



WESTERN BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4900 Kaplan Drive, Raleigh NC 27606
Phone: 919-851-4713

Published in the Interest of
CHRIST - CHURCH - COMMUNITY
www.wbpresbyterian.org

VOLUME 49, No. 8

August 2012

The Courage to Be a Visionary

Are you a visionary, or are you just going through the motions of life? Walking in your vision is not limited to famous leaders, pioneers or individuals with a unique ability. It's not limited to contemporary global icons like Bishop Desmond Tutu, Oprah Winfrey or Mother Teresa. Too many people are living without a vision or purpose. Did you know that God wants you to be a visionary?

A vision will help you fulfill God's purpose in your life. There are a variety of visions. Some visions are big and some are small. Some visions can be carried through within weeks and some require several years. A vision can be global or it can be local. In any case, a vision is quite simple. It is seeing a need and meeting a need.

God has situated each of us in our vocations, our communities, our families and our friendships for a purpose, to meet the needs around us. Real visionaries are individuals who can recognize the needs around them and who are willing and determined to meet those needs.

Esther is an outstanding example of a visionary, a person who identified a need and met the need. Her story is recorded in the Old Testament. She was a Jewish woman who lived in exile in Persia. After marrying King Xerxes, she realized that she was in a critical position to help her people, the Jews.

When the King had planned to execute the Jews who lived in his region, Esther was the only one who could possibly change his mind. God had set her up in this position so that she could be a blessing. Her cousin, Mordecai, saw this as a 'divine set up' and said: "... who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b). The story continues by describing how Esther risked everything, including her life, to approach the King and make her request. Christ calls his disciples and the church to do the same. Are you willing to risk it all for the sake of God's call? When we see someone in need and we know that we can meet the need, the

Holy Spirit enables us to help them. Go ahead and be courageous!

In Christ,
Bruce T. Grady



Summer@TheTable
Sundays at 5:00 p.m.
WBPC Fellowship Hall

Yes, you can still head to the beach or mountains for the weekend and make it back in time for worship! You'll enjoy the relaxed, casual, coffee-house atmosphere after that long drive home.

New to @TheTable this Summer:

Theme Sundays (August 19):

Explore a Christian concept through drama, hands-on experiences, and discussion. Everyone will have a chance to find a meaningful and personal interpretation of God's message through experiential learning.

Jazz Vespers (July 29, August 26):

A wonderfully eclectic mix of prayer, poetry, ambient art, and live jazz! Join us in this prayerful wondering about the mysteries of life and the love of God. Specialty coffees served.

All other Sundays you are welcome to join us at 5PM @TheTable for a Spirit-filled worship experience.

Return Of The WBPC Movie Night:
This Friday, July 27



Back by popular demand, WBPC is having a summer movie night in the parking lot on Friday, July 27. Join us for popcorn and lemonade at 8PM followed by *The Muppets* at 8:30PM. Join the fun and bring a neighbor!

Property Update

We're in the middle of a big remodeling project in the education building, and **we will continue to need help from our church.** There's a lot of work going on downstairs, but we still have some projects that need work upstairs as well. The four bathrooms are being upgraded, and we're making flooring, painting, electrical, and decorating improvements. **There are plenty of opportunities for you to help with carpentry, painting and many other projects as well.** We'll be doing Property Workdays on Saturdays and on weekdays. Please email Kevin Fischer at wkfischer1@att.net to let him know when you're available. Thanks so much for your willingness to help, and for your patience and understanding as work is underway!

Luncheon Ladies – Meet August 14!



Luncheon Ladies will meet for fellowship and lunch at: **Briggs Restaurant** on Tryon Road by Walnut Street, in the Harris Teeter Shopping Center on Tuesday, August 14. We'll meet at 11:00 a.m. before the heat and the crowds! No reservations required. All women welcomed!

WIHN Week!

We could still use help closing out WIHN week on Sunday, July 29, after morning worship, and will need laundry as well. If you can help with these needs, please contact Susan Cummings: 919-244-7107, scummings58@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered! Thanks to all the drivers, evening hosts, overnight hosts, meal preparers, set-up and break down persons who gave of their time and energy to help those in need! Of all the outreach programs in the area, in which we as a church participate, WIHN is the best, and we could not do this meaningful work without your help!

