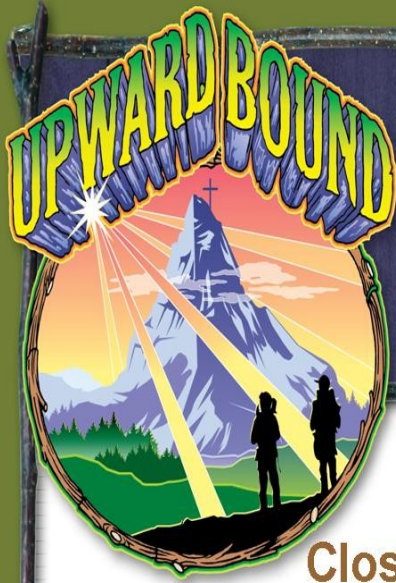


Westminster Baptist Church

THE WITNESS

July - August 2017

Volume 44 Issue 4



FOLLOW CHRIST TO THE SUMMIT!
WITH UPWARD BOUND

July 10 - 14, 2017

9:00 am - 12:15 pm

Closing Ceremony, 7/14th 7:00 pm
(Children ages 4 to grade 6)

Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane, Westminster, MD 21157
PH: 410-848-6330

REGISTER ONLINE

<http://westminster-baptist-church.org>

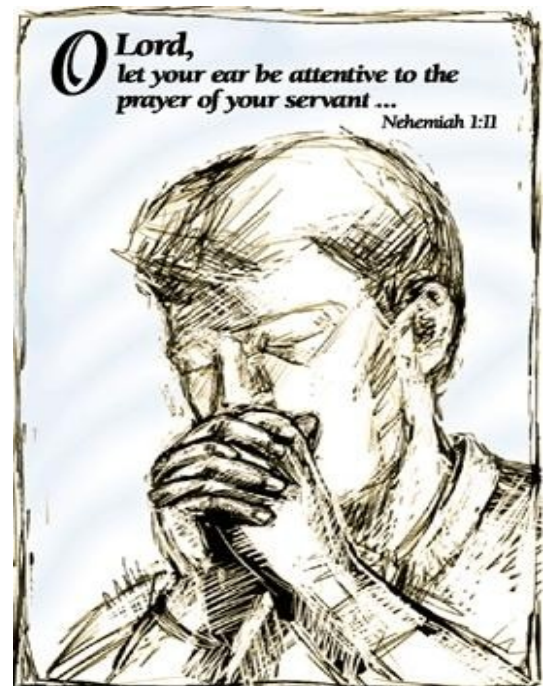
An Epic **VBS** Expedition

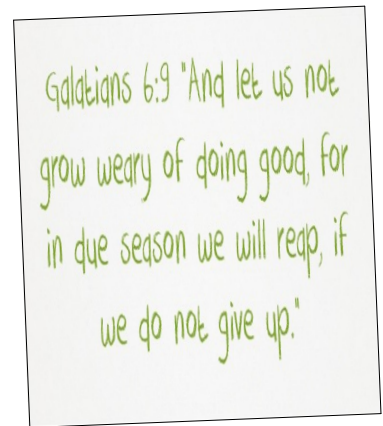


HOST HOMES, PLACES and DATES for PRAYER MEETINGS

Let's be spiritually active in the selection of our new pastor and the future of our (God's) church as we go through this transition time. Be in prayer and fellowship with one another lifting up our church, the search team and leadership at WBC as we all seek God's will and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Attend prayer meetings at a home near you or any one you choose with a date that works for you. These will continue into the Fall with new schedules continually being created. For addresses see the church directory or call host home. They would like to hear you are coming. Meetings will last about an hour. Prayers are to be short and specific to our church needs. Even if you don't like to pray out loud, your presence and meditation are important. We know the Lord delights in our presence and our prayers. If you would like to volunteer your home for a small meeting or have questions, please call **Bob and Nancy Bickel's at (410)-871-2073.**

