



“Thin Places”

Marcus Borg calls them “thin places” – those times and places in our experience when we are viscerally aware of the presence of God in the world around us. We may know that He is always there in every element of our world, but in the rush of everyday life it is easy to go for hours, even days, without being conscious of the God in whom, as Paul said, “we live and move and have our being.” It’s as though there’s a thin curtain between our physical world and God’s divine presence; we are vaguely aware that there is something intensely spiritual on the other side, and we treasure those moments when the curtain flutters aside and we can see God more clearly.

It can happen when you close your eyes and listen to our choir singing “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” with the brass accompaniment. It can happen when you drive through the mountains at the peak of autumn colors, or when you are sitting quietly in prayer and meditation. Most of us, in fact, have specific triggers that can help us glimpse the presence of God in everyday life. Part of our growth is to cultivate new and more diverse “thin spaces,” to find God infused in our relationships, our work, our thoughts, and our experience.

For me, it’s in my relationship with my wife and our son where I most frequently find the curtain pulled back and the greatness of God revealed. Our capacity for unconditional love and altruism are, to me, the clearest vision of what God’s grace and love must be like. From that springboard, I have learned to look for Him in the great Masses of Mozart, in the darkness of an ancient Romanesque church in central France, and even in the mundane tasks of my job as a manager.

The Apostle Peter reminds us (speaking of Jesus) that “though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” Finding our “thin places” is fundamentally an act of worship, giving us access to that inexpressible and glorious joy in the midst of the world that surrounds us.

Richard Alexander

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 1, 2009

9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*If you are curious, and have come to see
If you are weary, and have come to rest
If you are grateful, and have come to share
If you are hurting, and have come for solace
If you are listening, and have come to pray
If you are seeking, and have come for answers
WELCOME*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

- PRELUDE – “Simple Gifts”Shaker melody
- ** CHORAL INTROIT Psalm 134
“Come, All You Servants of the Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

People: We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders which God has wrought.

Leader: Let us worship God.

- * HYMN – No. 263.....ST. DENIO
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, Christ calls us to faith, while we seek our own security. He teaches us to trust Him, yet we don’t take that risk. He expects total commitment, and we think in terms of percentage. Time after time we turn our backs on your grace, serving our idols, and forsaking our Christ. We rely on your promise in Him to redeem us. We are dependent on Him who can intercede for us. O God, in Christ, have mercy upon us.

* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

* **GLORIA PATRI** (*Hymnal*, No. 579)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH
MINUTE FOR MISSION *Rob Klouw and Katherine Randall*

- ** CALL TO PRAYER..... Hatch
“Breathe on Me Breath of God”

MORNING PRAYERS
THE LORD’S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SOLO – “Seek the Lord While He May be Found” Beall
Mark Kemp, tenor

Children first grade and younger leave for Children’s Church after the solo.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 32:1-14 (Page 78)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Acts 7:35-41 (Page 125).....*Allen Gillespie*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Ludwig Weaver*
“I threw some gold in the fire, and out popped this calf!”

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

CHURCH NOTES

The leaders for Children's Church this **Sunday, February 1:**

9:00 a.m. *Steve & Amy Hopkins*

11:15 a.m. *George & Susan McLarty*

This week, Mr. Weaver will continue his sermon series entitled, "In the beginning..."

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

BIRTH

A daughter, *Anna Paige Dotson*, was born to Mike & Julie Dotson on Friday, January 23, 2009, in Greenville.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Cindy Gluszik* on the death of her mother, Florence Mason, on January 21, 2009 in Ohio.

HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, February 1**. The screenings will take place in the Entrance Pavilion immediately following the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact *Joda Higgins* at 979-1486.

PASTOR'S BAPTISM CLASS

The pastor will teach a baptism class on **Sunday, February 8**, at **5:00 p.m.** in the Charter Room. Please call the church office at 232-2424 if you are interested in having yourself or your child baptized. A nursery will be available.

NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday, we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

Chris Bradley, 106 Summerwalk Pl., Simpsonville, 29681, 490-9860, joins by reaffirmation of faith from Concord Baptist Church, Bostic, NC.

Jennie Kappel, 116 W. Earle St., 29609 235-9556, joins by transfer from Buncombe St. United Methodist, Greenville. Jennie is married to Matt and they have twins, Caroline and Charlie, age 5.

Lindsey & Parks Leonard, 103 Westminster Dr., 29605, 451-7466, come by transfer from Vineville United Methodist, Macon, GA. They have a son, Logan, age 6 and Anna Parks, age 6 months.

Meg Nooney, 106 Summerwalk Pl, Simpsonville, 29681, 490-9860, joins by reaffirmation of faith from First Presbyterian, Lakeland, FL.

John & Barbara Orders, 39 Chisolm Tr., 29607, 288-8829, come by transfer from First Presbyterian, Greenville.

Bob & Gena Runnion, 517 Spaulding Lake Dr., 29615, 675-0234, come by transfer from Eastminster Presbyterian, Columbia, SC. They have a son, Kell, age 6 and a daughter, Lily, age 3.

