

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 21 No. 11 November 2006

The Five Solas

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God¹ may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

I've told this story before, but I remember my first year at Westkirk when I was told about 'Reformation Sunday,' and the tartan squares. I thought to myself, 'that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard!' Well, I've been converted. Again. Reformation Sunday is one of the most wonderful Sundays of the year at Westkirk. I hope you don't miss it! It's a great day to not only celebrate our church and her history, it's also a great day to reflect on the Reformed heritage we hold so dear. My Reformed roots are of the Dutch variety, but the Scot-Irish Presbyterian version is equally rich in history. And while October is the month of Reformation Sunday, that heritage will be on display here at Westkirk for the next several months as we kick off our new, once a month, non-traditional, Sunday evening service called, "Sunday Night at the Kirk," on November 12.

Along with the doctrines of grace (or, the five points of Calvinism), the five 'solas' of the Reformation are hallmarks of a Reformed understanding of Scripture. These five 'solas' (meaning, 'alone') were the rallying cries of Luther, Calvin and the other early generations of protestant Christian thinkers and clergy. Listen to these beauties: Sola Fide (Faith alone!), Sola Gratia (Grace alone!), Solus Christus (Christ alone!), and Soli Deo Gloria (to the Glory of God alone!). On November 12, the theme for the sermon and music at "Sunday Night at the Kirk" (SN@K), will be the first of these five solas – Sola Scriptura!, or Scripture alone! Understanding that God's Word is our final and complete source and authority of God's revelation to us, has been a great comfort and confidence for true Christians through the centuries.

It's also an exceedingly important doctrine. Sola Scriptura teaches us, from the Bible, that God's Word is complete, sufficient, inspired, and inerrant. Any religious tradition that adheres to another authority (such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon, etc.) violates this Biblical truth! As we explore what the Bible says about itself, come to SN@K at 6:30 on Sunday evening, November 12. It promises to be a wonderful evening of worship for the whole family. And while you are at it, bring a friend!

Pastor Michael





Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2006

Scott Bland
Barbara Robinson
Barb Springer
Lee Turnbull

Class of 2007

Darrell Aldrich
Bill Raisch
Gary Robinson
Jerry Tuinstra

Class of 2008

Dick Cunitz
George De Graaf
Chuck Heitbrink
Ron Long

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Ryan Glanzer

Commission ChairPersons

Christian Education - Bill Raisch
Evangelism and Fellowship -
Dick Cunitz and Scott Bland
House and Grounds - Lee Turnbull
Missions - George De Graaf
Stewardship - Gary Robinson
Worship - Chuck Heitbrink

Board of Deacons

Class of 2006

Benae Duff
Somer Gillett
Marilyn Long
Marilyn McCulloch

Class of 2007

Stacie Bland
Kay Cunitz
Ellen Harrison
Jeannie Havnen
Myra Verros

Class of 2008

Dianne Glanzer
Bette Jones
Mary Millis
Fran Nugteren
Kris Thompson



- 1 Bev Carey
- 2 Mirium Alshouse
- 2 Dick Phipps
- 2 Hugh Sheppard
- 3 *Matthew Brown
- 4 Max Asman
- 5 Lee Gorman
- 5 Rick Walsh
- 6 Ron Long
- 6 Kristin Thompson
- 6 *Kolton Louk
- 7 *Landon Miller
- 8 Steve Brown
- 8 Emma Rogers
- 10 Bradley Millis
- 10 *Aaron Reed
- 10 *Caitlyn Weir
- 11 *Sam Turnbull
- 12 *Kenneth Doyle
- 14 Pat Alshouse
- 14 Ken Phillips
- 16 Chris Admussen
- 16 Bruce Beals
- 16 Joe Etter
- 19 *Lily Barron
- 19 Fran Stark
- 20 Norma Chapman
- 20 Matthew Thompson
- 21 Ted Ward
- 21 *Kathleen Welsher
- 22 Jan Geisler
- 22 Ryan Glanzer
- 22 Bette Jones
- 24 *Tanner Dake
- 26 Fran Nugteren
- 27 Kate Anderson
- 28 *Keith Primrose
- 30 Sean Glanzer
- 30 *Autumn Sheppard

*Youth Member



- 1 Terry & Kristin Thompson
- 13 John & Debbie Frondle
- 17 Clarence & Winnie Adden
- 21 Gary & Dianne Glanzer
- 23 Dave and Joyce Durlam
- 27 Darrell & Linda Aldrich
- 27 Lee & Melinda Turnbull
- 30 Bryce & Kate Anderson

Condolences . . .

