

Westminster News

MARCH 17, 2011

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Bruce's Blog

40 Days of Love: We Were Made for Relationships

Presbyterians are part of the Reformed Faith.

One of the many unique characteristics of being Reformed is the idea of Covenant Theology. The first and foremost covenant is God saying, "I will be your God and you will be my people." It is basic, unconditional and eternal. It also says to me that to sum up our faith you could use the word: relationship. God is in relationship with God's people. God in Christ shares a special relationship of oneness. The Spirit makes us one as the Body of Christ. We were all made by God and therefore members, one with another, of the human family. Sometimes we talk about that by saying we share one Lord, one faith and one baptism. In other words, it's all about relationship. And relationship as taught, modeled and lived by Jesus when he walked this earth, was all about love. It was a love without condition. It was a love without pretense. It was a love that, as one Christian writer put it, "can always wait to give."

In the week before we dove into our official 40 Days of Love we listed 5 things about love from the Bible. They are:

1. We love because God first loved us.
For God, love is an unconditional and eternal action. Because of that our reaction can also be love.
2. Love is a choice and a commitment.
It is not only when I feel it that I can show love, it is whenever I choose to act on the commitment I have made.
3. Love is an action not just emotion.
There is a difference between doing things because I am committed to them and only doing things when I feel like it. If I want to love, I should act in love regularly.
4. Love is a skill.
The good news about failing relationships is that you and I can learn to do better. If we have the commitment, we can learn love skills.
5. Love is a habit.
If character is the sum of my habits what habits promote my "love character?"

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	James Daum, brother/Marianne Comstock
Jan Lund	Moira Lukas, sister/Peggy Ogren
Dave Gott	Richard Yantiss, stepfather/Sheri Geiselmann
Kim Karlen	Marie Smith, friend/Sonja Ross
Jim Jaracz	Kevin Scalon, friend/Lu Ann Franklin
The work of the Stephen Ministers	Olivia Keslin
Robbie Osterman, serving in Iraq	Cherilyn Piech
Rev. Joan Mier, friend/Elizabeth Flores	Jean Gloff
Jill Meyers	Bud Vance
Natalie Reck, daughter/Sonja Ross	Lloyd Johnson, friend/Julia Robb
Gail Dixon	Betty Durling, mother/Linda Branson
Chuck Weier	Clara Hanus
Beverly Hughes	Mary Benoit, friend/Therese Morfas
Barb Bartoszak, friend/Marianne Comstock	Evelyn Peters, aunt/Cheryl Anderson
Karen Comstock	Moira Lucas, sister/Peggy Ogren
Jeanette Branson, mother/David Branson	Loren Cornell, friend/Tiffany Perez

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.



WPC's "Loving Hands" provides cheer and warmth for Anixter Center adults!

During Coffee Fellowship, visit the Westminster Art Gallery (in the west exit hallway toward Community Hospital) to see some photos and a thank you poster from the young adults at the Anixter Center in Evanston, Illinois.

Big smiles erupt as they are receiving hats and scarves from the "Loving Hands" knitting and crocheting fellowship group.

Anixter Center is a community-based living facility for fragile adults with developmental disabilities. This home is on shaky ground with Illinois budget cuts. Please pray for these adults with very "special needs."

SAD NEWS

We learned this week that Don Eckholm, a former member of Westminster, died suddenly on Monday, March 7, in Mesa, Arizona. A memorial service will be held on March 19 in Mesa.

Don and Gwen were active members of Westminster until they retired and moved to Arizona about eight years ago. Their children Glenn and Denise grew up here.

Cards may be sent to Gwen and her family at 1427 N. Drexel Circle Mesa, AZ 85207.

