



# COMMUNITY

The quarterly newsletter for Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 2021 | Volume 45, Issue 3





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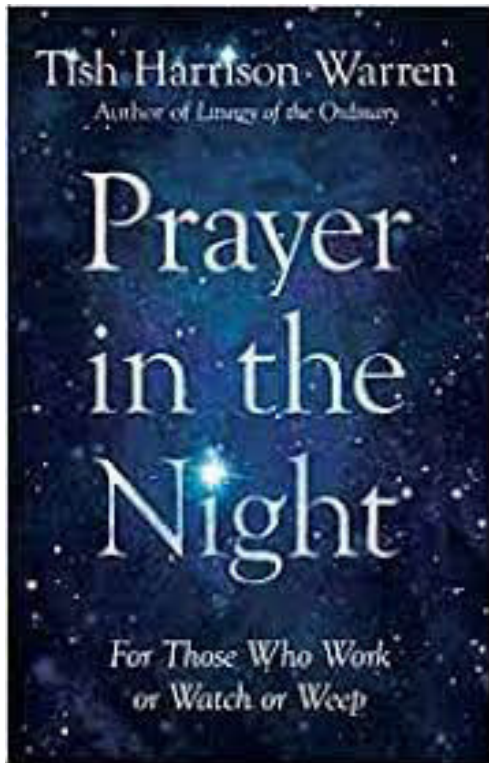
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## Contributors

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Class of 2021  
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Barbara Nash, church member  
John Semingson, Director of Music Ministries  
Elizabeth Trabue, church member

### **On the cover:**

The Outdoor Challenge, for fourth and fifth graders, is on this year. It is scheduled for June 18 - 25. If you have not signed your child up for the week-long camp, please contact [Sophie Maness](#).



## Summer Book Study June 3 - August 26 9:30 AM

Join Guy Griffith as we study Tish Harrison Warren's new book, *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*.

How can we trust God in the dark?

Framed around a nighttime prayer of Compline, Tish Harrison Warren, author of *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, explores themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence. When she navigated a time of doubt and loss, the prayer was grounding for her. She writes that practices of prayer "gave words to my anxiety and grief and allowed me to reencounter the doctrines of the church not as tidy little antidotes for pain, but as a light in darkness, as good news."

Where do we find comfort when we lie awake worrying or weeping in the night? This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty.

For more information, please contact [Guy Griffith](#).

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### SESSION

<i>Class of 2022</i>	<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2021</i>
Paul DeWitt	Hank Abbott	James Boswell
Ken Hande	Jonathan Cole	Kim Crafton
Hank Hildebrand	Beth Felch	Luke Gebhardt
Mike Kaminski	June Fortson	Ron Harris
Ellie Keiper	Susan Hassell	Moe Hill
Linda Koon	Chuck Higgins, Jr.	Deb Hudson
Catie Lee	Ned Munson	Janet Kuhn
Sylvia Leins	Kate Pennington	Leighton Liles
George Luscombe	Bill Tate	Fran Linley
Grace Wagenman	Elizabeth Trabue	Denise Linn
Clay Parsons	Elaine Williams	Harriet Sewell
Ann Schulze	Tom Wyly	David Thombs

### OUR MISSION

With God's help, Westminster Presbyterian Church fosters a caring, diverse, and deeply spiritual community that nurtures lives of faith, hope, and love. Through prayer – and with thanksgiving for God's grace – we seek to grow in the spirit of Jesus Christ, joyfully committing ourselves to worship, study, and service in the local community and the world.

**Community** (USPS 765-260) is published monthly by Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205-1899. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to COMMUNITY, 3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205-1899.



## From the Pastor

In a recent article in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Roger Nishioka detailed the “six lessons learned about faith formation in the midst of a pandemic.” I resonate with his six lessons and add some of my own thoughts below.

**Lesson 1: Engagement is the foundation for hope.** At Westminster, we immediately tried to engage people through video devotionals. The messages were aimed at proclaiming that God is in control and that we still belong to one another.

**Lesson 2: Imagination is a superpower.** Westminster attempted to engage in new ways of ministry: continuing with and live-streaming Wednesday Midweek worship services, coordinating drive-through food drop-offs, and organizing and holding Zoom gatherings and classes.

**Lesson 3: Wisdom is a survival skill.** Nishioka writes, “American philosopher and psychologist William James defines wisdom as knowing ‘what is worthy of one’s attention and what is not.’” Our staff and leadership learned that some of the things we were doing were more exhausting than gift-giving. We needed, as Nishioka writes, “to live by grace.”

**Lesson 4: Sabbath is a balm in Gilead.** The pandemic made ministry exceedingly more difficult. Mixing in a divisive political election, racial tension, and head-butting views of how best to minister during a pandemic made us all on edge. More than ever, we needed to “be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

**Lesson 5: Trust is harder to come by.** Nishioka writes that “70% of communication is nonverbal.” Hard to get that across over Zoom or a live-streamed service. Our relationships have taken a hit over this past year. We will need to be about the hard work of getting reconnected. As Jesus did after his death, we need to share our wounds, forgive one another, and exchange the peace of Christ.

**Lesson 6: Faith formation is changing.** “We are learning new ways of knowing. We are learning new ways of being in community. We are learning new ways of worshipping,” writes Nishioka. We learned over the pandemic that more people participated in worship and educational events than we have ever had before. We have viewers in all parts of the world. We are already thinking about new ways that we can live into the needs of the world for a Savior.

It’s been a year! God is calling us out of old tombs and into new life. It is scary and exhausting, but it is our calling to be a light to the world. May it be so in our days ahead.

