

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1285 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

319-366-7185

319-366-7187 (Fax)

www.crwpc.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Worship Times

Sunday

8:00 a.m. traditional service in the Chapel

9:00 a.m. contemporary service in the Family Life Center

11:00 a.m. traditional service in the Sanctuary

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Pastor Don Houdeshell: pastor@crwpc.org

Associate Pastor Jim Langley: jlangley@crwpc.org

A.J. Plummer: cedirector@crwpc.org

Acting Director of Student Ministries, Jackie Alff: lromanelli@crwpc.org

Business Manager, Marilyn Shoger: mshoger@crwpc.org

Church Secretary, Christina Anderson: westmin@crwpc.org



January 2011

Volume 26, Issue 1

Meet Our New Staff Members!!

We welcome two new additions to the Westminster Staff, Rich Hillyer, full-time custodian/maintenance, and Stan Letscher, Director of Student Ministries. If you see Rich or Stan, please welcome them to Westminster and say hello!

Rich Hillyer

Rich was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He has been happily married for sixteen years to his wife, Tamara, a Clinical Social Worker at Abbe Center for Community Mental Health and a minister in the Community of Christ Church in Cedar Rapids. Rich owned and operated a picture frame shop in Sedona, AZ and met Tamara while living in Jerome, AZ. They lived in Washington state for eight years where Rich was a boat builder and cabinet maker. They moved to Cedar Rapids two years ago to help with flood recovery and to be closer to Tamara's family. Rich looks forward to a long and happy relationship with the staff and congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Rich will be working Monday through Friday during regular office hours.

Stan Letscher

Hello, my name is Stan Letscher, and I would like to introduce myself to you! I am more excited than I can say about beginning ministry with you all as Director of Student Ministries. I am dedicated to building relationships with teenagers and I am passionate about communicating the truth of the Gospel to both teenagers and adults. I grew up in Northwest Iowa and spent two years at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa from 1995 to 1997, majoring in Christian Education with a focus on Youth Ministry. From 1997 to 1998, I served on the Youth Ministry Team at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City, Iowa. From 1998 to 2000, I served as the Youth Director for First Lutheran Church in Milford, Iowa. In 2001, I accepted the call to Bethany Lutheran Church as their Director of Youth Ministry, where I served for three years. In July of 2004, I married my beautiful wife, Marissa. We spent three years in Southern California while Marissa attended seminary then we spent two years in Atlanta, GA. We recently moved back to Iowa in September of 2009. We have no children, but we have an adorable, energetic, three year-old Westie named Bella, who is the joy of our life. I look forward to meeting you all and serving the church, the community, and the world together!

We welcome you, Rich and Stan, to our staff and church family! We're glad you're here!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

E-Mail: westmin@crwpc.org

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1285 Third Avenue South East

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403-4084

A MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION

THE VOICE OF WESTMINSTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTORAL PREFACE

What has been on my heart and in my mind recently has been the question, “What does it take to make a community?” I’ve also been pondering, “What is the glue that holds together a community?”

Is it blood? Both Julie and I come from large biological families. My spouse Julie is the third-born of nine children. I am the first-born of six children. The two groups of siblings, hers and mine, are large enough to make a small community of 15 people! Add in spouses, children, grandchildren, grandparents, uncles and aunts and cousins, and the family/community explodes in growth. Sometimes in large families like ours it is something of a chore to keep track of all the birthdays, wedding anniversaries and new offspring. Each passing year brings the sadness of funerals and the joy of baby showers.

Surely a biological family is tied together by more than blood. Families are complex, dynamic, living systems. In my family of origin and extended family, it was my maternal grandmother, Rhea Gibson, who was the glue. Grandma hosted the annual Thanksgiving dinner attended by dozens of relatives. Grandma showered her grandchildren with gifts at Christmas and Easter. Grandma taught each grandchild the value of hard work. Grandma tended to the spiritual life of her family. Grandma Rhea made sure Grandpa Bud took his grandkids to church each Sunday even though she didn’t go because she couldn’t handle the crowds.

