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THE WESTMINSTER LOG



As the wonder of Holy Week comes to a close, we move into the “Easter season” in the church when our attention in the Scriptures turn toward what happened in the early church *after* the resurrection. How did we get from 11 scared disciples in an upper room to billions of Christians in every corner of the globe?

The short answer is “one at a time.” The fundamental purpose of the church is to bring people, one by one, into relationship with God through Jesus Christ - because this changes lives! Perhaps the greatest contribution we make to the body of Christ is inviting someone else in, or helping a newcomer feel genuinely welcome, so that she or he receives what we have received. We aren’t being asked to save anyone - Jesus did that for us - but to leave a lasting impact on the world around us through invitation. How did you get here? Did your parents bring you as a child? A friend? If you don’t remember what brought you here initially, do you remember why you decided to stay? We were drawn here - and stay - because we are no longer strangers to the faith or to this community where we now find rich resources of meaning, grace, hope, friendship and service. Through the Holy Spirit’s work, every member of the Body of Christ is the fruit of someone’s ministry and faithfulness. Who is the fruit of yours?

Showing the grace of a welcoming congregation has a lot to do with how members and “regulars” welcome newcomers. I don’t think it happens at Westminster, but, sadly, it is possible in any church for a visitor to leave without having been engaged in conversation by anyone. Personally, I have visited congregations where this is the case – and I don’t necessarily think that it’s anyone’s fault – there are a number of reasons. People may be shy, not feeling comfortable "making the first move" to speak to someone they don't know. Or, maybe we are unsure whether or not a “visitor” is actually a visitor and not a member whom they haven’t met. Often, we just don’t know what to say, or, we figure someone else could do it better than us... but no one ever does. In hopes that it would help a little, here are five practical suggestions you can use as you welcome others:

- 1.) Introduce yourself by saying, “I don’t believe we have met, have we?” This goes a long way toward solving the problem of greeting an unrecognized member. It also provides some direction for the conversation to proceed.
- 2.) If the person lets you know that they are a visitor, you might say, “That’s wonderful. What brings you here today? How did you hear of Westminster?” This may provide information on how the church might continue its ministry with this person.
- 3.) Tell them what brought you to church this morning! You might think about what you most appreciate about this church – a good way to introduce some of the wonderful ministries of our congregation.
- 4.) Introduce the visitor to another person, if it can be done graciously. Feel free to let the visitor strike up a conversation with that member as well.
- 5.) Don’t forget to invite the visitor to return to worship, or to other events in the church.

Hospitality and welcome are fundamental to learning to live like Jesus. When we invite others in, we are inviting the Spirit to join us as well, knowing that where two or three are gathered in Christ’s name, the Lord is among them.

Of course, the great joy of Christ’s love is not only for the stranger, but for our friends from work, neighbors, acquaintances, even family members – everyone is in need of Christ’s saving grace. This spring, a time of renewal and new growth, be a witness! Plant seeds of discipleship in your heart and in the hearts of those you come to know. You never know how God will use us, or how the seeds we help plant - one at a time - might grow to fulfill God’s plan.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

APRIL 2016 ISSUE 94

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Watch our sermons on our website!



Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch noon - 1 p.m.)

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- Parish Associate Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
- Church Secretary Judy Harrelson (ext. 201)
- Treasurer Heather Heidman (ext. 206)
- Christian Education Dana Schramm (ext. 208)
- Custodian Harold Miller (ext. 205)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Happy Birthday to...</p> <p>Joyce Whitney Claire Jacobson Walter Whitney Marilyn Lapham Paul Dannesberger Marilyn Bechtel Isabelle Zuehlsdorff</p> | <h1>APRIL</h1> | |
| 3 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 3:00 p.m. Club 345 | 4 7:00 p.m. Bay Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting | 5 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 6:00 p.m. Personnel 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 |
| 10 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time 3:00 p.m. Club 345 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 4:00 p.m. Bay Chorale Concert | 11 6:30 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Small Group Meeting 7:00 p.m. Family & Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Stewardship | 12 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:00 p.m. Lions Sight & Hearing 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 |
| 17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time 3:00 p.m. Club 345 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class | 18 | 19 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 150 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting |
| 24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. New Members Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/New Members Received 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time 3:00 p.m. Club 345 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class | 25 | 26 10:00 a.m. Hearts & Hands 12:00 p.m. Spirituality of Aging 1:00 p.m. Log Crew 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 6:00 p.m. Women's Tea 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop |

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| | | 1 | 2 |
| 6 6:00 p.m. Property Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Mission Partnerships | 7 8:30 a.m. TOPS 7:00 p.m. PW Board Meeting | 8 | 9 9:30 a.m. Bay Chorale Dress Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Anniversary Party |
| 13 5:45 p.m. Bay City Fireworks 6:00 p.m. Worship Com. 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth | 14 8:30 a.m. TOPS | 15 | 16 |
| 20 4:00 p.m. Craft Bazaar 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice | 21 8:30 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Esther Circle 1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle 6:30 p.m. Humane Society 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle | 22 | 23 |
| 27 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice | 28 8:30 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Hannah Circle | 29 | 30 |

*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

SPRING 2016 COMMUNION SERVERS



April

Chris Thurman
Patti Wesnick
Jan Witucki
Lois MacPhail
Tiffany Frontjes
Jeff Rogers
Tom Tolles
Barb Tolles
Anne Remington
Janet Beattie

May

Pam Monville
Phil Reagh
Penny Reagh
Jacob Bennett
Joyce Hegenauer
John Hegenauer
Joy Thompson
John Tapley
Martha Tapley
Lee Pratt

TREASURER'S REPORT

Building Improvement Fund

January Balance:
\$23,446.90
February Income:
\$652.00
February Expense:
\$0.00
February Balance:
\$24,098.90

Operating Fund

February Income:
\$26,030.33
January Expense:
\$28,749.32

Major Repairs Fund

\$26,132.93

Donate online at
www.wpcbc.org



Prayers of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Terri Baney. Terry passed away Friday, March 18, 2016.

Funeral Services were held at Westminster Presbyterian on Tuesday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Matthew Schramm officiating.

Dear Matt,

On behalf of the entire presbytery, I would like to thank you and all the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church for hosting the presbytery for our March meeting. We were glad for the opportunity to hold a meeting at your church, and we appreciated all the time and effort that went into planning and preparing for the meeting. Your adaptability due to the weather and meeting changes was greatly appreciated. Not every church could do that, but Westminster always rises to the challenge.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make it an enjoyable day.

Yours in Christ,

Ted McCulloch, Stated Clerk



It's a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party"!

Ladies of all ages are invited to attend a tea party given by Presbyterian Women of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Join us in the Chapel on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. You are encouraged (but not required) to wear a hat. Any size, any style is welcome.

A selection of teas and light desserts will be provided by Presbyterian Women.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you are interested in exploring your faith and what membership at Westminster Presbyterian Church means, please consider attending New Members Classes scheduled for the following three Sundays at 9:15 a.m.: **April 10, 17, and 24**. New members will be received into the church on Sunday, April 24. Please call the church office at 686-1360 for more information.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

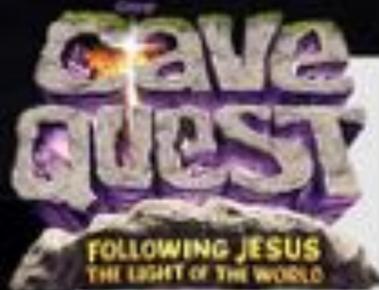
Remember to set aside items for the upcoming Rummage Sale taking place on Wednesday, May 4 (for members) and Thursday, May 5 (open to the public).

Volunteers are needed! There are volunteer sign-up sheets on the events/bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office.

You may drop off items for sale beginning after church Sunday, May 1 through Tuesday, May 3.



The Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on April 10 to approve a loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Corporation in order to finance the capital projects to be undertaken this year as part of our "Next 150 Years" campaign.



VBS at WPC
June 13-17, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Online Registration is
now open!

www.wpcbc.org

Registration Deadline: 
June 1st.
After June 1st:
\$10 fee per child.
Day-of registration:
\$15 fee per child.
*These fees help cover expedited
shipping costs for VBS supplies.*

Imagine...

- ...a child discovering for the first time that Jesus is the light of the world.
- ...kids worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...children praying for each other in the challenges they face.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...the kids in our church showing God's love to families in need across the United States.
- ...children serving each other.

This summer at Cave Quest VBS, kids will go on an over-the-top underground adventure where they'll discover Jesus can be their trusted guiding light through life! Be a part of vacation Bible school at Westminster, June 13-17, 2016. It's an adventure that'll help *everyone* involved to begin or grow in their relationship with Jesus!

We're praying this awesome VBS program will touch children's hearts and lives with Jesus' love and power. Help kids in our community discover that

- Jesus gives us hope.
- Jesus gives us courage.
- Jesus gives us direction.
- Jesus gives us love.
- Jesus gives us his power.