1. **CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM** - Led by Marvin and Joyce Mather and Gary and Ninette LeGates.
Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm through July and August. Phone: Mathers (443)-744-0170 or LeGates (410)848-1636.
2. **Carl and Spicy Naugle's home in Finksburg** at 7:00 pm
Phone: (410)-871-2477
Dates are: July 5 and 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 16, Aug. 30.
3. **Nancy Rictor's home near Smallwood** at 10:30 am.
Phone: (410)-259-9361
Dates are: July 11 and 25, Aug. 8 and Aug. 22
4. **Tim and Terri McMichael's home in Finksburg** at 7:00 pm
Phone: (410)-848-8067
Dates: July 13 and 27, Aug. 10 and Aug. 24
5. **Tom and Fran Miller's at Carroll Lutheran Village**
Phone: (410)-848-3738
Dates: July 27 and August 23.
6. **Les and Dottie Bollinger's in Union Bridge** at 7:00 pm.
Phone (410)-259-5868
Dates: July 27 August 24
7. **Charles and Marlene Cole's home in Manchester** at 7:00 pm
Phone (410)-374-9551
Dates: July 27 and August 24
8. **Howard and Wilma Davis's home in Mount Airy** at 7:00 pm
Phone: 410-635-2362
Dates: July 12
9. **Dave and Heather Park's home in Hanover, PA** at 10:00 am
Phone: 571-721-9911
Dates: July 22 and August 26





Westminster Baptist Church Family,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the support of the Youth Ministry over the last 19 years. I have been so blessed to have been able to serve at Westminster Baptist Church.

The financial support as well as the prayers for our Youth have been felt over the years. The accomplishments that our leaders have been able to achieve have been due to our awesome Lord and Savior, but you all have had such a major part in it as well. This is not just my church but you are all many of my closest friends. We have rejoiced together in our successes and cried together over our losses. Due to our common faith in Jesus Christ we will be bonded together for eternity.

As I look back over my tenure at Westminster Baptist I smile at many of those memories. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as we move onto the next stages of our lives. You all have trusted me with your children and grandchildren and I never took that responsibility lightly.

Together we have worked hard to make sure they knew what it meant to be a Christian and what it took to have a personal relationship with the Living God and putting faith into action. I feel confident that those important truths are instilled through our efforts.

I pray as Westminster Baptist Church takes on new leadership that the legacy of trying to be the beacon of light on the hill will continue to combat the darkness that surrounds us. The battle has been won, it is the wars that we continue to wage. I look forward to what lies ahead, but not without the heaviness of what is being left behind. You are loved and will be missed!!!

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9. NIV.

Pastor Vernon



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	3	OFFICE CLOSED 4 	5	6 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's	7	8 9 am - 7 pm VBS Decoration Party
9 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC	10 7:00pm MOSAIC	11 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast 7 pm Deacon's Meeting (104)	12	13	14 7:00 pm New Life for Girls 7:00 pm VBS program	15 VBS worker & participant Pool Party McDaniel's home 1-4 pm
16 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	17 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	18 7:00pm Admin Team Mtg.(107)	19	20	21	22
23 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 7:00pm TIPS	24 7:00 pm Harvest Fest Mtg. (107) 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	25 10:00 am Heart to Heart	26	27	28	29
30 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	31 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team					





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm Deacon's Mtg. (104)	2	3 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks)	4 10:30 am Shepherd's Staff Soup Kitchen	5
6 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	7 Youth Hershey Park Leave church 9:00 am 7:00pm Praise Team	8 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	9	10	11 7:00 pm New Life for Girls	12 7:30 - 10:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (MP & Kitchen)
13 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC	14 7:00pm Praise Team	15 7:00pm Admin Team Mtg (107)	16	17	18	19
20 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	21  7:00 pm Harvest Festival Meeting (107) 7:00pm Praise Team	22 10:00am Heart to Heart	23	24	25	26
27 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	28 7:00pm Praise Team	29	30	31		
						