The church is occasionally called a “family” and a “community”. Sometimes the church is described as a “faith community”. Churches, like biological families, are held together by key persons, beliefs, and complex, baffling, dynamic, living systems. When people join a church, they bring with them the DNA and imprint of their own biological families. That is why the church is sometimes as messy as biological families, where affection exists alongside disdain, trust next to distrust, and alliances alongside betrayals.

So, it takes a strong glue, shall I say *super glue*, to hold together the church as a living, breathing, dynamic family system. It takes none other than the central figure of Jesus Christ. Christ is the glue that holds it all together in spite of the fact that the system threatens to fly apart at any second. The Risen Christ is the Head of the Church. Christ is the reason it all works.

Here we are in the New Year of 2011 holding hopes and dreams and aspirations for our biological families and Westminster, our church family. While our culture makes a big deal of Christmas and the birth of the cute and cuddly baby Jesus, this is not central to the Christian faith. Two of the four Gospels in the Bible do not even mention Jesus’ birth. The Gospels of Mark and John start Jesus’ story with his baptism. Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman wrote a salutary reminder once in *Cross Currents*, “Historians tell us that Christmas was not always the cultural fulcrum that balances Christian life. There was a time when Christians knew that the paschal mystery of death and resurrection was the center of Christian faith. It was Easter that really mattered, not Christmas. . . .” p.45, *Christian Century*, December 14, 2010

As we enter this New Year of 2011, with yearnings in our hearts for our biological families and our church, let us remember that it is in the mystery of dying and being raised to new life that we Christians “live and move and have our being”. We have been “baptized in the waters of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ”. We may have hope or live in despair, dream wildly or have no imagination, hold aspirations or be clueless. None of that matters ultimately. What matters ultimately is that God raises the Phoenix out of the ashes of destruction and death. God does far more for us, our church, and our world than we could ever ask or imagine. Believe it, dear Christians, for your church and your family however you define them. Christ is at the center of our community! God is sovereign over Creation! Hallelujah!

Faithfully,

Interim Pastor Don

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY 2011

8:00 a.m. Greeters/Ushers

January 2 Darwin Busch & Connie Hayes
January 9 Bob & Carol Ferguson
January 16 Jack & Nancy Haney
January 23 Don & Sherryl Hoepfner
January 30 Jim McWhinney & Ruth Nash

9:00 a.m. Greeters/Ushers

January 2 Trent & Wendy Marner
January 9 Kelly Cabbage & Sherry Cornish
January 16 Adrienne Walls & Terry Tiede
January 23 Emily Snow & Katie Carfizzi
January 30 Rich & Connie Ripley

11:00 a.m. Head Usher

Scott Olson

11:00 a.m. Greeters

January 2 Ed & Ardyce Brunsting
January 9 Dale & Alice Crosier
January 16 Peggy Crawford & Tamene Gelashe
January 23 Herb & Carm Hammerberg
January 30 Ted Kahler & Laura Koontz

11:00 a.m. Ushers

January 2 Dale & Alice Crosier, David Basler, Chuck & Mary Jo Crull
January 9 Bruce Crawford, Dee Davis, Flora Kitzman, Ed & Ardyce Brunsting
January 16 Tony & Suzanne Huebsch, Claudia Warfel, Jack & Joyce Sedlacek
January 23 Gary & Vicki Owens, Laura Koontz, Mike & Nancy Walker
January 30 Herm & Carm Hammerberg, Lemi Tilahun, Jim & Cheryl Shanklin

Offering Stewards

January 2 Martha Wilding & Jim Sankey
January 3 Martha Griffith
January 9 Dale Crosier & Kathie Lane
January 10 Dick Cornish
January 16 Doug Wagner & John Swanson
January 18 David Basler
January 23 Rich Ripley & Jenna Alff
January 24 Ed Brunsting
January 30 Marcia Elhart & Jackie Alff
January 31 Connie Hayes

Nursery Volunteers

9:00 a.m.
January 2 TBA
January 9 TBA
January 16 TBA
January 23 TBA
January 30 TBA

10:00 a.m.
January 2 TBA
January 9 TBA
January 16 TBA
January 23 TBA
January 30 TBA

11:00 a.m.
January 2 TBA
January 9 TBA
January 16 TBA
January 23 TBA
January 30 TBA

Liturgist

January 2 Tony Huebsch
January 9 Lemi Tilahun
January 16 Marcia Elhart
January 23 Jack Sedlacek
January 30 Kim Langley