Peace,

Donovan

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
October 18, 2021  
Springhouse Golf Club (Opryland)**

**INVITEES: ALL WESTMINSTER GOLFERS OF ALL ABILITIES!**

**FORMAT: FOURSOME SCRAMBLE TEAMS**

**TIME/DATE: Monday afternoon, October 18, 2021**

**Location: Opryland's Springhouse Golf Club**

**Entry Fee: \$100 per player**

**Golf Committee will assure everyone a place on a team, so no need to worry about whether you have a group or not.**

**We need to assure that we will have at least 100 players, so please notify us of your non-binding intention to play ASAP: Roger Maness (your name, e-mail and phone number). Entry instructions will follow this summer.**

**The (secret) Presbytery Handicap Committee will assure that EVERYONE (regardless of ability) will have an opportunity to play, have fun and compete.**



**SAVE THE DATE AND GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER!**



# Congratulations Class of 2021

We also celebrate these graduating seniors and their achievements:

- Chloe Edwards
- Jacqueline Frist
- Lloyd Ivester
- Ben Ivey
- Ben Locke
- Alex Peiffer
- Bode Segers
- Sydney Vandewater



**Caroline Coker Avinger**  
Christ Presbyterian Academy

*"Although you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."*

1 Peter 1:8

Caroline is graduating from Christ Presbyterian Academy where she plays varsity soccer and lacrosse. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook staff as well. Through Westminster, she has been meeting with the same small group since 8th grade. Every Thursday morning at 6:30 AM, you can find them eating some Bruegger's Bagels. Right now, she is planning on studying neuroscience or psychology in college. No decisions have been made on a school as of now, but she is excited to see where the next four years take her.



**James Orin Bass IV**  
Ensworth High School

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."*  
Romans 12:12

Orin is involved in sports such as lacrosse at school. As for Westminster, he has gotten back into talking with his leaders and peers every so often because it has been a rough year to get back into with the long pandemic.

He doesn't quite know yet what he wants to do in the future and can't wait to figure it out through experiences. After graduation, Orin is headed to Texas Christian University!

**Janet Elizabeth Briggs**  
Harpeth Hall

Janet Briggs is graduating from Harpeth Hall this spring. She is involved in the Laudate choir and youth council at church as well as the senior girl's small group. She loves spending time at WPC and getting to know people from around Nashville.



**Anna Elizabeth Chambers**  
Ensworth High School

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

*Jeremiah 29: 11*

Anna is graduating from Ensworth High School and will be attending Auburn University in the fall. While attending Auburn, Anna plans to major in Marketing with hopes of becoming a realtor in the future. Some of her favorite extracurricular activities are tennis, soccer, and Ensworth Dance Marathon. Some moments that Anna has enjoyed the most at Westminster have been at Sunday night youth groups, NaCoMe, and Preston Taylor Ministries.



**Jonathan Ramsay Cole**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

Ramsay will graduate from Montgomery Bell Academy and will continue his education at Centre College where he was recruited to play lacrosse. Ramsay is a six-year lacrosse player as goalie for the Big Red and is the captain of the team this year. He was a leader of Junior School FCA his junior year at MBA and is FCA President this year. Ramsay also played football at MBA for two years in high school and two years in middle school. At Westminster, Ramsay has been on the Youth Council and participated in mission trips. He has also been an active participant in church league basketball for the Green Hornets.



**Taylor Nance Crabtree**  
Brentwood Academy

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Taylor will be graduating from Brentwood Academy where she has been a part of the basketball and tennis team since seventh grade. As Taylor will be attending Texas Christian University in the fall, she plans on majoring in Kinesiology/ Exercise Science to hopefully one day become an athletic trainer or physical therapist.



**Clay Wilkerson Crawford**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

*“O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.”*

*Psalms 34:8*

At MBA, Clay is involved in the student council, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), the sports broadcasting organization, and the lacrosse team. In the fall, he will be attending Texas Christian University. At WPC, he has been a monthly usher in church services, a member of the youth group, and a participant on the annual ski trip. I will forever be grateful for this special community at Westminster.



**Isabella Claire Davé**  
Harpeth Hall

*"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this"*  
Esther 4:14

Isabella is graduating from Harpeth Hall and will attend Wake Forest University in the fall. Isabella hopes to major in biology and be on a pre-med track. Isabella served on the Westminster Youth Council in 2019 and has loved Thursday morning small group during high school. She also played soccer and tennis for Harpeth Hall, and was a Fellowship of Christian Athletes officer for her junior and senior years.



**Noah Daniel Dunlap**  
Martin Luther King High School

Noah Dunlap is a senior at Martin Luther King high school. He has been a member of the debate, and cross country teams, and plans to major in physics or chemical engineering in college.



**Annabel Damgard Frist**  
St. Stephens St. Agnes

Annabel Frist, sibling to her younger brother Tommy and older sister Caroline, and daughter of Julie and Tommy Frist, spent twelve years at Ensworth School before attending St. Stephens St. Agnes in Alexandria, VA for her senior year. There, she lived with family friends and frequently explored DC where she formed new friendships while also rekindling old ones. She loves family and her dog, Athena, and always says her biggest supporters are her grandparents - Granddaddy and Pom Pom, whom she loves with all her heart.

For the next four years, Annabel will be studying at Stanford University where she will also be a member of the women's varsity lacrosse team.



**Elizabeth Claire Haley**  
Ensworth High School

*"...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."*  
2 Timothy 1:7

Claire will be going to the University of Virginia in the fall and hopes to become a doctor.

Claire has enjoyed being in a small group at Westminster for the past three years and will miss this community next year!





**Megan Taylor Hannon**  
Harpeth Hall

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*  
John 1:5

Megan will be attending Purdue University next year! She will be majoring in Chemical Engineering and minoring in history. Since the 7th grade, Megan has been part of a Westminster small group and it is the highlight of her week. She is grateful for the community Westminster has given her and she is excited for what her next chapter of life has to hold!



**James Tycer Harden**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

Ty has been at Westminster for 18 years now. He has been on mission trips through the church, helped found the basketball small group, and is proud to have served as youth council moderator for the last two years. After graduating, he will go right on to college. Right now, his final four choices are the University of Minnesota, University of Washington, University of Oregon, and Mississippi State University. Ty plans on working in professional sports after college.



**Sadie Jackson**

Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School

Sadie plans to attend Rhodes College in the Fall to pursue studies in Clinical Psychology. She was baptized at WPC and is a proud graduate of Westminster School for Young Children. Sadie loves all music, musical theatre, sewing and any creative projects. Shout out to Thursday morning Jesus Bagels and her ushering crew.



