

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 3, 2010
9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Epiphany of the Lord

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 – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” arr. Walther

** CHORAL INTROIT – “Surely” Langston

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is seemly.

People: God is great, and abundant in power; God’s understanding is beyond measure.

Leader: Sing to God with thanksgiving; make melody to our God upon the lyre!

People: We sing praises to God as we worship God’s name.

Leader: Let us worship God.

* HYMN – No. 476 LYONS
 “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you heal the brokenhearted; save us from sin when we inflict pain on our neighbors. We bear grudges against those who deceive us. We seek revenge on those who hurt us. Some we judge inferior, since they don’t meet our standards. Others we deem unworthy of our respect and support. Jesus had compassion upon all who were afflicted. Forgive us, O God, when our hearts are hardened against neighbors in need.

* 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.

** BAPTISM OF **CLAYTON RYAN ALFORD** AND
BERKELEY OLIVIA HAWKINS

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

** CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER – “Ubi Caritas” Bell
Where charity and love prevail, God is there.

MORNING PRAYERS
 THE LORD’S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SOLO – “Alleluia” Mozart

K5 and first grade children leave for Children’s Church after the solo.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Psalm 51:1-14 (Page 520) *Chas Key*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – John 8:2-11 (Page 100)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Ludwig Weaver*

“What Kind of Church Do We Want to Be?”

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

Solo – “Song of Simeon” Larson

* 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. 429 ABBOT’S LEIGH
 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

* BENEDECTION

** CHORAL RESPONSE – “We Will Walk with God” Johnson

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

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

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|---------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| HEAD USHERS: | 9:00 a.m. | Jon McKnight |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Roger Beasley |
| SPONSOR: | | Allen Freeman |
| GREETERS: | 9:00 a.m. | Charlie Warth, Denise Broderick |
| | | Chris Beard |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Will Quinn, Tina Phillips |
| | | Paul Schultz |
| LITURGIST: | | Jean Weaver |

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, January 3** are:

9:00 a.m. *Amy Phillips*

11:15 a.m. *Stephen & Mary Ridgeway*

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

Kathryn Knauer, soprano

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, January 10, 2010**, immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service. The order of business will be: (1) To elect twelve elders for the Class of 2013 and one for the Class of 2011; (2) To elect one trustee to the Class of 2013 and one to the Class of 2015; (3) To answer questions concerning the 2010 budget.

SESSION NOMINEES

During the Congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 10**, the Nominating Committee will nominate the following to serve on the Session:

Class of 2013

Will Edwards
Carroll Farmer
Lydia Kellett
Clara Lawson
Stuart Mauney
Parks McLeod

Becky Murphy
Anne Nuttall
Ben Rigby
Neil Shurley
Russell Stall
Bill Wallace

Class of 2011

David Massey

TRUSTEE NOMINEES

Class of 2013

Kathryn Algary

Class of 2015

Dick Sargent

Others may be nominated from the floor. If you plan to do so, please contact the person beforehand to be certain he/she is willing to serve.

BIRTH

A son, *John Jameson Koch*, was born to Greg & Katie Koch on Monday, December 28, 2009, in Greenville.

BAPTISM

This morning, we welcome into our fellowship:

Clayton Ryan Alford, son of Ryan & Becca Alford.

Berkeley Olivia Hawkins, daughter of Zeno & Meg Hawkins.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

On New Year’s weekend, **Sunday, January 3, 2010**, all adults are invited to a joint Sunday School class in Room 209. The theme will be “New Life in Christ” with Jean Weaver as teacher. Please join us for a time of study, fellowship and discussion. A full schedule of new winter classes will begin on **January 10**.

HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, January 3**. The screenings will take place in the Friendship Court immediately following both 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

THE CHURCH'S FINANCES

2009 BUDGET UPDATE

2009 Pledges \$1,681,690
Amount Received \$1,502,054
Pledges Outstanding (\$ 179,636)

Our auditing firm has informed us that we must close our books on December 31. Please have any contributions you wish to show on your 2009 statement in by December 31, 2009. By fulfilling your pledge, you enable us to keep faith with our mission partners. Thank you.

SIXERS & JUNIOR HIGHS

There will be no meeting this **Sunday, January 3**. Have a great holiday break. If you have any questions about these groups, please call Barbara Stoop or Steve Phillips at 232-2424.

