



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Published Biweekly

August 8, 2007

## Inside this Issue...

Habitat Update	3	Preaching Schedule	4
Nancy's Sabbatical	2	Volunteers	4
Prayer Concerns	2	Westminster School	2



Betty and I, along with three very knowledgeable laypersons from our congregation, recently had the privilege of teaching the six-week New Officer Training Class. We came away with a profound appreciation of the quality and dedication of our incoming Elders and Deacons, their good sense of humor, and their willingness to lend their gracious spirit in leading our church into a bright future.

Just to remind you whom you have elected, incoming Elders are John Dancy, Claudia Draffin, Holly Schmidt, and Eric Wolf. Incoming Deacons are Sarah High, Carol Kelly, Gary Lehew, Neal Nichols, Helen Tharrington, Marty Warburton, and Rob Wilgus.

Perhaps you would like to know what is covered in such training, in part, just in case you get elected some day. (Senior Highs and College students, this may apply to you!)

In Session 1, we really got to know each other, sharing our "Faith Journeys." Each person responded to the question, "What were the major influences on your life which brought you to where you are now?" These are usually quite personal narratives, often not without a tear or two. Every time I have done this with a new officer class, I come away with a profound appreciation of a wide variety of factors or persons in the church who have changed us or contributed, for the better, to our walk with Christ.

In Sessions 2 and 3 we came to terms with Presbyterian Polity, what makes the church tick, in short, how the *Book of Order* directs who we are and what we do. For example: What are the responsibilities of a Deacon or Elder? What does the Session and Board of Deacons do? What are the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly? What do we mean by such terms as "Mission, Stewardship, Governing Bodies, Discipline, and Worship?"

(Continued on page 3)



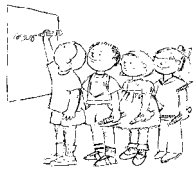
## SIGN UP NOW FOR FALL BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

- Frances Anton and Richard Draffin will lead a study titled **Gospel Lite or Patriarchal Conspiracy: Early Christian Canonical and Non-Canonical Writings and Their Background**. This **six-week course** is rich in Bible history. Students will learn about early Christianity, how the New Testament was formed, which books did not make it into the Canon, and which books did. Readings include the Marcionites, Gnostics, the Gospel of Judas, the Acts of Thomas, and more. Basic texts include:  
*From Jesus to Christianity* by L. Richard White  
*Lost Christianities* by Bart Ehrman  
*Lost Scriptures* by Bart Ehrman  
**Time:** Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**First Class:** September 11th
- Paul Ransford will lead a small group discussion on **Celtic Spirituality (a six-week study)**, based on the book, *Listening For The Heartbeat of God*, by J. Phillip Newell.  
**Time:** To be determined by the group.  
**The first class** will meet September 11th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- Barbara Fletcher and Nancy Rozak will lead a survey course of the Old and New Testaments, **Disciple I (a 30-week study from September – May)**. It is an ideal study for anyone eager to learn more about God's Word to God's people. It is a wonderful beginning course of the Bible. It is rich in Bible readings, Bible study skills, and guides for daily study. **Disciple I** also is a great review course for those who would like to sharpen their knowledge and interpretation of Scripture.  
**Time(s):** Tuesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
or  
Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.  
**First Class:** September 11th

**Sign up now in the Holderness Mission Center at the Information Table.**



- + **Marcia Anders'** friend, Donna Merritt, died August 6th at Wake Med. following brain surgery.
- + **Julie Beckwith's** 103-year-old grandmother, Helen Ripberger, died recently.
- + **Dan Dunlop's** sister, Kerry Topper, is receiving treatment in California for ovarian cancer.
- + **David Edwards** is recuperating at home after a brief stay last week in Rex Hospital.
- + **Rayner England's** mother, Nancy Wineman, has been hospitalized in Greenville, Mississippi to receive treatment for a bleeding ulcer.
- + **Tracy Joseph's** father, Darrell Conger, is seriously ill with cancer. He lives in Texas.
- + **Rex McCallum's** mother, Anne, died on July 28th in Nashville, Tennessee following a battle with cancer.
- + **Dexter Meath** asks for prayers for her grandfather, Frank England, who is in the hospital in Greenville, Mississippi.



### Westminister School for Young Children

The final session of Westminister's Summer Camp ends on Friday, August 10th. This summer program has consisted of two weeks in June, two weeks in July, and one week in August. We have provided some great activities and learning experiences for a total of 185 young children this summer! Many thanks to our great staff for the hard work and love for children that was so evident during each session. We look forward to offering five weeks of camp again next summer.

In September, Westminister will join with other preschools in Durham to provide books for the waiting room at the Durham Social Services Department. Each school will be assigned a month to collect and make a delivery. We will let you know which month we are assigned, so that you will be able to add books to our collection. Thank you for helping us to keep this project going over the summer by contributing books to the bin outside the school office!