Please keep the Eckholm family in your 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

	<u>Month of</u> <u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date.</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>Jan-Dec.</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>Jan-Dec.</u> <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

	<u>Actual Year</u> <u>To Date</u>	<u>Budget Year</u> <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.***

Session in March

- Endorsed the Fundraising Proposal for the High School Youth Room, pending legal review. The proposal includes the sale of “stock” in youth and is called “Bullish on High School Youth.” Features will be auction at the “stockholders” meeting, sale of pieces of silver, task trading, and audit of books.
- Adopted policies for serving communion, authorizing baptisms, confirming the mission statement, and establishing leadership committees.
- Elected officers of the Corporation (President Tom Ogren, Vice President Alice Jenkins, Treasurer Terry Quinn, Secretary Betty Curvey, Authorized Signature Lesly Casper)
- Designated elders to act as liaisons to the following boards and committees:

Adult Education - Ken Schoon	Building & Grounds - David Radovich
Children’s Ministry - Jean Dixon	Finance - Sara Monroe
Member Care - Chuck Lansdowne	Memorials - Sara Sweeney
Mission - Sandy Kauffman	Preschool - Sara Sweeney
Nominating Chair - Ken Schoon; member - Tom Ogren	
Representatives to Presbytery - Wally Richardson and alternating elders	
Staff Review - Jean VanKeppel, Merit Lemke, Alice Jenkins (Belva Knight)	
Youth Ministry - Colleen Ogren	Worship & Music - Gladys Cook
Health & Healing, Women of the Church, Stephen Ministries - Linda Branson	
Stewardship - Rob Adlard	
- learned WPC’s records and minutes had been reviewed and approved by a Presbytery Committee.
- Reviewed a letter from a member regarding fundraising and other matters.
- Heard the Sanctuary/Renovation Committee meets bi-weekly and will soon invite architects/ project managers to submit resumes.

Betty Curvey, clerk

Committees of Session

Elders serving on Session at Westminster maintain contact with the various boards and committees of the church as “liaisons.” The elders also belong to one of three “teams.” They are:

1. **Finance Team** - meets to monitor, discuss and oversee financial issues within the church - budget, cash flow, stewardship, fundraising and capital funds.
2. **Purpose Team** - interprets the purpose driven church model to the congregation, communicates how to be clear on our purpose and how to achieve it in every aspect of WPC ministry and mission.
3. **Stream Team** - help with cash flow issues, budget reduction and congregational participation - coffee, batteries, paper, cinnamon rolls as ways to supplant budget items and bring in income beyond pledging.



**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**

March 20 - 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.

10:30 a.m. in Room 209

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

March 20 - *Vain Repetitions: How the Ancient Pagans Prayed*
Leader: Valerie Pennanen of Calumet College of St. Joseph

**March 27 - *St. Augustine on the Soul's Questions and Cures
Can I Ever Change?***
Leader: David Weber of Valparaiso University

**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



Love and value yourself if you are to love others.

Take care of yourself so that you can love your neighbor.



is the topic for the program to be presented by **Father Ed Shea**

Wednesday, March 30
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Room 209

Father Shea has been a frequent presenter at Health & Healing and Stephen Ministry programs here at Westminster.

Everyone finds his presentations to be inspirational; he is coming back by popular demand. We work around his calendar.

You won't want to miss this.

All are invited!!!!



Life is Sacred Hospice When, How & Why?

Wednesday, April 6
7 p.m.
Room 209

presenter **Sylvia Komyatte**
from Hospice of the Calumet

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

All are invited



You are God's Handiwork



Westminster Preschool hopes for Luck of the Irish

The Westminster Preschool hallway is filled with rainbows, shamrocks and leprechauns, hoping for some "Luck of the Irish" in the form of warmer weather! Teachers, along with our students, are looking forward to spring break, sunshine and flowers.

In the meantime, besides our St. Patrick Day activities, there are a lot of other fun things going on at WPS. We started our month with a trip to the Performing Arts Center in Munster to see Jim West Puppet Show "Dinosaurs." Jim West and his assistant demonstrated how to make various kinds of puppets and then used them as characters in a play. As the puppets were put together, the students learned about the different dinosaurs.

We are in the process of learning about our Five Senses, using various activities, crafts and books to make each lesson fun. The Teddy Bears and Pandas made musical instruments for our sense of hearing and our Teddy Bears made noses and used "smelly" stickers to decorate them for our sense of smell. Next week we will incorporate some St. Patrick fun into our 5 Senses lessons. Our Teddy Bears will have Parent-Teacher conferences on Thursday, March 17. Spring break will follow, starting at the end of the school day on March 18.

Watch for our next article with news of our Spring activities and fun! Be sure to let your family, friends and neighbors know about the great things happening here at WPS and let them know we have openings in our afternoon classes.



