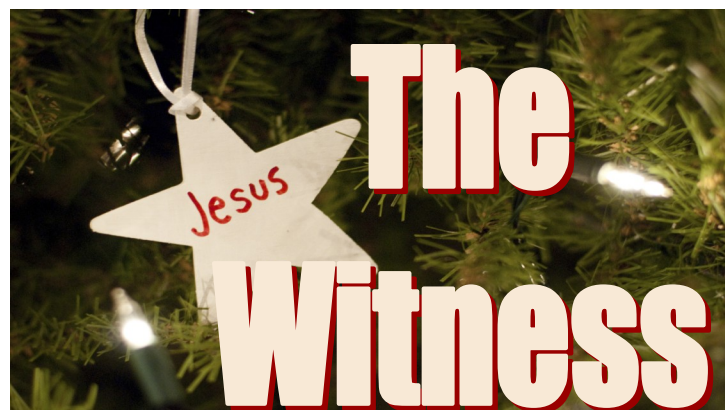


# Westminster Baptist Church



December 2014/January 2015

Volume 41 Issue 8

*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."* Matthew 2:10 (ESV)



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 11:00 AM

SANCTUARY SINGERS, PRAISE TEAM,  
RINGS OF JOY AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for surrounding our family with such love and support in so many ways with our move to Westminster. Thank you for the wonderful surprise of groceries, cards, cleaning supplies, gifts, diapers/pull-ups and more in our condo. Thank you for the help unloading and unpacking all of our belongings. Thank you for the gift cards which have been extremely helpful as we unpack, set up our home, and find our way around town. It was so nice having Tony's office set up and ready to go. We have felt your prayers and words of encouragement. We are so glad to be here serving along side you and cannot say thank you enough for the many ways you have made us feel welcome.

Love in Christ, *Pastor Tony and family*



Thank you to everyone who contributed candy, cookies or volunteered for the Fall Harvest

Party.

We had 22 children in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time.



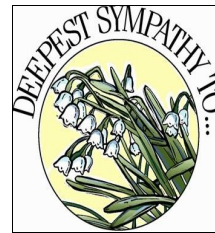
Decorate the Church for Christmas

Saturday, December 6  
9:00 am - Noon

Westminster Baptist Church

The FCA Baltimore Bravehearts want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to use your facility this season. It allowed more families to participate than what we thought possible. It has been a huge blessing and we are eternally grateful. Thank you so much for teaming up with us to provide a Christian athletic program for our home school athletes. We give God all the glory and praise!

In Appreciation, *The FCA Baltimore Braveheart Players & Family*



Terri McMichael and family as they mourn the loss of her father, Butch Wingate who went home to be with the Lord on October 31, 2014.

Rich Minton and family, at the loss of his father, Arnold Minton who passed away on November 18, 2014.

IMAGINE  
joining the Author of all history  
in

**ONE SACRED EFFORT**

FIND YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY  
MATTHEW 28:19-20

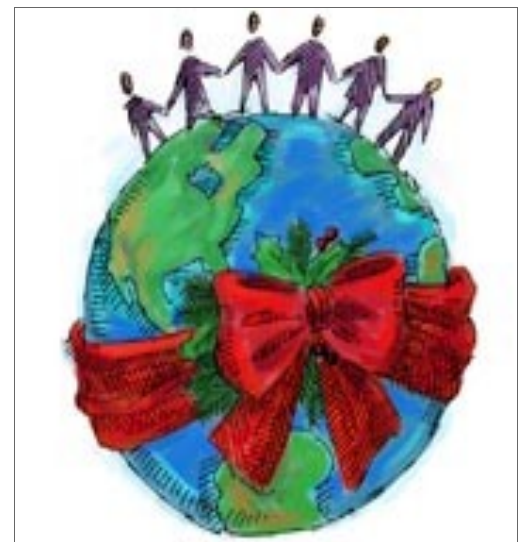
**2014 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®**  
NATIONAL GOAL: \$175 MILLION

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS • NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 7

OUR CHURCH GOAL:

**\$7,000.00**

imb.org | imbcrossing



Mission Sunday  
December 7  
Guest Speaker: Bill Freeman



Men, do you hear God calling you but you are in hiding? I recall a time when a man hid from God: Genesis 3:8-9: Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" Adam, where are you? Can you imagine God asking you that same question?

