

Coming & Going—Bible Buddies!

⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6-7



These words taken from the “Shema” are posted on the doorframes of Jewish homes, reminding all who go out and come in that they are to talk about God’s commandments (God’s Word) with one another morning, noon, and night as a way of remembering God’s saving grace and of forming generations who know the stories and live as God’s people.

When we served among the saints at Monticello Presbyterian Church, members young and old participated in a wonderful one-on-one intergenerational of ministry called, **Bible Buddies**. Each pair of buddies consisted of an elementary student and an older member. Each Bible Buddy pair would covenant to meet twice each month to do something fun and to study the Bible together. Every now and then, we would have Bible Buddy fellowship activities when all the Bible Buddies would gather for a tea or a game night.

Hannah’s buddy was a young mother. Helen’s buddy was a precious older saint. My Bible Buddy was precocious six-year-old Matilda. Matilda and I decided that we would study all the little books of the Bible, like Jonah and Jude, Ruth and Philemon because they could be read in one sitting. These little books challenged us as we talked about the context they were written in, and pondered their meaning for the people then and for us now. As you can imagine, I learned as much from her as she learned from me. We both enjoyed our time together.

Just like I told Callie Rose in church last Sunday, it is good to have a buddy when you have something very hard to do. Understanding scripture and applying it to life is very hard to do. It is helpful when we have companions who will help us to understand, and who will encourage us in our walk.

This is one of the great things about being church. We have a whole family of friends we can talk with about the scriptures. Hearing a perspective that is different from my own deepens my understanding of God’s word. Working out a difficult passage with a group of friends and fellow followers of the Jesus way helps me grow as a disciple. This time together builds up the body of Christ and perhaps gives the body not only deeper roots, but a wider reach.

Want to be Caroline’s Bible Buddy?

See page 6 for details!

I hope that you will take what you are reading in your daily devotions, or what you are hearing in worship, and talk about it when you are laying down and rising up. It is like giving God a place at the table, to share in the conversation. I hope also that you will be *my* Bible Buddies. There is an invitation and explanation later in the newsletter to share some one-on-one time as a wonderful way to get to know one another and grow in faith together.

Just a few weeks ago, I heard from our daughter Hannah that Matilda, my Bible Buddy, moved to DC. Hannah told me that she and Matilda had made plans to attend church together there the following Sunday. I like to think that having a buddy to talk with about the scriptures and life is one reason these two young ladies continue to practice their faith and to seek out the friendship of other disciples. I know that Hannah's Bible Buddy and I are pleased and proud that Matilda and Hannah are now Bible Buddies, sharing in the word as it is preached in Washington, DC.

With joy in the conversations that build up the Body of Christ,

Caroline

Westminster Happenings

Monday Sept 4	Ice Cream Social with Ware Shoals, Hodges, and Friends 7:00 P.M. in the WPC Fellowship Hall Bring your friends and your sweet tooth for fun and fellowship!
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Monday Sept 9	Presbyterian Women 11:00 A.M. in the church parlor Come prepared to begin study of <i>Love Carved in Stone</i> (see page 4).
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Tuesday Sept 10	Grand Time 9:30 a.m. to noon in the nursery/playground area Bring your grandchildren for a grand time of sharing and fun!
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Bible, Brews, & Pizza: Men's Bible Study 6:30 P.M. @ Joseph Key's home at 109 Bridle Court in Saddle Hill Bring your Bible, your favorite beer or soda, and an inquiring spirit (see page 4).

Wednesday Sept 18	Keep this evening open—you won't want to miss out! Stay tuned for a joint invitation from the Nurture & Christian Education and Missions & Outreach committees!
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Thursday Sept 19	NAMI Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor Contact Mary Linn Touchberry for details (mltouchberry1952@gmail.com).
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Sunday Study Series: Building Community with the Mentally Ill

The Christian Education & Nurture committee and the Missions & Outreach committee are working together to equip interested members of our congregation for more fully embracing our new partnership with Greenwood Place and NAMI. Toward that end, the August/September Sunday Study is exploring different facets of mental illness and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.



In particular, the study challenges us as Christians to address how our faith, our understanding of God, and our scientific knowledge of brain diseases all intersect. What are the challenges facing those in our area who live with persistent mental illness, and what are we called to do in response to their need?

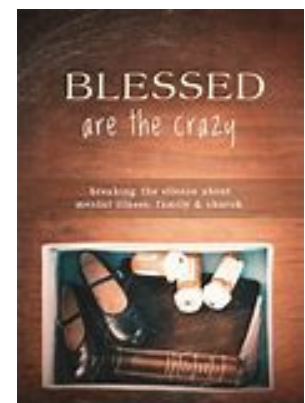
The study kicked off on August 11, and thus far has included frank discussion of what we know (or *think* we know) now, and what we *want* to learn about mental illness. We've read and discussed *Blessed are the Crazy*, by Sarah Griffith Lund (see below). And we began our "Mental Illness 101" topic with an introduction to the neuro-chemistry, the effect of psychological stress, and particularly schizophrenia or schizo-affective disorders. This last session was presented by Carol Scales, retired psychiatric nurse and current Board Chair for Greenwood Place.

