

Westminster Words

Vol. 5
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June 30, 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"

Bookfair to be held August 29th - books needed!

The Mission Committee will be sponsoring a book fair August 29, 2009 on the bypass in Century 21's parking lot. It is hoped that the money raised will help Westminster reach our \$8000 pledge to the boys school at El Sembrador. We need your help! If you have books: paperbacks, hardbacks, fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, how



to books, etc we need them. We now have an easy way to help you make room in your home and help with our mission project. Please bring books to the Century 21 office at 124 N. Baldwin Ave or the church. We need 6-8 tables, and 1 or 2 yard tents, and sales people for our day in the sun and day of fun. For more information, or to volunteer your services or equipment please contact Evelyn Grubb 603-8882 or 664-7122, Deb Bruner 662-9377, or Jackie Hancock 981-2100.

Suitcase collection

The Mission Committee would also like to applaud Renee's creative and inspirational suitcase project. We would hope to make this an on going mission. A suitcase will be available in the narthex. As you travel throughout this year, please continue to collect the lotions, soaps, and shampoos and we will make sure they are donated to the Flannery-Keal Women's Shelter. We thank you in advance for your help!

May Church Financials

Total income was \$15,840
Total expense was \$20,772
Net income = <\$4,931>

Pastoral Epistle: Summertime worship

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

What is it about the summer season that affects people's church attendance? It happens every year. It happens in every area of the country. It happens in every denomination, even in non-denominational congregations!

Why then, does this occur? No one really knows. Some say it has to do with school being out, since the kids are taking a break. People, even those without children in school, often seem to take this time as an opportunity to take a break from attending church. Others say it has to do with vacations. People take a vacation from work, so they take a vacation from church as well. But if that were really the case, wouldn't people only be away from worship for about two weeks?

Now that the summer season is upon us, my urge is for you to continue to worship Christ, no matter whether you are on vacation or not. Please know that I am not asking you to do something that I do not do myself. One of the summer pleasures I enjoy while on vacation is getting to attend worship in other churches as a member of the congregation while getting to sit with my wife and children during the service. And I'm sure you will discover as I have that visiting other churches while you are traveling on vacation can be an exciting and enriching way to experience and get a taste of the many and varied ways people worship Christ, even the differences between churches in our very own denomination! But if you are not away, throw on some shorts, a t-shirt and some sandals, and let's give God glory and praise on our summer Sundays, as well as each and every day in between!

Have a happy and holy summer!

Pastor Justin

Westminster Wish List

Wooden Chair Replacement

J. D. Lutton shared several examples of metal chairs both with vinyl and fabric seats/backs or just metal. Following group discussion the thinner fabric chairs were recommended at \$19.95 each. J.D. will research further for the best price; he recommended we purchase 100 chairs. This is not a budgeted item. J.D. and Margaret Wilson will continue to research this project regarding best price and number of chairs needed.

Buzzer System for Entry Door

Pastor Justin shared that even though a new buzzer system for the front door is necessary, the Building and Grounds budget is limited because of the cost of repaving the church parking lot. The quote for the buzzer/lock system was \$1,000-\$1,200.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is asking church members to donate money towards these special projects and the funds will go into a designated fund to help pay for these two wish list items!

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 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 worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays!

Thank you letter from Pastor Laurie

Dear Westminster Congregation,

I am simply overwhelmed with your kindness as we said, "So long" to one another on Sunday. And the cards have continued to arrive this week. The gifts of the Stoles, the cards and words of encouragement, the hugs and the personal gifts will all go with me into the "big, wide world" and to my first official call. You have been so gracious in so many ways. Dinner was fun and a good chance to talk one last time as a group — and the steak was a real treat! You all have given far more than you received.

May God bless you and keep you all.

Pastor Laurie

Church Staff

Rev. Justin Schlesinger-Devlin, MSW
- Pastor

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 July 24.*

VBS was a great time!

Thank you to everyone who made Vacation Bible School 2009 a great success! Approximately 50 children enjoyed a great week of lessons, crafts, games, songs and learning to "Fear Not!" We raised \$174.97 for CASA through our daily offerings!

July Preachers

July 5th: Phil Loy
 July 12th: Bud Bence
 July 19th: Rev. Dave Comstock
 July 26th: Rev. Tom Ballard

Family pictures

Family and individual pictures for the church pictorial directory will be taken July 12, and August 9 at 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. The directories will be assembled after Labor Day.

Pastoral vacation

Pastor Justin is on vacation! He will return on Monday, July 27.

Any pastoral needs should be directed to the church office at 662-2775.

Rev. Marv Wiseman will be on call for any special needs or requests if needed.

Thank you, friends

Thank you to everyone in the church for their prayers, food, calls, cards, and offers of help during my knee replacement surgery. I am blessed to have so many caring friends at Westminster!

Penny Raver

Dearest Friends,

Thank you so very, very much for your loving kindness during my recovery time. I am mending well and should be back on two feet soon.

Again, thank you for your prayers, calls, visits, flowers, reading materials, and foods. You are such caring friends! Thank you!

Bekki Johnston



Introducing: Avery Elizabeth Beal, daughter of Amy and Shane Beal born on June 22. Avery is little sister to proud brothers, Elijah and Seth. Congratulations!

