, our baptismal vows, and the promises God makes for us at baptism. (Resources are available in the church office for those who may be interested.) How will this season of Lent be different for you this year?

The season of Lent is an old story, rooted in tradition and designed to remind us anew of God's amazing story – a story in which you and I are invited to join! Our prayer is that the "old, old story" would take on new and deeper meaning for each of us as we draw near to the cross together.

In Christ,

Nicole Lock

<u>February 5th</u>	<u>February 12th</u>	<u>February 19th</u>	<u>February 22nd</u>	<u>February 26th</u>
"Repair Work"	"Staying In Contact"	"Sharing Good News"	Ash Wednesday Service	To be announced
Matthew 5:21-26	Luke 11:9-13	Mark 5:1-20	7 pm in the Sanctuary	Dr. Mike Garrett
Rev. Nicole Lock	Dr. Mike Garrett	Dr. Mike Garrett	Rev. Nicole Lock	First Sunday in Lent
Communion			R o	

Announcements must be in the Church Office by 10 am on Wednesday in order to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.

Announcements for the Messenger must be in by February 19th. Place them in the Messenger mailbox, turn in to the Church office or e-mail to kmdutton@comcast.net (75 word Maximum)

Every Week

Sundays

- 8:30am Chapel Service (YC)
9:00am Contemporary Service (S)
10:10am Sunday School
11:00am ECSI Worship (YC)
11:15am Traditional Service
3:00pm International Christians B.S. (P)

Tuesdays

- 10:00am Calvin Cove (FC)
10:30am Encouragers (22)
1:30pm Staff Mtg. (P)

Wednesdays

- 9:30am Truthseekers (P)
10:00am Calvin Cove (FC)
1:00pm Fun Ambassadors (Back YK)
5:30pm Westminster Ringers (11)
Westminster Wednesdays
6:00pm Dinner (FC)
6:45pm Adult Bible Study (22)
6:45pm Youth Bible Study (SH, PR)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (CR)

Thursdays

- 10:00am Calvin Cove (FC)
6:00pm Embracing the Edges
6:30pm Contemporary Practice (S)

Fridays

- 6:00am WestMen at Starbucks

Saturdays

S	Sanctuary
FC	Fellowship Center
BR	Brides Room
CR	Choir Room
CY	Court Yard
L	Library
P	Parlor
PS	Pulse Room
YC	Youth Center
YK	Youth Kitchen

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Adult Education

Studies on Books of the Bible

Esther – Acts 29, Room 22
Jeremiah – Serendipity Class, Room 7
God's Redemption from The Present Word
– Friendship Class, Room 10/Library

Studies in Spiritual Growth

Crazy Love – Pod Series, Parlor
The Jesus Creed – Pilgrim Class, Room 13
The Me I Want to Be – Christian Living Class, Room 6

Studies in Hot Topics & Relational Evangelism

Muslims, Christians, and Jesus – Believers Class, Room 8

A Healthier Man through Christ

WestMen has dedicated 2012 to the theme of “A Healthier Man through Christ”. Beginning in February, we’re dedicating a year of focused programming to four critical areas where we can be better living examples of how God would have us live. We’ve adopted a “quarterly” format for our theme and we’ll start assessing our physical health in February. We have a number of people that will participate in the Run the Reagan and we’ll also have Dr. Bruce Sabin speak at our March Men’s Breakfast of medical issues facing our men. Our gatherings, FMSS studies and other programs will incorporate the theme throughout the year. In addition to a focus on Physical Health, we’re also going to undertake such areas as Spiritual Health, Financial Health and Healthy Relationships. A key part of this theme is the COURAGEOUS screening on Friday, February 24th. It’s your life, don’t live on the sidelines. For more information on this program, seek out members of the WestMen Planning Council (Paul Brundage, John Burt, Jay Crossman, Rex Foster, James Lock, Steve Narrie and Daryl Santilli).