Now we will begin to "spruce up" our wonderful classrooms and hallway in preparation for the 2007-2008 school year. We already have a fresh coat of paint - and it looks great!

We're looking forward to a new school year, and to being a part of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

## Nancy's Sabbatical

Biblically speaking, the sabbatical stems from Hebrew Scripture. "Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard." (Leviticus 25:3-4). Looking from a twenty-first century perspective, we consider the sabbatical to be a prolonged hiatus or leave of absence, with pay, every seventh year.

In our society, sabbaticals are most commonly offered to academicians or clergy as a professional benefit. Some sabbaticals are granted with a specific purpose, like researching or writing a book. Other sabbaticals are granted for travel or teaching outside of one's own institution. At Westminster, a sabbatical is granted with no strings of any sort. After seven years of service, the Personnel Committee, with the approval of the Session, can grant a staff member a three-month sabbatical.

I sincerely thank the Session for this gift of valuable time. I began my sabbatical on May 1, 2007, armed with much good advice from other staff members. "We don't want to see you! This is strictly time for yourself," one colleague advised. Another strongly suggested that I get going in sabbatical mode right away and not wait until the end to wind down (that's too late). Still another imagined me maintaining strict Sabbath during the three-month time period. I listened to them all.

Here are some examples of what I actually chose to do:

- Traveled, with Jerry, in five different states, and cruised the Inner Passage of the Alaskan coastline.
- Visited with my children, grandchildren, and close friends.
- Took two very meaningful courses, one in writing and another in Microsoft Publishing.
- Spent many hours journaling and writing creatively.
- Read many good books, some on church-related topics.
- Worshiped at different churches in our area.
- Uncluttered my house and my mind!
- Spent a week in Arizona visiting my 94-year-old mother and helped my daughter's family move into a new home.
- Walked my dog through the Duke Forest or along the Woodcroft trail. (Good spiritual time.)
- Sat on my screened porch at rest, alone in my thoughts.
- Missed my office, my colleagues, and my Westminster friends...frequently.

As I reflect on the past three months, I realize how

*(Continued on page 3)*

## JACK'S CORNER (cont.)

In Session 4 we dove into Presbyterian theology, and here we were guided by one of our master teachers, Richard Draffin, who could make a theologian of any "born-again skeptic!"

Session 5 continued a study of theology, making use of the eleven Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms that constitute our *Book of Confessions*, with an additional very up-to-date and helpful *Declaration of Faith*. Each class member was responsible for reporting on the historical background and content for one of these documents, which virtually cover twenty centuries!

In the last class, Kathryn Bunch, chair of our Worship Committee, led us in a very informative discussion on worship, guiding us through *The Directory for Worship*, the second major division of our *Book of Order*. The class concluded with the Deacons discussing our budget process, and the Elders going over to the Sanctuary, where Norman Gaddis walked us through the order and logistics for the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The whole event was, for all of us, fun, educational, social, and enlightening. It was a great opportunity to get to know those who will be serving the church on our official boards. The class will be "examined" by the Session on September 16th, and the service for their Ordination and/or Installation will take place on Sunday, September 30th.

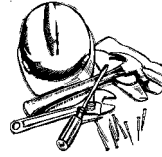
I came away with a kind of concluding thought. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could hold such a class, or something similar, for everyone in the congregation? Talk about connecting us with our roots, this does it!

In an article in the August 7th issue of *The Christian Century*, L. Gregory Jones, Dean of Duke Divinity School, reminds us that in the early church, if adults wanted to be baptized, they would begin a process that typically lasted two years! During the forty days of Lent, they would receive instruction in the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed, and after baptism on Easter, the new Christian would have eight more days of instruction!

Apparently, in the early church, it took a lot just to get in the door! Training was everything.

I think the training we shared with our new officers was a wonderful event, and, as things are today, far more than what most churches offer to incoming Elders and Deacons. We have some delightful new officers coming on board in September!

Shalom, Jack



## Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian Build 2007 Project Update

Work began on the Presbyterian Build Habitat House on Saturday, July 28th. The house was blessed with representatives from the seven churches. Rosalyn (owner) and two of her daughters were also present.

As we plan to help with this house, perhaps we can benefit from the prayer shared at that blessing:

*"Almighty God, You have linked our lives so that all we do affects one another. Guide us in the work we will do in this place that we may not do it for our needs, but for You. Strengthen our efforts to build adequate and affordable homes, to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to bring hope to all who see this work. Watch over and protect all the men and women who will work on this house. Keep them safe as they labor to build a home that will provide shelter, safety, and security for Rosalyn's beautiful family. Bless the work that we are all about to begin and bring it to a safe and swift conclusion. Amen."*

We still need volunteer workers and lunch crew on the days we are sponsoring, especially August 18th and September 29th. Please contact the church office (489-4974) or Dorene Palermo ([dpalerm@attglobal.net](mailto:dpalerm@attglobal.net)) if you can help. Thanks!

