



4900 Kaplan Drive, Raleigh NC 27606
919-851-4713

CONTACT

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

VOLUME 49, No. 2

February 2012

Looking Toward Jerusalem

“The time of Light and Angels is drawing to a close,” as Ann Weems says. “Just when I’ve settled contentedly into the quiet wonder of Star and Child, He bids me leave and follow.” Yes, it’s hard to believe that our journey to Jerusalem begins in about three weeks on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. I still have Christmas cards hanging on my kitchen door, wishing to linger a little longer in Bethlehem, but it’s time to begin looking toward Jerusalem.

Much like Advent, Lent is a time of anticipation and preparation. During Advent, we anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. Similarly, during Lent we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ into the world as our risen Savior. As our Presbyterian Church USA website declares, “The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.”

For me, the 40 days of Lent is not simply a time to cleanse ourselves of bad habits--like giving up eating chocolate (God forbid!), or giving up fast food. The goal of Lent is to identify with Jesus Christ and to follow in his way of giving himself up for the sake of others. Here are a few suggestions for your Lenten journey:

- Spend time with someone who is feeling discouraged and alone
- Try to live more simply in all areas of your life: watch less TV, walk instead of driving, observe a quiet period each day
- Treat yourself to a meal of rice and tea once a week as a physical sign of concern with the majority of our world who are hungry
- Volunteer your time at a soup kitchen, a hospital, a mentoring program for “at risk” children (like Aventura West Children’s Mentoring)
- Read the Bible daily, especially the Gospels.

Don’t let this list overwhelm you. Simply pick something that holds meaning for you, something that will ultimately draw you closer to God.

*Blessings on your journey,
Betty*

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

"Ash Wednesday...and we are on our way to Your Way. O Lamb of God, have mercy upon us and keep us from all the smallness of our lives that would take precedence over kneeling in Jerusalem."—Ann Weems

Join us **February 22 at 6:30 p.m.** as we begin our Lenten journey with a Taize (contemplative) worship which includes the imposition of ashes and communion. **The Wednesday Night meal will be begin at 5:45 p.m. Reservations are needed for the meal.** We will serve lentil and vegetable soup free of charge.

New Member Classes Offered in February

New member classes will be offered Sunday mornings (9:30-10:15), February 5, 12, & 19, both for those who are curious to learn more about our church and those who are ready to join.

Participants will learn in this 3-week class:

- (1) what it means to be a Christian
- (2) what it means to be a Presbyterian
- (3) what it means to be a member of Western Blvd Presbyterian Church.

This is a great way to meet and fellowship with others who are considering calling WBPC home. We hope you'll come journey with us! Email Betty Connette betty@wbpresbyterian.org if you have questions. (Nurseries and Sunday School classes provided for your children and youth during the class series.)



Join Us @The Table

Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Grab a cup of Java and feast with us in this coffee-house style worship.

Lunch Out

Please sign up on the "Lunch-Out" sheet in the narthex or in the fellowship hall, if you would like to be part of a group that goes out once a month for lunch. These groups will be six or eight in size and will rotate members each year. Members of the group will take turns deciding where to dine.

Member Directory – Available on Web

The Western Boulevard member directory is now available on the web. This information is on a secure server and is supplied by the church AccessACS system. To access this directory, please go to the church website www.wbpresbyterian.org and click on "Members Directory". The first time you will need to go to "Need a Login". After completing the information, you should receive a password. Please change that password to a strong password that you supply. After that you will be able to log in with your e-mail address and your password. If you feel that you have entered your information correctly and the system does not recognize you, please check with Santi in the church office.

Once you have logged in you may select "Directories" to see a listing of members and regular visitors and their addresses. This directory is updated regularly but if your information is not up-to-date, please e-mail santi@wbpresbyterian.org with the correct information.

In addition to the directory information, you may select "My Giving History" and see information about your pledge and giving for the current year. You can only see your information. Financial statements will not be printed for every quarter in 2012, but you can check your statement regularly. A year-end statement will be printed for everyone.

Hopefully pictures of members will be added to this directory before too long. Please note: The "Register" and "Log in" links near the bottom of the left side of the webpage are not used for the Members Directory. At the present time it is not necessary to "Log in" to see any information on the website except the Directory information.

Dinner for Eight

Sign up for our version of WBPC dinner club. This WBPC church tradition will begin again in February. It will be the sixth year of bringing members together in an informal setting and getting to know each other over dinner. The groups are designed to combine singles, and couples of all ages. Our staff has the knack of getting the right mix for a great time of fellowship. Members of the group decide where to go for dinner. Sign up sheets can be found in the narthex or in the fellowship hall or by sending an e-mail to Ruth Craven at cc2rmcraven@nc.rr.com. Please sign up by February 5, 2012.

