the HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Some people think that praying about the trivial is spiritually unsophisticated. Others say God wants us to come to Him with all our desires. When I was eight years old, I knew nothing about theological disagreements.

In Miss Annie's third grade, we played bingo on Friday afternoons. Months passed without my winning a single time. One Friday, I decided to pray. "Please, Lord, let me win just one game." Then I won! That afternoon, I won again and again, many, many times.

Through the years, I pondered that experience of answered prayer but told no one. Statistically, it was a virtual impossibility for this to have been a random occurrence. The God who set the galaxies in motion had stepped into a child's bingo game! The Creator knew and cared about the thoughts and wishes of his children.

Twenty-five years later, my mother attended a celebration in the town where we used to live. Miss Annie was there also, and she related one memory to my mother. She said that when I was in third grade, my father went to school one afternoon and told her how much I wanted to win a bingo game. The following Friday, she watched my card and continued to call my numbers, letting me win over and over again. My mother brought the story home to me, never knowing how that event had shaped my view of God's omnipotence and love.

Was it only a coincidence that Miss Annie manipulated the game after I prayed to win, or was the answer to my childish prayer orchestrated by the power of God even before I prayed it?

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.
Psalm 145:16

Mary Ann Cox

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, February 8, 2009
9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In this place where Your Name, O God, is above every name, where Your truth is sought and Your faith cherished, grant Your blessing upon all who worship You in sincerity and truth. Here may the weary find rest; the lonely, friendship; the saddened, comfort; the fearful, courage; the discouraged, hope; the weak, strength; the strong, discipline; and all of us the reassurance of Your forgiving and empowering mercy, and the desire and opportunity to invest our lives for the good of all people and the glory of God.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE – "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ..... arr. Kelsey

** CHORAL INTROIT ..... Parker
"Bound for the Land of Canaan"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; it is good for the just to sing praises.

People: For the word of the Lord is right, and all of God's works are sure.

Leader: Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of God.

People: Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people God has chosen to be God's own!

Leader: Let us worship God.

* HYMN – No. 288..... ELLACOMBE
"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, when we are put to the test we do not quickly respond. If called upon to decide, we lack the courage of faith. Confessing commitment, we confuse your will with our own. Seeking security, we turn to devices that we control. Your voice comes from heaven to chasten and discipline. Your commandments Jesus proclaimed as the course we should take. Forgive us when we deviate from the truth you deliver, and increase our trust in you.

* 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.

** CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM..... Redman
"Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

** CALL TO PRAYER..... Morgan
"The Lord Be Praised"

MORNING PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SOLO (9:00 a.m. only) – "Bright Canaan" ..... Parker

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20, 25-33 (Page 130)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Matthew 10:26-31 (Page 10) ..... *Jara Jones*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Ludwig Weaver*

"Be Bold…"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Anthem (9:00 a.m. only) "Blessed is He" ..... Potter

** Anthem – "For the Beauty of the Earth" ..... Rutter

* Doxology (*Hymnal*, No. 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN – No. 281 ..... CWM RHONDDA

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

* BENEDICTION

** CHORAL RESPONSE – "Amen" ..... Keen

* POSTLUDE – "All Praise to God" ..... Wood

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* ***All who are able may stand.*** *****11:15 a.m. service only***

HEAD USHERS:	9:00 a.m.	Pete Sweeny
	11:15 a.m.	Ben Rigby
SPONSOR:		Tina Phillips
GREETERS:	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Stoddard, Trey DuBose, Peggy Thompson
	11:15 a.m.	Vernon Anderson, Eldena Moore, Anne Holleman
LITURGIST:		Dave Carlson

If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you. Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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 8:**

9:00 a.m. *Gary & Amanda Hill*
11:15 a.m. *Bill & Allison Stevenson*

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

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

- *Nancy Smith*, pianist (9:00 a.m.)
- *Jim Wilkins*, tenor and the Chancel Choir (11:15 a.m.)
- Junior & Senior Choristers and the Sanctuary Choir

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.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, *Mae Todd Williams & Butler Bowen Mullins, Jr.* were united in marriage at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Ellen Gower* on the death of her mother, Mickey Overturf, on Sunday, February 1, 2009, in Lexington, SC.

