



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Published Biweekly

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Wednesday Evening Lenten Program continues!

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

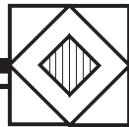
3:45-5:15 p.m. - MP2 follows a regular schedule.

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). 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 and youth will find the class, ***Gospel Portraits of Jesus***, very meaningful (Room 205). Please pick up a Bible study handout from the information table in the Holderness Mission Center (HMC) hallway. Children can enjoy crafts and activities, and there will be a nursery for infants through 3-years-old in Room G6 on the lower level of HMC.

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!



*The Presbytery of New Hope and
the Congregation of
Westminster Presbyterian Church*

*invite you to a
Service of Worship and Installation*

*for
The Reverend Christopher Stephen Tuttle
as Pastor of*

*Westminster Presbyterian Church
3639 Old Chapel Hill Road
Durham, North Carolina*

*Sunday, March 29, 2009
3:00 p.m.*

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



HELP NEEDED!

GOOD NEWS! Kim Garcia has offered to be our Executive Director of the Summer Musical 2009. However, in order to produce the musical we will need many more volunteers: musicians, musical directors, and stage directors. Please contact Kim Garcia (kim.garcia@duke.edu) or Nancy Rozak (nancy@wpcdurham.org) if you can help lead the Summer Musical this year. We need to have a production crew in place soon if we are to move forward with our traditional Summer Musical.

Women's Retreat

**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 lead us in our topic "Angels Among Us." 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 are being mailed next week and will also be available soon on the information table in the HMC hallway. For more information, contact Barbara Fletcher (489-4974 or barbara@wpcdurham.org).

**Pastor's
Corner**

Friends,

From the beginning of my conversations with the PNC last spring, one thing always kept popping up: Micah 6:8. It is on bulletins and the website. Often in conversation, people would quote it or mention it to me. I bet you know it by heart: "...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" This verse clearly offers a sense of who we are here at Westminster, as well as who we feel called to be. But, what does it really mean to us? In an effort to begin a conversation, I am going to take some time in this space the next couple of newsletters to parse out a bit of what it could mean for our community of faith. This Lent, a time in which the church is called to do a bit of soul-searching, what does it mean to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God?

Westminster is called to be a community that practices justice, through acts of advocacy and compassion. We are known throughout Durham as a place committed to mission, to community ministry, that takes seriously the amount of money it gives away, that empowers people to be a part of helping transform the world. The impression I got, just from a brief show of hands in worship, is that at least half of us have served a shelter meal. Service and compassion doesn't get much more profound than preparing a meal for someone who is hungry and serving it, looking them in the eye. These are the kinds of opportunities that transform us, when we see Christ across the table. These moments are critical acts of compassion in a hungry world, but also force us to see the world in profoundly different ways. We must confront those critical questions – Why are they hungry while I stand here serving the meal? What kind of world allows this to happen? How am I so privileged? What is required of me?

At the core of acts of justice and compassion are places to get our hands dirty, hammer nails, clean up trash on a riverbed. We all, for the world and for our own sakes, should make sure we break a sweat serving others regularly. If you haven't, our Community Workday is coming up on May 2. There will be opportunities for disciples of all ages and ability levels to do justice in a focused way. We can enjoy fellowship together, do some good, and hopefully learn something about an agency that is working hard here in Durham. More details will be

(Continued on page 3)



- + **Kay & Hugh Bailey's** 14-year-old grand-niece, Kristi, who lives in Erie, Pennsylvania, is very ill with rheumatoid arthritis.
- + **George Beischer** continues in treatment for cancer.
- + **Barri Burch's** parents, Verne and Evie Swartzlander, need our prayers. Evie, as Verne's main caregiver, was taking him to the doctor, when he fell on her, breaking her arm and leg.
- + **Amy Dickson's** father, John Perry, is receiving treatment for cancer.
- + **Heidi Kivel** is receiving treatment for a recurrence of cancer.
- + **John & Julia Lockhead** ask for prayers for John's mother, Jeanne, who is seriously ill at Duke Medical Center.

