

# Westminster News

MARCH 31, 2011

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## Bruce's Blog

Questions. I get questions. Mostly I enjoy them. People have church questions. Other times they have faith questions. Sometimes they are curious about my life, etc. I usually only have to answer those questions once, though, since my life is not very interesting. Overall, there is one topic that gets more questions than any other. Not even close. The topic? Prayer. Yup. Prayer. How do I do it? Should I expect an answer? Why doesn't God do what I ask? What should I say in my prayers? How long should they be?

One thing to try is prayer as an answer. Let God go first and then chime in. God is speaking all the time, but one source you can depend on is the Bible.

So, try this. Read a verse or more from one of the Psalms. It is God speaking through the ages to you. Let the verse sink in and listen for God's voice in your heart. Then, after you pause, answer like you would in a conversation with a friend. Here is one of my prayers:

### Just What Is It?

*What do you count as prayers, O God? Are my heartaches and pains? How about my tears? What do you count as prayers, O God? My deepest sighs? How about my laughter? Just what counts? And what should I reckon as replies? That sunset? How about the smile of a passing stranger? The more I pray, the less I find myself able to tell the difference. The more I look up, the farther I am able to see in front of me. The more I kneel, the less wear I find on my pant legs. And more miles traveled with you means less wear on my soles.*

*I guess what happens, God, is a change in the way I keep track. Of you. I find you in a thousand places I would never have looked. I talk to you at stoplights and in grocery lines. The clouds on the horizon etch out a face of love. Your face.*

*Do you mind, Lord? Mind that conversations with you just pop out when I am reading the sports page? How about those moments of glee when I am wrestling, not with one of your angels, but a two year old with yogurt on his chin? You don't really mind, do you?*

*Keep on placing your heavenly Grace along the way of my earthly journey. Put it on my tab . . .*

## Prayer Requests

*Prayer doesn't mean that you have exhausted all help. It is a way that we show concern and we invite God to be a part of our concern. Please take time to pray for these individuals and families.*

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Damian Santay                            | Marie Smith, friend/Sonja Ross       |
| Jan Lund                                 | Kevin Scalon, friend/Lu Ann Franklin |
| Dave Gott                                | Jean Gloff                           |
| Kim Karlen                               | Bud Vance                            |
| Jim Jaracz                               | Lloyd Johnson, friend/Julia Robb     |
| The work of the Stephen Ministers        | Betty Durling, mother/Linda Branson  |
| Robbie Osterman, serving in Iraq         | Clara Hanus                          |
| Rev. Joan Mier, friend/Elizabeth Flores  | Mary Benoit, friend/Therese Morfas   |
| Jill Meyers                              | Evelyn Peters, aunt/Cheryl Anderson  |
| Natalie Reck, daughter/Sonja Ross        | Moira Lucas, sister/Peggy Ogren      |
| Gail Dixon                               | Loren Cornell, friend/Tiffany Perez  |
| Chuck Weier                              | Tom O'Donnell, friend/Kittie Boyd    |
| Beverly Hughes                           | Pat Warot                            |
| Barb Bartoszak, friend/Marianne Comstock | Promela Mehta                        |
| Karen Comstock                           | Heidi Morgan                         |
| Fran Novosel, friend/Carol Lukes         | Judy Bainter, friend/Bobbie Platt    |
| James Daum, brother/Marianne Comstock    |                                      |

*If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 838-3131. These names will appear on the printed list. Please call again when the situation or person has improved and may be removed from the list. Prayer concerns will be left on for one month. They will be renewed if requested. Some people are in need of prayers but do not want their names to appear on the printed list. If this is the case, please contact the prayer chain leaders, John Karcher (923-8023) or Clara Hanus (836-5727).*



***The Prayer Garden is a gathering place for the spirits, both ours and those we remember.***



### Our sympathy

to Barbara McKinney.

Her husband Collin McKinney died on March 28 after spending more than two months in the hospital. A memorial service will be held at **Westminster on Friday evening, April 8, at 7 p.m.**

**The brunch scheduled for Sunday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon** in South Hall will continue as planned. Please plan to attend. Financial help is still needed. If you wish to write a check, please make it out the the McKinney Fund.

Barb expresses her thanks to the congregation and her friends for their support and prayers.

## Westminster's Financial Snapshot

The Westminster Financial Snapshot is a brief summary of

- 1 The current revenue and expenses of the church and
- 2 A comparison of current revenue and expenses to the previous two years and to the 2011 budget.

