



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Published Biweekly

February 25, 2009

Inside this Issue...

Celebrations	2	Pastor's Corner	2
Concerns	2	Preaching Schedule	3
Health Ministry	3	Volunteers	6
Lenten Lunches	6	Women's Retreat	2
Library Alert	5	Youth Ministry	4



Annual Family Fun Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, February 28th
8:30 - 11:00 a.m., WPC Fellowship Hall

You may participate by purchasing breakfast tickets - adults: \$4.50, children: \$2.50, placemat ads - \$25.00, or basket raffle tickets - \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00.

The basket themes for this year are:

- “Techy Treats & Yummy Eats” from the Pony Pals’ class,
- “Let’s Play” from the Diggity Dogs’ class,
- “Parents’ Night Out” from the Cool Cats’ class,
- “EVERYONE’S Favorite Basket” from the Piglets’ class,
- “You Ought to be in Pictures” from the Turtles’ class,
- “Road Trip” from the Froggies’ class,
- “Let’s Go to the Beach” from the Fish class,
- “Buy Local Durham” from the Bear Cubs’ class,
- “Sports” from the Mice class,
- and “Treat Ma to the Spa” from the Ducks’ class.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to make improvements to the Westminster playground and classrooms. We thank you for your continued support of our program, and we look forward to seeing you on the 28th for breakfast! Questions? Call Kathy or Carol in the school office (489-8432).

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

February 27th - Noon to 1 p.m., WPC Sanctuary

This hour is intended to provide solace and opportunities for prayer, meditation, and peaceful reflection at the end of a busy work week. You are invited to stay for the entire hour or to come for any portion of the hour that suits your schedule. Everyone is welcome!



**Wednesday Evening
Lenten Program
begins March 4th!**

Five Wednesdays of Lent
(3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, and 4/1)
for fellowship, food, and fun.

Make plans to join us for some or all of the activities during these five Wednesdays in Lent. This program will include: MP2, Junior Choir, fellowship dinner, adult Bible study, and childcare and creative craft activities for children.

3:45-5:15 p.m. - MP2 follows a regular schedule.

5:15-6:00 p.m. - Junior Choir rehearsal in the Music Room.

5:30-6:30 p.m. - Stay for dinner, or arrive in time for dinner. Nothing to bring, but reservations are a must. Please sign up in the Holderness Mission Center or call Barb Schmidt in the church office (489-4974). Volunteers are needed each week to prepare crockpot dishes, casseroles, soups, or salads. Cost of dinner will be \$5 or less; volunteer chefs and children under 4 are free.

6:30-7:30 p.m. - After dinner there is something for everyone! Adults will find the class, *Gospel Portraits of Jesus*, very meaningful (Music Room), children can enjoy crafts and activities taking place in the Youth Suite, and there will be a nursery for infants through 3-years-old.

Come for some, come for all, or come when you can! You will enjoy fellowship and enrichment with your church family throughout Lent. Be a part of it!



Vacation Church School
June 15th - 19th, 2009
“Let’s Eat!”

Register now for Vacation Church School 2009! Registration forms for campers and youth helpers are available on the information table in the Holderness Mission Center hallway.

Registration is “first come, first served.” Members of the five host churches have priority registration until April 1st. General registration begins on April 1st. Questions? Contact Nancy Rozak (489-4974).

Pastor's Corner

Friends,

New Hope Presbytery met last Saturday. Betty and I carpooled over to Cary Presbyterian Church with Holly Schmidt and Dana Lange, your elder commissioners.

It was a highly anticipated meeting, because it was the meeting at which we would vote to ratify (or not) the amendments approved by the 218th General Assembly last summer. There were a number of them, with all sorts of implications for the church. But all the talk was about one. This amendment changes the language in the Book of Order, in the Form of Government, G-6.0106b.

The Book of Order currently calls all officers to “lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church.” After that line, though, is where things get tricky. An explicit standard is set requiring men and women to live in fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman, or in chastity in singleness. The new wording would remove the explicit standard on sexuality and sexual practice, replacing it with a broader call to “live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where He leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church.”

The arguments about sexuality get plenty of media coverage, but this is also an amendment about WHO gets to be ordained. While there are clearly denominational standards in place, this amendment, if ratified, would shift the balance of power more towards local governing bodies: presbyteries for pastors, individual sessions for elders and deacons. In theory, the decision moves closer to the people who know personally the candidates for ordination. It states, “Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.” This amendment would, if ratified by a majority of presbyteries, give governing bodies the freedom to consider ordaining gay and lesbian people who feel a call to service in the church. No governing body – either a presbytery or session – would have to ordain anyone.

