

Westminster Times



Greenwood, South Carolina

Volume 1, Number 7

Coming & Going—Good Gifts

Hello, Church!

As I write this, we stand on the cusp of Thanksgiving Day, followed shortly afterward by the first Sunday of Advent. It is certainly a time to think about good gifts. I love the



Thanksgiving season. It is a wonderful time to bask in the abundance of blessings that are ours, to truly pause and rest in gratitude. For the sweetness of grapes, and the soft touch of a hand. For delicious smells in the kitchen, and for this storied land that has been handed down to us from natives and immigrants, freedom-seekers and hope-planters. We are the recipients of good and abundant gifts.

The Advent season, a time of expectant waiting, is overlaid by our occupation with good gift giving. We make lists of those dear to us and hope to find a gift that will have enduring value, or spark delight. Perhaps something our loved one would have never gotten for themselves or would find especially useful. This can feel weighty, maybe even burdensome, for how can one gift hold the connection we hope to make with our loved ones?

As we seek these good gifts for those we love, I would invite us to allow thanksgiving to continue into the Advent and Christmas season. I would invite us all to remember the good gifts we have been given and the good gifts we are promised through the One who has come, and who will come again, the One who is the greatest gift of all. I would invite us to share those gifts with the ones we love and those we are called to love.

This Advent season, we will enjoy the gifts of Christian fellowship, beautiful music, the increasing light of the Advent wreath, the shared hope of Christ's return, and the wonder of his enduring presence. May you rest in gratitude for these gifts and may you know that in them you have found the best gift you can give or receive this year.

With gratitude for you and the fellowship we share in Christ,

Caroline

A purple ribbon graphic is located in the bottom right quadrant of the page. It contains the following text:

*Give thanks with a
grateful heart,
Give thanks to the
Holy One.
Give thanks because
He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son!*

Words and music by Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Westminster Happenings

Mondays | **Rehearsal for Joint Christmas Music Program with WSPC**
Nov 25 | 8:00 P.M. at Ware Shoals Presbyterian Church (come at 7:30 for dinner!)
Dec 2 & 9 | Prepare special music for celebrating Christ's birth.

Tuesdays | **Playtime for Us!**
9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) and their caregivers
Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.

Wednesdays | **Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God's Children**
Dec 4, 11, 18 | 6:30 P.M. in the senior high classroom
Come prepared for fun and for developing your faith.

Thursdays | **Playtime for Us!**
9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) and their caregivers
Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.

Thursday | **Thanksgiving Celebration and Dinner**
Nov 28 | 12:00 NOON in the Greenwood Place Clubhouse
Bring your appetite and a grateful heart to share this meal with
Greenwood Place members and staff

Note: Church Office Closed November 28 & 29 for Thanksgiving

Sunday | **First Sunday in Advent— *The Gift of Waiting***
Dec 1 | 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary
Come to the Lord's table and prepare your heart for hope in Christ's birth

Sunday | **Second Sunday in Advent—*The Gift of Do-Overs***
Dec 8 | 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary
Light the candle of love in church and in your heart

Annual Westminster Church Christmas Party
5:30 P.M. at the Dozier residence (*108 Pinecrest Drive*)
Feast and frolic with your church family.

Sunday | **Third Sunday in Advent—*Service of Lessons and Carols***
Dec 15 | 10:00 A.M. in the Westminster sanctuary
11:00 A.M. in the Ware Shoals sanctuary
Join with musicians from WPC and WSPC in worshiping God through
scripture and music

Christmas Fellowship Feast
12:00 NOON in the Ware Shoals Fellowship Hall
Share the spirit of Christmas in a festive meal provided by our sister
church just up the road.