**Thomas Trent Lamar**  
St. George's School

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*  
Micah 6:8

Trent is a senior at St. George's School in Newport, RI, and planning to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall. While not physically present in the congregation during his high school years, Trent is incredibly grateful and in acknowledgement of the role Westminster played in his development as a young person. Undecided in his future studies, he is intrigued by both the business and political sectors. Trent's favorite bible verses are Proverbs 21:3 and Micah 6:8, as inspired by his brother.



**Wilson Buchanan Lindsey**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

Buchanan has enrolled at and plans to attend Sewanee in the fall in the class of 2025. He has been involved in the orchestra at MBA since 7th grade and on the crew team since sophomore year, two passions he hopes to carry with him as he moves on to college. He is so grateful for the guidance and support WPC has offered him, especially through youth groups where he can have fun and share his faith with friends. He is so excited for what is to come in the future and so thankful for those who have helped him become who he is today.



**Edwin Robards Sanders McCall**  
Ensworth High School

During his high school years, Rob has been part of Ensworth's award-winning a cappella group, Encore, as well as a member of the Tigers Swim & Dive team, earning All Mid-state, All State and USA Swimming Academic All-American honors. He plans to attend Southern Methodist University in the fall as a student/athlete with the SMU Mustangs swim & dive program. Westminster has been a special home to him. He attended pre-school here, played church ball in middle school, had a great mentor, Mr. Wilson, during his year of confirmation year, and has built a strong spiritual foundation for his future.



**William Ward Morrison**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."  
Psalm 107:1*

Will is a lifelong member of Westminster. He attended the Westminster School for Young Children and is a graduate of Harding Academy. He currently attends Montgomery Bell Academy and will graduate in June. Will plans to further his education at a SEC college. He is deciding between the University of Tennessee and Auburn University. He plans to study business. Will's time outside of school is spent playing hockey, pick-up basketball and golf with friends.

He is also an outdoorsman and enjoys fishing and hunting with his family. Will is a four-year letterman for the MBA Varsity Hockey team where this year he was one of the assistant captains. For the first time in school history, the hockey team won the regular season GNASH cup and the state championship Predators Cup. Will is very grateful to have achieved this lifetime goal.



**Charles Norris Orndorff**  
Montgomery Bell Academy

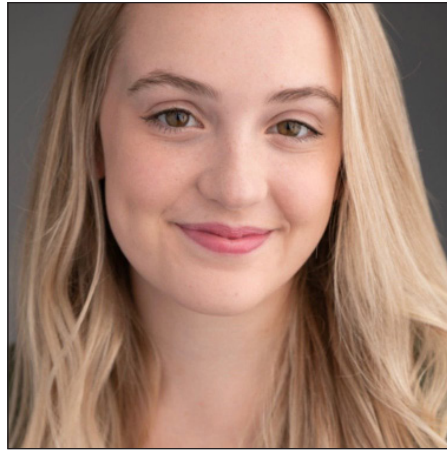
Norris will attend Texas Christian University for college. He volunteers at Paragon Mills with youth in the ESL program. He is on the MBA Swim Team, MBA Trap and Skeet Shotgun Team and competed in the US Trap Junior Olympics.

Norris enjoys mountain biking, camping, and spending time with his friends.



**Brandon Lawrence Pensinger**  
Ensworth High School

Brandon is graduating from Ensworth High School where he was involved in Chamber Singers and golf. He was a regular participant in Westminster's basketball small group. He will attend the business school at Butler University in Indianapolis next year.



**Virginia Richardson**  
Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School

Virginia is a senior at Hume Fogg Academic High School, where she has been heavily involved in the theater and music programs. She plans to study acting in college at either the University of Southern California or the University of Texas at Austin. Virginia has been involved in the choir and bells at Westminster since she was young and has made many amazing memories there!



**Avery Elizabeth Smith**  
Ensworth High School

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: all your ways to submit to him, and he will make your path straight”*  
*Proverbs 3: 5-6*

Avery has loved playing soccer and tennis throughout her years at Ensworth. She hopes to eventually go into business or dermatology after college. She will attend Vanderbilt University next year and can't wait to stay in Nashville.



**Andrew Grafton Spencer**  
Hillwood High School

Andrew Spencer is the son of Robert and Rebecca Spencer and is the second-youngest of the four famous Spencer children. Andrew will be graduating from Hillwood High School later this spring, where he has been a member of the school's baseball team, golf team, and student government. Andrew plans on attending Tulane University in the fall to study biochemistry and economics, which he hopes will help him prepare for his ultimate dream job as President of the Moon. With Westminster, Andrew has enjoyed multiple memorable trips to Montreat, and he has consistently balled out with WPC's Basketball Small Group on Tuesdays throughout his high school years. Andrew is very grateful for his time with the Koinonia Youth Ministry, and the great lessons and relationships that the ministry has provided him with will stay with him long after high school ends.



**Anne Elizabeth Stewart**  
Harpeth Hall

At Harpeth Hall, Annie played lacrosse and founded the Environmental Club. She has loved being a part of small group (aka Jesus bagels) for the past four years and is really going to miss the fellowship of Thursday mornings with Margie. She also serves as the youth representative to the Westminster Environmental Council. Next year, Annie will be attending Cornell University to study Environmental Engineering and plans to try out for the sailing team.



**Anna Claire Stockhoff**  
Brentwood High School

During high school, Anna Claire played varsity basketball and was an active member of the Brentwood Girls Club. She continues to enjoy playing guitar in her spare time as well as working at Stash House in East Nashville. In the fall, Anna Claire plans to attend The American University of Rome, Italy and study Business.



**Raeganne Noelle Travis**  
Nashville Christian School

Raeganne participates in soccer, track, and cheerleading. This fall, she plans to attend Western Kentucky University and major in nursing hoping to become a nurse practitioner.



**Katherine Adair Wright**  
Ensworth High School

Adair enjoys softball, acting, and dance. Her favorite style of dance is hip hop. She hopes to become a forensic psychologist in the future.