Celebrations

- + **Christi O. Brown** was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) at her home church in Seneca, South Carolina on March 7th. She will be 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. If you are planning to attend her installation, you may contact Betty in the church office (489-4974) to inquire about riding our bus, which will be able to pull up to the steps at the front of Duke Chapel and the Divinity School.
- + **Faye & Tom Shaffer** are first-time grandparents. Mackenzie Lynn Sanders was born March 8th to their daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Kevin, in Encinitas, California.
- + Our **5th & 6th Grade Sunday School Class** held a bake sale service project at the basketball game last week and raised over \$125 for Heifer International. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale to make this possible!





"NURSE'S NOTES"
by Kay Wellemeyer

During this season of Lent, I am going to take a break from my "disease of the month" articles, and spend some time reflecting on what we can learn from the words and example of Jesus on how we take care of our bodies.

Our bodies are important to God. We are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God. God has chosen to live in our bodies, using them as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spent much of his ministry healing the physical pains and illnesses of those in the crowds around Him and along the path He walked.

Our bodies are the vessels through which we give and receive love (can you imagine a way that we show love to others without our bodies?). Jesus Himself instructed us to feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, clothe the naked, and care for the sick. These are all actions done with a body to a body. What we do with our bodies matters!

How did Jesus eat? He certainly attended banquets and feasts, but most of the time when we are told what He ate, it was a simple meal of fish and bread. When He wanted to feed the five thousand, and again the four thousand, He chose fish and bread. His post resurrection meal with the disciples was fish and bread. Simple food. Easily available. But more importantly, perhaps, is the manner in which Jesus ate and instructed others to eat. A key ingredient of each meal was fellowship! People sat at a table or on a picnic blanket and took time to eat with one another. No working, walking, reading, watching TV - food for the body and fellowship for the soul.

Did Jesus exercise? Yes! He walked, miles a day. Now, you might say He didn't have a choice in those days - that was the main mode of transportation. But surely our Lord could have stayed in one place, and people would have flocked to Him. Or He could have found a wealthy patron to supply a horse, or camel, to take Him from town to town. But He chose to walk. Perhaps it was so He could interact with those along the roadside, perhaps so He could spend time teaching His disciples. But perhaps He also recognized how exercise would help relieve stress and tension. And who had more stress than the One who knew that His life would be short and would end painfully?

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"NURSE'S NOTES"

Continued

Why is it important that we take care of our bodies? First, they are a gift from God that should be treasured. God gave us our bodies so we can experience life joyfully - enjoying food, work, leisure, time with loved ones. But God also gave us bodies so we can be His instruments in the world, to love and serve God's people. Perhaps if we perceive care of our bodies as a responsibility given to us by God, the often times hard choices about how to do that may become a little easier.

"PASTOR'S CORNER"

Continued

coming. Neal Nichols, Vice-Moderator of the Diaconate, is heading up this good work.

Beyond getting our hands dirty, Westminster also does remarkable work in the realm of support and advocacy, with our dollars and the time many of us spend on community boards. People who hammer nails need people to pay for those supplies and organize the work. Your church leaders had to make some budget cuts this year, cuts that grieve us. We are working hard to find ways to make sure we, a privileged people, step forward to serve those with less, especially in these scary economic times. Family Fun Night was a really fun start to that effort, with all proceeds donated to local benevolences. Another part of that effort is cataloging who does what around here. There will be tables outside of worship the next few weeks with sheets for each local ministry we support. If you work with, say, Habitat or IHN, please tell us! We are going to compile this information and put it across an entire wall in the Mission Center, so we can better get others involved.

What does 'doing justice' mean to you? How will you practice justice each day?

Chris

It's time to donate Easter Lilies in honor or memory of your loved one(s) for a suggested donation of \$10 each. These lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary for the morning services on Easter Sunday, and the dedications will appear in the Easter bulletin. Donation forms are available on the information table in the HMC hallway.



All forms should be turned in by March 30th. Call the church office (489-4974) for more information.



The 30-Hour Famine begins at noon on Friday, with gathering at Westminster at 5 p.m. along with youth from Trinity Ave., Mt. Bethel, and First Presbyterian churches. This will be a weekend focused on spiritual growth through fasting, praying, worship, and service, and is intentionally a part of our Lenten calendar. We will break our fast with a potluck dinner provided by our families at 6 p.m.

