

**Westminster
Baptist
Church**

THE WITNESS

September - October 2017

Volume 44 Issue 5

**Fun
Food
Games**



**October 14, 2017
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**



**Free Family Event
Hay rides, free pumpkins,
fun games & fair food.**



PROFILES OF SERVICE

Some of our members minister to exciting, select populations. In our preceding Profiles, we have focused on our outreach to prisoners in the State Prison in Hagerstown and to patients in the Westminster Health Care Center (Nursing Home.) This particular profile highlights an exciting ministry (318) for our church family. Our focus for all Profiles of Service follows Psalm 115:1 which says, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (NIV) The leaders will describe their activities and some of the results in the hope that you may possibly want to support or join them.

318 Ministry

Current Mission Focus:

- Take care of the widows (James 1:27)
- Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)
- Making Disciples (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Challenge for the Kingdom Men in this ministry:

1. Reject passivity
2. Accept responsibility
3. Lead courageously
4. Invest eternally



A message from the 318 Ministry,

Bible Study

Summer is over and we are prepared to restart our Thursday evening Bible study. We will kick off our new study on **Thursday, September 21, 2017 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** We will meet downstairs in room 109 for the studies.

Work Projects

The 318 Men's ministry would also like to gather a contact list of men in the church that we can call upon in the event needed for special work projects or urgent requests. We know many of you men are not able to attend a Thursday night study but we want you to feel a part of the ministry. The contact list will include any special skills you may have, such as plumber, electrician, carpenter, roofer etc., so that we can select the right guys to help support our elderly, widows and other church members. Look for an insert in the bulletin in the coming weeks for you to fill out. More details will be on the insert.

Feeding the 5,000

The 318 Ministry will start a new ministry to reach out and impact the community. Our goal is to deliver food to the community to meet their needs. If you are interested in being a part of this new initiative, contact Tim Knorr (410) 596-2848 or email at theknorrs@gmail.com or Don Klapka 410-259-8951 or email at theklapkas@msn.com for details.

Annual Carroll County Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast (CCCMPB)

The 318 Men's ministry has tickets to the annual Men's Prayer breakfast. This year the speaker is Tom Joyce, Top Gun Pilot, 9/11 Survivor at the Pentagon, and now Pastor in Virginia. The tickets are \$15 a person, Pastors and students are free. The date is October 7, 2017 from 8:00 to 10:00 am at the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Hall. See Don Klapka for tickets.

We are praying for you and your decision to join this ministry and become a Kingdom Man. Our challenge to you is to:

Reject passivity / Accept responsibility / Lead courageously / and invest eternally

With Christ's love,

The 318 Ministry

Westminster Rescue Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your faithful and generous support. Through you, God is changing lives of the men in our recovery program. He is providing sustenance for those who often struggle to have enough food. Praise God for all of you!

Thanks Again,

Angela Phillips

Total Eclipse of the Heart

The recent solar eclipse reminded me of a popular song released in the winter of 1983 by Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler. It was called "Total Eclipse of the Heart." The song became her biggest hit and went on to sell over six million copies worldwide.



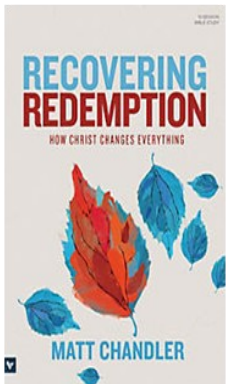
The title of that song embodies what I see played out in the news day after day – a world lost in darkness, hearts filled with hate, greed, hopelessness, and despair. People are searching for answers. Yet Jesus, the light of the world, came that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly (John 10:10). I pray that we will not allow the things of this world to obscure the light of Jesus in our own hearts. May we let our light shine before others that they may see God living in us.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

Submitted by Cindy Bryson

Women's Fall Bible Study




Our Sisters in Scripture fall Bible study is "Recovering Redemption" by Matt Chandler, lead teaching pastor of The Village Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. A frequent conference speaker and author of several books, he also serves as President of Acts 29, a worldwide church-planting organization.



The Bible is clear from the beginning that God intends for His people to experience life abundantly. So why are things such a mess - even for Christians? In this 12-week study, Matt gets to the root of brokenness and our destructive patterns of behavior. With relentless grace, he unpacks true repentance and the doctrines of justification, adoption, and sanctification with remarkably practical application. It's time to start living like we believe in the ongoing power of redemption. *Recovering Redemption* takes you deeply into Scripture to take you deeply inside yourself, discovering that the heart of all our problems is the problem of our hearts.