Handicap Host / Flower Delivery

January 2 Kirk Lampe
January 9 Signe Munson
January 16 Bob Warner
January 23 Linda Cosgrove
January 30 Glenn Lane

Coffee Hosts

January 2 Sandra Yarrington & Ardyce Brunsting
January 9 Bill Wilding & Fran Hanzel Johnson
January 16 Dale Weiske & Alice Crosier
January 23 Betty VanFossen & Dee Davis
January 30 Dick Trotter & Flora Kitzman

9:00 a.m. Communion Servers

Tim Stolba, Rich Ripley, Adrienne Walls & Deb Sprague

11:00 a.m. Communion Servers

David Basler, Debbie Richardson, Barb Moss, Chuck & Mary Jo Crull, Martha Wilding, Dale Weiske, John

SCHEDULED TO SERVE AND CAN'T MAKE IT?

If you are scheduled to serve on a Sunday and cannot serve on your scheduled day, please find a replacement or someone to switch with you. Please let the Church Office know of any changes by Thursday of each week to ensure that it is printed correctly in the bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please call the Church Office at 366-7185 or email Christina at westmin@crwpc.org. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE=STEWARDSHIP

Happy New Year—and a few reminders for it. PLEASE remember to put your pop cans in the pop can containers! The cans are being found all over the church. Pop can containers have been placed within easy reach for all the church areas. There is a container in the Small Kitchen for those who drink on the main floor, and a container in the Family Life Center and in the Old Dining Room. Please consider it exercise to place your containers where they belong!

Also, please remember that NO CUPS go in the recycling unless they are plastic and have a recycling number. Coffee and water cups are not recyclable, so please throw them away. Better yet, bring your own reusable ones from home to use! If you were to check the garbage every Friday morning, you would see that we throw away mostly cups and paper plates, and not much else.

From Better Homes and Gardens November issue: Rub a white candle stub on bathroom grout to shield against mold and mildew. Also use an Alka-Seltzer tablet in the toilet bowl for a quick, fizzy clean. Tackle spilled food in the oven right away by pouring table salt over it. The salt will form a crust that makes the food easy to wipe up and also reduces the burning smell.

If you have household items such as sinks, windows, doors, light fixtures, etc. to get rid of, please take them to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, newly relocated downtown at 350 Sixth Ave. SE. It's also a great place to buy those types of items to use in remodeling your room.

I hope your new year's resolutions contain the wish to continue and expand your activities to help our earth be in good shape for the future!

Marilyn Lodge

WHO'S IN THE PEW?**A MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BY JESSIE ALFF**

Ben Fashimpaur is the bassist for the 9:00 a.m. Praise Band, but he does much more than just that around the church. Ben helps with basic repairs around the building, and even helped with the roof repair last summer. When asked, Ben also helps other church members with repairs. What the 9:00 a.m. worshippers enjoy the most about Ben is the amazing baked goods he brings every week to service. Ben enjoys playing tennis and even plays competitively by practicing and playing in tournaments. When asked about some of his other hobbies, he replied, "I enjoy gardening and cooking." Ben Fashimpaur is a spectacular addition to our church family and we really appreciate his being here!

LOAVES & FISHES BLANKET GIVEAWAY

Wednesday, January 19th will be the day we give our blankets at the Food Pantry. This is always an event our pantry guests look forward to. They have already started to ask about it. It's hard to believe that there are people in the community that have to make a choice between heat and food in the cold month of January. Please bring new or gently used blankets, comforters, quilts, and throws to the church. Sheets and pillowcases will also be collected. Help give the gift of warmth to those less fortunate.

God Bless You!

Val Neubauer

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

JANUARY - CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP, PEACHES, SHAMPOO

**CANNED & BOXED FOOD; NO JARS PLEASE. STANDARD SIZE CANS,
AS MOST OF OUR GUESTS WALK TO THE PANTRY.
TOILET PAPER & PERSONAL PRODUCTS ALWAYS NEEDED.**

**JOTTINGS FROM PASTOR JIM**

I want to take this opportunity to offer a word of encouragement for the New Year...and who among us doesn't need a little encouragement from time to time? As Presbyterians, we are often called God's "Frozen Chosen." While I'm not sure where this moniker came from or how we – out of all God's people – received it, I do think it is often the case in the PC(USA)...as well as the United Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, and any other denomination you can think of!

