

Westover View
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
May 2021



"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" Luke 12:27



Pastor Carl McCormack

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

Psalm 133:1

It has been a very long time since we were last together for worship.

Because of the deadly virus, our world changed. Shopping, dining out, sharing time with friends, and enjoying time with the family all came to a quick halt. It was very difficult at first, but we held on to what we now know was a misplaced hope that this would soon pass and that we would be together again very soon.

That was over a year ago. We have two or three masks in the glove box of the auto. A mask on the table by the front door. You now have several bottles of hand sanitizer placed where you can get to them easily, and you have learned how to accurately judge your six-foot distance from others. It took a while, but we have learned to do things differently.

We use Skype, FaceTime, and Zoom when a year ago we didn't even know those things existed. We order our groceries online and drive by to pick them up. We occasionally order meals from our favorite restaurants and have them delivered. And when we worship, we watch it on our computer or smartphone screens, pretending to be in church as we pray, sing, listen to the sermon and affirm our faith in a pandemic-free environment, safely at home.

It has been a long year, but we have learned so much. Now, though the virus is still with us, we have succeeded in neutralizing its death grip with vaccines, and are beginning to come out of our self-imposed quarantine. We can remove our masks outdoors, and enjoy the beauty of springtime and God's good creation.

Now, something hopeful is happening at church. We are going to worship together again. The Re-Opening Group, a task force chosen to study the situation, and guide the church through the pandemic, has set a goal of having the worshipping community together again, in the sanctuary, on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

I know this is wonderful news to hear, but, before we start celebrating, you need to know there will be some

restrictions. We can't just go back to the way things were over a year ago. It's going to be like learning to walk again. We have to take small steps at first before we can run.

The Re-Opening Group will be sharing the restrictions that will shape our worship in the CareLine and the Newsletter, so be watching for those notices. The one thing I want you to remember is that when we gather, we will not be there for any other purpose than to give praise and thanksgiving to God for the grace we share through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I am excited. And I know you are, too.
I have been waiting to say this for quite some time –
I'll be seeing you in church.

Carl

Barring the escalation of COVID-19 cases in Pulaski County, in-person worship will begin again on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. The Reopening Group will provide updates as they become available.

Letter to the congregation from the Reopening Group

Letter to the congregation from the Reopening Group
Group members: Pastor Carl McCormack, Mac Balkman, Liz Branch, Adrienne Kulousek, Sid McCollum, Ray Stephens, and HK Stewart. Ray Koone also was a valuable member of the group in 2020.

To the members and visitors of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church:

Many of us have been looking forward to the day when we can reopen our doors for in-person worship. It has been a long time, and we all want to sit together again in our beautiful sanctuary, in person, and see faces that we

have not seen for many months. Of course, safety must continue to be a primary concern, but with increasing vaccine availability for those who want it and decreasing numbers of new cases, many people are beginning to feel more comfortable with in-person worship.

With this in mind, Pastor Carl informed the group last week he thought we should now make this our new focus, and he suggested we set a goal for Pentecost Sunday, May 23, for reopening. We are developing a three-phase process for moving from where we are now to the full, pre-pandemic services we eventually want to return to.

According to our current discussions, phase one would limit music to instrumental music and possibly a soloist. It would also include the protocols recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health, such as social distancing, masks, temperature checks, and contact tracing information.

At the last session meeting on April 11, we requested that two more session members join our group as a way to get more input from our church community. Donna Terrill and Bill Smith have volunteered and were elected, so we will be having our first meeting shortly to consolidate our plans and get their additional insight.

This has been a trying time for everyone, but we want to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated people who have been working so hard to maintain and uphold our church community. From the wonderful services, the taping and recording, the deacons and elders, and of course Pastor Carl for leading us through. You are all so appreciated.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Reopening Group about any concerns you have, and we will share more information about the reopening as it becomes

available. Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding.

The Westover Hills Reopening Group



Devil's Den March 2021. Picture courtesy of Jane Estes.

