



Westminster Baptist Church

The Witness

February 2012
Volume 39 Issue 1

Men's Conference

February 4
7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Cost: \$10



“Facing Our Giants”

YOU KNOW YOUR GOLIATH. YOU RECOGNIZE HIS WALK, THE THUNDER OF HIS VOICE. HE TAUNTS you with bills you can't pay, people you can't please, habits you can't break, failures you can't forget, and a future you can't face. But just like David, you can face your giant, even if you aren't the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped, or the holiest. [1] Max Lucado

**FOCUS ON GIANTS –
YOU STUMBLE**

**FOCUS ON GOD – YOUR
GIANTS TUMBLE**

If you are ready to do the same, let this conference inspire you. The same GOD who helped David will help you.

***Contact the Men's Ministry at
wbcmensministry@gmail.com for more details.**



Dear Church Family,
 Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement you sent to honor the life of my mother, Mabel Braune. I appreciated seeing so many dear friends during the visiting hours and funeral. Calls and cards were great encouragement during mom's long illness. A special thank you is extended to the Meads' family for caring for Noir so that I could move into my parent's home and help with hospice care for mom.
 Most sincerely, *Donna Gault & family*

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church and who purchased poinsettias for Christmas. We were able to take several poinsettias to our shut-in members, several Westminster Nursing Homes and to many who faithfully serve our church. The Christmas tree in our Welcome Center area was new this year, purchased mostly through the Bea Roberts Flower Fund. Other decorating items such as the tree top decoration, candles and other minor things are purchased with money left over from the purchase of the poinsettias. Left over money from the poinsettia sales goes to the needs of the Flower Committee. These funds are used throughout the year to purchase Mother's Day flowers and flowers planted outdoors in the Spring. Thank you for making all these things




Have you seen the new picture covering the large bulletin board located across from the entrance to the Preschool area? It's a lovely winter scene of the our church drawn by Bill Melton. He will be changing the scene with the seasons. Take time to check it out and express your thanks to Bill for displaying his special talent.

Thank You! On behalf of the entire church staff, I want to thank you all for remembering us at Christmas with the Christmas gift collected through our deacons. We love you all very much and appreciate so much your generosity! May you have a very blessed New Year.

Pastor Larry for all the staff

A heartfelt thank you for the uplifted prayers and loving concern on behalf of Lina and me following my stroke in October. I am improving daily. We continue to feel God's love and yours and are blessed that your prayers and ours are being answered.
Steve & Lina Ferguson

**Red Cross
 Blood Drive**
Monday, March 26
1:00 - 7:00 pm



2011 Financial Report Highlights

The December 2011 year-end financial report is available in the Church Lobby. Our Administrative Team would like you to be aware of the following highlights of the report. First, even though we did not meet our budget, our budgeted receipts exceeded our expenditures by \$1,500. 19.2% of all receipts went to missions. At the end of the year, our church mortgage balance was \$360,403; a year ago, at the end of December (2010) it was \$470,355. All are reasons to give praise to God!



Altar Flowers

A flower arrangement on the altar is a great way to celebrate a special occasion or honor/remember someone special in your life. Please place your order with Nancy Bickel or Gerry Lawrence by signing up on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board near the Welcome Center. Arrangements are purchased from Dutterer's Florist at a cost from \$25 to \$50 (checks made payable to Dutterer's). Feel free to contact Nancy or Gerry for more details.

Mission Moments

Thank you to everyone who helped this past Christmas to be a blessing to others. From gifts to the men at the Rescue Mission, and the girls of New Life for Girls, to filling our Christmas baskets. Everyone who received these blessings were so thankful. We can't do these ministries without your help, so again, thank you!

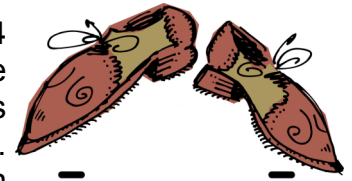
For the past year, we have been praying for the deaf people of the world. As we finish this year of prayer, here are a few facts (this information is outdated as new cases are found everyday). There are over 22 million deaf in the United States alone. Around the world there are over 409 million deaf people. Even though the year is up, I hope you will continue to pray for these people as so many do not know Christ.



Our Women on Mission ladies are collecting dimes until April for a program called "PURE WATER, PURE LOVE" under our WMU. This program provides ways for people around the world to have pure drinking water. If you would like to be involved, put your dimes in one of our coin jars located in both lobbies on Sunday. So far we have collected \$88.00.

Our Mission Friends are collecting money until May to feed babies that are hungry in areas of drought and disaster. It takes \$9.00 to feed one baby for a week. If you would like to help, place your dollar bills in the coin jars. We have collected \$40.00 so far.

