

**Westminster
Baptist
Church**

**The
Witness**

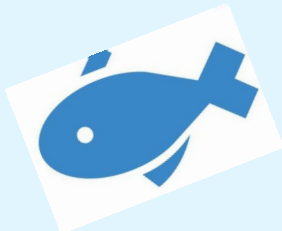
June/July 2015

Volume 42 Issue 3

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



July 13-17, 2015



9:00 am - 12:15 pm

Pastor Larry & Westminster Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for once again hosting CBS (Community Bible Study) this past year. We truly appreciate the open doors and hearts of Westminster Baptist Church as we study God's Word and practice His ways in our community. At one time, we had 301 adults and 150+ children studying with us this year, and we are looking forward to similar enrollments for the upcoming year. We will begin next Fall with a 30-week study of the Old Testament called "Return to Jerusalem". It will be exciting to see how our Lord works in our hearts and minds once again.

We are richly blessed to have such a welcoming church in which to meet, and we very much appreciate your Kingdom mindset.

In Christ,
Nicolette Coffey,
Westminster CBS Coordinator

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and many acts of kindness shown to us during Howard's surgery and ongoing recovery. Our church family is truly a gift from God and we cherish all of you. May God bless each of you.
Wilma & Howard Davis

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your expressions of sympathy and love in the loss of my sister, LaVerne. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

God Bless, *Mary Lou Hodges & Nottingham Family*

Dear WBC Family,

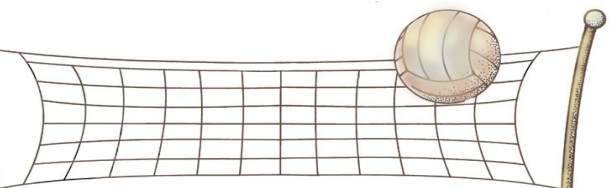
It is with heartfelt appreciation we thank you for all the prayers, love and support showed Glen and I during my mother's recent illness and going home to be with our Lord. I was blessed and rejoice that I was able to spend the past month spending time with and caring for mom at her home in VA. Glen also appreciates the meals and encouragement he received while here in MD.

Many thanks from my entire family to the church body for the beautiful flower spray too. The ongoing prayers, cards, messages, meals and visits encouraged us, as God carried us through this journey, and continues to bring us through our grief.

Blessings & Love,
Barbara & Pastor Glen Willet

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for all the support and encouragement our family has received. It has been such a blessing. A special thank you to all those who came out to help at the house.
Gina Officer & family

The family of Helen Bunch, **Barbara Willet's** mother, acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy. Thank you for the lovely flowers and ongoing prayers and support.
Annahelen, Michael, Barbara & family



Dear Westminster Baptist Church,

We are so grateful to you!
Thank you for allowing us to use your facilities for the 2015 BRAVEHEART Spring Clinic. We had a great turn-out and met many new home school families. Our spiritual times with the girls allowed for wonderful discussions about biblical concepts and prayer times together.

We are so appreciative of your hospitality and pray for God's blessing on your church.
Sincerely,
Belinda and the FCA BRAVEHEARTS



The Little Brown Vial By: Judi Martin Johnson

I had been warned not to expect the second knee replacement to go as smoothly as the first, but no one said that the difference would be in the degree of swelling which was so painful that it kept me from bending it for physical therapy. That doesn't sound so bad I told myself. There were things we could do for swelling my physical therapist said. Ice packs, electrical stimulation, massage, and elevation are standard procedures. Only one increasingly major problem- none of them worked! There were some days when I couldn't see through the darkness to even offer a prayer. I thank God that my Sunday school class, the Community Bible Study core group, Women of Grace and friends were praying not only for a reduction in swelling, but that my Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heart beat) would not become exacerbated by the excessive pain. It was humbling to know that others were praying for me- even me.