Sunday Dec 15 <i>continued</i>	Stated Session Meeting 4:00 P.M. in the church parlor Conduct the business of the church, including committee structure review
Thursday Dec 19	NAMI Caregiver Support Meeting 6:30 P.M. in the church parlor Contact Mary Linn Touchberry for details (mltouchberry1952@gmail.com).
Sunday Dec 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent—<i>The Gift of a Good Name</i> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Light the candle of peace in church and in your heart.
Tuesday Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship—<i>The Gift of Presence</i> 5:30 P.M. in the WPC sanctuary Welcome our newborn king, Emmanuel: God With Us!
Wednesday Dec 25	Christmas Day!! 12:00 NOON in the Greenwood Place Clubhouse Celebrate Jesus' birthday with Greenwood Place members and staff.
Sunday Dec 29	Guest preacher: Spears Alexander 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

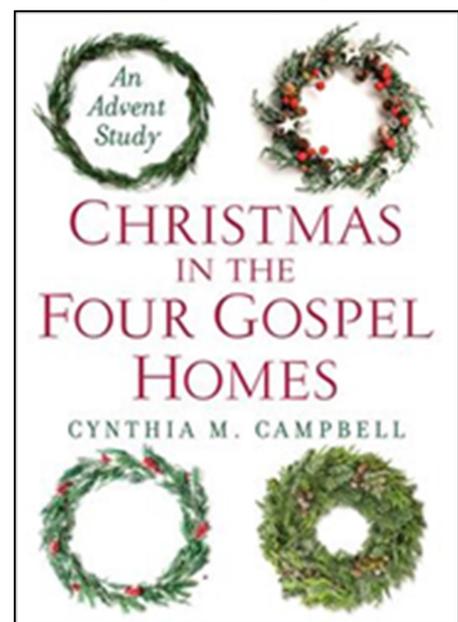
Sunday Study News and Notes

During the month of December, we will hit the Pause button on Confirmation 2.0, and turn our attention to Advent. Facilitators Flora Hobson and Spears Alexander will guide participants through *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes, An Advent Study*, written by Cynthia M. Campbell.

According to PC(USA):

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a “house,” which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.

This study is an apt follow-up to the excellent overview of the four Gospels provided by Brad Christie earlier in the year. The study convenes every Sunday at 9:00 A.M.—you don’t want to miss this unique “tour of homes”



Greenwood Place Clubhouse Report

By Fred Murphy, Executive Director



October was a bustling, busy time for the Greenwood Place Clubhouse! Some statistics help tell the story: Members spent a total of 1,337 hours at the Clubhouse which is an increase from the 1,137 recorded in September. During October, the Clubhouse served 599 meals and transported 240 Members to the Clubhouse. As noted last month, Greenwood Place now has 9 Members who are working part-time.

Our social event for October was a Fall Festival, which was held on October 31st. We were pleased to have a number of visitors join us and participate in our activities. Those activities included playing bingo, plus arts and crafts with Kathy Gillespie. For lunch that day, Members elected to make pizza and a fruit salad. For our desert, we enjoyed cupcakes that were decorated by the Youth from Westminster (*see page 5*).



Clubhouse Funding Update

Greenwood Place continues to be blessed by Westminster and by the Greenwood Community. Total contributions received through the end of October now total over \$37,000!

In addition, Greenwood Place has been notified by Self Regional Healthcare that, pending Board approval, they will be making a contribution to Greenwood Place in the amount of \$50,000. This will allow Greenwood Place to continue its operation into 2020, and allow time for it to work with the State of South Carolina's Department of Mental Health for ongoing funding.



This should also allow Greenwood Place the opportunity to get approved by the State to begin receiving Medicaid reimbursement for the services we provide. Even with the funds received from Self Regional Greenwood Place will need to raise an additional \$35,000 for 2020.

Confirmation 2.0—Being God’s Hands and Feet

The youth of Westminster (*doesn't that have a lovely ring to it?!?!?!?*) have been successful not just in learning confirmation lessons, but also in putting Jesus' teachings into action.

