

The Chimes

of
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Volume 11, No. 3

September – October 2013



**Pastor John Conley & Sandra Huffman
Celebrating Sandra Huffman's 20 years at Westminster
September 1, 2013**

When we come to Sunday School or worship or study the Bible in our homes, we learn that the essence of Christianity is not a set of rules (though the rules/ethics are important). Christianity is not a set of doctrines or creed (though theology is important). The essence of Christianity is communicated in stories, ancient stories. May this be a good fall in which you let the stories of the Bible interpret the story of your life.

See you here. Pastor John

November-December Brown Bag Bible Study—The Gospel According to Luke

We will meet from Noon to 12:50. Eat and study and go home or back to work. I'll use the NRSV translation but you bring whatever you like. We will have Bibles, outlines of that day's lesson, and a pencil. Drop by your handy fast food store on your way here or bring some slow food from your own home. John

(details on page 2)

From Pastor John Conley

When I was young it was impressed upon me that I had to be good. Being good meant following certain rules. The rules were clear and thus there was no question about the road to being good.

In young adulthood my journey seemed more about philosophy, ideas, and theology. I had a lot of questions and felt the secret of life was to be in searching for answers. Whether I was happy or not with the answers didn't matter. The search was the exercise my mind demanded.

At this point I am more attracted to stories. I am indebted to Joseph Campbell who said there are relatively few stories that are told over and over again all over the world. They vary only because they come from different cultures, but they are essentially the same story. That was captured in Campbell's most famous book, *The Hero With A Thousand Faces*. He tells a story familiar to you. A hero starts on a journey, faces toil and trouble and a dragon, climbs the mountain, risks his or her life, then comes back a different person—a hero. Every culture tells this story, a thousand stories, a thousand faces, but the same story.

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What's Going On Around Here?

Child Enrichment Program

Donna Ralston

The Gospel According to Luke (cont. from page 1)

I. November 5 An overview of Luke, Comparison of the Four Gospels

- Characteristics of each Gospel
- If we didn't have Luke, what would be missing?

[November 12 XYZ]

II. November 19 Jesus' Birth and Childhood (Chapter 2)

- Comparison of Emperor Augustus and Jesus
- In the Temple (41-51)
- His connection to the Passover

III. November 26 The Wilderness Temptation (4:1-13)

- Social, Political, and Religious temptations
- How we are tempted

IV. December 5 Beginning His Galilean Ministry (4:14-5:16)

- Nazareth, Capernaum, and Galilee

V. December 12 Choosing the 12 for Training (6:12-49)

- The Sermon on the Level Plain
- Beatitudes

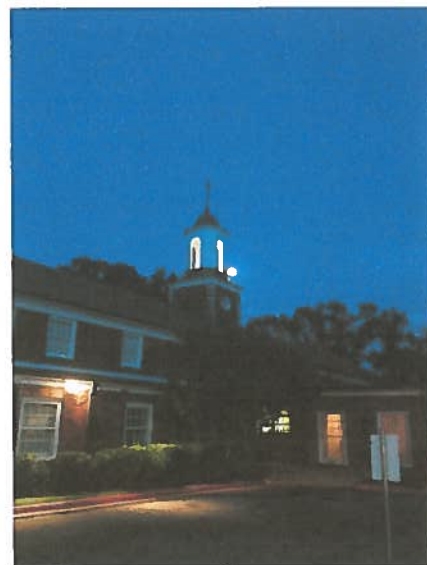
VI. December 19 The Meaning of Faith (7:1-50)

- Faith of a soldier
- Faith of a widow
- Faith of a preacher
- Faith of tax collectors
- Faith of a sinful woman

The summer was filled with fun activities (see page 4 & 5 for pictures). The older kids went on field trips to the bowling alley, the Cook Center, and the library where the kids learned the Chicken Dance. They had special activities during their theme weeks. During dinosaur week the kids had a dinosaur hunt and learned the dance called the Dinosaur Stomp. They made their own musical instruments during music week. Other fun activities were water day, an ice cream party with Pastor John, and lots of story time for all age kids, even the babies. A highlight of the summer was the annual Fourth of July parade around the block on red, white and blue decorated bikes, big wheels, scooters, and strollers. The kids were all dressed in their flag tees shirts and carried American flags. Lots of parents and grandparents came and participated. Employees and customers from the bank came out and cheered for our little patriots.

The new school year started at the end of August with all but one class filled to capacity. Lots of fun things are planned this month such as Milk and Cookies with Grandparents, a Pre-K field trip to the park, and I even heard that the three year olds made slime. The kids have heard the news about the new playground that should be ready toward the end of October. They are so excited.

You can see more pictures of most of these activities on Facebook. Search for Westminster Presbyterian Child Enrichment Program and see what is going on at one of Westminster's ministries to the kids and parents of our community.



