



...The Rest of the Story



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Published Biweekly

January 19, 2005

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten Bible Study: The Passion Narratives

February 16th - March 23rd

Have you ever wished you could walk alongside some of the characters of the Bible? To have eavesdropped on conversations between Jesus and the Disciples? You are invited to participate in a new video Bible study on *The Passion Narratives*, to be held Wednesday evenings, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. The class will meet in the Mission Center conference room 103. This will be a 6-week study, utilizing video-taped lectures by Dr. Mickey Efird, professor at Duke Divinity School for over 40 years and author of 13 books about the Bible. **To sign up call Gail in the church office (489-4974) or sign up at the information table in the Mission Center hallway.**

Richard Draffin and **Nancy Rozak** will be the facilitators for this study. Child-care will be provided if needed. Please let Nancy know as soon as possible so she can make the necessary arrangements.

Spiritual Renewal Committee

A subcommittee of the Christian Education Committee has been formed to oversee preparation for **Spiritual Renewal Weekend**, which is usually held in October. This committee is co-chaired by **Bonnie Derr** and **Richard Draffin**, and will meet in the near future. All WPC members are invited to participate in the subcommittee or to submit suggestions for speakers for Fall 2006. (The speaker for 2005 is already set.) Please call **Bonnie (489-7138)** or **Richard (493-5739)** with suggestions, and please come to the meeting, which will be announced in a future newsletter.



Nursery Committee Chair Needed

The Worship Committee is looking for a Sunday Nursery Committee Chair. We provide childcare on Sunday mornings during both worship services. This is one of our most important inreach programs and an outstanding opportunity to serve this congregation. Try to imagine what Sunday mornings would be like without this ministry! The Nursery Chair's main responsibilities are:

- recruiting and scheduling volunteers for the Sunday morning nurseries
- recruiting and working with monthly coordinators
- stocking the nursery snack cabinet

The Chair reports to the Worship Committee and oversees a Nursery subcommittee. Interested saints should contact **Blair Chesnut (403-9501 or blair.chesnut@duke.edu)**.



Stephen Ministry Classes on "Planning for the end of life." May 4th & 18th - Open to All

On May 4th & May 18th, James Brooks will lead 2 1-hour sessions for our Stephen Ministers, and any others who wish to attend, on the topic of planning for the end of life. James Brooks is the director of Project Compassion, a non-profit organization that is "committed to reclaiming dying as a part of living because we believe this opens the door to healing for us all." If you are interested in attending, reserve these dates on your calendar!



+ **Robin Brown's** grandfather, Guilford Maudlin, is in the hospital in Georgia recovering from pneumonia and a mild heart attack.

+ **David Duling's** mother, Jean, is in the hospital in Greensboro.

+ **Susan Dunlevy's** mother, Cornelia Hayes, is seriously ill in Rex Hospital. She is recovering from surgery for colon cancer.

+ **Jane & Hal Muncaster** are still recovering from a car accident in December.

+ **Barbara Penick** is at Hillcrest, recovering from back surgery.

+ **Mark Peter's** uncle Durwood died Monday night after a struggle with cancer. This is the brother of his mother, Ruth, who also has been battling cancer.

+ **Kim Scott's** grandmother, Margaret Staniland, died January 18th in Pittsburgh.



+ **Amy & Jack Davis** had a baby boy, John Engles (Jake) Davis, III, born December 27th.



Stewardship Report

Congratulations! We have concluded our 2005 Stewardship Campaign and were successful in raising **\$904,000** for the 2005 budget. Thank you very much for your generosity and for your continued participation in stewardship at Westminster. As a congregation, we are blessed with members who truly understand the joy of giving.

We received pledges of \$862,000, and, as a result of the letter we sent out the first of December, we received additional one time pledges of \$42,000 for a total of \$904,000. This is a great way to start the year and will make the task easier for Ways and Means as they finalize our budget. We will be challenged in our 2006 campaign since the final \$42,000 of our pledges came from one-time gifts.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I want to thank everyone for their participation. There were many ways to be involved this year -- Station Agents, Trail Bosses, Minutes for Mission, skits, cooks and servers at the Hoe Down -- and you participated with great enthusiasm. But most of all, we want to thank you, the generous congregants, for your financial commitment to this Body of Christ we are a part of -- Westminster Presbyterian Church. You were generous with your resources, and you made the Pony Express program a success by faithfully completing your pledge card and delivering the saddle bag to the next person on your route.

John Atkins
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Choir # Notes

Chancel Choir & all interested singers:

It's not too late to join us as we gear up for an exciting new year filled with music - including a spring concert on May 1st. January is a great time to join the choir! Come to any Thursday rehearsal (Music Room, 7:30 - 9:15 p.m.). We are especially in need of sopranos at this time, but all voice parts are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Choir:

This year's Ash Wednesday service (Feb. 9th) will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 305 East Main St., in downtown Durham. Kathy Parkins, minister of music, has extended an invitation to area choirs & hopes you will join in singing for this very meaningful service at the start of our Lenten season. The service begins at 7:30 p.m. & choirs will assemble in the First Pres. Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a robe; music is available from Monica. Questions? Call or e-mail **Monica (489-4974, ext. 113 or monica@wpcdurham.org)**.