In support of our friends in the Greenwood Place Clubhouse, the Quest group (*right*) rolled up their sleeves and turned their hands to baking, frosting, and decorating cupcakes. The Halloween-themed goodies served as a special dessert treat at the Greenwood Place Fall Festival (*see page 4*).

Gemma (*below*) displays her handiwork, a cupcake featuring a “spider web.”



Later in the evening, their feet also got into the act, via a little line-dancing. In keeping with the Halloween theme, they quickly mastered the zombie walk and other scary moves, danced to a true moldy-oldy—the *Monster Mash*.

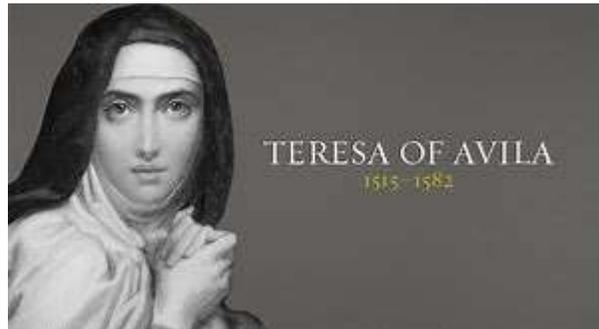
If you are a child of God—regardless of your chronological age—you are welcome to join in the fun on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 P.M.

Presbyterian Women Focused on Missions



PW is not having an official meeting in December, but that doesn't mean that they are taking it easy! Their December projects include participating in Operation Christmas Child, and helping Arthur Gillespie with his prison ministry. Working together, the goal is to provide trustees' children with gifts on behalf of their imprisoned fathers.

The next PW meeting will be held on Monday, January 13. First item on the agenda: complete the plans for the joint PW dinner with First Presbyterian, Ware Shoals, Ninety Six, and New Faith PW groups. Other topics include volunteer needs for Pinecrest Elementary School and a baby-clothes collection for Joyce and Spears'



“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

What is *Advent*?



Advent means *coming* or *arrival*. During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world, his coming into our hearts, and the expectant hope for his coming again.

The date when the season was first observed is uncertain. Bishop Perpetuus of Tours (461–490) established a fast before Christmas that began on November 11 (St. Martin's Day), and the Council of Tours (567) mentioned an Advent season.

The season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath.

To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of **hope**, **peace**, **joy**, and **love**; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.



Advent Sermon Series: Good Gifts

December 1: The Gift of Waiting
We light the candle of Hope.

- † Isaiah 2:1-5
- † Matthew 24:36-44
- † Communion

Welcome Becky Smith, flutist.

December 8: The Gift of Do-Overs
We light the candle of Love.

- † Isaiah 40:1-10
- † Matthew 3:1-12

December 15: Lessons and Carols
We light the candle of Joy.

Welcome musicians from Westminster and Ware Shoals Presbyterian Church.

December 22: The Gift of a Good Name
We light the candle of Peace.

- † Isaiah 7:10-16
- † Matthew 1:18-25

December 24: The Gift of Presence
We light the Christ candle.

- † Isaiah 9:2-7
- † Luke 2:1-20

A Prayer for Advent

From PC(USA) website

Long-awaited Savior,

You are the promise of the prophets, and we are witnesses to your work— vision, movement, healing, music, new life, good news.

Enlighten and enliven us. Send us out to spread the word so that all may see and hear and know and believe that you are the coming of God, the Messiah.

Matthew 11:2-11

Member Spotlight: Holly Hubbard

When you walk into our sanctuary on any given Sunday, you probably take for granted that you will be greeted by beautiful flowers. But those arrangements don't just magically appear. Instead, you can thank our official Flower Fairy, Holly Hubbard.

Her commitment to enhancing our worship experience through floral offerings began shortly after Westminster re-formed. And by the way, this isn't just a matter of phoning a florist. Every week, Holly makes sure the plants are watered, tired blossoms refreshed, and arrangements stored in a cool, not-*too*-sunny place. On top of that, there are annual Easter lily and poinsettia tributes to wrangle, *and* the Greening of the Nave to organize.