Rally Day - September 9

A new year of Christian Education at WBPC kicks off on Rally Day, September 9. Join us for a scrumptious hot breakfast cooked by our Men of the Church (time to be announced.) Following breakfast, much information will be shared regarding Sunday School classes (with exciting plans for our children), Wednesday Night Live, and much more.

Mark your calendars and make plans to recharge your faith walk this Rally Day.

Wednesday Night Live:

Resumes September 12!

The fall 2012 session of WNL will begin September 12 with a family fun evening and delicious meal prepared by the Pittman Crew. Other programs will include a visiting singing group, report from Haiti Mission Team, Bible Study with activities for children, Talent show and Loyalty night. The draft plans are on the web now where you can see programs and menus as plans are finalized. Please plan to join your church family for food, fellowship and activities in the fall.

Haiti Mission Team Returns!

Blessings were plentiful as the 2012 Haiti Mission Team prepared for and left for the Yahve Jire Children's Foundation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in the wee hour of the morning on June 18. We were met with a cacophony of sights and sounds in the Toussaint Louverture International Airport and that wonderful energy of Haiti has not left us. Every day and night were filled with experiences that we could only describe as the presence of the Holy Spirit and left us breathless to know that God's love was everywhere. The entire Team thanks our families and friends that supported us and lifted us up in prayer each day. We feel that this experience allowed us to know the very essence of the word – Servant. Each one of us felt that we were being used to glorify God's kingdom and we were doing this by His guiding hand. Of course we will soon share with all of you a presentation of our memories during WNL in September. Until then, ask us, and we will try to capture what this has meant for each of us and for our continuing faith and belief that when we serve our Lord, we are all enlightened.

Chedlin Justinvil, the Director of the Foundation responded to Betty's thank you with the following email:

Dear Reverend Betty,

Here in Haiti we are not just Grateful but fortunate and blessed for being in God's plan. We thank God every Day for letting him use you for his ministry in Haiti. Your names are in our mouths every day, the kids cannot help them talking about you all every day. You brought such a very big change in life of many people here in Haiti. We pray that God use these kids to change life of other kids in Haiti, so that the grain you planted can continue to grow to produce fruit. We so much appreciate your love that you show in many ways, and we are so blessed for having you in our lives. Know that you are in our prayers every day. May God continue to bless your ministry.

Love, Chedlin Justinvil



The children hold up the vitamins that will make them strong!

Our last day at the Mon Chez Moi Guest House



The Mission Team checking out the view from the water tower at the new orphanage compound site.



The Carpentry Crew in their closet.



The Paint Crew saying "Frommage" (cheese!)

Christian Education Quiz

Education is a lifelong journey and even during the joys of summer, we must keep our brains sharp. Research shows that ongoing study in an area of personal interest helps to delay the onset of cognitive impairments and can also provide a means of social support. So, the Christian Education Committee is going to challenge your brain and share a little about what we do here at Western Boulevard...and maybe you will want to join us! Grab a pencil and have fun!

True or False

1. T or F WB's well attended Vacation Bible School (65 students) is managed exclusively by WB members.
False: Almost half of our volunteers were from the neighborhood. It is truly an outreach project.
2. T or F Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings for teens from sixth to twelfth grade.
True: All are welcome, including friends and family of our Youth!
3. T or F The Christian Education Committee is primarily responsible for teaching church school.
False: Although church school is part of our responsibilities, we have many other roles! Just keep reading. We do approve curriculum for church school and recruit church school teachers for both morning and evening church school sessions. Teaching begins with the infants in the nursery and continues through the Forum, Parlor and Word, Share and Prayer classes.
4. T or F The Christian Education Committee focuses its education only on our spiritual needs.
False: We know that a soul does not exist in a vacuum and that we must care for our body in order to care for others. The CE Committee offers CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training for our congregation so we can provide care to others. We also have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) that combined with our CPR skills gives us greater options for survival from sudden cardiac death. Teaching is a big deal!
5. T or F I enjoy sharing my time with others and engaging in discussions about how WB can impact the lives of others.
True: You would make a great addition to the Christian Education community! There are many different opportunities available to assist in the education of our congregation. We'll continue to share more information about our activities in future publications. Feel free to contact Kate Trimble, CE Chair, at baynejj@bellsouth.net to join the fun!