Stephen Ministry

Valentine's Day

Sometimes Valentine's Day isn't happy for some people. Valentine's Day is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, the death of a loved one, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, or another life challenge. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's "ultimate Valentine") back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and

how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Linda Cline or Margaret Leeper. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Explorers

The next gathering of the Explorers will be at 11:30am Tuesday, February 7th at John Boy's. Those 45 and over are welcome to come for great food and fellowship. For information contact Betty Singletary.

Annual Chili Show and Talent Supper

It's that time of year again. On Sunday, Feb 26, 2012 at 6:00PM, your Chancel Choir will sponsor the Annual Chili Show and Talent Supper. Everyone in the church is invited to present his or her talents (singing, dancing, story-telling, etc.) on that evening. This has become one of the highlights of Westminster's year and the fellowship center is always packed. It's "tons of fun" so mark your calendars now. The Choir will supply some of the best chili you've ever eaten along with hotdogs for all you gastronomically challenged people. We ask that attendees bring only a dessert item and their smiles.

As in past years, the Choir will accept donations toward the church's music program. Past Chili Shows have paid for all the choir robes, guest instrumentalists and lots of other needed items.

The talent "sign-up sheet" will be in the church Narthex beginning Sunday, January 22 through Sunday, Feb 19. We have to limit the number of acts to 15 so don't delay, start planning if you want to be part of the show. Any questions please contact Ralph Johnson.

BE (at) COURAGEOUS

On Friday, February 24th at 7:00 PM, WestMen will host a community-wide screening of COURAGEOUS in the Fellowship Center. COURAGEOUS is the most recent film from Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, the same group that brought Fireproof and Facing the Giants to the big screen. COURAGEOUS chronicles the lives of five men who are thrust into assessing their lives and relationships as a result of an unimaginable circumstance. It's a movie night, so snacks and refreshments will be provided. The movie is rated PG-13 for some violence and drug related content. We hope to see all of the men of WPC at this screening, along with their families and friends. We're actually praying for an overflow audience. This will be a big event in the life of our church so please come and experience the message. See Paul Brundage, James Lock or Steve Narrie for more information.

Westminster Wednesdays

Westminster Wednesdays Schedule

6:00pm Dinner for all ages in Fellowship Center

Please check weekly e-letter and bulletin for menu.

\$6 per adult, \$3 per child (age 4-5th grade), free for children under age 3,
\$22 max. per family.

****Please make your reservations by completing a Wednesday Night Dinner Reservation Form on Sunday or by contacting the church office (770-979-9676) by 12 noon on Monday.****

After dinner, join us for classes for all ages:

6:45-7:45pm Children's Activities (6:30-7:45pm for Elementary School)

Nursery (2 years and younger) on the Preschool Wing-Little Lambs Room

Preschool (3 years – Kindergarten) Choir & Faithweaver Friends on the Preschool Wing-Mighty Lions Room

Elementary (Grades 1-3) Choir in Room 11 (6:30-7:00pm), Bible Study in Fishes 'n' Loaves Café (7:00-7:45pm)

Elementary (Grades 4-5) Choir in Room 11 (6:30-7:00pm), Bible Study in TEnt Commandments Room (7:00-7:45pm)

6:45-7:45pm Youth "Digging Deeper" Bible Studies

PULSE (Grades 6-8) in PULSE Room.

Senior High (Grades 9-12) in Senior High Room

6:45-7:45pm Adult Classes

Westminster Wednesdays February Classes for Adults

January 4-February 15th: "Adult Bible Study: How Should We Live If We're Going To Live Forever?"-Room 22 Because of Christ, we as Christians have hope for eternal life. That hope for the life to come is to impact our life today. Knowing we'll live forever, how then shall we live today? Join us as together we explore this question.

Beginning February 29! Twenty-Four Hours That Changed the World: Adult Lenten Bible Study, February 29-March 28-What was the significance of Jesus' "last supper" with the disciples? What happened during the trial? Why did the disciples abandon Jesus when they needed him most? What was the meaning of the crucifixion and Jesus' last words? What do we believe about the resurrection? Join us as we take a close-up look at some familiar events in the life of Christ. Got questions? We want to hear them! In fact, this study is based on questions from the congregation. For more information, contact Nicole Lock at 770-979-9676, ext. 224, or nicolelock@wpcsnellville.org.

