

Westminster Words

Vol. 5
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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"

Westminster Women Support Missions

Westminster Women are pleased to announce that over \$2700 has been donated to several missions. The sales of cookies in the fall of '08 made possible this distribution of funds.

The following organizations received a contribution:

- ~ Campus Crusade for Christ (Donna Bahler)
- ~ Cancer Services of Grant County
- ~ CASA of Grant County
- ~ Crisis Pregnancy Center
- ~ Family Preservation Center (Family Services)
- ~ Flannery-Keal Women's Shelter
- ~ Habitat for Humanity
- ~ Klothes for Kids
- ~ Mentor Mothers
- ~ St. Paul Baptist Tutoring Program
- ~ Ripe for Harvest/France (Steve Wilson)
- ~ Westminster Congregational Care – college students
- ~ Westminster Facility Improvement
- ~ Westminster Preschool
- ~ World Gospel Mission (Faith Shingledecker)
- ~ YMCA
- ~ YWCA

We have already received gracious thank you notes from many of the recipients.

Earlier this year Habitat for Humanity of Grant County provided a luncheon to thank their volunteers. Westminster Women were recognized for the consistent donations that we provide. A certificate of appreciation was received. Also, Habitat leaders took the opportunity to again recognize Westminster Presbyterian Church for totally building two Habitat homes in previous years.

The officers of Westminster Women would like to thank everyone who sells, and/or buys cookies annually. Your support makes possible our assistance to the above worthy causes. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Pastoral Epistle: What makes success?

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20*

As I prepared to return to my pastoral duties after summer vacation, I paused to reflect upon a question that kept reoccurring to me: What makes a successful church? Some of the common answers that are often unspoken but believed are; numerical growth in membership and attendance, increased giving in terms of monetary gifts and time, and the creation of new and exciting ministries. If these are the signs of a successful church, then the inverse would necessarily define what an unsuccessful or failing church is; declining membership and attendance, less giving of tithe and time, and the loss of existing ministries. But are these definitions correct?

During this time of economic struggle, many churches have received less giving than they've traditionally been used to. Many families are unable to give as much as they previously have, and the time they used to be able to share with their church is taken up by having to work longer hours for the same or less pay, or by taking on a second job. This in turn can affect attendance because many second jobs take place on the weekend. Additionally, with less giving comes the difficulty of maintaining existing ministries. Church budgets across the country are being trimmed, which often affects the staffing of worship and ministry leaders. With less leadership for ministry comes a lessening of ministries done, and lay ministries suffer because people are unable to commit time and energy as they used to. In light of these events, should we label churches affected in this way as unsuccessful? If failure is defined in terms of money, size and newness, how many churches today would receive a failing grade?

The truth of the matter is that my initial question was a non question at best. The church is neither successful nor unsuccessful, but rather the church is, or it isn't, it exists or it does not exist. And when the church is in a certain place, it is because Christ is making it present by the power of the Holy Spirit, which unites us to the love of God, and God's love never fails.

The question we should be asking is where is the church? For us who stand in the reformed tradition, we answer this question by saying "Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ's institution, there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists" (Calvin's Institutes, 4.1.9). In other words, as the gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments are celebrated, the church of Jesus Christ is present in the world.

Westminster Presbyterian Church itself has not gone unaffected by the economic downturn, although not as profoundly as many churches have been. The session has been extra deliberate in making financial decisions for the church, while at the same time we are giving many thanks to God for the continued generosity of you, Westminster's family of faith, even in spite of the difficulty of the times. Nevertheless, the good news isn't the fact that by tightening our belt we are going to be financially alright, but rather it is that we will not strive for worldly success nor allow the fear of financial failure to define who we are and what we do, but that we will continue to share the good news and be shaped by the sacraments as we live our lives of faith in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Justin

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

Bookfair to be held August 29th



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.

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

Collect shampoos

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!

Last day for pictures

August 9th is the last scheduled day for family and individual pictures to be taken for the new church pictorial directory. If you have not yet had your picture taken please plan on being at church on August 9th. Pictures will be taken in the copy room after the service. If you cannot make it on this day and have not had your picture taken as of yet, please contact April Raver to make other arrangements.

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 August 28.*

Thanks for the Bible

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the study Bible. You all have been so good to me. Westminster has been and will always be a big part of my life.

Tripp Gorman

Thank you, friends

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank you for your prayers, visits, and numerous other kindnesses as we try to adjust to our various handicaps. May God richly bless each of you. We deeply appreciate your touch upon our lives.