I felt their prayers but I never dreamed that they would be answered in such an unusual way. After four painful, anxious (AFIB), sleepless nights, I hobbled over to do my daily chore of straightening up the dining room buffet. There was an unfamiliar brown vial, a homeopathic container that had not been there the day before and was something that I would never have bought, let alone brought into the house. The label read, "Apis Mell." My on-line search said that it was for swelling due to bee sting. The feedback from one user said that it had worked for her Carpel Tunnel so I thought it was worth a try. After all, nothing else had worked. After taking three pellets three times a day for several days, the swelling disappeared-not reduced- but disappeared.

The vial? I found out that a friend had ACCIDENTALLY left it THREE MONTHS BEFORE MY SURGERY. MY FRIEND HAD INTENDED TO GIVE IT TO SOME ONE ELSE.

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way His Wonders to Perform" Baptist Hymnal Written C 1750

A Higher Reason By: Alex Jones

We had arrived at Williamsburg, VA., our planned destination, where we thought we were supposed to be. But, were we really where we should have been? Events during our first half an hour strongly suggested that we needed to be at home, in Hampstead.

After we had checked into our motel and had taken some of our luggage to our room, we couldn't find our 15 or so prescribed medications that we take daily. Going five days without our medicines was fool hardy, so we decided to return home and retrieve our life sustaining pills. While the thought of having left our medicines at home was irritating, we felt that there was some other reason we needed to return - but we didn't know what - until about an hour into our trip when my wife came down with excruciating back pains which became so severe that she couldn't drive, a task she loved to do.

Our family physician saw her first thing in the morning and he treated her for an acute infected bladder. She rested comfortably, responded to the treatment and in a few days, was back to her normal self.

The medicines? We found them under the back seat of the car.

Could this have been a microcosm of what the writer of Proverbs 19: 21 had in mind? "*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*"

Ministry Moments

Support the **Walk-a-Thon** to benefit the Westminster Rescue Mission (WRM). The WRM Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring this fund raiser. You can walk and get sponsors or sponsor someone who is walking. We have some women from our church who are members of the WRMLA and they will be walking. The date is Saturday, June 13, anytime from 9:00 am - Noon at the Westminster Rescue Mission.

The H.U.G.S. Program will be starting up again. This program supports people who have cancer. We give a blanket that we make and miscellaneous items to comfort them at this difficult time in their lives. If you are interested helping with this program, see me.

Seamstresses of the church - we are making simple dresses for the children in Haiti. We will be making these dresses this Summer, until the end of September. We have a team going there in October and will deliver the dresses. For more information, see me.

Mary Reeb

Pastor Dad



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children
Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV

Soon after I arrived at Bible College I learned a brand new phrase to me. The phrase wasn't a theological term or a term descriptive of a fraternity, it was "PK" or pastor's kid. I met several PKs at my little Bible College (most of whom defied the stereotypes) and now I know my kids are considered PKs, but I'm not sure how different their situation should be than "member kids." While I might work at a church and teach people God's Word for a living, I am hardly more of a pastor dad than the average Christian plumber or engineer. Every Christian father is expected to shepherd their children in scripture. If you have young children at our church, I am certainly a pastoral authority over them, but I'm not "their pastor." Mothers, and especially fathers, are to be the primary spiritual authority (or pastor) over their children. The Early American Pastor Jonathon Edwards referred to his household as "little church" and dads, you are pastors over your little church.

Fathers, your greatest role in relationship to your children is to teach them about God in scripture. This is a heavy responsibility, but indeed every other aspect of parenting is of less significance than passing down the Gospel. Our culture likes to pretend that religious devotion is the concern of mothers, and dads do well to merely sit in a pew on occasion, however this mentality is a far cry from our creator's design. Real men (as God has designed them) take the time to teach their children God's Word, ensure their families are regularly involved in their local church, and even take the time out of their day to show their children how the cross impacts that difficult situation our kid faces. Fathers can teach their sons and daughters how to change the oil in their cars, how to throw a knuckleball, or their favorite trick to hanging drywall; however if a father does not demonstrate the supremacy of Christ in all things he has failed at his highest and most important role.