We are also participating in a short term ministry project: "Soles 4 Souls". When you throw away shoes they end up in our landfills and the toxic glue that holds the shoe together can leak into our water supply. Soles 4 Souls will clean and ship these shoes to needy people around the world. Bring in your "gently worn" shoes until February 26, and place them in the bin next to the Mission Barrel located in the Lobby.



It's time to start collecting items to help fill Shepherd's Staff Blessing Closet. **Items needed: powdered laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, dish detergent, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper and disposable diapers (all sizes for babies and adults).** Place donated items in the Mission Barrel.

We continue to collect canned goods throughout the year for our pantry. **Please no boxed food items.**

Mary Reeb,
Missions Director



Youth Hunger Strike

Our Youth will be participating in a 24-hour prayer and food-fast February 10-11, with special guest, Jeremy Rochford. During this time, they will participate in a variety of activities to raise awareness about international and domestic poverty with information on sponsoring children through Food for the Hungry. Adults who would like to sponsor a Youth for this event, please see Pastor Vernon for details.

Awana Quizzing at Westminster Baptist Church



This year our Awana Clubs at Westminster Baptist Church are hosting a regional quizzing event. It will take place on Saturday, February 18th, from 9:00 am, until 1:00 pm, in the sanctuary. We have had clubbers participating in the regional Awana quizzing for several years and they have earned ribbons every time. We have a group of clubbers practicing now to compete on the 18th and trying for a first place finish.

Clubbers are quizzed on memorization, both words and locations of verses, books of the Bible, people of the Bible and content from Bible studies. They do this competitively with clubbers working at the same level from other clubs in the region.



Only a few weeks ago we were exchanging gifts, cards, cheerful wishes for one another and singing delightful Christmas carols celebrating the birth of our Savior. Now it's hard to believe but we are already beginning rehearsals for our Easter Cantata! The story is a beautiful work, "Never Thirst Again." The theme is based on the Samaritan woman at the well and the life changing experience she had upon meeting Jesus. The music is simply gorgeous. If you would like to join us just for the Cantata, you are welcome, just see me as soon as you can.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 5 - The Sanctuary Choir will meet for lunch at 11:15 am, in the Fellowship Hall, followed by rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Spouses are invited!

Saturday, February 11, Easter Cantata Rehearsal: Ladies will meet from 10:00 - 11:30 am, and the men from Noon - 1:30 pm, in the Sanctuary.

Have you any favorite hymns or choruses that you haven't heard for too long at church? Let me know, and we'll get them on the schedule.

Take care and I will see you Sunday, *Lynn Johnson*

GIRLFRIENDS COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday, February 25
7:00 pm

Location: Haugh Residence
2055 Carousel Drive
Westminster, MD 21157

*Bring a friend and a fruit or chocolate dessert to share.

With Anita Renfroe

who has been making women laugh for years. Her insights about being a mother and estrogen-flavored musical comedy are one of a kind.

Come and enjoy some tasty fruit and chocolate desserts and then laugh it off with your girlfriends!



{ Changing Hearts. Changing Lives. One Girlfriend at a Time. }

Life Groups and Stepping Stones Update

Things are really happening in both our Tuesday and Wednesday Life Groups. The guiding principles for a life group are that each group would do four things consistently and equally.

1. **R**eceive **L**ife through God and His Word (in our Life Group Bible Study)
 2. **E**xperience **L**ife through the Body of Christ (Life Group Fellowship/Discipleship/Serving)
 3. **S**hare **L**ife with a watching and waiting world (A Life Group Outreach/Evangelism project)
- t** - Allowing Christ to produce the results in and through us!

In response to the challenge on an outreach project, the Wednesday Life Group has begun to help the ministry 'Safe Families' through the Baptist Family & Children's' Services. During Christmas, we bought gifts for three children whose mothers are going through advanced cancer treatment in Chicago. The mother and the safe family that is hosting the children, did not have money to purchase gifts. I want to thank the Wednesday life group for sacrificially giving many gifts to the children. As you can see below, it truly touched their hearts!

