

Footprints of WPC

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"Be of Good Courage,
I Am with you."

Footprints of Westminster

January/February 2019

Tuesday morning the Women of the church had a thought provoking and wonderful bible study in *Horizons* magazine. The lesson reviewed the faith of Arlington Presbyterian Church in Virginia. That church made the difficult decision to close their doors so that an affordable housing complex could be built for their neighbors. This was not an easy decision. They chose to take a giant step of faith and risked moving into a future that was unknown and required congregational courage.

This is not the first time that Christians in a covenant with God and neighbor made difficult transitions with only the next few steps visible. Think of the prophet Moses. Seeing only a burning bush and encountering the God of his fathers, Moses returned to Egypt to liberate a people with a vision and a promise. The vision was a free people in a land with many blessings: the promise, the land. Imagine the uncertainty, fear, and courage it took to return to Egypt and demand from the Pharaoh, "Let God's people go. I will be with you", was his only security and promise.

Over and over Moses had to encourage, exhort, and challenge the people. Over and over the people grumbled against Moses.

At the end of his life a new leader, Joshua, was called to lead the people into the land of promise. Joshua felt the same struggle confronting him that Moses had faced. How can we move forward into the place God promised, and where God was sending them? Joshua began to lose heart as he looks to the future moving into a land that was theirs only by the promise of God. God empowers Joshua with the same message, "Be courageous for I Am with you." With the Command, there is always a promise.

But there is a glitch, a fly in the ointment. God says that only the place where his foot has touched the earth would become his inheritance. This is where the rubber meets the road. We cannot see the end of our journey. We can only see our journey as it unfolds as we move forward stepping into the change we see before us.

Where will we end up in all this change? Do we have any guarantees? Only as Moses, Joshua, and we are told, "Be of Good Courage, I Am with you."

The lesson ends with one of my favorite hymns, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fear subside;
Death of death and Hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, Songs of praises
I will always give to Thee,
I will always give to Thee.

Thus far, Rev. John

Our Mission is:



LOVING GOD,

We are a community of faith, called together by Jesus Christ to love God with all our heart, and all our soul and all our mind, and all our strength.
(Mark 12:30)

LOVING LIFE,

Southwest Florida is the best place we know to live out our faith with one another, learning together and loving each other.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

We were created by God, each with a unique gift to share with our neighbors. We are encouraging and empowering the sharing of gifts with the world in Jesus' name.

Westminster will hold its Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting on Sunday, January 27 following our worship service.

Happy Birthday to all of you born in January!

1	John Progar	3	Don Townsend
3	Ed Richter	3	Ray Scherf
5	Phyllis Redford	5	Valerie Beechy
11	Emmett Scott	13	Laura Cooper
14	Sherwood Johnson	17	Karen Jones
19	Betty Wolfe	21	Mary Morse
21	Nancy Atherton	22	David Rezabek
23	Corinne Sipes	23	Gerald Jones
28	Eugene Sommerfeld	29	Maricele Gates
31	Cheryl Angus		

Happy Birthday to all of you born in February!

5	Becky Beckwith	7	David Sipes
14	Mary Ann Wells	18	Linda Progar

Flower Dedications:

January

6, Nancy Atherton
20, Nancy Shimandle

13, Priscilla Arvidson
27, Onugha Family

February

3, Don and Georgina Townsend
17, Jim and Becky Beckwith

10, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Richter
24, Sherri Kramer

We continue to **recycle** aluminum cans! PLEASE NOTE **ALUMINUM CANS ONLY**. That would be beer and soda pop cans. Please do not add cat food cans, bean cans nor plastic cans or bottles. The recycle plant will reject the whole truckload. And we ask that those of you who are so helpful with recycling, please don't add your garbage over on the left side of the shed.



Memorials

<i>In memory of</i>	<i>Received from</i>
Mary Alice Sutton	Sue Snyder
Josh Austin	Faith Austin

In regards to Memorials, Janice Jarrell extends an invitation to everyone to join her for a Celebration of Life for Mike, who was her significant other for the past 15 years. The Celebration of Life will be held at the Temple Sinai where Mike worked. It will be held on Sunday, January 20 at 2 pm at Temple Sinai, 4631 South Lockwood Ridge Road in Sarasota. If you want/need specific directions please feel free to call the church office, Janice, or enter the Temple's address on the Internet for the driving directions. *Janice Jarrell*

Missions:

Many thanks to all of you for supporting the 2018 Salvation Army Angel Tree. Your participation supplied 40 children in need in our Bradenton community with a wonderful Christmas.

Your non-perishable food donations provided Beth-El and Our Daily Bread with food to distribute to needy families. In addition, your donations of dental supplies has helped the new Beth-El Dental Clinic, as it sees as many as 20 patients per day. Keep up the good work! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We received a thank you note from Kathy Dain, Beth-El's executive director. She stated, "So, Westminster Presbyterian Church, thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve!"

The next 3 cents-a-meal collection is on March 31st. The amount will be \$8.10. *Joyce Johnson*

Thank You Notes:

Dot Nuttle wishes to thank you for the lovely flowers delivered to her after one of our worship services. She enjoyed them.

Westminster Presbyterian Women

Westminster's Sewing Circle is no more. These four ladies (Elizabeth Dykstra, Annick Roberts, Kay Lee and Marilyn Thompson) did a wonderful job and some totally awesome sewing over the many years. They created beautiful quilts, sweaters, knitted hats, lap robes and many other garments for missions throughout the world. All of the ladies have decided to move on to other things. The group disbanded due to driving and health issues.

This is a list of their contributions in 2018:

Lap robes, 33, sent to Meals on Wheels
Quilts, 26, Sent to Beth El
Quilts, 15, sent to Hope Ministries
Baby Hats, 59, sent to Sarasota Hospital
Sweaters, 12, sent to Beth El
Crib Quilts, 5, sent to HOPE Ministries
Hats, 19, to Anchor House
Baby Afghan, with hat, 1, to Hope Ministries

Thank you, ladies, for your time, talent and gifts you've shared with so many over the decades. You all were very much appreciated. God bless you in your future endeavors! *Nancy Shimandle*

Addendum # 20

The Reverend Arvidson, Ebbe, went to live in his heavenly home on 12/15/18
Gilliam, Polly, went to live with Jesus on 12/8/18