



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Published Biweekly

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Christmas Eve Services



- 11:00 AM Morning Worship with Handbell Music
- 4:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant
- 5:30 PM A Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights
- 8:00 PM A Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights - featuring the Chancel Choir & Westminster Brass Ensemble

The nursery for infants and small children will be available from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. There will be NO child care for the 8 p.m. service.

Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner - in the Fellowship Hall between services (4:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.). Bring your family & friends and enough extra food to feed one additional person. Volunteers are needed for serving & cleaning up. Please contact Bill McAvoy (493-7547).

Christmas Eve Offering - This year's offering will go to help at-risk youths in our community through YO Durham and the Durham Nativity School. Please give generously.



**Come!
Experience the re-telling
of our Savior's birth!**

- * **Practice for the Christmas Pageant began Wednesday, November 29th.** This is part of the MP2 program. Children should plan to come at the regularly scheduled time (3:45 p.m.).
- * **Children who do not attend MP2 are encouraged to join us each Wednesday (3:45-5:15 p.m.), November 29th through December 20th.** Dress rehearsal will be on Dec. 20th.
- * The pageant will be presented at the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.
- * **Children younger than Kindergarten age, who would like to be a part of the pageant, are encouraged to come to the dress rehearsal, December 20th at 4 p.m.** Please contact Nancy to let her know that your child would like to participate in this "walk-on" part. We want to have enough star lights for every child. (Nancy: 489-4974; ext. 104)

Parent volunteers are needed. If you would like to help make the pageant a fun learning experience for our children, please contact Nancy Rozak or Holly Schmidt (489-6887) to offer your assistance.

2007 Youth Mission Trip - June 24 - July 3, 2007

There are openings for some adults who like sleeping in a hammock, enjoy wacky youth, tolerate high heat and high humidity, like hard manual labor, enjoy Mexican sunrises, adore small children, don't mind sleep-deprived roosters, and wish to visit non-exotic parts of the world.

Please contact David Anderson (425-1792), a senior high youth, or Paul Ransford (210-1678) if you are interested in adding such a trip to your servanthood resume.

To all who worked so hard on this year's Lovefeast, "Thank you!" The kitchen crew was wonderful, the youth sponsors helped on all fronts, and the extra volunteers really pitched in. Without each of you, we would never have been able to lead the worship service.

To the youth who served, "Thank you!" You performed your part with care. The gentlemen looked very nice after your pant legs were out of your socks. The ladies looked wonderful even if your doilies weren't held on with duct tape. Thank you all for finding your halos at the last minute. I believe the congregation felt truly thanked for the love and support they show you all year.

To all the musicians, "WOW! Thank You!" The music was so well crafted. You blessed us with your talent.

To everyone who had a hand in the Lovefeast, know that Westminster has begun the Advent Season very, very well.

Many Blessings,
June Jones





- + **Russell Barringer's** sister, Norma, died recently.
- + **Don Cleaver** is recovering from knee surgery last week at the Specialty Hospital in North Durham.
- + **Dan Dunlop's** father was recently diagnosed with congestive heart failure and his mom with Alzheimer's.
- + **Tom Eagen** is at Duke Hospital following surgery to remove his appendix.
- + **Lisa Garmon** has been diagnosed with cancer.
- + **Ron Hawkins** had surgery on December 15th at UNC.
- + A memorial service was held for **Martha Henriquez** on Friday, December 8th, at Westminster.
- + **Shirley Joines** has returned to Hillcrest. She spent time in Duke Hospital with pneumonia and an infection.
- + **Heidi Kivel** had surgery at Duke on December 11th.
- + **John Lockhead** is recovering from shoulder surgery.

+ **Carol Mansfield & David Mountain** ask for prayers for their friend, Betty Murkel, whose husband died recently.

+ **Jan McCallum's** mom had successful knee replacement and is in rehab at Durham Regional. **Rex McCallum's** mom has a recurrence of cancer.

+ Princess Sheldon, daughter of **Leslie Sheldon**, is in UNC Hospital.

+ **Mary Beck Sutton** is recovering at home from surgery at Duke Hospital on December 1st. **Jeff Sutton's** 103-year-old grandmother died last week.

+ **Lee Willard** was hospitalized recently with a virus.

+ **Loma Young's** niece, Glenda Wickstrom, is at the Mayo Clinic for tests and treatment for a rare disease.

★ Celebrations! ★

+ **Leah & Brian Samuels** were married at WPC on December 9th.

+ **Doug & Kay Wellemeyer** are grandparents again. Their second grandchild, Cole Douglas Schweitz, was born to Carrie & Kyle Schweitz on December 6th in Charlotte, NC.