Middler Volleyball Team

The Christian Youth Volleyball League tournament was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 & 12. And what a tournament it was!

Our Middler team took third place in the Recreation League event and was second overall in the regular season.

We had two high school teams in the Competitive League bracket and Westminster Blue came home with the first place trophy!

It was awesome to watch as our youth came together as a team, built each other up and showed leadership on and off the court. Coaches from every church all said it was one of the most exciting and best-played finals they've ever witnessed.

Congratulate the kids and our coaches (**Dale Fieldhouse, Dave Dawes, John Dorn and Dave Lemke**) when you see them.

Check out the trophies in Fellowship Hall!

Beautiful and healthy Babies - Babies - Babies

We've had several "happenings" in our Westminster family and here's who happened.



Faith can be a wonderful heritage from grandparents.

Tyler James Brown

was born on February 22 in Chicago. His parents are Chrissy & Steve. Tyler weighed **8 lb 3 oz.**

His grandparents are Mary Lou and Tony DiCostanzo.

Zachary Dominic Gossler

Is the second child of Eric and Karen. Big sister Hannah is delighted with her brother who weighs **9 lb. 3 oz.**

Brayden Joseph Van Bokkelen

weighed **9 lb. 10 oz.** when he was born on March 4 in Indianapolis to parents Brian and Evin.

Sally and Joe Van Bokkelen are Brayden's grandparents.

Anthony John Poeria, Jr

born in Chicago on March 11 is the son of Anthony John Poerio & Gloria.

He weighs 5 lbs. 14 oz and is the **first grandchild of Sue and George Cook**

and

Elizabeth Sybil Bahner

was not to be outdone by these boys.

She weighed **9 lb. 10.5 oz** on her birth date of **March 9.** She and her parents Mike and Christa live on their 37 acre farm in Belmont, Maine.

Margie Bahner is "Lizzie's" proud grandma

and is excited to begin this new chapter in her life.

last but certainly not least is

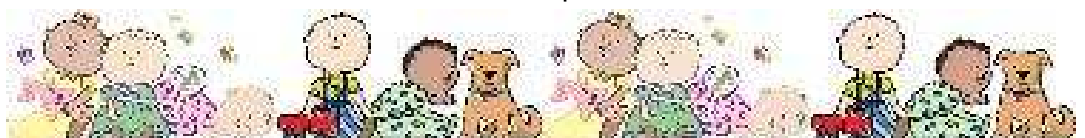
Everly Ryan Chamberlain

who was born in Chicago on March 15. to parents Cliff and Robyn Senchak Chamberlain. Everly weighs **7 lbs. 11 oz.**

Merry and Dennis Senchak are now grandparents too.

Grandpa Dennis says

"I've seen a lot of babies, but this is the most beautiful one."



WOW and double WOW!

I want to thank all of you for being God's messengers of His love, beauty and grace to all who were present at last night's Ash Wednesday service.

I was filled up in every possible way a human can be filled up beginning with a wonderful, warming meal of great soups, bread and angel food cake (you don't know how much I look forward to this meal every year).

Then we enter into a true sanctuary where the décor was so inviting and so beautiful—I saw the grapevine heart, sconces, wall floral arrangement and communion table decs evolve and it's so amazing when the end results are viewed. Again, these provided another medium to feel God's warm arms wrapped around us in His holy space.

I was made comfortable through Bruce's loving and welcoming explanation of how the service would unfold. Letting the congregation "practice" the songs we would be singing, too, helped everyone feel good to sing out!

Then the night's service began. The readings by Sonja and John - so lovingly presented, the words so profound.

Marcia Smith Wood's dance helped me be so thankful for all of God's attributes that redeem my humanness. I was able to step inside her and "feel" all she portrayed.

The singing by the congregation and Bruce's singing *Remember Me*, of course, were BIG connectors to God for me.

Watching Shari's painting transform right before my eyes from heart, to dove, to angel, to dove, to God's hands, and watching Jesus' blood drip through the process . . . it was witnessing first hand God painting through Shari!!!

Dan's telling of the foot washing and then his story about his Mom—personally I felt it was his best "telling" I had seen—so in his element and such a powerful testimony of the love in him that was nurtured by his Mom.