**Mary Neely Young**  
Harpeth Hall

Mary Neely has grown up coming to Westminster and has loved being a part of this community. She has been going to small group (almost) every Thursday at 6:30 AM for the past six years and could truly not be more grateful for those girls (+ Whitney + now Margie). She would say the exact same thing for her time in the church choir with John (*even at 7:45 AM on a Sunday morning!*). She is tentatively planning on attending Miami of Ohio for college next year (no official decision, but is revisiting soon, and after that, she will be enrolling)!



**Save  
The  
Date!**

**JUNE 6 - 10**

**SENIOR HIGH  
SERVICE WEEK**



**Save  
The  
Date!**

**JUNE 27 - JULY 1**

**JUNIOR HIGH  
SERVICE WEEK**



**Save  
The  
Date!**

**JULY 25 - 31**

**MONTREAT FOR SENIOR HIGH**



Photo Credit: T.J. Piccolo

## **Eighth Grade Confirmands Confirmation Sunday • May 16**

The confirmands will be recognized and confirmed in the 11:00 AM worship, which will take place outdoors in the North Parking Lot. Below is this year's Confirmation class and their mentors.

Reid Allen  
 Hunter Armstrong  
 Maston Ballew  
 Minor Ballew  
 Mary-Allen Brown  
 Owen Campbell  
 Emaline Cash  
 Dylan Drake  
  
 Oscar Elam  
 Conner Folk  
 Evie Frist  
 Helen Ghertner  
 Sam Haley  
 Owen Hall  
 Stewart Hall  
 Clara Scott Harden  
 Will Harwell  
 Anna Hulan  
 Johnny Isaacs  
 Frank Johns  
 Caroline Keiper

Bob Parker  
 Lee Ballew  
 Chris Shurden  
 Jeff Haynes  
 Jennifer Larson  
 Jay Hardcastle  
 Kate Pennington  
 Julie Boswell  
 & Kristen Johns  
 Kelly Christie  
 Pam Wylly  
 Allison Jones  
 Ali Warner  
 Bob Hines  
 EW Weathersby  
 Derek Bryant  
 Vanessa Garner  
 Kevin Orndorff  
 Missy Perry  
 Mark Beveridge  
 Luke Gebhard  
 Frank Wade

Ava Krumwiede  
 Claire Kurtz  
 Kate Linley  
 Hannah Long  
 Mac Lowrance  
 Dax Martin  
 Katie Perry  
 Margaret Rauth  
 Duncan Rishel  
 Owen Shurden  
 Cole Sieveking  
 Mary Claire Smith  
 Battle Springer  
 Sarah Frances Stanley  
 Charles Stewart  
 William Stockhoff  
 Charlie Warner  
 Kate Warner  
 Merritt Wells  
 Ferrell Wilson

Julie Wilson  
 Caroline Armstrong  
 Janet Kuhn  
 Melissa Threatt  
 Zak Keiper  
 Jarron Springer  
 Lucy Haynes  
 Robi Warner  
 Ron Stanley  
 Brent Pennington  
 Keith Deerkoski  
 Liz Atwood  
 Fred Lowrance  
 Lindsay Ballew  
 Tom Wilson  
 Scott Haley  
 Kyle Armstrong  
 Kady Folk  
 Barbie Draughn  
 Layne Bryant

## 2021 Confirmation Class Creed



We believe that God created us to love all people, regardless of their gender, race, class, or sexual orientation. God takes care of us and leads us through the hardships of life. God is omnipotent and has a plan for us, even if we are not aware of it. God is always with us and loves us forever.



We believe that Jesus was God among us—fully human and fully divine. Through parables, he taught us how to act as God would want—serving others, loving neighbors, and loving God. Jesus performed miracles. He died on the cross, he was put in a tomb, and after three days he rose from the dead, showing us that death is not the end.

We believe that the Holy Spirit unites us all and dwells in each of us. We believe that the Spirit is poured out upon us to teach us the truth of God. It is in everything and is the wind that guides us. We believe that it messes with our lives in the most perfect way.



We believe the Church is one body unified under God. We care for each other and when one suffers, we all suffer, when one prospers, we all prosper. All are welcomed to the table and baptism is a way to seek forgiveness and be welcomed into the community.

We believe that we are connected to Jesus, who is fully human and fully God, through the grounds we walk on and through our baptism. God claims us in our baptisms and in baptism we agree to participate in each other's faith journeys.



We believe that even when we have done wrong, we can still be with Jesus through the Lord's Supper. Through the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine, we know that we are forgiven by Jesus.

“

*Pastor, what can  
I do to nurture  
my faith over  
the summer?*

”





# Keeping the Faith

A collection of ideas on how to keep up with your spiritual growth while enjoying the summer.

By Guy D. Griffith



“Pastor, what can I do to nurture my faith over the summer?” The question came from a young woman who had just completed a 34 week, in-depth, Disciple I Bible study that I facilitated. She wasn’t new to the church, but new to that kind of small group, committed learning community and she had grown by leaps and bounds in it. Running from the week after Labor Day in September and finishing with Memorial Day in sight, she wondered what she could do to keep growing. Perhaps you, too, wonder the same thing.

This has been such an unusual year and what the next few months look like is still unclear. Nevertheless, let me suggest four avenues for continued spiritual

nurture over the summer:

## **Contemplate Creation and Be Creative:** The

great English poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, says that “Christ plays in ten-thousand places” and it is important that we cultivate the capacity to see our Lord working in the wider world. One place that has the possibility of awakening our sense of wonder is nature, what John Calvin has called “the theatre of God’s glory.” I don’t know about you, but I’m tired of being cooped up inside. While we still need to be vigilant, many of us who now have received the vaccines are feeling like it is safe to go outside and get reconnected with nature. Is there a place out of doors that does that for you? Find time this summer to be, as one of my pastor friends

named it, “Gawed” – awed by God. A favorite painting by Norman Rockwell that I keep a facsimile of taped to the side of my desk shows the front of a large, gothic church – it might be Fifth Avenue Presbyterian in NYC. Outside the front door, which is elevated about 20 steps above the sidewalk, the pastor is holding the ladder for a sexton who is lettering out the sermon title in a display case so those walking by can see it. The sermon title is “Lift up Thine Eyes.” Meanwhile a throng of maybe 20 people scurry by on the sidewalk below, shoulders hunched over, heads drooped, and eyes cast down, as they trudge about their busy day oblivious to the invitation to contemplate God’s wider world.