Our summer mission teams have been gathering, each getting to know one another better and preparing to go forth into unfamiliar places to do God's work. Each participant has something to offer God, the team, and the people we will meet and serve. We spend the time before our trips recognizing each other's gifts and our own limitations, as well as considering why we are called to this particular service.

We are aware of the recent violence in Mexico. As we continue to watch news reports, parents, advisors, and youth of the Mexico Mission Team are in conversation about what is happening and how we can prepare. We also keep in prayer for our neighbors and the leaders of Mexico. Adolfo Arias Job, pastor of our sister church, Iglesia Jesus de Galilea, tells us that his town of Sabancuy has been unaffected by the violence, and that the road we will travel from Merida is secure. We will continue to communicate with Adolpho and Don Wehmeyer (our missionary contact) regularly, to balance what we hear on the news with what is real on the ground where we are going. The safety of the youth and adults going to Mexico is our highest priority. Thank you to all who have expressed concerns for our safety.

Rebecca

Youth Calendar

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

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

March 29: Chris' Installation at 3 p.m.; Youth Group afterwards until 6 p.m.; Confirmation will meet 5-6 p.m.



"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much... It is whether we provide enough for those who have too little"

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

800 million people--almost 3 times the population of the U.S.--do not get enough food to lead active, healthy lives, and everyday almost 16,000 children die from hunger related causes--one child every five seconds.

The 2009 Durham CROP Walk is March 22, 2009.

We challenge all of Westminster to be involved in the fight against hunger by participating in the CROP Walk. Sign-ups for walkers will be available after Sunday services on March 15th or you may contact Gail in the church office (489-4974) during the week. You can walk, sponsor a walker, or sign up yourself, friends, and relatives online. To make an online donation, go to:

www.durhamcropwalk.org

click "Contribute," "Join a Team," type in Westminster. If you are part of Westminster's Cub Scout Pack 451 you can click that link, everyone else click on "Westminster Presbyterian."

The day of the walk, all Westminster walkers should bring only the top copy of their envelope (do not bring money), and if you are under 18 you will need the signature of a parent/guardian. We will meet on the stairs of Duke Chapel at 2:00 p.m to register, and the walk will step off at 2:30 p.m. Thanks for your participation to end world hunger.

Questions? Contact Carol Cunningham (403-9698) or Helen Tharrington (489-8253).

Lenten Preaching Schedule

March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent

Preacher: Betty Berghaus

Text: Exodus 20:1-17

Title: "From God: How to Live"

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"



A Summer Sabbatical

Westminster has a sabbatical policy whereby the Pastors, the Director of Christian Education and the Minister of Music, with the approval of the Session, may take a three-month sabbatical after every seven years of service. According to our sabbatical policy, this three month period is a time for personal and family spiritual and educational growth, and the time is used at the discretion of the staff member taking the sabbatical. The Session, at its February meeting, unanimously approved a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that Monica Rossman, Minister of Music, be given a sabbatical for June through August of this year.

As most are well aware, Monica is busy with the music and worship needs of the church year-round. Yet summer is a relatively quiet period in our musical calendar making this the best time for her to take a sabbatical. The Chancel and Youth choirs go on “hiatus” during the summer months. The Summer Choir participates in worship, rehearsing each Sunday immediately prior to the late service.

Monica has arranged for Tom Warburton, our long-time organ and choir director “pinch hitter,” to cover most of the Sundays during her absence, and we are pleased to have such a capable and well-liked director to fill Monica’s shoes during this time.

Monica’s plans include time devoted to family activities, (with both Jessica and Natalie graduating from college programs this year), a family trip, and some reunion activities. She also hopes to attend one or more church music conferences, spend some time composing, arranging, practicing (like she needs practice??), and visiting other churches for inspiration and new ideas about music and worship. Please join the Session in supporting Monica in her sabbatical!



MANY THANKS...

...to everyone who supported our annual February Pancake Breakfast and Basket Raffle. Thank you for purchasing basket raffle tickets, coming to eat with us, and sharing the activities of the morning. Hats off to Jon and Debra DuBose for providing the pancake mix, syrup, and sausage! Dennis Cullen spent the entire morning cooking the delicious pancakes. The Westminster Advisory Board took care of all the planning, set-up, and clean-up. It took many individuals to create such a successful and fun event.

