

Greenwood, SC Volume 1, Number 2

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Greenwood, SC Volume 1, Number 2

### From the office by the fountain...

When we get past Pentecost each year, the church calendar settles back into "ordinary time." That may not sound very important or exciting, but think about this time of year in your life beyond church. Many of us *love* this time of year, precisely because it often means we get to do out-of-the-ordinary things, like spend whole weeks at the beach or mountains,

or travel with family or friends to places we'd never go in the dead of winter.



For many of us, the "dog days" of summer are *extra*-ordinary just because we get to rest and relax more than at other times of the year. And this summer at Westminster is especially extra-ordinary because of so many new things the Lord is doing in our midst.

The Apostles Build we have supported with Habitat for Humanity is nearing completion. We're now in the middle of five weeks of **Worship on the Water** at Camp Fellowship. Greenwood Place has moved into their new home in the Joe Gettys Classroom/kitchen/fellowship hall wing of the

church. And, of course, in a way, it's advent at Westminster, as we prepare for the arrival of Rev. Caroline Dennis and her family and the beginning of her ministry with us.

What an extraordinary time to be involved at Westminster! What wonderful signs of God's persistent faithfulness and the abiding presence of God-with-us. Which just goes to show that such marvelous things—new things—are simply the business God is in. Such things are perfectly ordinary with God. Thanks be to God!

I pray for you every day, always thanking God for you and for our time together, and always hoping for you Christ's peace....

Everyday blessings,

Brad.

# Some Extraordinary Opportunities for WPC This Summer!

- ❖ July 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M. @ Dozier Residence "Thank You!" reception for Brad Christie and family; coffee, wine, & dessert
- ❖ August 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30 A.M. @ Fellowship Hall "Welcome!" luncheon for Caroline Dennis and family; bring a side dish
- ❖ August 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00 P.M. @ Sanctuary Installation of Caroline Dennis as the re-formed WPC's first called pastor
- August 18<sup>th</sup> 4:30 P.M. @ Fellowship Hall "Hurray and Halleluiah!" reception to welcome Caroline, Phillip, and Jacob to Greenwood, and for WPC and Trinity Presbytery to celebrate this milestone in our church's story

Every Sunday morning at 9:00, you can expand your knowledge, strengthen your spiritual life, and expand your fellowship connections in our Sunday Studies. We gather in the choir room for

learning and discussion. You are welcome to join in any time—don't feel like you have to wait for a new series to start!



For the next several weeks, Brad Christie continues to share his deep knowledge of and love for the Gospels as he brings to light the context that informed the writers of these familiar texts. This study is based on *Four Gospels, One Jesus*, a book by Richard A. Burridge.

We'll round out the summer with a series focusing on topics drawn from recent issues of *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. According to Flora Hobson, chair of our Christian Education & Nurture committee, using *Outlook* as our resource helps our congregation be

informed about and connected with the larger issues that affect our denomination at every level. Each session will be guided by a difference volunteer facilitator.

Preparation for the Fall study is underway. One possible topic is an exploration of issues surrounding mental illness, which ties to our role as host for the Greenwood Place clubhouse program, and for the Greenwood branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). What is mental illness? What causes it? What misconceptions cloud our understanding? How can we as a church help those in our community who struggle with it?

If you have ideas for study topics—especially one you might enjoy leading!—contact Flora Hobson or any member of the Christian Education & Nurture committee.

# Another Growth Opportunity: VBS for Grownups

Just a reminder about Vacation Bible School for adults at First Presbyterian Church, July 7-11, 6:00-8:00 P.M. each evening. Stephen Ministry will be conducting a course on **Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts**. \$15 for course materials; \$12 meal option. Registration forms are in both church offices, or ask Brad about signing up.

### Greenwood Place is in the House

As of Thursday, June 13, 2019, Greenwood Place proudly resides in the North Wing of Westminster. According to Board Chair Carol Scales, the move went smoothly. Westminster greeted our new neighbors by providing Firehouse Subs and a "Welcome to Westminster!"

cake for their first lunch onsite. WPC's volunteer liaison with the group, Laine Horowitz, delivered the goodies and admired the speed with which they were settling in.





