



LETTING GO

Two weeks ago a team of Westminster members and friends returned home following our annual mission trip to the Dominican Republic. What did we do? What got accomplished? How could we leave with so much left undone? Those are questions that many of us on the trip sometimes find ourselves asking. We all seem to like to quantify things, see the end result.

What left an impression? The Dominican Republic is truly majestic and beautiful – the mountains, fields of sugar cane, or the sea seemed to fill our every view. I had also never seen such poverty, such need. However, as we joined in worship at the local church in Batey 6 on that Sunday, I sensed right away that it was a place filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit as the parishioners shared in song, and we joined in prayers, in the message, and in Holy Communion. We were all joined together in Spirit and in Truth, and that was a rich, fulfilling experience.

Every morning our group separated into two teams: the construction team traveled to Batey Mena for their projects (they built a pump house, and constructed and finished cabinets for the church kindergartens), while the medical team took a more itinerant route, spending each day in various Bateys nearby. I was touched by the doctors who so willingly shared their gifts. As well as treating myriad infections, they encountered more chronic conditions that needed immediate follow-up care. And as much as we hoped to see that through to the end, in many cases we are left praying that those whom we met will receive the care that they need.

In today's reading from 2 Kings 2, we learn that Elisha was having a hard time letting go of Elijah, who was about to be taken up to heaven. Sometimes God wants us to let go long before we are ready to do so. May we believe more fully that God indeed accomplishes God's will through every circumstance.

Yuri Ito

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 22, 2009

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

Seventh 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 (9:00 a.m.) – “How Great Thou Art”Hine
(11:15 a.m.) – “Exultate” Bauder

** CHORAL INTROIT – “Surely”Langston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On mountaintops and in valleys,

People: the glory of God surrounds us.

Leader: In whispers and in shouts,

People: the glory of God speaks to us.

Leader: In nature’s variety and color,

People: the glory of God calls to us.

Leader: In baptism’s claim and communion’s welcome,

People: the glory of God comes home to us.

Leader: Let us worship God.

* HYMN – No.487..... LAUDES DOMINI
“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus Christ, you are dazzling in your glory, but we are no longer amazed. Forgive us when we explain away your miracles or try to contain your mystery. Open us again to your holiness, and give us a glimpse of your true glory, that in your mercy, we may shine forth in love.

* 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 *Paul O’Neal*

** CALL TO PRAYER - “Fairest Lord Jesus”

MORNING PRAYERS
THE LORD’S PRAYER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HANDBELL ANTHEM – “The God of Abraham Praise” Lamb

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – II Kings 2:1-12 (Page 332)Amy Greer

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Mark 9:2-9 (Page 44)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Barbara Stoop

“A Blast from the Past”

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

Handbell Anthem (9:00 a.m. only) - “Exultate” Bauder

** Anthem – “Amazing Grace” McCutcheon

* 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. 423 DUKE STREET

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

* BENEDICTION

** CHORAL RESPONSE – “Let All the People Rise” Watts

* POSTLUDE – “To God Be the Glory”arr. Smith

* *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: Susan Stall

GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Christine Edmondson, Chas Key

Jason Farmer

11:15 a.m. Suzanne Meece, Denise Broderick

Cris Crain

LITURGIST: Steve Phillips

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.

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 22:**

9:00 a.m. *Scott & Denise Broderick*

11:15 a.m. *Ben & Cathy Alexander*

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, pianist
9:00 a.m.

Westminster Bells
11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir
Westminster Bells

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 son, *Coleman O'Neil Medford*, was born to O'Neil & Christy Medford on Thursday, February 5, 2009, in Greenville.

MARRIAGE

On, Saturday, November 1, 2008, *Maggie Stricker & Chad Wentzky* were united in marriage in Brevard, NC.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Becky Warth* on the death of her father, Jacob Bowman, on Friday, February 13, 2009, in Asheville, NC.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on **February 25, at 6:45 p.m. in Room 209** following our All-Church Supper in the Fellowship Hall, which begins at 6:00 p.m. This traditional service begins the Lenten Season of preparation for our Easter celebration, providing a time to begin anew in our faith having put aside the sins and failures of the past in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God.

TNT

Don't forget our Movie/Game night at the home of *Chas & Susan Key* (619 Carolina Ave., 286-3492) this **Friday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m.** Also, on **Tuesday, February 24**, we will be discussing the movie Bridge to Terabithia. Since we will meeting on Tuesday there will not be a church dinner. Please join us in the Sr. High lounge at 6:00 p.m. Sitters will be provided for our meeting. Please call 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:

- **Bible Study: Monday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.**, Room 213, *John Macrae*, jmacrae126@aol.com, 268-6569.
- **Parenting: Wednesday, February 25**, Room 213, *Ben Rigby*, btrigby@juno.com, 239-0435. Call Ben for meeting time.
- **Hiking: Saturday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.**, *Ron Lawson*, ronlawson2000@aol.com, 963-1570.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXERS

The Sixers will have a Balloon Rodeo this **Sunday, February 22**, at 5:00 p.m.

JUNIOR HIGHS

Over the next two weeks we will be working on the message part of our Youth Sunday service. We will also be assigning parts. This is a wonderful chance for us to lead the congregation in worship. We will see you at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

SENIOR HIGHS

We've got a good start to Youth Sunday, but we've still got a lot of work to do. We need your help. Over the next three weeks, we will break into groups to work on the message, the liturgy, and the background for this service. We hope you will join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Bring your ideas with you. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 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).

**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 K4 and under**, 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 4 and under) _____

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

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Parish Associate	Jean Weaver
Home Phone	292-5128
	<i>weavjean@aol.com</i>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 22 - 28, 2009

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 New Member
 Assimilation
 Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. Church School

11:15 a.m. Worship Service

1:30 p.m. Daisy Troop Meeting

3:30 p.m. Tiger Cubs

5:00 p.m. Sixers and Jr. High Group
 Meeting
 Sr. High Youth Choir
 Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:30 p.m. Sixers and Jr. High Choir
 Rehearsal
 Sr. High Group Meeting

8:00 p.m. Alcohol Anon.

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Moms In Touch

9:15 a.m. Weekday Chapel

5:30 p.m. Men's Recreational
 Basketball

5:40 p.m. Westminster Bells

6:15 p.m. NAMI

6:30 p.m. ChristCare: Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Rose Society

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anon.

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

6:00 p.m. TNT

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!"
 Twins

3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir

4:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. Choristers

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Dinner

6:00 p.m. ChristCare: Parenting

6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

3:00 p.m. Daisy Troop

4:15 p.m. Daisy Troop

5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meal

6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
 Leader Meeting

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry
 Meetings

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. ChristCare: Hiking

CHURCH BASKETBALL CHURCH DINNER

March 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the church basketball season on March 11. Please come join us to watch a fantastic slide show program of our Westminster teams! Coaches, if you have not submitted any pictures of your team please contact *Wes Bryant (477-0006)* as soon as possible. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The menu for adults and children will be hamburgers, fries, fruit, and salad. Cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 3-11. Nursery will be available for children under three. Sign up today by calling the church office (232-2424) or emailing *michelle@wpc-online.org*. Website sign-up is also available by visiting *wpc-online.org*. *Sign-ups for dinner end on Sunday, March 8.*

Name: _____

Adults \$6.50 _____ Children (3-11) \$3.00 _____

Nursery (ages 3 and under) _____