Our sincere sympathy to **Julie and Rus Norem** and family on the death of Julie's father, John McNees, on September 20, in New Market, Iowa.

And, we extend our deepest sympathy to **Sasha and Michael Mudlaff** and the family and friends of Sasha's grandmother, Mary Schoch, who died in Des Moines on September 25.

Blessed be the memory of these loved ones.

New Address

Please make the following change to your Church Directory:

Elaine E. Hurst

e-mail: elaineehurst@msn.com





The Bulletin Board

Highlanders Luncheon
Thursday, November 2, 12 Noon
Baker's Cafeteria on Hickman

Guest Speaker
Kay Runge
Director of Des Moines City Libraries

Dorcas Circle
Thursday, November 9, 1:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room

Program: *Gates of Hell*
Leader: Linda Aldrich
All Westkirk women cordially invited

**40 Days of Community
Celebration Day**
Sunday, November 12, 10:30 Worship

Our children will sing at Worship.
A luncheon will follow at noon.

Sunday Night at the Kirk

November 12, 6:30 p.m.
New monthly evening worship service.
Please see articles in this issue for details

Parents' Night Out
Saturday, November 18
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

See information in Children's
and Youth Ministry articles.
Please sign up in the Hospitality Room

Thanksgiving Week
Thanksgiving Worship Service
Sunday, November 19, 10:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner
for Westkirk Family & Friends
Thursday, November 23, Noon

Greening of the Kirk
Sunday, November 26, 3:00 p.m.
Please sign up in the Hospitality Room

Poinsettias
Order blanks will be in church bulletins

Bagpipers Luncheon
(Senior Singles)
Tuesday, November 28, 1:00 p.m.

Romano's Macaroni Grill
4502 University Avenue
West Des Moines
Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775



Omega Group Community Projects

One of our Housekirk small groups, called the “Omega” group, as part of *40 Days of Community* is offering to do service projects for those in need this Fall. If you know someone in our community that is in need of light yard work, repairs, or deliveries, please have them call the church at 253-0330 and leave their name and number so a member of the Omega group can get back to them.

Dorcas Circle

This month’s Dorcas Circle meeting will be held in the Hospitality Room at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, November 9**. The program topic will be “Gates of Hell” based on the DVD series *Faith Lessons on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah*. Presenting the day’s lesson will be **Linda Aldrich**. Hostesses will be **Bette Jones and Carolyn Chenoweth**.

Dorcas Circle welcomes the women of Westkirk and friends. Please come for an interesting program and fellowship. For additional information, please call **Moderator Karen Admussen** at the church office, 253-0330.

Special Music Planned for Advent

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, the Westkirk Choir will present a portion of Handel’s *Messiah* each Sunday leading up to Christmas. Our faithful choir members are busy rehearsing this music as well as preparing for the festive dinner/concert on December 2.

Great News on the Building Project!

The Westkirk Building Committee is excited to report that the following steps have been taken to further our planning on the upcoming Building Expansion Projects, including the long-awaited East Wing!

1. From our congregational informational meeting and subsequent meetings with the Session, **Alvin Stecker**, Westkirk member and project architect, has completed the preliminary drawings for the building design. He is in the process of meeting with the appropriate Urbandale city officials, presenting the design, and seeking permission to apply for a building permit. This process should be completed this month.
2. Once the building permit has been granted, Alvin will finalize the drawings, and begin requesting and interviewing general contractors and subcontractors for bids on the project. We believe this will begin around the first of the year, and will help us assess a more firm figure of the project cost.
3. **Chris Admussen, Chris Brown, and Gary Robinson** are meeting this month to discuss financing options and fund raising plans. They will present a proposal to the Session later this year.
4. Shortly after January 1, there will be a congregational meeting to approve final construction and funding plans.

We hope these steps will be completed by early January, 2007. Once the congregation has approved these plans and the general contractor has been hired, we look forward to an early Spring groundbreaking. We anticipate being able to occupy and utilize the new space by the end of 2007! We are excited to serve you and the Lord in this way. Join us in praying for God’s continued blessings upon Westkirk as we move forward. And as always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or ideas for us to consider.