18 Hours or 18 Years



In just a matter of day's hordes of children will descend upon Westminster Baptist Church. VBS is coming and while it will likely feel like an eternity for our wonderful volunteers, in actuality we will only have these children for roughly eighteen hours give or take a few minutes. Eighteen hours is not too shabby, it's over half the time we get with kids in Awanas, for the once a month families this is more ministry time than they would get in a year of Sunday School, it's substantially longer than retreats or conferences. God can do a great deal in eighteen hours; he can win souls, call apostles, and even create most of the universe. This said, eighteen hours is a mere fraction of the eighteen years children are in our care (it's literally around one percent of one percent). Children will be far more shaped by the other 99.99 percent of their childhood than they will during our exciting Upward Bound VBS. In spite of this reality many approach VBS as their tally taking event of the year. Whole denominations track all of their life decisions for Christ in VBS even when they are literally the same kids multiple times over. In these cases kids might seem excited for God on day five of the VBS but care little when Sunday worship comes. It seems to me that we are missing something and I think the VBS company we use at Westminster Baptist Church understands that.

Despite arguably being the most from VBS Reachout Adventures include even a designated "Gospel Day" (to be know that God can make monumental and that is why the Gospel cannot be message can and will work in sinful hearts, up front not in emotionally manipulating impact VBS has on our kids and with whom have been graduated out for years. This need to depend upon the more regular We need to see VBS as a ministry where supplementing the discipleship that happens for 18 years.



Gospel centered VBS in existence, the VBSs neither an alter call, a decisions tally, or honest all of the days are Gospel Days). We changes in the lives of children through VBS missed in this VBS. We believe this Gospel but we trust in that amazing message we put tactics. The truth is it will be hard to see the the Gospel message really sticks until they means in VBS and all other ministries we spiritual instruction of children in the home. we focus on first equipping and then pens Sunday through Saturday in the living

The most important part of our VBS can easily become the most neglected part; parental take home work. Upward Bound has some exciting and life changing lessons for our children, but if these lessons are taught for the 18 hours of VBS and neglected its unlikely substantial lasting impact will be made. The VBS lessons should be stewed upon each day at home where Christian parents or other Christian family can help children reflect upon the lesson and apply it to themselves. After VBS, little difference will be made if the verses memorized and Bible lessons learned become a mere relic of summer days past. Parents can use the helpful Trailguides to keep their children active in learning scripture and allowing the Gospel to shape their identity. Many approach VBS as a spiritual pinnacle and bedrock to a child's spiritual development and hopeful salvation. In truth VBS ought to be just one of the many many mile marks on the eighteen or so year road of discipling a child.

Children can be truly and clearly saved through the eighteen hours VBS but even then if we are rightly discipling these children in home and at church, the real decisions in VBS were merely the straw that broke the camel's back. Similarly, we might not tally huge numbers of decisions (real or fake) during VBS but over time we find Upward Bound was one of the many boulders to precede that straw. Helping children truly come to understand their need for a savior is rarely going to be the product of five days isolated from continued Biblical teaching. Parents will typically be pivotal to this kind of lasting Biblical conversions even if the child we disciple each and every day makes that "decision" during VBS.

I am excited for our church to be overrun with those hordes of children. I pray we impact the lives of every single child we see for Christ and I believe our team will do everything in our power to help these children see Jesus. This said I'm not putting my hopes on this or any VBS on its own to result in dozens of conversions or seismic changes in our kids; things simply aren't that simple. What I do know is that if parents and children's ministry volunteers partner together to daily point our kids to Christ, there is no limit to what God can do with the next generations. I am excited to see how Upward Bound can play a small but important part in that lifestyle of immersion in the Gospel. I hope this year you can join us as we point these children to our amazing King Jesus, but more than anything, I hope you can play your important role in the eighteen years we get to disciple children.