As a Family Pastor it is rare that I go more than a few weeks without being asked the key to keeping kids on the right path. Never mind the fact that such questions can miss the point of the Christian faith, the answer to what is most likely to produce Christian children is fairly simple. Parents have far and away the greatest spiritual influence upon their children. Both parents are far more effective at producing faith filled children than any pastor or program could be. A recent Barna poll sought to answer this exact question and found that having a father who is diligent to teach a love for the Lord and understanding of the Gospel is the greatest contributor to having children who hold strong in the faith. While involving one's children in various church events is unquestionably beneficial, fathers will find worshipping with their children, both at home and at church, is of much greater importance. Nothing can guarantee that our children love the Lord, however both parents being intentional to pass down the faith makes it significantly more likely.

Dads of WBC, we as a church have sought to implement ways to make passing down your faith a little easier. If your child is in Children's Church they receive a take home sheet every week and that is meant to be a way you as fathers can extrapolate upon the message they have heard throughout the week. With the take home sheets we send home the weekly North Star Points. Fathers, please take time each week to help your children learn these truths concerning the nature of our God and how he can save us. When you work through these questions don't merely have your child answer the questions by rote, but take the time to explain what it means and how it relates to their lives. When you go into worship with your children, take a Kids Bulletin we provide and encourage them to use it to follow along with our worship service as you provide an example of the importance of worshipping God. Christian dads, be the pastor of your children, because no one can do it as well as you can.

-Pastor Tony

Women of Grace Treasure Hunt

Saturday, June 20

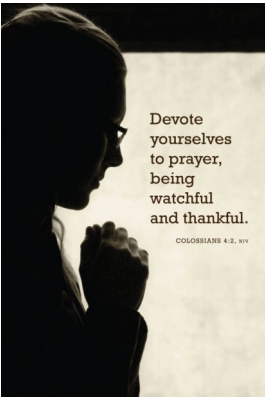
12:30 - 4:30 pm

Meet in the Fellowship Hall



Back by popular demand! This fellowship event was a favorite last year. Join us for a fun afternoon as women team up to hunt for clues hidden around Westminster. Each team will conduct the search by car within a specified area. The first team back to the “finish line” in the Fellowship Hall wins. Light refreshments will be served afterwards as we share stories of our adventures. Please sign up at the Women of Grace table, and don't forget to invite a friend!

Women's Prayer Group



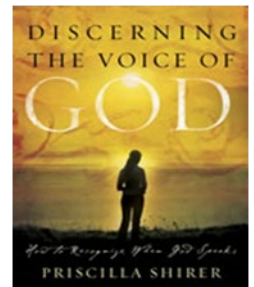
“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14

God longs to hear from us. Our lives are so busy doing things for ourselves, for others, even for God, that we miss discovering who He really is. Prayer leads us to the heart of God; it is the way we find intimacy with Him. He loves us so much. When distractions of the world flood our thoughts and heart, God misses us. He desires our worship, praise, and thanksgiving. God yearns for our confessions and petitions for He longs to be gracious to us. So let us come to the throne of grace and pray boldly, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (*Hebrews 4:16*)

We invite you to join our women's prayer group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 10:00-11:30 am at Ninette LeGates' home. Her address is 663 Rising Dr., in Westminster. All women of our church are invited to attend this gathering. You can come to pray, or you can come to ask someone to pray for you. You may also place your specific prayer concerns in the *Prayer Request* box on the Women of Grace table, and we will lift them up in prayer. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410 848-1636.

Home Bible Studies

Ladies, are there Bible studies we have held in recent months that interested you, but you were unable to attend? Consider hosting a Bible study in your home 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.



You're invited to....

**A Bridal Shower for Sarah Reeb.
Saturday, July 18, 11:00 am
Fellowship Hall**

*Bring a favorite recipe for Sarah to add to her cookbook. Given by her Aunt Dorraine and Grandmother, Mary Reeb.