Don, Where are you? Tim, Where are you? Dave, Where are you? Bill, Where are you? And on and on. The 318 Ministry has just completed our first year and the results are mixed. We developed a core group of men attending our Thursday evening bible study, and a smaller core group on Sunday evening. We hosted several studies from Dr. Tony Evans called "Kingdom Man" and "Victory in Spiritual Warfare".

But as we look around the church, we ask the same question: "Men, where are you?" Or to be more exact, Men, where are you in your relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Have you become the spiritual leader in your home? Are you hosting personal and family bible studies in your home with your wife and kids? Are you leading your wife in prayer, daily? Do you have a core group of men to hold you accountable to these leadership responsibilities?

If the answer to any of the above questions is, "No, I am not doing that?" then consider a 318 Ministry event to get you started on the right track. As we begin the New Year, it is only fitting that we start the year off with Prayer, Bible studies and brace yourself; we have another men's conference.

**Here is our schedule for the start of 2015:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 3, 2015	08:00 – 10:00 am	318 Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fellowship hall
January 8, 2015	7:00 – 8:30 pm	318 Men's Bible study	Room 108
Note – Thursday night bible study will be eight weeks in length			
January 11, 2015	6:00 – 7:30 pm	318 Men's Bible study	Room 108
Note – Sunday night bible study will be eight weeks in length			

For additional information pertaining to the 318 Ministry, Contact Don Klapka or Tim Knorr.

**318 Men's Conference**  
**"Adam, Where Are You?"**  
**March 14, 2015**  
**7:30 AM - 12:30 PM**





# WOMEN OF GRACE "SOUPER" BOWL

Saturday, January 24, 2015

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Ladies, did you know that Saturday, January 24, 2015, is Belly Laugh Day? Escape the cold and join us for a fun evening of fellowship as we warm up with a delicious soup buffet, salad, and breadsticks.

Afterwards, we will play *Bunco*, an easy dice game that requires no skill whatsoever, but is full of laughs. Door prizes will be awarded. Please sign up at the Women of Grace table, and don't forget to invite a friend! We ask that you bring a donation of canned soup to support New Life for Girls.



## Women's Prayer Group Women's Prayer Group

The world is a mess, and the cares on our hearts can be overwhelming. What are we to do? We can pray! Ninette LeGates will be starting a women's prayer group in her home to be held at 10 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, beginning in January 2015. There will be an introductory prayer group on **Friday, December 5, at 10:00 am** in her home to get acquainted and pray for the Christmas season. All women in our church are invited to attend any gathering. If you have specific prayer concerns, please place them in the Prayer Request box on the Women of Grace ministry table, and we will pray for you. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410-848-1636. *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Matt 18:20



*Wonderful Holiday  
Wishes to all our  
Friends at  
Westminster Baptist.  
The Witness Staff,  
Dru, Norma,  
Ninette & Mary*



## The Cross in the Cradle

I have no question, one of the most precious things in all creation is the stare of a newborn child. Babies adorably stare intently and mysteriously because their little minds are trying to take in this new world they have entered; they are in a very simple way trying to understand it all. It could be said that even babies are developing a worldview or a primitive understanding of how the world works. We as parents have such a profound effect upon the worldview that young children are developing. Child psychologists are learning more and more about the effects of everything from noise to sight upon the development of babies and toddlers. Once that baby grows physically capable they begin to even parrot the little things we do in their presence. This reality makes us selective about what we do or do not present to guide them in a proper path.

We as Christians know the importance of worldview; how we perceive ourselves and the world around us can affect every little moment of life. As our children begin to learn the basics of this world let us seize this opportunity to teach them Christ and Him crucified as their only hope. In 1 Corinthians 2:2 Paul showed the importance of Christ taking upon himself our sins and voluntarily receiving the wrath of God that we deserve. In contrast to the worldly wisdom that the Corinthians received, Paul wanted to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified. For Paul the cross was the most important truth he could have possibly known.