WHPC Session Notes

Session Notes – March Meetings

Session Notes – March 14, 2021

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that WHPC funds had a good month at the TX Presbyterian Foundation (TPF).

Christian Education Committee moderator David Stricklin noted that this year's Cotham lecturer will be Vanderbilt University New Testament and Jewish studies professor Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, speaking with us by Zoom

on September 12 and 13.

Motion was passed to pay \$75 annually to provide Search Engine Optimization for the WHPC website. Motion was passed to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering from Easter through the end of April and to send OGHS letters to the congregation.

Property and Maintenance Committee moderator Sid McCollum reported that the committee has seen to exchanging dryers in the Preschool, repainting some exterior boards, and painting the inside of the office because of scaling paint.

Pastor Carl discussed possibilities for reopening for worship and will talk to the Reopening Group about necessary planning for reopening, perhaps on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Sid McCollum reported that the WestoverMen will delay reopening of the Farmers Market until we have more evidence of efficacy of COVID-19 vaccine.

Report to Session, Presbytery of Arkansas Meeting March 5-6, 2021

Treasurer's report: good situation at end of 2020, thanks to 96% fulfillment of pledges from churches and investment income at TX Presbyterian Foundation paying off at 15%. Presbytery approved the \$801,645 budget for 2021, which reflects no total change in asking/spending versus 2020.

Rev. Marion Humphrey, outgoing moderator, preached on Matthew 25 at the Friday night worship service. One key thought: as Rev. Humphrey was visiting a young man in a North Carolina prison, the fellow said, "I haven't had a happy day since I came here at age 16." Rev. Humphrey concluded, "Everyone needs happy days." By following Matthew 25, we find joy.

Joel Gill, director of Ferncliff, announced that Ferncliff is developing a 5-acre solar farm project to help agencies with energy bills. How about we get more information? The A-Team Youth of Presbytery led Saturday morning worship. The Committee on Ministry reported accepting terms of call for Pastor Carl.

In conversation about the Matthew 25 initiative, Carolyn Nash described the Presbyterian Women Fair Trade coffee project, and 1st Presbyterian Fort Smith told about their Changing Lanes program, which offers loans to help low to moderate income people buy a car, thus opening a path to getting a better job and building credit. 1st Presbyterian Conway described their childcare/parent mentoring program for high school students.

Highlight for me of the meeting was the **theological discussion on “Eradicating Systemic Poverty,”** one of the three points of the Matthew 25 commitment WHPC has made. Dr. Peg Falls-Corbitt – Material and spiritual poverty intersect. Bobby Williamson - Matthew 25 and the Good Samaritan story: the robbers stripped the Jewish traveler and left him “half dead.” A priest and a Levite, seeing a man stripped of identifying clothing, assumed that if they couldn’t tell that he *is* my neighbor, he is *not* my neighbor. A Samaritan assumed that there is no *not my neighbor* and helped the man. Jay Barth – Arkansas boasts of its natural beauty, but is in reality a state of poverty. Quoting Dr. Juanita Sandford, who wrote *Poverty in the Land of Opportunity*, “People’s only opportunity is to be poor.” Nearly half of Arkansas counties are in the throes of persistent poverty.

General Presbyter Stewart Smith reported that 19 of the 77 churches in the presbytery suffered damage from Winter Storm Uri. Most of it was related to broken pipes.

Liz Branch, Commissioner from WHPC



Session Notes – April 11, 2021

Session met by Zoom on Sunday, April 11, 2021 with Interim Pastor Carl McCormack as moderator. Session voted with enthusiasm to rescind Courtenay Jackson's recent transfer to Trinity Episcopal Church.

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that March was a positive month financially. Pledges amounting to \$35,548 were paid and \$11,527 was contributed toward the building fund. Amount payable on the mortgage loan is down to \$1,528,214.77. She also reported that the congregation had contributed approximately \$600 for Undie Sundays and \$4900 toward the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

WestoverMen have discussed ways to reopen the WHPC Farmers' Market. However, so far, we are unable to comply with the federal guidelines for farmers' markets.