New Hope Presbytery approved this change by a vote of 177 to 139, with 10 abstentions. It is obvious we are

(Continued on page 3)



- + **George Beischer** continues in treatment for cancer.
- + Former WPC member, **Shirley Joines**, died on February 14th. A memorial service was held at Westminster on February 22nd.
- + **Bob King**, a charter member of WPC, died on February 22nd. A memorial service will be held at Blacknall Presbyterian in Durham on Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m.
- + **Heidi Kivel** is in treatment for cancer.
- + **Mike Thorne** died on February 12th. A memorial service was held on February 15th in our Sanctuary.

(Concerns continued on page 4...)

★ Celebrations ★

- + At the New Hope Presbytery meeting on February 21st, **Chris Tuttle** was officially approved to be the Head of Staff at Westminster. His installation is planned for March 29th at 3:00 p.m. Also at this meeting, **Christi O. Brown** was approved to be ordained and installed. She will be ordained at her home church in Seneca, SC on March 7th, and installed in her position with Leadership Education at Duke Divinity on Thursday, March 26th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Goodson Chapel at Duke Divinity School. Congratulations to Chris and to Christi!
- + **Verna & George Conklin** are proud grandparents for the first time. Heather & Patrick Russler had a baby girl, Zoe Leilani, born on February 10th.

Women's Retreat

Save the date!

2009 Spring Retreat

April 24-26

Jubilee Retreat Center, Abingdon, VA

Calling all women of Westminster! Our annual Spring retreat is just around the corner. Rev. Mary Banner will be our leader. Cost per person is \$150/double or \$180/single occupancy, including two nights' lodging and five meals. Plan to join us for a weekend of fellowship, relaxation, and spiritual growth.

Brochures and registration forms will be available soon. For more information, contact Barbara Fletcher (489-4974 or barbara@wpcdurham.org).

"Pastor's Corner"

Continued

still a divided church. I believe we are at our best as the body of Christ when we are diverse in every way, listening to, learning from, struggling with each other. Our differences enrich us, since no one individual or group can ever be entirely clear on the mind of Christ in all situations. We discern all these things together, as a community seeking to be faithful in all we do.

This amendment, like any changes to our church's constitution, needs to be ratified by a majority of presbyteries. Even if this occurs, it is unclear what effect it would have on presbyteries or churches like ours. We would, undoubtedly, need to find ways to continue to be in conversation together. If you would like to know more about this particular amendment, or the history of the struggles over sexuality in the PC(USA), please speak with Betty or myself. I am sure either one of our commissioners would be glad to tell you about the meeting last Saturday. Regardless of where your faith leads you, let us be in prayer for the church in this season of discernment.

Chris

Lenten Preaching Schedule

For the five Sundays in Lent, leading up to Palm Sunday, Chris and Betty are offering a sermon series of sorts, following the lectionary through the Hebrew Scriptures until we rejoin the Gospels at Holy Week. Entitled, "Remembering the Future: God's Foundational Promises," it is an opportunity to step back before we step forward together into the joy and celebration of Easter. Please take time to read the texts beforehand, then come join us for worship!

March 1 - First Sunday of Lent/Holy Communion

Preacher: Chris Tuttle

Text: Genesis 9:8-17

Title: "A Color-Coded Response to Terror"

March 8 - Second Sunday of Lent

Preacher: Chris Tuttle

Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Title: "On Blessings and Name Changes"

March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent

Preacher: Betty Berghaus

Text: Exodus 20:1-17

Title: "From God: How to Live"

(Continued in next column)



"NURSE'S NOTES"

by Kay Wellemeyer

Health Ministry Programs

Exercise Class

Come join us on Saturday mornings at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall as Julie Hardison leads us in strengthening and flexibility exercises. This class is for people of all ages, all fitness levels, all sizes, and all genders. (Yes, we have had a brave man join us!) Please don't feel you must already be fit to join in. Julie is able and willing to tailor all exercises to wherever you might be along the fitness spectrum. No equipment is necessary. So come join us for an hour of fun, fellowship, and fitness! **Please note: we will meet in the Parlor on Febr. 28th.**

Support Groups

Are you caring for a loved one with physical, mental, or emotional difficulties? Perhaps an aging parent? Whether you are caring for someone in your home, visiting someone in a care facility, or worrying about someone at a distance, we welcome you to join the Westminster **Support Group for Caregivers**. There is much to be gained from sharing experiences, insights, feelings, and resources with those in our faith community going through similar life experiences. **We meet the second Tuesday of each month in Room 207.** Join us at our next meeting on March 10th.