Too often, we look at church membership as being all about coming to church once a week, sitting in the pew for an hour and leaving right after the closing benediction. We rarely crack a smile, rarely reach out to our neighbors – let alone the strangers we meet, and rarely offer ourselves for the kingdom work God has given to us. So, the question I would ask you to consider is, "How can you make this year different? How can you move from being one of God's "Frozen Chosen" to a passionate, mission-filled disciple of Jesus Christ? The answer, I think, is to change your focus!

Dr. William Glasser once served as the psychiatrist at the Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles. Many of his patients had serious physical conditions or suffered from severe pain. Dr. Glasser's therapy focused on making positive choices. He didn't want his patients looking back at the past or complaining about the present. He learned very quickly that his patients showed no improvement when he started his therapy session with the question, "How are you feeling today?" This caused his patients to focus on their pain, their weakness, their depression.

Instead, Dr. Glasser changed his opening question to, "What are you planning to do today?" By asking this question, Dr. Glasser introduced the idea that the patient had control over some area of his or her life. He or she could choose to walk up and down the halls, to read a magazine, to call a friend. Instead of focusing on their condition, the patients began focusing on their choices. This simple change in focus proved empowering and led many patients to report decreased levels of pain.

So, what's your plan? We're at the beginning of a New Year. This year will certainly hold some discontent and restlessness. It will also hold more than its share of blessing and promise. In many ways, 2011 will be a lot like 2010, but don't be fooled into thinking it's the "same old, same old." God is at work. God blesses us in Jesus Christ. God has a ministry for us to accomplish. And God brings us together with other Christians in meaningful worship, fellowship and service. We don't have to be one of God's "Frozen Chosen." The Westminster train is moving! A new Director of Student Ministries has been hired. The PNC is hard at work to find a new Head of Staff. New ministries are being developed and old ones made stronger. Get on board and enjoy the ride, because God is calling us to a grace-filled and purposeful journey.

MANY THANKS!

As we move now from Christmas into the New Year, Kim, the kids, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and encouragement in 2010. Especially, we thank everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts and prayers this Christmas. Our lives have been greatly enriched because we are part of this family of faith!

Grace and Peace!

Jim Langley

A NEW SERIES FOR A NEW YEAR

Pastor Jim is starting a new sermon series as we begin this New Year. It's called "Being Presbyterian" and will cover some of the key truths that Presbyterians affirm. From the sovereignty of God to our role as the body of Christ, you can find out more about what it means to be Presbyterian during the 9:00 a.m. worship gatherings in the Family Life Center. The series will begin on Sunday, January 16th, and will run for 8 weeks.



CHURCH CHATTER FOR CHILDREN

Logos & Sunday School Resumes!

Welcome! The year is 2011 and we're ready to keep on learning about God, His word, and our calling as a Christian. Our Wednesday night Logos program will resume on Wednesday, December 5th. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, December 9th. See you there!

What is the Village studying this month?

In January, the Village Sunday School will begin a new rotation entitled "Bread from Heaven" which is focused on the Feeding of the 5,000. The rotation will explore the story through Mary & Martha's Bed & Breakfast, Synagogue, Celestial Presentations, & Abundant Life Theater. **As part of this rotation, please have your child bring canned goods for our Sunday School offering that will be donated to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.** Come and join us in the Village!

ADULT EDUCATION 2011 EARLY SPRING PROGRAMMING

This spring brings an exciting array of different topics and explorations through faith, the bible, and more! Come and see what 2011 has in store for you!

In January, our own Director of Christian Education, A.J. Plummer, will present a series based upon the writings and interviews in The Case for Faith by author Lee Strobel. In this study, we'll examine, unpack, and discuss three of the most pressing objections to the Christian faith: (1) Since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot; (2) It's offensive to claim that Jesus is the only way to God; and (3) I still have doubts, so I can't be a Christian.

Throughout February, Doug Wagner will present two classes entitled "Evangelism and You". The Great Commission were the words of Christ to his disciples. But was He speaking to us through the ages, as well? This class examines The Great Commission and our reactions to spirituality in different settings and with various groups of people.