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See Matthew 7:6

05-01-2009

Gave you pearls and this is how you repay me!

Wee Leader

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

From the Director - Preschool News

The summer months have been busy ones for us in the office. We have been thrilled to have Liz Strong, who is interning with us as a part of the Master Degree in Family and Consumer Science at Ball State University, be a part of the process of getting things ready for the fall. Her last day is July 24th; we will miss her and wish her the best in her studies! We hope she comes by to visit us! We are also thrilled to have Betty Wease with us as our new book keeper for the preschool.

We'd like to thank Clyde Wilson, J.D. Lutton, Mike Achor, James Walts, Mary Cramer, and Pastor Justin for devoting their time to getting the walls painted for us! Also thank you to the Gestaveson family and Chuck Briede for painting as well! We have a talented group to help the preschool shine!

Westminster Presbyterian Preschool is first and foremost a ministry of our church. In my unique experience as a member of the church, the spouse of the pastor, and the director of the preschool, I am able to share my joy with preschool families about how supportive so many people in the community are of our preschool, especially church members! Because of the generosity of so many, our preschool is able to offer scholarships to families who need assistance with tuition. These scholarships are able to be provided solely because of the gracious donations given for this purpose. The scholarships enable children to attend the preschool who otherwise would not have the opportunity to be a part of a quality preschool experience in a Christian setting. Please assist us in continuing

to support this important ministry to children in our community by prayerfully making a gift or pledge to the preschool scholarship program.

General donations are also appreciated because they allow us to enhance the preschool experience by paying for additional resources for the children.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the preschool either by placing it in the Sunday offering, by dropping it off in the preschool office, or by putting it in the mail. Thank you for your faith filled support!

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

Upcoming Events

- July 3rd First Friday Booth
(Come by and look for us!)

Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to Betty Lindley, James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. Thank you to the Westminster Women for their donation to the preschool.



Westminster Presbyterian Preschool 2009-2010

Here is my/our gift in the amount of \$ _____

Or, my/our pledge of \$ _____ x _____ payments

Please add this gift to the Preschool's Scholarship Fund.

Use this gift where it is most needed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of _____

It is OK not OK to place my/our name in bulletins or newsletters.

Inspirational

Lessons from a cat named Ugly

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

Everyone in the apartment complex I lived in knew who Ugly was. Ugly was the resident tomcat. Ugly loved three things in this world: fighting, eating garbage, and shall we say, love.

The combination of these things combined with a life spent outside had their effect on Ugly. To start with, he had only one eye, and where the other should have been was a gaping hole. He was also missing his ear on the same side, his left foot has appeared to have been badly broken at one time, and had healed at an unnatural angle, making him look like he was always turning the corner.

His tail has long ago been lost, leaving only the smallest stub, which he would constantly jerk and twitch. Ugly would have been a dark gray tabby striped-type, except for the sores covering his head, neck, and even his shoulders with thick, yellowing scabs. Every time someone saw Ugly there was the same reaction. "That's one UGLY cat!!"

All the children were warned not to touch him, the adults threw rocks at him, hosed him down, squirted him when he tried to come in their homes, or shut his paws in the door when he would not leave. Ugly always had the same

reaction. If you turned the hose on him, he would stand there, getting soaked until you gave up and quit. If you threw things at him, he would curl his lanky body around feet in forgiveness.

Whenever he spied children, he would come running meowing frantically and bump his head against their hands, begging for their love. If ever someone picked him up he would immediately begin suckling on your shirt, earrings, whatever he could find.

One day Ugly shared his love with the neighbor's huskies. They did not respond kindly, and Ugly was badly mauled. From my apartment I could hear his screams, and I tried to rush to his aid. By the time I got to where he was laying, it was apparent Ugly's sad life was almost at an end.

Ugly lay in a wet circle, his back legs and lower back twisted grossly out of shape, a gaping tear in the white strip of fur that ran down his front. As I picked him up and tried to carry him home I could hear him wheezing and gasping, and could feel him struggling. "I must be hurting him terribly," I thought. Then I felt a familiar tugging, sucking sensation on my ear.

Ugly, in so much pain, suffering and obviously dying was trying to suckle my ear. I pulled him closer to me, and he bumped the

palm of my hand with his head, then he turned his one golden eye towards me, and I could hear the distinct sound of purring. Even in the greatest pain, that ugly battled scarred cat was asking only for a little affection, perhaps some compassion.

At that moment I thought Ugly was the most beautiful, loving creature I had ever seen. Never once did he try to bite or scratch me, or even try to get away from me, or struggle in any way. Ugly just looked up at me completely trusting in me to relieve his pain.

Ugly died in my arms before I could get inside, but I sat and held him for a long time afterwards, thinking about how one scarred, deformed little stray could so alter my opinion about what it means to have true pureness of spirit, to love so totally and truly.

Ugly taught me more about giving and compassion than a thousand books, lectures, or talk show specials ever could, and for that I will always be thankful. He had been scarred on the outside, but I was scarred on the inside, and it was time for me to move on and learn to love truly and deeply.

It was time to give my all to those I cared for. Many people want to be richer, more successful, well liked, beautiful, but for me, I will always try to be like Ugly.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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