Grief is a universal experience, but one that tends to make many people feel very alone. You are not alone. If you have suffered a loss in your life, please join other members of your faith community who are going through a similar experience. We are starting a new **Grief Support Group** this March. If you have suffered a loss, be it near in time or distant, be it of a spouse, parent, child, sibling, friend, or pet, you are welcome to join us as we work our way through one of life's, and faith's, most difficult challenges. There will be no answers given, only love and caring shared. **We will have our first gathering on March 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 207.**

March 22 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Preacher: Chris Tuttle

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

Title: "The Grip of Memory"

March 29 - Fifth Sunday of Lent/Birthday Sunday

Preacher: Chris Tuttle

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Title: "The Deepest Kind of Knowing"



Sunday the youth began to think about Lent as we looked at Psalm 51. We talked about the 3 Cs: God's CLAIM on our lives, CONFESSION of our sins, and the CLEANSING of our sins through spiritual practices in Lent. Youth were sent home with a bar of soap to remind them that while we are all sinners, Christ died and rose for our forgiveness, and Lent is a time to be reminded of this.

Many thanks to those who spent Valentine's Day dancing with the youth, and to those who put it all together. We raised more than \$750 for the youth mission fund and had a great time of fellowship!

Rebecca

Youth Calendar

There are several opportunities this Lenten season for youth to take the time of preparation seriously:

Feb. 27 - March 1: Middle School Retreat at New Hope Camp with area churches.

March 13-14: 30-hour famine, for Middle School and Sr. High youth. We will covenant to fast beginning at noon Friday. We will then gather at 5 p.m. at WPC with youth from Trinity Ave., Mt. Bethel, and First Pres. As we fast, we will look at hunger around the world, participate in prayer stations, including a labyrinth, and work at the Foodbank and New Hope Camp. We'll break the fast at 7 p.m on Saturday with a potluck dinner provided by our families.

March 21: Work day at New Hope Camp

March 22: CROP walk

March 24: Shelter meal

March 27-28: Annual Middle School retreat at Hyco Lake

Concerns, continued...

+ **Chris & Carrie Tuttle** ask for prayers for the Warren family, whom they met in PICU at Duke. Their son, Luke, died recently.

+ **Loma Young** asks for prayers for her sister, Anne Hansen, who is dealing with pain management issues, and also for her niece, Glenda Wickstrom, who struggles in treatment of a rare disease.



Support Our Youth in Mission!

Shop for groceries at Kroger, Food Lion, or Lowes Foods and support the youth in their missions to Mexico and Charlotte!

Kroger - You can still purchase \$5 gift cards and reload them at customer service or checkout. WPC will receive 5% of your purchases. Buy your card from Rebecca Matern in the church office today!

Food Lion - Use your MVP card when you checkout, and WPC will get a portion of what you spend. To sign up, e-mail your first name, middle initial, last name, phone #, and 12 digit MVP # to Cooper Hatch (coop6021@aol.com).

Lowes Foods - Transfer your accumulated Greenpoints to the WPC Youth so we can purchase various gift cards and other helpful items for mission work. Dial 1-800-435-5674, press option 3, and transfer your Greenpoints to the WPC Youth Account # 420253044291. The account is now active and ready for your donations. 5,000 Greenpoints have been received so far. Contact Will Dozier (wdozier@nc.rr.com) for more information.

90% of these earnings will go to the Youth Mission Fund and 10% is tithed to the Food Bank.

Thank you for your support!

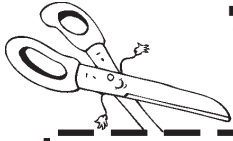
The fundraiser team,
Cooper Hatch, Will Dozier, Collin Bosworth, Natalie Wolf, Tanner Lockhead, Mitch Dozier

SUPPORT OUR TEAMS!



Thanks to all who have been coming out to support our basketball teams this season. Basketball has been more popular than ever this year,

with 19 people playing on two very competitive teams. Our regular season will be wrapping up soon, culminating in the 2nd game between those two teams. Come out and watch as the Westminster "Sinners" (blue) try to even the score with the Westminster "Mortals" (red). Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m. at Hope Valley Baptist Church at the corner of Garrett and Hope Valley Road.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

NOMINATION FORM

I recommend _____
as a candidate for Elder.

I recommend _____
as a candidate for Deacon.

Comments:

In the next month, the 2009 Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the Session and the Diaconate.

The Nominating Committee will select four candidates for the office of Elder and seven for the office of Deacon. We wish to draft a slate that represents all segments of our church. Therefore, we solicit input and recommendations from the congregation. You may anonymously recommend yourself or any other member of the congregation who you believe would be a good candidate for one of these offices.

Please fill out this form and put it in the designated box in the Mission Center or give it to Bruce Cunningham, Nominating Committee Chair, or Sam Bryan, Vice Chair.