Christian Education Committee announced upcoming sessions highlighting interviews with people working with migrants on the Southwest border and a book study of *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Membership and Communication reported that we have purchased a second Automated External Defibrillator, which will be placed in the Gathering Space where it will be available to groups using kitchen, gym, or downstairs meeting rooms.

Bill Smith and Donna Terrill volunteered to join the Reopening Group (ROG), which is sending a letter to members of the congregation explaining where we are in the process of reopening. The ROG will discuss the protocols we will follow and arrangements we need to make for reopening.

The Matthew 25 Task Force reported several fruitful conversations with community members, several about the yard signs we are placing on the church lawn each month and one related to the Christmas Giving Tree.

Presbyterian Women (PW) were authorized to receive a PW Birthday Offering during the month of May. The offering supports a variety of projects. PW was also

authorized to hold the Treats and Treasures sale this summer, dates yet to be determined.



Christian Education

Ferncliff Easter Basket in a Box

A Ferncliff “Easter Basket in-a-Box” was gifted to our Sunday School children and their families. The box of activities spanned Holy Week leading to Easter with the beginning on Palm Sunday of the weaving of the Easter Basket and culminating on Easter Sunday with the celebration of Jesus riding from the tomb—made out of a cinnamon roll. Very creative Ferncliff; and very child friendly. Thank you to our Westover Hills sponsors of the boxes Tommy and Donna Callaway, Bill and Liz Branch, Mary Ellen Holder, John Mac Leod, Betty Glenn, and Nancy Passini.



Presbyterians 101 Class

For an upcoming class called “Presbyterians 101,” the CE Committee is interested in questions you have about the Reformed tradition, Presbyterian beliefs and practices, and/or Westover traditions. Here’s your chance to ask about the Weird and the Wonderful! Send questions to David Stricklin at dbstricklin@sbcglobal.net or call and leave a message at 501.223.2894.”

Fellowship

St. Patrick's Day Toast



St. Patrick's Day Toast

Approximately 25 people joined in a jolly St. Patrick's Day toast (by Zoom) on -- St. Patrick's Day, March 17! We were treated to an Irish trivia game, created by Sally Browder, some jokes, especially by Nancy Passini and Pastor Carl, and a lot of laughter. Thanks to Nancy, Julie Naylor, and the rest of the Fellowship Committee for arranging a joyful celebration.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Language Test

1. Sleeveen

- A. What one says when working hard in the kitchen
- B. What one says when they've successfully dressed themselves
- C. What one calls a sly or underhanded person

2. Fluthered

- A. Very baffled!
- B. Very very drunk!
- C. Completely flustered, like a bird without feathers

3. Happy Out

- A. Content in your current surroundings
- B. Completely drained of any good feelings
- C. How you feel when leaving church as the organist plays “When the Saints Go Marching Out!”

4. I will yeah

- A. The only acceptable response to the question of “will you be having another drink?”
- B. The traditional Irish response in a wedding ceremony when asked, “Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife”
- C. What you say when you’ve no intention of doing what you’ve just been asked to do

5. I’m going on the gargle

- A. You have a sore throat and are about to start treating it
- B. You’re about to start singing songs in the pub
- C. You’re going out for a drink, and you may not return for days

6. He didn’t lick it off a stone

- A. Fairly new expression related to increased practice of tongue piercing, reflects disapproval of the practice
- B. A way of saying people’s personalities or actions are always influenced by someone
- C. Expression of reassuring a friend that their child’s stupid behavior isn’t the worst thing that could happen

7. You’ll arrive back with one arm as long as the other

- A. saying meaning that whatever you intend to do is pointless and won’t change a thing
- B. saying meaning “you might as well not bungy jump off the cliff holding weighted balls because it will make things worse

C. saying meant to encourage someone who trying to improve something about themselves

8. What's the appropriate response to the question, "How's the craic?"

(pronounced "crack")

- A. It's the best stuff I've ever snorted!
- B. Divil a bit.
- C. Craic was 90!