"Thank you for your generosity and support during this holiday season. I am truly touched and thankful for the kindness that has been shown to my family. It was amazing to see my children's faces on Christmas morning when they opened their gifts. Their excitement and joy at the stack of presents warmed my heart. This past year has been very difficult for me and my children and your support means so much to me. Thank you and God bless you!" - **Victoria Ndaba (mother)**

"My sisters and I love our new toys and gifts! Thank you so much!" - **Charles (6 years old), Destiny (5) & Faith Ndaba (4)**

"I also wanted to thank you for everything. When I came to your church to pick up the toys for the children I couldn't believe how much stuff there was. It is absolutely incredible what your Life Group did...gather toys for children they have never met. I know that it meant a lot to their mother. The kids had a great Christmas! Thanks again!" - **Melissa Mazeski – Safe Families Coordinator**

As well, our Tuesday Life Group periodically receives thank you cards from the more than 130 people who have received our H.U.G.S. blankets. One woman, who is going through advanced cancer treatment here in Carroll County, has kept in touch with us and we have been able to meet and pray with her! To God be the Glory!

In both Life Groups (and also in Stepping Stones on Sunday mornings), we are beginning a new five week series, **'Finding Common Ground: How to Communicate with those Outside the Christian Community, While We Still Can.'** This series is a contemporary look at the culture and how we can effectively communicate the love of Christ to people who may be very far from God. I put this series together based on several resources, the main being the book by the same name. Here is a brief overview of the 5 week series :

- #1 (Sunday, January 29 / Wednesday, February 1) - "Everyone Did As They Saw Fit"- Judges 17:5-6 9**
What is Pluralism, Tolerance and Absolute Truth? How do we define if something is absolutely right or wrong?
- #2 (Sunday February 5 / Wednesday, February 8) – 'The Soil Out There' (What is the World really Like?)**
What is 'Harvesting' and 'Sowing'? - John 4:34-38 The Art of Dialogue in Current Culture
- #3 (Sunday, February 12 / Wednesday, February 15) – 'Where Are We Coming From as Christians?'**
Love and Justice. Three Beliefs of the Christian Mind – John 16:12-15
- #4 (Sunday, February, 19 / Wednesday, February 22) - 'What We Say and How we Say it'**
What is postmodernism & a worldview? Defining personal preference, rights, freedom, truth. A Look at 'Christianese'
- #5 (Sunday, February 26 / Wednesday, February 29) – 'Where Can We Go From Here?'**
Why does it Matter How We Communicate? Understanding How to Read Our Audience. The Importance of Asking Questions – Four Values & Four Categories of Questions

Honestly, this is one of the best things that I have ever been through myself and taught. It is extremely practical and very contemporary. I can think of nothing better that will really help you effectively communicate your faith as a Christian in 2012! I highly encourage you to attend either the Stepping Stones Class (Sunday's @ 9:45 am in Room 212) or the Wednesday Life Group (7:00 pm, in Room 104) to learn more and be trained.

Pastor Chris Grella

FOUNDATION FOR STEWARDSHIP

Part III – Stewardship of God’s grace

In this series on Christian stewardship, we have come to realize that God is Lord of all things and that we are God's managers (Parts 1 and 2), but in this third installment, consider how we are to respond appropriately to God’s abundant grace.

We tend to think of stewardship in terms of our time, talents, and treasures, but have you ever considered that stewardship also applies to God’s grace?

What does it mean to be a steward of God’s grace? **Stewardship of God's grace consists of reflecting God's grace to others.** We do that by showing love, compassion, and hospitality for one another, by serving one another, and by sharing our spiritual gifts.

As God's grace shows his love for us, His grace in our lives invokes love. Jesus reveals that if we do indeed love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). God commands love with respect to our neighbor, our brother, and our enemy. We are good stewards of God’s grace when we show love and compassion -- even to those whom we may feel do not deserve it. After all, do we deserve God’s grace? Can we, therefore, do anything less?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” -- Matthew 22:39b (NASB)

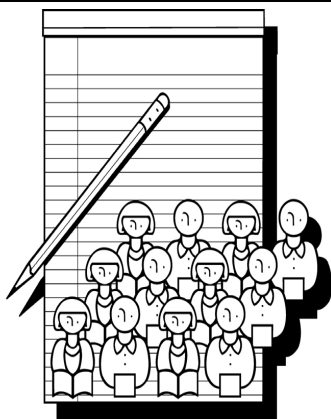
“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”-- John 15:12 (NASB)

In addition to love and compassion, God also tells us that showing hospitality to one another, serving one another, and sharing our spiritual gifts are essential to our stewardship of His grace.

⁸ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. – 1 Peter 4:8-10 (NASB)

We may need to practice these five traits of stewardship, but they should be part of our walk without consciously thinking about them.

