

Westminster  
Baptist  
Church

# THE WITNESS

June - August 2016

Volume 44 Issue 3



*Training Kids for Life and Godliness!*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 11 - 15, 2016

9:00 am - 12:15 pm

(Children ages 4 to grade 6)

Closing Ceremony, 7/15 7:00 pm



Westminster Baptist Church

354 Crest Lane

Westminster, MD 21157

410-848-6330

REGISTER ONLINE

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



## ***Introduction to Testimony Corner***

It has been said that God lives in the praises of His people, and indeed the Scofield Bible lists 134 direct references to praise. Have you noticed how much better you feel after you have sung, “How Great is our God!” or “To God Be the Glory...for the things He has done!”?

Our church newsletter’s **Testimony Corner** section gives you the opportunity to tell our church family, and anyone who reads “The Witness” on-line, just what God has done or is doing in your life. A story that no one can argue with. See how you can praise God by sharing what He has done for you.

**Q. What are we doing?**

A. Publishing your stories about answered prayers, God sightings, and lessons learned or miracles God has done, or is doing in your life.

**Q. Is this witnessing?**

A. Yes!

**Q. Why are we doing this?**

A. Scripture admonishes us to share what God has done for us.

1. Psalm 145:4 says, *“one generation will commend your works to another. They will tell of your mighty acts.”*

2. Keep Psalm 115:1 in mind. *“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”*

3. We are to comfort (encourage) one another (1 Th. 4:18), edify (build up) one another (1 Th. 5:11) and encourage one another (Heb. 3:13). One way to do these things is to share your stories in which God is the hero.

**Q. What kinds of stories are we looking for?**

A. Whatever has meaning for you – that will encourage one another in the Lord.

**Q. How long are these articles to be?**

A. Up to 450 words.

**Q. Will my story be edited?**

A. Yes, for focus, clarity and word length.

**Q. Can I get help to write my story?**

A. Yes. Share your thoughts with Alex Jones by email ([oldscribe34@hotmail.com](mailto:oldscribe34@hotmail.com)), or by phone (410-374-1444.)

Remember As we share our stories, we say to the world that God is alive in the lives of members of Westminster Baptist Church. If we don’t share our stories – the world may wonder.

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Beginning with the next edition of **The Witness**, we will add a column entitled, *In Process*, which recognizes your implementation efforts based on Pastor Larry’s sermon of December 13, 2015, the film “War Room,” (shown on January 16), and the Love Your Neighbor Class taught on January 17, 2016. All of these events focused on our need to learn how to build loving relationships with the lost, beginning with our passionately praying for folks around us. Honest, loving relationships may provide the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

The guidelines are simple. It must be a first person story telling what you did. Our readers would like to know how you felt. It might be helpful if we knew their responses thus far to your gesture (s). We will get back to you in a couple of months to see how things progressed.

If you would like some help in writing about your experience, you may call me (Alex Jones) at 410-374-1444. You can e-mail your “*In Process*” article to [oldscribe34@hotmail.com](mailto:oldscribe34@hotmail.com). The usual rules of editing still apply (length, clarity and focus).

Please continue to submit your “regular” testimonies about events that had meaning for you, glorified God, and will encourage the rest of us. For details, please pick up a copy of the guidelines at the reception desk.

Thank you,  
Alex Jones

**Westminster Baptist Church**

**July 16, 2016**

**6:30—9:00 pm**

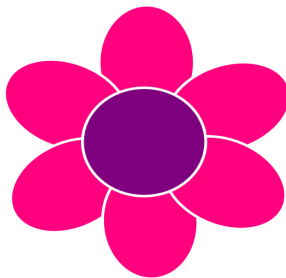
**Doors open at 5:30 pm.**

**Westminster Baptist Church**







Does your daughter know that she is a masterpiece created by God? Will she believe it in a few years, or will she succumb to the photoshop lies of culture? Secret Keeper Girl's Purple Party Tour invites moms and daughters to think and act differently. Through worship, fun bible teaching and memorable stories. Tween girls will be told unequivocally that they are each a masterpiece created by God.