Pastor Anthony Trussoni

Summer Scripture Refreshment

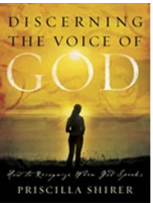


The Women of Grace small group, Sisters in Scripture, invites the women of our church to participate in Summer Scripture Refreshment. We've really enjoyed this activity the past few summers! Now is your chance to write down those Bible verses you've wanted to learn for so long and either commit them to memory or at least know where to find them. Are you thinking you can't possibly do that? Be encouraged! Philippians 4:13 reminds us that WE CAN do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Ask the Lord to help you hide His Word in your heart. If you cannot memorize verses, meditating on God's Word is always time well spent!

You select the Bible verses you would like to focus on in whichever version you prefer; it can be one, several, or an entire passage. Choose Scripture that is meaningful to you or truths that will strengthen your spiritual walk with the Lord. We'll get together at Birdie's Café on 233 E. Main St. in downtown Westminster to share our verses and talk about why these Scriptures are significant to us. We'll meet the third Thursday morning in June, July, and August at 10:00-11:30 am.

God's Word has the power to transform our lives. It frees us from sin's dominion over us that we might have fullness of joy and the assurance of eternal life. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Cindy Bryson (cindybryson@comcast.net).

Home Bible Studies



Ladies, are there Bible studies we've held in the past that interested you, but you were unable to attend? Consider hosting a Bible study in your home this summer and inviting your family, friends, and neighbors. Some women prefer the relaxed, casual atmosphere of a home study. It's a great way to build relationships and share your faith with others. Please contact Nancy Rictor or Cindy Bryson to discuss available studies and obtaining needed study materials.

WMU Mission Moments

During the summer months when we are on vacation or just relaxing more, it is a good time to help with our HUGS and our new ministry SNUGGLE-PRAY-BELIEVE. We need people to make lap blankets, shawls and our HUGS blankets. If you can knit, crochet or tie knots, this may be the ministry for you. If you would like to help, see me for directions.

Our Women on Mission (WOM) ladies are collecting supplies for Alpha. You can help. Put new or nearly new items in the Missions Barrel. Any baby item is needed but size 4,5, & 6 diapers, baby lotion, baby wash, pacifiers, rattles and maternity clothes are being asked for.

Mission Friends will start on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:45 pm and WOM will start on Tuesday, September 19th at 10:00 am.

Mary Reeb



A message from the 318 Ministry,

Men, if you are reading this, then guess what? God is speaking directly to you to get involved in the 318 Ministry. This is not a guilt statement, throughout scripture, God commands us to do certain things: in short, Love God and Love others. To love God is to develop a relationship with him through prayer, bible study and worship. To love others is to humble yourself and serve others. The 318 Ministry is designed to help you accomplish both.

We just completed an amazing series of bible studies. The first was from Dr. Tony Evans called Kingdom Agenda and the second was a study on 1 and 2 Peter, taught by our very own Gary Legates. (By the way, if you haven't heard Gary teach, you are missing out; he is amazing)

We are taking a break from our Bible study throughout the summer to allow men to enjoy family time and get some vacations in. However, we will continue to support our widows with work projects. We have completed 4 since March and we still have 2 more ladies to support.

Also, we will be kicking off our "Feeding the 5,000" campaign. We are going to start slow, feed one family, then 12, then 12, then 12, then 12. After we have hit the 49 family mark, we will seek to improve and get more folks involved. Wow, this is exciting!

The 318 Ministry will begin advertising events for work projects, prayer breakfasts, and even a men's retreat on October 21, 2017. We are praying for you and your decision to join this ministry and become a Kingdom Man. Our challenge to you is to:

1. Reject passivity
2. Accept responsibility
3. Lead courageously
4. And invest eternally

So how can you be a part of the 318 Ministry? Just contact Don Klapka at 410-259-8951 or by email at theklapkas@msn.com and provide your contact info. You will then be put on our email distribution list and you can assist in any way you would like. Or you can just contact the church and provide your information and say to give it to Don Klapka or Tim Knorr.