Summer allows for that kind of reflection. So does doing something creative: write a poem or a song, paint a picture, make something with your hands, garden. You see, when we engage in creative pursuits we get in touch with the Creator of all things.

**Celebrate Community:** This season of quarantine has made me all the more aware of how much we crave community. While it has been gratifying that so many have been able to be connected virtually through Zoom classes and meetings, we hold to a theology of incarnation that reminds us that “one-anothering” matters. “One another” is two words in English, but it’s only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (ah-LAY-loan). It’s used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. “Love one another.” “Bear one another’s burdens.” “Forgive one another.” “Serve one another.” On and on. We do this because it is what Jesus showed us how and told us to do. Find a way to celebrate the community



that is important to you and that you have missed. It was such a joy to see so many of you on Easter. It reminded me again what it means to be the Church the Body of Christ more than just faces on a screen on a Zoom call. A number of our Disciple classes are looking to gather for a fellowship time since a number of members have not ever met except in virtual meetings.

**Continue to Feed the Mind:** In his book *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition: a way of being the Christian community*, former Union Presbyterian Seminary professor and theologian, John Leith, outlines what he calls the “ethos of

the Reformed tradition.” He lists out distinctive markers or accents that have traditionally identified those in the Presbyterian faith. One that has always stood out to me is “the life of the mind as the service of God.” So I encourage you to find something that allows you to stretch your mind. Every summer I have offered a book study on Thursday mornings at the time when the Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study (9:30 AM - 11:00 AM) meets. This summer, I’ll be teaching *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Watch or Wait or Weep*, by Tish Harrison Warren. We will begin the first Thursday in

June and runs through August (you don’t need to be at every class to participate). Another new book that I am enjoying and recommending is the new biography of Eugene Peterson (translator of *The Message Bible*), *A Burning in My Bones*, by Winn Collier. I am always happy to provide other suggestions as well.

**Keep Curious:** Especially about complex matters that impact our faith and witness, so we invite you to continue engaging in conversations. Last summer, fall, and earlier this year, we explored issues around race through study and intentional engagement. We will continue to do so

throughout the summer. Specifically, our Faith and Film Festival (Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00 PM, June 2) will show a number of films and documentaries designed to help us continue to move the conversation forward. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of a book study or Sunday school class to follow up on the Race Equity Challenge readings we did last year. A list of films and books will be forthcoming.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information.



# Faith & Film Festival

Starts June 2  
7:00 PM

A complete list of movies  
can be found in the  
May edition  
of the *Window*.

Contact Guy Griffith  
for more info.



Like most other organizations, The Outreach Foundation finds itself pivoting in this new COVID-19 environment. The world has changed.

In light of the changes, however, our nearly 50 global partners in 37 countries continue to face circumstances that are hard to imagine. You will see some of the ways we have helped in the video linked here.

In the Synod of Syria and Lebanon, the diaconal arm of the church has launched an appeal to provide seeds and gardening supplies so middle-class families can begin to grow vegetables in order to eat. The UN estimates that 60% of the Lebanese population is under the poverty line. When one realizes that this is designed to address food security needs for the majority of people in that land, it can take our breath away.

Our partners in Brazil are now totally isolated. Cities are closed. No one can enter or leave one's home. Brazil recorded almost 3,000 deaths from COVID-19 near the end of March. Hospitals have collapsed. There are no more empty beds, and there are not enough doctors to serve all those who need care. There are no medications. The same is now true in Kenya.

Lebanon, Brazil, and Kenya are typical of our world and its call for help.

While many churches in the United States are helping local neighbors in need, we cannot entrust the rest of the world to someone else. We are to be, “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Westminster Presbyterian Church has partnered with The Outreach Foundation for a number of years and has responded to many global cries for help. I am so thankful for this witness. Recently, funds from Westminster were sent to Tete Province in Mozambique for birthing kits. Additional gifts were also sent to places of great need.

Our goal in 2021 is to continue to help existing partners while expanding our work in Latin America, Europe, and China.

God is on the move and for those who have been given much, much is expected.

I am grateful for your continuing support and look for your emerging influence in new areas as well.

To God be the glory!

Mark Mueller  
Executive Director



## Monroe Harding



To our Friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church

In March of 2020, life as we know it changed. Many things were put on hold indefinitely or cancelled all together. But the need for a three-year-old to live in a safe, loving home does not get put on hold. Neither do the dreams of a nineteen-year-old who has worked to within four credits of earning his high school diploma. Healing from trauma must continue; and the challenges we faced in 2020 due to a global pandemic reinforced the urgency of our mission to change young people's lives.

We quickly pivoted in March to keep our work continuing in a remote, virtual, and safe environment. We delivered virtually and remotely all our education, financial literacy, employment and career readiness services, life-skills training, and basic needs assistance, like food and clothes. We placed and supported more children and teens in safe, stable and nurturing foster homes than in recent years. As more young adults found themselves homeless during the pandemic, we expanded our supportive housing program. Our programs and services at our Youth Connections Resource Center grew at a record pace including demands from young adults for secondary and post-secondary education support.

Within all the challenges and accomplishments, we witnessed moments of true grace. We cheered via zoom when adoptions were finalized online. We drove a young woman to her first day on her first job ever. We laughed

together and shared meals and stories during our virtual cooking classes. We wore graduation gowns and stood in the driveway to congratulate a graduate. Through this time, our staff became even stronger, working together seamlessly between programs to make sure any child or young adult who needed support, or sometimes just someone to sit outside and talk to, was seen, heard and loved. That's what a family does for each other.

Our needs, of course, continue. We invite you to learn more about becoming an employment partner for our Works Wonders career readiness program, or about becoming a foster family to bring a child in need into your heart and home.

We feel so blessed and grateful for the support of Westminster. You wrap your arms around us and make our work possible. We thank you all for being an important part of our family and for continuing to help provide homes, healing, opportunities, and engagement to young people in our community.

