

Westminster Words

Vol. 5
Iss. 1

January 27, 2009



Westminster Church & Preschool
1100 Jeffras Avenue Marion IN 46952

Psalm 19:14

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer"

Pastor's Epistle: What will steps 4 and 5 be for Westminster?

In a recent follow up dinner gathering with many of the members of the PNC, the question was posed as to what I thought steps four or five might be as we make headway through the initial 'three main points' of my call to Westminster Presbyterian Church. After some further discussion and thought, this is what I shared; what we will have to address is whether or not we want to go from being a pastoral church to a program church, and how we will make this transition if we choose the latter.

Before talking about how such a transition can be made, first let me begin to unpack what these terms mean as outlined in *Raising the Roof* by Alice Mann and published by the Alban Institute. A pastoral church is a church wherein friendship networks are centered on the person and role of the pastor. The pastor spends much of their time maintaining direct contact with members and leads many of the small group programs such as bible study. Much like the beloved bar in the 1980's television show *Cheers*, the church is a place "where everybody knows your name," minus the beer of course!

A program church is comprised of many separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors, and other age and interest groups which provide the entry points into the church. The pastor's role is to recruit, equip and inspire a small group of key program leaders, lay and ordained, paid and unpaid. Working as a team they reach out to involve others as program participants and leaders. Decision making is distributed within the small group of key program leaders, and pastoral care is shared with laity.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is smack dab in the middle between being a pastoral church and a program church. Our growing average worship attendance, the increasing number of programs being offered and the creating of new staff positions are key indicators that reflect that we are in a position to decide what kind of church we want to be. In the following months I will continue to write about this choice we have, and a choice it is. Much of the literature reflects that to a large degree churches like ours can in fact choose what kind of church they want to be, either pastoral or program. While one kind of church is not better than the other, it is much better and healthier for us to proactively together choose one over the other and enjoy being the kind of church we want to be.

Blessings, Pastor Justin



Session Highlights



from January 2009 meeting

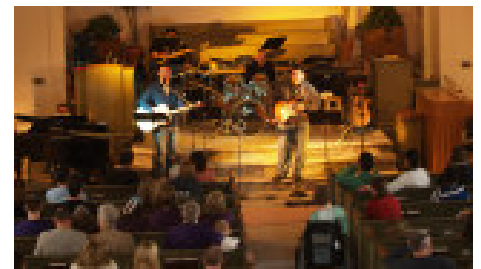
We are in need of about 10 adults that would like to be mentors to our Confirmation class. This would involve you attending the class with the student and giving them your support. The class will begin February 8 and last for 8 weeks. The class time is 12:30 to 2:00 on Sunday afternoons.

Our Christian Education Team is working on getting Bibles to all our children that are involved in our Sunday School classes from Kindergarten up through Senior High. They are also looking for sponsors to purchase a student study Bible for each child in the Confirmation class. The cost will be about \$45-\$55 per Bible. Sign up in the Narthex or call the Church office if you are interested in purchasing a student study Bible.

Four members of our congregation were chosen to be on the Nominating Committee as we begin our search for an Associate Pastor to work with our children and youth. They were elected during our Annual Meeting on January 25. Currently the plan is for them to meet once a month.

The beautiful cross that is above the choir loft in our sanctuary is being moved this week. We will have a rededication after our worship service on February 1. That is also our S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl Sunday, with the Deacons serving up some delicious soups. These are exciting times at Westminster!

Mark your calendar for February 15th!



On Saturday, January 24th the Westminster sanctuary was filled with people praising and worshiping together at the Praise & Music Fest. Special thanks to Westminster's own house band, the Hanfield Praise Band, and Witnesses of the Light for playing during our festival! Mark your calendars now for Westminster's first contemporary service on February 15th, at 4:00 PM!!

Westminster Contact Info:

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Prayer Line: 765-671-7817
Prayer Pagers: 765-651-2716
Pastor Justin's e-mail:
pastorjustin@indy.rr.com
Pastor's home phone #: 765-384-4417
Pastor's cell phone #: 480-586-6829

Informational

"In obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and with His help: healing what is broken, righting what is wrong, celebrating what is good"

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. & Worship at 10:45 a.m. - Sundays!

Church Staff

Rev. Justin Schlesinger-Devlin, MSW
- Pastor
Laurie Wolcott - Pastoral Assistant
Libby Holloway - Administrative Asst.
Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin -
Preschool Director
Ellen Schramm - Director of Music
Nancy Wright - Organist
Linda Rosen - Pianist
April Raver - Coordinator of
Youth Ministries
Vangie White - Nursery Caregiver

Have information for the newsletter?

E-mail westminsterwords@indy.rr.com, call April Raver at 765-661-6110, or drop it in the communications mailbox in the mail room at church. *Deadline for submissions to the next issue is February 20.*

Tacky t-shirt contest !!

It's a tackiest t-shirt contest!! Bring in your tackiest t-shirt to church on Sunday, **February 1**. On **February 8**, the t-shirts will be displayed in the narthex. Vote for which t-shirt you think is the tackiest, by putting money in its jar! The tackiest t-shirt winner will receive a gift certificate to the Ice House. All remaining proceeds from the voting will help fund the youth's annual trip to the Acquire the Fire Youth Conference!

Thank you friends . . .

My Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, flowers, and visits. I want you to know that you, my church family, has been and will always be very dear to me. Because of your prayers and the loving care that I received, I am doing well and hope to be back in church soon. God is good. Yes, Jesus Loves You, Sadye

Confirmation beginning

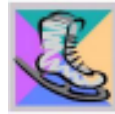
Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, **February 8**, at 12:30 p.m. The class will meet for eight Sunday sessions. Pastor Justin is currently looking for mentors to join in each confirmand's journey toward becoming confirmed so let him know if you are interested.