SENIOR HIGHS

There will be no meeting this **Sunday, January 3**. If you are going on the **Winter Retreat on January 8 - 10**, we will be leaving the church parking lot at **6:00 p.m. on the 8th**. Please bring a Bible, warm clothes, a sleeping bag and pillow, and any personal items you might need including a towel. We will return by noon on Sunday, January 10. We will be meeting that evening at **6:30 p.m.** to play broom hockey in the gym. If you have any questions about the Sr. High group, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Sunday, January 3
· **Circle #7:** Talitha Allen, chair, will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion.

THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Our next meeting for our new young adult group (aiming at those in their twenties or early thirties) will be on **Wednesday, January 6**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in the Sr. High Lounge. If you plan to join us for dinner anytime after 5:30 p.m., please e-mail michelle@wpc-online.org by **Monday, January 4**. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions about this new group or if you would like to get on our e-mail list please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, December 29, we have received **\$1,758,633** in pledges toward our 2010 pledge goal of **\$1,812,114**.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens at secretary@wpc-online.org.

CHRISTCARE GATHERINGS

ChristCare Small Groups continue to welcome visitors and new members. For more information, go to www.wpc-online.org and click on *Connect* and then *Small Groups*.

This week:
· **Simplifying Life: Monday, January 4, Angie Coneybeer**, 281-7859 or angie@coneybeer.com.

THE FLOCK

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 12**. Please enter through the bridge entrance on the side of the Fellowship Hall and we will be upstairs. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions about the Flock or if you would like to get on our e-mail list please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster Presbyterian Church, membership here, and what it means to be Presbyterian are invited to attend our New Member Class from **8:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 17, in Room 213**. Those who have been baptized and who wish to become members may do so at the 11:15 a.m. worship service or on a future new-member Sunday. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Dave Carlson, associate pastor, (dcarlson@wpc-online.org) at 864-232-2424.

THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
2310 Augusta Road
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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
EPIPHANY TEA

The Presbyterian Women will hold an Epiphany Tea on **Sunday, January 10, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary Atrium. This will be a special time to celebrate the new year and to dedicate it to living as Christians. All of the women of the congregation are invited. Guests are welcome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
January 3 - 9, 2010

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Confirmation Class
9:50 a.m. Health Ministry
10:00 a.m. One Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
12:15 p.m. Health Ministry
12:30 p.m. PW Circle #7
3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Moms In Touch
9:15 a.m. Weekday Chapel
9:45 a.m. Weekday Chapel
3:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
5:30 p.m. Uplift
5:40 p.m. Westminster Bells Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. NAMI
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
Al-Anon
5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
6:45 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. ADK

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. Weekday Staff Meeting
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" and Tweens
3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal
4:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. Choristers Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Dinner
JustFaith
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Group Meeting
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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
6:00 p.m. Sr. High Winter Retreat (thru January 10th)



BEGINNING, MIDDLE, AND END

Some among us thrive on completion, bringing things to a close, writing *finis* on a project. These people may resist beginning, aware as they are of what will be demanded of them, but once they start, they move swiftly to the finish. The temptation here is to rush to the end, possibly cutting off amazing discoveries along the way. This group also tends to be exceedingly punctual and finds it easy to cast away possessions that are no longer useful or unbroken, to make room for the new. The words *closure* and *declutter* are meant for these people.

Then there are others who readily begin projects (often too many at once and call their efforts *multi-tasking*) and thrive on the whole process, resisting the need to bring a job to an end. These people (of whom I am one) relish the mess in the middle. After all, judgment comes *after* we finish something—turn in an exam, submit a story for publication, or remodel a house and sell it. We delude ourselves in believing that if we stay in the process, maybe we can escape judgment. However, time does run out, whether we finish or not.

Most of us in the two groups strive to overcome our natural limitations and learn the necessary lessons of both process and completion. Fortunately for all of us, the Lord God is the master of time. And the Lord of forgiveness.

On the outside wall near the office entrance is a Jerusalem cross with the Greek letter *Mu* in the center, symbolizing Christ with us now—in the middle of our lives.

Jesus Christ is *Alpha* and *Omega*, at our beginning and at the end. Perhaps we can also acknowledge Him as *Mu*, present in the midst of the present, offering His grace, mercy, and love.

The Psalmist confesses his failings in Psalm 51, praying for "a new and right spirit within." The New Year offers yet another chance to begin again, allowing God to work within each of us to bring into present life His new creation. Whether we cherish the beginnings or the completion of our work, He can and does bring about His work within us for His glory.

Thanks be to God.