With Christ's love,
318 Ministry



New Members

July, 2017

In this article, we warmly welcome our most recent new members, who by now are familiar faces to many of us. We thank God for them and for the opportunity to get to know one another and to worship and serve the Lord together.

Larry and Lori McQuay were married on March 30. They both enjoy yard sales and antiques. Lori's other interests are cooking and collecting children's books, and Larry collects toy soldiers. He is employed as a journeyman tool and die maker for Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and has joined the church by his statement of faith. He has a grown son whose name is Christian. Lori was raised on a farm in North Carolina and was previously a member of Durham Memorial Baptist Church. She works in customer service for Dragon Scale Flooring in Laurel.

Al and Helen Jarvis, who are Anita Worthen's parents, also have a son named Allen and two grandchildren. They previously belonged to Journey of Grace Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Al's favorite pastime is crossword puzzles, and Helen likes to read. Her employment experience was in bakery and restaurant work, and Al retired from employment with Bethlehem Steel.

Ninette LeGates



Church Family,

I started this "THANK YOU" note last December, but several times I got distracted with the vicissitudes of life and never got through it. Please forgive my tardiness. I'll try again.

I have thought that one of my strong points was that I could articulate my thoughts well on paper. But as I tried to reduce my thoughts to writing, I found that ability sorely lacking. I simply cannot put my thoughts to words. I will just have to say "THANK YOU" to you who have prayed for me and Norma, written cards, made phone calls, and lent your hands in many ways. All you have to do is to see her play her bassoon again in the instrumental group on Sunday mornings to see how God answered your prayers.

We covet your prayers as we continue to deal with the ravages of cancer.

443-605-1216

Phil's cell: 443-898-2430

Norma's cell: 667-367-7897

Phil and Norma Hooks

300 St. Luke Circle, Suite 601

Westminster, MD 21158



On Sunday June 25th, I began a series of sermons from the book of Nehemiah that I believe speaks powerfully to our church at this significant time in our church's history.

This time in our church history is a time of "transition." We are transitioning in new leadership with our youth program and with the Senior Pastor position as I retire at the end of this year. And "No," retiring for me does not mean playing golf 6 days a week – I don't even play golf! No, God's calling as a pastor is for me a lifelong calling. The Lord is opening up for me doors of opportunity to serve Him after I retire from WBC. It is actually exciting to be seeing what God is up to! But that story is something to be shared on another day.

Getting back to the sermon series, I believe it is important during this time of transition, that we not view our church as being on "hold;" that we not adopt a "wait and see" approach until the new pastor comes, before we do anything to carry out the Great Commission. The Lord desires to "build his church" even when the church is in transition! Amen? And that is why I think this series of messages is so important. Some of the topics we will consider are:

- Chapt 1 The Centrality of Prayer
- Chapt 2 Willingness To Tackle A Tough Job
- Chapt 3 Cooperation With Others
- Chapt 4 Defeating Discouragement - Hope
- Chapt 5 Defeating Strife – Unity In Christ
- Chapt 6 Defeating Distractions – God Focus
- Chapt 7-8 Renewal Through God's Word
- Chapt 9 Confession Of Sin
- Chapt 10, 11-12:26 Investing In Eternal Things
- Chapt 12 Joyful Worship (Esp, 12:27 ff)
- Chapt 13 Standing By Our Promises

I hope you will try to hear every one of these messages this summer and if you are away, to listen in online through our website. I also hope that every one of you will participate in as many of the prayer meetings scheduled this summer as you possibly can. After all, our strength must come for God and that comes through prayer.

Pastor Larry



Westminster Baptist Church

354 Crest Lane,

Westminster, Maryland 21157

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