

# Westminster Words

Vol. 5  
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March 31, 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: Passing the torch to the next generation

A few days ago as I was flipping through the channels, I happened upon the movie *Star Trek: Generations*. If you are not familiar with this science fiction film, it was made primarily to be a cinematic vehicle in which the torch could be passed from one generation of characters including Captain Kirk (William Shatner) and Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy) to Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart) and Mr. Data (Brent Spiner). Seeing this movie again made me think about how many denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (USA), are seeking ways to pass the torch of leadership from one generation to the next as effortlessly as this film did.

On the one hand, we're off to a pretty good start. Our newly elected moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the Rev.

Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, an energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco and leader in the "emergent church" movement. His ministry style reflects the changes that are taking place in the church. In his address to the Assembly, he noted that he makes as many pastoral calls by email as by in-person visitation, saying "Such is the future of ministry." The church he pastors has a state-of-the-art web site and extensive electronic communications among members and participants, which he says is absolutely essential for a congregation that is predominantly under-40.

On the other hand, many existing churches increasingly struggle with issues that new church developments do not

encounter, such as having to care for and attend to congregational "histories" and striving to become comfortable with embracing changes in the traditional style of pastoral ministry. These struggles are often times generational, as is exemplified by the correlation that is seen between the age of members in congregations and

the age of the majority of ministers in our denomination. For instance, our presbytery celebrates the ordination anniversaries of its ministers quarterly, and publishes how many years each minister has been ordained. My name was included in this quarter's listing, and I discovered after looking over this sheet that the median amount of time a minister has been ordained was 48 years. Since the traditional age of ordination is 25, this would make the average age of ministers (and therefore church members) to be around 73 years old. Anecdotally speaking, that sounds about right.

As an under-40 pastor, I have been blessed to serve congregations that have decided to look toward the future of the church and intentionally try new ways of ministry, including Westminster. To be sure, some changes have been easier to adapt to than others, but by and large the congregation is on the same page. What you need to hear is that you should be proud of this and know that this is not always the case. Many a congregation has split along generational lines in the name of being the kind of church "they" want to be. The good news is that Westminster has decided rather to follow the one who carries the torch, who is the light of the world, Jesus the Christ our Lord, the head of the body which is the church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Justin



### Session Highlights

All team assignments have been filled now. We were glad to have that completed. Please try to keep your pledges current as we are starting to fall behind on budget and would rather not have to revisit that. Thank you for your continued support of the church.

Pastor Justin and Jackie attended a Presbytery meeting down in Brownstown on March 7th. It was held at the Pyoca Retreat Center and it is a very nice facility. They learned about things going on in the Presbytery. There were about 250 in attendance. We don't know what we will do if that many show up for our Presbytery meeting at our church in September. We will cross that bridge a few months from now.

We received letters from Dick and Isabel Atcheson and Bill and Hanne Morrison and they have asked to be removed from our rolls. We wish them well at their current churches.

May 31st we will be having a joint service with First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro at their church starting at 10:00 a.m. We will begin our 9:30 worship on June 7th.

Anne Vermilion will be filling a vacancy on Session for the class of 2011. We welcome her as she is not new to this position. She will bring new ideas to the meetings.

Communion will be served on April 5th.

Blessings, Jackie Hancock

### Westminster Contact Info:

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Prayer Line: 765-671-7817

Prayer Pagets: 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!

## Holy Week at Westminster

### Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m. we will be joining Temple Congregational Church in their fellowship hall to celebrate a Seder dinner and communion in a way that echoes how Jesus did with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. Please register your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you will be attending. Also please consider signing up to provide the elements for the Seder or a vegetable platter; TCC members will be providing the dinner!

### Easter Sunday - eggs

Westminster families are invited to come to church on Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for a morning of Easter fun. The group will enjoy watching a Veggie Tales Easter Carol together and then an Easter egg hunt will be held for the children, along with a sharing of the Easter story told through special resurrection eggs. All ages are invited to come share in this special morning fun!

### Easter Sunday - Cross

Worship on Easter Sunday will include a "Cross of Flowers." There will be a time during the service for people to come forward and put flowers in a large cross, transforming an ugly instrument of death into a beautiful symbol of our salvation. Please bring a few flowers to church on Easter; there will be flowers provided for those who forgot/didn't know to bring some.

### New directories available

Updated church address / phone directories are available upon request. Just stop by the church office or give Libby a call if you would like one. We will be beginning to take digital pictures for a pictorial directory after Easter. Pictures will be taken after church in April and May for this directory.

### Good Friday

A Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held at Westminster on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. Tenebrae (Latin for shadows) is a Christian religious service celebrated by the Western Church. The liturgy of Tenebrae is characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are recited that remind participants of their complicity in Jesus' death. Protestant versions of Tenebrae service often contain readings from the gospel which describe the time between the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ. Remembering Good Friday allows for the fullness of the celebration of Easter to be more meaningful and moving for people of faith.

### Palm Wavings

Westminster Preschool will be holding Palm Waving programs on April 8, 9, and 10th at 11:00 a.m. Westminster members are needed to help with ushering and offering.