This fundraiser earned over \$3,000 that will be used to maintain and update Westminster’s playground. A playground space like ours requires much in the way of funds each year just for maintenance. New equipment will need to be purchased over time. Thank you so much for sharing in this endeavor with us by supporting the Pancake Breakfast!



Walking the Labyrinth: A Lenten Retreat

Where: New Hope Camp & Conference Center.

When: March 25, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Who: our leader, Nancy Corson Carter.

What: the new 11-circuit Chartes-pattern labyrinth.

Why: open to Christ’s abiding presence as we walk together in the springtime woods on the path through Lent toward Easter. We will begin with orientation to the labyrinth and to various ways of walking and praying it. Bring your Bible, a journal, and some drawing and painting tools, if you like,

This retreat is limited to 20 participants; cost is \$25. A simple basket lunch will be served mid-day. To register, call the NHCCC office (942-4716).

Lenten



Lunches

Date Church Host

- 3/18 Epworth United Methodist
- 3/25 Westminster Presbyterian
- 4/01 St. Paul’s Lutheran

This Lenten tradition continues in 2009 with three lunchtime opportunities for Lenten fellowship, reflection, and preparation. Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by a 30-minute worship service at 12:30 p.m. Join us for any or all!

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



**Our Furry Friends
 Need Help Too!**

The Junior High Sunday School Class is collecting items for the Durham Animal Shelter. The facility is overflowing with abandoned and displaced dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens. The need for basic supplies, blankets, food, and money is greater than ever. We are collecting: old bath towels, new pet toys, unopened pet food and treats. Please place donated items in the *green* benevolence box in the HMC during the month of March. If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to WPC (note *Animal Shelter* on the subject line) and give it to Gail in the church office. The Junior High class thanks you for supporting our mission outreach project!



**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 HMC hallway.
 Registration is "first come, first served." Members of the five host churches have priority registration until April 1st. We already have 60 children registered, and we do not want any of our WPC families to be put on the waiting list once general registration opens up on April 1st.
 Questions? Contact Nancy Rozak (489-4974).

Responsibilities for March 15 - 22, 2009

ACOLYTES	USHERS	NURSERY (cont.)
03/15 Addison & Audrey Joseph 03/22 Holly Lockhead and Rebecca Graham	03/15 8:30 - Ron & Becky Sale, Howard Pedersen, and Sharon Barnes 11:00 - Olivia Cleary, Will Dozier, Thomas Hill, Emily Stokes, and Mark Schmidt 03/22 8:30 - Margaret McCarty, Jeff & Marsha Scouten, and Linda Van Gombos 11:00 - Shayne, Angela, Allie, Madison, & Grayson Ruffing, and Peter Hanink	03/22 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Barb Vanden Broek <i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter 2-5 - Dexter Meath and Rayner England 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini and Jessie Tharrington <i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Carolyn Holmes and Jennifer Whitman 4-5 - Anne Vann and Jill Nelson
LECTORS 03/15 8:30 - Gene Brannon 11:00 - Natalie Wolf 03/22 8:30 - Jim Maxwell 11:00 - Darren Skeen		
ELDER GREETERS 03/15 8:30 - Bill McAvoy 11:00 - Sam Bryan 03/22 8:30 - Alice Decker 11:00 - Blair Chesnut	NURSERY Nursery Coordinator for March - Dexter Meath 03/15 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Cathy Smith <i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter 2-5 - David & Kathleen Lapp 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Cindy Soloe <i>Toddlers</i> - Christabel Yamoah, Tatum Pottenger, and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Neil & Jennifer McElroy and Vivian Young 4-5 - Tiffany Price & Dexter Meath	
OFFERING COUNTERS 03/15 Sally Cook and Judy Thompson 03/22 Tracy & Jim Joseph		
SOUND TECHNICIANS 03/15 8:30 - Dorene Palermo 11:00 - Gene Zielinski 03/22 8:30 - Dorene Palermo 11:00 - Gene Zielinski		