In February and March, Susan Hill, a professor of religion at the University of Northern Iowa, will present a study on symbols and rituals throughout history and religion. Ever wondered how certain rituals or traditions came into being? Susan will answer some of these questions and more.

We, as humans, never stop learning, and the Adult Education Team hopes that you will find the time to come and grow together as a community of believers! Come and discover how Christ is at work in your life!

1/9/2011:	A.J. Plummer - <i>"Since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot"</i>
1/16/2011:	A.J. Plummer - <i>"It's offensive to claim Jesus is the only way to God"</i>
1/23/2010:	A.J. Plummer - <i>"I still have doubts, so I can't be a Christian"</i>
1/30/2011:	Annual Congregational Meeting
2/6/2011:	Doug Wagner - <i>"Evangelism and You"</i>
2/13/2011:	Susan Hill - <i>"Symbols and Rituals"</i>
2/20/2011:	Doug Wagner - <i>"Evangelism and You"</i>
2/27/2011:	Susan Hill - <i>"Symbols and Rituals"</i>
3/6/2011:	Susan Hill - <i>"Symbols and Rituals"</i>

A NOTE FROM OUR BUSINESS MANAGER

I have had 21 wonderful and challenging years as part of the staff here at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Westminster is like a family to me. But, it is now time for me and my husband, Mike, to retire. We hope to travel throughout the United States as we have had very little time to do that over our working years. My official date of retirement will be March 31, 2011. I will go with mixed feelings but it is time to turn to a new stage in my life.

Marilynn Shoger, Business Manager

DEALING WITH SNOW & ICE A HEALTH MINISTRIES ARTICLE BY SHERRY CORNISH

Two of the most important things to always keep in your car during the winter season are a blanket and a scraper/brush. The scraper of course is to clean off the ice from your windows and brush the snow off your car. The blanket is in case of emergency. If you happen to break down or are in a wreck, it can get very cold, very quickly, even if you have a winter coat and gloves on. The blanket will help keep you cozy until help arrives.

Some people also like to keep a bag of sand or stones in their trunk in case they get stuck. A cheaper alternative is a bag of cat litter which will also do the trick of giving your tires some extra traction in the wintery months.

Make sure that your windshield washer fluid is always full and it helps to keep an extra container in the trunk just in case. Most people tend to clean their windshields at least twice as often in the winter, if not more.

As far as driving goes, just use common sense. Obviously, you want to drive more slowly than usual and brake sooner than usual, especially at busier intersections. It often takes longer to stop on a slippery road. If you do not have anti-lock brakes, pump your brakes when you are stopping in snow, ice, and especially on a hill.

Please be especially careful when going down a steep hill. I tend to pump my brakes the whole way down, not going more than 10mph. Ice can be so tricky and scary. Be especially careful of "black ice," which is a patch of ice on a clear road that just tends to blend in with the road. Even though you think the road is clear, it may contain patches of ice, so try not to drive so fast in bad weather conditions or when the temperature is below freezing.

Here are a couple tricks for cleaning off a snow/ice covered car:

1. When possible, try to go out and start your car about 5-10 minutes before you will be driving. This will help to melt any ice on your car and makes clearing the snow off very simple.
2. Grab a water bottle or other container from your house and fill it with hot tap water before you go outside. Pour the water over your windshield and easily wipe all of the ice away.

Lastly, try not to drive at all during blizzard conditions. It is incredibly difficult to see the road and/or other cars that may be on the road.

Have a safe and happy winter!

PASTORAL STAFF BOOK STUDY

Wondering what the Pastoral Staff does to stay connected to the Word and Christ? Well, they meet weekly to discern and discover how Christ is working in their lives through scripture and study. For the next couple months, the staff will be using a book entitled Traveling Together: A Guide for Disciple-Forming Congregations by Jeffrey D. Jones to facilitate discussion. If you're interested in reading the book, there will be a copy made available in the Library for check-out.



SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, January 3rd.