Sarah Brock  
Monroe Harding

# Oasis

THERE'S MORE TO YOUTH



Founded in 1969 as the “Rap House,” a simple community center for teens in crisis, Oasis Center has steadily grown into one of Middle Tennessee’s most comprehensive youth development agencies. For five decades, Oasis Center’s increased capacity to serve at-risk youth has been built on the kindness and support of our community.

We believe that together with our community friends, Nashville can be a model community where all young people can feel connected with positive social support systems and prepared for productive and fulfilling lives. In light of this vision, Oasis Center’s mission is “building relationships that advance youth well-being, amplify youth voice, and inspire action toward a just community.” Each year, Oasis engages over 4,000 at-risk young people and their families across a broad spectrum of opportunities.

Crisis to Housing & Workforce Development programs and services support marginalized, vulnerable youth in gaining long-term safety, stability and self-sufficiency. Crisis to Housing programs are exclusively for youth who are homeless, have run away, or are experiencing significant family crisis. Our Emergency Shelter, for example, is a short-term residential stay providing youth (ages 13-17) with the support (e.g., individual and family counseling) they need to safely return home or to another safe living situation outside of foster care. Oasis also provides youth-dedicated workforce development

programming, supporting court-involved young people in gaining credentials and employment.

Youth Action, Advocacy, and Education programs occur both during and after school and are dedicated to empowering young people to be catalysts for social change and achieve personal and academic success. These programs help youth, ages 11-18, develop leadership and life skills, make healthy choices, foster a sense of purpose, and take responsibility for creating change on the issues that matter to them and to our communities. Opportunities across 10+ programs, range from the Oasis Bike Workshop where youth learn to build a bike while learning life skills to our College Connection program helping young people realize their college-going dreams.

This year has been a challenge for all of us. At Oasis, we have discovered new and innovative ways of delivering programs and services during the pandemic and yet, a heartbreaking number of young people are experiencing homelessness, anxiety, depression and loneliness. It has been a difficult year for them. As we consider the struggles our youth are facing, we take comfort in knowing that we have a new ally in the fight: hope. Grateful for our community, we embrace this renewed sense of hope, knowing that together, we are there for our youth in a time they need us the most.



## Westminster on a journey to discover, and live as a Matthew 25 Church

Do you have a favorite chapter in the Bible, one that is both inspiring and challenging? For me, it would probably be Matthew 25 – The Parable of the Talents, verses 14-30 have shaped my attitudes and behaviors around Christian stewardship enormously. And then verses 31-46 about the Judgment of the Nations, well, are there any more convicting verses in Scripture?

Collectively and singularly, Westminster members are poised to discover our personal and corporate response to Jesus' calling in these verses.

Westminster, along with PC-USA and our Presbytery are on a journey to discover what it means to be, and live, as a Matthew 25 Church.

This denominational wide initiative has three main areas of focus – all three have huge repercussions for what we do or do not do:

1) Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

2) Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.

3) Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.

Almost five years ago, when Mary and I were new to Nashville and visiting a number of churches to see where God might call us into worship, fellowship, and service with a new faith-family, we were particularly drawn to Westminster Presbyterian Church because of the slogan, "Every member has a mission". We were inspired to learn how key Westminster individuals conceived of, organized, and sparked wonderful ministries on the campus of WPC. For example,

- After years of operating within the walls of WPC, what we now know as Curry Ingram Academy, operates in Williamson County as an exemplary K-12 Day and Boarding School on its own beautiful, 83-acre campus
- Westminster School for Young Children operates on campus, partnering with families to provide developmentally appropriate preschool education in a respectful, creative, Christian, and nurturing environment.



- Following the devastating floods of 2010 that captured our nation’s attention in the news, Westminster Home Connection was mobilized, and today continues its ministry in 14 Tennessee counties.

In part, out of support for our denomination and certainly for Westminster’s continued relevance, I can think of no better time than now for Westminster to prayerfully, strategically, and obediently consider the entire chapter of Matthew 25, and let our Lord Jesus speak to each one of us. Issues of poverty, racism, and congregational vitality are enormous, longstanding challenges and matters no one church or denomination can solve on our own, but each individual can do some thing(s). Collectively in our church we can do more, and as a denomination and country we can do even more.

Westminster’s Session has convened a Matthew 25 Task Force, co-chaired by Lochiel Gaines, Walker Choppin, and Chuck Higgins. Committees of Session are gathering information about how our church is already meeting elements of these themes, and where other opportunities may exist.

Do you sense God calling you to engage in the Matthew 25 initiative? Is Jesus speaking to you when he says, “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.”

Pray and consider, to what or to who is Jesus calling you?

- Ralph Wheeler  
Hands On Mission Chair



## Westminster Participates in Spring Tree Planting at Shelby Bottoms Park

Westminster's Earth Care Task Force and FaithWorks Committee planted trees with the Nashville Tree Foundation on March 6 at Shelby Bottoms Park. Twenty of our congregation, both youth and adults, joined with other volunteer groups and helped get 80 trees planted. These replaced aging and diseased trees scheduled for removal and those lost during last year's tornados.

Many smiles are hidden behind the masks of those in the photos below, and those who came said they had a grand time.

- Curtis Baysinger



Left to right: Sallie Bailey, Fran and David Linley, and John Bailey.



Left to right: John and Zak Keiper, Esther and Jonathan Kang.



Left to right: Annie Stewart, Caroline Keiper and two of Annie's friends.



Left to right: Howard Mann, Jennie Renwick, Diane Nesbit, Michael Renwick.



**June 6 - Mark Your Calendars  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Our intergenerational event to help stop hunger is back. We hope you can help us prepare meals for those who go without and enjoy a fun meal from food trucks in our north parking lot.**

**Look for more info coming soon.**



*“Be still and know that I am God.”*





**OPEN YOUR HEART**  
***Centering Prayer at Westminster***  
*by Elizabeth Trabue*

Are you looking for ways to be still?

Are you looking for spiritual practice that helps you to listen for God in your life?

