

Westminster News

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Session in November	2
Financial Snapshot	3
Prayer Requests	4
Sunday Adult Enrichment	5
Adopt A Family	6
Benefit for Sarah Geisheimer	6
Thursday morning with Pastor Bruce	7
Christmas Parties at WPC	7
Giving Tree	8
Living Nativity Soup Supper Holliday Shops	9
Youth News Special Music for Advent	10

Bruce's Blog

Fools quickly show that they are upset, but the wise ignore insults. Prov. 12:16 (NCV)

Somewhere out there (not at WPC of course!) there is a church member being consumed by bitterness. They are upset by a particular way things are done, or with the Staff or at a church policy – OR all three! While he/she is consumed with bitterness with what is going on all around him/her, those who know this member are worried about what is going on inside him/her. Once negative feelings get a hold of us, we are no longer beneficial to Christ, his Church, or ourselves. Unfortunately it can happen to any one of us – and probably has at one time or another. The Epistle of James challenges us to be, “slow to anger, slow to speak and quick to listen.” (James 1:19) In Acts 23:19 Paul warned the early church about becoming “poisoned by bitterness.” Some people in ministry call those caught up in destructive behaviors and attitudes, “joy-suckers.” Are you seen as someone who has the spiritual gift of complaining? Well, there is hope for any and all of us caught in that trap. We can get out. It involves renewing our minds with the positives of the faith. According to John Ortberg, “A grudge is like a baby; it has to be nursed if it’s going to survive.” If we stop nursing “baby grudge” it will cease to exist.

If we surround ourselves with negative thought and action that’s what we will become. If we look for the worst in our community, church and world – we will be able to see it. An old proverb says, “Earth is positioned directly between heaven and hell, with an equal view of each.” Every day we see evidence of the anger in our world. People fight over parking spots and their place in the checkout line. Our society has a short fuse and a sour spirit. We are hot under the collar and fit to be tied. We’re pushed to dream greater and greater dreams while given less and less time for sleep.

The church of Christ is meant to be getting bigger not bitter. It is right to get angry if it is of the right proportion for the right reason seeking the right change at the right time. How often do our bitterness and anger stand up to that test? Our marching orders come from Philippians 4:8: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Foolish people lose their tempers, but wise people control theirs. Prov. 29:11 (NCV)

Session in November

- Accepted the resignation of Jill Meyers as Director of Westminster Preschool with regret. She was thanked for her dedication. She has been director since 1997.
- Appointed Linda Moran as Interim Director of Westminster Preschool. Thanked Elder Tom Ogren for his work as Session Liaison; appointed Elder Sara Sweeney as new liaison to work with the Preschool Board on future direction.
- Pledge Dedication will be Sunday, November 21, at worship. Thirty-five pledges have already been received for 2011. Finance Team is working on funding requests for the 2011 Budget.
- Learned staff members will have their annual review by Head of Staff Haapalainen; the pastor will be reviewed by the Staff Review Team.
- Discussed sanctuary renovation. The Center for Congregations, the support organization in Indiana for faith-based groups, has been contacted. Asked Tom Ogren, as elder liaison, to proceed with phase two – do research on other churches and synod contacts who have done remodeling, look at the work of prospective consultants, and develop a plan for the project and report to Session in December. Ogren will ask the help of three to five members for the effort.
- Heard from the treasurer, Terry Quinn, that 80% (of an expected 88.3%) of the year's offerings have been received by the end of October. It is an improvement over the October status. The church's line of credit has not been tapped this year.
- Approved a change in the split for housing and remainder of the salary for the pastor for January - December 2011. The total salary approved by the congregation is unchanged.
- Each Session meeting begins and ends with prayer. This is the final line of the opening devotion, "We show we are serving God when we live by grace, offering understanding, hospitality and kindness. We can only truly serve by the power of the Holy Spirit and with true love."



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 2010 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 the month ended October 31, 2010

	<u>Month of October</u>	<u>Year to Date 2010</u>	<u>Year to Date. 2009</u>	<u>Year to Date 2008</u>
Operating Revenue	\$64,153.28	\$573,438.71	\$562,270.78	\$622,076.72
Operating Expenses	<u>55,799.51</u>	<u>558,075.68</u>	<u>544,612.78</u>	<u>635,368.50</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 8,353.77	\$ 15,363.03	\$ 17,658.00	\$ (13,291.78)

2010

	<u>Actual Year To Date</u>	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>
Operating Revenue	\$573,438.71	\$595,833.33
Operating Expenses	<u>558,075.68</u>	<u>598,853.04</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 15,363.03	\$ (3,019.71)