A New Year, A New Structure

In an effort to streamline the ministry organization here at Westminster, the Session received, at its December meeting, the report of the Ministry Reorganization Task Force. This group has been meeting since early fall to develop guidelines and recommendations for a simpler Session Committee structure. In the past, Westminster has had upwards of 32 different ministry teams overseeing the various ministries of the congregation. While no ministries have been eliminated in this streamlining, the number of committees has been reduced to eight. It is our hope that this new organization structure will function well for our congregation as we plan and implement programs and activities that inspire all of us to be growing and faithful followers of Jesus Christ and that meet the needs of our community and world.

SESSION COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION
SESSION

WORSHIP

- (Worship)
Responsibilities:
- Liturgy
 - Church Seasons
 - Music
 - Choirs
 - Arts
 - Sacraments
 - Special Services
 - Ushers
 - Communion Servers

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- (Wisdom)
Responsibilities:
- Nursery
 - Children's C.E.
 - Youth C.E.
 - Student Ministry
 - Adult C.E.
 - Logos
 - Library

OUTREACH

- (Witness)
Responsibilities:
- Evangelism/Outreach
 - New Member Training
 - New Member Assimilation
 - Marketing
 - WPC Website
 - Communications – Church Newsletter, Church E-News

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- (Welcome)
Responsibilities:
- Fellowship Events
 - Member Care and Follow-up
 - Coffee Hour
 - Promotional Literature
 - Greeters
 - Life Groups
 - Senior Adult Ministry
 - Health Ministry
 - Name Tags
 - Mariners

MISSION

- (Work)
Responsibilities:
- Loaves and Fishes
 - Kid's Closet
 - Global Mission
 - Local Mission
 - Special Offerings
 - Ecumenical Relations
 - Flood Recovery

FINANCE

- Responsibilities:
- Monthly Finance Reports
 - Annual Budget
 - Building Fund
 - Stewardship
 - Memorial Fund
 - Church Insurance

PERSONNEL

- Responsibilities:
- Personnel Policy
 - Staff Support/Development
 - Senior Pastor Annual Review
 - Coordinate Hiring Non-Pastoral Staff

PROPERTY

- Responsibilities:
- Care of Building and Grounds
 - Promote Volunteer Work Days
 - Building Use Policy

FINANCE CORNER

The total for general contributions for November was \$40,037. Our income was \$208 more than our expenses for the month. The staff and committees have been trying to hold down spending so we can end the year in the black.

<u>General Contributions thru November 30, 2010</u>	
Amount Budgeted	\$503,877
Amount Received	<u>457,150</u>
Deficit	\$ -46,727
Peacemaking Offering	\$ 1,061

We made another payment on the New Addition Loan. The new balance is \$98,495. Our next payment is due February 15th.

On December 13, Westminster received a check from Jumpstart for \$91,236. After working on numerous forms for almost a year and a half, the money finally became a reality. What this means is, Westminster is able to pay off the loan of \$68,000 remaining on the heating system. The additional money will be placed in a CD to be set aside for a Major Capital Reserve Fund. Some of you may recall that we used the church Major Capital Reserve Fund toward the heating system. Now we can replenish it.

Marilynn Shoger

DEACONS' CORNER

Happy New Year from your Westminster Deacons! We have decided to start a new column in the newsletter. It is the Deacons Corner. We want to keep you posted on our comings and goings and let you get acquainted with us. We will profile different deacons each month. The word "Deacon" is derived from the Greek diakonos. Diakonos simply means "servant." Deacons at Westminster are ordained positions in the church. We are elected by the congregation to serve a three-year term. Our ministry is one of care, concern, sympathy, witness, and service following the example set by Jesus Christ. We minister to the sick, to those in need, and to any who are in distress both within and beyond our community of faith. Each Deacon at Westminster is assigned a home service member of the congregation to visit, providing support as needed and serving as a bridge between these individuals and the church. Deacons visit our congregation members who are ill and hospitalized and serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. They deliver flowers to home service members and nursing homes and contact families who have had children baptized at the church. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an active part of the Deacons ministry, providing shawls to members and friends of the church in need of special support, encouragement or care. The Deacons have started a new project which begins this month, the Card Ministry. We will be sending cards for special birthdays and other events in members' lives. If you know of someone who is celebrating a special occasion or would benefit from a card or visit from a Deacon, please contact us. You can contact the Deacons through the church office.

