

# Westminster Baptist Church

# THE WITNESS

September - October 2016

Volume 44 Issue 4

**Fun  
Food  
Games**



**October 8, 2016  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
GAMES**



## 318 Ministry



A message from the 318 Ministry,

As summer is almost over, and our children are headed back to school, our 318 Ministry will also start back with our men's Thursday night Bible study. We have had a very active summer trying to meet the needs of those in our church that need assistance. We look to continue our acts of service into the fall and throughout the winter. Our priorities are to support our widows, our members that are physically unable to do outdoor projects, and those in need.

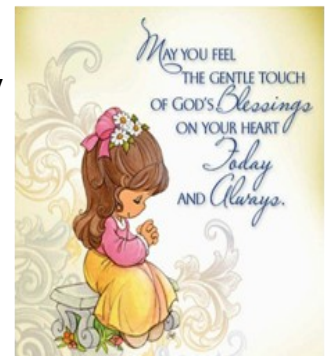
If you would like information about the ministry, please contact Tim Knorr (410) 596-2848 or Don Klapka (443) 291-6894.

Here are upcoming activities that we have scheduled through Thanksgiving:

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Sept 22	7:00 pm	WBC room 107	Men's Bible study "Horizontal" by Dr Tony Evans

## Youth Ministry

It is with a heavy heart that I inform the congregation that this will be my final Youth season serving as Youth Pastor. (July 15) I have been blessed to be at this church for 23 years with the opportunity to serve as Youth Pastor for 19 years. That is almost unheard of in Youth ministry, 19 years at the same church, average stay for a Youth Pastor is 1 ½ years. You all have been so supportive of my ministry and I feel blessed to have gotten to be part of this wonderful family. It has been determined due to declining revenue of the church and the desire for a change of direction for the Youth group, that I step down from my position. It has been an awesome run and I look forward to my remaining months of service that we will share. I wanted to be out in front of this situation with the church so that word didn't leak out slowly and become an issue and I could enjoy my final season with the Youth filled with "lasts". Thank you again for all of the support I continue to receive and together we can make this final season of my Westminster connection a fruitful one.



*Pastor Vernon*



We are happy to introduce our most recent new members. May the Lord richly bless them and give them joy in knowing Him.

April and Paul Heffner followed the Lord in baptism on March 20. They have two sons whose names are Nathan and Isaiah. Isaiah is two years old, and Nathan is five and is a kindergarten student at Taneytown Elementary. April works as a stay-at-home mom and enjoys reading. Paul likes watching football and doing family activities. He is employed as a production leader for Goodwill. They have two cats, whose names are Mickey and Minnie.

Olivia McDaniel experienced the joy of being baptized on April 24. Her hobbies are playing basketball, singing, swimming, and crafts. As a fourth-grader at Gerstell Academy, her favorite subjects are music and language arts. She has a brother named Gabriel, and her parents are P.J. and Danielle. They have two dogs called Tux and Charity.

Ninette LeGates

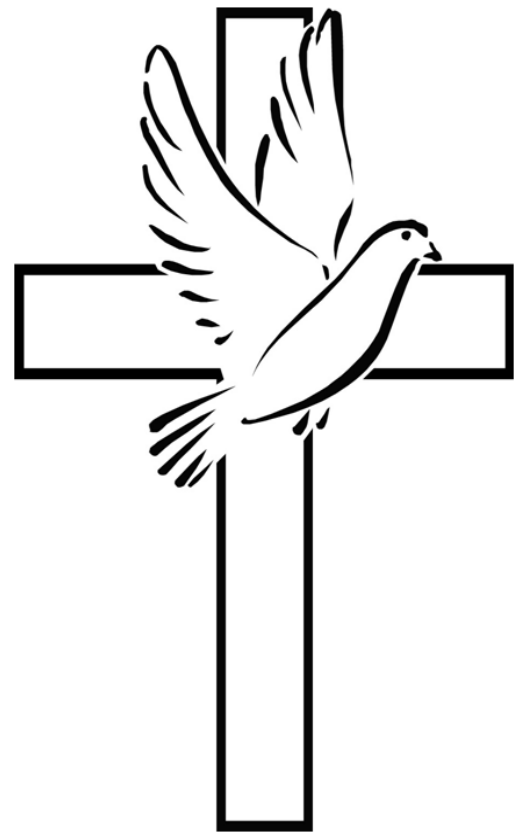
**Dear church family... may the following song be a prayer for all of us.**

*Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
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Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity.  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;  
May Your joy be seen in all I do—  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude,  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace.  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show your power once again on earth;  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see.