Are you hoping to grow in your relationship to God, Jesus, and yourself?

**The Centering Prayer Group at Westminster has resumed!**  
**Mondays, 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM - Parlor Courtyard**

**What is Centering Prayer?**

Centering Prayer is based on the wisdom saying of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

*“But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.”*

Matthew 6:6

Our Westminster group engages in the practice of contemplative prayer developed by Father Thomas Keating, a Cistercian monk who founded the Centering Prayer Movement. His method is based upon the writings of John Cassian, the anonymous author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thérèse of Lisieux, and Thomas Merton. Centering prayer is a way of cultivating a deeper relationship with God and a way to quiet the mind and open the heart; it can also create a path of spiritual transformation. At its core, it is about finding the felt presence of God, of resting in God beyond our thoughts, and emotions. It has been described as moving beyond conversation with Christ to being in communion with him.

Keating suggests four simple guidelines for practicing centering prayer:

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God’s presence and action within.

2. Sitting comfortably with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently and introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God’s presence and action within.

3. When you become aware of thoughts, return ever so gently to the sacred word.

4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

**How do I join the WPC Group?**

The Westminster Centering Prayer Group gathers in the beautiful Parlor Courtyard on Mondays from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. Sitting in a circle in comfortable folding chairs, we begin with a brief liturgy and contemporary reading, and move into 20 minutes of silent meditation. During the past month, participants have found it to be a peaceful and calming start to their week, sitting in holy silence and feeling the sacredness of shared intention and Divine Presence.

For more information, please email [Elizabeth Trabue](mailto:Elizabeth.Trabue@westminsterpc.org) or [Heidi Hudnut-Beumler](mailto:Heidi.Hudnut-Beumler@westminsterpc.org). We hope you will join us!

# Spring Projects at Westminster

By Lochiel Gaines



**T**his spring, when you are on the church grounds, you may notice some physical improvements taking place. With funding available from the Legacy Property Reserve Fund, the Property Committee has identified several maintenance projects to undertake. Here is a description of these projects.

The church steeple will get a fresh coat (actually two coats) of paint. This job includes pressure washing the area and repairing or replacing defective wood. The project was to be completed before Easter Sunday, but nature has its own agenda and the work was delayed. Perhaps when this article is published, the steeple will have been painted.

The brick walkway between Mayfair and the Sanctuary will be repaired this spring. You may have noticed that some of the pavers are not level and there are gaps. The entire area from Mayfair to the Sanctuary will be repaired, most likely in May. You also may have noticed that the fountain in the west columbarium has been repaired and once again offers the comforting sound of gentle water.

A major project on the property calendar is replacement of the roof over the Westminster School for Young Children (WSYC). The roof to be replaced is the original one which had a life expectancy of 30 years; we are a few years past 30 but are fortunate that there have been no problems. This job will take place after WSYC adjourns for the summer.

While the children will not notice the new roof over their school, they will see the new shading that will be on their playground, again thanks to nature. On December 31, a very large tree that provided playground shade was uprooted by wind. As a result of losing this shade, new shade awnings will be installed for necessary shade that is a licensing requirement for WSYC. In addition, the fallen tree destroyed 60 linear feet of playground fencing, but we were fortunate in quickly finding a vendor to replace the cedar fencing. In the meantime, two tree specialists looked at the other trees that are on the playground and both advised the removal of five existing trees. This likely will occur in April. One of the trees is near a power line, so coordination with NES is required. Of course, no one wants to see the removal of trees, but the Property Committee believes it is the proper action to take.

A new (to us) church bus will soon

be purchased. The church is down to one bus, which during the time of a pandemic is not an issue. But, many are hopeful for a return to when we can pile into a church bus and go out again on a youth trip or a disaster relief trip or a mission trip. Before the pandemic hit, the Property Committee was studying the need for a new bus. Our research told us that both buses were used equally and regularly. With the hope that we are sooner rather than later returning to a normal time, we began looking at the purchase of another bus. Recently, Sophie Maness, T.J. Piccolo and Hugh Harvey test drove several. By the time that you read this article, we may be in possession of a new Westminster Presbyterian Church bus.

### Things Unseen

Throughout the church we are switching to improved air filters. As Donovan recently noted during the congregational meeting, the

Sanctuary system filters have been upgraded and replaced. We also are in the process of securing a maintenance contract on our air conditioning equipment.

While we, the people, are the church, the facility where we gather to worship is sacred to each of us. The Property Committee is grateful for the resources that support caring for and maintaining this sacred space. We are grateful for the volunteers who gave of their time to various projects, to our skillful and caring staff, and to the congregation who contribute offerings and tithes.

As Chair of the Property Committee, I especially am grateful for these members: Walker Choppin, Emily Anderson Coleman, Ginny Caldwell, Jim Felch, Hugh Harvey, Susan Issacs, Joe Lane, Ned Munson, Clay Parsons, Katie Regan, Ryan Rohe, Tony Threatt, Julie Wilson and our staff Jo Ann McFarlin, Paul Silva, and our sextons who work tirelessly and with smiles.





## HOST: A Vibrant Small Group Ministry at WPC

By Denise Linn

Many churches have a small group program which provides opportunities for people to get to know other members of the church in a smaller setting. At Westminster, one of our small group ministries is called “Hearts Open to Studying Together” or HOST. If you are thinking about joining a HOST group, your timing is perfect! Your GETconnected Committee is shining a spotlight on this ministry of Christian fellowship and study. Westminster currently has more than 125 members who are active in HOST groups. Although they all have the common mission of bringing church members together in an informal setting for study and friendship, HOST groups vary in terms of size and member demographic as well as meeting times and locations. Groups choose their own meeting format which often includes enjoying a meal together when in-person meetings are possible.

Beth Moore of the GETconnected Committee has been reaching out to HOST group leaders to assess how they are managing amid the pandemic. She has learned that many HOST groups have persevered and continued to meet via Zoom to check in on one another, share the joys and inevitable sorrows of life and engage in conversation

over Sunday’s sermon, the week’s lectionary scriptures, or an organized Bible or book study. All groups are looking forward to meeting in-person again once it is safe to do so.