Each Deacon at Westminster is assigned a home service member of the congregation to visit, providing support as needed and serving as a bridge between those individuals and the church. Deacons visit our congregation members who are ill and hospitalized and serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. We deliver flowers to home service members after church service on Sundays and we deliver poinsettias at Christmas and Easter Lilies at Easter.

The two Deacons profiled this month are Carol Ferguson and Vicki Owens. Vicki Owens and her husband Gary were married at Westminster. Gary had grown up attending church here. They have two grown children, Liz and Matt. Liz is a Drake University grad who quit her job as night editor at the Des Moines Register to pursue a master's degree in public policy/women's studies at George University. Matt graduated from ISU and works as an engineer in the aerial plant of Altec Industries in Missouri. Vicki says being a Deacon has given her the opportunity to give back to Westminster and its members through a caring and nurturing role.

Carol Ferguson became a member of WPC at the urging of her new husband, Bob, in 1960. Bob had been part of a group at Coe when Dr. Woods facilitated evening "bull" sessions. As they say, the rest is history. They have 3 children, all raised in the church. Carol and Bob are proud grandparents of one 14 yr old grandson. During her time at the church, Carol has served on the Christian Education committee and took care of Sunday School supplies and other needs. She and Bob are retired and try to volunteer as their energies allow. Carol says the best part of being a Deacon has been her home care member and friend, Mozelle Davis. Their friendship has been very fulfilling for Carol (and for Mozelle, we are sure).

If you are interested in serving the church as a Deacon, please contact Jim Langley.

Thank You

This seems like a good time of year to give out a special thank-you to volunteers who help make the church run as smoothly as it does. Thank you, Bob Moran, for your job as Treasurer; Connie Hayes, Flora Kitzman, Marilyn Sweet, Thelma Fye, Pat VanFossen, Phyllis Lindsay and Chuck & Mary Jo Crull for all the times you help Marilynn & Christina in the office; Kathie Lane, Kathy Moore, and Dee Davis for all the data entry you do; Ted Kahler, Truman Johnson, Chuck Crull, and Jim Shaff for the handyman work you do around the church; Ruth Nash, Pat Teig, Mary Jo Crull, Connie Hayes, and Marcia Elhart for being church receptionists. Let these members know you appreciate their volunteer work!

Thank you to Ted Kahler, Christina Anderson and the Walton, Fashimpaur, Jiruska, Steenblock, Martinez, Greeno, Long and Sankey families for lighting the Advent Candles during Advent 2010.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01	Emily Fisher	13	Amanda Ramsdell
01	Lijun Chadima	14	Lorraine Worsfold
01	Ken Ngombwa	14	Tigst Tilahun
01	Josiane Uwera	14	Jeff Perkins
01	Louise Usanase	15	Kathryn Phares
01	Antoinette Uwangombwa	15	Leanne Leeper
01	Grevais Murwanashyaka	15	Logan Grado
02	Loraine Ogden	15	Kate Brokaw
02	Luman Colton	16	Charles Worsfold
02	Dale Weiske	17	Irwin Dunn
04	Vern Schoneman	17	Kevin Bjornsen
04	Antoinette Mukakabanda	18	Edward Koza
04	Michael Foley	19	Connie Allard
06	Roxi McCrane	19	Ann Buckheister
06	Ainsley Christofferson	20	Sara Vancura
07	Devin Muckler	21	J.P. Ranck
07	Edward Brunsting	21	Linda Smith
07	Randi Howe	21	Jacqueline Noble
08	Ingrid Cumberland	22	Craig Byers
08	Karen Zvacek	22	Dee Davis
08	Sam Roof	22	Susie Weems
09	Joy Partee	23	Aaron Ramsdell
09	Shelby Leeper	25	Mary Sturbaum
09	Madison Bemus	25	Julia Titus
10	Karol Cooper	26	John Purdie
10	Sherry Cornish	27	Sharon Shaffer
11	Signe Munson	27	Alex Ponder
11	Kimberly Poorman	28	Margaret Mau
11	Elizabeth Chadima	28	Jack Haney
11	Ella Wagner	28	Jacqueline Alff
11	Cam Greeno	29	Linda Owens
12	Milo Hodina	30	Henry Fields
12	Matthew Shanklin	30	Ruth Smith
13	Emily Sweet	30	Val Neubauer
13	Ann Bey	30	Tim Winegarden
		31	Sally Buser
		31	Alice Berg-Owens
			Bob Cubbage



