

Westminster Words

Vol. 5
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May 26, 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"

Pastoral Epistle: The parable of the preschool rainbow

A few weeks ago was the annual Westminster Presbyterian Preschool closing ceremonies and graduations. A part of these events for several decades has been the traditional passing under the preschool rainbow. In preparation for these, the rainbow was taken from its storage place, brought upstairs to the sanctuary, and waited to be reattached to its footings that would hold it in place over the center aisle as it sat atop of the armrests of the first aisle pews. The job of reattaching the footings fell upon me.

After screwing the bolts into their predrilled holes, I and a preschool staff member began to attempt to place the rainbow into position atop of the first aisle pew armrests. We immediately noticed that the span between the footings of the rainbow was almost an inch wider than the space between the pews. Thinking the same thing at the same time, the staff member and I began to "squeeze" the wood that the rainbow was made out of in order to try and make it condense and fit

the span between the pews. As we did, we heard several creeks and cracks of the old, dry wood the rainbow was made out of as it buckled under the strain. We immediately ceased trying to make the rainbow go where it didn't fit, fearing it might snap in the process.

I later inquired with someone who had been associated with the preschool for a good number of years about the trouble we were having trying to make the rainbow fit. They answered that it had always been a bit too wide, but squeezing the rainbow had always worked in the past. I mentioned to them my concern after hearing the creaking and cracking sounds the wood made when we tried to squeeze it ourselves,

which made us worry that the rainbow was in danger of snapping in half. They replied that they too had noticed the same sounds in recent years and had the same concern.

As I then thought about it, the solution seemed obvious to me; I would just unscrew and move the base screws of the footing about an inch wider on one of the footings. If I did this it would allow for the span of the rainbow to match the actual distance between the armrests of the first aisle pews. No one sitting in the sanctuary would notice any changes to the rainbow itself, and



there would no longer be any danger of possibly destroying the beloved rainbow.

As I shared my plan, a look of great concern came over the longtime preschool supporter. They didn't enjoy the solution I had proposed because it would mean altering the rainbow from its original construction, and they worried that the solution wouldn't even work in the end. To make a long story short, I went forth with my solution, the rainbow continued to stand tall during the closing day ceremonies and graduations as it always had, and a possible disaster was averted.

Sometimes making changes in how things have always been done is the best way to preserve the most cherished of traditions we want to continue to maintain. Therefore the question isn't what is it we will and won't change, but rather what do we want to continue to do? And how we answer this question will guide us in planning for our future at Westminster Presbyterian Church (and Preschool).

Blessings,

Pastor Justin

May Session Highlights

- ~ The recipient of the Andy Schramm Scholarship was Michael Kukuris. This was a tough decision for the committee. Michael's family will be invited to church on June 7th to receive the scholarship.
- ~ If you would like to volunteer at the Westminster Preschool booth at First Fridays please let Elizabeth know. June 5th will be the next one.
- ~ So far we have 16 children enrolled in Preschool to start in the fall.
- ~ As you all know Pastor Laurie's last Sunday with us will be June 14th. We are having a sending off celebration immediately after church. Bring your favorite side dish or desert to share; the meat will be provided.
- ~ A few up coming events you may want to put on your calendar: Sept. 20th worship at the pond and Sept. 27th kick-off Sunday.
- ~ Our missions team is talking about having a book fair on August 29th. Save those books you have read and donate them. The money will go to the boys at El Sembrador. They could use some volunteers for this adventure. Thank you Evelyn for this wonderful idea.
- ~ Vacation Bible School will be in the evenings from June 16th - 19th.

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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 worship at 9:30 a.m. on 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

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 June 26.*

Directory pictures

Have you smiled for the camera yet? Family / individual pictures for the pictorial directory will be taken on: June 14, July 12, and August 9 at 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. The directories will be assembled after Labor Day.

Youth Bible update

There has been \$465.00 raised toward purchasing Bibles for our children and youth. The goal for raising funds for these Bibles is \$600.00. Your gifts are appreciated as we continue to purchase Bibles that will be given to the youth who are being confirmed next Sunday and to the children on Kick-off Sunday in the fall. A variety of Bibles are purchased to suit different age groups!

Worship next Sunday

Next Sunday, May 31: Westminster will worship with First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro (at Jonesboro) beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be no service at Westminster. Since we will be celebrating Pentecost, everyone is encouraged to wear red clothing which symbolizes the tongues of flame representing the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Senior recognition

Sunday, June 7 is Senior Recognition and Westminster's Anniversary Sunday. The Andy Schramm Memorial Scholarship will also be presented to the recipient of this award.

Thanks Westminster

Dear Westminster Congregation:
Thank you so much for your cards, notes, prayers, and phone calls. A special thank you goes out to Pastor Justin! All has been much appreciated during this difficult time.

Mildred Hinkle

Pictures being sought

Pictures of Pastor Laurie needed! Pictures are being sought of Pastor Laurie, recent / not so recent, digital and film. If you have any please give them to April Raver. If you would like them back please write your name on them and they will be returned to you. And remember, this is a secret, so don't let Pastor Laurie know!

Carry-in lunch June 14

There will be a carry-in luncheon after worship to celebrate and say goodbye to Pastor Laurie on Sunday, June 14. The Deacons will be providing chicken and desserts, and all are asked to bring a side dish... and to be prepared to "dish out" their blessings to Laurie as she prepares to enter into a new journey in her life.

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 May 22 is \$2980.93, just \$1019.07 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!

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Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19, from 5:30 – 8 p.m. with evening meal provided. Mark this date on your calendar today!

June 15- 19, 2009

Messy games day!

