

# *Westover reflections-July 2025*

***“But I walk in integrity; redeem me and have mercy on me. My foot stands on solid ground; in the assemblies I will bless the Lord.”***

***Psalms 26:11-12***

***Good day, Saints,***

I have been listening, during my daily walks, to a podcast called **“This American President.”** It is a narrative that **“dives into the lives and legacies of U.S. Presidents.”** My son, Zachary, knowing that I love biographies and historical accounts of the presidency, recommended it to me.

Having listened to a number of episodes, I have determined, in the words of the Preacher from **Ecclesiastes**, that **“there is nothing new under the sun.”** Our world experiences in the year 2025 are not all that different from epochs of the past, which in some strange way has been comforting to me.

We read of fire raining down in Russia and Ukraine, discontent among various social and political groups, uncertainty in the Stock Market, and we ponder whether thunderclouds are roiling and waves swamping the lifeboats. Frankly, more than a few of us no longer know with certainty what is true or a false narrative.

The Psalmist speaks of standing **“on solid ground”** amid an incendiary atmosphere and deluge of trouble. He declares, **“But I walk in my integrity,”** despite the firestorm that surrounds me.

What is the source of his calm in the midst of a difficult situation?

**Caution:** One does not want to answer the question too quickly; for God is not a facile fix to a wicked problem.

No, God is redemptive power in the guise of insignificance. Think Bethlehem and a manger; Nazareth and a carpenter’s shop. Nathanael, in the Gospel of John, questioned whether anything good could come from Nazareth, a small and insignificant place when compared to Jerusalem.

Look! Nobody really understood who Jesus was. People may not have understood, but the winds knew, the waves knew, once they quit their panicking and laid down their destructive ways.

So, I am pondering that we would do well to not pick them up. To not add another howl or bucket of tears to the storm. To be insignificant today-not invisible, or silenced, not self-effacing or ashamed, but not inflammatory either, not blustering.

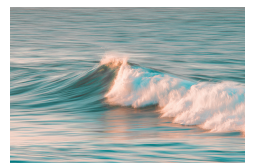
To be...calm. Like the sea after Jesus tells the truth. Like the disciples accepting their salvation.

To be those who walk in our own integrity, in the wholeness of a life whose pieces are held together by faith, whose appearance on the outside matches its interior reality. For such a soul stay intact...no matter how hard the winds blow, or how unrelenting the rain.

**Stay faithful; stay encouraged.**

**Still in His Peace,**

**Pastor William**



### Westover tshirts

We are still taking orders for Westover tshirts. If you have already ordered a shirt, it should be ready in time for VBS and the baseball game. Cost is \$12 for adult sizes, \$10 for youth.

If you would like to purchase one, you can Venmo @SarahKGibson with number and size of shirt. There are also sign-up sheets in the office, Fellowship Hall and Hobby Chapel if you prefer to pay cash (can be given to Kent or Sharron Gibson.)



front of shirt



back of shirt

### New looks!

The floors and painting in the children's room in the education building are done! We are still in the process of decorating, but take a peek when you get a chance. It is going to be a beautiful, happy-looking room!

The floors in the church office are going to be redone soon as well. We can't wait to see it all finished!

### Welcome

to our newest member, Kathy McKinnon! Kathy recently officially joined the Westover family and we are so excited to welcome her!

### Take me out to the ballgame.

Westover has a group going to watch a Holly Springs Salamanders game on Sunday, July 20. There are a few seats still available with our group. If you would like to join us, please contact Kent Gibson before July 13 about ticket availability



The game is a "pink out" so feel free to wear pink (or pink accessories to go with your new Westover shirt) in honor of those fighting or who have fought breast cancer.



WAVES OF WONDER

### Vacation Bible School

VBS is Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19. This is a family VBS, Cokebury's water themed "Waves of Wonder." We are asking the families register on our website by July 7, so that we can plan.

There is still time to get on our volunteer list! Please contact Sharron Gibson if you'd like to help out with the fun!

UMM are sponsoring a cookout on Friday evening and a breakfast on Saturday morning. If you plan on joining us, please let Kent Gibson know so that we can make sure we plan for everyone.

### Mark Your Calendars

No craft circle, UWF or game/movie night in July

**VBS - Friday, July 18 5:00-8:00 PM**

**VBS - Saturday, July 19 9:00-11:00 AM**

**Salamanders baseball game - Sunday, July 20 5:00 PM**

Happy Birthday

### Happy July Birthday to:

- 2 Les Watkins
- 3 Christopher Crowder
- 6 Bonnie Highsmith
- Clay Adams
- 10 Sandra Danskin
- 11 Segun Adebisi
- 12 Lang Ksor
- 13 Makenzie Watkins
- 15 Micah Medlin
- Kiersten Marshall
- 16 Lynne Cruz
- 28 Barbara Gue
- 30 Travis Ksor