### Worship-in-motion

Worship-in-Motion mini practices will be on: April 5, 2-3 p.m., April 9, 7:30-8:15 p.m. (Maundy Thursday) and Easter morning at 9:00 a.m.

### Easter Offering

Westminster will be collecting its annual El Sembrador Easter offering once again this year. Our goal continues to be \$4000. Please be prayerful in considering your part to make Westminster's support of El Sembrador a success!

### Youth Bible update

It has been a long tradition at Westminster to purchase Bibles for our children. Age appropriate Bibles are given 3 times to the youth growing up. Help us raise enough money to continue this tradition! So far, there has been \$110.00 raised.

## 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

**Allen Kincaid** - Sr High Youth Leader

**Heather Kirkwood** - Sr High Youth Leader

**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 April 24.*

### Walls of Hope fundraising

Westminster Youth are teaming up with several other churches through the community to help build hope throughout building walls for houses for Habitat for Humanity. Throughout the upcoming months, the youth will be holding fundraisers to help raise money to pay for a wall in a new house. Each home that is built through this program costs \$3800.00 for materials including the roof. Groups throughout the community will come together on August 21 and 22 and build the walls together. The walls will then be loaded onto trucks and donated to Habitat to be assembled on their sites. Stayed tuned for more information about this fun event and for ways you can be involved in helping our community come together to build up our community!

# Wise Leader

Director: Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin Preschool phone: 765-662-3526 preschool@westminstermarion.com

## From the Director

The tulips are beginning to make their way through the soil and share with everyone spring is here. We will be having several palm waving programs to celebrate Jesus! The Spring Carnival is just around the corner along with preschool trips to the park and young 5's parent/teacher conferences.

Enrollment is going well for August 2009; although it is early we encourage everyone to get enrolled sooner than later. Visit our website [www.westminstermarion.com](http://www.westminstermarion.com) for more information as well as the preschool handbook and curriculum guide. Thank you to Raphael McAbee-Reher for updating the information for us! We appreciate his work!

We are also announcing the Andrew Schramm Memorial Scholarship it is available to alumni of Westminster Presbyterian Preschool, for students who are graduating from High School Spring 2009. Applicants need to submit a brief summary by April 6th 2009 with the following information:

- Years attended at preschool
- A benefit of the experience
- A favorite preschool memory
- Future plans
- Financial need

Send to: Director: Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin 1100 Jeffras Ave. Marion, IN 46952  
Or to [preschool@westminstermarion.com](mailto:preschool@westminstermarion.com)  
The recipient will be notified by May 4th 2009.



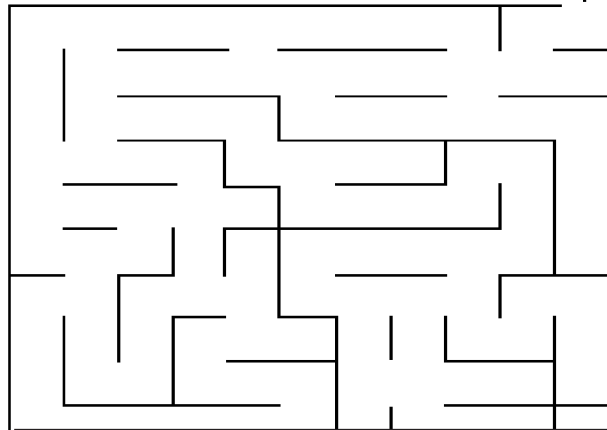
## Cute sayings from preschool

Zadyn said "I have one of these tree cutters." It was a play saw. After prayers we said "Amen" and Gabby said "Why don't we say A-girl?" Zechariah was visiting the preschool and he was limping. I asked him what was wrong and he said, "My foot is taking a nap."

## Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to Betty Lindley, James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. We had a wonderful week of guest readers; Eric and Jeannie Walts, Ruth Botkin, and Mary Eckerle thank you for sharing your voice with us! We appreciate the cooking talents of PJ Culley for making green eggs and ham. Her chef's hat was a huge hit! We enjoyed visits from our Grandparent day along with the wonderful assistance of Linda Taylor for finishing all the vision screenings.

**START HERE** →



**HE IS RISEN!**

## Upcoming Events

- ~ April 2, 3,4th IAIEYC Conference – Elizabeth will be in Indy for this -it's her internship stuff!
- ~ April 8, 9, 10th Palm Waving program 11:00 looking for volunteers to help with ushering and offering
- ~ No Preschool April 13th Easter Monday
- ~ April 16th Young 5's Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ~ April 17th James and the Giant Peach program at Marion H.S. - Elizabeth also out of town to AZ
- ~ April 20th Week of the Young Child
- ~ April 20th Chris Tarlton 10:00 Share officer week
- ~ April 27th Carnival 5-7:30 looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, fellowship hall, ticket sales too!

# Inspirational

## Devotional: A lesson from the builder

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

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said,

"my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the

wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.



### Westminster Presbyterian Church

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