It's never too late to join this fascinating journey at 9:00 A.M. every Sunday! Here's a preview of upcoming guest speakers and their topics:

- **Mental Illness 101, Part 2: Recognizing and Responding** – Dr. Rick Hobson; 9/1/19
- **Greenwood Place: A Ministry in Our Midst** – Fred Murphy, Executive Director; 9/8/19
- **NAMI: Patient, Caregiver, and Community Resources** – Mary Linn Touchberry, Certified NAMI Facilitator; 9/15/19
- **A Biblical Perspective on Mental Illness** – Caroline Dennis, Pastor; 9/22/19
- **Bringing Mental Illness Out of the Shadows: Where does WPC Go from Here?** – Claire Kuhl; 9/29/19

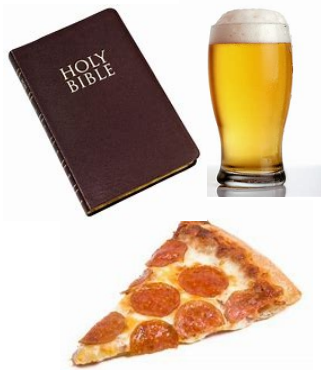
Sunday Study Recommended Reading

When do you learn that "normal" doesn't include lots of yelling, lots of sleeping, lots of beating? In ***Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church***, Sarah Griffith Lund looks back at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother and cousin endure mental illness, as well. *Blessed Are the Crazy* is more than memoir—it's a resource for churches and other faith-based groups to provide healing and comfort. Copies available from Flora Hobson to borrow or buy (\$14).



Bible, Brews, and Pizza: Men's Bible Study Returns

Attention All Men of Westminster:
Our Fall season of BB&P kicks off on
Tuesday, September 10 with a meeting at
Joseph Key's home at 109 Bridle Court in
Saddle Hill.



The Rev. Phillip
Dennis has agreed
to lead the Bible
study on a subject to
be announced.

Not a Bible scholar?
Not a life-long
church member?
Then this study is
for you! Come ready
to learn, to question,
to share, and to enjoy!

The festivities begin at 6:30 P.M. for
pizza. You bring your best brew (or soda),
and Bill Jacobs will bring the pizzas.

If possible, please let Bill know in advance
that you are coming. You can send him a text
at 864.993.2522 or just tell him in church.

Presbyterian Women: Season Starter Scheduled

Attention All Women of Westminster:
Presbyterian Women begins its 2019-2020
year on Monday, September 2 at 11:00 A.M.
in the church parlor.



We will begin studying
our new book, *Love
Carved in Stone: A Fresh
Look at the Ten
Commandments*, by
Eugenia Anne Gamble.

This study asks tough
questions, such as: How do we live out our
relationship with God and with one another
in a world that is often ruled by other stan-
dards? What is the pain from which God
seeks to protect us in the Ten Command-
ments? How can a fresh embrace of the Ten
Commandments contribute to the
restoration of ourselves, our communities,
and the furthering of the gospel in the
world? Study books are available in the
church office for \$11.00.

Need more information? Contact Louise
Taber at 864.980.3874.

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

Myth: Mental health problems don't affect *me*.

Fact: Mental health problems are actually very common.
In 2014, about:

- **One in five American adults** experienced a mental health issue
- **One in 10 young people** experienced a period of major depression
- **One in 25 Americans** lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression



Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. It accounts for the loss of more than 41,000 American lives each year, more than double the number of lives lost to homicide. As part of our partnership with Greenwood Place and NAMI, remember to pray for those living with mental illness, including patients, caregivers, and their friends.

You're Invited—Celebrating Columbia Seminary's 200 Years!

What do Montreat Conference Center, Thornwell Children's Home, Presbyterian College, and Souper Bowl of Caring have in common? Well, they were all founded by graduates or professors of Columbia Theological Seminary.



COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Columbia Seminary takes its name from its original home in Columbia, SC. To celebrate its deep South Carolina roots, the Seminary is hosting an event at the Robert Mills House on October 20, featuring a lecture from Dr. Erskine Clarke entitled "Presbyterian Gentlemen, Enslaved African-Americans, and an Antebellum Southern Mansion." Following the lecture is a worship service that includes a mass choir and several talented local musicians. Dinner on the grounds rounds out the day.

