



**Westminster
Baptist
Church**

THE WITNESS

March - April 2017

Volume 44 Issue 2



He Is Risen!

Westminster Baptist Church

Easter Sunday Service

April 16th 11:00 am

RELIANCE ON THE LORD



In 2 Chronicles 14:2, we read “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.” And in Verse 11, Asa cries out saying, “Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us O Lord our God, for we rely on you...”

In chapter 15, the Lord reminds Asa and Judah that He will be with them as long as they are with Him. And in verse 7, God says, “Be strong, and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” The Lord was making them strong in righteousness. God deserves our very best. We should serve Him with excellence in everything we do. We shall find our best rewards in the Lord’s work if we do it with love and diligence for His glory, not ours.

Our labor for the Lord is never in vain. But we should never do it grudgingly, or half-hearted. When we throw our whole self into the task, we will reap heavenly rewards. So whether your calling is to lead a ministry, or to be a volunteer, to teach a class, to sing or play an instrument, or to setup/tear down chairs, or to make a meal or rake some leaves, or to hold an infant in the nursery, remember this. God is faithful to those who rely on Him. He is there for those who seek Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. And as you serve in the areas that God has called you, remember your reward is not here on earth. It is waiting for you in eternity. So let’s give God our very best. Let us serve our King with passion and love. Let’s dream big as to what God can do in Westminster and beyond. Join me in prayer asking what does God want for WBC? What is the Kingdom agenda for this church and the communities we can reach both locally and abroad? And then let our response of action be obedient to His will, not ours.

Pastor Glen

***WBC is having a blood drive
March 27th from 1pm-5:30pm***

Blood cannot be manufactured --- it can only come from generous donors like YOU!

According to the American Red Cross

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.

The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.

Some Reasons to Donate

It is estimated that sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients require frequent blood transfusions.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.69 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their cancer treatments.

A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

Facts about the blood supply

The number of whole blood and red blood cell units collected in the U.S. in a year: 13.6 million

The number of blood donors in the U.S. in a year: 6.8 million

An estimated 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10% actually donate each year.

Type O negative blood can be given to all blood types. O- is always in great demand and short supply.

Type AB positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all other blood types. AB+ plasma is usually in short supply.

Facts about the blood donation process

Donating blood is a safe process.

Blood donation is a simple four-step process: registration, medical history, mini-physical, donation and refreshments. Every blood donor is given a mini-physical, checking the donor's temperature, blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin to ensure it is safe for the donor to give blood. The actual blood donation typically takes less than 10-12 minutes. The entire process is about an hour and 15 minutes. All donated blood is tested for infectious diseases (HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis) before being released to hospitals.

Information you give to the American Red Cross during the donation process is confidential. It may not be released without your permission except as directed by law.

**If you would like to learn more about blood donations visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood>
For Further Information regarding WBC American Red Cross donation contact Nancy Bickel at 410-504-3588**

Please come out and Help Save A Life!

Thank you for helping---Terri McMichael



Miracle at Christmas

On Dec.23 I was at Boscov's in Westminster. As I started for the linen department I started to feel light headed, all of a sudden everything went black. I went into cardiac arrest. When I fell I twisted my leg and broke it, I hit the back of my head cut it and got a concussion. I also aspirated into my lungs and got pneumonia. The next thing I did remember was coming to in the ambulance as the EMT was stabbing me into the bone of my leg with a large needle. I remember looking up and seeing white feathers flying everywhere I asked the EMT where are the angels? I didn't know at that time they had cut my down filled coat off. By the grace of God, I am here and able to tell you my story. God must have plans for me. He put the right people in the right place at the right time. As soon as I fell there was a wonderful young man Jeff Giles at my side. He checked for my pulse I had none, He started CPR. Boscov's had a AED unit in the store. Between Jeff giving me CPR and the defibrillator I was shocked 6 times they got my heart beating again. Ken told me that the people that were there, some of them started praying over me as I lay there. Because of prayer and the selfless act of a wonderful young man and by the grace of my Lord and Savior I would not be here today. When I wake up every morning now I thank God for another day. I think the biggest thing I have learned from this experience is that everyone needs to get right in their hearts and minds with God because tomorrow is not guaranteed. All my doctors said I was a true Christmas miracle because only 5% survive this type of event.

Valerie Michali

TESTIMONY CORNER

This edition celebrates our third anniversary. We have published about 15 of your stories and while each was different they all had themes in common.