HOST members will tell you that their groups have been a source of deep and lasting friendships. Here’s how Ron and Melinda Coles describe their HOST group experience (each adjective describes one of their group members!)

***"We don't just like our HOST group, we love our HOST group. Why? Our members are vivacious, witty, provocative, serene, reliable, hospitable, intense, pensive, humorous, introspective, resilient, whimsical, quixotic, practical, compassionate. Our gatherings are feasts of fun and communion."***

Joining a HOST group is a wonderful way to connect with other members on a deeper level and grow together in faith. It is our hope and intent to expand this ministry by forming new HOST groups in the near future. If you are ready to learn more about or be part of a new HOST group, contact [Beth Moore](#), 615-210-5841.



Music Camp 2021

# GET A LIFE!

A musical about the Good Samaritan  
by John Arnn and Donovan Drake.

## CAMP

July 12 - 16  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

## REHEARSAL

July 17  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

## PERFORMANCE

July 18  
9:45 am

All children who have completed kindergarten through rising 7th graders are welcome to participate. The cost is \$35 (scholarships available, as needed).

THERE WILL BE REHEARSAL AUDITIONS FOR ALL SPEAKING AND SOLO ROLES  
Wednesdays, May 12, 19, & 26, 5:15—6:00 pm, PARLOR COURTYARD (outdoors).

For more information, please contact [John Semington](#) or [Sally Mae Arnn](#).  
To register, please visit [nashvillewpc.org](http://nashvillewpc.org).





Photo credit: Sylvia Leins

## A 2021 Easter Bags-ket (Say this out loud twice!)

By Barbara Nash

I am writing this on the sunny day of Tuesday in Holy Week. Parents, grandparents, and friends of young children are busily purchasing all sorts of gifts for Easter baskets. Children are standing on tiptoe in anticipation. Cards are being sent. Flowers are being delivered to friends. Families are planning meals, even mask-less meals with hugs included. It's a happy time!

The back story for this article began on a pretty, early March afternoon when there was a call from Sylvia Leins saying she had left a bag from the Congregational Care Committee at our front door. The Leins family has lots of squirrels in their yard and if we also did she wanted to be sure we found the bag before the squirrels did. I went to the door and brought the brightly colored bag into the house. We called it our Easter bags-ket.

What a treasure trove of goodies we had! In addition to the elements for communion, we had candy, fruit snacks, homemade muffins, a craft project, puzzle book, crocheted dish cloth from the Joy in Learning Knitting and Crocheting Ministry, breakfast biscuits, *Wit and Wisdom Newsletter*, Play Doh for Arthritis therapy and peanut butter crackers. There was a directory of those who are receiving the communion elements, and a request for a reply about a further directory.

Jim and I would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude to all the members of the Congregational Care Committee. Thank you for working together to make a difference!

We marveled at such a thoughtful, kind gift and put the Easter bags-ket - except for the homemade muffins, on the mantel where it has remained.

To get to the heart of what this meant to Jim and me, let me tell you about The Congregational Church of

Middlebury, VT, United Church of Christ. Our younger son and his family are very happy participants in the life of this congregation, and we have gotten to know it well during the years. The life and work of this congregation, although much smaller than our congregation, reminds me of the life and work of our much-loved Westminster.

A phrase caught my eye as I read a recent publication from that church. I wrote the pastor asking if this were original or from a source. He replied it was original and I could use it as much as I like! (It helps to be on a first name basis with a pastor!) The phrase goes "...the goodness of God and the Godness of good ..."

As I began to think about this phrase it occurred to me that this is an apt description of what we're about in the life and work of our congregation. We acknowledge the source of the gifts we have to share being the goodness of God. And, whether we are aware of it or not, as we share those gifts more is happening than is happening. We reflect the loving presence of God.

That's a lot from an Easter Bags-ket, isn't it? Hope yours was a happy one!

## Chapter 2

On Wednesday afternoon of Holy Week Sara Figal, another member of the Congregational Care Committee, came to our door and rang the bell. Jim greeted her and she gave him a vase filled with small white flowers and dogwood blossoms and another pretty Easter bags-ket which was put on the mantle. This contained the elements for Maundy Thursday communion, a note from the Congregational Care Committee and a copy of the devotional booklet "These Days".

Again more was happening than was happening. On the surface it appeared that a pretty blue bag with numerous flowers printed on it and a simple vase of flowers had changed hands at our door. However, so much happened because of this. The flowers brought to mind one Easter when Jim was quite ill and the Associate Pastor took all the responsibilities for the service. After church a parishioner couple brought flowers that had been in the sanctuary and staying for a brief visit. Later in the afternoon the Associate Pastor came for a visit and brought a recording of the day's worship. What an

Easter! The communion elements helped us feel we were a part of the congregation, the beloved community as some describe it, in communion with each other even though we were separated from each other. We had a chuckle when we saw the devotional booklet. It called to mind a parishioner who even gave up her spot in the line waiting to greet the minister after the service if I told her we had not gotten the current booklet yet! She would immediately rectify that for us!

The note we received read "As we celebrate God's gift of hope and new life, know that you are thought of with love – and wished a very happy and joy-filled Easter". This has brought a plethora of comforting and treasured memories of so many Easter services, so much music, so many shared meals, so many eggs to dye and hunt, so many Eton blazers and saddle oxford for little boys and so much love, oh, so much love!

Then there was a phone call from Alex Buchanan. Jane McDow brought flowers from the arrangements in the sanctuary that day. A portion of the enclosed card reads "... in their silent way, they (the flowers) are telling you of God's love and healing power of the wishes of the members of Westminster Church that you will be blessed with faith and health."

This part of the article has been titled Chapter 2. Give your life a serious look and write your own Chapter 3!


"... the goodness of God and the Godness of good ..." abounds and we are grateful!

Thanks be to God!



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3900 West End Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37205

PERIODICALS



**Sundays, May 16 and 23**  
**Hikes and Devotions**  
**for all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade children**

**From 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM, we will gather at Edwin Warner Park. We will hike, have a devotion, and have a snack. Contact [Sophie Maness](#) for info and directions.**