Extra Credit!

Can you name a person who had a major impact on your spiritual development? Think how different your life might be without that experience. See you next month!

Caregiver Changes for our Littlest Worshippers

This update brings news from the nurseries. We are making some changes in our staffing assignments now that Ashley Gwyn, our Sunday evening caregiver, has graduated from NC State and is seeking a full time elementary school teaching position. Ashley was also a team member of the most recent trip to Haiti and was truly transformed by the experience and the people! We pray for God to continue to lead Ashley through this next stage of her life. She will still be around WB attending services, providing childcare and being a part of her church family. We thank Ashley for all the love and care she has provided to our children in a safe and nurturing environment.

With Ashley seeking a teaching position, our blessings continue to overflow. Julie Treadwell, our Wednesday Night Live nursery caregiver will also be staffing the nursery on Sunday evenings for the @ the Table church school and worship services. Julie has been with WB for over a year now and is a middle school language arts teacher at Carroll Middle School. We are blessed to have her professionalism as well as her continuity in providing childcare at a time when children would rather be at home!

Sunday mornings continue to have the same experienced caregivers. Nadine Smith is responsible for the Infant Nursery and Lisa Townsend is responsible for the Toddler Nursery. Their teamwork starts your infants off with a positive experience and leads them through early childhood with teaching, reinforcement, focused play and development of life skills.

WBPC Financial Report

| | <u>JUNE 2012</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges | \$ 21,065.00 | 154,143.48 |
| Open | 1,946.92 | 19,666.04 |
| Church School | 40.00 | 430.51 |
| Total Offering | 23,051.92 | 174,240.03 |
| Prior Receipts | | 7,040.06 |
| Expenses | <u>25,981.11</u> | <u>167,745.37</u> |
| Net Total | \$ (2,929.19) | 13,571.62 |

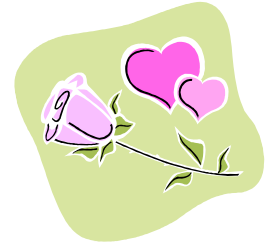
Recently your Session

- Noted that Officers (Session and Deacons) will be providing dinner for WIHN on Thursday of that week.
- Continued work on some of the new rules that are now not specifically spelled out in the Presbyterian Book of Order and are to be included in the church Operations Manual. More is to be done by the Session and approved by the Congregation.
- Heard glowing reports from Haiti team of their recent trip.

Thank you!

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers, calls, cards and emails during the last few weeks of my mother's (Nellie R. Stallings Warren) illness and her death on May 25th. The peace we felt while having to make difficult decisions made it easier for us and the calls, cards and emails gave us comfort during this emotional time in our lives.

—Ken and Geneva S. Thigpen



Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all for thinking of me during my time of graduation. You all have blessed me so much and I thank you for always being so welcoming. I am going to miss working here, but I will definitely be back often!

Love, Ashley Gwyn

Dear WBPC,

I would like to thank you for making the 2012 Haiti mission trip a reality. During our stay, I don't think a day went by that I did not learn of an expense that was being covered by WBPC. Your contribution to the Haiti trip made it possible to rent vans for a day trip to see the Baptist Mission, started by Wally Turnbull. In seeing this thriving area, one can imagine what Chedlin's dream could become one day, as he is bringing hope and opportunity to a desolate region in Haiti. I thank you for our lunch there at the Mission that we shared with some of the delightful Y-J children, and for our leisurely lunch at the Miami airport awaiting our return flight. Hearing "Nope, it's on the church", reminded me not only of your financial support, but also that you were praying for us all. I thank you for letting me be a part of the team even though I am not a member of WBPC. I did my best to let God use my hands, feet, and heart during those precious eight days, knowing that this opportunity would not have been possible without your strong support.

As someone who has met Chedlin, his family, the 22 children, his staff, and friends—and because of the hope for more children, soon to benefit from his dream—please know that every dollar sent to Chedlin will be prayerfully spent. This is a real miracle happening in Haiti!

Thanks again for giving me this opportunity so that I can witness to others and gain further support. You have many amazing servants in your congregation. I am honored to have that "Oh WOW" bond with some of them.