Nancy Rictor will be leading this video study on Thursdays, September 28 - December 21, at 9:30 - 11:00 am in WBC room 108. Please sign up at the Women of Grace table. Cost of study book is \$15.00 (checks to WBC). Friends are always welcome!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC	4  Labor Day	5 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	6	7 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's	8 7pm New Life For Girls	9 10 am - 2 pm Sanc. Singers Practice
10 Promotion Sunday 8:30 am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 11:00am Sanc Singers	11  7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	12 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	13 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	14	15 7 pm Kingdom Marriage	16
17 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00 am Sanc Singers 11:00am MOSAIC 4:30 pm Meal Packing Event - Willet	18  1:00 - 6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	19 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting (107)	20 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	21 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study(109)	22 10:30 am Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen 7 pm Kingdom Marriage	23
24 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Sanc Singers 11:00am MOSAIC 12:00 Lunch 1-5 pm Wellness Seminar	25 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	26 10:00am Heart to Heart 7:00 pm Harvest Festival Meeting	27 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	28 11:00 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	29 7 pm Kingdom Marriage	30





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 12:15pm ,Two Ways to Live Training 6:00pm Sanc Singers	2 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	3 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	4 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	5 11:00 am WOG Fall Bible Study Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	6	7 8 am Carroll County Men's Breakfast Pleasant Valley Fire Hall
8 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45 am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanc Singers	9 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	10 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	11 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	12 11:00 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	13 7:00 pm New Life for Girls	14  10:00 am - 2:00 pm
15 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanc Singers	16 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	17 Admin Team Mtg postponed one week	18 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	19 11:00 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	20	21
22 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 11:00am Sanc Singers 4:30 pm Meal 5:30 pm Prayer 6:00 pm Business Mtg.	23 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	24 10 am Heart to Heart 7 pm Admin Team Meeting (107)	25 6:45 pm Children's Choir, AWANA, Youth, Preschool Choir/ Mission Friends	26 11:00 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	27	28
29 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 6:00pm Sanc Singers	30 7:00pm MOSAIC Praise Team	31 				

What Are The Worst Sins?



What made the Corinthian church so unhealthy in the Bible was not the types of sins they committed but how they saw their sin. The Corinthian church may have been the New Testament church most likely to be featured on Jerry Springer, but that was far from the thing in Corinth that upset God the most. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 shows us what the real issue in this unhealthy church; they were angry with the world's sins and apathetic about their own. This attitude is far more disastrous than any one particular and it's exactly what made that church so unhealthy. Sadly, this brings Corinth far closer to home and it pits many American churches in the same unhealthy lot as the worst church in the New Testament.

Many Christians wonder just what is the worst sin, maybe even what is that unpardonable sin. I'm not sure we could list every sin someone could ever commit and rank them perfectly from least to most serious sins, that doesn't really understand the nature of sin. The Bible does show us what sins we should regard as the worst to us, the sins that we should oppose the most. Those sins are the ones that come from within, within our own hearts and within our own churches. Often this is exactly the opposite of how we live. Professing Christians who neglect to attend church faithfully but have never struggled with same sex attraction might be the most opposed to homosexuality. Christians prone to gossip might say "the atheists are a stench upon society." Pastors can sometimes preach most passionately against sins they've never struggled with. Churches with no concern for evangelism might constantly focus on the evils of abortion. In all of these cases we are looking far too much like the Corinthian church.

God wants us to hate our own sin, the sin we struggle with in community, and far after that the sin of the world in that order. True Christians hate their sins more and more with each passing day while at the same time we grow in compassion for the sinful world around us. When we miss this we are actually missing out on both the hope of the Gospel and the power of the Gospel.

Everyone including pastors have their hobby horses, we feel strongly about at least one particular ethical issue. Too often those hobby horses are the sins we never fall into or are just most grossed out by. These kinds of hobby horses make us feel better than the lost and make churches malicious towards the sinners that we are supposed to love and reach. When we act this way our churches will be full of unrepented sin but unwelcoming towards those who struggle with sins alien to us. In a church this will cause eventual death and in our own lives it will make growth impossible. Our hobby horse sins that we especially hate should be the sins that we struggle with and are too often overcome by. This more Godly attitude will sanctify our lives, uproot sin in the church, and make our Gospel more attractive to the lost. By no stretch does this mean we never talk about sins few professing Christians battle nor does it mean we skip over Bible passages that condemn sins outside our walls but when we speak we speak with empathy towards those who struggle with those sins.

This Corinthian attitude of focusing on the sins of others even impacts how we view those in different demographics as us. Too often the generations are quicker to condemn each other's struggles than they are to acknowledge their own sin struggles. Young Christians might be quick to condemn legalism and commitment to tradition of older Christians. Older Christians might lament young people's lack of commitment or failure to fully plug into church ministries. Lower income Christians might first rage against the greed of rich Christians while wealthier Christians mock the work ethic of poor Christians. This all looks so much like going to church in Corinth.