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 2nd - Communion
 All Services - Pastor Don Houdeshell
 "The Gospel in Fourteen Words"
 Text: John 1:10-18

Sunday, January 9th - Youth Commitment Sunday
 All Services - A.J. Plummer,
 Christian Education Director
 "The Emerging Generation: Where is the Love?"
 Text: Timothy 4:7-15

Sunday, January 16th
 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Pastor Don Houdeshell
 "Simple Faith in Uncertain Times"
 Text: 1 Samuel 2:18-20; Luke 2:41-52
 9:00 a.m. - Pastor Jim Langley
 "Being Presbyterian: God is Large and in Charge!"
 Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, January 23rd
 All Services - Pastor Jim Langley
 "Being Presbyterian: God's Plan Comes Together in US!"
 Text: Ephesians 1.1-14

Sunday, January 30th
 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Pastor Don Houdeshell
 "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand"
 Text: Mark 1:29-39
 9:00 a.m. - Pastor Jim Langley
 "Being Presbyterian: God's Grace is Enough"
 Text: Romans 5.1-11

PW CIRCLE NEWS

Martha/Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 19th at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Parlor. Please join us for this time of fellowship. Guests are always welcome!

Naomi/Esther Circle will meet on Friday, January 21st at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Parlor. Phyllis Lindsay will be holding a Bible study. We hope you will join us!

REMINDER!!

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE ON
 MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH

E-NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of a hard copy by mail, please contact Christina in the Church Office at 366-7185 or west-min@crwpc.org.

APARTMENT NEEDED

Westminster working family with two children needs a two-or-three bedroom apartment including some or all utilities in the price range of approximately \$500. Contact David Jiruska at 362-9076 or 981-9886 for any information on an available place.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 News Year's Day
2 Communion SMA No Breakfast No Sunday School No Chancel Choir No Emmaus	3 Church Office Closed	4 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Mtg 10:15 am Staff Meeting	5 7:30 am Men's Breakfast Session Email WNA	6 4:30 pm Kids' Closet	7 9:30 am Women @ the Well	8 10:00 am Kids' Closet
9 Youth Commitment Sunday SMA Retiring of the Greens 6:30 pm Emmaus	10 9:30 am S.A.M. Meeting 6:30 pm Shawl Ministry	11 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Mtg 10:15 am Staff Meeting Newsletter Deadline Annual Reports Due!	12 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:15 am CR Child Theatre WNA	13 9:15 am Kindred Spirits	14 9:30 am Women @ the Well 9:30 am Naomi/Esther	15
16 SMA 6:30 pm Emmaus	17 4:30 pm Finance Meeting	18 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Mtg 10:15 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Session	19 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Martha/Ruth WNA	20 5:30 pm Health Ministries	21 9:30 am Women @ the Well	22
23 SMA 6:30 pm Emmaus	24 7:00 pm Property Meeting	25 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Mtg 10:15 am Staff Meeting	26 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry WNA	27 9:15 am Kindred Spirits	28 9:30 am Women @ the Well	29
30 SMA 10:00 am Congregational Meeting in FLC 6:30 pm Emmaus	31		Proof Newsletter	Print Newsletter	Mail Newsletter	

SMA—Sunday Morning Activities

8:00 am: Worship in the Atrium
 8:30 am: Breakfast
 9:00 am: Worship in the FLC
 10:00 am: New Member Class
 10:00 am: Sunday School
 11:00 am: Worship in the Sanctuary

WNA - Wednesday Night Activities

4:00 pm: Logos
 6:30 pm: Middle School EnterActive
 6:30 pm: Minster Bells
 7:30 pm: Chancel Choir

Music Schedules

Sun. 1/9 - 2 Rainbow @ 9:00am
 3/5 Vocal @ 11:00am
 Sun. 1/16 - 4/5 Bells @ 9:00 am
 K/2 Vocal @ 11:00am
 Sun. 1/23 - 3 Chimes @ 9:00 am
 Minster Bells @ 9:00am