Your sister in Christ, Amy Beshgetoorian

Dear WBPC Family,

I would like to thank the members of the WBPC congregation for the cards, phone calls, prayers, visits and the wonderful gifts of food while I was recuperating from knee replacement surgery. You brightened my days and made the first few weeks much easier on our family. I thank all of you very much!

—Charlotte Cassel

Dear Office Angels,

Thank you to all the wonderful WBPC women who covered the office during my summer vacation time. You are appreciated all the time for your assistance in the office, but especially when I am away and the coverage depends solely upon you! I didn't worry about a thing while I was away with family or while I was working at a youth camp. You are amazing, generous, and brilliant women!

—Šanti Matthews

Happy Birthday

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Sujin Matthews | 1 |
| Mike Thompson | 4 |
| Betsy Roberts | 5 |
| Matthew Fleming | 9 |
| Wesley Peede | 9 |
| Sarah Wetherby | 10 |
| Paul Herrin | 10 |
| John Pittman | 14 |
| Ron Pittman | 14 |
| Jenny Fleming | 15 |
| Frank Alcorn | 16 |
| Kismet Hall | 16 |
| Jimmy Wade | 17 |
| Richard Lentz | 17 |
| Rebecca Alcorn | 17 |
| Janet Cherry | 19 |
| Sally Curtis | 22 |
| John Bayne | 23 |
| Betty Dean | 24 |
| Dot Gebbie | 24 |
| Barbara McIntire | 24 |
| Owen Clapp | 26 |
| Peggy Teel | 27 |
| Allisen Fischer | 28 |

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Joyce Barbour, George Blum, Kaye Byrd, Jeanne Carter, Charlotte Cassel, Dot Gebbie, Michele Grady, Richard Lentz, Daisy Lowery, Joe Matthews, Jean Perdue, Mary Jane Roberts, Dot & Jimmie Smith, Peggy Stevens, Mavis Stott

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Dorothy Allen (sister of Mary Jane Roberts), Lori Assa (mother-in-law of Susan Bennett), Bill Clark (husband of Daisy Lowery's niece), Thomas E. Grady (father of Bruce Grady), Janice Johnson (niece of Mary Jane Roberts), Faye Miller (sister-in-law of Daisy Lowery), Marilyn Reese (daughter-in-law of Peggy and Gene Reese), Lauren Snyder (granddaughter of LouGene and Jim Hemplill), Caitlyn Zabko (great granddaughter of Louise Beck)

UNIHEALTH/THE OAKS: Betsy Roberts

THE COVINGTON: Annie Woodruff

BRIGHTON GARDENS: Jo Gilmore

MORNINGSIDE: Brady Jefcoat

ACTIVE MILITARY:

(Afghanistan): Andy Connette (brother of Betty Connette)

*Congratulations to **Brian and Collins Whitfield** upon the birth of their daughter **Sophie** on July 16.*

Wheels4Hope

On Thursday, July 26 at 6:30pm, Wheels4Hope celebrated its 12th Anniversary. To mark that special occasion, 12 program cars were placed with families. Those gathered were blessed to witness the lives changed by this wonderful ministry.

For additional information about this special event, visit the Wheels4Hope facebook page.

Weekly Food Bag Challenge Items

August 5—tuna or other canned meat

August 12—peanut butter

August 19—1 lb. grits (small bag)

August 26—2 cans beans (any kind)



Be Part of the WBPC Pictorial Directory

This is the time to plan to have a family portrait and be part of the new Pictorial Directory at WBPC. Pictures will be taken in the afternoon and evenings of September 24 and 25 and perhaps another day. Anyone getting a picture taken will receive a free directory and an 8x10 portrait. Other pictures may be ordered. Watch for information on how to sign up to have your family's picture taken.

If some of your family would not be available on the designated days, there are several other picture opportunities at nearby churches. White Memorial Presbyterian will have some portraits taken the first week of August as well as other times in August, September and October. Contact Ruth Craven to find other opportunities to have your family portrait taken and the pictures included in the WBPC directory.

The directory will also be on-line and hopefully updated with new members. These pictures will be on the secure site that is used for church financials. A church directory is helpful for both old and new members to get to know each other.