For instance, each author was humble enough to acknowledge a need that was beyond his/her ability to meet and courageous enough to share their situation with us (see Psalm 145:4), as a source of encouragement (Hebrews 3:14). Each asked God for help (see Psalm 59:16), got it and praised Him for his faithfulness. In no case was the writer the hero, God was (see Psalm 115:1).

Because God's answers are beyond mere coincidence, some would use the word "Miracle," which seems appropriate for today's contribution to Testimony Corner.

Alex Jones

*Today's Trial is
Tomorrow's Testimony*

WNU Mission Moments




During March we will be helping to stock the Shepherd's Staff Blessing Closet. They need shampoo, powder laundry detergent, dish detergent, diapers of all sizes from children to adults, deodorants, and toothpaste. Place these items in the Mission Barrel in the lobby. Thank you for all the gloves, hats and socks that were on the Preschool Wing Christmas Tree. We gave some out during January at our soup kitchen, the rest will be given out in March. In April, the WRM Ladies Auxiliary will hold a fundraiser for the Mission. It will be a Fashion Show and the cost is \$10.00. See me, Joyce Mather, Joanne Ferguson or Darlene Myers for more information and tickets.

Mary Reeb



MARCH






Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	2 9:30am WOG Bible Study 12:00 pm SS Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	3 Pastors' Larry, Glen & Don Klapka leave for Haiti	4 Young Adults 5:30 pm Pizza & board game
5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanct. Singers	6 5:30 pm Creative Arts Team Decorating Night (MP)	7 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	8 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	9 9:30am WOG Bible Study NO 318 Men's Bible Study	10	11
12  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	13 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	14 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	15 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	16 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	17 10:30am Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen 	18
19 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	20 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	21 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	22 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	23 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	24	25
26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	27  1-6 pm RC Blood Drive 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	28 10:00am Heart-to-Heart Ministry	29 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	30 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	31	





April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am - 12:00 pm Family Service Day
2 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanct. Singers	3 7:00 pm Women of Grace Mtg. (Conf. Room) 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	4 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	5 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	6 9:30am WOG Bible Study 12:00 pm SS Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	7 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry	8 10:00am Youth Paintball
9  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary	10 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	11 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	12 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	13 9:30am WOG Bible Study 12:00 pm SS Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	14 	15
16  8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Sing	17 Church office closed 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	18 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	19 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	20 9:30am WOG Bible Study 12:00 pm SS Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	21 6 - 9 pm WOG Event setup (FH)	22 10am - 12pm WOG Kids Event "Fun w/ Food"(FH)
23 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers 7 pm TIPS	24 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	25 10:00am Heart-to-Heart Ministry	26 6:00pm Child Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:00pm AWANA Grand Prix Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission	27 9:30am WOG BS 12:00 pm SS Bullocks NO 318 Men's BS	28 10:30am Shepherd's Staff Soup Kitchen	29
30 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers						

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

Wearing Our Team Colors

People are notoriously sensitive about their sports and their religion. The Simpsons satirically observed this when they introduced “Reformed Presbyterism” as the primary Protestant religion in the show. This humorous amalgam denomination makes light of how vaguely religious denominations are typically portrayed in a television industry that is sensitive to audience members tuning out if their favorite characters have a worldview slightly different than their own. In what is at best a bizarre misreading of 1 Corinthians 3, many Christians feel identifying with a particular denomination or local church is somehow divisive or even arrogant. More and more Churches pride themselves as being inter-denominational (as if that’s even possible). Parachurch ministries sometimes condemn identifying with local churches. In some cases individual Christians attend multiple churches based upon which community has their favorite of each program. The American church is ashamed of its denominational differences and more and more it is ashamed of identifying with a local church.

I’m afraid the American church is attempting to redefine unity in a way that may be more comfortable. Unfortunately this definition is far less tolerant and ends up undermining the local church and its confessions. I remember during this past election many of my politically liberal friends told me they didn’t know anyone who was going to vote for Trump. I also remember many of my conservative friends told me they didn’t know anyone who was going to vote for Clinton. These friends were obviously all wrong, but their statements reveal an unfortunate reality; we don’t like to talk about things we disagree about. For many years some have concluded that this means we just shouldn’t talk about things people might disagree about. We think we live in harmony but in truth we only live in a hollow ignorance. Sadly, this attitude spills into Christianity. Christians decide denominational and local church distinctives should not be discussed when we interact with Christians of other traditions and now we can sing kumbaya together (mostly because kumbaya is the only song that doesn’t touch on our multitude of differences). This kind of supposed unity is actually not only intolerant, but controlling and frankly a little anti-intellectual.