Habitat of Durham has two very special events planned for Spring.

The Great Human Race, hosted by the Volunteer Center of Durham, is a 5K (3.1 mile) competitive run/walk and a 5K (3.1 mile) non-competitive walk for Triangle area nonprofits and their supporters. Join Team Habitat as we raise money to build homes, hope, and community in Durham.

How you can help:

- Walk/Run with Team Habitat in the Great Human Race on Sat., March 21, 9:30 a.m. at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. To RSVP or to learn more, contact Roxanne (rhall@durhamhabitat.org).
- Raise money - Habitat will receive an even match from an anonymous foundation on donations up to \$3,000.
- Donate - If you are not able to join us for the walk, please consider donating. You may visit the Habitat Great Human Race page and click on "make a contribution" (<http://www.active.com/donate/ghr2009/habitatofdurham>).

Women Build

Habitat of Durham is planning a Women Build home in 2009, with construction projected to start in April.

Join us for an information session on Tues., March 3rd, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Westminster. Learn more about Women Build and how you can be involved. RSVP to Development Director Mitzi Viola (mviola@durhamhabitat.org or 730-4690).

CALLING ALL DING-A-LINGS... MMM, WE MEAN...RING-A-LINGS!

The Westminster Handbell Choir needs a couple of ringers to fill in this spring. We will play both services on April 19 and have three great selections to learn, but we need two additional ringers. Please come and help us out...this could be a short-term or a longer-term commitment for you...a good time to give us a try! Contact Kathryn Bunch (544-3836 or kbunch@measinc.com) if you have any questions or would like to join us! We will rehearse at 4 p.m. on Sundays, March 1st - 22nd, Sunday April 5, and Saturday morning, April 18, before we play on the 19th. We need you!!



Library Alert

Temptations Men Face

By Tom L. Eisenman

The temptations in this book could be known by everyone although the topics included are common areas of struggle for men. The subtitle says it all: straightforward talk on power, money, affairs, perfectionism, insensitivity. The author discusses difficulties in a personal, practical way and offers strategies for opposing temptations. This book is for adult readers.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
 3639 Old Chapel Hill Road
 Durham, NC 27707

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 760

Phone: 919-489-4974
 Fax: 919-493-4553
 Website: www.wpcdurham.org



Lenten  **Lunches**

WPC is hosting a Lenten Luncheon on March 25th from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch lasts until 12:30 p.m. and is followed by a worship service. The meal will consist of soup and sandwiches. We would like to have ten soups to serve, and need volunteers to make the soup in crockpot or dutch oven-sized amounts. Servers are also needed. Please contact Holly Schmidt (489-6887 or hschmidt@nc.rr.com) to volunteer.

2009 Lenten Luncheon Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church Host</u>
3/18	Epworth United Methodist
3/25	Westminster Presbyterian
4/01	St. Paul's Lutheran

Responsibilities for March 1 - 8, 2009

ACOLYTES	USHERS	NURSERY (cont.)
03/01 Daniel Falkovic and Jack Mountain	03/01 8:30 - Bill McAvoy, Perry Tharrington, Barb Vanden Broek, and Pete McWilliams	03/08 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Jean Behr
03/08 Jack Dozier and Jack High	11:00 - John, Jack, & Alex High, and Kevin, Carol, & Chris Kelly	<i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter
LECTORS	03/08 8:30 - John & Rebecca Graham, David Lapp, and Doug Smith	2-5 - Barb Vanden Broek and Kenzie Brannon
03/01 8:30 - Bill Bartholomay	11:00 - Jeff & Mary Beck Sutton, Mike & Kay Rosenmarkle, and Jim & Addison Joseph	11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini and Jessie Tharrington
11:00 - Kay Wellemeyer	NURSERY	<i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter
03/08 8:30 - Kay Wellemeyer	Nursery Coordinator for March - Dexter Meath	2-3 - Youth
11:00 - John Gunter	03/01 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Helen Tharrington	4-5 - Youth
ELDER GREETERS	<i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter	
03/01 8:30 - Susan Ketch	2-5 - Erik & Andy Dunk	
11:00 - John or Ann Dancy	11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini and Jessie Tharrington	
03/08 8:30 - <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter	
11:00 - <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	2-3 - Carolyn Holmes and Jennifer Whitman	
OFFERING COUNTERS	4-5 - Crystal Stickwood & Peter Hanink	
03/01 Beth Eagen and Gloria Kanoy		
03/08 Bill & Jeff Young		
SOUND TECHNICIANS		
03/01 8:30 - Doug Wellemeyer		
11:00 - Gene Zielinski		
03/08 8:30 - Dorene Palermo		
11:00 - Gene Zielinski		