*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.  
John 14:16-17*

Cindy Bryson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Silver Sages' Sight and Sound <b>Samson</b>	2  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	3
4 Promotion Sunday  Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanct. Singers	5  Labor Day	6  7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	7 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	8 9:30 am <b>WOG Fall Bible Study</b>	9  7pm New Life For Girls	10
11  9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanct Singers	12  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	13 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	14 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	15 9:30 am <b>WOG Fall Bible Study</b>	16  6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	17
18 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 12:30 New Members Class 6:00 pm Sanc Singers	19 1:30 - 6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	20 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	21 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	22 9:30 am <b>WOG Fall Bible Study</b>  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	23	24  11:00 am Ladies Tea
25 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC	26  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	27  7:00 pm Harvest Festival Meeting	28 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	29 9:30 am <b>WOG Fall Bible Study</b>  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	30	





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am - 12:30 pm 2 Ways to Live Evangelism Training
2 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	3  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	4  7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	5  6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	6 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	7  6:30PM Young Adult Life Group	8  10:00 am - 2:00 pm
9 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	10 <b>Columbus Day</b>  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	11  8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	12  6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	13  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	14 10 am Shepherd's Table  7:00 pm New Life for Girls	15
16 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	17  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	18 10 am WOM  6:30 pm Family D Go Class  7 pm Admin Team Meeting	19  6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	20 9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	21  6:30PM Young Adult Life Group	22
23 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	24 7:00 pm Westminster Rescue Mission  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	25  7 pm Worship Night in America Live Stream MPR	26  6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	27  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	28	29 9:am - Noon WOG Prayer Breakfast cards to service members  7am - 4pm 318 Men's Ministry Event
30 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC  6:00pm Sanctuary Singers 7:00pm TIPS	31   7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team					

## The Worthwhile Difficulty of Family Worship



Let's face it family worship or family devotions is crazy hard especially when children are young. I think the apparent difficulty and the fear of greater difficulty is the reason when a preacher teaches on the need to have a regular time of family worship he is met with an audience full of parents screaming amen but never actually embracing family worship in their lives. Almost every Christian parent would admit that they are supposed to be the primary spiritual leader of their children, but actually making regular time to study the Bible and worship with your children is a scary proposition. Parents leading their children through books of the Bible or joining them in singing great hymns of the faith is all but unheard of among American Christian families. We all have our reasons why we don't do it, and most of us manage to convince ourselves if we've prayed with the kids before bed or helped with Awanas we've done our part.

I get it, I really do. Family Worship in our household is anything but ideal. There are days when we neglect it because I feel like being lazy after a long stressful day. Some days the kids just have no interest whatsoever and it feels like such a chore. If I'm honest, until this year we only did anything once a week and I tried to convince myself I was a stalwart example for that. We are not the perfect little family that is always ever so holy in our quaint little after dinner discipleship time. Daily family worship is hard, and it's really hard some days! But, like so many things in life it is so very much worth the difficulty.

We started daily family worship after I was convicted by Jason Helopoulos' helpful little book *A Neglected Grace* as well as the example of Job in the Bible. Previously we thought once a week was a lot for our kids' age and we will do it more when they are older, though I kind of doubt that would have happened. After Danielle and I discussed the need for daily family worship we embraced it and committed not to give up even when it started out with difficulty. We decided we wanted to ensure we do family worship nearly every night after dinner time.

For all our struggles in family worship and my frequent negligence in leading my family spiritually, family worship has been an incomparable blessing. We have been able to have conversations about Jesus with J that I never thought was possible with a three year old. J is learning the importance of sitting under Biblical instruction even when it is boring. J has been able to memorize more Bible verses than I think I had by seminary and she typically gets so excited about her verse songs. She probably has memorized more of our NorthStar Points (some question and answer doctrinal lessons) than I have. Both kids seem to be really learning from Bible passages children their age rarely are exposed to. T had a harder time getting used to the extra time at the dinner table, but he gets so excited to help say amen at the end. T is starting to follow along and get excited when we sing worship to God. The cutest part has been seeing J try to teach T some of the NorthStar Points. The kids are excited that their unborn sister gets to be part of family worship as well, and we are excited to know she will never know a time where family worship isn't the norm. Lately we have been learning songs that will be used in the following worship service and J now gets pumped when those songs come up in church. In addition we have been following our church's family worship prayer calendar and it has provided amazing opportunities to tell the kids why such and such a person is our brother or sister in Jesus.

