

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 21 No. 10 October 2006

Better Together

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 1:10** *I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

The trees are changing color. The temperatures have dipped. Football is in the air. The next thing you know... Well, let's not go too far! If you haven't noticed, fall brings more than just the changing of the seasons. Here at Westkirk, we are ready for autumn. And similar to last year, we are celebrating what God is doing by joining together for an all-church campaign entitled, "*40 Days of Community*." Last year we answered the question, 'what on earth am I here for?' We talked about the five purposes God has established for our lives: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission. Through this journey, the Holy Spirit helped us grow – in our faith, as a church, and in ministry. Scores of us gathered weekly in small groups (which we call House Kirks) to meet new friends, learn together, and do ministry. And several of those House Kirks continued on.

40 Days of Community is the next step in learning to live a healthy, balanced, purpose driven, and biblical life. The focus this year is on **us**. We're going to answer the question, 'what on earth are **we** here for?' And what we are going to discover is that the life God intends for us is not meant to be lived alone. We are, *better together*. If you haven't done so already, plan to be involved in a House Kirk over the next month or so. Pick up one of the devotional books and spend 40 days in God's Word. If you've never done this before, take a deep breath and give it a shot. What's the worse thing that can happen? You stick it out for a month and a half and then it's over! Of course, there is a risk. You just might like it. You might find that learning together is a lot of fun. You might do something that really stretches you, like serve a meal to some homeless teenagers, or collect warm clothes for the needy, do some planting at our church camp, or buy some stuff to send to a child around the world. You might just get hooked! I'd pray about this if I were you.

And if you are really feeling punchy, you might even consider inviting someone else to join you! Do you have a friend, family member or co-worker who has said something like, 'I believe in God, but I don't need the Church'? Or maybe you receive this newsletter and you haven't been to Westkirk in years. Either way, come discover how we are better together. Bring someone with you. The Bible says that you were formed for fellowship, but you can't fellowship by yourself! Join us. We're excited about what God is doing here, so let's be excited together and share it!

Pastor Michael





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

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- 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

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Class of 2006

- Benae Duff
- Somer Gillett
- Marilyn Long
- Marillyn 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 Tom Gibbons
- 1 Agatha Litle
- 2 Darlene Denison
- 3 Kevin Bone
- 3 Dorothy Olsen
- 4 Wendy Brisbois
- 4 Sonja Hansen
- 4 *Madeline Scheve
- 5 Miles Swenson
- 6 Bernie Koebernick
- 6 *Lydia Scheve
- 7 Jerry Watts
- 9 Jen Dake
- 9 Sean Raisch
- 11 Dawn Vis
- 12 Larry Breeding
- 13 Pat Ward
- 15 Charlie Millis
- 16 Irene Reed
- 17 Marsha Raisch
- 17 Tom Leahy
- 18 *Samantha Dixon
- 18 Jeanne Hunt
- 20 Herb King
- 20 Lillian Nash
- 21 *Macy Benson
- 21 *Ashley Norem
- 22 *David Leonard
- 23 Sharon Johnson
- 24 Rebecca Koebernick
- 24 *Micah Mudlaff
- 24 Bud North
- 25 Tom Duff
- 25 Carol Harbour
- 26 Darrell Aldrich
- 26 Peggy Brady
- 26 Dave Carson
- 27 Kelli Glanzer
- 28 Bryce Anderson
- 28 Brad Haley
- 28 Craig VanGundy

*Youth Member



- 29 *Tyler Mogle
- 29 Ron Reighard
- 30 Naomi Becvar
- 30 *Annie Ekstrom
- 30 Clayton Kennedy
- 30 Mary Carbone
- 31 *Ryan Voggeser

*Youth Member



- 3 Nick & Molly Benson
- 10 Kevin & Vicki Bone
- 14 Larry & Karen Breeding
- 17 Rod & Cindy Welsher
- 21 John & Marcia Kirkeby
- 30 Greg & Nancy Schmidt

For Your Directory

Here are the phone numbers for **Tom and Benae Duff**. Please note the changes in your directory.