Peanut Butter - Jelly - Chocolate Syrup - Cool Whip - Flour - No, it's not a picnic! ~~ It's Messy Games Day! Children entering grades K-5th are invited to come kick-off summer with a day of slimy, messy, fun games on June 7 at 3:30 p.m.! Dress in old clothes and bring a towel!

Praise Service
will be Sunday,
May 31, at
6:00 p.m.



Wee Leader

Director: Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin Preschool phone: 765-662-3526

From the Director

The preschool is busy over the summer! You might have noticed some new colors springing up on the walls here and there. We are busy painting, organizing, cleaning and getting geared up for our fall. We have a new face with us for the summer; Liz Strong a Masters Student from Ball State is conducting her internship with me over the summer in the preschool. Liz attended the preschool herself as a child, while her father Joe Grubb looked on! Joe and Evelyn are so proud of her (I can see why). It has been amazing to work with her! Drop by and see us some time! We are normally in the office Monday through Thursday nine to noon and appointments.



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 is proud to announce the scholarship recipient for the Andy Schramm memorial was awarded to Michael Kukuris. June 7th during worship the award will be presented.

Preschool is looking for donations for toys and shelves.

Upcoming Events

- ~ June 1st Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting at Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin's house - Pool party bring a dish to share, we'll have hot dogs and hamburgers
- ~ June 5th come see us at First Friday Booth 5-9pm
- ~ June 19th Yearbooks are sent out

Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to Betty Lindley, James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. We had a wonderful end of the year "good-bye." Thank you to Pastor Laurie Wolcott, Carol Milford, Betty Wease, and Ruth Botkin for ushering during our programs.



Congratulations Class of 2009!

Tripp Gorman, Matthew Lakes, Alex Lester, Emily Potter, Matthew Raabe!



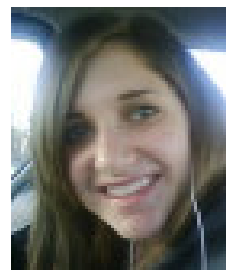
Alex Lester is graduating second in her class at Marion High School with a grade point average of 4.5577. She is attending University of California Los Angeles in the fall,

where she will be majoring in business. She plans to pursue a career in business management or continue to law school to become a corporate lawyer. She is very excited about this next step in her life and would like to thank her church family for all of their love and support.



Tripp Gorman (aka John Gorman III) is going to Indiana University Bloomington. He plans to major in marketing and advertising.

He was a member of the Marion High School tennis team for four years and swim team for two years. He will be working for his dad at Gorman Orthodontics this summer before attending the IFS program beginning August 1st at Indiana University.



Emily Potter is a graduate of Oak Hill High School, where she spent four years as a cheerleader for football and basketball as well as a manager for the baseball team.

Emily was a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, German Club, O Club, FCA, SADD and was a Class Officer. She will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington in the fall to study Nursing. She is excited to start a new chapter of her life and wants to thank all her family and friends for supporting her through the years.

Inspirational

Are you a bucket filler or a dipper?

by **Author Unknown**

as posted on inspirationalstories.com

You have heard of the cup that overflowed. This is a story of a bucket that is like the cup, only larger, it is an invisible bucket. Everyone has one. It determines how we feel about ourselves, about others, and how we get along with people. Have you ever experienced a series of very favorable things which made you want to be good to people for a week? At that time, your bucket was full.

A bucket can be filled by a lot of things that happen. When a person speaks to you, recognizing you as a human being, your bucket is filled a little. Even more if he calls you by name, especially if it is the name you like to be called. If he compliments you on your dress or on a job well done, the level in your bucket goes up still higher. There must be a million ways to raise the level in another's bucket. Writing a friendly letter, remembering something that is special to him, knowing the names of his children, expressing sympathy for his loss, giving him a hand when his work is heavy, taking time for conversation, or, perhaps more important, listening to him.

When one's bucket is full of this emotional support, one can express warmth and friendliness to people. But, remember, this is a theory about a bucket and a dipper. Other people have dippers and they can get their dippers in your bucket. This, too, can be done in a million ways.

Lets say I am at a dinner and inadvertently upset a glass of thick, sticky chocolate milk that spills over the table cloth, on a lady's skirt, down onto the carpet. I am embarrassed. "Bright Eyes" across the table says, "You upset that glass of chocolate milk." I made a mistake, I know I did, and then he told me about it! He got his dipper in my bucket! Think of the times a person makes a mistake, feels terrible about it, only to have someone tell him about the known mistake ("Red pencil" mentality!)

Buckets are filled and buckets are emptied -- emptied many times because people don't really think about what they are doing. When a person's bucket is emptied, he is very different than when it is full. You say to a person whose bucket is empty, "That is a pretty tie you have," and he may reply in a very irritated, defensive manner.

Although there is a limit to such an anal-

ogy, there are people who seem to have holes in their buckets. When a person has a hole in his bucket, he irritates lots of people by trying to get his dipper in their buckets. This is when he really needs somebody to pour it in his bucket because he keeps losing.

The story of our lives is the interplay of the bucket and the dipper. Everyone has both. The unyielding secret of the bucket and the dipper is that when you fill another's bucket it does not take anything out of your own bucket. The level in our own bucket gets higher when we fill another's, and, on the other hand, when we dip into another's bucket we do not fill our own ... we lose a little.

For a variety of reasons, people hesitate filling the bucket of another and consequently do not experience the fun, joy, happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction connected with making another person happy. Some reasons for this hesitancy are that people think it sounds "fakey," or the other person will be suspicious of the motive, or it is "brown-nosing."

Therefore, let us put aside our dipper and resolve to touch someone's life in order to fill their bucket.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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