Holly's commitment to holiday celebrations isn't limited to decorating the church! You can count on her to wear appropriately themed clothes on holidays major and minor. Did I mention that she has *75-80 boxes* of Christmas décor for her home? It's a showplace always, and especially every December!

Holly paused her busy schedule of world travels and holiday preparations long enough to answer our spotlight's traditional Five Essential Questions of Life:

Q1: What gives you joy?

A1: Memories of her mother, Flo Raad

Q2: What drives you crazy?

A2: Inconsiderate and/or lazy people

Q3: What's your favorite piece of music?

A3: Most anything by Mozart or Rachmaninov

Q4: What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?

A4: Read

Q5: What's your favorite meal?

A5: Scallops at Nantucket

Holly had a unique upbringing, and her life experiences have significantly shaped her relationship with God. She has graciously shared the depth of those experiences with us as her church family. Go to page 11 for her answer to the question "Who is Holly Hubbard?"

The next time you see Holly, be sure to thank her for all the years of bringing beauty to our church! And ask her to share a few stories about her Mom, the fabulous Flo Raad.

Keep your camera ready...

...for images of interest to your Westminster family, especially photos of congregation and friends in action. Email your pictures with a brief explanation to wpcgwd1@gmail.com for use in the newsletter, website, or on Facebook. Thanks!





Letters from the Lakeside

Westminster has a long, strong relationship with Camp Fellowship, and many of our members have been instrumental in the transition from being Presbytery-owned to being an independent 501(c)3, known as Camping Ministries of the Carolinas. As the name suggests, they have visions of long-term growth and stability.

Toward that end, Camp Fellowship is undertaking a strategic initiative, known as #Fellowship4All. This project focuses on three key areas:

- **Capital planning & improvements**
As stewards of a nearly 140-acre property on Lake Greenwood with over 15 buildings and programmatic areas, CF must maintain a proactive approach to maintenance, repair, replacement, and development.
- **Program partnerships & enhancements**
Programs and people are the heart of our ministry. In 2019 and beyond, CF will seek to increase our programmatic offerings by engaging in strategic partnerships with churches, schools, and community groups.
- **Sustainability—now and in the future**
CF exists to promote connections for better living, stronger communities, and personal and spiritual growth and development. Our goal for 2019 includes planning for long-term sustainability in several facets of sustainable operations, including ecological, financial, and community impact.

Visit <https://www.campfellowship.org> for more information about #Fellowship4All.

Another Year Older...But Still Young at Heart!

Here are the known WPC family birthdays for December. Remember them in your prayers, and wish them the best year ever!

Dec 7 – Kathy Gillespie

Dec 16 – Bill Jacobs

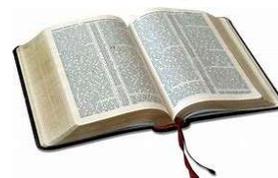
Dec 28 – Tommy Wilson



To be on the good wishes list, send your family's special dates to the church office.

Will You Be My Buddy?

Caroline needs you to be her Bible Buddy! One Buddy each week reads the scriptures for the coming Sunday with her, and helps her come to know our church and our community. It is absolutely *not* a requirement, but a hope, that the Bible Buddy for the week will also serve as liturgist during worship that week.



According to Caroline, "My sincerest hope is that, as we share this time together, talking about God's word and our lives, the Word of God will come alive for us!"

Interested? Email wpcgwd1@gmail.com.

Bible, Beer, and Pizza Takes a Holiday Break

Well, guys, looks like you'll have to find your own beer, pizza, and Bible devotional this month—BB&P is not meeting in December. The next session will be held in January.



Rev. Phillip Dennis will lead the study, but other minor details, such as date, time, and location, have yet to be determined. So stay tuned, and enjoy the holidays!