The world around is constantly changing and every age has its unique ethical darkness but I fear we can so quickly oppose our culture's agenda more than we oppose our own sin. Transgenderism, wide scale acceptance of homosexuality, and similar concerns are real issues but we should never hate them more than we hate our own sin. We are right to oppose the destructive ethics of our society but when we oppose it with more exclamation points than we oppose something like premarital sex we are missing it.

The wrong way to read this article would be to blast "those hypocritical churches" you don't attend, when we understand what sins should bother us the most the application is closer to home. We are called to get the logs out of our own eyes (and our church's eyes) first. When we begin to get our moral outrage in the right order God will grow us and our churches will become far more attractive to the lost. Let's avoid being Corinthian Christians and Corinthian churches even when our sins would make us more at home on The View than Jerry Springer.

Pastor Tony

Profiles of Service



In the process of editing some of your testimonies, I accidentally found that some of our members minister to exciting, select populations. Our WBC volunteers asked me to follow Psalm 115:1 which says, *“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”* (NIV) Therefore I have asked the leaders to describe their activities and some of the results in the hope that you may possibly want to support or join them.

Alex Jones

Nursing Home Ministry

Like many of you, I didn't know that anyone from WBC had a weekly Nursing Home Ministry until Phil Hooks invited me to visit The Westminster Health Care Center at 1234 Washington Road one Wednesday morning.

Phil told me that his association began shortly after he retired in August of 2000. Jane Lippy, a member of the Church of the Open Door, plays the piano as she has done for years. Spicy Naugle has been our song leader since Tom Miller gave it up due to his illness. Other churches hold services there but I'm pretty sure we are the only ones that come every week.

During a typical service, we open with three hymns, followed by prayer then followed by Three more hymns. Then I play three hymns on my French Horn. I have a library of old Hymnals and I try to play old favorites, something that older people can relate to. Sometimes I bring some of my music colleagues or students to join me. Then I present a devotional.

The cognitive abilities of the residents run the gamut. Some have very keen minds, they are just physically challenged. Some seem distant. But if you look carefully, you can see a finger, a toe or lips moving. Some are excellent singers. I even had one resident who could play our old favorites by memory on the piano and filled-in for Jane on occasions.

Studies on the impact of music on the brain are revealing some interesting results. We had a resident with Alzheimer's whose daughter brought him every week. After he died we got a note from another daughter thanking us for our efforts. She wanted us to know how much our services meant to her father. He loved singing and had been the song leader of a Baptist Association. She said that our music "brought him back."

Our devotions are carefully selected from both Old and New Testament texts and our messages are evangelistic. It is difficult to have a devotion that will reach such a wide spectrum of abilities. Sometimes I use props and do a monologue of Biblical characters. My thirty years of teaching Adult Sunday School Classes has been a tremendous asset.

Our team often remarks that although we know our efforts bring blessings to the residents, the real blessing are ours.

If you want more information, call Phil Hooks at (443) 605-1216.



God's Perfect Gift



Around 2:00 am on April 5th, my 82 year old mom was admitted to Carroll Hospital Center with an acute case of pneumonia and a temperature of 104. The next day, her breathing sounded like she was drowning. That night, her heart rate and blood pressure soared to dangerous levels. During the next 24 hours, as I.V. medicines for her pneumonia and heart condition continued dripping into her body, her doctor kept telling me that she needed an immediate hospice referral and strongly suggested that I execute my legal authority and sign a DNR (do not resuscitate) order. He then proceeded to describe mom's life if a CPR or intubation tube were administered. It was not a pretty picture. It was time for me to call my out-of-state brothers to say that if they wanted to see mom alive, they would have to come quickly.

This was my mom we were talking about and even though she has dementia and is often lost to me mentally, that are times when she will still hold me tight, tell me she loves me and that everything will be OK. Signing this order could mean the end of our 9 year journey through the changes wrought by dementia which had slowly stolen her memory and diminished her quality of life! However, a D.N.R. order was against mom's written wishes. But, on the other hand, her life after CPR or intubation would be very painful. Then dad said that he did not want her to be in pain.

This was the hardest decision of my life.

I signed the order



I then broke down, surrendered myself to the grief of my pending loss, crying until I had no more tears left. When I was filled with nothing but pain, I turned to the Lord. "Lord, I know you are in control. I am giving mom to you. Whatever happens, I know it is in Your plan. I am letting go." As I prayed, I felt His Spirit enter me and give me complete peace. God knew my heart and put me at rest.