Albert and Mildred Chapman

Worship in the Park

Westminster will be having it's annual Worship in the Park on Sunday, August 23rd. Plan now on attending this great summer event!

Scripture Scramble

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution on page 4.

• TNHE SPKEA USSJE NIGAA •
 • UTON TMHE, YSNIGA, I MA •
 • EHT TLIHG FO EHT •
 • WROLD: EH TTHA •
 • WTOOLLHFE EM SLLHA •
 • TON WLKA NI SSRNKEDA, •
 • UTB SLLHA VHEA EHT •
 • TLIHG FO EFIL •

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Men of all ages are invited to start their Wednesday mornings with the Good News and good food! The men are currently a spending the summer studying Ephesians: A Practical Application of a Christlike Life.

Newsletter Folders Needed

Volunteers are needed to help fold and prepare the newsletters to be mailed out for the rest of the year. Many hands make light work!

To volunteer sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact Libby. Thanks to all who've helped prepare newsletters so far this year!



Wee Leader

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

From the Director – Preschool News

The summer months have passed quickly for us at the preschool. We are working hard on our enrollment for the fall. The preschool offers both a morning program and a full day program. We have early arrival beginning at 6:30 till 8:30 in the morning, and extended day from 4:30-6pm, Monday through Friday. Our morning session is from 8:30-11:30 Monday through Friday or our full day program is 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday. Parents have the option of enrolling their children for three days a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays), Two days a week (Thursdays and Fridays) or Full week Monday through Friday in either the full day program OR the morning program.

The preschool is a recipient of the state voucher for tuition assistance through the Hoosier Works Card, and we offer scholarships for families. We offer meals and snacks as we are a part of the Adult and Child Food Program with the Department of Education. Our meals meet the high nutritional standards of the USDA. We are headed toward our Volunteer Certification Program with the State which is given to Registered Ministries that go above and beyond the basic requirements.

The preschool has a Christian based curriculum weaving through science, math, social studies, language, reading, and writing. The preschool has the unique resource of the Young's Library as well with over 4,000 copies of children's books, DVDs, VHS, and computer games. We have a highly qualified teaching staff who have a great deal of experience and knowledge in early childhood education. We have low ratios in our classrooms and fill the year with many experiences and opportunities. Children graduate from our preschool program ready to walk into kindergarten with the tools they need to be successful, and having a strong foundation in Christian love and education.

We are encouraging all of our family and friends to share the wonderful opportunities the preschool has to provide. We invite everyone to come and join us for the Open House/ Ice Cream Social on August 6th from 6-8pm here at the church. We will be taking enrollment at the open house as well! I look forward to the new year filled with returning friends and meeting new ones.

Upcoming Events

- **Aug. 3&4** Teacher Training 9-12am
- **Aug. 6th** Open House/Ice Cream Social 6-8pm
- **Aug. 7th** First Friday booth 5-9pm
- **Aug. 8th** Back to School/ Family Fun Matter Park 12-3pm
- **Aug. 10th** First Day of Preschool
- **Aug. 16th** Preschool Staff Commissioning for the year
- **Aug. 25th** Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting 6pm

CASA Sand Sculpture Contest

Dear Westminster Family,

We would like to thank you for your generous support of Bradley and Lauren in their fundraising efforts for CASA. Because of your donations, we were able to raise over \$600 for the People's Choice Award for Westminster at the recent Sand Sculpture Artfest. With the addition of the church's \$500 event sponsor gift, that is over \$1100 from Westminster alone that went to support CASA's efforts in our community! We thank you for rallying around the kids and for helping them see the joy that comes when giving back to the community. The contest was incredible! It was an awesome day filled with creativity, laughter, and fellowship. Thirteen teams worked together to build sculptures ranging from turtles to semis to villages to Garfield to snowmen to our church (complete with playground), and we hope that the event will continue to grow each year.

We are blessed to call Westminster home.

In Christ,

Michael and Lisa Belcher



Inspirational

Say Cheese Church Funnies

by Author Unknown

as posted on inspirationalstories.com

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lighting followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, 'What are you doing?' The child answered, 'I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture.'

May God bless you today and everyday as you face the storms that come your way!

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture at you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar.. 'She said she had an Ax and Two 38s!'

Remember: Knowing scripture can save your life - in more ways than one!

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 Attending a wedding
 for the first time, a
 little girl whispered to
 her mother, "Why is the
 bride dressed in white?"
 "Because white is the
 color of happiness, and
 today is the happiest day
 of her life."
 The child thought about
 this for a moment, then
 said "So why is the
 groom wearing black?"



Scripture Scramble Answer: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

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