A Night View of our Bell Tower after all the reconstruction overseen by House & Grounds. The roof work is almost finished...Ann Coker

Finance and Stewardship: Ken Cavanaugh

We continue to hold our own financially through August of this year. After allowing for the insurance proceeds to cover the roof and bell tower expenses, we have \$379,210 total income versus \$379,029 total expenses. Funds for the new playground equipment and improvements will come from the manse money and a loan to CEP. At the end of September we will mail each of you a statement showing where you stand with your 2013 pledge through the third quarter.

We are also nearing that time of year again when we mail a proposed budget to each of you for review along with a pledge card. The Session is already at work on plans for next year and needs your contribution of time, talents and gifts.

What's Going On Around Here?



Sandra Huffman is honored for her 20 years of service as the Westminister Choir Director

To the Session, Staff, and Beloved Congregation of Westminister

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the clever proclamation, the monetary gift, the flowers and for your continuing loyalty and support.

I am so blessed to work with staff of such a high caliber and FOR a session that is so supportive. I look forward to a future full of promise and joy as we work together to worship and praise the lord of us all.....Sandra Huffman

The New Glory to God Hymnal

On Sunday, Sept 22, Nan Kana and Nancy Smith traveled to Dallas to hear a concert in which songs from the soon to be published hymnal **Glory to God** were sung by the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas choirs and band. Westminister will be using some of these songs in our worship services.

Westminister Advent Cantata *Hanging of the Greens* December 8, 2013

**October 2013 Calendar
April Grant, Church Secretary**

- 2 - 10:30am Staff Meeting
- 4:30pm Prayers
- 5:30pm LOGOS
- 7:00pm Choir Practice

- 3 - 1:30pm CRCG Meeting
- 6 - 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship – Guest Preacher
– Dr. Bob Young

- 9 - 4:30pm Prayers
- 5:30pm LOGOS
- 7:00pm Choir Practice

10 - 5:00pm **CE Meeting?**

- 13 - 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship – Guest Preacher
– Rev. Dr. Chuck Traylor

- 14 - 2:00pm Presbyterian Women
- 4:30pm **Worship Meeting?**

15 - 11:45am XYZ

- 16- 4:30pm Prayers
- 5:30pm LOGOS
- 7:00pm Choir Practice

- 20 -10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship

21 – 6:30pm Session Meeting

- 23 - 4:30pm Prayers
- 5:30pm LOGOS
- 7:00pm Choir Practice

- 27 - 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship - All Saint's Day
- 4:30-6:30 pm Fall Festival

- 30 - 4:30pm Prayers
- 5:30pm LOGOS
- 7:00pm Choir Practice

31 - HALLOWEEN

Wedding, June 1, 2013



Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Graham

Child Enrichment Program (CEP) Summer 2013 Activities



Miss Carole leads the Pledge of Allegiance



Ready for a field trip? All aboard!



Mr. Ron leads the CEP Chapel Worship



The July 4th Celebration



A handfull

More Pictures of CEP Summer Activities

Christian Education

Ron Motley, Director of Christian Education

LOGOS *Kick-Off/Parents' Night*, September 18, 2013



Hailey's Birthday!



The bowling trip!



Fellowship Hall "camping!"

Fall 2013 Christian Education

The new Fall Christian Education season kicked off on September 8, Rally Day. I am very excited and optimistic about the new church school year!

Your CE Team has decided to give the Workshop rotation Model another go during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School hour and let the kids remain in worship during the 11:00 a.m. hour. We are trying some new things to encourage attendance and hope we can get the kids and their parents to be committed to coming on a more regular basis. Our rotation teachers are Bath Nemeth, Shea Gore, Lou Ann Armstrong, Carole Motley, Nancy Smith, Wendy Cook, Shari Beck and Amber Johnson.

I am also very excited about Charlie Irvine stepping up to be the teacher for our Jr./Sr. High school group! I asked on Rally Day if anyone felt called to lead that group rather than "begging" for someone to do it and Charlie came forward with a desire and interest to lead them. Give him your encouragement and support when you see him.

LOGOS has begun another year with our **Kick-Off/Parent Night** on Sept. 18th and our **Bring a Friend Night**, Sept. 25th. The kids have been asking me since August when we were going to start. They really love their Wednesday nights. We're glad to have Pastor John and Lou Ann Armstrong leading our recreation time with the younger kids. Most of our leadership is returning from last year and we want to especially thank Amelia Wood and Sarah Barron for organizing our kitchen and menus.

Now that we have some of our younger kids moving up in age, we have enough to put a youth group together. I will be developing some ideas to get these young people involved in worship and begin to get them plugged into what our presbytery is doing. I will need some help in this regard, so if you feel called to serve on a youth council, give me a call or don't turn me down if I ask you to serve.....:-).....Ron

Congregational Life Nan Kana

Congregational Life is currently planning a Picnic type outing 4:30-6:30 p.m., Sunday, October 27th. Charles Irvine and Ron Motley will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Watch your church bulletins for more details.