. . . *Ken Bratney, Chair*
Russ Harrison, Le Main, Bill Raisch

Last Food Pantry Collection for 2006

The fourth quarterly Food Pantry Bag Sunday is coming up on **November 19**. The Deacons will distribute grocery sacks on November 5 and 12. There are many families in our community who desperately need help in putting food on the table each day. This is our chance to do our part in filling this need. With cold weather setting in, it is especially important to provide good nourishing food.

Please take a bag(s) and stuff it with non-perishables. A list of suggested items will be attached to each bag to help you with your purchases. Be sure to note on the outside of the bag the number of items included. Monetary gifts are always welcome. Just make your check payable to *Westkirk* and mark it *For Food Pantry*.

... *Board of Deacons*

Thanksgiving Events

Our **Thanksgiving worship service** will be on **Sunday, November 19** at 10:30 a.m. Our new leaders for *Stephen Ministry* will be commissioned at that time.

Then on **Thursday, November 23** you are invited to gather with other members of the Westkirk family for a traditional **Thanksgiving dinner**. Whether you are a family of one or many, you are welcome to come for turkey, dressing, sweet potato casserole, etc., etc. As usual, there will be some leftovers for you to take home! There are no tickets sold for this event. Just be sure to make your reservations on the signup sheet in the Hospitality Room. There will be an opportunity for a free-will offering to benefit the music fund. *Reservations close Tuesday, November 21.*



October 29 a Day of Celebration

Reformation Sunday is always a great family day at Westkirk. Our thanks to all who helped prepare our special worship service and the beautiful music. And, thank you to all those who volunteered to set tables, cook, serve, and help out on the clean-up crew. The fellowship at such events truly enriches the lives of our church family.

Sunday Evening Service to Begin

On Sunday evening, November 12, Westkirk Presbyterian Church will be hosting the first of a planned six Sunday evening, once a month, non-traditional worship services called, "**Sunday Night at the Kirk.**" Having a distinctly Westkirk flavor, these worship services will incorporate traditional worship elements and clearly Reformed themes, with a more contemporary music background, in order to enable Westkirk to reach out in a fresh way to our neighborhood and community with the claims of Jesus Christ.

Plan to make the second Sunday evening of the month a night of worship at Westkirk. Pray about who you know who may want to attend. Do your children or grandchildren worship with you at Westkirk? If not, invite them to SN@K! Are you a family with older children or youth? Provide an opportunity for them to attend and invite their friends! Nursery and childcare (through 4th grade) will be provided. Having difficulty getting up on Sunday mornings or getting off work? Here's the answer! Join Pastor



Michael and the Elders of the Session on November 12 as we kick off SN@K exploring the great rallying cries of the Reformation in our new, Sunday Night at the Kirk sermon series, 'The Five Solas of the Reformation!'

Stewardship Report

Here is the financial report for the first nine months.

	2006	2005
Receipts	256,940.76	213,793.74
Expenses	<u>241,218.99</u>	<u>236,087.70</u>
Difference	15,721.77	-22,293.96

The Stewardship Commission thanks you for your faithfulness. ... *Chris Brown, Treasurer*



What SN@K Is and What it Is Not

“Sunday Night at the Kirk” is:

- **A worship service** – Our first and foremost goal in worship is to worship God the way that he desires to be worshipped. In Colossians 3:16 and 17 (and elsewhere), the Bible says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*¹⁷ *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* Psalms are the poems in the Bible that were set to music expressly for worship. Hymns refer to the traditional songs that express great theological truths. Spiritual songs simply refer to the kinds of music that primarily praise God for what he has done for us in our individual lives. Just like our classical worship service on Sunday mornings, SN@K seeks to provide for us an opportunity to corporately worship God in the manner in which he desires. ^{ESV} **John 4:23** *“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”* Since our secondary desire is to make it ‘fit’ Westkirk, the Session has also decided to incorporate, to the best of our ability, many of the traditional elements of our regular morning classical service into our new, monthly, Sunday evening service. These elements may include: congregational prayers, responsive readings, the singing of the Gloria Patri and/or Doxology, and the participating in the Lord’s Supper and singing of the Lord’s Prayer. They may not sound exactly the same, but the spirit of this second service is to be worshipful first, and complementary to Westkirk’s classical service, second.
- **An opportunity** – Do your local children and/or grandchildren worship with you at Westkirk? If not, why not? While our first priority is to worship God the way that he desires to be worshipped, we also acknowledge that he created us all with different passions, desires and preferences. As long as the worship service is biblical, the music style should not be the main focus. No one style of music is more sacred than another. After all, many of the hymns we sing today took their melodies from popular tavern tunes of the 16th and 17th centuries. SN@K is an opportunity. Who do you know that does not worship at Westkirk, but who might consider it if the music style were something other than traditional? Invite them!
- **An outreach to our community** – Our vision is *To Know Christ and Make Him Known!* The Session desires to be faithful in the ministry decisions we make, in order that the Lord might be pleased to use us as a vessel to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to those he plans to redeem. SN@K is also designed to be an outreach tool that He can use, and we can use, to introduce people who are not Christians to the saving message of Jesus Christ. ^{ESV} **Matthew 28:19** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in¹ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*
- **An answer to the prayers of our older children and youth** – Westkirk has a history of seeing our young families leave the ministry once their children get old enough to express their preferences in worship, and their desire to be ‘with their friends.’ The Session is committed to see this trend end. We will not sit idly by as one family after another slips away to a church where the ministry needs of their children are met without resistance. Our older children and youth have regularly requested that an alternative music worship opportunity be provided. Since our children and youth form the foundation of the future of this ministry, it is incumbent upon us to seek to meet this need. SN@K is not a youth service. We are, however, excited to see how this worship service will be received by our