MISSION TEAM DEPARTS

Please keep our Adult Mission Team in your prayers as they share in the love and hope of God with our partner churches and their kindergarten schools in the Dominican Republic. The team members, who were listed for their commissioning in last week's Harbinger, left Saturday, January 31 and return on February 8.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Sunday, February 1

• Circle #7: *Catherine Whitmire*, chair, will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion.

Wednesday, February 3

• Circle #2: *Stephanie Morgan*, chair, will meet at 8:00 p.m. at Stephanie's house. For directions, please call Stephanie at 250-1938.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

Anyone interested in learning more about contemplative prayer practices is invited to attend the **First Friday** Centering Prayer session **February 6**, from 12:00-12:50 p.m. in Room 213. No prior experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome to begin at anytime. The **Second Sunday** prayer group is **cancelled** for February. If you have any questions, contact Associate Pastor Dave Carlson at 232-2424, ext. 115, dcarlson@wpc-online.org.

ALL YOUTH

This **Sunday, February 1**, is Super Bowl Sunday. We will be participating in the annual *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Before and after each worship service we will be collecting canned food and dollar bills to be donated to United Ministries to feed the hungry in Greenville. If you can help out with either service, meet Amanda Warren or Steve Phillips in the back of the Fellowship Hall by 8:40 a.m. or 10:55 a.m. We appreciate your help.

We will have *no* meeting **the night of February 1**, but following the 11:15 service, we will meet for lunch at Coronas. After lunch, we will come back to the church to watch an episode of Mister Rogers.

Next **Sunday, February 8**, we will meet at Pump It Up (75 Brookfield Oaks Drive, Ste. 100) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 and you must bring socks. If you have any question about the Jr. High or Sr. High group, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 ext. 116 or 380-5269.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

CS Tip: *Bring the Harbinger you received in the mail to Sunday worship service.*

Next meeting of CS group will be this **Sunday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m.** in Room 213. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will meet this **Sunday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m.** in the room beside the Sr. High Room.

COLLEGE MISSION TRIP

On **Friday, May 22**, we will once again be heading to the Dominican Republic for our college mission trip. We will return on May 29. The cost of the trip is \$1000, but do not let cost prevent you from coming. There are full and partial scholarships available. **Please sign up by February 15** as we will return all unused plane tickets later that week. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Phillips at 380-5269.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

This **Sunday, February 1**, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals will meet on the field in Tampa Bay, Florida to decide who will be crowned the best NFL team for a year. On the same day, youth around the country will join together to fight hunger across the United States. Before and after both worship services, the youth of this church will be collecting canned food and dollar bills, which will be donated to United Ministries to feed the hunger. We hope you will join us in fighting hunger.

THE FLOCK

Is the Cardinal's high powered offense good enough to score against the Steeler's top ranked defense? Join us this **Sunday, February 1**, at the home of *Kevin Lancaster* and *Stephen Woods* (11 Parkins Mill Court) at **5:30 p.m.** for our Flock Super Bowl party to find out. Chicken and turkey chili will be served. We are asking everyone to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Our next study will be on **Wednesday, February 4**. Dinner is served at **6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall followed by our study, which *Ben & Jennifer Rigby* will be leading, at **6:30 p.m.** in the Sr. High Lounge. If you are coming to dinner, please don't forget to sign up by noon **Monday, February 2**. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
2310 Augusta Road
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1 - 7, 2009

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	Confirmation Class
	Creation Stewardship
9:50 a.m.	Health Ministry
10:00 a.m.	Church School
11:15 a.m.	Worship Service
12:30 p.m.	PW Circle #7
	Youth Lunch at Coronas
12:50 p.m.	Health Ministry
1:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop
3:30 p.m.	Tiger Cubs
8:00 p.m.	Alcohol Anon.

MONDAY

9:00 a.m.	Moms In Touch
5:30 p.m.	Men's Recreational Basketball
5:30 p.m.	Uplift
5:40 p.m.	Westminster Bells
6:15 p.m.	NAMI
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anon.

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m.	Administrative Committee Meeting
	AI-Anon
	PW Leader Meeting
5:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
	ADK

WEDNESDAY

11:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m.	"It's Elementary!"
	Tweens
3:30 p.m.	Cherub Choir
4:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. Choristers
5:30 p.m.	Wednesday Dinner
6:00 p.m.	The Flock
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
8:00 p.m.	PW Circle #2

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
3:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY

12:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer
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SATURDAY

Adult Dominican Republic Mission
participants return

GAIHN
Greenville Area Interfaith
Hospitality Network

The next opportunity to assist local homeless families with hospitality in the form of food and emergency shelter is **February 15-17**. Westminster partners with Trinity United Methodist to provide meals, evening and overnight hosts. Contact WPC member and GAIHN Coordinator, *Jara Jones* (jarajones@charter.net or 561-3009) to sign up. You can learn more about this interdenominational ministry visiting the church or GAIHN website.