- Work** Tom: 345-4521
- Work** Benae: 345-4523
- Home:** 224-0769
- Cell** Tom: 707-5398
- Cell** Benae: 707-9072

Baptism at the Lake

On September 17, a group from Westkirk Presbyterian Church gathered at Gray's Lake to witness the baptism of two believers. Pastor Mudlaff entered the water with Matt Arndt and Mallory Wickemeyer. What a wonderful thing to have two more people publicly declare their commitment to Christ.



The Bulletin Board

WOW (Westkirk on Wednesday)

Family Night each Wednesday

Supper 5:45-6:30 p.m.
Activities, all ages 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

40 Days of Community

House Kirks begin meeting
the first week in October.

*There are still openings available.
If you have not done so, sign up today!*

Highlanders Luncheon **Thursday, October 5, 12 Noon** Baker's Cafeteria on Hickman

Guest Speaker
Martha Smith
She will tell about her life in Singapore

Cafe Kirk

Deacons host parish dinners for members

Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21, 18
Great Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Remember to R.S.V.P. to your invitation

Dorcas Circle

Thursday, October 12, 1:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room

Program: *Piercing the Darkness*

All Westkirk women and friends
are cordially invited to attend.

Bagpipers Luncheon

(Senior Singles)
Tuesday, October 24, 1:00 p.m.
Chicago Speakeasy
1520 Euclid, Des Moines

Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775

New Member Class **Begins Sunday, October 29, 9:30 a.m.**

Classes are on successive
Sundays through November 19

Register at table in Hospitality Room

Reformation Sunday

Also "Blessing of the Tartan"
Sunday, October 29, 10:30 a.m.

Celebration dinner immediately
following worship.
Please sign up in the Hospitality Room



Highlanders Announce Program

Highlanders will gather for lunch on **Thursday, October 5** at 12 noon at Baker's Cafeteria. Everyone is welcome. Come and bring a friend.

The program will be presented by **Martha Smith**. Martha and her husband Charles lived in Singapore for 33 years and had a very interesting life. While Charles was working for Firestone Rubber Company, Martha had many projects, such as starting a school for American children; writing in the Singapore newsletter about Chinese culture to help Americans understand it; and teaching Americans an abbreviated language so they could talk with the natives. She is an extremely interesting woman. You will enjoy her story.

... *Jack & Bette Jones, Coordinators*

Dorcas Circle

"Piercing the Darkness" is the topic for this month's Dorcas Circle which meets **Thursday, October 12 at 1 p.m.** in the Hospitality Room. All women are invited to come for dessert and a program.

Bette Jones will lead the program from the DVD series Faith Lessons on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah. **Genevieve Stogdill and Elly Smith** will be the hostesses.

... *Karen Admussen, Moderator*

You're Invited to Membership Class

You are invited to become a member of the fellowship of Westkirk Presbyterian Church. Orientation classes to prepare for church membership will be led by Pastor Mudlaff. You need not have already made a decision to join Westkirk in order to attend the class. This is an informational class; however it is a prerequisite for membership.

Classes begin **October 29 at 9 a.m.** and will meet each Sunday through November 19. New members will be received during the worship service on Sunday, December 17. If you are interested in attending these classes, please sign up in the Hospitality Room. Any questions may be directed to Pastor Mudlaff or the church office (253-0330).

Stewardship Report

Here is the financial report for the first eight months of the year.

	2006	2005
Receipts	230,858.24	190,604.41
Expenses	<u>210,630.13</u>	<u>205,703.51</u>
Difference	20,228.11	-15,099.10

Your gifts continue to bless the ministry at Westkirk. The Stewardship Commission thanks you for your faithfulness.

... *Chris Brown, Treasurer*

Staff Position Open— Custodial Help Wanted

Westkirk is looking for a person(s) to provide custodial help for our building. This position requires someone with flexible hours, since in addition to the regular weekly cleanings, there are times when special events are scheduled and require custodial service (such as dinners, meetings, weddings, etc.).

If you are interested in this position or know someone who may be interested, please contact Lee Turnbull (253-9607) as soon as possible for complete details.