older children and youth. Do you prefer traditional music and have kids? Great! Before they reach the age where being with their friends is more important than spiritual things, commit to getting them involved in SN@K - maybe they will want to invite their friends here! ^{ESV}*Deuteronomy 11:18* “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

- **A trial run – new music, second service** – The fact of the matter is that SN@K is a trial run. The Session has committed to this worship service for six months. Why? This will allow us to see how the new worship service will help us address the growth issues we are now experiencing at Westkirk. Not only will we discover how a new music style of worship is received, but we also hope to see the impact of a second service – without making the investment in permanently changing the Sunday morning schedule. Going from one to two morning services is the toughest transition any church makes. We believe this change is inevitable here at Westkirk. However, with additional seating in the balcony and additional parking as part of our building expansion plan, we believe we can delay this decision longer. SN@K will help us determine what our worship schedule will look like in the future.

“Sunday Night at the Kirk” is NOT:

- **A concert** – As addressed above, the Session is committed to SN@K being first and foremost a Godly worship service. It will include all the elements of a worship service: congregational singing, the reading of Scripture, a profession of our faith, a sermon, an offering, and the administration of the sacraments. Our beautiful, traditional sanctuary is not conducive to loud music. There will be no large brass section. The musicians will be largely playing acoustic instruments and the service will include many of the traditional elements of worship that we love here at Westkirk.
- **A conspiracy** – SN@K is not the beginning of the end of traditional music at Westkirk Presbyterian Church. We will NOT abandon traditional music. We will not relegate our classical service to a low priority. We will not let the current Sunday morning worship service die on the vine. Why would we? Westkirk has a growing reputation as being one of the only conservative, evangelical, Bible-teaching churches in the metropolitan Des Moines area that still has a traditional music worship service! We have our own niche! That is the main reason we want SN@K to complement our weekly Sunday morning service! But we also know that it’s not all about the music style. Do we assume that the young families here at Westkirk will stop attending the morning service in order to attend the evening service? No way! We figure they came here because they liked it the way it is!
- **A replay of past hurts and conflicts** – The Session has made Pastor Michael aware that Westkirk had an evening service at one point in the recent past. And that service facilitated the rise of conflict in the church. With an assistant pastor on the horizon, what will be different this time? Well, Pastor Michael will be the preacher at this worship service, as well as the weekly Sunday morning service. Should we ever get to the point that SN@K become a weekly worship service, he has said he will likely preach the same sermon at both services. Whenever a church makes the transition from one to two services, even if they are back-to-back and identical, research data shows that they each take on a ‘personality’ of their own. We understand that. But we also do not intend to repeat history. We’ve learned from the past. The Elders and the pastor are committed to being present and active in both services.

. . . Pastor Michael



Vision

The Mission Commission served food at the Freedom for Youth facility at 2301 Hickman on October 9. We witnessed God's love in action as we saw several young people being cared for both physically and spiritually. Mark Nelson (Executive Director) gave us a tour of the new property and the work that he and some volunteers have started. He has a vision for the area there and has already begun making it happen. God has blessed that work and while we were amazed by the goals, we were also amazed by the response of God's people in seeing

that it will take place. If you are in the area on November 5, there will be an Open House. **Check it out.**

40 Days of Community is going strong and we are pleased with the response from various Host Groups helping out with the ministry projects. Thanks to all of you.