Everlasting Hope

Prepare to worship, fellowship and unite with God and women of all ages in a beautiful setting close to home at Middle Creek Christian Conference Center Fairfield, PA

If you are interested in being part of the retreat planning team or have any questions please contact Barbara Willet, Retreat Coordinator: 443-375-2757



Save the Date— Save Your Funds \$\$\$



On April 25, WBC's worship team held a benefit concert for the community of Makaty, Haiti. It was a tremendous night of worship and praise and updates about our involvement in Haiti. Many thanks to the worship team and their humble hearts in being willing to use their gifts for Kingdom work worldwide.

We were able, through the faithful giving of our people, to add around \$1,000 to the Haiti Fund to be used for future projects and support of our efforts to bring Christ to a very spiritually dark community.

Please note the letters of thanksgiving from Makaty for our partnership with them. We continue to pray for Pastor Nevel, his wife, Nouvlin, and baby Grace as they minister to their people in Makaty.

"We think of you and pray for you guys. I take the opportunity to thank you for coming and be a blessing for people in Haiti. Your teachings was very well accepted and people have talked greatly about them. I meet some of the Pastors from time to time and they express appreciations on the teaching.

Remember to give my best regards to your Church people and your immediate family members. I thank the Congregation and the board members for accepting to provide supports to Pastor Nevel Bellevue, and the ministry of Makaty Church, which is a very good way to keep Nevel working in the area where he grew up. He is quite a leader.

We had a wonderful holly week, on the good Friday we have baptized 10 people and the Easter Sunday we had a wonderful service where I Louis preached. We are now preparing to have VBS in July. We will join different other Churches to have a big event in order to evangelize the Kids. Would you please pray that we have a great event.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Pastor Louis Destine"

From Pastor Nevel Bellevue,
Bethany Church of Makaty
Acul du Nord

May 4, 2015

Westminster Baptiste Church

Dear Pastor and the board of the Church;

I am so happy to write you this letter to thank you in the Name of Jesus for thinking about the Churches in Haiti, specially the one I am serving as a Pastor. I thank you for coming to visit and preach the word and we have been blessed with your message.

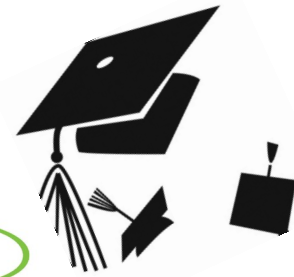
We are praying that the Lord will reward you for your work among us. We may not be able to pay you back, knowing you are not doing it to be paid back. We will remember you in our prayers.


Thank you for your financial supports to keep me active in the ministry. May the Lord richly bless you and your Church family and as well of your blood family.

Sincerely in Christ;

Nevel Bellevue
Pastor Nevel Bellevue

June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	3	4 Noon - Silver Sages' Luncheon	5 10:00am - WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm - Young Adult Life Group	6
7 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School; Baby Blessing Class 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	8 7:00pm - Praise Team	9 8:30am - Silver Sages' Breakfast 7:00pm Life Group (Willet)	10	11	12	13 9:00am Church Work Day Rescue Mission Walk-a-thon
14 GRADUATE SUNDAY 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Blood Pressure 11:00am Contemporary Noon Graduate Lunch 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	15 7:00pm - Praise Team	16 10:00am - Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	 The Love of a Father	18	19 10:00am - WOG Prayer Ministry; Shepherd's Table 6:30pm - Young Married' Life Group	20 1:00 - 4:00pm WOG Treasure Hunt
21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	22 7:00pm - Praise Team; Awana Leader Mtg	23 10:00am GROW 7:00pm Life Group (Willet)	24	25 Women of Grace Scripture Refreshment Birdie's Café 10:00-11:30	26	27
Creation Festival, June 24 - 27, 2015, Mt. Union, PA						
28 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:30pm Mission Trip Mtg 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	29 7:00pm - Praise Team	30 7:00pm Ministry Team Meeting			 The Sovereign Lord is my strength; ... he enables me to tread on the heights. Habakkuk 3:19, NIV	