Then it culminated with Megan's storytelling. I shared with Verdeen that I felt like she was speaking just to me, her eyes felt focused on me practically the entire time. God was talking directly to me through her story.

I was transported into a different plane of being through this worship service. And I have my church family to thank. I was never more thankful of God keeping Mark and me in NWI than last night . . . I am so grateful to be a part of WPC and its purposes, but last night I was totally on the receiving end and re-energized to be one of His many servants that reside here. Thank you all for continuing to bring God's kingdom here and now

Love you so!
Suzanne Killmer

I was transported into a different plane through this worship service!

**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**

**A Fool's Night Out!
Friday, April 1
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 will be available during Fellowship Hour
on Sunday or at the church office.

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

Children:
\$2 if accompanied by an adult

Refreshments the entire family will enjoy!

All invited!



UP COMING
EVENTS

**It's Coming - Spring That Is
and
All Church Clean-Up Day
this Saturday, March 19**

It's time to clean up Westminster on the inside and, possibly, if the weather is mild, on the outside too. We're calling for all ages to become involved. The kitchens are our priority!

Plan to arrive on

Saturday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m.

We'll have a continental breakfast and a sending prayer. Then we'll rejoin for lunch at noon. With enough people we'll be sparkling by 2.

Grab your buckets and mops; we'll be cleaning the floors

Bring rags and some spray bottles to sort stuff in the drawers!

*The fridges we'll wipe, the stove we must scrub
The kitchen's our pride, but also our hub!*

Homeless cooking, Sunday Suppers, and breakfasts galore.

We must keep it clean so we'll continue to serve more!

*Sign-up for an hour or all morning to serve,
Our gratitude and loyalty to God must not swerve!*

We need your help!

Please support WPC with heart and muscle.



this Saturday



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. We will have 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.



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

March 20 - Your Earnings, God's Investments - A discussion of how Biblical principals can guide how we earn, invest and spend money. Leader: Jean Van Kepple

March 27 & April 3 - Writing Acts Chapter 29 - Join Bob Grow and Dale Fieldhouse to discuss creating 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. Leaders; Mike and Mary Pawlicki.

The Confirmation Retreat is set for **Friday to Sunday, April 1 - 3** at the Geneva Center in Rochester, Indiana. **Confirmation is May 1.**

Spring Youth Night for Middlers will be on **Friday night, March 25** from **7 p.m. to 1 a.m.**

Pizza with a Purpose explores a new topic each week on **Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. followed by Open Gymn until 7 p.m.**

High School Youth - Looking for something to do? Come to open volleyball on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Then stick around for **Thursday Night Jazz dinner and discussion til 8 p.m.**

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.



Welcome New Members

On March 6 seven new members were received into the life and service of the church by the Session. They will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, March 27 at both worship celebrations.

Please welcome them and make them feel comfortable in their church home.



Chuck Cornwell



Rebecca McCauley



Lynda Smith



Min Jung & Phil Chong

Not pictured are Brett and Vanessa Jacobs.



Friends better together

The next scheduled meeting is

Friday, March 25

5:30 p.m.

Room 209

Lite Supper

Those FRIENDS who signed up to attend ***Remember When Music Night*** will leave Westminster's parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

Those FRIENDS not attending the music event, may want to organize an activity for the evening—games, a movie, etc.

Please contact:

Jim Lamott(jalamott@gmail.com) 836-6008

Sally Saculla (sjsaculla@yahoo.com) 513-8928

or Linda Fortin (Lfortin05@aol.com) 838-3131

If you would be interested in coordinating this alternate activity for March 25.

40 Days of Love

You can help live out that love

When someone in our family needs our help we are there to reach out to them. Collin McKinney has been hospitalized for six weeks.

He and Barb will need financial help with bills that will be coming in—so we are scheduling a

**Brunch
on Sunday morning, April 3,
between 10 a.m. and 12 noon
in South Hall**

Donation boxes will be in place for family giving.
If you would like to help in any way, please call Darlene Smith at 838-3131.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Please Give Generously

Westminster Presbyterian Church
8955 Columbia Avenue
Munster, IN 46321
219-838-3131 Fax 219-838-0702
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**