Year End Contribution Guidelines

The General Rule: The income tax regulations specify that "ordinarily, a contribution is made at the time delivery takes place. The unconditional delivery or mailing of a check which subsequently clears in due course will constitute an effective contribution on the date of delivery or mailing." According to this language, a check dated December 31, 2006, but physically delivered in January 2007 is deductible only on the donor's 2007 federal tax return. This is so, even though a donor backdates a check to read "December 31, 2006" during church services conducted in January 2007, or in fact completed and dated the check on December 31, 2006, but gives it to the church on or after January 1, 2007.

An Exception: The only exception to this rule is the case of a check that is dated and mailed (and **postmarked**) in December of 2006. The fact that the church does not receive the check until January of 2007 does not prevent the donor from deducting it on his or her 2006 federal tax return. The rules are summarized in the following table.

Remember: Do not file your 2006 Federal Income Tax Return until you receive your 2006 year end statement. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contribution statement.

Type of Contribution	Church Treasurer Reports as 2006 Contribution	Church Treasurer Reports as 2007 Contribution
Checks written in Dec. 2006 and put in the church offering in Jan. 2007		X
Checks written and put in the church offering in Jan. 2007, but "backdated" to Dec. 2006		X
Checks written and put in the church offering in Dec. 2006 but "postdated" to Jan. 2007		X
Checks written in Dec. 2006, mailed and postmarked in Dec. 2006, but not received by the church until Jan. 2007	X	
Checks written in Dec. 2006, mailed in Dec. 2006, but not postmarked until Jan. 2007, and not received until Jan. 2007		X



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Calling All Movie Fans! Beginning January 7th, the **Adult Forum Class** will begin a series on Pop Culture with the movie *Friday Night Lights*, which has a powerful message about sports, and the role they play in our lives. There is no need to have seen the movie before the class, as we will be showing short excerpts as “discussion starters.” Movies up for discussion during the winter quarter will include *Brokeback Mountain*, *Hotel Rwanda*, *Munich*, *Ray*, and others.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

INVITATION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

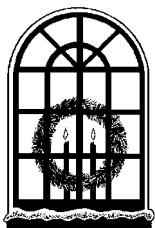
Beginning Date: January 9, 2007

Time: 9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 105 in the Holderness Mission Center

Facilitators: Betty Berghaus, Barbara Fletcher, Nancy Rozak

Course Description: This is a nine-week overview study of the New Testament, developed on the model of the Disciple Bible study. Each class includes two insightful video segments. The study involves daily Bible reading, workbook study, group discussion, personal reflection, and discipleship. The course design appeals to all levels of Bible students and does not require previous study. For more information or to register: contact Nancy Rozak (489-4974).



SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS

Many of you have inquired about the clear glass window panes in the Sanctuary. Even though some of you like them because you can see outside, those clear panes are temporary. They will be replaced by translucent panes that match the original ones. The suppliers custom build each pane, and then ship them to the contractors. Working on the outside of the building, our contractors will then install the new translucent panes.

Barring unusually cold or rainy weather, the new panes should be installed by the end of December 2006.

LOST: A contemporary 18 karat gold lady's ring. It is square-shaped, and the top is set with diamonds. The ring was lost during the Lovefeast on Dec. 3rd. If found, please contact Kappy Black (493-7048) or call the church office (489-4974). Reward offered upon return.

Music Notes



Don't miss the Chancel Choir's Christmas program. . . John Rutter's exuberant Magnificat will be presented at both morning worship services on Sunday, Dec. 17th—our Chancel Choir will be joined by a chamber ensemble of colorful instruments, including strings, organ, harp, percussion, trumpets, horn, flute, oboe, & clarinet. Plan to worship with us & let this special Advent music fill your heart with joy!

Chancel Choir: Mark your calendars for our Rutter Magnificat dress *rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 16th, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.* (mandatory for everyone singing in the program). We will present the piece at **both morning worship services on Dec. 17th**. Questions? Call or e-mail Monica Rossman, 489-4974, ext. 113; monica@wpcdurham.org.



The students of Westminster School have been busy celebrating Christmas! Our three-year-olds learned about Christmas celebrations around the world, and the four-year-olds participated in a Mexican Fiesta.

Thanks to our church staff for teaching us about Christmas through their stories and songs at Celebrations. Thanks to all of you for participating in our “Share a Toy” drive. The Durham Rescue Mission will put all of those toys, games, and books to a very good use! We also thank you for your continued support of this program. The staff and students wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Our last day of school is this Friday, the 15th. We will return on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Looking for fun, fellowship and fat burning? Then sign up to play on the WPC Basketball team. We're putting our roster together now for the upcoming 2007 season. Games will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Hope Valley Baptist Church on Garrett Road. The season will start in early January and run through early March. Any church member age 16 or over is welcome to play. For more information, please contact Darren Skeen (475-1043 or dmskeen@nc.rr.com) **no later than Dec. 31st.**

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



Calendar Highlights

December 17, 2006 - Drum Sunday
Chancel Choir Christmas Program - Rutter's *Magnificat* - both morning worship services
Text: Luke 1: 26-38