Reports from the field

Jessica Duff Wycliffe Translators (SEED PROJECT)

Jessica has been traveling around the country gaining support from individuals and churches. She appreciates your prayers and encouragement. She attends various workshops in Florida at the headquarters to update her on the latest software in translation technology. She will be attending a conference on Jungle aviation and radio service and visiting Nigeria in the early part of next year. So she is in the learning and training mode as well as trying to drum up support in between. Pray for Jessica and her needs at this time.

Jonathan and Becky Schuster Greater Europe Mission (Ireland)

We received an e-mail from Jonathan that they need our prayers for God's guidance and peace during this period of time. They are trying to get clearance to obtain a mortgage on the property they would like to purchase. The landlord of their previous house said that he was selling it and the new owners were not going to rent it out; therefore they would have to move. The housing market in that area is very limited and God had provided a house to purchase but the government will not allow them to obtain a mortgage. Pray for them and the ministry in Ireland.

Gary De Graaf Greater Europe Mission (France)

Gary met with the Commission and provided an update on his progress of raising support. He continues to gain the necessary monies and is looking forward, with God's help, to be in France in December of this year. He reported that France is starting to see growth of evangelistic churches in various areas. They have 99 counties just like Iowa has 99 counties, but the number of evangelical churches in each county is much less than what we have in one town. Gary said that the small church in Tours is growing and may even start another church in another town nearby. Pray for France and Gary as he assists God's work there.

Dave and Karen Eggert Campus Crusade for Christ (ISU Campus)

Dave Eggert has been actively involved in attending several conferences held throughout the country. He has been in Detroit and Kansas City and will be heading to Houston following up on work at various college campuses with the International student ministries. His specific work among the Muslims comes at a very crucial time as he seeks to build bridges among those who claim to be Muslim but are questioning their faith in that area. Pray for Dave that God will provide direction and insight in this area.

Heather Murken Navigators (Northern Iowa University)

Heather is already involved with various activities at the campus and is looking forward to the October Event conference which will be happening soon. They are expecting 1200-1500 students on campus to be involved with this conference. An outside speaker will be coming from Illinois to challenge the students to a commitment to Christ. Pray for this ministry and the work that Heather and the other staff members at UNI are involved with throughout the year

The Missions Commission appreciates your support. If you have any questions, please ask any one of the Commission members: Rus & Julie Norem, Ryan Glanzer, Marv & Fran Nugteren, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Sherie Whitehead, and George & Gail De Graaf.

... *George De Graaf, Mission Commission Chair*

What Would Jesus Do?

By Mary Millis

*What would Jesus do if He were you?
Would He stop and help that man in need?
Would He wash the soles of someone's feet?
I know what I would do.*

*What would Jesus do if He were you?
Would He wipe the tears from your face?
Would he choose to die and take your place?
I know what I would do.*

*I would have turned and walked away
When I saw the pain on that man's face,
I would have turned the other cheek
Instead of washing someone's feet.*

*That is what I would have done
Before I knew He was the One,
Before I gave my life to Christ,
Before I asked Him into my life.*

What would you do?

Shoeboxes Due by November 12

Just a reminder to bring your filled shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** to the church no later than November 12. There are still some empty wrapped boxes available for you to fill to bring smiles to needy children around the world.

Volunteers are needed at the New Hope Assembly of God church to pack the boxes for shipping. See **George or Gail De Graaf** for details.

Greening of the Kirk

Set aside some time on **November 26** to help decorate the church for the Advent Season. Coordinator Audrene Hansen is seeking many volunteers to make the project go quickly. Just come at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday the 26th. Please watch the church bulletins for additional information.

Christmas Poinsettias

Plans are to have memorial poinsettias adorn the sanctuary the two Sundays before Christmas. The Sunday bulletins will carry further information and order forms. Questions may be directed to **Audrene Hansen** (243-1679).

Get Dinner/Concert Tickets Today!

The Westkirk Choir urges you to purchase your tickets for the gourmet dinner and musical to be held in the Great Hall on **Saturday, December 2**. Seating is limited, so don't delay. Tickets are available at the Welcome Center on Sundays before and after worship. Director of Music Larry Kussatz and the Choir promise you a festive evening to welcome the Advent season.



