

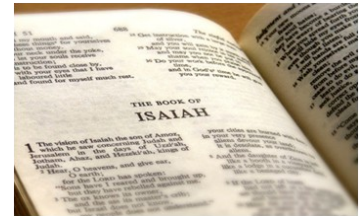
Westminster Baptist Church



Volume 45 Issue 1



How shall they hear?



Barbara Lambert

I felt that God called me to be a missionary when I was in the eleventh grade. My “field” would be teaching and showing children the Love of Jesus. However, in those days, teenagers weren’t allowed to teach Sunday school until after they had graduated from high school. After I began teaching I soon realized that I needed more training.

My pastor encouraged me to go to Ridgecrest, N.C. (Southern Baptist Retreat Center) as a staffer. When I was not working (making salads) I attended all of the conferences on teaching children. My more or less formal “training” ended in 3 months, but I have attended many conferences over the years. In fact the Lord has used me to help train other Sunday school teachers through the Baptist Association in the Tristate area and throughout Maryland.

Teaching 3 years old through fifth graders about the love of Jesus is a larger mission field than one might think. For me, studying God’s word, making and carrying out lesson plans was just the beginning. I have striven to show the love of Jesus by getting to know and pray for each child and his or her family. The earthly rewards have been wonderful, especially when the second generation comes through..

.. Still, 47 years is a long time. Over the last several years, I have thought about retiring from teaching and finding something else to do in God’s church. God and I have had several talks about this. I believe he keeps telling me to keep on teaching, but I am open to his leading.

Matthew 19:13-15 Romans 10: 14-17.

WBC Health Team News

December 2016



Beginning January 2017 I will be taking over as Director of WBC Health Team. Fran Miller was our previous director therefore I have very big shoes to fill. Currently our team does monthly blood pressure (BP) screenings for our congregation, manages the AED and First Aid boxes. Our goal is to continue to support our congregation with these services. Additionally we are excited to share information and knowledge to assist in healthy living. This will be done by monthly or bi-monthly Witness News bulletins. Look for the informational news bulletins that will address ways to improve daily living.



Presently we are looking for folks that would like to participate on our team. Our current need is for volunteers to assist in taking BP. We are seeking nurses, medical assistants, nursing assistance, EMTs, or anyone who has knowledge of taking BP. If you are interested and able to assist in our monthly BP screening between 10:40am – 11am on the second Sunday of the month please contact me via email terri2437@gmail.com or phone 410-599-6869. If you are interested in helping but don't know how to take a blood pressure call me anyway. I can teach you. You won't be without a trained clinician at your side during our monthly blood pressure screenings in case a need arises.

I am excited to be part of this team and look forward to serving the members of WBC.

In Christ's Love,
Terri McMichael, MSN, RN



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and support that you have shown to me and my family at the passing of my dear husband, Jim.

It was greatly appreciated. The cards and notes mean so much to us and we are eternally grateful for the kindness that was expressed.

Again, thank you and many blessings to everyone.

Janet Galyon & family



The Theological Family Ministry Podcast

In lieu of my usual lengthy article for the newsletter this month, I want to simply take this as an opportunity to inform you all about a new resource for parents and those serving in children's ministry. In late November in partnership with another Family Pastor, I launched a new podcast called The Theological Family Ministry Podcast or TFM. The TFM is designed to be not only an encouragement to parents as they seek to disciple their own children, but a helpful guide to all those who minister to children. My co-host Ben Palacz and I tackle a range of different topics related to family and children's ministry with a banter that only comes from a decade of friendship. We believe this podcast will prove to not only bring a focus on what the Bible tells us about discipling little ones, it will also provide a bit of humor for the daily commute. The podcast will be posted the first and third Thursday of every month both on Sound Cloud as well as in the Apple iTunes Store. We hope you have a listen and are blessed.

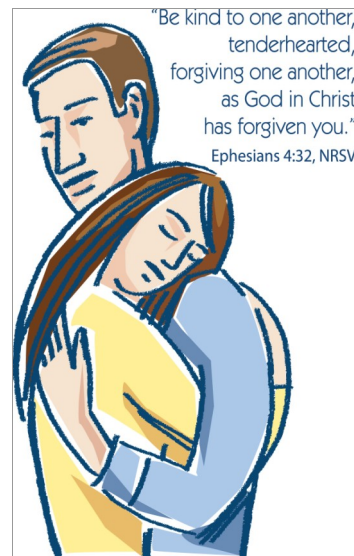
Pastor Tony

REFLECT & RENEW

As we approach a new year, it is always a good time to reflect and renew. Reflect on the past year. Look back and evaluate what we have done well and celebrate it. But also look back and learn from what did not go well. Ask the tough questions like 'How can we improve on this?' or 'What can we learn from this?' Determine what needs to change and what needs to be left alone.