Wednesday Night Live!

Dates: January 25-March 7

Time: Dinner: 5:45~6:30; Classes 6:30~7:25

Cost for dinner: \$7 / \$5 ages 6-9 / 5 & under free

*Join in the fellowship, fun and good food...
Sign up on the Sunday attendance form or call or
email the church office by noon on Monday the
week of the event.*

February Programs

Wednesday, February 1: Avent West Presentation
Dinner: *Pittman Team* Chicken and rice casserole,
black eyed peas, corn, salad and rolls.

Wednesday, February 8: Youth Wii Presentation.
Dinner: *Domino's* pizza and salad.

Wednesday, February 15: Whitehurst's Poland Trip
Dinner: *Pittman Team* hot dogs and hamburgers

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday
Dinner: lentil soup, additional soup, and cornbread

Wednesday, February 29: TBA
Dinner: *Pittman Team* pork, veggies, and bread

**Check our website: wbpresbyterian.org for more
information about upcoming programs and menus.**

Coming Soon: Taylor Quartet Wednesday, March 7, 6:30p.m.



Invite your friends and neighbors to join you for the free Taylor concert on March 7. The evening begins with dinner at 5:45 and visitors are welcome for the meal. Reservations are needed for the meal but not for the concert. The hour-long concert will begin at 6:30 in our Sanctuary. The Taylors are a brother and sister quartet from Lillington, NC. They have won the National Mixed Quartet singing title several times in the last few years. WBPC members may remember the earlier concerts by the Taylors.

The group has been singing for over five years now, and God has blessed them along the way. They were in Japan in 2011 when the tsunami hit but were blessed to be safe. Their desire has always been to reach people with the message of the gospel, and they don't want to stop sharing anytime soon. Their prayer for 2012 is that God will use their ministry in a way that they've never dreamed! They've named the 2012 tour "Dedicated" to let folks know that they are dedicated to sharing hope through gospel music for years to come.

The group is dedicated to continuing their music even though many things have been changing in their lives of late. Chris is engaged to be married in May; Leslie, Suzanne, & Chris will each graduate with bachelor degrees next spring; Jonathan will begin work on a master's degree in the fall

Don't miss this inspiring group who ask for our prayers for their ministry over the next year. Expect God to do great things!



In Case of Inclement Weather:

Please check any of the following regarding changes to our schedule:

Our website: www.wbpresbyterian.org

WRAL-Channel 5 OR WTVD- Channel 11

Don't Forget Breakfast: Sunday, Feb. 12!



The Men of the Church will prepare and serve breakfast once every month, on the second Sunday of the month. Breakfast begins at 8:45 a.m., join in the fun on Sunday, February 12, and share the most important meal of the day! Thank you Men of the Church!

Food Bag Challenge Items of the Week

(Can't bring a whole bag? Bring just one item each week in February!)

February 5 — canned meat

February 12 — macaroni & cheese

February 19 — boxed cereal

February 26 — applesauce



WIHN Week Coming Soon Help Needed

Our next WIHN week is fast approaching and will be the week of March 25- April 1, and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider helping as an evening host, overnight host, driver, meal preparer or set-up person during this week. We really need a male and female to be overnight hosts each night since we usually have a large number of guests. Please consider giving a little of your time, YOU will get more out of it then you give. You may sign up online at <http://wbpresbyterian.com> or on the sign up board which is located in the narthex.



—Mission Outreach Committee

Recently Your Session.

- Approved Annual Congregational Meeting to review budget and approve Terms of Call for pastors.
- Planned for Called Session Meeting for Feb 9th to examine new officers.
- Considered motion from Mission Outreach proposing signing *A Statement of Conscience of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture*. After much discussion and a tied vote, the motion did not pass.
- Reviewed and approved the budget for 2012.



This year is going by so fast... it is now time to register for the next school year! Registration starts February 1st for those currently enrolled, February 15 for church members, and March 1 for the public. Registration forms can be picked up in the hall outside of the preschool office. We would also love to have anyone who is interested to come in and read to our preschoolers! If you have a half hour or so once a week or month, please let us know!

WBPC December Financial Report

| | <u>DECEMBER 2011</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges | \$ 30,280.50 | 333,082.50 |
| Open | 2,932.48 | 18,636.42 |
| Church School | 49.00 | 1,085.17 |
| Total Offering | 33,261.98 | 352,804.09 |
| Prior Receipts | | 10,654.30 |
| Expenses | <u>30,398.22</u> | <u>356,496.25</u> |

Prayer Shawls for Haiti

In June, our church will be sending volunteers to work at the orphanage in Haiti. We want to send a prayer shawl as an expression of our LOVE to each of the adult workers at the orphanage. I need your help! We need to make TEN shawls by the end of May. This is above and beyond keeping our supply up for our church family. Please let me know if you can help in this easy way to show our love and support and PRAYERS to these dedicated folks. If you create a shawl, please label it for HAITI and leave it for me in the church office.