***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.***

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



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
- Jan Lund
- Dave Gott
- Kim Karlen
- Loretta Barth
- Jim Jaracz
- Danny Host, friend/Margie Bahner
- The work of the Stephen Ministers
- Brittany Clomp, friend/Sue Guy
- Sarah Geishimer
- Andrew Lewis, nephew/Ann & Tom Witting
- Debbie Propeck, friend/Marianne Comstock
- Robbie Osterman, serving in Iraq
- Rev. Joan Mier, friend/Elizabeth Flores
- Jill Meyers
- Gene Wentzel, friend/Gail Dixon
- Jean Gloff
- Bud Vance
- Gail Dixon
- Chuck Weier
- Beverly Hughes
- Barb Bartoszak, friend/Marianne Comstock
- Karen Comstock
- Jeanette Branson, mother/David Branson
- Ann Berzinis, mother/Frank Berzinis
- James Daum, brother/Marianne Comstock
- Roma Koshtial, friend/Dana Wood
- Moira Lukas, sister/Peggy Ogren
- Scotty, Christine & baby Grayson, niece/Donna Williamson, Karen Lansdowne
- Shane & Jill (Powley) Hoskins, friends Rachel Franklin
- Todd Shaffer, friend/Wendy Borbely
- Rob Dolan, friend/Wendy Borbely
- Richard Yanciss, step father/Shari Geiselman
- Molly Mecredy, niece/Cheryl Anderson
- Natalie Reck, daughter/Sonja Ross
- Jayne Ham, friend/Julia Robb

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).

Thank you note

The family of Patti Lamott wishes to thank the WPC family.

Your prayers, support, and contributions were and are appreciated.

Thank you!
Jim, Amy and
Karen Lamott

Our sympathy to Ed and Sue

Harrison whose daughter Nancy Lamantia died on Thursday, November 4.

Please keep the Harrisons and their family in your prayers.



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

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

9 a.m.

Room 106a

November 21 *Turmoil in the Church*
Dig into history as we learn about and discuss
the events leading into the Protestant Reformation.
Leader: Greg Stephan



November 28 - December 19
Christmas Gifts that Won't Break
Four gifts that cannot be lost, that never go out of style
and that are independent of the chances and changes of
life. They are gifts that have been graciously given by
God.
Leaders: Joe Van Bokkelen and Chris Morfas

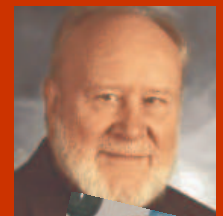


**Share in this special opportunity
to learn from respected speakers**

10:30 a.m.

Room 209

November 21 & 28 *Science, Human Life, and Christian Faith*
Leader: Phil Hefner, Professor Emeritus,
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



December 5 - 19 *The Wilderness: Biblical Place and Metaphor,
and Our Perennial Habitat*
Leader: Dr. Fred Niedner, Valparaiso University

December 5 - Exodus and Numbers: between bondage and freedom

December 12 - The Prophets remember: wooing in the wasteland,
"highways in the desert"

December 19 - Jesus in the wilderness: temptation, new manna,
and the way of the cross





The tradition continues at WPC

WPC Deacons will help area families this holiday season

Westminster Deacons are once again coordinating the Adopt-A-Family event in 2010.

Members will be receiving a letter from their deacon in the near future that will include information regarding each zone's adopted family, their Christmas Wish List, donation information and important dates.

Touching those in need is made possible by your generous donations. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of many, please give a gift to Adopt-A-Family. A donation box for monetary gifts will be located in Fellowship Hall.

I'm going to Thanksgiving Dinner



Loaves & Fishes needs your help to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to the City Rescue Mission

We will be cookin' up a feast for the homeless on

Tuesday - Thursday, November 23 - 25.

Needed: 6 - 8 turkeys (please bring to the church on or before November 21).



Spaghetti Dinner benefit for Sarah Geisheimer

**Friday, November 19
5 - 8 p.m.**

**Westminster's South Hall
Free Will Donation**

Sarah is the daughter of Jeannie Geisheimer, one of our preschool teachers and part of our church family.

She recently underwent surgery for thyroid cancer. She is recovering and is back at Lake Central High School. However, the family has a huge stack of medical bills and we hope that this benefit will ease their burden.

- Food
- Entertainment
- 50/50 Raffle
- Auction

**Learn about
Christmas
The REAL Story
on Thursday mornings**

The Thursday Bible Study which is led by Pastor Bruce meets from 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. in Room 209.

The sessions on December 2, 9 & 16 will be looking at Christmas images with a Middle East flavor with the study "Christmas The REAL Story." Topics such as "The Story Behind the Christmas Story," the Old Testament narrative, the New Testament narrative and message and much more will be included.