Westkirk Cookie Walk

Westkirk will be having their first Cookie Walk on **December 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. For anyone wishing to bake cookies, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship room. We would like to have 4-5 dozen of each kind of cookie you bake.

We will also need help on the day of the sale. If you can help, please contact **Nyleve Taylor** (314-3252) or **Becky Koebernick** (278-0685).

... Nyleve Taylor

Van Harden Honored

On October 20 Van Harden received the President's Volunteer Service Award. Recipients of this award receive

-Official President's Volunteer Service Award pin. (*Note that Van is wearing his pin in our picture.*)

-Personalized certificate of achievement.

-Note of congratulations from the President of the United States.

-Letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation..



Sincere congratulations, Van. We're truly blessed to have you as a part of our church family. (*Details of some of Van's volunteerism follows.*)

Van Harden Recipient of The President's Volunteer Service Award

Van Harden is all Iowa. He grew up in Adel, just west of Des Moines. There he walked across the street every day to attend school - kindergarten through 12th grade. He then attended Drake University where he received a B.A. in Radio/TV Journalism in 1973. But all of that is secondary. For Van Harden, Christ and family come first. He is married to his lovely wife, Denise, and they have three fantastic children: Drew (married to Melissa), Luke, and Paige. And as an adult, only child, Van spends a lot of time taking care of his mom. In serving her, he discovered the need for, and invented, a timepiece (The DayTeller) to help her remember the day of the week. The product now is used all over the country to benefit the elderly. Not only that, but as a result of a change in his own appetite following a lawn mowing accident in 2004, Van also invented a bread-less pizza that has become popular to those who desire a low-carb, or must maintain a gluten-free, diet.

Van has taught Sunday school for over 20 years. His personality, coupled with his love for God and knowledge of the Scriptures, makes his class 'standing room only.' He has also served as an Elder in his church, as well as being active in other areas as he is led by the Holy Spirit. Son Drew says, *"Dad has always been a wonderful father to Luke, Paige and I. He has been a Godly role model, always supported us, and guided us into a closer relationship with Christ. He has also sent us all to a Christian school, and made sure we attended church as we were growing up, which has been a huge blessing to us."*

As a local, if not statewide, celebrity, Van Harden is most prominently known throughout central Iowa as the lead personality behind 'Van and Bonnie in the Morning' - Iowa's most listened to radio program. Under Van's leadership, Newsradio 1040 WHO has won seven national Marconi awards from the National Association of Broadcasters - two of which were awarded to him personally as medium market personality of the year in 1992 and 1997. Trade publication, "Radio, Inc.," has consistently ranked Van as one of the top-3 program directors in the nation for the last 10 years. Joel McCrea, General Manager at WHO knows why. *"Van's faith permeates everything he does here at WHO. And, he has found the secret to successful radio programming - it's people. That's why it is such a pleasure working here... As a leader, he has a way of taking complex issues and reducing them down to something manageable. All of us here, myself included, appreciate his sage wisdom and advice... During a time when WHO radio had lost its way, Van's leadership resurrected WHO and restored it to the prominence that it has today."* And while his influential role as program director and on-air voice gives him the ear of Iowa's most notable personalities, business leaders and politicians, those who know Van personally, can attest that his success in the communication industry has not dulled his wit, his creativity, his humility, and most importantly, his faith. In fact, in Van's unassuming way, his authentic style of communicating on the air, speaks volumes about his love for Christ. Found right here in Urbandale, Iowa, but equipping families all over the country, face to face, through their resources, and their own radio program, "Dr. Gary and Barbara Rosberg - Your Marriage Coaches," Gary Rosberg says, *"Barb and I have known Van for over 10 years. There are a lot of men around the country that I respect, but more than respect, I admire Van. He is better close-up than he is in public, rich with integrity. Van is a "let me put you on my shoulders to help you win," kind of guy. He is one of my heroes!"*

