

# WESTOVER REFLECTIONS

WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

## Letter from the Pastor

Greetings Westover Family,

Happy New Year! This coming year for Westover is an important one. Can you believe it's 2023? In some ways, this year feels like it went by way too quickly, in other ways it feels like it has been moving quite slow. Either way, it is important for us to prepare our minds, hearts and spirits for whatever God has planned for us this year. Like many churches, Westover has spent several years in a period of transition, and now we want to find our way back to wholeness. I believe we are ready to take that journey together.



I have been blessed to work with so many of you in the short time I've been here. I'm excited to see what opportunities this new year brings. This year, we can expect to see some changes in the way we experience church at Westover. It is my prayer that each of you will help me build our worship in ways that bring joy to the kingdom of God. Scripture reminds us not to worry about anything but instead believe.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Prayerfully consider how you can help the church. Lookout for ways you can contribute to, or participate in, the changes we are making. Bring us your ideas. Avoid the temptation to criticize the ideas of others. We will try new things! But we will continue to be a church that serves the Lord.

### RECOGNITION

This month I'd like to recognize Mr. John Mitchell. It might be easy for some to miss all the things John has done for Westover UMC. His dedication to ushering, working as recording secretary, and recently agreeing to become lay delegate to the Annual Conference, are examples of his dedication to this community. Thanks John for all you continue to do.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

It's easy to get lost in the challenges of the past few years, but our hope and prayer is that this year will be different. I know that different doesn't always mean better, but with your help I think it can. I believe that God wants to do something big with us in 2023. The question is, will we be ready?

Blessings,  
Your Pastor

**Damion Quaye**

## BIRTHDAYS

- 6 FRAN MCDONALD
- 7 DER KSOR
- 9 ADAM HOLT
- 14 AARON JONES  
JONI MEDLIN
- 17 ANDREW MITCHELL
- 18 FRED BURKE
- 25 MELIINDA FAY
- 26 SCOTT GORDON
- 27 MAX DANSKIN
- 30 HAYLEIGH DENNY

# FIRST FRUITS OF WORSHIP

By Bruce Smith  
Director Music Ministries

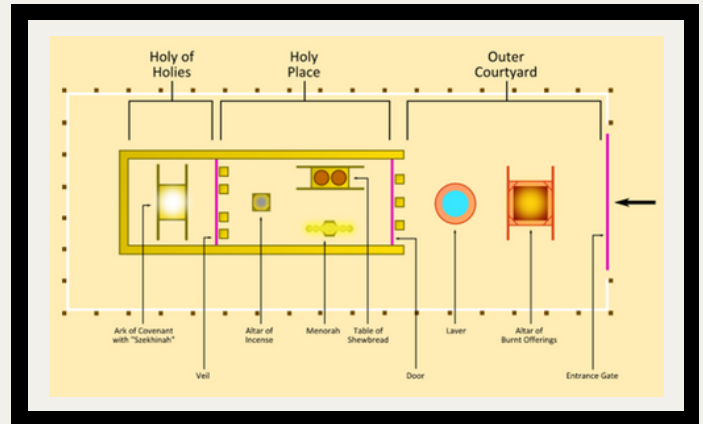
## *The Arch of Worship*

### 1 "The Arrival"

There is a shape to worship. It moves and flows to reflect that shape, and we are privileged to engage in this ancient ritual and experience daily as individuals and weekly as the collective body of Christ. For the next four months we'll be exploring the shape and arch of the worship experience. Often we take for granted how and why our worship experience occurs as it does. Each step and moment is significant in experiencing God there. This arch has its origins in the design of the ancient Hebrew tabernacle (seen to the right here). The three significant places in that tabernacle reflect 3 of the 4 portions of the arch we will discuss. (The Outer Courtyard, The Holy Place (or inner courtyard), and the Holy of Holies). So, let's begin our journey through the arch of worship.