Come to just one or all of these sessions as we gain a new and different perspective on the season.

**Punch and Cookies
with WPC's Staff
Thursday, December 16**

**2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Bruce, Sally, Darlene, Verdeen, Jeanie, Linda, Gina, Dan, and Lesleigh invite you to join them for punch, cookies and Christmas cheer.

**Christmas Party for
"Special Friends" Mentors**

**Wednesday, December 15
7 p.m.
Room 209**

RSVP to Merit Lemke

**Westminster Women
celebrate the season**

with a festive luncheon
and discussion of
J. Ellsworth Kalas' Bible Study
*Christmas From the Back Side**

**Wednesday, December 1
11 a.m.
Room 101**

All ladies and their friends are invited
bring your favorite salad to share

Contact Clara Hanus

*study guide available for pre reading in the church office.





**Thank you
Jim Severa
for designing
and
cutting the
ornaments.**

**Thanks also to
our very
creative
decorators!**

**Donate to mission
and give a gift
at the Giving Tree**

**Christmas shopping
is back in our minds.**

Avoid crowds and stress with the “perfect” gift when you donate to one of Westminster’s mission projects in honor of a friend or relative.

You’ll receive a greeting card to send and an insert card naming the mission.

As you place an ornament on the Fellowship Hall Tree, wish your friend or family member a **Merry Christmas** knowing that many will benefit from your gift.

Your gift doubles in value – your friend knows you care and people near and far will be beneficiaries of your gift of love.

**Symbols of
Christmas missions are:**

Geneva Center

Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Rochester, Indiana

Greater Hammond Community Services

Food Pantry & Utility Assistance

Habitat for Humanity

Building homes with the working poor

Haven House

Providing emergency shelter and services for victims of domestic violence

Heart for Africa

Care for the abandoned and ignored children of Swaziland

Heifer international

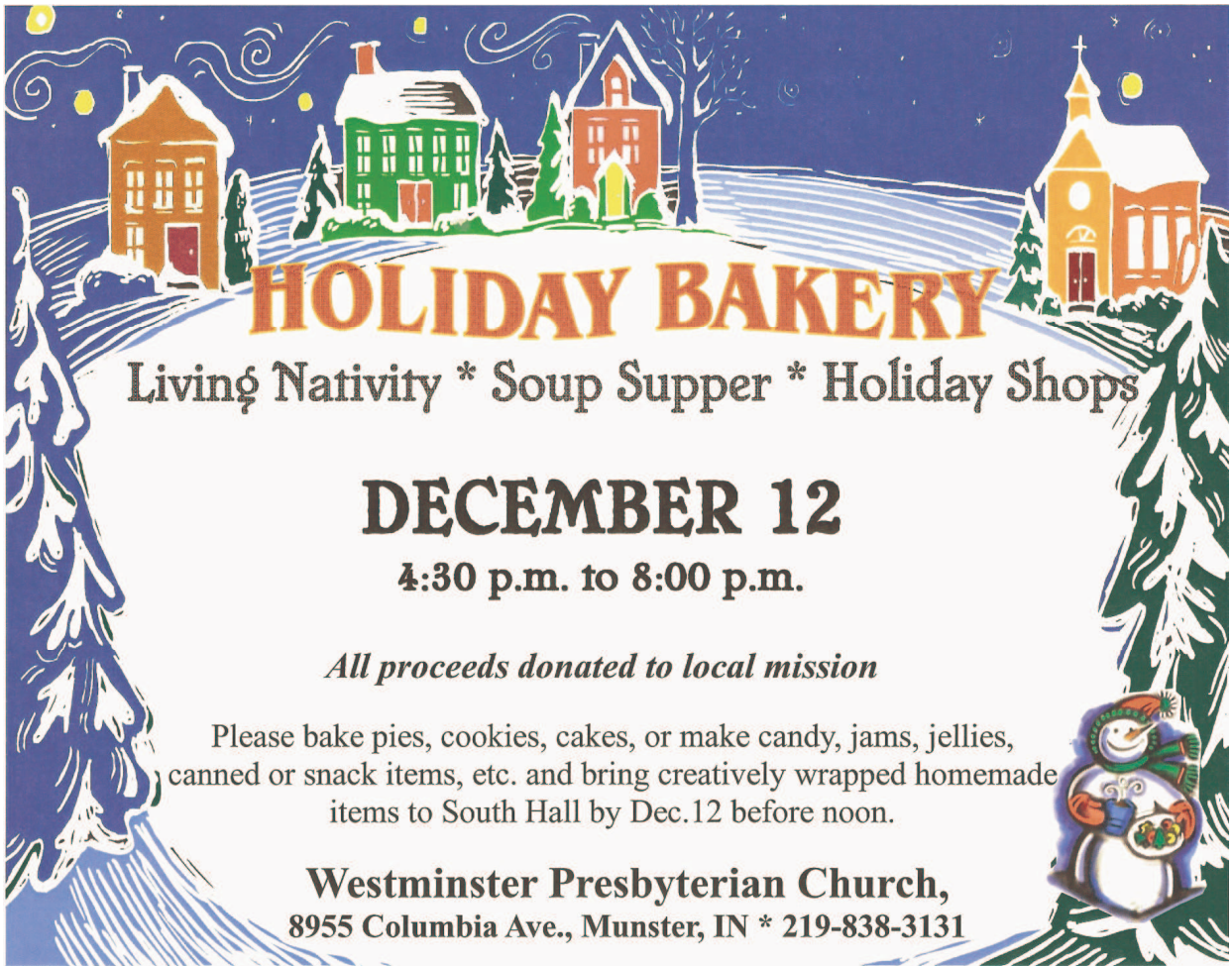
Ending world hunger and saving the earth with livestock, trees and training

Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Cooking for the Homeless at WPC

Samaritan Counseling Center

Pastoral Counseling



HOLIDAY BAKERY

Living Nativity * Soup Supper * Holiday Shops

DECEMBER 12

4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All proceeds donated to local mission

Please bake pies, cookies, cakes, or make candy, jams, jellies, canned or snack items, etc. and bring creatively wrapped homemade items to South Hall by Dec. 12 before noon.

Westminster Presbyterian Church,
8955 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN * 219-838-3131

If you would like to have an artisan booth to sell your creations, please contact Sally Van Bokkelen at 838-3131.

Volunteer opportunities:

Table Decorations, at home vegetable choppers, soup makers, bakers, wardrobe assistants, Living Nativity cast, clean up crew Sunday evening, set up on Saturday morning, greeters



Are you looking for a place to sing and jam? Then join guitar guru John Shields and our new **Youth Praise Team** on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you are interested or want more information, ask Dan LeMonnier for an application.

Westminster Youth are going to be a force to be reckoned with in this year's **Christian Youth Volleyball League**. Come on out and join in the fun! Middlers practice on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7 p.m. right after **Pizza with a Purpose**. High School practices on Thursdays from 5:30 - 7 p.m. followed by **Thursday Night Jazz** dinner and discussion. All experience levels are welcome.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to serve tables and work in the kitchen for the November 21 **Sunday Night Supper**. The time commitment would be from approximately 3 - 6:30 p.m. We honor our veterans that evening. Talk to Dan LeMonnier for details.

Sunday Night Café, our new High School Bible Study and Discussion with Corie and Rob Adlard continues every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Worship with your family in the morning and join us for a great time in the evening. If you can't make it on Sunday or Thursday evenings, feel free to join the Sunday morning youth group discussion in Room 305.

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . ."

Youth Group is going to deck the halls on November 27. Actually, we are going to decorate the Prayer Garden outside the Sanctuary with strings of white lights. We'll meet that Saturday at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for decorating, hot chocolate and treats. Parents, we can use your help! When you are out shopping for your Christmas decorations, pick up an extra box of white lights (the small ones) and donate them in the Youth Office.



Verdeen plans festive music for 9 a.m. Advent services

Throughout the month we have planned for a greater quantity of music before and during the worship time.

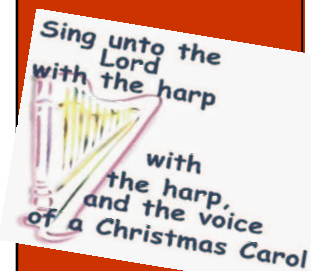
The **Bella Voce Women's Chorus** (girls of junior and senior high age) and the **adult quartet** of Amanda Higley, Ruth Kuipers, John Higley and John Lee will be singing as well as the **Westminster Chorale**.

On December 19 the **women of the choir** will present six of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by **harpist Renee Wilson** of Chicago.

On some Sundays the **Handbell Choir** will be playing in Fellowship Hall as folks arrive for worship.

Need to get a hold of
Dan LeMonnier
when he isn't
around WPC?
You can e-mail him
at wpcyouth@aol.com

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





Westminster Presbyterian Church
8955 Columbia Avenue
Munster, IN 46321
219-838-3131 Fax 21-838-0702
web page: www.wpcmunster.org
e-mail: wpcmunster@aol.com

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**

Westminster News