



Westminster Window

Knowing Christ Building Believers Serving All

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins, Pastor (870) 415-2082 Email: wpcspartapastor@gmail.com

Laura Schulte, Secretary (618) 443-2025 Email: officewpcsparta@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to Noon

TAKE NOTE!

- Pastor Bonnie's last Sunday preaching will be June 9. Join us after worship that morning for a farewell luncheon.
- Summer worship hours begin June 16. The service will be from 9:30-10:15 am.

Contents

Pastor's Corner	1, 4
Treasurer's Report	2
Acolytes	2
June Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Parent and Family Corner	3
Thank You	4
Out and About	5
Calendar	6

Laura Schulte, Editor

June 2024

Time to Get Out of the Boat: *"Jesus said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus."* —Matthew 14:29

What a blessing and privilege it has been to serve as your pastor. I feel honored to now be on your roll of ministers, called by God to love, serve, and lead Westminster. My time here at Westminster was shorter than I anticipated but, it was so life-giving and spiritually and professionally fulfilling, more than I had dared hope for. These three years with you were like hearing Jesus say, "Well done. Now enjoy and be restored by God's people here, my friend, as you follow me."

Following God's call for these last 26 years, from seminary to retirement, have not been a disappointment. There have been seasons and situations, including a soon-to-be retirement, which had me "getting out of the boat" and trying to walk without drowning. If I didn't trust and love Jesus, I may still be sitting in my boat (in some place of familiarity and comfort) and not faithfully following and fulfilling Jesus' call.

I am in a new season of life, just as Westminster is entering into a new one with my departure. Our boats are rocking a bit and there is some walking by faith ahead of us. Jesus won't let you sink. Trust and grab onto Jesus' outstretched hand and "Come" when he calls you, calls Westminster, to follow.

What does God have planned for Westminster on the new shoreline ahead of you? Each of you have expectations and questions. You have a swell of feelings like disappointment, doubts, and fear. Stay in communication with each other and with your Session Elders as you walk this new shoreline ahead of you. This can be a time of preparation and boat/faith building while you wait to see and hear God's plan revealed to Westminster and in your life of discipleship.

Your commitment, presence, engagement, and flexibility will serve to hold this congregation together and keep it serving God's will. Maybe it will involve a "getting out of the boat" moment of faithfulness which will reinvent yourself and Westminster. My experience and advice are to go for it! God does not disappoint. What might that entail? Rev. Jeff Henderson, an entrepreneur, speaker, pastor, and business leader had these thoughts about why we should consider starting over by reinventing ourselves:

"Starting over is often the pathway to reinventing yourself. That's certainly not the only reason why you should make the leap. But it's a really good one if you want to mine more of your potential. It forces you to shake off patterns or habits that have become stale. It forces you to reinvent yourself...Use your experience like a reference book not a guide...I wanted God to reinvent me, to improve me, and to give me new ideas. If I just hit the repeat button, I would be counting on my experience to be my guide. I would prefer the Lord to be my guide..." (con't on page 4) In

Shout to the Lord!

This month we are sending a “shout out” to Pastor Bonnie for her special ministry. We have been blessed by her ministry through her love for the Lord, care for others and faithfulness to her calling. She has made such a difference. May God bless you abundantly as you enter a new phase in your life.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26 NIV

On Sunday, May 12, graduates were recognized. Eighth grade graduates are Annabelle Foster and Madison Sternberg. High school graduates are Mason Ethington, Ella Jones and Logan Shaw. Congratulations to all. Scuba VBS is scheduled for June 3-7 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Join us as we reach out to our community, spread the Word and share God’s love! We encourage you to daily pray the Lord’s Prayer with your child. Also, continue to work on the books of the Bible. They have been working on the Old Testament books of Genesis through Ezra and the New Testament books of Matthew through Thessalonians.



Treasurer's Report



For the Month Ending April 30, 2024

	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Total General Fund Receipts</u>	\$65,664.27
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$75,263.59
<u>Net Income Gain/(Loss)</u>	(\$9,599.32)

Summer worship hours begin
June 16 (9:30-10:15 am)

Acolyte Schedule

June 2—Alana Ethington & Lydia Sullivan

July 7—The Hanna Family

June 9—Jeremiah & Caleb Spirk

July 14—Jeremiah & Caleb Spirk

June 16—Parker Klausing & Gavin Peck

July 21—Lydia Sullivan & Alana Ethington

June 23—Madison S. & Mollie S.

July 28—Parker Klausing & Gavin Peck

June 30—Logan S. & Tommy S.