## "Sabbatical" cont.

important this time has been for me. I have slowed down, found time to just ponder and experience most days without routine. In the quiet of the early morning, I enjoyed the cool fresh air and the birds' songs while sitting on my porch (my personal tree house). What a gift to be relaxed and free to appreciate God's world around me. I found uninterrupted hours to read, to write, and to pray. I traveled, knowing that I would be returning home to more free unscheduled days. Worshiping in other church communities was spiritually uplifting and insightful as well.

Did I think about Westminster? Yes, indeed! I certainly trusted the many volunteers, who stepped up to make my sabbatical possible. Your support and willingness to take over gave me the gift of a worry-free three months.

I am so glad to be back. I actually began to look forward to my return. I am rested, relaxed, and renewed. I hope that as you read this you too will see the many advantages of stepping back, slowing your pace, and finding even a short time to be quiet and to reflect. I thank you, again, for this meaningful, well-spent sabbatical.

Yours in Christ, Nancy.

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](http://www.wpcdurham.org)



## Preaching Schedule

**August 12, 2007**

**Preacher:** Paul Ransford

**Title:** "Quick! Lock the Barn!"

**Text:** Luke 12:32-40

**August 19, 2007**

**Preacher:** Betty Berghaus

**Title:** "Turning to God"

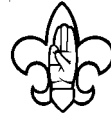
**Texts:** Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56; Hebrews 11:29-12:2



## Wednesday Evening Family Nights

The Christian Education Committee is exploring the potential of a Wednesday evening intergenerational program. The program will take place during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Once fully designed, the program plans will include dinner, fellowship, adult Bible study, and an outreach program for children. It will not replace MP2 but rather enhance the program during two important seasons of our church calendar. If you would like to be a part of this planning team, please contact Nancy Rozak (489-4974). We will hold our first planning meeting sometime in August.

**Join the planning team!**



## Scouting at WPC



### Attention boys in grades one through five:

Cub Scout Pack 451, chartered by Westminster, will host Join Scouting Nights in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 28th, and Thursday, August 30th, both starting at 7 p.m. The meetings will last about an hour. Interested boys and at least one parent should come out to either of these two informational meetings. Cub Scouting is for boys in grades one through five, and Pack 451 has room to add boys in all five grades. You may join Pack 451 whether you are a member of Westminster or not, so please bring your friends along.

For more information on Cub Scouting and Pack 451, please visit the pack website at [www.pack451nc.com](http://www.pack451nc.com), or contact Chip Reinhardt (home 489-6858, work 534-1200, e-mail [rmlaw@nc.rr.com](mailto:rmlaw@nc.rr.com)).

### Attention boys at least 11 years old:

Boys who are at least 11 years old are invited to visit Boy Scout Troop 451, also chartered by Westminster, and consider joining Boy Scouting.

For more information on Boy Scouting and Troop 451, please visit the troop website at [www.troop451durham.org](http://www.troop451durham.org) or contact Chip Reinhardt at the numbers listed above.

## Responsibilities for August 12 - 19, 2007

ACOLYTES	NURSERY	USHERS
08/12 Elizabeth & Trey Holland	<b>August Nursery Coordinator - Monica Nichols</b>	08/12 8:30 - Hans, Kristin, & Haley Hiemstra, and Sally Cook
08/19 Peyton & Erin Dilweg	08/12 8:30 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Tiny Bradley	11:00 - Ralph Coonrad, John Atkins, <i>other volunteers needed</i>
<b>LECTORS</b>	2-5 - Eric, Anne, & Natalie Wolf	08/19 8:30 - Barb Vanden Broek, Jill & Michelle Nelson, and Linda Van Gombos
08/12 8:30 - Bonnie Derr	11:00 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Dexter & Peter Meath	11:00 - Mark, Holly, Grayson, & Thomas Schmidt
11:00 - Scotti Harwood	2-3 - Jill Nelson and Anne Vann	<b>SOUND TECHNICIANS</b>
08/19 8:30 - Kay Wellemeyer	4-5 - Bill & Barb Burig	08/12 8:30 - Dorene Palermo
11:00 - Mary Beck Sutton	08/19 8:30 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Joanne Finkle	11:00 - Frank Stallings
<b>ELDER GREETERS</b>	2-5 - Charlotte & Willem Lombard	08/19 8:30 - Dorene Palermo
08/12 8:30 - Nick Kredich	11:00 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Neal & Monica Nichols	11:00 - Frank Stallings
11:00 - Lori Osowski	2-3 - Mark & Amy Hill	
08/19 8:30 - Doug Wellemeyer	4-5 - Mary Todd Peters and Katherine Stanley	
11:00 - <i>Volunteer Needed</i>		
<b>OFFERING COUNTERS</b>		
08/12 Sara & Tatum Pottenger		
08/19 Sara & Tatum Pottenger		