

Westminster Words

Vol. 5
Iss. 4

April 28, 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!"

Epistle from Pastor Laurie: When it's time to fly the nest

Greetings my friends! We've all heard that when it is time for a little bird to fly, the mama bird will push the baby out of the nest. Well, our heavenly Papa has been for some time now, pushing me closer and closer to the edge of my Westminster nest. It is clear to me that the Holy Spirit has been leading toward an end to my time at Westminster. Through all that has happened during the last seven years, I have seen God leading in incredible ways. For instance, during the summer of 2005 I was in conversation with another Presbyterian church whose PNC wanted to call me to their church. Presbytery was willing to enter discussions about a seminary student picking up Pastoral duties there; however, I could not be a full-time Pastor for them and the Session wanted someone full time. So it didn't work out.

When Pastor Andy passed away, it was clear to me that I was needed at Westminster for another chunk of time. When Pastor Dave joined us, we had many

discussions about my role after the new pastor began at Westminster. As our discussions continued and I sought the counsel of the Lord, I was more and more convinced that my time at Westminster was limited. When I first met with Pastor Justin, I offered to leave immediately, but as we sought guidance, we decided that I would leave after one year even if another call had not yet come. I want to say very clearly that neither Pastor Justin, nor anyone else at Westminster has asked me to leave. It is the leading of the Holy Spirit that has prompted this change.

I had hoped to tell you where I would be called to serve next when I wrote this letter. I can't do that. A growing weariness has me wondering if I need a bit of time working just one familiar job. I haven't done that since 2001. Or perhaps the push from the nest will cause me to be more diligent in searching and praying about the next step that the Lord wants me to take. I trust that you will join me in praying for

guidance and clarity as I seek the Lord in this matter.

How will all of this work out? June 14 will be my last Sunday as Pastoral Assistant at Westminster. After that I will be listed on the "substitute preacher" list at Presbytery and I will visit as many other churches in the area as I can, worshipping the Lord and perhaps doing a bit of research on worship styles as well. I feel that it is best that I take a clear hiatus from Westminster at this time. David, Jenny, and Stephen will continue to worship with you. This does not mean that I want nothing to do with you! Please stop for a conversation when we see one another around town! My official relationship at Westminster will not end completely as you are still my church of care until I receive a call. At that time, I dearly hope to have my Ordination ceremony at Westminster before beginning at another church or ministry.

Before I end this letter I want to express my deep appreciation for all of you and for the ministry that we have shared together at Westminster. The trouble is there are no words that can adequately do that. Thank you for sharing your lives with me, for the privilege of teaching your children, and for your suggestions as to how I might improve. Thank you for the way you supported me in my theological education, for the freedom to try new things, for your patience as I stumbled along and tried to get comfortable speaking in front of people. You have been so kind in all of those things and so many more. This place really does rock, as Pastor Andy liked to say. Continue rocking and rolling. Westminster has entered a time of growth and change, and my prayer is that the Lord will continue to guide and bless this work.

With deepest gratitude,

Pastor Laurie

April Session Highlights

- * Seven students have applied for the Andy Schramm Scholarship; the winner has been chosen and will be announced soon.
- * Once again during our treasurer's report we find that pledges are still down and not where they should be year to date. Please be mindful of this situation.
- * Pastor Justin has requested to be on vacation from June 29th to July 26th. He will return for duties July 27th. We will keep you informed as to who will attend to Pastoral needs in his absence.
- * Session will not have a regular meeting in the month of July and we will not serve communion in July.
- * We are preparing ourselves to say good-bye to Pastor Laurie as she prepares herself for the next step of her call into the ministry. We are going to miss her. Her last Sunday will be June 14th. We are planning for a carry-in that day. Stay tuned for more information on this celebration. Keep Laurie in your prayers as she prepares for her calling.
- * Mark your calendars now, this is a correction from the last highlights. **Worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. starting with our May 24th service.**
- * Communion will be served on May 10th, which is also Mother's Day.

Westminster Contact Info:

Office phone: 765-662-2775
 Fax: 765-662-0150
 church@westminstermarion.com
 Preschool phone: 765-662-3526
 preschool@westminstermarion.com
 www.westminstermarion.com
 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!

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

New adult SS theme

Adult Sunday School will be starting the three week series Gabbing about the Golden Years next Sunday at 9:30. On May 3, 10, and 17 there will be a presenter to share information and to facilitate a discussion about issues surrounding aging such as suggestions how to talk about the end of life, residence concerns, and legal documents. Next Sunday's theme is Five Wishes: A wonderful document to use as a discussion starter with loved ones about end of life issues led by Pastor Justin.

Easter offering

Let us once again share our monetary blessings with the boys at El Sembrador for their medical/dental needs. Each Easter our goal is to raise \$4,000. Combined with the Christmas offering, the annual total we send to the school is \$8,000. The total amount that has been given through April 21 is \$2,638.43, just \$1361.57 away from our goal! When giving, and for proper credit, please " earmark " your check or offering envelope "El Sembrador" or "Easter Offering." Please remember the school in your prayers and give generously for this mission!

Youth Bible update

It has been a long tradition at Westminster to purchase Bibles for our children. Help us raise enough money to continue this tradition! So far, there has been \$215.00 raised.