The Stewardship Ministry Team

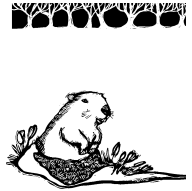
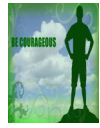






New & Prospective Member’s Class

Sunday, February 12
Noon - 3:30 pm

*Lunch will be provided and childcare is available upon request. To sign up, call the Church Office before **Thursday, February 8.**

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm Children's/Youth Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Cubbies Choir 7:00pm Life Group 7:30 pm Mission Friends	2 9:30am First Place Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon (Bullocks) 6:15pm UPWARD Basketball 7:15pm Men's Ministry	3 6:15pm Marriage Resource Dinner (Martins)	4 Men's Retreat 7:30am - 4:00pm 
5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional/Blended Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Adult Choir Rehearsal & Lunch	6 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	7 6:30pm UPWARD Basketball 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	8 6:00pm Children's/Youth Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Cubbies Choir 7:00pm Life Group 7:30 pm Mission Friends	9 9:30am First Place 6:15pm UPWARD Basketball 7:15pm Men's Ministry	10 7:00pm New Life for Girls Youth Hunger Strike February 10-11	11 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 10:00am Choir (Ladies) Noon Choir (Men)
12 8:30am Traditional/Blended 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Noon New Member's Class 6:00pm Adult Choir Blood Pressure Screening	13 6:30pm W.I.S.E. Leader's Meeting 7:00pm GROW; Youth Leader's Meeting *Witness Articles Due	 14 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast 6:30pm UPWARD Basketball	15 6:00pm Children's/Youth Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Cubbies Choir 7:00pm Life Group 7:30 pm Mission Friends	16 9:30am First Place 6:15pm UPWARD Basketball 7:15pm Men's Ministry	 17 7:00pm Men's Ministry (Rescue Mission)	18 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 8:00am Awana Quizzing
19 8:30am Traditional/Blended 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Adult Choir	 20 7:00pm Praise Team; Rescue Mission	21 10:00am Women on Mission 6:30pm UPWARD Basketball 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	22 6:00pm Children's/Youth Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Cubbies Choir 7:00pm Life Group 7:30 pm Mission Friends	23 9:30am First Place 6:15pm UPWARD Basketball 7:15pm Men's Ministry	24 10:00am Shepherd's Table	25 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 7:00pm Girlfriends' Comedy Night
26 8:30am Traditional/Blended 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Adult Choir	27 7:00pm Awana Leader Meeting	28 6:30pm UPWARD Basketball	29 6:00pm Children's/Youth Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Cubbies Choir 7:00pm Life Group 7:30 pm Mission Friends			



Weather Cancellations

Notification of church cancellations will be broadcast on WMAR TV (watch the scrolling announcements at the bottom of the screen), on Pastor Larry's Facebook page, and by calling the church answering machine for a prerecorded message. We encourage SS leaders and teachers who use e-mail or Facebook to contact class members by those means as soon as they are aware of a cancellation. Please note that a power outage at the church, or numerous incoming phone calls may make notification by the church answering machine impossible. Also note, that we do not use the PhoneTree for such announcements, because it cannot get the message out to enough people quickly enough to make it effective.

Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: 410-848-6330
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MAILED
January 24, 2012

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
WESTMINSTER, MD
U.S. POSTAGE
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Pastor's Paragraphs - Praying for Revival

On Thursdays, several evangelical pastors in the county gather together for prayer. Our primary purposes are to encourage one another and to pray for revival in our churches, in our county and in our world.

There are many things in our world working against the movement of the Spirit of God. Our inclinations toward quick fixes, to be entertained, to think more about self than God, to have our own needs met without thinking of the needs of others, an unwillingness to commit, a busyness in life that leaves little room for God, ignorance of the scriptures, prayerlessness, a lack of concern for the lost, a self-deception about how godly we really are – the list goes on and on of devices used by Satan to sap the strength of Christians.

Yet in spite of all these Satanic attacks, we are confident that devotion to Christ is the winning strategy for life and eternity. In Christ we are victorious! But that victory is costly. It cost Jesus death on the cross for our salvation, and it costs us a life of self-denial and taking up the cross for us to live truly as disciples.

Will you join a small group of Pastors in this county pray for Revival? Not for a series of meetings, but for revival in the hearts of Christians to seek God no matter the cost?

What is your heart telling you? Is your heart clean? If not, why not? Do you have a heart for your lost neighbors? If not, why not? Do you have a heart for supporting and praying for our missionaries? If not, why not? Does your checkbook show godly priorities? If not, why not? Do you have a love for God's Word? If not, why not? Are you setting aside time for prayer that goes beyond praying for Aunt Mary's sore toe? If not, why not? A good place to begin Revival in our land is to begin with our own lives and in a hundred different ways, to ask the question, "If not, why not?" and to humbly confess our sins to the Lord and to "seek his face." Lord may revival begin in me!

Then let us claim his promise. **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)** ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

-Pastor Larry