Then it is time to renew. Renew as individuals, as couples, as families and as a church. It is a time to set new goals, not just new year resolutions. Focus and prioritize on the things that really matter. Renew/restore your relationships, love your neighbor and your enemies, invest eternally, become others-focused rather than self-absorbed, find a place to joyfully serve and stay committed to the task or calling.

If we would all take some time collectively as a church to reflect and renew in this way, and commit these things to prayer, it would then lead us to a time of surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and to live a Spirit-filled life this year. Allow God to open new doors for you, to lead you in decision making, to prompt you to serve others, and to be a bold witness and example in all that you set out to do in 2017. And may we be quick to give God ALL the glory for what He has done, is doing, and will do in the new year ahead.



Pastor Glen Willet

Happy and Blessed New Year to all...



and a new year of choral music begins. Recently I was asked how music is chosen for the Sanctuary Singers. We receive boxes of music from Lifeway and Word Music choral clubs several times a year. The boxes contain sheet music and a cd with the songs recorded by a studio choral group. We receive music for Easter, Christmas and the non seasonal times of the church year. As you can imagine, it is very time consuming to listen to such large amounts of music and make purchasing decisions. The music falls mainly into three categories: original compositions, traditional hymn

arrangements and contemporary song arrangements. A fourth category is growing in popularity: combining a traditional hymn or song with a contemporary piece or sound (think "Because He Lives, Amen"). The Easter and Christmas Cantatas are ordered months in advance since they take a good deal of time to learn, and at the same time we have to learn music for the regular worship services. Thank Heaven for a choir full of dedicated and patient singers!

We insist on theological and doctrinal soundness in the lyrics and because we use Lifeway and Word, there is almost never an issue. There are other publishers, such as Jubilate, whose music is gorgeous and theologically sound, but much more formal and is not a good fit.

Many thanks to the people who make our music possible: Mike Murphy, who works with us on Sunday night rehearsals and Sunday mornings; Wayne Schrader, who works the sound booth with Mike; Barbara Harrison, for doing the MediaShout for Sunday mornings; Phil and Norma Hooks, Richard Hill, John Albaugh, our Sunday morning instrumental ensemble. Dwayne Lucado, our faithful pianist at 8:30 and keyboard player at 11:00. Pastor Glen, who substitutes at piano when needed. Every soprano, every alto, every tenor and every bass singer in the Sanctuary Singers. Last but not least, you - the men and women in the congregation. I have been a song leader at larger and smaller churches, but not one of those had a congregation which sang as well as this one. It is a pleasure to hear you on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to all our musicians, sound booth warriors and singing congregants. You are loved and appreciated.



Have a wonderful year,

Lynn Johnson,

Music Director



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.

Women's Ministry

Women's Prayer Group



I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees (Hillsong United - Hosanna Lyrics)

Women of Grace invites you to join our prayer group that meets on the 1st Friday of each month at 10:00 - 11:30 am at Ninette LeGates' home. Her address is 663 Rising Dr. in Westminster. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410 848 -1636. Join us as we pray for revival in our hearts, our church, and our country.

Women's Winter Bible Study



Our Sisters in Scripture winter Bible study is "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer, a Bible teacher and conference speaker with a Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Every day, an invisible war rages all around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

Nancy Rictor will be leading this video-driven study on Thursdays, January 19 - March 2, at 9:30 - 11:00 am in WBC room 108. Cost of study book is \$13.00 (checks to WBC). Friends are welcome!

Women of Grace "Souper" Bowl

Saturday, January 21 (snow date January 28)




12:00 - 3:00 pm

WBC Fellowship Hall



Ladies, escape the cold and come join us for an afternoon of fellowship as we warm up with a delicious lunch buffet of soup, salad, and breadsticks. Afterwards, we'll have a time of sharing and play a fun game or two. Please sign up at the Women of Grace table by January 15, and don't forget to invite a friend! To bless others, we ask that you bring a non-perishable donation to support our church pantry. A list of pantry needs is available on the table.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>1</p> <p>Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 10:00am Shepherd's Table</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8-10 am Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>YOUTH REBOOT - SKYCROFT, 13-15</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5 - 7 pm Family Feast & Fun Night</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	 <p>16</p> <p>Church Office Closed 7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:00 - 3:00pm WOG "Souper" Bowl 9 am - 1:30 pm New Member's Class 9 am - 1:30 pm 201 Spiritual Growth Class</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 5:45pm Sanctuary Singers 7:00 pm TIPS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team;</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 12:30 pm Child Worker Thank You Lunch 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team</p>	 <p>31</p>				