The lecture and worship events are free. Dinner costs \$20 for adults. Please make your reservation today online at: www.CTSnet.edu/to-count-our-days.

Westminster Session

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

Pastor

Caroline Dennis – 864.229.3595

Stated Clerk

Bill Jacobs – 864.993.2522

Building & Grounds Chair

Rob Graves – 864.321.2845

Christian Ed & 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



Letters from the Lakeside

You won't want to miss the **Fall Adult Retreat** at Camp Fellowship. The event begins the morning of Friday, October 25 and continues through lunch on Saturday, October 26.

This year's theme is "Say *What?! Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice: from 8th century prophets to the church of today.*" The keynote address will be delivered by Rev. Chad Wright-Pittman, Associate Pastor for Care and Outreach at First Presbyterian Church Anderson. Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby is leading worship. She is known for her many years of leadership at all levels of PC(USA).

For details and to register online, visit: <https://www.campfellowship.org>. Click on Events & Programs and select Programs & Event Dates.



Westminster is grateful for the strong partnership we share with Camp Fellowship. Please support their ministry with your prayers and financial gifts.

Will You Be My Buddy? *An invitation from your pastor*

Over the coming year, I am inviting each member of our church community to be my Bible Buddy. One Buddy each week will read the scriptures for the coming Sunday with me as you help me come to know you, our church, and our community. Here are some questions we might discuss:

1. What is something Caroline should know about Greenwood? (Maybe you will show me your favorite coffee spot, lunch spot, garden, hunting spot, walking trail, community resource!)
2. What is something Caroline should know about me?
3. What is going on in this scripture, and how does it speak to what is going on in my life or the life of our community?
4. Why have I chosen to make Westminster my church home?
5. What are my hopes for Westminster?



It is absolutely not a requirement, but a hope, that the Bible Buddy for the week will also serve as liturgist of the week, sharing the community announcements, the call to worship, and the first scripture of the day. Not everyone is comfortable standing in front. I get that.

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, we will come to know one another's stories, and we will begin to share in God's story at Westminster. We will grow closer to one another and to God. I can't wait to be your buddy!

We Did It--Our Habitat House is Now a Home!

On Sunday, July 21, a sweet, snug new home on Lindsey Avenue was officially dedicated, and proud new owner Raven Moss and her family began moving in. WPC helped make this possible by being a partner in Apostles Build 2019.



The emotional highlight of the dedication ceremony began with a procession of sponsor group representatives giving keys to the new owner. Then, the pastor of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, Rev. Bobby Gilbert, presented Ms Moss with a Bible, saying, "You've just been given the keys to your house. Here is the key to your *home*."



Hands-on helpers from Westminster included Larry Dozier—a master builder if ever there were one—and Rob Graves, an official member of the Habitat staff. WPC members also provided lunch for the work crews on several occasions. Thank you to "caterers" Lynn and Len Bornemann, Kathy Felder, Laine Horowitz, and Claire Kuhl. Remember the Moss family in your prayers!

Thank You, Westminster Friends!

Words are certainly not sufficient to express my gratitude for the beautiful afternoon we shared last Sunday as I was installed as your pastor. Nor are words sufficient to express my gratitude for the dedicated work over many years of so many neighbors and friends to Westminster, who have held on tenaciously and moved the ball forward toward the time when you would once again have an installed pastor.

Helen, our eldest, joked recently that a pastor should come with instructions, for if she were not installed properly, she might not function well. Well, I must affirm that you have installed me well, and I pray that my functioning will reflect that!

For you planned a service, provided the elders, and the light and the bread and the juice. You formatted the bulletin and provided for the flowers. You made sandwiches and cheese wafers, poured punch and welcomed guests. You played the organ, and the harmonica, and sang with gusto. You affirmed your intent to support me with your prayers and participation. You gave me gifts of salt and oil, bread and wine, lamp and stole. You prayed blessing upon me and promised to work beside me.

Having been installed properly, I am ready to begin this good work with you. Thank you for sharing in this amazing day for me, for my family and for our church. Thanks be to God for all that has been and all that is yet to be!

Caroline



Caroline and Jacob on moving day

Something to Think About

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8

God, in His grace and wisdom, fills our universe with beauty. Better yet, He gives *us* the ability to create beauty ourselves! Here are some opportunities to enjoy beauty right here in Greenwood:

- **Festiva—Sunday, September 8 @ First Presbyterian Church**
Tenor Chandler Johnson and soprano Ashley Fabian sing “Music of the Bard,” exploring texts from eight of Shakespeare’s plays.
- **Liminal Spaces—now through August 31 @ The Arts Center of Greenwood**
This exhibit highlights the work of two emerging SC-based painter: Alyssa Reiser Price and Jena Thomas. The exhibit features 26 oil and acrylic painting that embody a vibrant and strikingly synergetic panorama.