We are still working out some kinks in how we do family worship, but our feeble attempts have yielded amazing fruit even on nights when it is a chore. I look forward to the years ahead when we can have deeper discussions and maybe one of the kids brings an instrument to the table. The absolute best results of this family worship time have been the amazing Gospel conversations we get to have with the kids that I pray results in them one day fully embracing it themselves. I pray often that our children will one day have these same special family discipleship times with their future children. If you think family worship sounds hard, you are right. But even when it is a chore, it may be the single best thing you ever do as a Christian parent.

*Pastor Tony*



## CHANGE BEGINS WITH CHRIST



For followers of Jesus, the words change or transformation should be part of our normal vocabulary rather than one that is feared. Change begins with Jesus Christ. The power of the Gospel changes everything. It changes our lives, our families, our communities, and our churches. Radical change is the heart of the Christian message. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW creation; the old has GONE, the NEW has come."-2 Cor. 5:17.

The Bible is full of verses that reflect change and the newness of life because of Christ.

Ps. 40:3-"He put a NEW song in my heart." Lam.3:23-24-"His compassions never fail, they are NEW every morning." Ez. 36:26-"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." John 13:34-"A NEW commandment I give you.." Rev. 21:1-"I saw a NEW heaven and a NEW earth.."

Everyday we encounter change around us. We can't always choose whether change will come or not. But we can choose whether to embrace it or resist it.

We can choose the kind of change that advances the kingdom of God into our world, or we can retreat and try to insulate ourselves from the world. God has chosen His Church as His instrument in this world. We, the body of Christ, are God's chosen method to be change agents and the messengers of Good News to our families, our neighbors, our schools, our communities, and our world.

Paul said in Col. 1:5-6 that the Gospel is powerful and that it bears fruit and grows. We, the Church are the bearers of hope. We must move forward and make the necessary changes to be effective with the Gospel. Churches do not change until the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change itself. For the Gospel always leads to change and newness of life. God is calling His Church to act and live on mission with the same transformational power of the Holy Spirit that the early church embraced.

There is nothing wrong with remembering what God has done in the past, but we must not live there. We must believe beyond the obstacles and trust God with His plans and His purposes for our lives and our church. All glory to you God and you alone.

Pastor Glen Willet



Our drive for the Harvest Festival is now in full swing. The Serving Hands ministry is collecting gently used clothing for all ages. We will have a table for non-perishable food items, general hygiene and toiletries and a special area for children's toys and baby needs.

All these things are to be given to anyone in need. This is your chance to rid your closets of clothing and items you no longer need, that someone else would be happy to have. To also be able to donate food items, toiletries, toys etc. to some less fortunate is a blessing to you as well as them. We will be looking for your donations during September. We also are looking for volunteers to serve at the Harvest Festival on October 8th. For more information, please call Nancy Bickel (410) 871-2073.

## Baptist Hymns as Prayers and Devotionals

Does it seem, at times, that ideas for devotional time don't come easily? Do you yearn for something different in your prayer time? Please think of the Baptist Hymnal at those times. We sing many hymns that are wonderful to use as a guides to prayer and communion with the Lord.

Are you in need of guidance? Look at "Be Thou My Vision", hymn number 60. "Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Your presence my light."

Feel free to "translate" the words to your own vocabulary:

You be my vision, Lord, Lord of my heart. Nothing else matters, just that You Are. Day or night, waking or sleeping, You are my best thought, Your presence is my light.

Are you in sorrow and sadness? "Abide With Me" hymn 63. "Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, abide with me." This hymn is a prayer for the help and comfort that can only come from the Lord. Turn the words, written long before our Civil War, into a prayer.