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	2 12:00pm Silver Sages' Luncheon 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	3 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry	4
5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 11:15am Choir Rehearsal and Pot Luck	6 7:00pm Praise Team;	7 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	8 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	9 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	10	11
12 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 12:15pm Parks Baby Shower 6:00 pm Sanctuary Singers	13 7:00pm Praise Team	14	15 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	16 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	17	18 YOUTH LOCK IN - Feb. 17-18
19 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00 Sanctuary Singers	20 7:00pm Praise Team	21 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Administrative Team Meeting	22 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	23 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	24	25 8- 10am Men's Prayer Breakfast
26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00 Sanctuary Singers	27 7:00pm Praise Team	28 10:00 am Heart to Heart				

Heart to Heart

"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care . . ." Romans 1:8-15

Our GROW ministry is now, **Heart to Heart**. We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00am to write cards and pray. We have an awesome group, but could use a few more people to get involved. We send birthday cards, cards of encouragement, sympathy and more. It's such a blessing for us to receive a note of thanks letting us know our contact note or card was received just when they needed it the most. We send cards for birthdays, sympathy, encouragement and more.

If you remember reading about Paul - he never had been to Rome, but he prayed for them. What you will find with **Heart to Heart** is that truth and love flows from one heart to another. It doesn't start in the head, but in the heart.

This is an great way to connect with others and let them know how much we care. Watch for upcoming **Heart to Heart** events and get involved.

-Barbara Lambert

WNU Mission Moments

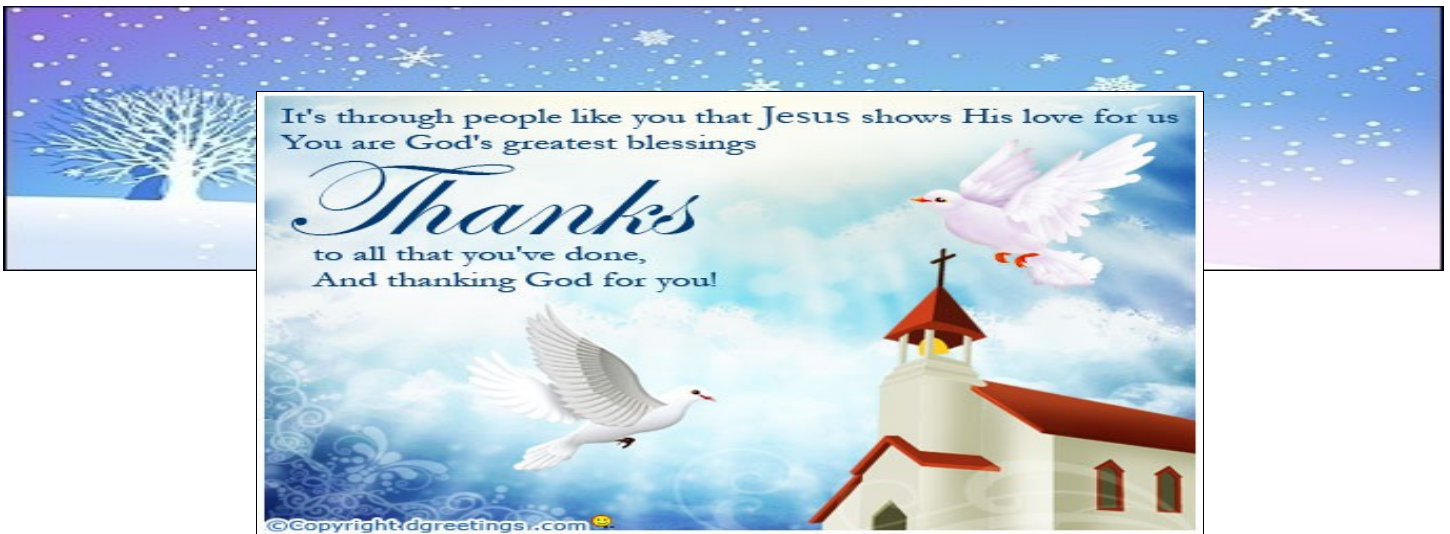
This new year I will give you some guidelines to help meet our mission's needs without waiting to the end of the year, when we need the most. During January and February, stores hold white sales. This is a good time to buy the large white towels we need for our Christmas bags for the men of the Rescue Mission. If you buy them now and put them in the Mission Barrel, I will keep them in bins at my home until we need them.



During February we will be helping the Shepherd's Staff Blessing Closet. They need shampoo, powder laundry detergent, dish detergent, diapers of all sizes for children and adults, hand bar soap and deodorants. Place these items in our Mission Barrel in the lobby.