From First Presbyterian... Sounds of the Season

For the aGAPE Christmas program, Ben Bagwell and Beverly Psomas will present "Music for the Holidays." We all look forward to a musical program to get us in the holiday spirit. These two will certainly make that happen! aGAPE will meet Tuesday, December, 17, 2019.



As usual, the meeting will include a delicious lunch, a delightful program, and fellowship. Fellowship begins with people beginning to arrive after 11:30 AM with lunch served at noon. The cost is only \$8 and includes lunch. Reservations are required.

Everyone is invited! aGAPE welcomes people of any age and from any church. aGAPE promotes and encourages fellowship among members of various churches. We always have a good time.

Be sure to put the date on your calendar! For reservations, call Melvyn Davis (229-9282) by Monday, December 6, 2019.



From Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You're invited to celebrate Christmas alongside our children! Our kids have been working hard on a Christmas float for the parade, and we hope you'll join us to cheer them on. They are going for "Best Float Award" win number 7!

After the parade, stay for a Special Campus Tour. You'll find out more about Thornwell and how YOU can help children and families!

Schedule:

9 A.M.: Alumni House

Enjoy hot chocolate, warm cider, and treats! Meet Thornwell Alumni. Tour the home and see memorabilia.

10 A.M.: Christmas Parade

The Clinton Parade route is right in front of the Thornwell Campus and Alumni House. Bring a blanket or chairs! Cheer on our kids as they parade by on the Christmas float they built themselves!

11 A.M.: Special Campus Tour

Learn more about the history and mission of Thornwell. Tour Home of Peace: the first home for children. Discover how you are helping children and families

Please RSVP by November 28 to Jill Gibson at jill.gibson@thornwell.org or 864.938.2739.

Part of a series on myths vs. facts of mental health issues

Myth: Therapy and self-help are a waste of time. Why bother when you can just take a pill?

Fact: Treatment for mental health problems varies depending on the individual, and could include medication, therapy, or both. Many individuals work with a support system during the healing and recovery process. Westminster is proud to house Greenwood Place Clubhouse and a NAMI caregiver group, two valuable pieces of Greenwood's support system for those dealing with mental illness.



Power of Prayer List

Keep these and other Westminster family and friends in your prayers.



For Health and Wholeness:

- Kiersty Duncan
- Kathy Felder
- Lynn Bornemann
- Larry Dozier
- Lucia Bryson
- Lucia Horowitz
- Fred Taber
- Bill Mitchell
- Lucia Bryson
- Bubba Fennell
- Margaret Rada
- Ashley Mahan
- Hoyt Jenkins
- Howard Thomas
- Michael McMillan
- Lois and Frank Grice
- Charlotte Gero
- The Whitt Family
- Betty Gossam
- Terrance Reece
- Debbie Dill
- Laura Costello
- Janiya Blair
- Ed Watkins
- Vicky Bishop
- Stephan Botchie
- Sissy Brockenbrough
- Kelli Lott
- Ronnie Case

For Strength, Guidance and Hope:

- Kathleen Watkins
- Tracy Rainey
- Eric Gardner
- John Walden
- Laine Horowitz
- Norma Jones (Dave's mother)
- Hodge's Presbyterian—Church fire recovery
- The Gartrells, our missionaries in Brazil
- Arthur Gillespie, Bill Mitchell, and the Greenwood County Detention Center Ministry

With Praise and Thanksgiving For:

- Sixteen members and friends who picked up litter along Cokesbury Road (1/17)
- Leaders and participants in our new "Play Time for Us" pre-school play dates (every Tuesday and Thursday @ 9:30 A.M.)
- Jim Caprell, chaplain at the Clinton Presbyterian Community (11/17 supply pastor)
- Elders concluding their service and new elders stepping up
- Our partner ministries:
 - Camp Fellowship
 - Greenwood Food Pantry
 - Greenwood Place
- Our partners in making music, Ware Shoals



Above: prayer shawl from PW to Kiersty Duncan

Below: blessing of the shawl during worship



Who is Holly Hubbard?