Those Graduating In Our Church



Julianna Busic

Joy Shrader

Jesse Parsons

Rambo Welker

Simeon Wright

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Let Freedom Ring!		1	2 Noon - Silver Sages' Luncheon	3 10:00am - WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm - Young Adult Life Group	4  INDEPENDENCE Day
5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	6 7:00pm - Praise Team	7 7:00pm - Deacon's Meeting			10	11
12 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Blood Pressure 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	13 7:00pm - Praise Team	14 8:30am - Silver Sages' Breakfast 7:00pm Life Group (Willet)	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 13 - 17, 2015		17 10:00am - WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm - Young Adult Life Group	18
19 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary No Sanctuary Choir	20 7:00pm - Praise Team	21 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	22	23	24	25
FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO NC, JULY 19 - 24, 2015						
26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary No Sanctuary Choir	27 7:00pm - Praise Team	28 10:00am GROW 7:00pm Life Group (Willet)		30 Women of Grace Scripture Refreshment Birdie's Café 10:00-11:30	31 6:30pm - Young Married Life Group	

Six Flags



Youth Trip

Monday, August 3

9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Cost: \$30 (plus money for lunch & dinner)



Pastor's Paragraphs

This past week I took a little vacation time to check off some items on my "Larry-do" list (that's a list that I put together myself as opposed to a "honey-do" list.) I had gotten behind on some chores around the house so it was a refreshing and much needed change of pace.

As is our custom whenever Dianne and I are away from WBC on a Sunday, we find a church to attend and this was no exception. We visited a local church where my friend Doug serves as pastor. He was finishing a series of sermons on the book of Jonah, and his message made me want to read that little book again. Indeed I have read it a couple times this week.

Jonah is unlike any other book in the Bible. It is a book filled with irony, satire, character reversal and humor. Jonah is a prophet of God, yet he is the supreme example of how NOT to be a messenger of God.

We laugh at this pathetic excuse for a prophet as we envision him being vomited up on the beach by the great fish -what a pretty sight that must have been! And later when he has a love affair with a shade-producing vine, we laugh again as God creates a little worm to teach Jonah a lesson! (Who says God does not have a sense of humor?)

The humor turns serious however when we realize that often times we are every bit as pathetic as the prophet. Well let me speak for myself - I am often as pathetic as the prophet. Like Jonah, sometimes I am "called to go east" and I go west. As Jonah slept in the hold of the ship while the pagan sailors prayed to their gods, sometimes unsaved "religious" people act more saved, and show greater commitment to their faith than do!! And when did Jonah ever pray a prayer of thanksgiving or praise? It was only when he was in deep trouble, in the belly of the great fish! Once he was freed, all he did was grumble and complain. Like some people he only prayed when he was in trouble. And think about this - he was the most effective evangelist of all time (even Jesus!) by preaching 5 words and the entire city, along with their king, repents in the greatest spiritual revival ever! Is he happy yet? No-oooooo. Sometimes we like Jonah, especially after experiencing some form of tragedy, are far more desirous of vengeance against our enemies than to see them experience God's mercy and grace. Jonah really hates those repentant Ninevites. Confronted with the ironic contrast between his love for a vine and God's love for a people, the prophet falls amazingly silent when the climactic question of the book is raised in...

Jonah 4:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ *But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight."* ¹¹ *But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"*

The Book of Jonah makes one major point. To experience the grace of God and not be willing to tell others of His compassion is a tragedy we all must avoid. I know for myself, as one who has experience God's grace, there have been far too many times that I have failed to share that grace with others. May all of us be most un-Jonah-like in that regard!

Who do you know that you need to tell them about Jesus?

-Pastor Larry

Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane, Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: 410-848-6330
E-mail: wbaptist@comcast.net
WEB: www.westminster-baptist-church.org