1 Corinthians 2:2 says much to how we affect the growing worldview of the young children we have influence over. A professor of mine once said that we are all born defaulting to an unbiblical false teaching that basically says we are good and get to heaven by being good, alongside maybe a little Jesus in Christian circles. If we don't show children the cross they will always battle with an old worldview that not only gives false assurance, but will tempt them to doubt the true security we hope they one day find in Jesus' blood and righteousness. With children we are to show them first Christ and Him crucified.

Of course a newborn and usually a toddler cannot truly understand the doctrine known as atonement, but like a new pair of boots they can grow into it. The means of teaching the cross to children from birth will not be sermons or Gospel tracts, but immersion into this beautiful reality much as sports fans will frequently pass down fandom through surrounding his or her young child with a sport they obviously don't understand yet. Teach the cross to children around you through talking about Jesus' sacrifice in simple ways that they can understand or even eventually understand. Sing to children songs not merely about Jesus' friendship and love, but songs about the greatest expression of these on the cross of Calvary. Parents, pray with your child each and every night that they might know what Jesus did for his children who deserved to go to hell. Use a children's bible at home that not only mentions the cross, but the intent and accomplishments of the cross (The Jesus Storybook Bible is fantastic). Parents, in a time of family bible study each week thank God for what Jesus did for us and as kids begin to grow in understanding, explain the great Christian doctrine of the atonement with passion and frequency.

That newborn examining the world for the first time cannot understand the cross or any other aspect of the Gospel, but with prayerful time and repetition they might come to build their worldview around it. I pray that for every child that enters Westminster Baptist Church or is influenced by her members they might know "nothing but Christ and Him crucified." Remember though brothers and sisters that the truth of the cross is that even if we have failed to teach it or echo it we are still completely saved by Jesus' precious blood alone.

-Pastor Tony



# Mission Moments

We filled 100 **shoebox** gifts for children around the world. We try to do more every year. Watch for ways we can improve in 2015.

Until December 14, we will be filling bags to give to the men of the **Westminster Rescue Mission**. We need large, white bath towels, white wash clothes, white socks, shampoo, large bars of soap, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. Please put items in the Mission Barrel. See the display in the Multi-Purpose Room Lobby.

We need new pillows for **New Life for Girls**. These are needed by December 7.

On December 14, we will get to know which adult and youth have been **Secret Pals** this year. New names will be given out then and we need adults who will pray for their youth during the year and give small gifts throughout the year.

Remember it is each Christian's duty to do God's work not just a few. Pray about what God wants you to do to make our church a ministry church. Watch for what ministries we will be working on in our church in the coming months.

In January, we will be sharing ways to shop for our many ministries throughout the year. Stores hold white sales in January and this is a good time to buy white bath towels for our bags for the men of the Rescue Mission. End-of-year sales are a good time to pick up items for our shoe box ministry. Items may be put in the Mission Barrel and we will store them until we need them. Each month, watch for ways to save and still get items for our year round ministries.

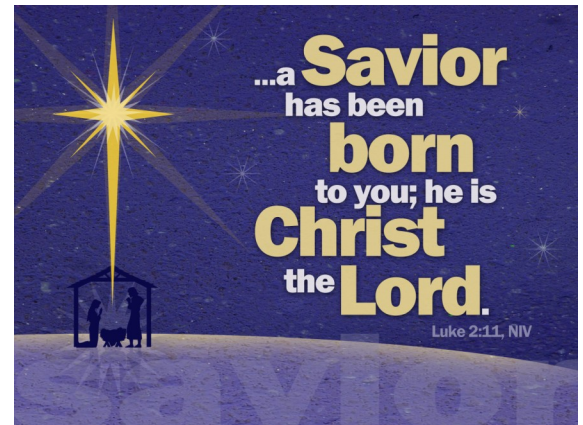
Mary Reeb, Mission Director



## Family Mission Trip

July 19-24, 2015  
Moorhead, NC

Cost: \$350





Three major holidays are upon us. We already have snow on the ground this morning (11/13).

By the time you read this, you may have finished your Thanksgiving Day celebration. The Lord has so richly blessed us that it may be hard to know where to begin thanking him.