Youth Ministry

Please look for the February activities on our Facebook page or watch for upcoming e-mails.

Children's Ministry

Current Events: WPC Chili Show-February 26-The preschool and elementary children will be practicing during choir on Sundays and Wednesdays for the show. This tends to be a really fun event for our congregation, so don't miss it!

Upcoming Events: Ash Wednesday-Feb 22-The elementary children will go to music @ 6:30 and then attend the 7:00 service with their families. There will be nursery for the preschool children.

Upcoming Mission Projects: One Great Hour of Sharing/Fish Banks-February, March, and April-From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday the children will collect money in their fish banks and use a daily devotional prayer calendar. The money collected goes to support the Presbyterian hunger program and church world service. The children will offer their banks at the Easter service.

VBS 2012: We are currently in the planning stages for this year's VBS. Stacey Morton and Julie Philpott will be the Co-Directors. The theme will be announced soon. Please start thinking about where you would like to volunteer. It takes many volunteers to make this program a successful church and community event.

February

Wednesday February 1st

Westminster Wednesday

Thursday February 2nd

6:30pm CDA Training (TCR)

Friday February 3rd

Saturday February 4th

Sunday February 5th

12:30pm Senior Adult Ministry (L)
12:45pm Mission & Evangelism (22)
5:30pm Youth Souper Bowl Party (Poisal's)
7:00pm Prayer Vigil (S)

Monday February 6th

7:00pm WOW Council (22)

Tuesday February 7th

11:30am Explorer's (John Boy's)
5:00pm Fireside Chatter (P)

Wednesday February 8th

Westminster Wednesday

Thursday February 9th

6:30pm CDA Training (TCR)
7:00pm Stephen Ministry (P)

Friday February 10th

Saturday February 11th

Presbytery Meeting

Sunday February 12th

12:30pm Finance & Budget (7)
12:30pm Senior Adult Luncheon (FC) (youth to serve)
3:00pm Children of Youth & Parents of Children and Youth Strategic Teams (22)
4:30pm Youth Committee Meeting (YO)
6:00pm Youth Fellowship

Monday February 13th

Tuesday February 14th

9:00am Preschool Teddy Bear Tea (YC)
10:30am Ruth Circle (P)

Wednesday February 15th

Westminster Wednesday

Thursday February 16th

6:30pm CDA Training (TCR)

Friday February 17th

Saturday February 18th

8:00am Men's Breakfast (FC)

Keeping-In-Touch

To help you keep in-touch with members who are not able to come to church often, we are providing the names, addresses, & phone numbers of folks, who you might like to write, call or visit.

Home-Touch Members I (Members living at Home)

NOTE:WPC does not post address/phone information on the website version of the newsletter.

Please contact the Church office for more information...

Arnie Almand	Margaret Krieger
Rosie Gresham	Adele Schwier
Marie Harris	Diane Spencer

Home-Touch Members II (Members living in Assisted Living, Retirement Communities, or Nursing Homes)

NOTE:WPC does not post address/phone information on the website version of the newsletter.

Please contact the Church office for more information...

Ray Andersen	Mimi Roberts
Velma Connell	Louise Rowe
Malley Evitt	Anita Smith
Naomi Morgan	

Thank You

To The Westminster Family,

I just wanted to say thank you for helping my family and I through our difficult time this past year.

Carla M. Darby

~

Dear Gracious Westminster Christmas Angels,

I would like to thank the wonderful ladies who brought such joy to me this Christmas and last with their visit, gifts and poinsettias. I miss dearly being able to be physically present at WPC, but through your kindness and that of many others through continued cards, calls and emails, I know I am still very much a part of Westminster. God bless all of you and I miss you all.

Diane Spencer

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A BIG THANK YOU FROM CALVIN COVE!!!

Janet Johnson and Vicki Santilli, along with the wonderful, faithful Calvin Cove Volunteers, wish to thank everyone who provided BINGO prizes for the annual Christmas party. They were a huge hit!!