But more than words, is it not our obedience to the work that God has prepared for us, the true measure of our trust in Christ? Throughout our community, hundreds have benefited from the time Van has given, not only on the air, but in person. Recounting his own start, Van encourages many young, radio aspirants. He supports local Christian radio stations with advice and ideas to help them grow and flourish. Jim Erickson, CEO of the family-owned and Des Moines-based, Anderson-Erickson Dairy, has been a friend and colleague of Van's for years. AE honored Van and Bonnie several years ago by introducing 'Van and Bon-Bon' ice cream, still an Iowa best seller. Jim remarks, *"I don't know of anyone that has done more for this community than Van Harden. Just this*

summer we worked together and he raised future college tuition for a local girl by promoting her lemonade stand – he just has a burden to help people! Van is a fine Christian individual with the highest of standards – very unusual in a person with the exposure that he has. I love working with Van. He’s a very humble person, easy to work with, and his morals are beyond reproach.” One frequent guest on Van’s morning show brings a container of ‘Van and Bon-Bon’ to share each time he visits the studio. And he, Senator Charles Grassley, has seen Van’s work in the community first hand also. He says, *“Van Harden is a talented broadcaster and entrepreneur who uses his celebrity and influence for so much good. Most of all, he believes in Iowans and his community. If you’re looking for someone who has passion, dedication and a can-do attitude, Van Harden is as good as it gets.”*

Van Harden is called upon regularly to host benefits for so many organizations, they could not possibly be listed. Some of the most prominent include The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the American Lung Association, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The inaugural Special Olympics USA National Games were held in Ames, Iowa, this past July. In much thanks to the regular and on-going promotion of this massive event on WHO, over 10,000 central Iowans answered Van and Bonnie’s call to volunteer. Van has also given countless hours of his time to Des Moines Christian School through his parental involvement in school events and promotions. Superintendent, Dr. Bob Stouffer says, *“Van Harden gives so willingly of his time and his talents to Des Moines Christian School. He has hosted informational open houses at our school, which drew more interest because of his involvement. He has allowed me and others to make appearances on his morning radio show in order to promote school activities. He has emceed school events at no cost. We thoroughly enjoyed the Harden family when the children were students at DMC. Van Harden is a wonderful, godly man who is quite deserving of this award.”*

One of Van’s favorite charities is Teen Challenge of the Midlands. There, men with life-controlling problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, find support and rehabilitation at a success rate of 86 percent, when nationally, many treatment programs have long term success as low as 5 percent. Director Warren Hunsberger recounts, *“A few years ago, following a Sunday service in which I spoke at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, I was introduced to Van. He didn’t know a lot about Teen Challenge so I invited him out to visit us in Colfax. He spent quite awhile at our center, met several staff and students, and made a huge mistake as he was getting ready to leave — he shook my hand, looked me in the eye, and said, “If there’s ever anything I can do to help, please let me know.” Shortly after his visit, we called him! We asked if he’d adopt our annual golf marathon and try to build public awareness for this event and the ministry of Teen Challenge. He accepted the challenge immediately and has been the major reason for the growth in funds raised through the golf event AND a huge increase in awareness of Teen Challenge around the state of Iowa. Everywhere I go now, people tell me, “I heard Van and Bonnie talk about you this morning!” or “I just heard one of your Teen Challenge students share their story on WHO Radio. How did you get them to do that?” The answer is, I DIDN’T — Van did! When he was injured in the mower accident and spent quite awhile in the hospital, a van full of Teen Challenge staff and students visited him in the hospital. He was amazed we came to visit — we were amazed that he was amazed! We had to visit our friend who has unselfishly given so much of himself to a ministry that means so much to us. He is a good friend of Teen Challenge, one of my favorite people, and we appreciate, so much, all he does for us and our communities. Hats off to Van, three cheers from Teen Challenge, and please let him know we’re praying for him!”*

I can think of no other individual that God has given the ability, not only to serve Christ, serve family, and serve others, but to do it so beautifully and humbly in the unique ‘station’ in life that the Lord has given him. *That’s why I’m proud to be his pastor and his friend. On behalf of your church, your family, friends, and fans, congratulations, Van!*

*. . . Michael Mudlaff
Pastor, Westkirk Presbyterian Church*

Presenting . . .

Kevin & Robin Riggins

My husband and I had a most enjoyable visit with Kevin and Robin. This is a very energetic, active and committed couple. They joined the Westkirk family in March of 2006. After being in a larger church, they felt they wanted a change. They were looking for a church with a more traditional service, a smaller church campus and with biblical teaching. We are blessed that they found Westkirk.



They already have taken on many responsibilities. Robin has recently been appointed Clerk of the Session and taught Sunday school this summer. Kevin sings in the choir, leads the Genesis course, and is now involved in forming a Westkirk Technology Committee.

Kevin was an “Army Brat” and by age 14, he had lived in 7 states. He graduated from high school in Oklahoma and in 1995 moved to Iowa to be near the rest of his family. Robin is originally from Nebraska. She moved to Denison, Iowa and graduated from their high school. Kevin’s continued education was a Computer Science degree from Simpson College in Indianola. Robin received her degree in Political Science from Central College in Pella.