True unity not only acknowledges where we disagree, it allows pride in these distinctives. Further, it even encourages healthy dialogue about our differences. Unity is not agreeing about everything, but realizing what we agree on is of greater importance. This is excellently demonstrated by the Christian conference The Gospel Coalition. The Gospel Coalition brings together leaders in denominations that disagree about everything from baptism to just war theory and often the conference even features debates about these differences. The one thing The Gospel Coalition leaders agree upon is obviously the gospel of Jesus Christ. When separate, some participants are voting in a president at the Southern Baptist Convention while others are approving a budget at the PCA general assembly. When together everyone at The Gospel Coalition are brothers and sisters in Christ and they celebrate their unity in Christ while still maintaining their denominational pride. Our willingness to have civil and loving debates are a mark of true unity. To put it simply unity looks more like a debate and a hug than small talk and a handshake.

Another fact our misunderstanding of unity misses is that saying “I am something” is not the same as saying “I am not something else.” Identifying with what we aren’t is to be divisive and contrarian, identifying with what we are is merely being intellectually honest and celebratory. Nearly every friend of mine from Texas fits the positive stereotype of showing overwhelming state pride. Texans are often extremely proud to be Texans and that’s not a bad thing. No one however would equate a Texan calling themselves a Texan to be somehow smearing Kentuckians for being from Kentucky. Even a former president of the entire United States often proudly spoke of his Texan heritage while leading every other state as well. This analogy goes a step further, someone calling themselves a Texan is in no way suggesting they are not even more an American. Strangely our false understanding of Christian unity doesn’t follow our analogy. It’s common for Christians to say something along the lines of, “I’m not a Baptist, I’m a Christian.” This honestly condescending type of statement fails to understand the simple truth that claiming one is a Baptist or is a Presbyterian, etc is to identify as a Christian. We all hold to certain distinctives within the Christian faith and claiming those distinctives not only acknowledges our beliefs but pledges our allegiance to true broader Christianity at the same time. If one Texan told another Texan, “I’m not a Texan, I’m just an American in Texas,” the first Texan would appear absurd and even pretentious. Having this mentality towards our faith is not honorable but ironically divisive.

We live in a polarized world. In this broken apart world the unity of Christians will be a testimony to the hope we have in Jesus. This world doesn’t need to see a church that pretends to agree on everything. This world needs to see a Christianity wherein everyone wears their team colors with pride but we come together as family at the end of the day.

For the expanded article, please read my blog.

Pastor Tony

“Fun with Food” Family Event

Saturday, April 22, 2017

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

WBC Fellowship Hall



This event is sponsored by Women of Grace to minister to our young families. Children age 2 thru 5th grade will craft their very own chef hat and create healthy edible art. Kids, this is one time when you can play with your food! We encourage moms, dads, even grandparents, to join your young chefs for a fun-filled morning of crafts, games, food art, and storytelling! Cost is \$5.00 per family. Please sign up at the children's check-in desk or the Women of Grace table by April 2.



Over the last few months our hearts have been saddened by the death of our granddaughter and Russell's sister. However, with the care and love of our extended family at Westminster Baptist, we have faced the pain. Our Westminster family has supported us with calls, cards and support at the funeral of Paige. The gifts of love were really appreciated, and have helped us in our healing. We will miss them and yet we know that they are in their heavenly home. Thank you. Our prayer for you all is that you know the peace of God in your daily walk.

God Bless,

June and Russell Weakley



I just want to thank all of you for your prayers and support during my husband's illness and passing. We were together for 39 wonderful years and I was blessed to know and love this man.

Thank you again for your love and support during this difficult time. It is like one big family being a member of Westminster Baptist Church. Praise the Lord He is so good.

Valerie Propst

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and phone calls for Howard. We can't thank you enough for all you do in the Lord.

Your Thoughtfulness Is a Reflection
of God's Love

When someone
Does a kindness,
It always seems to me
That's the way God up in Heaven
Would like us all to be.
For when we bring some pleasure
To another human heart,
We have followed in His footsteps
And we've had a little part
In serving Him who loves us,
For I'm very sure it's true
That in serving those around us,
We serve and please Him, too.