June 15, 2009 is the date of the Annual Whitewater Valley Open. It will be held again this year at Gray Eagle Golf Club in Fishers, IN. Gray Eagle is located at 126th St. and Brooks School Road, just across the street from New Hope Presbyterian Church. Shotgun start begins at 8:00 a.m. Cost will be the same as past years, \$60 per player. Cart, greens fee, prizes, range balls, and lunch are all included. Mulligans and raffle tickets will be sold at registration. More information is available on the Presbytery website: www.whitewatervalley.org/ at 2009 Golf Outing Registration. Click on "Registration Brochure" to download a flyer with all the information. You can also register online on that page.



Items collected:

Remember...lots of items can be donated to the church to help local organizations and missions! We are collecting aluminum cans for Habitat and Campbell Soup Labels and stamps for Southwest Indian School. Box Tops for Education and pop tops off pop cans and other canned items can also be donated. You will even find a place to donate old printer cartridges. All of these donations help a good cause!

Financial data YTD

Westminster's Financial
 Data YTD March 31, 2009

Total Income: \$49,136
 Total Expense: \$68,120

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 May 22.**

In Memoriam



Ralph Vogel
1917-2009

Men's prayer breakfast

Men's Prayer Breakfast & Bible Study – Men of all ages are invited to start their Wednesday mornings with the Good News and good food! Pastor Justin is leading a study of The Letter of Paul to the Romans. Come and learn about faith from this most theologically systematic letter of the apostle Paul.

Whee Leader

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

From the Director

The preschool successfully closes out another year with our children. We will celebrate the year and our children on the last day of school events. The preschool marks a year that has had a great deal of transition and change, but the core of



Westminster Presbyterian Preschool remains the same. We feel blessed to receive children in reverence, educate in them in love, and send them forth in freedom. We say "good-bye" to our children ready to start kindergarten. We look forward to seeing faces return in the fall. God Bless you 'till we meet again!

Interested in joining us for Fall 2009? Visit our website www.westminstermarion.com for more registration information, the preschool handbook and much more!

The Preschool Advisory Committee has selected the recipient for the Andy Schramm memorial scholarship. Announcements will be made in the weeks to come!

Upcoming Events

~ May 4-8th

Teacher Appreciation Week

~ May 13th

Last Day of School for MTW class program at 9:15-10:30

~ May 14th

Last Day of School for Young 5's program at 9:15-10:30

~ May 15th

Last Day of School for Th, F program at 9:15-10:30

~ May 18-21

Office Open 9-12

Cute sayings from preschool

We asked the class, "What do you get when you cross a chicken with the Easter Bunny?" Landon said, "An Easter Egg!"

Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to Betty Lindley, Jean Wiley, James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. We had a wonderful celebration of our young children. Thank you to Officer Chris Tarlton for coming and talking with our children about safety and reading the proclamation from Governor Mitchell about declaring April the month of the young child. Officer Mike Spaulding and



Doug Jentes also came to share their knowledge about safety with our children. We thank them for their support of early childhood education. We had a wonderful week of guest readers; Eric and Jeannie Walts, and Ramona Gardner thank you for sharing your voice with us! We appreciate the cooking talents of PJ Culley for making pancakes. The children enjoyed seeing her again in her chef's hat! The children created an art show in the fellowship hall, PJ days and parades, along with Jodi Waller who shared her animals with us.



Inspirational

Youth worship and learn at ATF conference

by **April Raver**
Coordinator of Youth Ministries

On April 4th, 26 youth and adults loaded up 4 vehicles and headed to Indianapolis to Conseco Fieldhouse for this year's Acquire the Fire youth conference. We met at the church at 5:30 AM on Saturday morning and headed out. Once we arrived in Indy, we waited in line for over two hours before making it into the arena...thank goodness for sunshine! The morning started with worship through song. We also enjoyed seeing a drama about what it would be like if Jesus had been alive on Earth today. The morning ended with more worship and an opportunity for the teenagers to commit their lives to Christ.

Once the morning session was over, we took a short walk over to the mall and enjoyed lunch in the food courts. In the afternoon session, we again spent time in worship and learned about Compassion International. We got to hear a child who was once a compassion sponsor child speak. He told the group about his sponsor: "She lived simply...so I could simply live." We heard a message about needs versus wants. We talked about what's

"wrong" with boys (they smell) and girls (they are too smart). We finished up the afternoon with three concerts. We enjoyed a rapper named Lecrae who sung about "Drivin' with my top down, listenin' to that Jesus music." We also enjoyed concerts from Jeremy Camp and Newsboys.

For dinner we headed back to our cars to enjoy tailgating in the beautiful sunshine and warmth. We couldn't have asked for a prettier day to tailgate in! Thanks to everyone who donated food, we had a great meal of submarines, chips, veggies and dip, potato salad, pasta salad, brownies, cookies...and lots more! After we filled up our stomachs, we walked back to the arena. One thing that really touched the kids along this walk, especially in the morning, was the number of homeless people that were sleeping

under the bridge we had to walk under to get to/from our cars. That's not something you see a lot of in Marion, but it sure was an eye opener!

We finished up the evening with more worship and speakers. The last event was one of the most memorable. The youth were all invited to write their sins, or anything holding them

back, separating them from God, on a scrap of paper. They were then invited to take their papers and literally nail their papers to crosses that were up all over the arena. We sang "I'll never know how much it cost, to see my sin upon that cross" as the sounds of hammers echoed throughout the room. What a powerful experience!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored youth and donated food and other items to make our trip possible! It was a great day for everyone!



Westminster Presbyterian Church

1100 Jeffras Ave
Marion, IN 46952
765-662-2775

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