How these two people met is a true love story. Their parents happened to live in the same neighborhood (cul-de-sac) in Ankeny. As mother’s often do, they visited about their children and knew they had ones of the same ages. Kevin’s mom happened to ask Robin if she was doing anything special on Valentine’s Day. Robin’s answer was, “No, not especially.” Then Kevin’s mom proceeded to make a valentine card for Kevin with a clever saying indicating that this girl would like a phone call and included Robin’s phone number. Kevin did, in fact, call Robin on that Valentine’s Day in 1996, had a blind date, and has now been married to “the girl next door” for 9 years!

Kevin’s parents still live in Ankeny. He has a sister in Cedar Rapids and a brother-in-law and nephew in Eddyville. Robin’s parents also live in Ankeny and is from a family of five sisters. Robin is several minutes older than her twin sister who resides in Worthington, Minnesota. Two sisters live in the Des Moines area and a second set of twins live in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Robin’s hobbies consist of being an avid reader, quilting, stamping and gardening with a special interest in English rose bushes. Kevin is also an avid reader, fascinated with the stock market, and enjoys riding his bike. They have a joint interest in attending the Des Moines Symphony. One of the highlights during their marriage was a 10-day trip to England. Robin researched and planned the trip. It was clear that it was a wonderful experience for them.

Kevin is a Network Security Analyst with Principal. Robin is a Compliance and Litigation Specialist with FBL Financial Group, Inc. They have made their home in Urbandale since 1999 and share their home with a loving and spoiled Corgi dog named Jack.

This interesting and personable couple has many things to share with our Westkirk family. I’m sure you will find that any chance you have to visit with the Riggins will be time very well spent! Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Kevin and Robin.

. . . by Barb Asman

Children's and Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry Update

Like the rest of the church, the children are immersed in *40 Days of Community*, learning about loving each other, reaching out, belonging, growing, serving, worshipping and celebrating. The children have been hearing about a group of very different people traveling together in an RV and how they learn to get along with each other according to the Bible.

Elementary children each received a key chain with Bible verses to help them remember key concepts and a daily devotional to keep them focused on God's word and applying it to their lives. The preschool children have been working on a coloring book that has the same concepts in a simplified version. And for the children in the nursery, there are placemats for them to play on while their parents share stories and activities with them. Near the end of the month the children will make fleece blankets as a mission project for Hope Ministries.

On **Sunday, November 12** during church the **children will be singing** praise songs that they learned in Kid's Own Worship. The children will practice at 10:00 a.m. on that day, so please bring them to the sanctuary at that time.

Another important date to remember is **Parents' Night Out** on **Saturday, November 18**. This is a chance for couples to spend quality time together without the children. Bring the children to church anytime between 5:00-8:00 p.m. and there will be an evening of fun for the children while you and your spouse go on a date. There is no fee for this event; however, donations are accepted to help send our children and youth to camp next summer. Please sign up in the Hospitality Room so we can plan accordingly.

... Karen Admussen
Director of Children's Ministry



Youth Update

Can you believe November is here? Fall is going so quickly. We are continuing our trip through the *40 Days of Community*. We have looked at how youth can work together to make an impact on those around us. Several students have come up with ideas for ways they can serve others.

As "40 Days" comes to an end, we will be doing some different activities. On **November 18**, the youth will again be helping with **Parents' Night Out at Westkirk**. This is an opportunity for the youth to serve the church, and a way for parents of children in the church to have a night to themselves. We will be babysitting from 5:00-8:00 p.m., so the youth should plan on being there 15 minutes early to set up and 15 minutes later to help clean up.

We will also be taking a **trip to the WHO studio** and its sister stations on **Wednesday, November 15**. Van Harden has graciously offered to take the youth around his studio and show them what radio broadcasting involves. We will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. so we can be at the station by 6:30. We will be back at the church around 8:15.

Wednesday night youth group meets at church from 6:30-7:30 p.m. High school youth small group continues to meet at Brad Millis' house on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We will not be meeting on November 22 because of Thanksgiving.

... Jess Kanis, Youth Coordinator



Baptism at the Lake On September 17, Mallory Wickemeyer publicly declared her commitment to Christ. She and her father, Eric are pictured with Pastor Michael.

The Shepherd

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