The Christmas tree in the children's wing, will stay up until the end of January. Please bring in gloves, hats and socks. These will be given out this winter at our soup kitchens. If you would like to help with our soup kitchens and are younger than 50 years old, please see me. We need strong arms to help.

-Mary Reeb



To My Church Family,

“Many Thanks”

I sincerely offer my heartfelt thanks for the loving care my church family has provided for me during this past year. You have carried me through a chest infection, a broken shoulder, multiple physical therapy appointments, a stroke and the loss of my only sister. Through it all, I have received your many cards, calls, visits, meals and precious prayers. You kept me “lifted up” and I am forever grateful. I love my church family here at Westminster Baptist Church. Words are just not adequate to express my gratitude to all of you.

Mary Lou Graham



There is a Season

*Women of Grace
Spring WEEKEND RETREAT
March 10-11, 2017*

Mark your calendar and signup TODAY!

Hanover First Church of God. Speaker - Laurie Cole of Priority Ministries. Women of Grace would love to fill several tables at this event. For detailed info and to register directly with HFCoG, please use form in the brochure emailed to you and provided on the Women of Grace table. There's also a sign-up sheet to ensure we are seated together. \$40 fee includes 7-9 pm Friday session, 9 am-3 pm Saturday session, snack Friday with light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Seating is first come; first served. Don't miss this wonderful conference!

Dear Church Family,

Look around you. Are you as overwhelmed by the cares and concerns of your world as I am? We want so much to make things better for our family, church, community, nation, and borders beyond. And yet the one thing we can do - physically quite simple, mentally and emotionally not so much - is pray. Why do we sometimes neglect this powerful means to communicate with our God and listen for His response?

To paraphrase evangelist Ron Hutchcraft, there are miracles waiting for us if we'll pay the price of praying when we feel there's just no time for it. We may think there's no time to pray, when, in fact, there's no hope if we don't.

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:16*

No Time to Pray

No time to pray!
O, who so fraught with earthly care
As not to give a humble prayer
Some part of day?
No time to pray!
What heart so clean, so pure within,
That needeth not some check from sin.
Needs not to pray?
No time to pray!
'Mid each day's dangers, what retreat
More needful than the mercy seat?
Who need not pray?
No time to pray!
Must care or business' urgent call
So press us as to take it all,
Each passing day?
What thought more drear
Than that our God His face should hide,
And say, through all life's swelling tide,
No time to hear!



- Anonymous

Submitted by Cindy Bryson



January 11, 2017

Dear Family and Friends of Westminster Baptist Church,

The time is approaching that I believe the Lord is leading me into a different phase of ministry, and so I wish to inform the congregation I will be retiring as Senior Pastor of the Westminster Baptist Church effective December 31, 2017. I have chosen to send this news as a letter to the entire congregation before my public announcement this Sunday, just to make it a little less emotional (especially for Dianne and myself!) We came to serve at WBC in March of 1983, and we are deeply grateful to God for the privilege of serving this dear church family we have come to know and love all of these years.

My retirement will not mean that you have seen the last of us! Dianne and I currently plan to stay in our home in Westminster, and considering that about half of our lives have been lived serving here at WBC, it would really seem strange for us to move our membership to any other local church as long as we live in this area! You are indeed family and it is our plan to continue to be a part of this church family. It is my hope that my successor would find me to be an invaluable behind-the-scenes supporter, helper and advocate.

I am obviously not yet ready to sit in a chair all day or just learn to play golf. My retirement from full-time ministry will give Dianne and me the opportunity to live a bit less complicated and stressful of a schedule, to spend some more time with our family, and to pursue some new and challenging ministry opportunities both paid and as a volunteer.

These new ministries will also allow Dianne and me to remain in the background here at Westminster Baptist while a new Pastor is called and establishes himself. When the time comes for his arrival, it is my prayer that you will support my successor as you have supported me and that you will pray for him and willingly look to him as your new spiritual mentor and leader.

Over this next transitional year, I want to encourage our church leadership to seek the Lord in prayer and to re-dream the dream of what this church should look like as it ministers to the town of Westminster, and to the world beyond. I pray this year will be a year of great spiritual and physical growth for our church. Throughout this year, I will be encouraging our leaders to re-examine our church priorities, re-evaluate the ministries that we offer, update some of our organizational structures, and consider the qualities of leadership our church needs in a new pastor before the search process begins in the latter months of this year.) It is also my hope that this year can be a year both of forward looking expectation and a year to celebrate God's blessings for what he has done through our church over the years.

We ask for your intentional prayers for this upcoming new chapter in the life of our church family and in the life of the Steen family, as we seek to honor Christ and serve Him faithfully.

In Christian love,
Pastor Larry Steen

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