This information is provided so that the congregation is kept up to date on the financial operations of the church.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Quinn or any Session member."


### Westminster's Financial Snapshot for February 28, 2011

	Month of <u>January</u>	Year to Date. <u>2011</u>	Jan-Dec. <u>2010</u>	Jan-Dec. <u>2009</u>
Operating Revenue	\$51,422.40	\$105,358.29	\$110,970.87	\$105,277.39
Operating Expenses	<u>52,350.97</u>	<u>104,047.73</u>	<u>122,462.71</u>	<u>110,484.44</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (928.57)	\$ 1,310.56	\$ (11,491.84)	\$ (5,207.05)

### 2011

	Actual Year <u>To Date</u>	Budget Year <u>to Date</u>
Operating Revenue	\$105,358.29	\$123,916.67
Operating Expenses	<u>104,047.73</u>	<u>124,758.65</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,310.56	\$ (814.98)





***Our God,  
The breath of all that  
we are in this world,  
renew us, even now.  
We glorify your  
name forever.  
May we share all that  
you have given us  
this day.  
All praise to you!  
In Christ's name we  
pray.  
Amen.***



## Life is Sacred

### Hospice When, How & Why?

Wednesday, April 6  
7 p.m.  
Room 209

presenter Sylvia Komyatte  
from Hospice of the Calumet

Many people don't understand what Hospice is  
and what is covered.

Come and find out the how Hospice helps  
families and caregivers in their time of need.

This is a free program provided by  
the Stephen Ministers  
and  
Health & Healing Ministry  
to educate and inform.

All are invited

## A Fool's Night Out! Friday, April 1 (tomorrow) 7 p.m. South Hall

Entertainment by magician  
Dennis DeBondt

“The Sears Tower of Magic!”  
who is rated #1 family magician  
by a popular Chicago magazine.

Come for a foolish night of magic with your  
friends and/or family.  
Delightful magic tricks,  
a bit of instruction,  
and  
even a child levitation!



Tickets are available at the church office  
or at the door.

Adults:  
\$5 if purchased in advance;  
\$7 at the door

Children:  
\$2 if accompanied by an adult





Want to stimulate your mind?  
Westminster is the place for you!

**9 a.m. in Room 106a**

**Gather around the table  
for group discussion relating to life as a Christian**

**April 3 - April 17**    *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You*  
**Leaders:** Mary Lou DiCostanzo, Therese Morfas, Laura Shields  
All are invited to join the discussion group as they view the DVD by John Ortberg. He provides the inspiration and tools people need to sidestep the barriers they encounter and gives clear practical instructions for building the skills and practices necessary for sustained spiritual growth.

**April 24    Happy Easter    No Class**

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**10:30 a.m. in Room 209**

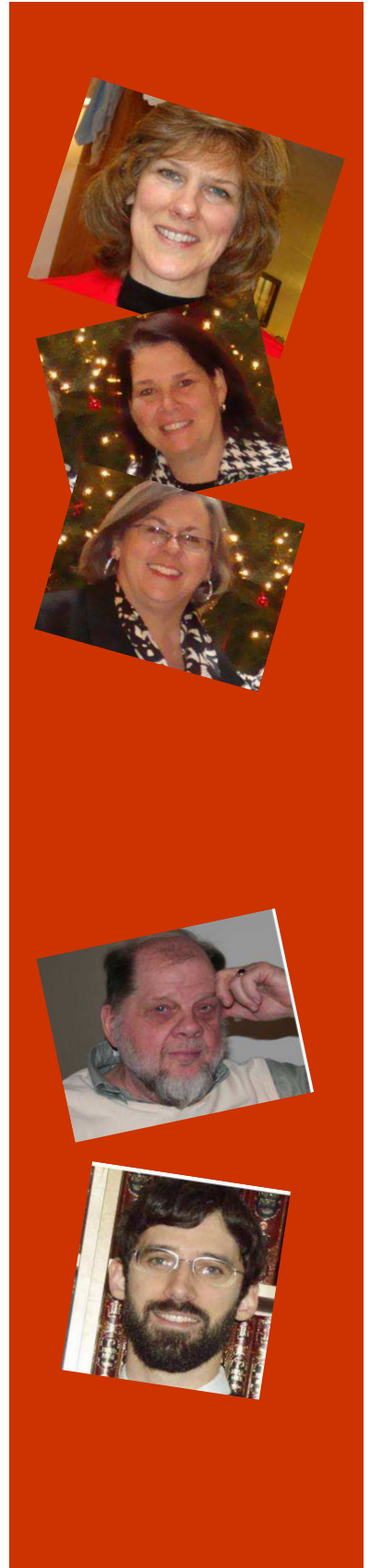
**Share in this special opportunity  
to learn from respected speakers**

