



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Friends and fellow disciples,

Pastor's Corner

Back in February I reported to you in this space on the meeting of New Hope Presbytery some of us attended. Many good and important things happened there, but all everybody wanted to know about

was the vote. By that, I mean the vote on one particular amendment coming from the 218th General Assembly last summer. This amendment changes the language in the Book of Order, in the Form of Government, G-6.0106b. 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.”

This amendment is about a couple of things. It is surely about whether Presbyterian governing bodies will be allowed to ordain openly gay and lesbian persons. It is also about who gets to make that determination. The proposed amendment would shift the balance of power more towards local governing bodies: presbyteries for pastors, individual sessions for elders and deacons. It is also, as you know, about how we make decisions as people of faith, how we read scripture together. It is surely about politics and power. While New Hope Presbytery approved this change by a vote of 177 to 139, with 10 abstentions, this amendment failed in the larger church. For now, there will not be a change in the ordination standards in the PC (USA). As of last week, 78 Presbyteries had voted, ‘Yes,’ and 93 had voted, ‘No.’ The threshold required for passage was 87.

There is one other important aspect to this story, and it tells us that we are most likely going to be doing this all over again in another year or so. 36 Presbyteries flipped, or changed their votes, from the last time we did this in 2001-2002. Only two flipped against the amendment, and 34 presbyteries that voted against ordination only a few years ago voted for it now. In 2001-2002, all five presbyteries in North Carolina voted against a change in standards. Four of the five this time flipped, with only Coastal Carolina remaining against the change this time. Your guess is as good as mine as to why that has happened, but it tells me that this conversation is far from finished.

(Continued on page 3...)



Summer Sunday School
Join us for an intergenerational
musical experience!
June 7 – September 13, 2009

No experience necessary! All ages welcome! This year’s musical production is “The Secret of My Success: Building Futures on The Rock.” This is a story that teaches us what God’s Word says about true success.

We are really excited about this show, as it addresses some timely issues. There are great solo speaking and singing roles. The roles are NOT gender- or even age-specific, so ANYONE can participate! We do need one person who can ride a bicycle... and sign painters, we’ll need sign painters...and an accompanist. PLeeeeeze! And, a camel would help; not necessary, but whipped cream on the cake. And, if anyone WANTS to do choreography, you’re most welcome; you don’t even have to know how to spell it. And, anyone who just wants to have FUN with a group, come on down!

Want to participate? Contact Kim Garcia (417-8053 or kim.garcia@duke.edu) or just come to the first meeting on June 7th. We look forward to welcoming you!



LOOK FOR THE
“SHARE YOUR NURSERY”
BABY SHOWER SIGN-UPS
THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH,
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES.





+ **Bill Bartholomay** died on May 25th. A funeral service was held at WPC on Monday. If you would like to provide a meal for the family, please contact Carol Cunningham (ccunningham@fmrealty.com or 308-3255).

+ **Richard Burton**, the Director of Development of Durham Nativity School, asks for our prayers for his upcoming heart surgery.

+ **John & Ann Dancy** ask for prayers for John's sister, Cindy Dever, who will have glaucoma surgery on June 18th.

+ **Cal Hesse** died on May 12th. A memorial service was held on May 16th in Indianapolis, IN.

+ **Gail Reynolds'** grandmother, Cora Franks, died May 18th in Burlington, NC.

+ **Lori Roe's** grandmother, Louise Ferrell, died on May 22nd.

+ **Katherine Stanley** requests prayers for her family in the loss of her uncle, Dr. Ernest Willoughby Carpenter, who died on May 9th in Petosky, Michigan.

+ **Carol Van Hise's** husband, **Harold Van Hise**, died on May 30th. Carol is the Financial Director of Westminster School for Young Children.



+ **Tali & Vernon Benignus** have a new grandson. Benjamin Charles Prince was born to Tali's daughter, Susan, and her husband, Philip, on May 20th.

+ **Olivia Landreth**, the Tuttlles' friend from PICU at Duke, was discharged from the hospital recently.

+ **Barb & Frank Schmidt** are the proud grandparents of a new baby boy. Jude Mercy Fineschmidt, was born on May 24th to their son, David, and his wife, Julie, in New York.

+ **Maria & David Smith** are proud first-time grandparents of David Russell Clarke, born May 7th.

+ **Cindy & Ray Soloe** celebrate the birth of their second child, Charles Daniel Soloe, born on May 22nd.



We are going to Mexico! After much concern, discussion, and prayer, the senior high mission trip to Mexico has a green light. Please continue to keep the team and our friends in Mexico in your prayers as we prepare to serve God in Sabancuy.

Over the summer, the middle school and high school groups each will spend a week doing mission and a week exploring their faith. There will be much to do, much to learn, and many relationships built in the process. We can't wait!!

Heads up for the fall! Our amusement park trip (rising 6th graders welcome) is scheduled for August 15th. Youth Kick-off is Sunday, August 30th! More details to come!