As we plan and prepare for Cave Quest, our team would cherish your prayers. Pray that God would give us wisdom in planning. Pray for the right staff members to join our team. And pray that God would begin working in the hearts of the children who will come to Cave Quest!

Watch for more information about this exciting ministry event!

In Christ,

Dana Schramm

REGISTER NOW!
www.wpcbc.org



COFFEE HOUR is a time for fellowship before worship. Please consider volunteering on a Sunday. It's a great opportunity to greet and serve the congregation! you may choose to host on your own, as a family, or have a friend join you.

Coffee Hour sign-up and instructions are located in Fellowship Hall. As a friendly reminder, there is no cost to you as host. Coffee supplies are available in the kitchen and the donuts are paid for by the church. You only need to pick them up and serve!



If this is your first time, or you are uncomfortable doing this alone, please contact Tiffany Frontjes (989-415-2182) or Neil Harrelson (989-971-7748).

Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts in March:
Len & Sheryl Petroff
Lee & Karen Pratt
Karen Brown-Fackler

THE HEARTS AND HANDS KNITTING GROUP recently donated several prayer shawls to Covenant Hospital. **Covenant has requested more!**

If you are interested in knitting, feel free to join this group, which meets every Tuesday at church from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Knitting is not limited to prayer shawls. The knitters knit baby items, lap blankets, hats and mittens, and other items to donate to those in need.

Every experience level is welcome!



THE BAY CHORALE
PRESENTS

Our Love is Here to Stay

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016
4:00 P.M.

OUT OF THE SKIN, INTO THE SOUL: THE SPIRITUALITY OF AGING

Several years ago when we lived in the Philadelphia area I had the privilege of hearing William H. Thomas, M.D. speak at a conference. He had recently written a book entitled, *What are Old People For: How Elders Will Save the World*. He spoke passionately about his interest in aging and longevity and his belief that "there is a new old age waiting to be discovered, ready to be explored. Aging and the aged are not, as so often supposed, the cause of our problems – they are and always have been the source of the answers we need."

Here at Westminster we met in **January** to explore the journey of "Out of the Skin into the Soul" with readings and small group conversations about the challenges and potentials in the "second-half" of life. In **February** Dave Friebe from Thrivent presented information on "Making a Difference – Sharing your Time, Talents and Treasures." In **March** we will explore aging as a spirituality journey with a focus on possibilities and hope, including resurrection hope in this season of Easter.

Abraham Heschel reminds us that these "second-half" years are not only formative, but transformative, reminding us that "it is an age of opportunities for inner growth...enabling us to attain the high values we failed to sense, the insights we have missed, the wisdom we have ignored...formative years rich in possibilities..."

On **April 26th** we will continue to explore the "hidden powers of age" and on **May 24th** Annette Jeske from Area Agency on Aging will be us to talk about community resources and answer questions. We will also be exploring interests for future gatherings in the Fall.

No registration necessary
Bring a bag lunch – beverages provided.

Any questions, please see or call Pastor Linda

BAY CHORALE CONCERT - Sunday,
April 10, 2016 in the Westminster
Presbyterian Church Sanctuary.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and
\$10.00 at the door.

For advanced ticket sales, please
contact Jim Merrill at
989-893-6845.



ORDINATION & INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS
SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016



ELDER

Ordination & Installation

Pam Binder
Bill Schueneman

Installation

Jack Gustafson
Neil Harrelson
Judy Randall
Phil Reagh

DEACON

Ordination & Installation

Ann Jay
John Hegenauer
Sheri Young

Installation

Sheryl Petroff
Anne Remington



MISSION TRIP 2016
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, April 10 following the Congregational Meeting.



Appalachia Service Project (or ASP) brings thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

For 47 years, ASP has made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provides transformational service experiences for volunteers. Last year, 16,110 volunteers served with ASP, providing critical repairs for 562 families.

On this mission trip, crews of 5-7 people will drive to a work site in Appalachia to help repair a home. We hope to have two crews heading out from the Westminster church family, and this mission opportunity is open to everyone high school aged and older. ASP will provide all tools, housing, and three meals a day. Some possible work may include repairing roofs, repairing floors, building additions, and structural repair.

Visit www.asphome.org

The Mission Partnerships Committee is very excited about this newest mission adventure, and hopes to see you on Sunday, April 10!



Westminster Thanks You, Sandy!

At its March meeting, the Session regretfully accepted the resignation of our co-Christian Education Director Sandy Graves. Sandy joined our staff in August of 2012, and has been a joy to work with for these three and a half years. On behalf of a grateful congregation, the Session extends its heartfelt thanks for her outstanding service. She has shown refreshing passion, energy, enthusiasm, and love for her work, the children of Westminster, and the Lord. She will be missed. If you haven't had a chance already, please do express your thanks to her for such heartfelt and meaningful work.