For tickets and more info.:<http://secretkeepergirl.com>





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Noon - Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks)  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	3 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	4
5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC Youth & Kingdom Cadets Graduates 1-4 Youth boys pool party McDaniels 6:00pm Sanct. Singers	6  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	7 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)  7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	8	9  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	10 7pm New Life For Girls  June 10-11 Men's Graduation Campout	11 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Children's Choir Super Saturday Sing In
12 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSIAC 12:30p New Members (201) 1-5p Youth girls hiking trip 6:00pm Sanct Singers Last rehearsal for season	13  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	14  7:00 pm VBS Meeting	15	16 	17 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group  June 17-18 Women's Graduation Campout	18 
19 <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b> 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC	20  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	21 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC	27 1-6p Blood Drive 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	28 10:00am Heart-to-Heart Ministry 7:00 pm Ministry Team Mtg.	29	30 Creation Festival, June 29 - July 2, 2016, Mt. Union, PA		
June 26th—July 1st Youth Camp at Skycroft Retreat Center						





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					6:30PM Young Adult Life Group	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers		7:00pm Deacon's Meeting		Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's	10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry  7:00 pm Youth Keys Game meet at church at 5:30 pm  7:00 pm New Life for Girls	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	VBS workers & participant Pool Party		6:30PM Young Adult Life Group  7:00 pm New Life for Girls	Servant Keeper Girl Event 6:30—9:00 pm 
<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 11- 15, 2016</b>						
					7:00 pm VBS program	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	10:00am WOM  7:00pm Admin Team Mtg.			10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group  7 - 9 pm WOG Ice Cream Social & Game Night	Youth - Sidewalk Prophets concert - MVHS
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team					
31						
8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers 7:00pm TIPS						





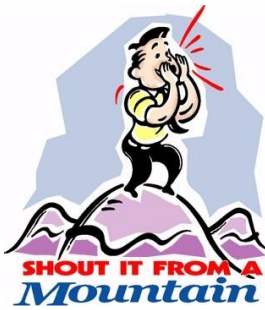
# AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>9:00am Youth Six Flags</b>  7:00pm Praise Team	2  7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	3	4  Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks)	5  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	6
7  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary  Youth Boys Stratosphere Trip 2pm	8  7:00pm Praise Team	9  8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast- Baugher's	10	11	12  7:00 pm New Life for Girls	13 7:00 - 10:00 am Carroll County Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast Ticket Rally  1:00 pm Youth MS Girls - Panera Bread
14  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am Contemporary	15  7:00pm Praise Team	16  7:00pm Admin Team Mtg	17  Youth HS girls West. Island Green 6:30 - 9:30pm	18	19  10:00am Shepherd's Table  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	20  5:45 pm Youth HS boys Oriole Game
21  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary	22  7:00pm Praise Team	23  10:00am GROW	24	25	26	27
27  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary	29  	30   7:00pm Harvest Festival Meeting	31			
						



## Our Values and our Outrage



As a culture we seem to be losing the art of nuance. Everything becomes either the best or the worst thing. We might inconsistently refer to things as our favorites, or suggest we hate even that which we casually dislike. When we lack such verbal caution, our outrage becomes nearly meaningless and it can be hard to distinguish degrees of dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, I believe that which brings us to outrage can still be revealing. Even those who lack a significant understanding of degree are still selective of that which they might rant about on social media or what they bring up in conversations. Our outrage and the degree to which we are outraged, shows what we care about. Our rants show our values. In some sense the old adage, 'your checkbook reveals your heart,' is true. Perhaps though, your Facebook rant may reveal your heart even more. There are many things one might be outraged about. If you scan the editorial section of your local newspaper you're bound to find impassioned articles concerning everything from proper varnishing techniques to the very existence of God. What one writes and raves about, along with the passion one brings to such a discussion directly relates to the degrees to which we care about something. One would never find a president showcasing his favorite salad dressing in the state of the union. One couldn't imagine 'The Economist' would run a cover piece on the ideal seasonings for smoking a pork shoulder. We talk about, we write about, and most of all we become outraged about that which we care most about. Our outrage shows the beliefs that mean the most to us.

As Christians, we are people with well thought-out values. Few are as concerned with intentional worldviews as devout Evangelical Christians. We now live for a kingdom that will last forever and that reality reshapes how we perceive the entire world around us. As Christians we have many things to feel strongly about, and we even should at times express outrage. A Christian worldview even presents us with degrees of importance in our values. Al Mohler rightly talks about a theological triage wherein we ought to regard things like a Biblical view of the Trinity as of far greater importance than precise understanding of the end times. We should care about many things, but we should have a hierarchy of concerns stemming from a Biblical worldview. A Christian might (rightly) believe that tofu is disgusting; however Christians are to realize the reality of a lost world dying and going to hell is infinitely more disgusting.