Need a reminder of God's grace, unchanging nature and faithfulness? Hymn 54, "Great is Thy Faithfulness... O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not...Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

Do you feel weak, not up to a task? Hymn 476, "Be Strong in the Lord ... and be of good courage, your Mighty Defender is always the same. Mount up with wings, as the eagle ascending, victory is sure when you call on His name."

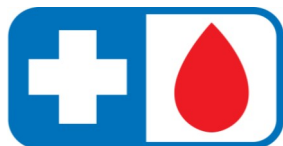
Do you need someone to talk to? "Tell it to Jesus...are you weary, are you heavyhearted, tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus. Are you grieving over joys departed? Tell it to Jesus alone. Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus, He is a friend, that's well known. You've no other such a friend or brother, tell it to Jesus alone"



Every hymn in the hymnal has a scriptural reference at the top of the page; every hymn is doctrinally and theologically sound. There are times when I use hymns for prayer. I find that taking the time to read the words can be inspiring and often leads to effortless prayer and joyful praise. **God Bless... Lynn Johnson**



### Saving Lives - One Unit At A Time



We have a blood drive coming up on September **19th from 1:30 - 6:00 pm**. (Please note the time change.) Our goal is 30 units. We would really like to have some first time donors. The need is so great with all the natural disasters across the nation. This is not to discount the many units needed for cancer patients and accident victims. Be a proud donor and be able to say, "I gave blood today." If you need child care, it can be arranged ahead of time. Contact Nancy Bickel (410) 871-2073.



# WNU Mission Moments

Mission Friends/Preschool Choir will start on September 7th at 6:45 pm. This ministry is for preschoolers age 3 to 5 years old. We will be learning about our Southern Baptist missionaries in the USA and around the world. This is done by stories, songs and crafts. Women on Mission will start on September 20th at 10:00 am at the church. This group is for all women of all ages. Come out and see how you can do ministries in our community and for our missionaries.

It is that time of year to help one of our ministries, the Shepherd's Staff to get their Blessing Closet in order. Items needed are boxed laundry detergent, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, disposable diapers from baby to adult sizes and cleaning supplies. Please place items in our Mission Barrel in the lobby.

Another ministry we need your help with is our Christmas bags for the men of the Rescue Mission. Items needed are: large white bath towels, white wash cloths, large soaps, shampoo, deodorant, combs, white socks, large toothpaste and toothbrushes. It is not too early to collect these items. The Christmas season will bring many other ministries that will need help. Get a head start on the holidays and start collecting your items now. Place items in our Mission Barrel in the lobby.

God Bless, Mary Reeb

*Thank You*

Jesus!

*I owe a debt of gratitude to my wonderful church family for the many expressions of love and concern shown to my sons and me. A special thank you to the Men's Ministry for being the hands and feet of Jesus in my life. God bless all of you.*

*Lina Ferguson*

## Heart and Hands Ladies Country Tea



**Saturday, September 24**

**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**WBC Fellowship Hall**

Fall is just around the corner - the perfect time to join us for our Ladies Country Tea! Enjoy the first tastes of autumn when you invite your family and friends for an afternoon of warm fellowship, good food, music, and testimony. Sign up at the Women of Grace table by Sept 18. Cost is \$10 per lady (ages 18 and over). Please bring your favorite teacup!



## Pastor's Paragraphs

The summer is over, the heaviest season of vacation traveling is past, school has started, and Labor day picnics are on our minds. It is the time of year in the church to gear up for the Fall; for Sunday School promotion, and the resumption of CBS, adult choir, men's and women's ministries, and Wednesday night programming for Children's Choir, Mission Friends, AWANA and Youth.

Our church is deeply grateful for all the leaders and volunteers who make all these ministries and more, possible here at Westminster Baptist. To all of you we shout out a hearty, "THANK YOU!"

We believe as Christians that we should wish to minister to others even more than we would wish others to minister to us. To paraphrase President Kennedy, "Ask not what your church can do for you, ask what you can do for your church!" If you are a member of Westminster Baptist and you are not involved in some form of service to the church body, I encourage you to contact one of the Pastors and we will gladly help you find rewarding service in our church's ministry, where you not only will be blessed but be a blessing to others.

And remember as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians,

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,  
24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)***

I hope too that all of us will join together in prayer that this coming year be the best year ever in the history of Westminster Baptist Church! With the Lord's strength, each of us can make a difference!

- Pastor Larry



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