As my thoughts wander to Christmas, I can think of no better quote than the one Buddy and Julia Landrum have kept in our Sunday school room. "Each of us is an innkeeper, we decide if there is room for Jesus." – Neal A. Maxwell

New Year celebrations are a time of promises, and a time of wonder as to what blessings the Lord may have in store for us during 2015. May they be even more numerous next year.

For many of us, holidays are a time when we may become more sensitive to "God sightings". Please keep our "Testimony Corner" in mind next year. Our stories when shared, may change someone's life. Similar stories changed mine. May the Lord richly bless you and yours.

In Christ, *Alex Jones*

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### Shaking Foundations - by Betty Giguere

"In late 2007, physical symptoms began to surface that would change my life forever. I was gaining weight. Intense headaches, dizziness, fatigue, depression and lack of interest in anything or anyone became the norm and no medications helped. In the Spring of 2008 my symptoms escalated, even to temporary blindness. It was this symptom which promoted me to seek medical assistance. Something was terribly wrong, and I couldn't ignore it any longer.

Various doctor appointments and a myriad of tests ensued, which included an MRI of my brain. Upon receiving the results of the MRI, my PCP, Dr. Lanham, asked if I had ever heard the term, "Meningioma," and I told him that unfortunately I had. I went on to explain that my brother had been through 11 meningiomas, my sister 2 and two of my nieces also had confirmed meningioma diagnoses. Options were discussed, but the decision to operate as quickly as possible was critical, due to the size of this huge tumor that had taken residence in my brain. I also knew in my heart it was time "to get my affairs in order" because the reality was that I may not make it through surgery. I turned the matter over to the Lord and asked HIM to guide this process. I needed a higher power.

I must say that during this ordeal, I felt an unprecedented Peace; the "Peace that passes all understanding." I have heard these words from my childhood, but now I FELT it. Even as I went into surgery, I knew there was someone else in that O.R. with me, holding my hand, and He was as the Son of the living God. The surgery lasted seven hours and required 54 staples and eight stitches. I came frighteningly close to going home to be with the Lord while in ICU recovery as my blood pressure dropped below 80/50 and futile efforts to locate a suitable vein to administer life saving drugs gave little hope.

I am happy to say that I fully recovered from this near death experience. Not only have I recovered, but my life has changed. I want to be, act, dress and project my best to others to glorify God. My thirst for the Scripture is undeniable. The next three years of my life was spent writing a book, *"In God's Hands,"* available at Barnes & Noble, ChristianBook.com and Amazon.com. (Editor's note: a copy is available for loan at our church's information desk.)

I saw a quote once that said, "I turned to God when my foundations were shaking, only to find out that it was God who was shaking them." I had my foundations shaken to my very core, and I am thankful today for shaking foundations, for by this, my life was changed forever.

Deuteronomy 31:5 says, "*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you.*"

# DECEMBER



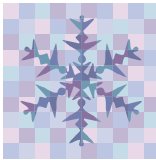

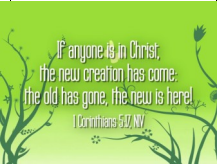
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00pm Praise Team	2 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	3 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	4 1 PM Silver Sages' Christmas Luncheon	5 10:00am Shepherd's Table 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	6 9:00am Church Christmas Decorating 4:00pm Yth Progressive Christmas Dinner
<b>LORD'S SUPPER 7</b> 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; Teen CBS 7:00pm Mission Christmas Program	8 7:00pm Praise Team	9 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	10 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	11 	12 7:00pm New Life for Girls	13  8:00am UPWARD Basketball Practice
<b>14</b> 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am Contemporary Noon Yth Secret Pal Lunch 5:30pm Sanctuary Choir 6:00pm Teen CBS 7:00pm WRM Concert	15 6:00pm UPWD Practice 7:00pm Praise Team	16 10:00am Women on Mission 6:00pm UPWD Practice	17 6:00pm Christmas Caroling & Dinner 	18 6:00pm UPWD Practice	19 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	20 8:00am UPWARD Basketball Practice
<b>CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 21</b> 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Combined Worship Service 6:00pm Teen CBS	22 7:00pm Praise Team; Rescue Mission	23	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	<b>25</b>  Church Office Closed	26	27
<b>28</b> 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	29 7:00pm Praise Team	30 7:00pm Ministry Team Meeting	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>		 <i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.</i> <small>JOHN 3:16, NIV</small>	

**Silver Sages' Christmas Luncheon,**  
**Thursday, December 4, 1 pm** at  
 Mountain Gate Restaurant, Waynesboro, PA  
 Cost is \$10 per person. Make your  
 reservation with John Smith or  
 Russ Weakley.