December 24, 2006 - Christmas Eve
Baptism of Carson Noelle Ruffing
 (One worship service at 11 a.m., no Sunday School)
Preacher: Betty Berghaus

December 31, 2006 - Birthday Sunday
 (One worship service at 11 a.m., no Sunday School)
Preacher: Paul Ransford

12/17 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Rutter *Magnificat* - with choir & orchestra - at both morning worship services
5:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Room 105
7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Room 105

12/19 6:00 p.m. WPC Christmas Caroling
 (see article on this page)

12/20 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 Fellowship Hall, Parlor, & Sanctuary

12/24 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship with bell music
4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
4:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Potluck Begins
 Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights
8:00 p.m. Service of Carols, Readings, & Lights - with the Chancel Choir & Brass Ensemble



Christmas Caroling with Chancel Choir & Friends takes place on Tuesday, December 19th. All are welcome - meet in WPC parking lot at 6:00 p.m. We travel by church bus & private cars to sing for shut-ins & retirement centers. Carol books are provided. Join us for this wonderful, heartwarming tradition!

Grief Recovery Group

UNC Hospital's Bereavement Support Services is offering a Community Grief Recovery Group this winter. This group is open to anyone (at no charge) who is grieving a death regardless of faith background, and will focus on sharing and moving toward healing. The meetings are held at United Church of Chapel Hill, beginning on March 5th for 7 consecutive Monday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. For more information or to enroll, contact Bereavement Coordinator, Heidi Gessner (966-4021 or hgessner@unch.unc.edu).

Responsibilities for December 17 - December 24, 2006

ACOLYTES	NURSERY	USHERS
12/17 NO Acolytes Needed 12/24 Jack Mountain	December Nursery Coordinator - Barb Vanden Broek 12/17 8:30 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Marge Enberg & Cathy Smith 2-5 - Tracey Holsinger & Bruce Capehart 11:00 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Michelle Beischer 2-3 - Lynn & Chris McLaughlin 4-5 - Jennifer & Michael Feiler <i>Float - (Volunteer Needed)</i>	12/17 8:30 - Don & Shirley Rufty, Jeff & Mary Beck Sutton, and Dennis Enberg 11:00 - Shayne, Angela, Allie, & Madison Ruffing
LECTORS 12/17 8:30 - NO Lectors Needed 11:00 - NO Lectors Needed 12/24 11:00 - Sally Keener		11:00 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Michelle Beischer 2-3 - Lynn & Chris McLaughlin 4-5 - Jennifer & Michael Feiler <i>Float - (Volunteer Needed)</i>
ELDER GREETERS 12/17 8:30 - Tommy Mangum 11:00 - Dailey Derr 12/24 11:00 - David Anderson	12/24 11:00 - <i>Infants/Toddlers</i> - Karis & Michael Jackson 2-3 - (Volunteers Needed) 4-5 - Elizabeth & Mack Aldridge <i>Float - (Volunteer Needed)</i>	SOUND TECHNICIANS 12/17 8:30 - Doug Wellemeyer 11:00 - Frank Stallings 12/24 11:00 - Frank Stallings
OFFERING COUNTERS 12/17 Bill & Kim Scott 12/24 Mike & Kay Rosenmarkle		

Dear WPC Members,

Thank you for your welcome!

Pat and I want to say a most sincere thank you for your wonderful and warm welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church and the community. It is such an honor to be here as your Interim Pastor. What a privilege to follow Haywood, although realistically, who on earth can really do that! What a privilege to be with such a talented congregation. What a joy to work with such a gifted staff.

From the very first telephone conversation I had in Fort Walton Beach, FL with Doug Elvers, chair of the Interim Pastor search committee, through interviews and meetings with the full committee: Doug, Beth Maxwell, Holly Schmidt, and Bill Scott, both Pat and I literally felt the call of the Spirit upon us to come and serve this congregation. I had just retired about a year and a half prior to Doug's call, but when the Spirit speaks and leads, what can one do but follow?!

We especially want to thank you for such a genuine welcome. We have been the object of your gracious hospitality, your generosity, your magnanimous spirit in being willing to help in the process of a major move, and we have been the recipients of your "pounding." When I first heard that word, I wondered what exactly it was, or who it was, that was going to get pounded.

Everything you have done has simply astounded us. For example, there have been members of the church who have:

- provided lunch and dinners during the moving in process
- sent us hundreds of little yellow cards with personal welcome notes
- hung blinds in the pastor's office
- programmed the office computer
- invited us out to dinner
- came to the house and spent hours in the garage unpacking boxes
- helped arrange the contents of unpacked boxes in the house
- provided soup in the kitchen and frozen meat balls in the refrigerator
- and the "pounding" offered a magnificent array of household articles that everyone needs.

This is truly a caring, giving, generous congregation. We thank you for your welcome. We have only been here a little over three weeks, but already we feel right at home.

Thank you, one and all, for who you are.

And may we take this opportunity to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with joy.

Sincerely,

Jack and Pat Walchenbach