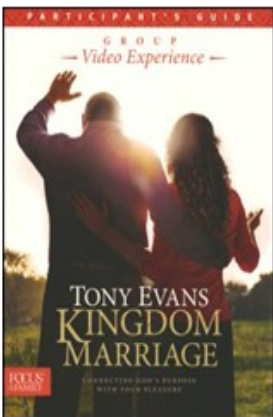
Two days later, I brought mom home - not to hospice! Her pneumonia was gone, her breathing was good and her heart seemed stronger. We are even having meaningful conversations.

God may decide to take her home tomorrow, or years from now, but having surrendered her to Him, I am now at peace knowing that He is in complete control. He decided to give her back to me in better shape than before her illness. His was the perfect gift.

Sue Gruentzel

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 (NIV)

KINGDOM MARRIAGE



Marriages, and even the concept of marriage is under attack these days. We must embrace God's original purpose for marriage if we want to build lasting relationships with our spouse.

On Sept 15, 22 & 29, from 7-9pm, we have a chance to invest into our marriages again with a 3-week study hosted by Pastor Glen & Barbara Willet. Dr. Tony Evans DVD study called Kingdom Marriage will engage us in conversations and help us explore Bible passages for kingdom marriage principles.

So if your marriage is good, why not maintain it? If your marriage is a little shaky, why not take steps to improve it? Let's join together walking through biblical principles to reignite the spark in your relationship.

WMU Mission Moments

We welcome back Mission Friends on September 6 at 6:45 pm.

There will be many new programs within our Mission Friends. All boys and girls ages 3-5 are welcome.

Shepherd's Staff Blessing Cabinet needs are: powder laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, soap, shampoo, deodorant, disposable diapers for babies (all sizes) and adult diapers. Put items in our Mission Barrel.

Bags for Rescue Mission (men) and New Life for Girls (ladies) for Christmas. Items needed are - large toothpaste, large bar of soap, deodorant, shampoo, large bath towel (white for RM) and any color for NLFG, wash cloths, toothbrushes. Please put the items in our Mission Barrel. I will see that the items will get put where they go.

Our pantry is in need of canned goods and other non-perishables for our Christmas baskets.

Mary Reeb



My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, calls and computer messages following the death of my younger brother. He will be missed greatly, but I know where he has gone for he was a Christian. In fact, when he knew that he was dying, he made the minister tell the people who had assembled that *"the shell remained but the nut had gone on."* He thought he was a comedian!

Thanks again for caring!

Loretta and Richard Hill



Sometime ago I ran across this article by Steve Mayner, the Executive Pastor and Pastor of Recovery at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa. I think it is worthy of copying here...

ATTITUDES

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Rom 12:1 (NIV)

OK, so let's say we decide to cross the threshold of moving from "me focused living" to giving our lives away as today's verse suggests. What does that look like? How do we begin?

The first step is to do an attitude check. God is ready and willing to accept the gift of your life as an offering of praise and thanks to him for what he has done for you! But what he wants as much as your obedience is your heart! He is looking for grateful believers who contribute their lives because they have the attitude that "it's the least they can do" given what God has done for them!

2Co 9:7 says *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Paul is talking to the church in Corinth about a financial gift in this verse, but I believe the principle applies whether we are giving our money or ourselves.

Have you ever encountered **Grumpy Giver** and **Cranky Christian**? You know who they are. This is the pair that you invariably find conversing together anytime you are at the church, any day of the week. Oh, they give! They are always at the church, doing one thing or another. They give of themselves constantly. Unfortunately they will give you a piece of their mind at the drop of a hat as well! Something is always wrong, they never have enough help... it's just a constant "woe is me" attitude. I think if Christ were with us physically he would put Grumpy and Cranky in time out and have them keep their gift until they could contribute with the right attitude!

Another attitude we have to check is pride. Here we find **Boasting Bob**. He too contributes his life regularly to the work of God... and he will not pass up the opportunity to let you know about it! Bob's quests for the kingdom are known by everyone, because everyone has been pinned in the Welcome Center at one point or another while Bob gives the blow by blow details on how much he has done for Christ! Again, scripture has something to say about this: *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans. 12:3 (NIV).* Remember, you don't give your life for the praise of man, because if you do you have already received your reward! But instead seek the greater reward... the praise of your Father in heaven!

Lastly, do all you do in love. (This one is for **Hard Hearted Harry**.) Contribute your life to God and to others, but do so with the heart of love for God and others that Christ teaches us to have. *"Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."* **Rom 12:9-10 (NLT).** For some of us that won't be easy. We will have to ask God to create a radical life transformation in us, to change our hearts so that we see people with the loving eyes of God.

Do you have some attitude you need to lay at the foot of the cross?

-Pastor Larry

Westminster Baptist Church

354 Crest Lane,

Westminster, Maryland 21157

Phone: 410-848-6330

E-mail: wbaptist@comcast.net

www.westminster-baptistchurch.org