ANSWERS:

1. C

2. B

3. A

4. C

5. C

6. B

7. A

8. B or C (since the question means "How are you doing?" then if you are "not so good", then B; if you are "great!" then C)

AWARDS

Best: (7 - 8 correct)

Fair Play! You are bang on. We are happy as Larry about ya'.

Next Best: (2 – 6 correct)

You're awful good. But you can't have it all way.

Last Place: (1 or none correct)

You must be knackered! You're no better than a bag of taytos!



This beautiful spring photo is of Joy and Bobby Thomas's yard.

Graduates



Scout Snowden

Scout S. Snowden will complete his candidacy for his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law on May 15th. He is in the top 10% of his class and will graduate *magna cum laude*.

Scout was the recipient of the three-year Bowen Fellowship and is an associate editor of the UA Little Rock Law Review. The Law Review published his note about campaign finance in the 2020 winter edition.

While in law school, Scout was the president of the Federalist Society and the Bowen Young Republicans. He clerked for the Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney;

Friday, Eldredge & Clark; the Barber Law Firm; Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard; Wright, Lindsey & Jennings; Lax, Vaughan, Fortson, Rowe & Threet; and Dover, Dixon, Horne. Additionally, he was a research fellow for one year with the National Agricultural Law Center, was the legal fellow for French Hill's 2020 congressional campaign, and was a legal extern for the Arkansas State Senate during the spring 2021 session.

Scout was also a graduate of Westover Hills Preschool in 2001. His parents are Max Snowden and Ann Patterson.



FIRST BASE, CATCHER | MAUMELLE, AR | NORTH LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

Zoë Adebayo

Zoë Adebayo, 17 years old, will be graduating on May 18th from North Little Rock High School with Honors. Zoe

is the granddaughter of Mary Chrisman and the daughter of Michelle and Sunday Adebayo. This fall, she will be continuing her education as well as playing fastpitch softball on a scholarship to the University of Memphis. Excelling now at first base and catcher positions, Zoe began her softball career almost ten years ago, at the tender age of eight! At the University of Memphis, she is looking to major in biology and hopes to become a pediatrician.



Erin Boyd

Erin Boyd is the daughter of Patrick and Sharon Boyd and the granddaughter of Carl and Betty Glenn. She is graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a Biochemistry concentration. Starting in the fall, Erin will attend Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas, TX.



Ashlyn Kate Boyd

Ashlyn Kate Boyd is the daughter of Patrick and Sharon Boyd and the granddaughter of Carl and Betty Glenn. Since the age of 3, she has attended Pulaski Academy (PA), where she participates in numerous activities, including team cheer squad and co-captain of the golf team. Outside of school, she is involved with club sports and volunteers her time to teach gymnastics to young children. She defends her senior thesis at the end of April and will graduate in the top ten of her class with honors.

Ashlyn will attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the fall to pursue a degree in Political

Viewing Website and Attending Virtual Worship

It appears that more people are “attending” the WHPC Sunday worship services online than would have been in the church building on Sundays before the coronavirus shutdown! Questions had been raised as to how to monitor/discern the number of “hits” to our church website. After Charlie Frith discovered that the data is already being collected, Damaris started our process of gathering and distributing it and Jane is continuing the process. Sermons are far and away the most popular section of the website. People also access worship services through FaceBook (“RC Nash” or “Westover Hills Presbyterian Church”) or at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (under “WHPC Worship Service”).

Mission and Advocacy Committee



***Westover Hills Mission & Advocacy Project for March
– Undy Sundays***

An ever-present need of those who are homeless is new, clean underwear. That was the focus in March for WHPC Mission and Advocacy Project. Men's tee-shirts, boxers and briefs and women's underwear, as well as white socks for both women and men were collected.

Since shopping in stores continued to present a possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus or related viruses, checks in support of these mission projects were mailed to the church office. A total of \$470 was collected. Charlie Frith and Eileen Joyce from Westover Hills used the donated money to purchase underwear items at Wal-Mart.

Between the items donated and the items purchased, Westover Hills collected over \$600 for underwear, tee-shirts and socks. Charlie delivered the items to the Stewpot Clothes Closet on April 13.