Helen Steiner Rice

Howard & Wilma Davis

Does God Really Understand Us?

Isaiah 55:9 states that God's ways and His thoughts are higher than our ways and thoughts. On the surface, of course, we acknowledge this fact. After all, we're speaking of God, the creator of our universe. But this verse also serves as a good reminder when we struggle to make sense of all that God allows to happen, or not happen, in this world. We want to understand God, even though Scripture tells us to trust in Him and not to rely on our own understanding. And in our human frailty, we wonder if God, in all His greatness, can really empathize with the pains of our existence - our disappointments, our loneliness, our suffering? After all, we're just human, and He is God.

Yet, have we considered that because of Jesus, we have a God who knows how we feel? Jesus left the divine realms of glory to become flesh. He was without sin, but had a fully human body, mind, heart, and will - fully God and fully man. In the words of Philip Yancey, "He went through the entire human experience, from the blood and pain of birth to the blood and pain of death."

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He experienced the gamut of human emotions. Encountering money changers in the temple, His righteous anger was evident as He overturned their tables. After the death of His friend Lazarus, Jesus wept outwardly as He empathized with the grief of the immediate family and the gathering crowd. Approaching Jerusalem, he wept over the city knowing that many would reject Him and perish because of the hardness of their hearts. He was saddened for He knew that Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed.

Jesus experienced agonizing loneliness in the garden of Gethsemane, deserted by his closest disciples as He prayed to His Father not to abandon Him. Can you imagine Jesus' mental anguish knowing the suffering that awaited Him on the cross? His grief was so intense that He sweat drops of blood. The height of His loneliness and suffering would come all too soon. Rejected by His people and forsaken by His Father, He died the cruelest kind of death on Calvary. Jesus' crucifixion paid the penalty for our sin and provided a way for us to find forgiveness with God. His resurrection three days later conquered the power of sin and death forever.

Hebrews 4 tells us that we have a compassionate High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, who can empathize with our weaknesses. Because God can relate to us through His Son, we have hope in Him. While Jesus Christ is called the Man of Sorrows, His joy is in our redemption. He humbled Himself in obedience to His Father's will, embracing death so that we who believe in Him would have eternal life.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19a

Cindy Bryson

Pastor's COLUMN

There is obviously much for our church family to be praying about in the upcoming year. We need prayer for every aspect of our church, for our pastoral staff, for our Deacons, for our Administrative Team, for our committees (particularly the Personnel and Search Committees), and for church members as individuals. What should we particularly pray for? A great place to start is to pray for our church to have, as Tony Evans calls it, “a kingdom agenda.”

We know that God's plan for the church is not for it simply to be blessed and comfortable, but God's plan has a sense of urgency and a sense of mission that reaches beyond the walls of the congregation. God's plan for the church builds bridges into the community. God's plan for the church is for his people to share the gospel with our friends, neighbors and coworkers. God's plan for the church is to love the unloved. God's plan for the church requires us to take up the cross and follow Christ. God's plan for the church is to put a foundation of prayer under everything that we do for Christ. God's plan is for us to not only be the recipients of ministry, but more importantly, for us to be the dispensers of ministry. Will you pray for the kingdom agenda to be your personal agenda, and then take action to pursue it?

As I write this article, it is the Monday before Don Klapka, Pastor Glen and I leave for our Haiti mission trip and I am looking forward once again to seeing our dear friends in Cap Haitian and Macaty. **Pray for us!** Sometimes in the immediate days before such a ministry, things can get a little hectic. In the back of my mind I am not only rolling over the messages that I will be sharing at the pastors conference, but I am also rolling over all the things I need to take with me for the trip. (“Oh yes, is it too late to look into buying sound-canceling ear buds to cancel out the drumbeat of the voodoo witch doctor?” and “I must remember to pack my OFF insect repellent!”) Even I must sometimes remind myself it's never too hectic to pray! And the only things that will be of lasting value will be the things that God does through us and not the things that we do.

So let us pray...

Pastor Larry



**Playground Mulch, March 24 & 25th
8:00 am.** We will need people to help spread new mulch for the playground. Please contact Jeff Copolous @ 443-789-0712 if you are able to help.



If anyone
is in
Christ,
there is
a new
creation.



2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV

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