It was 2 cold 2 play outside Sunday sew we beat on each chudder with noodles. Raised the temperature. 8 great chili. Could have had another celebration 4

Drew. First, he makes Eagle -- yay! (And listen to Bruscha talk about how important that is -- majorly at his house) and then, the drubles pulls in an acceptance to Ap. Yahoo. Krisin messed up Rob while ushering. Erynn can drive anywhere now and doesn't have to count her passengers. Gabe is undefeated and he hurts peebles. Some of the chix dint go swimming at Hyco. There's openings for Montreat. C Rebecca in a hurry. Bruce is coming to funyak. Marian is gonk to Mexico. Tullysnot. Tatum has a friend. Walker, u coulda stayed! We like u 2!?? Great discussion Sunday night about raising parents. To be continued. Get in your votes on wedder we are skink or not.



It's almost time for our . . .

Family Fun Morning and Pancake Breakfast!

Westminster School will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, February 5th in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.** Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee will be served. Lots of children's activities are planned. The breakfast is both a social event and a fundraiser for the school. The funds that we raise will be used to pay for playground maintenance (providing safe surfaces by replenishing mulch and sand twice a year) and classroom needs.

You may participate in this event in the following ways:

- Place an advertisement or personal message on the Pancake Breakfast placemat. For \$25 your business card or message will be printed on each placemat used at the breakfast.
- Donate a prize for the raffle. We're including items with a minimum value of \$25. If you are interested in donating to the placemat raffle, please call **Kathy Stickley in the school office (489-8432)**.
- You can also support the school by purchasing raffle tickets or tickets to the breakfast (both available in our office).

Hope to see you at the breakfast on the 5th!



Library Alert

Book Review of *Mary Called Magdalene* By Margaret George

In this book, Mary, whom most of us believe to be a prostitute or long-suffering and dutiful wife, is depicted as a courageous woman who after an ordinary childhood and youth, left her home, husband, and child to seek exorcism of her demons. Her search led her to her Jesus. She, along with James and John, experienced incredible spiritual journies -- *all* as disciples of Christ. Mary, in the book *Mary Called Magdalene*, a work of fiction by Margaret George, is seen to be a whole person - inventive, loyal, and loving - providing at times the leadership and at times the "glue" to hold the group of Christ's followers together.

This book is extremely well written, and I stayed up very late many nights reading "just one more page". While I enjoyed *The Da Vinci Code*, I felt this to be a much more believable re-creation of Mary, and one that shows her to be the kind of woman we in the 21st century would be proud to know. This is one of my very favorite books.

Review by Dorene Palermo

How are books in the WPC library acquired? Many are there because they accumulated over the years. But, we have been steadily adding to our collection with donated or purchased books.

There are two ways to donate. You can give money and request book(s) you would like purchased or let us decide which book(s) to purchase. You can also give specific books that you think would be valuable for the library. When choosing books to buy, it is always good to check with the Library Committee first to be sure your selection is appropriate.

On display in the Lobby of the Mission Center are recent additions that can be checked out. We think you will find them interesting and/or enjoyable. The book reviewed above will be among those available.



WORLDWIDE
MISSIONS



Music Mission Kiev presents:

Kiev Youth Orchestra and Chorus
Tuesday, February 8th, 7pm
NC School of Science & Math
Admission: \$10

Sponsored by Blacknall Presbyterian Church

Remember when the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus visited with us in 1998 and 2000? Now you have an opportunity to hear the Youth/Young Adult Chorus of Music Mission Kiev perform here in Durham at NCSSM. **Blacknall Presbyterian is looking for a few more families to house these young people on the night of February 8th.** If you might be interested, please contact **Hank van Deventer** (hvand@med.unc.edu or 919-732-7549).

Music Mission Kiev is one of the organizations supported through the Global Missions Committee. **For more information on MMK go to www.musicmissionkiev.org or contact Helen Harrison (489-0345 or helen.harrison@sas.com).**

Tsunami

Relief

Way to go, Westminster! You have answered the call to provide funds for the Tsunami Disaster Relief effort by giving over **\$7,000**. We are still receiving calls from folks asking if it's too late to give. Please send us your contributions. To date, no deadline has been set for the collection of these funds. Checks should be made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "disaster relief" written on the memo line, and cash gifts should be accompanied by a note specifying that the gift should be used for disaster relief.