One Great Hour of Sharing

The congregation's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering supports PCUSA programs which address hunger, self-development of people and assistance following a disaster. Liz Branch, Carolyn Nash, and Ray Stephens

gave brief descriptions of these national and international ministries during worship service two Sundays before Easter and on Easter Sunday. Thanks to all whose generous donations exceeded \$5,000.

Preschool Update





The preschool was very excited to have our Easter Egg Hunt outside this year. The race to fill those baskets with eggs was intense. The weather was great and parents even stopped by to watch from a safe distance. Registration for summer play days is now open to the public. If you know someone who is interested, please have them contact the preschool at westoverhillspreschool@gmail.com.





Kroger Cards

Do you shop at Kroger? Is your Kroger card linked to Westover Hills Preschool community rewards? (The bottom of your grocery receipt will show to whom you are linked.)

Kroger will donate \$.05 for every grocery dollar that you spend to the recipient of your choice. Check it out by going to the Kroger website <http://www.kroger.com> and click on “rewards” to choose the Preschool to receive the Community Rewards bonus. It will not affect your discounts or gas points.

Last year Kroger donated \$199.41 to the Preschool; can you help increase that total? Your

help is appreciated! Call Shawn Mittledorf at 501.666.0880 or Laura Whitmore at 501.416.5559 if you have questions.

Presbyterian Women (PW) News

Treats and Treasures Coming...

Hint, Hint, Hint...

What Westover event normally happens in August? If you guessed the Easter egg hunt or the Alternative Christmas Market you would be wrong. If, however, you guessed something about Presbyterian Women you are on the right track. So, please get your covid vaccine because everything depends on the numbers. Safety is the priority!

Keep your eyes on the Careline.



Poetic Justice (PJ)

Poetic Justice Arkansas is finally underway. Delays at McPherson Women's Prison meant the packets were not distributed until two weeks after the slated program start date. Poetic Justice is a therapeutic writing course that matches incarcerated women with free world women to share mirrored assignments. Through the process of exchanged pieces, both women bond and reach new levels of understanding about themselves and the world of their writing partners.

Here are some quotes taken from the McPherson women's letters:

"...My life has been...well kinda a Stephen King story... I have a very long history of doing time off and on since I was 11."

"It is such a blessing to hear from you. I can't begin to express in words how thankful I am for you. Mail means so much in a place like this. ...I totally understand that everyone else's world didn't stop turning when mine did..."

"Hello. Glad to meet you. I am so ready to start writing again... I also speak Spanish... Before coming to prison me and my mother used to volunteer at the ---, cooking and feeding the homeless. I really love to give my time like that helping others."

"One day the warden came and spoke with us and gave us details about Poetic Justice. He said if we were interested to sign up. So here I am... I think it is time for me to start making better choices and doing something successful in my life so I do not return here. Because of covid, I haven't saw my kids or family in 2 years (well in 14 months). "

Poetic Justice Arkansas coordinators Katherine

Shoulders and Kathy Rateliff are learning as the program moves forward. Technical mail issues with the prison have caused some unanticipated problems. Arkansas prison do not allow more than four pages (two pages front and back of photocopying). But they also have to photocopy the envelope. So, the volunteers were told per the powers that be that 3 ½ pages which left room for the envelope to be copied. Not anymore (or at least on that particular day). Now it is three pages. If the writing partners forget to place the Arkansas Department of Corrections prison number next to the name it is also returned. (we knew that).

This is an exciting program and we look forward to expanding it beyond the covid19 distance learning to in person groups later in 2021.



Honoraria



In
Honor
Of

Honor Gifts January-February 2021

In honor of Donna Terrill from Betty Glenn for PW Mission Fund



In
Loving
memory

Memorials January-February 2021

Fran Boyer - from Betty Glenn for PW Mission Fund

Annette Greenland - from PW Coordinating Team for PW Mission Fund

Richard Ezell - from Kay & Ray Stephens for Choir Music