Too often we as Christians waste all our outrage on that which in light of eternity is utterly insignificant and in this we show that which we really care about most. Not only does misdirected outrage fail to see that which is truly of significance, it can even distract the lost from that which we should care about most; the gospel. There is nothing wrong with feeling strongly about politics, opposing bathroom policies one feels are unsafe, or realizing bacon is the greatest food on earth. There is however, something very wrong with caring too much about those things, especially when we rarely extend such passion to things of eternal significance. We might care deeply about the best car manufacturer, whether or not people should be vaccinated, or varnishing techniques; but we must always treat them as insignificant next to eternal truths. Our problem is not that we have outrage, but it's what we are most outraged about and what doesn't really bother us as much as we would like to think.

How often does it passionately anger us that we continue to buy the lie that sinning is in our own best interest? I'm a selfish fool who sins daily and the reality is I'm not as broken by that fact as I can be angered over things that are frankly silly. How many of us are more bothered that a political candidate holds a certain view than we are burdened that our neighbors and coworkers don't know Jesus yet? Be outraged! We live in a fallen world where all of us deserve the eternal damnation we will inevitably receive apart from faith in Christ Jesus. The creator of the universe is spit at by his very creation every single day and that includes ourselves. Christians have the only hope of salvation for our loved ones heading to hell, yet we would rather be liked than tell them the only truth that can help them. When we become more outraged about what's talked about around the water cooler than what's talked about in God's word, let's check our hearts. Maybe we are rightly outraged over a variety of things, but maybe our outrage shows us that our faith is far from the most important thing in our lives.

*Pastor Tony*

## Women's Prayer Group

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 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 and pray boldly to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (*Hebrews 4:16*)

June through August, our women's prayer group will meet on the **1st Friday of the month only**, from 10:00-11:30am at Ninette LeGates' home. Her address is 663 Rising Dr. in Westminster. All women in our church are invited to attend any gathering. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410 848-1636.

## 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 commit them to memory. 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!

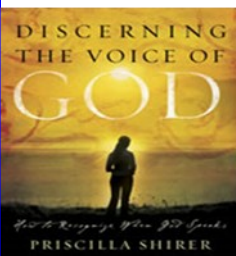
You select the Bible verses you would like to focus on in whichever version you prefer; it can be one, several, or an entire passage. Choose Scripture that is meaningful to you or truths that will strengthen your spiritual walk with the Lord. We'll get together at JeannieBird Baking Company in downtown Westminster to share our verses and talk about why these Scriptures are significant to us. No tests, just encouragement! We'll meet the third Friday morning in June and August, 10:00-11:30 am, and the fourth Friday morning in July, due to VBS. 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](mailto:cindybryson@comcast.net)).

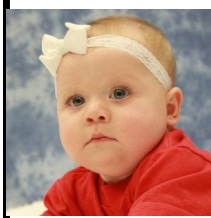
## Home Bible Studies

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.

## Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social



Women of Grace invites you to join us in the fellowship hall on July 22, 7:00-9:00 pm, for a fun evening at our "Sundae on Friday" old-fashioned ice cream social. Make your own ice cream sundae with choice of toppings or a refreshing root beer float, and then enjoy a sweet time of laughter and sharing. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Please sign up at the Women of Grace ministry table by July 17. Friends are always welcome!



## **Alpha Pregnancy Center**

***A total of \$17,399.49 was raised for use in Alpha Pregnancy Center's ministry to moms, babies and post abortive women. Our church family blessed Alpha with a total of \$825.58! Thank you for your generosity!***

Alpha Pregnancy Center's annual Walk for Life will be held on Thursday, June 16th, 6:00-8:00pm. You are invited to join them for a time of food, fun and fellowship as you "**Walk for Life!**" There are 15 Walk for Life brochures in the Welcome Center. For more details or more brochures, please contact Alpha Pregnancy Center at 410-833-7864.



# WVU Mission Moments

Our Mission Friends met from September, 2015 to May, 2016. We had a membership of 9 - 12 children. During this time, the boys and girls did the following mission ministries: 2 shoeboxes for *Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child*. We collected \$225.00 for *Pure Love/Pure Water*. We made Welcome Spring cards for our Senior Adults. We're taking the summer off and will start up again in September.

Our *Women on Mission* would like you to join them in making baby blankets, bibs, etc. over the summer. In September, we will collect these items for Alpha Pregnancy Center. For more details, please see Mary Reeb.