Remember: our last youth group meeting before summer vacation is this Sunday, June 7th!

Grocery card fundraiser reminder: Thanks to all who have supported the Youth Mission Fund through this effort. If you have a Kroger gift card, please keep reloading it, and if you want one, see Rebecca. You can also donate your Lowe's points, and link your Food Lion card to the church. See the bulletin board outside the mission center for more information! Thank you!

Rebecca



A word of gratitude for all you did to make Bill Bartholomay's service such a remarkable occasion.

You handed out bulletins, slung chairs, welcomed guests, and sung with gusto! Special mention must go to our musicians, whose gifts always enrich worship in this place, and to the Funeral Committee, who had to pull together a pretty serious reception, yet did so with competence and grace. Thanks to you all!

Chris



Mental Health in the Spotlight!

June is the month to learn more about the Mental Health organizations that Westminster supports throughout the year. On May 31st, the Minute for Mission was presented by Marya McNeish, a representative of the Threshold Clubhouse. Threshold Clubhouse is a psychosocial rehabilitation facility that is open 365 days a year, providing fellowship, work experience, educational courses, and counseling to Durham residents who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. On June 14th, our own Nancye Bryan will speak about Next Step Housing, an organization which provides decent, safe, and affordable housing to that same population.

Check out the Local Missions bulletin board in the Holderness Mission Center to find out who else is involved in these great organizations, and ask them to tell you more.

"PASTOR'S CORNER"

Continued

I'm not sure what this information does for you. You may feel excited, hopeful, or even frustrated and disappointed. Whatever your reaction is, you've probably had the feeling for awhile – and it's a good bet it will continue. I'll keep informing you in this space and others when the need arises. But, it is also really important to me that this be a conversation. I want to be able to explain to you what I see happening, and I want you to be able to listen and respond. I believe that the poor state of this conversation in our churches is partly because people are writing letters to the editor and publishing opinions and even preaching from pulpits – formats that do not lend themselves to honest and faithful conversation.

Until then, let's keep talking – my door is always open. If you want more information, you can check out the Presbyterian Outlook (<http://www.pres-outlook.com/>) – that's usually where I turn first. Regardless of where your faith leads you, let us be in prayer for the church in this season of discernment.

Chris



WPC 2009 Graduates



Student

Jonathan Barker
Evan Barna
Gabe Hatch
Laura Haynes
Jay Lehew
Chris Mauch
Walker McLear
Grayson Schmidt
Emily Stallings

High School

Jordan High School
Jordan High School
Jordan High School
Durham Academy
Jordan High School
Jordan High School
Durham Academy
Durham School of the Arts
Durham School of the Arts

Future Plans

UNC - Asheville
Michigan State University
UNC - Greensboro
Pomona College (California)
Wake Forest University
Appalachian State University
College of Charleston
Guilford College
Appalachian State University

Student

Carina Barnett-Loro
Ann Beckwith
Mary Berghaus
R. J. Crumpler
Kristin Cunningham

College/University

Duke University
Elon University
Tulane University
College of Wooster
Elon University

International Culinary School, Charlotte, NC
New York University
UNC-Chapel Hill
UNC-Greensboro

Degree/Future Plans

B.A. in Environmental Science & Politics
B.S. in Biology
Masters in International Health / CDC, Atlanta
B.S. in Psychology
B.A. in International Studies & Political Science /
Master of Public Affairs program - UNC-Greensboro
B.A. in Culinary Management
L.L.M. in Tax Law
B.S. in Nursing
B.A. in Environmental Studies

Andrew Gaddis
David McCallum
Jessica Rossman
Natalie Rossman



When: Wednesday mornings through August 5th, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 105

Childcare is available upon request through the church office.

Chris, Betty, Nancy, and Barbara Fletcher will lead a weekly study of the lectionary texts to be used in the Sunday sermons. Join us on Wednesday mornings throughout the summer for an hour-and-a-half study of these Scriptures.

No need to sign up (*unless you need childcare); no homework or preparation for class; just drop in to study the texts and the messages they offer, and be prepared to have your worship experience enhanced!

**Summer Sunday School
for Preschool and Kindergarten Children
Holderness Mission Center, Lower Level
June 7th - August 16th
9:45-10:45 a.m.**

**Put MP2 Wednesdays
on your fall calendar now!**

MP2, Westminster's after-school midweek ministry for children returns on October 7th, 4 - 5:10 p.m. *What's new besides fun activities, field trips, and new friends?* 'Club MP2' for all 4th/5th graders will teach leadership skills along with an exciting curriculum just for this age group. Our theme for the year is "Children in the Bible." We will explore the similarities between their special attributes and our own.

Adult volunteers of all ages and youth in grades 6 and up are invited to be leaders and teachers. For more information about volunteering, please contact Nancy Rozak (489-4974 or nancy@wpcdurham.org).

Registration forms will be available in August.