PASTOR'S BAPTISM CLASS

The pastor will teach a baptism class this **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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Tuesday, February 10

- **Circle #5:** *Clara Lawson*, chair, will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Room 211. Project: Rosewood. Bible Study: Chapters 6,7,8,9 by Eldena Moore and Sara Payne.
- **Circle #6:** *Gretchen Reed*, chair, will meet at 12:15 p.m. in the Charter Room.
- **Circle #3:** *Barbara Wallace*, chair, will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the home of *Sallie White* with *Peggy Thompson* and *Carol Hinton* as Helping Hostesses.

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 inter-denominational ministry visiting the church or GAIHN website.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Last Sunday our youth collected 106 cans of food and $908.74 which was donated to United Ministries to help feed the hungry. Thank you for your help.

TNT

TNT will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Senior High Lounge. We will be discussing the movie Evan Almighty. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall for those who sign up by noon on *Monday, February 9*. As always, sitters will be provided. Please contact *Lisa Bryant* at 220-6629 with any questions about the TNT group.

CHRISTCARE GATHERINGS

ChristCare Small Groups continue to welcome visitors and new members. Please RSVP to the Group Leader. For more information, go to www.wpc-online.org and click on *Congregational Life* and then *Adult Groups*.

This week's groups are:

- **Spirituality: Sunday, February 8, 12:30 p.m.**, at the home of *Courtenay Williams*, courtenayw@-charter.net, 233-7254.
- **Bible Study: Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.**, Room 213, *John Macrae*, jmacrae126@aol.com, 268-6569.

CONNECTIONS

Connections, an adult fellowship group for couples and singles, will have their monthly gathering on **Sunday, February 15**, after the 11:15 a.m. service at Copper River of Haywood, 775 Haywood Rd., 627-0041. A reservation will be made for the private room. Please contact *Gretta Lawson* at grettalaws@aol.com or 963-1570 by February 14.

ALL YOUTH

This **Sunday, February 8**, we will meet at Pump It Up (75 Brookfield Oaks Dr., Ste. 100) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is $10 and you must bring socks and have your parents sign a permission slip when you get dropped off. If you have any question about Sixers, Jr. Highs or Sr. Highs groups, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 ext. 116 or 380-5269.

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.

DINE WITH NINE
March - May 2009

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish and renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. "Dine with Nine" is nine (or so) persons – some couples, some singles, some older and some younger – gathering for a series of two or three dinners on an evening convenient to the group. To sign up, return this form to the church office or call/email the church office (232-2424, wendy@wpc-online.org) with the requested information. The deadline to sign up is *February 23, 2009*.

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate yes or no:

_____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering of nine or so people.

_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one.

_____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

_____ I am interested in a "Singles" group (if available).

W E S T M I N S T E R P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 8 - 14, 2009

SUNDAY
8:15 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Church School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
12:30 p.m. ChristCare Spirituality Group Meeting
3:30 p.m. Tiger Cubs
5:00 p.m. Baptism Class
5:30 p.m. Sixers, Jr. Highs and Sr. Highs to Pump it Up
6:00 p.m. Education Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting
8:00 p.m. Alcohol Anon.

MONDAY
9:00 a.m. Moms In Touch
5:30 p.m. Men's Recreational Basketball
5:40 p.m. Westminster Bells
6:00 p.m. NAMI
6:15 p.m. NAMI
6:30 p.m. Weekday Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m. Theology Reading Group
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anon.

TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. PW Circle 5
12:00 p.m. Al-Anon
12:15 p.m. PW Circle 6
5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
6:45 p.m. PW Circle 3
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY
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. ChristCare Leader Meeting TNT
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m. Daisy Troop
6:30 p.m. ChristCare Bible Study Group
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY
10:30 a.m. Gittings Ministry

ASH WEDNESDAY ALL-CHURCH DINNER
February 25, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Join your Westminster friends and family to enjoy a meal together before experiencing the reflective Ash Wednesday service. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. before the service at 6:45. As is the tradition on Ash Wednesday, a meal of soup and bread will be served. We will also have salad and a simple dessert. For the children, we will have a ham & cheese sandwich, carrot sticks and fruit. Nursery will be available for children under three, and an activity will be available for children during the service. Sign up today by calling the church office at 232-2424 or by e-mailing michelle@wpc-online.org. Website sign-up is also available by visiting wpc-online.org. *Sign-ups for dinner end on Sunday, February 22, 2009.*

Name: _____
Adults $6.50_____ Children (3-11) $3.00 _____
Nursery (ages 3 and under) _____