The directory will not be limited to church members. Regular visitors, staff and others interested in WBPC will be included in the directory. Also you are encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to come have family portraits taken. If they have no association with WBPC, they will receive a free 8x10 but would not have a picture in the directory and wouldn't receive a directory. The church would receive an additional directory credit so that they would have additional directories to give to new members.

Help us have a complete directory.



July 7, 2012

To congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Earlier today, the 220th General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adjourned after a week of worship and work as the highest council of the denomination. Just under 900 elected commissioners and advisory delegates from every presbytery came from north, south, east, and west to discern together the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

This assembly's theme, "walking, running, soaring into hope" (Isaiah 40:31) was a fitting description of the assembly in many ways. At one level, the commissioners worked tirelessly—meeting literally well into the early morning hours today to complete their work—and doing so with much energy and passion. At a deeper level, the deliberations and discernment of this assembly reflect a church that is endeavoring to know how to demonstrate faithfully and effectively the gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st century.

Some of the highlights:

Worship – The assembly paused daily in the midst of its business, in the same space, to worship. Each of the preachers used the same text, Mark 2:1-12, chosen by outgoing GA Moderator, Cindy Bolbach. Commissioners and advisory delegates prayed and sang often, using selections from the upcoming new hymnal from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, *Glory to God*, which the assembly voted to commend to the church (available in 2013; www.presbyterianhymnal.org).

Community – Those who have experienced a General Assembly speak overwhelmingly of the sense of connect- edness that develops over the course of the assembly, and this one was no exception. Group meals, committee work, mission tours, exhibit hall, and more provided opportunities to make new friends and reconnect with those for whom an assembly is a "family reunion." You can get a sense of that community through the photo and video gallery and more at www.pcusa.org/ga220. The community extended beyond Pittsburgh, as well— thousands gathered in this country and around the world through social media to watch the proceedings (www.twitter.com/search/ga220).

Business – The assembly addressed roughly 800 items of business in the form of overtures, reports, commis- sioner resolutions and more. We commend to you PC-biz (www.pc-biz.org), the online site where you can read about each item of business. Some topics that were before the assembly are likely to draw media attention— perhaps they already have where you live. We want to highlight some of them, sharing with you the actions taken by the assembly:

- **Definition of marriage** – The assembly chose not to change the current definition of marriage that is in the PC(USA) constitution, namely, that marriage is a civil contract "between a man and a woman." Rather, through its action to approve a two-year study, the assembly is inviting the entire church to engage in seri- ous, deliberate conversation on this issue.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

- Middle East – The assembly chose not to divest from three companies participating in “non-peaceful pursuits” in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Rather, the assembly voted “to pursue a positive and creative course of action with respect to the current Palestinian/Israeli conflict,” and to “devise a plan of active engagement and projects that will support collaboration among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.” The assembly also approved a boycott on “all Israeli products coming from the occupied Palestinian territories.”
- 1001 Movement – The assembly overwhelmingly supported a movement to create 1001 worshiping communities (www.onethousandone.org). Those communities of faith will perhaps look much different from traditional congregations, but those that are already underway—in coffee shops, shopping malls, even on bicycles—are changing the world and the church for the sake of the gospel.

Commissioners and advisory delegates wrestled passionately together in heart, mind, and prayer, yet did so respectfully and graciously. Rarely were votes taken that had a wider margin than 60%-40%. On marriage and the Middle East issues, the voting results were extremely close. More than once, commissioners rose with requests to reconsider items already approved.

Obviously, we are working through difficult issues that do not get easily resolved by one or two votes, or even within one or two years. Nevertheless, we stand firmly in the conviction and hope that God is present with us – behind, before, and beside us.

Each assembly committee opened its meeting with prayer and reflection on Paul’s encouragement to the church in Ephesus: “...making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (4:3). This is our prayer, as well.

We pray that every effort will be made to continue conversation at every level of the church—from congregations to presbyteries to synods to the General Assembly—encouraging and engaging one another, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

May the good and faithful work begun in Pittsburgh continue, remembering that “those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who is our peace,



The Rev. Neal D. Presa
Moderator, 220th General Assembly



The Rev. Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly



The Rev. Tom Trinidad
Vice Moderator, 220th General Assembly

Elder Linda Bryant Valentine
Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency
(formerly General Assembly Mission Council)