Help celebrate 75th birthday!

On February 15, Jeanne Johnson is turning 75!! Help her celebrate by sending a Birthday card to:
Jeanne Johnson
1017 Lincolnshire Blvd.
Marion, IN 46952

It's an ice skating trip!

Families are invited to participate in an ice skating trip THIS Saturday, January 31 at the McMillen Ice Rink in Fort Wayne! We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. and carpool to the rink. As long as we have enough drivers – children and youth whose families can't go are invited to join us (with proper permission slip)! Cost is \$5 / adults, \$3.50 / children (5-17), free for children under 4 with a paid adult, \$4 / seniors (55+). Skate rental is \$2.50. Families up to 5 members may skate / \$15.



El Sembrador offering

You may still give your gifts to the boys of El Sembrador...

It is not too late to give to the medical and dental needs of the boys at the boy's school of El Sembrador. Our pledge is \$4,000, and so far **\$3,381.49 has been donated for the mission... shy of our pledge by \$618.51**. For proper credit, please " earmark " your check or offering envelope as "El Sembrador" or "Christmas Offering.

ATF fundraisers underway

Westminster's Youth are getting ready for their annual trip to Acquire the Fire Youth Conference. This year they are going to Conesco to worship with tens of thousands of other teens! They will be holding several fundraisers over the next few months including a baked goods auction on **February 15** ~ a perfect time to buy sweets for your sweeties! People are needed to help bake items to auction off. They will also be holding their second annual Talent Show on March 7. Sign up in the narthex today!

Cross to be rededicated

Next Sunday, February 1 after worship, we will be rededicating the sanctuary cross in its new location at the entrance to the narthex. Please come to share in prayer and appreciation of this wonderful memorial to Mildred M. Helt. "Let go and let God!"

S.O.U.P.E.R. Bowl time


S.O.U.P.E.R. Bowl luncheon will be next Sunday following worship. The soups available will be turkey chili, chili, minestrone, chicken vegetable, baked potato, chicken noodle, and gumbo plus cornbread, crackers and cheese, hot dogs (mainly for the kids), and desserts. Come and enjoy the festivities and fellowship before going home to watch the Super Bowl. Our luncheon offering will again support Hands of Hope.

People needed to usher

Your help is needed on Sunday mornings – If you have been thinking of ways in which you can serve your church, then think no more... volunteers are needed for ushering and to help run the audio/video. For information or to volunteer, please contact Jim Botkin at 664-5660 or botkin765@aol.com to usher or Jeff Raver at 651-0288 or ravers@indy.rr.com to learn the a/v system.

Wee Leader

Upcoming Events

- ~ Feb. 4th & 5th Pastor Justin visits Preschool
- ~ Feb. 7th Ivy Tech Conference
- ~ Feb. 9th Hank Martin comes for a visit for Counselors Day
- ~ Valentine's parties Feb. 11 & 13 
- ~ Feb. 12th Staff Meeting 12:30
- ~ No School Feb. 16th
- ~ Feb 18, 19, 20 Parents are invited to observe music & speech
- ~ Feb. 23rd Preschool Advisory Committee meeting 6:00 PM
- ~ Week of the dentist Feb 22-27th



Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. Thank you to Jeff Raver, Marla Keppler, Eric Walts, Logan White, and Pastor Justin for coming and "fixing" items around the preschool. We appreciate the energy and work! Thank you to Ginny Martin for coming and helping with Pancakes. Thank you to Jane Johnson for donating a turkey to one of our families. Thank you to Rick Gamble, Matthew Hussong, and Jeremy Jones for sharing their carpentry talents with our children. We share prayers for Claire Gamble in her surgery, Sadye Bradley for a swift recovery, Marilyn Runyon, Dave Gustaveson and the Stanley family.

From the Director



Page, Logan Bishop, and Ella Turney. We are thrilled to have them join our preschool family.

We thank our Preschool Advisory Committee for their dedication and support. Our members are: Hank Martin, Margaret Wilson, Charlie Loeffler, Carol Milford, Jessi Melton, and Teresa Cass. We look forward to working together and continuing the important work and ministry of the preschool. We have one open spot for a Young 5's parent representative; if you would like to join us please let me know.



Cute sayings from preschool

Mason said "You have the best snacks here!" Esther is going to be an ice cream driver when she grows up. Todd is going to be an ambulance driver when he grows up. Alexandria said her chex cereal looked like pillows. Ethan Brown said that God has a big machine in heaven that makes the snow. Adria said she is going to be a mermaid when she grows up. Then she asked Mrs. Beth "What are you going to be when you grow up?" When I asked if anyone knew what pasta was Karver said it starts out small and gets bigger when you cook it. Mrs. Melissa & Mrs. Collins had to share a piece of pizza in Zoe's kitchen because according to her "sharing is what it is all about!"

*Children's Worship Service
February 8th 3:00 PM*



Inspirational

Listen to the whisper or wait for the brick

by **Author Unknown**
as posted on *promiseofgod.com*

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door!

He slammed on the brakes, he jumped out of the car and ran back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. Grabbing some kid he pushed him up against a parked car asking, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?!!!"

Building up a head of steam he went on. "That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

"Please, mister, please. I'm sorry, I didn't know what else to do," pleaded the young-

ster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car.

"It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly welling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you," the grateful child said to him.

The man then watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to his Jaguar... a

long, slow walk. He never did repair the side door. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention.

God whispers in your soul and speaks to your heart. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you.

It's your choice:

Listen to the whisper -- or wait for the brick.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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