What's that old adage "half of life is just showing up"? Indeed we need an "arrival" in our worship experience. But what is the state of our arrival? Are we bounding through the doors with no time to spare, dragging children, breakfast and bible with exasperation? That is not the intent of our loving Father. The "arrival" sets the stage for the rest of our worship experience. In the ancient Hebrew tabernacle, the arrival is made through the Outer Courtyard. Within the gates leading into the courtyard is a giant bronze altar used for burning sacrifices. The significance to us is that this is a reminder that we are sinners in need of a Savior. We should approach worship, therefore, humbly, with purpose and open to how God will speak to us. Worship should not be something on our calendar of "things to do". So we should arrive with two attitudes in mind.

**1. Thanksgiving** - God has blessed us so much throughout the week, we should come to worship with a spirit of gratitude for all He has done. Looking through the prism of a grateful heart, little annoyances are just that—little. We engage with others (our friends, family, and guests) in that attitude of gratitude.



**"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."**

**Psalms 100:4-5**

Scripture calls us to praise His name and enter or "arrive" with thanksgiving in our heart. Why? Because "his love endures forever".

**2. Expectation** - We should "arrive" in God's house with the expectation that He is going to do something amazing in our life, and in the lives of His church family. Remember the story about the church having a special prayer service for rain due to the long draught in the community? Only a little girl of faith brought an umbrella to that prayer meeting! She arrived expecting God to do something special—which, of course, required an umbrella! Why should we not arrive to worship with the expectation that He is going to move in our lives, heal us, restore us, forgive us, reconcile us, fix broken marriages, restore love? If we come expecting God, He has the open door from us to speak to us through the music, through the prayers, through the message, or through the word of a friend speaking into our lives. Expectation is a powerful agent in getting something out of a worship experience and a vital facet of the arrival component in our "Arch Of Worship."

So, let's enter His gates with an attitude of thanksgiving and expectation. That's an open door for God isn't it?

Next month, we'll discuss the 2nd portion of that arch —"Engagement"

# 2023 Leadership Report

## Administrative Council

Chairperson: Laura Brooks  
Financial Secretary: Jenny Brown-Chin  
SPRC Chair: Jennifer Proffitt  
Lay Leader: Susan Denny  
Finance Chairperson: TBD  
Trustees Chairperson: TBD  
Treasurer: TBD (by Committee)  
NOW Chairperson: TBD

Safe Sanctuary: Chandra Quaye  
AC Lay Delegate: John Mitchell  
Youth Coordinator: TBD  
Children's Coordinator: Sharron Gibson  
President, UMMen: Tommy Highsmith  
President, UMWomen: Jane Brown  
Recording Secretary: John Mitchell

## SPRC

2023: Susan Denny, Barbara Epley, Phyllis Danksin ; 2024: Jennifer Proffitt (Chair), Sharron Gibson, Wayne Dillard; 2025: Lucy Walters; Lay Leader; AC Delegate

## Trustees

2023: Les Watkins, Betsy Wolicki; 2024: Kent Gibson, Chandra Quaye; 2025: Jennifer Proffitt

## Finance

Chairperson TBD, Council Chair (Laura Brooks), SPRC (Jennifer Proffitt), Financial Secretary (Jenny Brown-Chin), Trustees (Jennifer Proffitt), Treasurer TBD, Lay Leader (Susan Denny), Assistant Treasurer TBD, AC Lay Delegate TBD, Counters

## Lay Membership

2023: Verna Wentz; 2024: TBD; 2025: Chandra Quaye, Jenny Brown-Chin, Laura Brooks; Lay Leader; Pastor (Chair)

## Worship Committee

Chairperson TBD; Head Usher (John Mitchell); Multi-Media (Bruce Smith); Jenny Brown-Chin; Music (Bruce Smith); Lay Leader (Susan Denny); Acolyte Trainer (John Mitchell/Pastor); Power Point Project (Bruce Smith); Jane Brown; Clara Worsley; Pastor

## Youth Ministry TBD

**Children Ministry:** Sharron Gibson

## Flower Ministry

**NOW Committee (Nutrtue/Outreach/Witness):** Susan Denny, Sharron Gibson, Chandra Quaye, Lucy Walters, Mark Treni

**Hospitality:** Chair (TBD); Lucy Walters, Mark Treni, Jane Brown, Clara Worsley

**Communications:** Bruce Smith, Jenny Brown-Chin, Pastor

---

# SONG STORY: "THIS IS AMAZING GRACE"

---

By Bruce Smith

Director Music Ministries

## **"Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?"**

The contemporary worship music community is moving more and more to collaborative songwriting these days. If you look at the long list of composers who write their music with other worship leaders/composers, it's a "Who's Who" of great and influential contributors to the worshiping church. (Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Matt Maher, Paul Baloche, Lincoln Brewster, Joel Houston, etc...) Worship songs these days have an interesting history and development as they are shared, revived, and rewritten to become the powerful vessels that bring people into God's presence.