Westminster sponsors/charters these three units:

- **Cub Scout Pack #451**, with 40+ registered Scouts, including adults
- **Boy Scout Troop #451**, with 100+ registered Scouts, including adults
- **Venture Crew #451**, with 30+ registered Venturers, including adults

Boy Scouts of America have been active at Westminster for over 30 years. During this period of time, **Boy Scout Troop #451** has produced over 90 Eagle Scouts. They currently have 15 more boys on the doorstep to the Eagle Rank. Please contact **Don Cleaver (484-8513)** for more information about this program.

The Scouts have participated in the following activities:

Backpacking, Caving, High Adventure Hiking, Snow Skiing, White Water Rafting, Canoeing, and Rock Climbing.

Their field trips have included the following destinations:

- Appalachian Trail
- Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico
- Alaska
- U.S.S. Yorktown Aircraft Carrier

The **Cub Scouts** have their annual Blue & Gold Banquet and their Pinewood Derby Races. Each Cub Scout is given a kit to make a racing car. They then race them at a Pack event, where prizes are awarded for Speed, Beauty, and Originality. Please contact **John Chase (493-3835 or johnchase@nc.rr.com)** for more information about this program.

The **Venture Crew** is a fairly new group of older boys and girls, ages 14 - 20. The Crew members participate in high adventure outings and have meetings twice a month. Please contact **Forrest Johnson (490-4976 or forrestjhn@mindspring.com)** for more information about this group.

Scouting at Westminster is very much alive and still growing. The units that you charter extend their gratefulness for your interest in Scouting and for your sponsorship.

This year **Boy Scout Sunday** will be **Feb. 13th**. Look for more details in the Feb. 2nd newsletter.

Announcements,



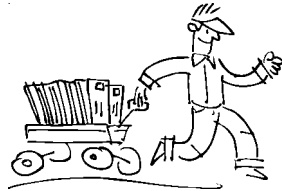
Events, Etc.



Did you know that we have a very dedicated group of volunteers who come into the church office every other Wednesday to prepare your newsletters for mailing? The newsletters are sent by bulk (business) mail which means we cut our postage costs by more than half because we presort the mail before it goes to the post office. An average newsletter mailing contains 550 pieces of mail. As you can imagine, this would be a big job for one or two people. Thankfully, we have a group to handle this!

We are looking for few more Saints to join this team. Please contact **Gail (489-4974 or gail@wpcdurham.org)** to volunteer. We will provide on-the-job-training and you will receive the benefit of socializing with other WPC members while you work.

Please volunteer today!
The next newsletter mailing is:
February 2nd.



To the Women of Westminster Presbyterian:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to lead your retreat. You were very gracious and a delight to be with for the day. Amidst your industry, silence, laughter, and joy, I felt the presence of the Spirit among you.

You were kind to entrust me with your time and your souls. And then, to give me such a generous honorarium was a big surprise. Thank you so very much. I put some of the money to use Friday at Cokesbury's big sale and now have new books that will remind me of you.

You are a great group of women from a super church. Thanks again and peace to you this holiday season.

Barbara Gerwe



Join Us At The Beach!
Women's Spring Beach Retreat
April 22 - 24, 2005



This year's retreat will be held in Wilmington, North Carolina at the Blockade Runner Cottage (right on the beach!). Our guest speaker will be Jane Summery, who is a Presbyterian Minister from Charlotte.

- Brochures available in early March
- Space limited to 38 participants

Mark you calendars now! Don't miss a minute of the fun, fellowship, and discovery!

Some of our members relocated in 2004. Here are their new addresses:

Patsy Bolt
600 Blue Point Drive
Wilmington, NC 28411

Megan Ketch
600 Park Place #15
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Sally & Bill Cline
1300 Branson Drive
Graham, NC 27253

Sherri & Nathan Kredich
16110 Cayenne Ridge Rd.
San Diego, CA 92127

Katie & Mark Donoway
4307 Steere Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105

Kelly & Chris Robbins
224 S. Franklin Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27802

Barbara & Rich Griffith
25 Gingham Lane
Pinehurst, NC 28374

Honey & Rob Royer
117 Maple Ave.
Hershey, PA 17033

Penn Holderness
121 Reade St., Apt. 8K
New York, NY 10013

*If we have missed anyone please call the church office (489-4974) to let us know.

A Note of



Thank you so much for the memorial service that you held for my mother. It was wonderful, and we all appreciated it immensely. The ability of you and your entire church to respond on such short notice was amazing. I realize how busy you are during the Advent season, so your response was even more incredible.

Please thank everyone who pitched in to make the service so pleasant and so meaningful. Many churches claim to be open, caring, and loving, but your staff proved that you are all that and more.

My mother would have loved the service and the music and your description of her. Even though you never met her, your picture of her was right on target. If I could have asked her how she liked it, I'm sure she would have said, "It was lovely, but you really shouldn't have made such a fuss."

Neil M. Hurry
Somers, NY