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To Our Wonderful Family of Faith at WPC,

Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, meals, and other expressions of care during Nicole's recent surgery and recovery. We are so grateful for each of you. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

In Christ,

James and Nicole Lock

Congregational Concerns

Sympathy is Extended to:

Midge, Bob, Caitie and Gracie Coker after the death of Midge's brother, David Manning, Saturday, December 24, 2011.

Jerrye Short, Betsy Delegram, Cindy Wood and their entire family, after the death of Jerrye's brother/Betsy and Cindy's uncle, Jim Griffith, Friday, January 20, 2012.

Birth:

Claire Elizabeth Barry, daughter of Matt and Melissa Barry and "little sis" to Charlotte, was born on Tuesday, December 27, 2011.

Wanted: Runners and Walkers for the WPC Run The Reagan Team

Feel like you're running around in circles sometimes? Why not try running for a purpose? We are in the process of forming a running/walking team for the 2012 Run The Reagan race to support Young Life and the Gwinnett Community Clinic. The race date is February 18, 2012, and race options include a 5K, 10K, and half-marathon. For more information about the WPC running team, contact Nicole Lock at nicolelock@wpcsnellville.org. For more information about the race, visit <http://www.runthereagan.net/> When you register, indicate "Westminster Presbyterian Church" as the "Group/Team" name.

Sunday February 19th

Messenger Deadline
12:30pm Session Meeting (22)
6:00pm Youth Fellowship
7:00pm Prayer Vigil (S)

Monday February 20th

President's Day
No School for GCPS
5:00pm Fireside Chatter (P)

Tuesday February 21st

12:00pm Bridge (P)
7:00pm Hannah Circle (22)

Wednesday February 22nd

No Westminster Wednesday
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (S)

Thursday February 23rd

10:00am Calvin Cove Caregiver Support Group (22)
6:30pm CDA Training (TCR)
7:00pm Stephen Ministry (P)

Friday February 24th

7:00pm COURAGEOUS Movie (FC)

Saturday February 25th

30 Hour Famine Begins

Saturday February 26th

6:00am Youth Feed Homeless
12:30pm Congregational Care (FC)
30 Hour Famine Ends
6:00pm Chili Show & Talent Supper

Monday February 27th

Tuesday February 28th

Wednesday February 29th

Westminster Wednesday

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DEACONS ON CALL

February 1-4

Roberta Gosney
David Taylor
Rol Black

February 5-11

Phillip Anderson
Matthew Berry
Robert Hawkes

February 12-18

Gail Flowers
Snow Proctor
Eric West

February 19-25

Russell Rowe
Daryl Santilli

February 26-29

Loretta Harrison
Mary Beth Shoffstall
David Taylor

Westminster Presbyterian Church Staff

Dr. Michael W. Garrett, *Senior Pastor, Ext. 223*

Rev. Nicole Lock, *Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship, Ext 224*

Pepper Christie, *Interim Elder for Youth*

Carol Thomason, *Interim Director of Children's Ministries, Ext. 225*

Nancy Narrie, *Church Administrator, Ext. 234*

Suzanne Lunsford, *Administrative Assistant, Ext. 222*

Donna Carter-Wood, *Director of Music Ministries*

Lovenia Greer, *Organist*

Pete McReynolds, *Contemporary Worship Leader*

Judy Parker, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

Janet Johnson & Vicki Santilli, *Directors of Calvin Cove, Ext. 232*

Paige Duranty & Meredith Cordle *Directors of Westminster Children's Weekday Ministries*

Ext. 228

Mary Lee, *Nursery Coordinator*

Kenan Burba, *Evangelist for International Outreach*

Kimberly Dutton, *Newsletter Editor*

Occasionally when you call the office during normal office hours, you may get the answering machine. Staff extensions have been listed above so you can reach them directly. The church number is 770-979-9676.

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**By going to our web-site, [www.wpcsnellville.org](http://www.wpcsnellville.org), you'll be able to communicate via e-mail directly with the church staff. All officers and staff are listed in the "About Westminster" section on the home page. For comments or questions about the web site, please contact Jeff Davis (websteward) at [webmaster@wpcsnellville.org](mailto:webmaster@wpcsnellville.org).**