  
**REEB FAMILY OPEN HOUSE**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
**6:30 PM**



# JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Church Office Closed	2 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	3 8:00am UPWARD Basketball; Men's Prayer Breakfast
LORD'S SUPPER 4 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; Teen CBS	5 7:00pm Praise Team	6 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	7 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	8 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	9 Youth REBOOT Conference Jan. 9-11	10 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
8:30am Traditional 11 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; Teen CBS; 318 Bible Study	12 7:00pm Praise Team	13 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	14 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	15 10:00am First Place 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	16 6:30pm Young Married Couples' Life Group 7:00pm New Life for Girls; Youth Lock-In	17 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 
8:30am Traditional 18 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; Teen CBS; 318 Bible Study	19 7:00pm Praise Team; Awana Leader Meeting	20 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	21 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	22 10:00am First Place 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	23 	24 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 5:30pm Women of Grace "Souper" Bowl
8:30am Traditional 25 9:45am Sunday school 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir; Teen CBS; 318 Bible Study	26 7:00pm Praise Team	27 10:00am GROW	28 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:00pm Hand Bell Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	29 10:00am First Place 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	30 	31 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
						



Inclement  
Weather  
Policy

In case of bad weather, church cancellations will be announced on WMAR TV Channel 2 or the Church answering machine. If your Sunday school class has an email notification system, please contact Pastor Larry with the email contact.

Youth Christmas  
Progressive Dinner

Saturday, December 6  
4:00 – 9:30 PM

## **Westminster Rescue Mission Benefit Concert**

Sunday, December 14, 7:00 pm    Featuring the Johnsons Men's Choir  
Admission is free - a love offering will be taken.

### **Pastor's Paragraphs**

December has always been a wonderful month of the year for the Steen family as we celebrate Jesus' birth. The "Greatest Gift" is celebrated by the giving of gifts. The "Light of the World" is celebrated with multi-colored lights. The "beauty of the Lord" (Psalm 27:4) is celebrated with beautiful decoration. Eternal life is proclaimed through the symbol of the evergreen. The One who brings joy is celebrated with joyous music. What a time of year!

It is also a time of hope for those whose loved ones have gone on before us to eternity. Many experience heartache and loneliness at this time of year. Yet the hope of Christmas, is the hope of salvation, the hope of eternal life, the hope of glad reunions, a hope that is not merely wishful thinking, but a hope that is well grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year upon us, Dianne and I wish to extend to all the church family our love and appreciation for all that you have meant to us and have done for us down through the years. God has been gracious to choose Westminster as our place of ministry, and we count it a privilege and a great and joyous responsibility to serve you. We pray that you may all have a very joyous and meaningful Christmas and blessed New Year.

-Pastor Larry & Dianne



It is getting to be the time of year again when we face the possibility of weather cancellations. We try to get cancellation notices out by our email prayer request line, so please make sure the church office has your latest email address AND you are signed up for prayer requests. You may also obtain information concerning cancellations by calling the church for an answering machine announcement.

Be aware that several possibilities exist in weather related cancellations. We may simply close Sunday School and have one service, either at 8:30 or 11:00 am, depending on conditions which are either improving or worsening through the morning. We are more likely to cancel Sunday School which requires many teachers and workers than we are to cancel church services. Also be aware that though your road may have been cleared by county road crews through the night, if we have been unable to clear our parking lot, we will not be able to have church. Listen for the announcements and stay safe this winter.

**Westminster Baptist Church**  
**354 Crest Lane, Westminster, Maryland 21157**  
**Phone: 410-848-6330/Fax: 410-848-6460**  
**E-mail: [wbaptist@comcast.net](mailto:wbaptist@comcast.net)**  
**WEB: [www.westminster-baptist-church.org](http://www.westminster-baptist-church.org)**