**April 3 -** *Reflections on the Dutch Branch of Calvinism . . .  
from the Netherlands to New Amsterdam,  
Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan,  
Pella, Iowa and points beyond . . .*

**Leader:** Rich Grevengoed

**April 10 -** *More tales from the Talmud*

**Leader:** Rabbi Ben Kramer, Congregation Beth Israel





is  
the title of the  
Spring Musical  
to be presented  
by the Joyful Strains Choir  
on  
Sunday, May 1

Esther is the focus for the Joyful Strains' musical this spring.

The main characters are:  
King Ahasuerus, Queen Vashti, Esther,  
Mordecai, Haman, and Narrators.

The children have beautiful voices and some of them like to do solo parts. We give opportunity for each child to shine!

Michelle Madl and Verdeen Strain are working with the children each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



**Jesus' love for ordinary people  
will be the theme  
of the  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service**

**7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 21**

On Ash Wednesday we witnessed a dramatic presentation of Jesus washing Peter's feet. Jesus demonstrated active love.

The service opens with the handbell choir playing a Lenten piece, *Veni Creator*, written by our own Nat Stasinski, as the Christ candle is carried forward.

Scripture and song from the choir and the congregation, the Lord's Supper and draping the cross are elements of the service.

Choir pieces are:  
*Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle*  
*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*  
*Ave Verum*  
*Ah, Holy Jesus* (with violinist Laurie Dorn)

The service ends with the sanctuary darkened as the organ piece *Come Sweet Death* is played.

**What does "Maundy" mean**

Derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," **Maundy** refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper:  
**to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice.**



The Westminster Preschool hallway is quiet this week. We are on Spring Break, although the teachers are spending part of their vacation planning for our last two months of school. It's hard to believe that another school year is almost done!

The week before our break we had a visit from "The Kids Around the Block," a puppet show put on by staff from Westlake Special Education Cooperative. This entertaining, but educational program introduces students to "children" with various disabilities and shows them how to interact and be friends with "other-abled" children. Our students enjoyed the presentation and were very attentive to its message.

We had a visit from leprechauns on March 16 and 17 who "snuck in" and left special coins and green treats for our students. They used their sense of sight to find the coins and, of course, their sense of taste as they ate the yummy snacks!

Our Teddy Bear Parent - Teacher conferences went very well. Most of our Teddy Bears will be returning to our preschool next year.

When we return next week we will wrap up our Five Senses unit, our Teddy Bears and Koalas will have their "Dental Day" (postponed from February because of snow) and our Pandas and Koalas will have their PJ's and Pancakes Day. Believe me, our hallway will NOT be quiet next week!



## *Friends... better together*

Come join the **FRIENDS BETTER TOGETHER** for another game night on

Friday, April 8  
5:30 p.m.  
Room 209

### **Lite Supper and Snacks**

We had such a good time the last time we did this event, that we thought we would give it another try.

Bring your favorite game  
and your laughter to share.

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### **Taco Dinner**



**Saturday, April 2  
4 - 7 p.m.**

at

First Presbyterian Church of Highland  
8727 Delaware Street, Highland  
(across from the Main Square Park)  
Enter door "B"

Featuring the  
Highland Custard Shop tacos

Meal will include:  
Tacos, Rice, Chips, Salsa, Dessert

Donation: \$10/adults - \$5 children  
Tickets and pre-order sales available at  
838-6850, [fpch@fpchighland.org](mailto:fpch@fpchighland.org)  
or at the door

**Gals to Grandmas  
are invited  
to a**

**Ladies Afternoon Tea**



**Sunday, April 10  
3 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall**

**Proceeds will benefit  
Westminster's Team  
in the American Cancer Society's  
Relay for Life**

**Cost is \$10 per person  
\$5 for gals age 12 and under  
(you may reserve a table of 8 when  
you purchase tickets)**

**Tickets will be available during  
fellowship hour or in the church office.  
They must be purchased by  
Sunday, April 3**

**Wear your favorite Easter bonnet  
if you wish  
Girls will receive a hat to decorate**

**There will be  
Prizes -Entertainment  
Food - Raffle - Fun**

**Westminster  
MOMS' Group**

**Egg  
Hunt  
for  
Kids**  
*ages seven and under*

**Saturday, April 23  
10 a.m.**

(check in is at 9:45 a.m.)