We are collecting school supplies for Shepherd's Staff to give out. Put items in our Mission Barrel in the Lobby. Mary Reeb

## Youth Summer Calendar

**June 12** All girls—Hiking trip 1:00-5:00-bring packed lunch and change of shoes. Bible study - no cost.

**June 26-July 1** Youth camp at Skycroft.

**July 8** Everyone—Frederick Keys game 7:00. Meet at church at 5:30 or meet us at the park. Cost \$10. Bring money for food.

**July 13** Participants and helper VBS pool party. 1:00-5:00 no cost. Girls bring snack guys bring a drink. McDaniels' 1 piece bathing suit or dark cover shirt.

**July 23** Everyone-Side Walk Prophets concert, Manchester Valley High School—cost and time to be determined.

**Aug. 1** Everyone Six Flags Trip—cost \$30 Leave at 9:00am.

**Aug. 7** Boys—Stratosphere trip. 2:00pm cost \$10.

**Aug. 13** Middle School Girls—Panera—1:00 . Bible study.  
Cost depending on what you order.

**Aug. 17** High School Girls, Westminster Island Green 6:30-9:30 pm. \$7 mini golf, \$7 driving range.

**Aug. 20** High School Boys Orioles baseball game. Cost \$15. Deadline to reserve Aug. 1. Leave church at 5:45 pm. Bring money for food.

*Thank You*  
Jesus!

*I want to thank Pastor Steen and the Deacons for their gift and support in my time of need.*

*Sincerely, Shirley Alford*

Dear Westminster Baptist Church Family,  
A big "thank you" for all the phone calls, visits, flowers and the abundance of get well cards.

Most of all for the prayers for my knee surgery and for healing.

A special thank you to Fran and Tom for the "crab cake."

What a blessing to know & feel my brothers and sisters in Christ love me so much.

*Love in Christ,  
Lil Fisher*



## Pastor's Paragraphs

As I write this summer edition of the Witness, our thoughts turn to warm weather, school being out, family picnics and perhaps even a vacation. Of course, we can never take a vacation away from God. I encourage you that no matter where you go or what you do, you set aside some time on Sunday mornings to attend worship even if it means worshipping in a church you've never attended before, and worshipping with brothers and sisters you've never met. I have always found it to be profitable experience.

Earlier this month, Dianne and I took one week of vacation and on Sunday we attended a new church plant in Brooklyn Park named Life Church. The church began last fall meeting in the Brooklyn Park Elementary School, and averages 35 to 45 people every Sunday morning. Our pastoral staff has been praying about our church giving support to this church plant, and its pastor, Pastor Kenn Witcher.

One of the blessings of attending Life Church earlier this month is hearing about the "60/60 Experiment" that Pastor Kenn is promoting in his church. The Bible tells us we should "pray continually" and I take that verse to mean that at any moment in time we should be open to dialoguing with God about our circumstances. Yet I must confess that even I as a pastor can get carried away sometimes in my activities, and hours can actually go by and I have not given thought to the Lord. (Forgive me Jesus!) Does that ever happened to you? So Pastor Ken has suggested to his congregation that they use their smart phones to download an app that beeps every hour and delivers a Scripture verse with a one sentence suggestion concerning prayer for the next hour. You can search for the app by typing in "Soul Revolution 60/60 Experiment." It is suggested that you try this for 60 days (hence the name, "60/60 Experiment" -a prayer every 60 waking minutes for 60 days.)

I have found this helpful and hope you do too. Try it for 60 days and see what God will do in your life.

**One caution** – don't kick yourself if you don't get every hour's reminder. Occasionally I will have my phone on "mute" and may miss the reminders for several hours. Think positively! Don't dwell on the reminders you miss, praise God for the reminders you don't. As always, please remember when you are away, don't forget your tithes and offerings as they are vital to God's ministry.

- 😊 *In Christian love, Pastor Larry*

### First Responders Ministry



Several of you have taken on the challenge to minister to first responders throughout this year. If you have done so, and have targeted a particular firehouse or police station, please email Pastor Larry at his email: [jlawrencesteen@comcast.net](mailto:jlawrencesteen@comcast.net) and give a quick update of what you've been doing. I would like to have a list of all who have volunteered to serve in this way and to get together and meet for a time of prayer and testimony in the near future.

Pastor Larry

### Westminster Baptist Church

354 Crest Lane,

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