Such is the case with Phil Wickham's energetic anthem, "This Is Amazing Grace". Phil wrote the skeleton of the song years ago with another Worship Leader friend, Josh Farro. They crafted the chorus as it is today and had a rough draft of what the verses would say. They made a low grade recording of the song on Phil's laptop and left it at that. A few years later, he shared that low grade recording with a Pastor friend to see if he wanted to do anything with it, and as it often is in our modern society - the Pastor shared it with someone else, then they shared it with someone, and so forth. The song ended up on someone's iPhone at a conference at Bethel Church in Redding, CA.

Jeremy Riddle, a worship leader at Bethel Church, asked Phil if he could rewrite the verses and place it on their next live CD and Phil was honored. As a result, Phil acknowledged that Jeremy "nailed it and hit it out of the park with amazing lyrics about the greatness of the God who gave His life for us." Wickham now felt he had a complete song and an amazing worship ministry, Bethel Church, had endorsed and recorded the song, which gave the song the potential that was needed.

But Bethel's version of the song was more of a "brooding, moody, passionate vibe", and Wickham felt it needed to be a celebration song. So he arranged the song with a pulsing tempo and a powerful synthesizer melody included. The result - the powerful praise and worship song we all enjoy today.

"The song is simply about the amazing grace and unfailing love that this God, this King of glory, this King above all Kings, has shown to us", says Wickham. The verses ask powerful rhetorical questions about the greatness of our God...

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger?" and "Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?"**

The question is always answered in the following lines ...

**"the King of glory, the King above all kings!"**

Phil Wickham sums up the meaning and significance of this song by saying "the verses are saying 'look at this amazing God. He creates the stars, brings the chaos back into order. He shakes the whole earth with thunder.' It's the story that God has written, and a story that He lets us be a part of. It's a song of celebration".

When we sing this song at Westover, remember the reason for this celebratory song...

**"This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love! That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross. You would lay down Your life that I would be set free  
Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me!"**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FAIRBOOTH

*By Tommy Highsmith*

**WOW!** What a year our church food booth had at the 2022 NC State Fair. We reached a milestone that I have been seeking for years. Our profit for 2022 was **\$30,791.77**, which will be distributed accordingly. This is the most made in our history and as I have said before, our success could not be accomplished without the help of the Cross Waves group. **MANY THANKS** to them for their dedication. The change over to "take out only" has certainly worked out much better than I ever imagined and the workers seem to enjoy it more. Let's do it again in 2023. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## IN MEMORIAM

**IVAN MERRITT MOON JUNE 17, 1966 - DECEMBER 15, 2022**



Ivan Merritt Moon, 56, of Monroe NC, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2022. He was born June 17, 1966, in Blount County, Alabama, the son of Glenda Sloan Moon and the late Billy Ray Moon. He was a beloved former Westover member. Ivan and his family were very active at Westover before moving to Monroe, NC. Bill passed away in 2009. Ivan's paternal grandmother and his parents were the ones who set up our wonderful Zach Tree Ministry for Ivan's group home and others in our area.

**HAPPY**  
**new**  
**Year**

## OAK CITY CARES

For nearly 15 years, Westover UMC has provided bag lunches, and most recently, monetary donations to Oak City Cares in downtown Raleigh. We have now depleted our funds for this mission, and have also learned that the organization is well-supported by a number of other churches and civic groups. As a result, we urge anyone who would like to make a donation, in the future, to do so to the Interfaith Food Shuttle. Thank you for your continued support.

## NEW OFFICER SUNDAY

New Officer Sunday is set for January 23, 2023. We will say goodbye to the outgoing officers and welcome the new officers.