By Holly Hubbard

As some of you know from a sermon of Caroline's earlier this Fall, I was born the daughter of a Baptist minister and his proper pastor's wife. When I was 6 or 7 years old, my father baptized me by immersion, and I remember trusting him implicitly to not drop me in the water.

My entire childhood from birth to 13 was that of a PK (Preacher's Kid), and everything revolved around the church. We moved many times as Papa was sent all over the Mid-west to minister to small churches. With all that moving, I was bit of an outsider wherever we went. I was too tall and skinny for my age, and I wore clothes handmade by my father.

Yes, by my father!

He was what I would term a true Renaissance man, as there was virtually nothing that he could not do. In addition to being very scholarly (two Master's and a Doctorate in Theology), he was very creative. He made my clothes, as well as my mothers, including her hats. He built houses and could plumb and tile. He was talented in the garden, growing incredible roses. He certainly influenced my life as did my mother. They seemed to complement each other—he was an introvert, and she a definite extrovert!

Alas, my seemingly perfect world came crashing down when my father had a nervous breakdown and "came out of the closet." My father left us (my mother, brother, and me) in Iowa and went to North Carolina to live with his sister and her husband. He decided that he missed his children and wanted us to be a family again, but with significant changes. He and mother were not a couple anymore. When I left for college at age 17, my Mother took my brother and moved back to Chicago to her parents.

I met my first husband, Tom, in college and he, along with his family, gave me a sense of stability and home. Unfortunately, he was a very strong person who decided that I did not need to have anything to do with my parents, since they apparently didn't want me back, and that he could tell me how to dress, what to eat, where we went, etc. After 17 years in a hectic theatre life, moving all over the country, and me finding new jobs everywhere we went, our marriage was on the rocks. Tom had a nervous breakdown, and while he was in the hospital, I started seeing the college chaplain—hoping to sort out my life. He suggested that perhaps I was trying to lead two separate lives. One as a submissive wife, and one as a fairly successful career woman. I moved out, filed for divorce, and started looking after my own health. I reunited with my parents, rejoined a church (even singing in the choir), and tried to take control of my own life.

Shortly after this, I was attending a conference in Kentucky and met Mac Hubbard. He was nice, understanding, and believed in me. Against my better judgement at the time (as I was *never* going to marry again), he persuaded me to marry him when I was ready. When I told him about my father, he just said, "Okay. What kind of pizza do you want tonight?" Both my parents liked Mac immediately, Mother wanted to marry him herself if he were fifteen years older. My father thought he would make me a find husband! Papa made my wedding dress, arranged the flowers for the sanctuary, and catered the reception. I don't think he really remembered giving me away during the ceremony.

Thirty-five years later (married for over 33), Mac and I are still happily together. I went on to get my Master's in higher education Administration, and worked as a program director at Lander University for 20 years. Mac has enriched my life through his love of classical music, our European travels together, and fine dining experiences. I rekindled my love for Christmas, and will soon be decorating the entire house (inside and out) from 75-80 boxes of decorations.

In 2000, I was ready to join a church, having attended several in Greenwood over the years. Westminster seemed to be exactly what I was looking for, and embraced me with open arms. This was exactly the congregation to grow with, allowing your warmth and serenity to surround all of us.

And God Saw That It Was Good



On a bright, chilly day in November, 16 Westminster members and friends convened to pick up litter—20 bags of it!—from our front yard and along Cokesbury Road. After the work was done, participants gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and lots of laughs.



← *The new Play Time for Us program is off to a great start! Pray for the group to thrive.*

Westminster donated → funds to the Food Bank to provide weekend nourishment for 11 students in Greenwood County. Pray for those in our city who are in need, especially the children. Seventy percent of Greenwood students qualify as living in poverty.