Right now the lower level of the Holderness Mission Center is very quiet. That will all change on June 15th when our first session of Summer Camp begins! We have enrolled 56 children in this session and will have five staff members who will be working with them. Teachers have begun to prepare the classrooms and to gear-up for some special summer fun.

Camp is a time for enjoying arts and crafts, music, and activities that focus on having fun, making some new friends, and keeping cool! During each session, the children will participate in our annual "Children Helping Children" activity. This year we will continue making donations of new or gently used children's books to the waiting room at the Durham Social Services Department. We think this is a wonderful way to support children in our community. The children who visit the waiting room will be able to choose a book to take home.

We will be collecting all summer long, so remember us when you shop or clean off your book shelves!! There will be bins for the donations in the school hallway.

Thank you for your support of our program. Have a safe and happy summer!



**PLEASE REMEMBER:
SUNDAY, JULY 5th,
THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE
WORSHIP SERVICE (11 A.M.)
AND NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

June Preaching Schedule

June 7 - Trinity Sunday / Holy Communion

Preacher: Chris Tuttle
Texts: John 3:1-17; Isaiah 6:1-8
Title: "Punctuating Our Lives"

June 28 - Birthday Sunday

Preacher: Chris Tuttle
Texts: Psalm 130; Mark 5:21-43
Title: "Bringing the Dead to Life"

June 14

Preacher: Betty Berghaus
Texts: I Samuel 15:34 - 16:13; Mark 4:26-34
Title: "The Lord Looks on the Heart"

June 21 - Father's Day

Preacher: Chris Tuttle
Texts: Mark 4:35-42; II Corinthians 6:1-13
Title: "Open Wide Your Hearts"

... & Musical Leadership

Please help us welcome Tom Warburton to our staff for the summer. Tom, who is already known to us as our 'favorite sub' (not that we have favorites), has graciously agreed to play and direct every Sunday, except one, during Monica's sabbatical. What a gift! Tom's skill and professionalism will surely make great additions to worship. Please make a point to welcome and get to know him, if you don't already.



Responsibilities for June 2009

ACOLYTES	NURSERY	NURSERY (cont.)
06/07 Jack Dozier and Jack High 06/14 Addison & Audrey Joseph 06/21 Holly Lockhead and Rebecca Graham 06/28 <i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Nursery Coordinator for June - Jennifer Feiler 06/07 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Jeanne Behr <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-5 - Barb Vanden Broek and Kenzie Brannon 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Megan Pottenger <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Allie Ruffing, Cassie Keese, and Jamie Dilweg 4-5 - Emma Duling, Addison Joseph, and Anthony Dilweg	06/28 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Alexandra Morris <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-5 - Barb Vanden Broek and Jennifer Feiler 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Louise Holland <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Chris McLaughlin & Lynn Leubuscher 4-5 - John & Sarah High
LECTORS		USHERS
06/07 8:30 - Kay Wellemeyer 11:00 - John Gunter 06/14 8:30 - Gene Brannon 11:00 - Youth 06/21 8:30 - Jim Maxwell 11:00 - Darren Skeen 06/28 8:30 - Sarah Wolf 11:00 - Linda Van Gombos	06/14 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Cathy Smith <i>Toddlers</i> - 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> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Neil & Jennifer McElroy and Vivian Young 4-5 - Tiffany Price and Jennifer Feiler	06/07 8:30 - John & Rebecca Graham, David Lapp, and Doug Smith 11:00 - Jeff & Mary Beck Sutton, Mike & Kay Rosenmarkle, and Jim & Addison Joseph 06/14 8:30 - Ron & Becky Sale, Howard Pedersen, and Sharon Barnes 11:00 - Youth 06/21 8:30 - Margaret McCarty, Linda Van Gombos, and Jeff & Marsha Scouten 11:00 - Shayne, Angela, Allie, Madison, & Grayson Ruffing, and Peter Hanink 06/28 8:30 - Paul & Gayle Etter, and Paul & Kim Garcia 11:00 - Shan Wiley, John, Julia, Tanner, & Holly Lockhead, and Sally Cook
OFFERING COUNTERS		
06/07 8:30 - Darren & Ben Skeen 11:00 - Beth Eagen and Gloria Kanoy 06/14 8:30 - Sara & Megan Pottenger 11:00 - Mike & Kay Rosenmarkle 06/21 8:30 - Sharon Barnes and Merida Negrete 11:00 - Sally Cook and Judy Thompson 06/28 8:30 - Paul & Gayle Etter 11:00 - Tracy & Jim Joseph	06/21 8:30 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini, Jessie Tharrington, and Barb Vanden Broek <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-5 - <i>Volunteers Needed</i> 11:00 - <i>Infants</i> - Thoko Manzini and Jessie Tharrington <i>Toddlers</i> - Tatum Pottenger and Diane Leadbetter 2-3 - Blair & Ben Chesnut 4-5 - Anne Vann and Jill Nelson	
SOUND TECHNICIANS		
June 8:30 - Derek Leadbetter 11:00 - Gary & Jay Lehew		

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