Worship Team Nancy Smith

Nancy reported that Dr. Bob Crilley agreed to be our 2014 Holy Week Speaker for two evenings and one lunch. Dr. Crilley was our excellent 2013 Holy Week Speaker.

Nominating Committee Mike Miller

The Nominating Committee has been looking for elders elect for the 2016 Class of the Session. A called congregational meeting is expected in the near future.



Child & Family Program Fall 2013

Hi! My name is Ashley Harris and I am the new Child and Family Specialist with the Child and Family Program. I graduated from Baylor University with my Master's degree in Social Work in May. Prior to attending Baylor, I lived in Athens, Greece where I worked with college students with a ministry known as CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ). While living and working in Greece, I learned much about myself and about serving others. I am beyond grateful for how God used my time in Greece to mold me into the person that I am today. I am also grateful for my fiancé, Caleb Pruitt. We are very excited for our wedding at the end of the year and for what God has in store for us here in Corsicana.

As my journey begins to unfold in Corsicana, I have gotten to be a part of many different activities including Backpacks of Love. This is the third year that churches and agencies have come together in order to provide over 2,000 backpacks to children living in Navarro county. We began the week by stuffing the backpacks with pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons and anything else a child would need in order to be prepared on their first day of school! By the end of the week, we had successfully passed out all of the backpacks - 2100! We are amazed at the success of the event this year and cannot wait to begin planning for next year with even more backpacks to hand out. This is not only a great way to meet the needs of the community, but it's also a great opportunity to show love to those around us.

It has been such a joy to work with children and families both internationally and domestically. I am very enthusiastic to continue my journey by serving through the Westminster Presbyterian Church as the Child and Family Specialist. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.



CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAM

Pam Crawford and Ashley Harris, our new social worker, are already busy getting ready for Christmas. They are planning to have a tree in the Fellowship Hall with the angel ornaments showing the gifts the kids want for Christmas. This will begin after Thanksgiving. Members can choose a child's angel and purchase the gifts the child wants.

The annual Christmas party will be on Monday, December 9 or Tuesday, December 10. The helpers for food are Arliss Watson, Nancy Smith and Gretchen Young. They will be serving fried chicken and side dishes. They will also clean up. There will be bingo

games, and Nancy will read a story. Church members are invited to bring their children or grandchildren to the party.

The Child and Family Program seeks volunteers to provide transportation to doctor's appointments, to provide childcare, to serve as an interpreter, and many other jobs. Volunteers have to fill out an application, have a background check, have a TB test and receive 8 hours of training. If you are interested, please call Pam or Ashley at 903 874-2517.

Please try to meet Ashley if you have not done so.

.....Donna Ralston

Presbyterian Women (PW)

by Dottie Mayer, Moderator



Presbyterian Women met on Sept. 9th for their first meeting of the 2013-2014 year. Nancy brought along Bible Lesson books from 1995-2013.

Nancy began teaching the group 17 years ago. Each of her books had memorable articles and quotes. It was fun to remember the lessons of past years. Our newest lesson book for this year is *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*.

Come join us on the second Monday every month at 2 p.m.

May 13th Birthday Luncheon

Presbyterian Women had their annual Birthday Luncheon on May 13, 2013. There were 28 women in attendance. The Birthday offering was explained by Dottie. This year's recipient was Westminster Neighborhood Ministries in Indianapolis, Indiana. That church serves the basic needs of families in Near Eastside Indianapolis where close to 34 percent of families have incomes below poverty level. I am happy to report that our church in Corsicana collected a good amount to help them with their cause.

Salads and desserts were enjoyed by all.

After lunch Nancy Smith and Sandra Huffman did a presentation of Women of The Bible. Nancy was LOT'S WIFE from Genesis 18:16-19:20 and the HEMORRHAGING WOMAN from Luke 8:42-48, Matt.9:18-26 and Mark 5:22-43.

Sandra Presented TABITHA/DORCAS from Acts 9:36-43 and MARY MAGDALENE from Matt. 27:56,61, 28; Mark 15:40-47, 16:1-19; Luke 8:2, 24:10 and John 19:25, 20:10 Centerpieces of roses were given to one guest at each table through guessing a number close to 100.

Presbyterian Women were on summer break until September.

Dottie Mayer Hathorn

Food For Fitness Schedule

Westminster cooked on September 16-18-20 We will cook again December 9-11-13. We deliver on October 28-NOV.1Ann Coker.



Nancy Smith

Nancy entertained Kinsloe guests September 4, 2013 with her report on the book **101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived**. A couple of examples were Superman and the Lone Ranger!

Wedding Party of the June 1, 2013 Wedding of Cindy Beasley and Matthew Graham