June Anniversaries

June 7—Kevin & Tricia Funston
June 9—Mike & Mary Sternberg
June 11—Stanley & Alice Baird
June 12—Bob & Alene Holloway
June 19—Bruce & Kelly Ethington
June 20—Steve & Susan Gasser
June 24—Konnie & Carol Pirtle
June 29—Rob & Marcie Soderlund



June Birthdays



June 1—Brandy Steely, Grace McDonald
June 6—Caleb Spirk, Josiah Sauget
June 9—Sue Hooper
June 10—Deronda Boyster, Erin Foster
June 15—Taylor Coleman
June 16—Bruce Dahlem
June 17—Abby Boyster
June 19—Steve Gasser
June 23—Bailey McMurtry
June 24—Adriouna Boyster
June 30—Sheryl Boyd, Mike Hayer

Parent and Family Corner

Below is an excerpt from “The Daily Dad” by Ryan Holiday.

Michael Schur’s fun book of moral philosophy, *How to Be Perfect*, ends with a meditation on what is one of the toughest jobs for even the wisest and best of us: how to pass the important lessons of life on to our kids.

This passage captures perfectly what those lessons are:

“You are people on earth. You are not alone here, and that means you owe the other people on earth certain things. What you owe them, more or less, is to live by rules they wouldn’t reject as unfair (assuming they’re decent, reasonable people).”

He has a great little exercise for his kids to remember too. As you go through life and are thinking about doing something, he says, ask if your brother or sister would think it was a good idea. Then, keep going, and ask if a friend would think it was a good idea, or a teacher, even a kid you don’t like but think is smart.

The way to raise decent and kind human beings is to teach them how their actions affect other people and what their obligations to other people are. You don’t have to be a philosopher to pull that off...just a good and decent person yourself.



I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers and concerns during, and following, my recent knee replacement surgery! Thanks to the church for the beautiful flowers! To everyone that has provided meals for us, we are so grateful!! A big thank you to Sherry Craig for going above and beyond to make sure meals were provided. Kathy McConachie

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the lovely flowers. They are beautiful! How I do appreciate your thoughtfulness! Doris Patterson

Thank you for your prayers and kindness. The food was all very, very good. I would love to thank everyone at church who helped us out in our time of need. Thank you, and God Bless you all!
Marie & Jesse Zepeda

A huge "Thank you!" to everyone who helped out during Calvin's Kids this year! We could not have done it without so many people stepping up to help with the meals and filling in other places as needed. We truly appreciate all of you!

Pastor's Corner, con't

In this season, how are you reinventing yourself? Are you allowing fear to have the final say? What reward are you moving toward that is greater than the risk? Have you counted the cost of staying where you are, of taking no risk? After all, when God says "Go," the riskiest thing to do is stay. ...If this journey that we are about to embark on can help us and our community in some tangible way, well, that's worth the risk. We don't know how this will all work out. But in some odd way, we can see it. Dimly, faintly, but also brightly."

With heartfelt gratitude, I say "Thank you" for your friendship, love, and trust as I served Jesus and you. I was blessed to be called to lead and shepherd Westminster Church for a season in our life together. I loved being in the boat with you. It didn't get rocked too much and the "fishing" was pretty good! Jesus now says it's time to take the next unimaginable step with him. It's time to get out of our boat, take his hand, and walk through the waters of endings, change, and new beginnings.

A verse from one of my favorite hymns (Blue #377) says: "You need the caring of my hands. Through my tiredness, may others find resting. You need a love that just goes on loving. O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me, and while smiling, have called out my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me, now with You, I will seek other seas."

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

Out and About at Westminster



Top: Thanks to everyone who helped with various projects on May 18.



Right: The kids singing on Mother's Day.



Above and left: Everyone had a great time at "Where Friends Gather" May 24 & 25. Game night was greatly enhanced by the prizes Jeanne Schmierbach brought! And the activities Saturday were so meaningful!



A huge "Thank you!" to Jane Russell for all of the work she has put into her decorations for VBS!! She created all of these boards using recycled products. They look absolutely amazing!

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1-3 Quilting</i>	4 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	5	6 10-12 <i>Food Pantry 6 pm Deacons</i>	7	1 / 8
9 <i>Pastor Bonnie's last service Meal following worship</i>	10 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1-3 Quilting</i>	11 10-12 <i>Food Pantry 6:30 pm Session</i>	12	13 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	14	15
16 <i>Tom Hobson preaching</i>	17 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1-3 Quilting</i>	18 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	19	20 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	21	22
23 <i>Catherine Hobson preaching</i>	24 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1-3 Quilting</i>	25 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	27 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	28	29
30 <i>Tom Hobson preaching</i>						