In the meantime, Dana Schramm will continue leading the Christian Education program and Club 345. We thought it appropriate to share some of Sandy's own words with you all from her letter to the Personnel Committee, the Session, and the Staff:



It is with great difficulty that I write this letter to officially inform you that I will be resigning from my position as Co-Christian Education Director and Club 345 leader... While I have enjoyed working with the children and volunteers in this congregation, at this point in time I need a break.

...My time here at Westminster has been full of love and learning. I will miss being a leader in Children's Ministry, but my family and I will continue to attend Sunday services as often as we can.

I will look forward to remaining a member of our wonderful congregation. Thank you for the opportunity to work at Westminster...

Peace Be With You,
Sandy Graves

Rev. Esther Wakeman

Mission Co-Worker in Thailand since 1979

Serving at the invitation of the Church of Christ in Thailand



About Esther Wakeman's ministry

Esther serves as University Chaplain at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Payap was founded by PC(USA)'s partner, the Church of Christ in Thailand, in 1974 and is the first private university in Thailand, serving about 5,000 students with 800 faculty and staff. About 10 percent of the students and 30 percent of the faculty and staff are Christian. The Office of Spiritual Life has 8 staff members, and they are responsible for worship services, required chapel programs, small prayer groups, retreats, workshops, international work camps, pastoral visits

at times of sickness and death, and counseling. The challenges of strengthening the Christian community on campus along with finding creative and meaningful ways to share the gospel with Thai college students are considerable. Esther asks your prayers that the spiritual life staff will develop a more passionate spirituality and deepen as a loving community, discovering more of the freedom Christ gives us to live life as it's meant to be lived.

Esther also oversees the Christian Communications Institute (CCI). CCI was founded about 30 years ago by a Broadway star who became a missionary to

Thailand. CCI uses traditional and modern dramatic and musical arts to present the gospel in schools and villages all over Thailand.

"Chiang Mai is a wonderfully congenial place to live," writes Esther, "and is a major mission center for Asia." Esther is active in the English-language church and its outreach ministry to the international community of Chiang Mai. "As the world gets smaller," she says, "opportunities for communicating the good news of God's grace are growing. It is exciting to be able to minister to both Thai people and others from all over."

Country Context

"Thai" means "free," and Thailand, known as Siam until 1939, prides itself in being the only Southeast Asian nation that was never colonized by a Western power. In the 1980s its economy changed from one based primarily on agriculture to one more focused

on the industrial and service sectors. The economy's fast growth sent a substantial number of people from Thailand's rural areas to urban centers. More than half a million Thai people are living with HIV/AIDS, a high rate of infection that is partly the result of a large-scale sex industry. Nearly 95 percent of the population are Buddhist, 4 percent are Muslim, and fewer than 1 percent are Christian. Presbyterians began mission work in Thailand in 1840, and Presbyterianism is one of the Protestant traditions that helped form the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT). While the CCT's membership is relatively small, its work in health, education and social ministries is widely known and appreciated.



February 26, 2016

Dear sister and brothers in Christ at Westminster Presbyterian,

Thank you for your gift toward my ministry at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

During the past few weeks in different situations, I heard three teachers sharing opportunities they had to listen to and encourage individual students who were struggling. These students were able to persevere and succeed because their teachers cared. This is Payap University at its best — expressing God's love in relationships.

Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and gifts. With this card I'm also wishing you a Happy Chinese New Year (February) and an early Happy Thai New Year (April). May your year be full of joy and a deepening experience of God's grace and love.

Esther Wakeman

P.S. I hope I may be able to visit in person one of these days.

A note from Esther Wakeman



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Responds to the Flint Water Crisis

In January, 2016, members of the PDA National Response Team (NRT) visited the Presbytery of Lake Huron to help with assessments and to discuss ways to respond with Presbyterian leaders, and how the church can be engaged in addressing immediate and the long-term needs. The Presbytery is coordinating with local Presbyterian churches in Flint to assist in providing safe water and water filters to affected communities.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds have been provided to support efforts, which include but are not limited to:

- Distribution of emergency water supplies, filters, and filter replacements;
- Community education on lead poisoning awareness and treatment;
- Identifying and reaching at-risk homes and families;
- Working cooperatively with community emergency response efforts and local hospitals to fund the development of ongoing community health resources to monitor at-risk individuals;
- Supporting the spiritual care and reconciliation in a community that feels betrayed.