Arms outstretching...
Welcoming,
Offering,
Extending.
Arms outstretching...
Seeking,
Accepting,
Enfolding.
Underneath
Everlasting Arms
Waiting,
Inspiring,
Encompassing
ALL!

From the heart and pen of Westminster's Poet Laureate, Joyce Alexander 5.30.19

### Westminster Session

Questions, comments, or concerns about Westminster and its governance? Contact any Session member—we are always happy to hear from you!

Interim Pastor Brad Christie - 864.378.4700

Stated Clerk
Bill Jacobs – 864.993.2522

Building & Grounds Chair Rob Graves – 864.321.2845

Christian Education & Nurture Chair Flora Hobson – 864.554.1101

Fellowship Chair Nancy Dozier – 864.941.2199

Missions & Outreach Chair Claire F. Kuhl – 864.344.1716

Music & Worship Chair Deb Jones – 864.374.7124

Personnel & Finance Chair Len Bornemann – 864.344.1946



You can still experience WPC's new 10:00 A.M. **Worship on the Water** series this summer:

- **❖** June 30
- ❖ July 7

To All the Saints at Westminster.

Every time I think about writing you a letter, and about our first days and months together, the sweet song sung by the new governess, Anna, to the children of the King of Siam (Thailand), in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, "The King and I," comes to mind:

Getting to know you Getting to know all about you Getting to like you Getting to hope you like me<sup>1</sup>



I am really looking forward to getting to know each one of you. I know that will begin with conversations in which I will come to know your favorite hobbies, the work you do, all about your children and your grandchildren, your memories of church, your hopes for the church, things that really bug you and things that really delight you. I love that beginning time of getting to know new friends. It is like opening a present.

But I know that *real* knowing takes time and shared experiences. It is a conversation over a cup of tea about the things that really hurt. It is building something together. It is studying together and wrestling together with God's word. It is working out the details of a new idea. It is in showing up and being present with one another, that we come to know and to be known. I love that long, slow time of getting to know one another. It is like taking good ingredients and making a delicious stew that simmers on the stove, filling the whole house with anticipation. It is like planting a garden, tending its growth and reaping its harvest. It is like recruiting a team and coaching it to the playoffs.

The Apostle Paul also wrote a letter to people he had not yet met, but whom he eagerly longed to know. Here is how he addressed his letter,

"To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### And then:

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. I remember you all in my prayers. I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you... or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

*Romans 1:7b-12* 

Like Paul who gave thanks for the church in Rome, I give thanks for the Westminster Church in Greenwood. I have already come to know you by the stories I have heard of your faithfulness and your joy. I give thanks for your gathering in worship at the lake, welcoming Greenwood Place into your church home, planning for fall gatherings and shared ministries with neighboring churches. I give thanks to all those who have labored among you to bring you to this point and ready for the next things. For Brad and the PNC, for your session and

You have been in my prayers since the day I first read about you. And I continue to pray for you, that you will continue to show forth the good news of Jesus Christ, both as the body of Christ and as individual members of it.

And, like Paul longed to be with the Christians in Rome, I long to be with you. I know that we will be mutually encouraged through the sharing of our faith and our spiritual gifts.

Although the chorus of Anna's song sprung quickly to mind, the opening lines had to be found through a little googling. They are:

It's a very ancient saying But a true and honest thought That if you become a teacher By your pupils you'll be taught

You have much to teach me! Let the presentopening and the stew-making, the gardentending and the team-building begin!

With eager longing and confident hope,

## Caroline





### Helping Habitat's Helpers

Westminster volunteers provided lunch three times for our Apostles Build Habitat for Humanity building crew. Many thanks to Kathy Felder, Len and Lynn Bornemann, Laine Horowitz, and Claire Kuhl for their catering accomplishments.

### Wanted: Newsletter Editor(s)!

Help Westminster members and friends stay connected. If you are willing and able to help create some type of monthly newsletter, contact Claire Kuhl: 864.344.1716



### On Being Christ's Hands and Feet

- **†** Mother's Day contributions to Presbyterian communities \$790.00
- **†** One Great Hour of Sharing for Presbyterian Disaster Relief \$491.25
- **†** PW Love Box \$135.00
- **†** PLUS—many, *many* volunteer hours devoted to local nonprofits and to our congregation. *Thank you!*