

The Westminister VOICE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2921 Airport Blvd., Mobile AL 36606

Rev. David C. Mauldin, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jerry Headrick, Summer Pastor

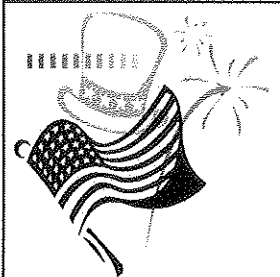
Helping you answer God's call!



July 2010

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**Church
Office Hours**
10:00 am to
2:00 pm.

Pastor Mauldin's Sabbatical

Sabbatical Update

We have been traveling through the mountains of East Tennessee and the beaches of the Gulf Coast with John Calvin, Flannery O'Connor, and other authors writing about worship and the care of souls. We have seen firsthand two disasters: Nashville had flooding in May, and we drove past entire neighborhoods that had been submerged. We saw the soggy remains of people's belongings piled into great artificial mounds. Bulldozers gorged on couches, drywall, carpet, and anything else. At the Gulf we handled tar balls. Strangely, I have felt like a tourist in these tragedies: close enough to be part of it but mostly untouched by it. Both visits were wonderful, despite the problems. Please be in prayer for all whose lives have been hurt by the flooding and the oil.



Rev. David C. Mauldin,
Pastor

We will spend most of July in Birmingham. My Doctor of Ministry seminar is almost ready to start, and I can't wait. I really enjoy these things: the professors, the discussion, my colleagues. I have my preliminary papers ready.

A Good Sermon Is Hard to Find

One fun part of sabbatical is visiting different churches. I have been impressed by how

rare a truly excellent sermon is. I have heard one or two, but not many. Some are good. They have a strong positive feature: sound biblical teaching or good delivery or relevance to life; but they have only one of these, not the others.

I have been greatly encouraged to find that God can speak to me through even a mediocre sermon. Preaching depends as much upon the heart of the listener as on the preacher.

I have also heard preachers who, I felt, could have been much better if they applied themselves to improving. That's what I want to do. I want to be better. I don't want to find a groove early in my ministry then turn it into a rut so that I am no better at preaching at age 70 than I was at age 30.

Trusting God When You Don't Know Where You Are Going

Another fun part of sabbatical is a handy little gadget I purchased for the trip. I got one of those Garmin gps
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devices that tells you how to find places. It takes a lot of stress out of driving in unfamiliar territory. It strikes me as a parable of life. You are going along, and God says, "Turn here." And you turn. God says, "Go so far in this direction." And you do. If you make a wrong move, God says, "Recalculating ... turn back and go ..."

The Garmin gives you turn by turn directions. It also allows you to see your whole trip at a glance. You tell it where you are going, and it tells you how it plans to get you there. God is different. God chooses our destination. You can get an idea of where that is by reading Ephesians. He does not necessarily tell you how he plans to get you there, nor does he offer an overview ahead of time. Instead, he usually gives it to you turn by turn, one turn at a time. So you have to trust him.

John Baillie prayed:

When the way seems dark before me, give me grace to walk trustingly:

When much is obscure before me, let me be all the more faithful to the little I can clearly see:

When the distant scene is clouded, let me rejoice that at least the next step is plain:

When what Thou art is most hidden from my eyes, let me still hold fast to what Thou dost command:

When insight falters, let obedience stand firm:

What I lack in faith let me repay in love.

I am learning to make this prayer my own.

Help Wanted

Plans for my literature discussion group are coming along well, at least in terms of my preparation. I will be ready to facilitate the group. The big challenge comes with location and publicity.

I am still looking for the right place, which has proved much more difficult than I had expected. I need a good location, easily known and accessible, capable of

holding 12-25 people comfortably.

I also need help to put up a website. I want to do it in MS Word, because then I can update it myself. Trouble is, I don't know anything about creating a website. I have been researching services, but cost is a factor.

If you have suggestions, email them to me at rev_mauldin@yahoo.com. Please understand that I may not be able to reply, especially if I get a lot of mail.

Blessings to all. I look forward to seeing you all again in August.



Westminster CONTRIBUTES:

You were generous in the offerings collected on Mother's Day and Father's Day to support the Presbyterian Children's Home in Talladega, AL.

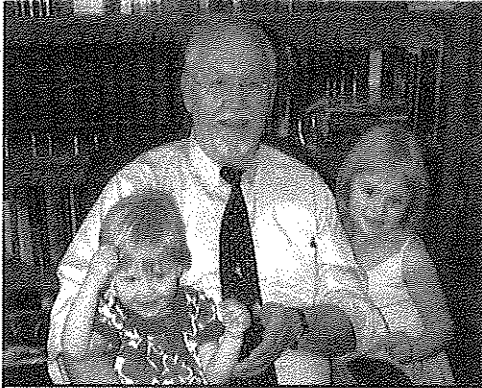
We collected **\$1,055.00** and have forwarded it to the home. Many thanks!

IHN/Family Promise: To celebrate the 7th Anniversary of Coastal Alabama Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise a Battle of the Choirs will be held Sunday July 25 at 5:00pm. You are invited to join a carpool with Cindy and Thom Fultz at 4:30 to drive to Mt. Hebron Baptist Church to hear the sounds of worship from many choirs.