**\$2 per child/\$5 max per family  
Please bring your own basket**

**Special prizes to be awarded!**





**The Confirmation Retreat** is set for this weekend, **April 1 - 3 at Geneva Center in Rochester, Indiana.** We have sixteen eighth graders going through the confirmation process this year! Please keep them in your prayers. **Confirmation is Sunday, May 1** at both services.

Please join us in celebrating as these young adults confirm their faith and take on their role as adult members of our church.

**Spring Youth Night for Middlers** will be on **Friday night, April 8, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.**

**"Impact - Issues that Matter"** continues every **Sunday morning in Room 401 at 9 a.m.** for high school and college age youth. It's an hour of snacks, coffee and discussion with leadership drawn from our congregation. Dale Fieldhouse moderates.

**April 3 - Writing Acts Chapter 29**

Join Bob Grow and Dale Fieldhouse to discuss crating a home mission project we can all participate in this summer.

**April 10—Alcohol/Drug Awareness**

This discussion about the dangers of addiction and the hope for recovery is led by an addiction survivor and hosted by Dale Fieldhouse.

**April 17 - May 29 The Ethics of Dating**

A discussion about the issues of dating, purity and sexuality in a Christian context. Led by Mike and Mary Pawlicki.

Need to get a hold of **Dan LeMonnier** when he isn't around WPC? You can e-mail him at [wpeyouth@aol.com](mailto:wpeyouth@aol.com)

You can also call or text him at **313-2371.**

**Our regular weekly schedule of discipleship and fellowship continues:**

**Sunday Night Cafè**

Bible study and discussion meets **Sundays from 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Pizza with a Purpose**

continues to explore the Old Testament through the "Good God Theatre" video series **each week on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. followed by open Gym until 7 p.m.**

**Thursday Night Jazz**

dinner and discussion runs from **7 - 8 p.m.** each week for High School Youth. Come early for open volleyball on **Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.**



## Look who turned up at Sojourner Truth House in Gary during the bi-monthly Coffee and Conversation Gathering on March 17



Ed Harrison, Radley Robinson and Wally Richardson are pictured with Executive Director, Sr. Peg Spindler.

The Sojourner Truth House Mission is to provide advocacy, hospitality and integrative services so participants can improve their quality of life and that of the community. Women entering make an important step toward meeting their needs, and from this stable environment can pursue a healthier and self-reliant life style.

Change is evidenced when women and children housed in shelters or graduated into housing continue with programs. Our support helps women overcome limitations, poverty, behavioral health diagnoses, domestic violence and addiction issues.

Westminster donations send a message of concern, interest and empowerment to women. To know more visit [sojournertruthhouse.org](http://sojournertruthhouse.org). or contact Jane Bomberger.

**In an effort to help Sojourner Truth House**, the day center in Gary for homeless and at-risk women and children throughout Northwest Indiana, **Westminster is looking for any new or gently-used plus-size clothing and size 9 or larger women's shoes.** Anything from casual wear to job-interview apparel is appreciated, and can be taken to the Resource Room where Sally will manage the incoming inventory before delivery to Sojourner Truth House.

**"... that church over in Munster that helps us so much . . ."** It was a pleasure to speak at both services on Sunday, March 27, about the good works of Sojourner Truth House. Your interest and generosity on behalf of Northwest Indiana's homeless and at-risk women and children exemplify, yet again, the sentiments in Munster that helps us so much?" Thanks to you, Sojourner Truth House will receive a generous collective donation, probably a few new volunteers, some attendees at the day center for upcoming "Coffee and Conversation" gatherings, and donated women's plus-size clothing. Now that's hard to beat! I extend my sincere appreciation for Westminster's big-hearted response.

Jane Bomberger, WPC Mission Team Member



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Westminster is a community  
where people of all ages  
are transformed by God's love  
to serve and grow  
as disciples of Jesus.

**News for members and friends  
of Westminster Presbyterian Church**