-Yevonne Brannon (ybrannon@gmail.com 851-2805)



Friday, February 17
11:30AM
D&S South Hills

Keith & Charlotte Cassel Present Program #4

Our Littlest Ones Need Your Help

Our infant and toddler nurseries are the first impression made to families with young children visiting our church. For many years, Joyce Smith, serving as our nursery coordinator, has made certain that first impression was a great one. Joyce is ready for a much deserved "retirement" from this position. *Could God be calling YOU to step forward and continue this vital ministry to our children?* You would be overseeing our outstanding nursery staff and making sure the rooms are well supplied. The Christian Education Committee will serve as resource and support to you in your ministry.

Please prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity to serve God through your service to WBPC and its children.

Call or email Kate Trimble with questions, or to indicate your interest: baynejj@bellsouth.net, 954-2076.



Scout Sunday: February 19

Sunday, February 19 is Scout Sunday. On this day we celebrate the work of the scouts in our community and in our church. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith. The Scouts and adult leaders of our scouting program wish to thank Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church for the 43 years that you have provided a place for the scouts to meet, learn valuable life skills, and, above all, a place to have fun. Thank you for your support and we look forward to being a part of this church for many years to come.

Do you know?

The Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts all fall under our Missions Outreach Committee. They are more than just another entity that uses the church for meeting space. They have been part of our church since the Cub Scout Pack was chartered in 1966 and the Boy Scout Troop was chartered in 1969. We currently have almost 60 youth involved in this branch of Mission Outreach. Six of our scouts are members of church families. John Clapp is the liaison between the scouts and WBPC. He has lots of interesting information on the scouts, our history with them, what they have been doing and what the future will hold. Go ahead, ask him. He'll tell you about the camps, the meeting rooms, scout storage space and the God and Country badge that Dottie has helped scouts achieve. Ask, the history is interesting and then you can say "yes, I know that".

February Children's Chapel Schedule

February 5
(No Children's Chapel)

February 12
Jesus and the Storm
Storyteller: Suzanne Smith
Greeter: Grace Odum

February 19
Jesus Feeds the 5000
Storyteller: Carol Parker
Greeter: Carolyn Esbenshade

February 26
Lenten Puzzle
Storyteller: Judy Shelton
Greeter: Jacob Milchuck

Thank you!

Thank you for all of your prayers, support, and many acts of kindness during and after my surgery and convalescence. They are greatly appreciated especially the prayer part.



God Bless You,
—Gene Reese

A very overdue note to thank members of your church for all your kindness showed to Dad. When he moved close to your church, he was searching for a church home where he felt comfortable and welcome; he found the perfect fit at Western Boulevard. When he moved from your area he did miss the fellowship of WBPC. Many, many thanks for everyone's kindness.

—Candy Diggins, daughter of Russ Minott

Many, many thanks for your prayers, cards, and food during these past weeks of being housebound. I look forward to thanking you in person before long.

Sending blessing to you!
—Dot Gebbie

Dear WBPC Family,

I want to thank all of you for the prayers, cards and phone calls, as well as the delicious meal that was prepared for Keith and me after my recent knee surgery. The thoughtfulness of the WBPC congregation is truly amazing.

—Charlotte Cassel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Thel Stevens | 1 |
| Evelyn Earnhardt | 3 |
| Joyce Emerson | 4 |
| Colin Tierney | 4 |
| Evan Barnette | 6 |
| Ruth Hartsfield | 6 |
| Graham Shelton | 8 |
| Frank Carter | 8 |
| Chris Alcorn | 8 |
| Robin Howell | 10 |
| Mary Todd Earnhardt | 10 |
| Mitchell Odum | 10 |
| Daisy Lowery | 11 |
| Katie Ware | 11 |
| Cookie Littlefield | 13 |
| Maria Boshoff | 18 |
| Bill Clifford | 20 |
| George Barrick | 21 |
| Peggy Reese | 22 |
| Lori Grippo | 23 |
| Brandie Peede | 23 |
| Cindy Woodruff | 23 |
| Beverly Simpson | 24 |
| Paul Simpson | 25 |
| Harris Cummings | 26 |
| James Lowery | 28 |

Welcome New Church Officers

The church officers listed at the left, were elected by the congregation in early December 2011, and will be ordained and installed into their respective offices in morning worship on February 12, 2012. We give thanks for the call God has placed upon their lives, and for their willingness to answer that call.