Through the Service Commission, Westminster participates in IHN/Family Promise with 4 weeks each year of hosting homeless families who are working toward financial stability for adequate housing. Join the celebration of 7 years of ministry to families in need.



Poppie's Porch Ponderings



"Summer Pastor", The Rev. Dr. Jerry Headrick with his granddaughters, Lexi and Baker Garside.

Mr. Sam didn't put any stock in church-going and especially the Religions that said the going-under type of baptizing was the only one Any good ... he said too many people talked about religion all the Time, but that's all they did ... talk about it ... and most of them, those He knew anyway, just hung up their religion with their Sunday pants And turned right around and cheated you on Monday morning ... so He wasn't one to go to church.
--- From "Resting In The Bosom of The Lord"

By Augusta Trobaugh

I guess it may seem a bit strange to some that a man like me ... one that has spent nearly his whole life working in the church would begin, at this stage of the game, to examine church and the motivation that keeps people involved in it. I expect a lot of people are like me ... wouldn't know what to do, if they didn't go to church on the Lord's day. They have gone all their lives, so they experience a degree of guilt if they dare stay away for no good reason. Some are motivated by a need to look good in other people's eyes, to put their re-

ligious affiliation in their resume for political or public purposes.

Then, there are those who go for the social aspect. It is a good place to see and be seen. It is a pretty good place to meet people. Loneliness is helped by going where you are known and where some people make an effort to be nice. Church also provides a platform for commiserating ... gripe and complain with others who also like to gripe and complain.

I am afraid some go because it is the only place they have gained some recognition, some control and some sense of being placated.

It is a poor witness if the world observes folks "hanging up their religion just like they hang up their Sunday pants." If one's faith is not reflected in one's lifestyle and in everyday dealings with people, then it isn't much of a faith and not much reason for going to church either.

Robert Fulghum once said that a new religion could be founded on the sacrament of being quiet. There's so little of that anymore. To belong to this church would be simple. You wouldn't have to congregate on a special day or a special place. No hymns, no dues, no creeds, no preachers, and no potluck suppers. The requirement would be to sit still, once a day for fifteen minutes: sit down, shut up and be still, just like your mother told you. Amazing things might happen if enough people did this on a regular basis. Every chair, park bench, and sofa would become a church. I'm already a member of this church with my requirement to ponder on the porch daily, but I continue to hold onto the formal, institution of the church with the hope that it will one day be what God intended it to be, and that people will go for the right reasons.



Recent Actions of The Session

In the June meeting of the Church Session, the following actions were taken:

- Heard the treasurer's report, which reflected a budget deficit with pledged amounts coming in slowly.
- Heard a report from the Interim Pastor reflecting his activities during the last month
- Approved the installing of a lavatory in one of the early childhood rooms.
This need arises as a result of new enrollees in the program.
- Appointed Kym Carroll and Adam Hargrove to serve on the nominating committee
- Approved an enhanced use of the CD recordings of the Sunday worship.
- Approved the replacing of the exterior light near the entrance.
- Approved the repairing of the exterior door near the central hallway.
- Approved some new ways to attempt to reach out to families.

Note: Please remember to pray for your church session as they struggle with issues concerning the life of the Westminster family.

Nominating Committee:

In August the Nominating Committee will begin the search for their nominees of next year's class of Elders and Deacons. Be in prayer for the Committee and for whether God is calling you to serve as an Officer of Westminster. The election will be in September.

Thom Fultz, Clerk of Session



The total amount of food donated to the **Bay Area Food Bank** since we started this project is 1,785. Thank you and keep up the good work.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We all know how to give a gift. And most of us are keenly aware that God gave himself as a gift to us. During the week of June 21-24 some people in our church gave themselves "as a gift" to 37 children who attended Vacation Bible School at Westminster. This staff answered God's call to Galactic Blast: A Cosmic VBS Adventure Praising God! This program and the following people helped bring our children into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Storyteller	Pastor Jerry Headrick
Assembly Leader	Commander Mike Sorocak
Kindergarten Teacher	Jessica Hite
1 st -2 nd Grade Teacher	Cathy Wilkerson
3 rd -5 th Grade Teacher	Barbara Potts
Music Teacher	Cindy Fultz
Media	Cindy Fultz & Hope Fultz
Craft Teacher	Susie Hargrove; Liz Partsch
Snacks, Food	Thelma McMillan, Jean Buckner, and Betty Mays
Photographer	Tracy Hunter
Puppeteer	Katy Hite
Recreation	Kaitlin Kelley, Josh Kimbrell, Rachel Fountain, Philip Nassar
Youth Helpers	Mallorie Watson, Hillary Swain, Miller Kalhagen, Morgan Brown and Amber Allen
Director	Joyce Hunter

The following people also helped make the VBS a great success:

J. C. Carroll, Kym Carroll, Glen Garside, Adam Hargrove, Moe Henderson, Mary Ann

The Children thank you!
God thanks you!
The director thanks you and is grateful for your love and support!

Thanks to everyone who donated cookies, etc. for the Vacation Bible School. Also, many thanks to the helpers.
Thelma McMillan