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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Eat less. Exercise more. Drive less.  
Save more. Watch TV less. Read more.

At the end of each year, many of us go through the ritual of reflecting on what we can do to improve ourselves and our lives. Frequently, the focus involves coming to grips with our weaknesses and things we have done wrong. We start by pulling out the old list, and sadly realize the new list will be very similar.

Making new resolutions for the year is an acknowledgement that we have failed to do the good things represented. Creating the list is a confession of sorts, and our commitment to the resolutions is an act of contrition. We fool ourselves into thinking that if we can be honest enough to list our shortcomings, we will become better people.

God has a different system that works better. It's called grace and redemption. The process begins with God giving us Jesus Christ. According to Martin Luther, when we accept Christ there comes to us all the mercies or blessings that He has provided by his death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit works in us to bring us the blessings of closeness with God, God's control of our lives, and fellowship with God and our neighbors. The only resolution required of us is acceptance of this gift of grace by faith. Pretty simple – and guaranteed to work.

For those who still do best with a list, here is one Paul might have suggested: "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4: 8.

If you like shorter lists, perhaps this will appeal to you: "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8.

Even shorter? "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"  
*Matthew 22: 34.*

*Phillip Kilgore*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, January 4, 2009**

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

*Epiphany of the Lord*

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teaching of Jesus, as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets, as responsive to truth as science, as beautiful as art, as intimate as the home, and as indispensable as the air we breathe. For the achievement of this goal we bid you welcome, and invite your attendance, your prayers, your gifts, and your service.

**OUR APPROACH TO GOD**

PRELUDE – Medley on Jesus’ Love..... arr. Hayes

\*\* CHORAL INTROIT – “Now Praise the Lord” ..... Croft

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let be then: learn that I am God, high over the nations, high above earth.

**People: God is our shelter and our refuge, a timely help in trouble.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

\* HYMN – No. 476..... LYONS

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, like Jacob with Esau we struggle for rights. We grapple with others to give us our due. Contentment comes slowly when we don’t get our fair share. We confess our impatience when others misuse us. We confess our dislike for those who deny us. Forgive our distrust that you will care for our needs. Help us to strive for equal justice for all.**

\* 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

\*\* CALL TO PRAYER.....Neumark

“O Faithful God”

MORNING PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

SOLO (9:00 a.m. only) – “Trouble Done Come My Way” ..... Price  
*Judy McKenney, alto*

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

\*\* HYMN – No. 282..... WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT  
“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”

**Children first grade and younger leave for Children’s Church after the last stanza.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Genesis 27:5-17 (Page 23)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Romans 9:6-16 (Page 159)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

*Ludwig Weaver*

“The Machiavelli of Scripture”

**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

Offertory (9:00 a.m.) – “God Leads Us Along” ..... arr. Harlan

\*\* Anthem – “Rejoice the Lord is King” ..... Archer

\* 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. 210..... ST. ANNE  
“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

\* BENEDICTION

\*\* CHORAL RESPONSE – “Amen” ..... Keen

\* POSTLUDE – “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” .....arr. Smith

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\* *All who are able may stand.*

**\*\*11:15 a.m. service only**

**HEAD USHERS:** 9:00 a.m. Roger Beasley  
11:15 a.m. David Clark

**SPONSOR:** Tim Madden

**GREETERS:** 9:00 a.m. Charlie Warth, Denise Broderick,  
Catherine Stoddard  
11:15 a.m. Anne Holleman, Wes Bryant  
Tina Phillips

**LITURGIST:** Steve Phillips

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*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, January 4:**

9:00 a.m. *Trey & Kimberly DuBose*

11:15 a.m. *Roger & Kim McFall*

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.

## SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Mary Lawson* on the death of her father, Joe Scales, on Saturday, December 27, 2008, in Greenville. Those who wish to visit with the family may do so on Sunday, January 4, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion.

We extend sincere sympathy to *Claire Christie* on the death of her mother, Ruth Dantzler, on Sunday, December 28, 2008, in Greenville.

## ALL YOUTH

We will kick-off the New Year this **Sunday, January 4**, with *all* youth joining together for Sunday Night Live at 5:00 p.m. in Room 209 with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**SENIOR HIGHS:** Next **Sunday, January 11**, we will meet at the home of *Colin Stafford* at 6:00 p.m. for our annual oyster roast.

## THE FLOCK

The Flock will kick-off 2009 on **January 7** with planning for our new year together. We will close with a brief study led by *Steve Phillips*. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with our discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Sr. High Lounge. *If you are coming for dinner, please call the church office on Monday, January 5 to sign up.* Childcare is provided. If you have any questions, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

## SANCTUARY WALK THRU

This **Sunday, January 4**, from 10-11:00 a.m., we will have the opportunity to walk through the new construction. There will be no Sunday School except for nursery (infant through K4). Donuts, juice, and coffee will be available in the Entrance Pavilion.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### EPIPHANY TEA

**Sunday, January 4, 2008**

**Fellowship Hall**

**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Begin the New Year with the Women of Westminster. *Jean Weaver* will lead us in a program of meditation and music. Refreshments will follow. Child-care is always available for all of our PW meetings and events. Call the church office at 232-2424 to express your intention to attend.

## HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, January 4**. 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.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, January 11, 2009**, immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service. The order of business will be: (1) To elect twelve elders for the Class of 2012; (2) To act upon proposed changes in the ministers' terms of calls; (3) To answer questions concerning the 2009 budget.

## CHRISTCARE SMALL GROUP

The first of Westminster's Christ-Care Small Groups is meeting **Monday, January 5, in Room 213 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Visitors and those interested in joining this Bible Study group are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to *John Macrae* at [jmacrae126@aol.com](mailto:jmacrae126@aol.com); 268-6569. Groups with other focuses will be setting their meeting times soon.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Adult Education Update

At Westminster, adult Sunday School is organized on a rotation model, with class topics changing every 6 – 8 weeks. Join us as 2009 begins, and become part of our educational adventure where faith can be deepened, friendships can grow, ideas can be exchanged and laughter celebrated. The following classes will be offered from **January 11 – February 28**.

1. **Bible 101**. Do you often wish you had a basic overview of the Bible's themes, purpose and meaning? This course is designed to further and deepen our understanding of the library found within the pages of the Bible, and to discuss how to apply biblical insights to our daily lives. **Teacher:** *Barbara Stoop* **Room:** 211
2. **Christian Commonwealth or Empire of Liberty?** This class will look at the hard fought historical contest of whether to fashion America on a Puritan model or on a French Revolution model. Using Forrest Church's book, So Help Me God, the study will look at our first five presidents and their impact on religion in America. **Teacher:** *Amos Workman* **Room:** 213
3. **The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully**. Not only accepting but celebrating getting old, the Faith Forum class will discuss the many facets of the aging process, from purposes and challenges to struggles and surprises. Using a book by Roman Catholic nun, Joan Chittester, the course will ponder the temptation towards isolation, the need to stay involved, the importance of health and well-being, the fear of tomorrow and the mystery of forever. **Co-ordinator:** *Henry Chaskelis* **Room:** 212
4. **Leap Over a Wall**. Based on a book by Eugene Peterson, the Nautilus class will examine the life of King David from the Old Testament. Exploring David's story, fraught with struggles, shortcomings and joys, the discussion will focus on how the divine is often hidden within the ordinary, and how God's purposes are often worked out in the ordinariness of our human lives. **Leader:** *Judith Chandler-Huse* **Room:** 210
5. **To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians**. How do Christians respond when it comes to issues such as drug problems, prisons, health policy, immigration, public education and militarism? Rooted in Christian tradition, the class will attempt to analyze contemporary problems from social, biblical and theological perspectives and provide direction for concrete action. **Teacher:** *Jean Weaver* **Room:** 209

### **2009 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

As of Tuesday, December 30, we have received \$1,643,936 in pledges toward our 2009 pledge goal of \$1,812,114.

For your convenience, you may mail in your pledge or send it by e-mail to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at [secretary@wpc-online.org](mailto:secretary@wpc-online.org).

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

The Confirmation Class will meet this **Sunday, January 4, at 9:00 a.m.** in the room beside the Sr. High Room.

### **THEOLOGY READING GROUP**

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Charter Room. Alan Elmore will introduce the group to a growing movement called Progressive Christianity, its background, content and leaders.

### **TNT**

TNT will have our first meeting of 2009 on **Wednesday, January 14**. Sign up for dinner no later than noon on *Monday, January 12*, or join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Sr. High Lounge. With only a few more Nooma videos to watch we will spend our evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> discussing what Bible Study we'll be doing next. And, as always, childcare is provided for our meetings. If you have any questions please call *Lisa Bryant* at 220-6629.

**THE HARBINGER**  
**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**

**2310 Augusta Road**  
**Greenville, South Carolina 29605**  
**(864) 232-2424**

[www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org)

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.**

**CHURCH STAFF**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
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| Parish Associate         | Jean Weaver  |
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| Maintenance              | Rick Thompson  |
|                          | Ivan Ryder   |

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S**  
**CIRCLES**

**Wednesday, January 7**

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 4 - 10, 2009**

**SUNDAY**

9:00 a.m.    Worship Service  
                  Witness & Service  
                  Committee Meeting  
                  Confirmation Class  
9:50 a.m.    Health Ministry  
10:00 a.m.    APFE Walk-Thru  
11:15 a.m.    Worship Service  
12:50 p.m.    Health Ministry  
3:30 p.m.    Tiger Cubs  
4:00 p.m.    PW Epiphany Tea  
5:00 p.m.    Sunday Night Live  
6:00 p.m.    Youth Dinner  
8:00 p.m.    Alcohol Anon.

**MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

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

**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  
5:30 p.m.    Wednesday Dinner  
6:00 p.m.    The Flock  
7:30 p.m.    Sanctuary Choir  
                  Rehearsal  
8:00 p.m.    PW Circle #2

**THURSDAY**

10:00 p.m.    Bible Study  
11:00 a.m.    Girl Scouts  
3:00 p.m.    Daisy Scouts  
6:30 p.m.    Girl Scouts  
7:00 p.m.    ChristCare Spirituality  
8:00 p.m.    Narcotics Anonymous

**FRIDAY**

Senior High Winter Retreat (thru 11<sup>th</sup>)