Gratitude to our Retiring Church Officers

The following church officers have served WBPC faithfully and sacrificially over the last three years. They have been stellar officers in every way and have greatly helped to advance the mission and ministries of our church. They will be deeply missed! Please take a moment to say thank you to the following servants:

Deacons: Sally Curtis, Deane Irving

Elders: Ruth Craven, John Ann Earnhardt, Kevin Fischer, Chris Whitehurst, Ned Johnson (youth elder)

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Joyce Barbour, George Blum, Kaye Byrd, Blythe Clifford, Alaina Craven, Carlyle Craven, Allisen Fischer, Dot Gebbie, Michele Grady, Daisy Lowery, Willagene Minnis, 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), Karen Estes (niece of Lou Gene Hemphill), Ben Glasgow (brother of Lori Grippo), Dorothy Glasgow (mother of Lori Grippo), Thomas E. Grady (father of Bruce Grady), Jessica Hamm (daughter of Linda Pressley), Janice Johnson (niece of Mary Jane Roberts), Ella McNeill (friend of the Whitehurst Family), Brandon Patton (grandson of Peggy Stevens), Cliff Reavis (brother of Nancy Wade), Marilyn Reese (daughter-in-law of Peggy and Gene Reese), Mabel Rivers (aunt of Robert Owens), Lauren Snyder (granddaughter of LouGene and Jim Hemphill), Ruth Walker (mother figure of Pat Byers), Nellie Warren (Geneva Thigpen's mother), Caitlyn Zabko (great granddaughter of Louise Beck)

UNIHEALTH/THE OAKS: Betsy Roberts

THE COVINGTON: Annie Woodruff

BRIGHTON GARDENS: Jo Gilmore

MORNINGSIDE: Brady Jefcoat, Eleanor Sykes

ACTIVE MILITARY:

(Afghanistan): Ryan Gnecco (cousin of Charlotte Cassel), William Uhrig (brother of Shirley Griffith)

Sympathy extended to:

Greg and Shirley Griffith and family upon the death of Greg's brother, Richard Griffith.

Mike McIntire and family upon the death of his uncle, Richard Keggereis.

Berti Stevens (former member) and family upon the death of her son, Rolin.

Elders

Mitchell Odum has been a member of WBPC since 1990. His daughters are Grace and Sarah Odum. For several years Mitchell has been involved in Children's Chapel and more recently began serving on the FAP committee and the Fall Stewardship campaign sub-committee.

Jane Whitehurst has been a member of WBPC since 2002. She is married to Christopher Whitehurst; together they have 3 boys, Watson(9), Henry(7), and Jessup(4).

Over the years Jane has taught and attended Sunday School, helped with the nursery, ushered, led Youth Choir, hosted for WIHN, provided snacks for @ The Table, sung in the Chancel Choir, and played for the Chancel Ringers.

She has served on both the Christian Education and Fellowship committees.

Joette Steger is an active Stephen Minister and has been a member of WBPC since 1986 and an ordained elder since 1988. Joette served on the Session from 1988 to 1991 and 1996-1998, and has attended Sunday school, volunteered with WIHN, and served on various committees including, Christian Education, Financial, Administrative and Personnel, Stewardship, and Mission Outreach. She graduated from Shaw University Divinity School in 2010, is certified-ready-to-receive-a-call, and is currently seeking a call in the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Joe Burmester and his wife, Becky, joined WBPC in February, 2011 after attending the @theTable service regularly beginning in the summer of 2010. Joe and Becky have two grown children, three grand-children and two younger children: Shawn, age 11, and Rita, age 9, along with Thalia, age 9, the daughter of a close friend. Joe has been active with the @theTable Praise Team, volunteers with WIHN, and participated in the Haiti Mission Trip in June, 2011. Joe was an Elder with St. Mark Presbyterian Church in St. Louis in the 1990s.

Jacob Milchuck (Youth Elder) grew up in the church and is the oldest son of Beth and Frank Milchuck. Jacob is a junior at Athens Drive High School. Jacob has been an active participant in Sunday School, worship, and youth fellowship for a number of years. He has volunteered his services in many ways at WBPC and is a natural leader.

Deacons

John Bayne has been a member of WBPC since 1996. He is married to Kate Trimble and their son Connor is in his sophomore year at Guilford College. Since joining the church John has served on the Mission Outreach committee, he is an Elder and a Deacon, and he is currently serving as a Stephen Minister.

Linda Pressley has been a member since 1977. She has one daughter and two grandsons. Since joining WBPC, she has taught Sunday School, worked with WIHN, volunteered in Bible School, served as an Elder and served on the Worship committee. She is now involved with the Fellowship committee and Small group Bible study on Wednesdays.