Reformation Sunday, a Family Day

A special day for our church and your family and friends. That's what's planned for **Sunday, October 29** beginning with worship at 10:30 a.m. This is a day of emphasis on our reformed theology and celebration of our Scottish heritage. And, this is the 14th anniversary of the day Westkirk members received the key to the first phase of our building.

To emphasize our Scottish roots, we will observe the **Blessing of the Tartan*** This is a tradition begun at Westkirk a few years ago. Be sure to bring your family tartan to church that day. (Do you remember where you stored it for safe-keeping last fall?!) For our newcomers, stop at the office soon to pick up a six-inch tartan square, then in the center of the square, embroider, appliqué or iron on the first letter of your surname. (Go ahead, ask a friend if you need help!) Family tartans will be blessed during the worship service on the 29th.

Then we'll do what church folks really like to do at celebrations. We'll gather around to share a good meal immediately following worship. Our Westkirk chefs will prepare dinner for all. The menu includes:

Roasted Pork Loin
Hamburgers
Generous-size Buns
German Potato Salad
Sauerkraut with Applesauce
Cole Slaw
Assorted Fruit Pies
Beverages

Those who have celebrated this day in the past will tell you that this is an event you won't want to miss. Mark the date on your calendar today! An announcement of a sign-up sheet for dinner will be in the bulletin.

**Our version of the ancient Kirkin' o' the Tartan Ceremony, an old Highland custom which had to be performed in secret during the 18th century.*

We Are "Better Together"

Pastor Michael's message on Sunday, September 24, kicked off our *40 Days of Community* campaign. "**Better Together**" is the theme. *40 Days of Community* will deepen your understanding of how God uses other people – specifically in your church family – for your good and your growth. It also will show you how God can use you to bless others.

Your participation in a House Kirk (small group) is one of the most important parts of *40 Days of Community*. We have set up a display in the narthex that shows our current 14 House Kirks. It also shows the day, time, and host/leaders names. If you haven't already signed up to be part of a group, we encourage your participation.

Our goal is to have 20 groups and 200 participants. As of this writing (Sept. 18) we have 14 groups and 85 have signed up. When you sign up, please consider asking your family members, co-workers, neighbors and churched/unchurched friends to join you. The purpose of this campaign is to reach as many people as possible with God's plan for our lives.

Groups are planning to meet starting Sunday, October 1. Each group participant will receive a Workbook to be used as a study guide during the weekly meetings, but it also contains a daily devotion (about 2 pages long) that participants will read each day prior to the weekly meeting. Your Workbooks will be given to you by your House Kirk leader.

Please prayerfully consider your participation in this campaign. Consider how God can use you in the way He intended for you to be used.

. . . *Dick Cunitz, Coordinator*

New Sound Technician

We are pleased to welcome **Greg Schmidt** as a sound technician. It is great to have Greg added to our staff to man the sound system for worship and special events.

Historic Treasures Found in Balcony

September 16 was set aside to clean up and clean out the church balcony. A dozen hearty souls pitched and tossed, sorted and folded, tore apart and tore down, boxed and shelved, vacuumed and dusted for some four hours. What a difference! After discarding a commercial dumpster-load of unusable junk, it is now possible to walk around the area and to locate stored materials.

During the clean-up process, the old choir risers were dismantled and taken to the dumpster. As someone has said, "One person's trash is another person's treasure." This was true on this day. The risers were retrieved from the dumpster by a Westkirk neighbor and will be used at his daughter's school. So, what our choir no longer needs will be used by another musical group. What a great way to share and be a good neighbor.

And, among the furniture uncovered in the balcony were a Pulpit and a Communion Table. These were used by the early Westkirk congregation when the group met for several years at Clive School gym in Windsor Heights. Along with the sound system, hymnals, etc., they were stored in a trailer and transported to the meeting place each week for the worship service.. These beautiful pieces were the gift of the late Phyllis and Vernon Woolsey, charter members of Westkirk.* Be sure to see these treasures which now have a place in the Hospitality Room.

Cleaning the balcony was a dirty, dusty and strenuous job. Some of the helpers also trimmed trees that day. **Our collective thanks** to Karen and Anastasia Admussen, Tim and Theresa Dayton, Audrene Hansen, Chuck Heitbrink, Larry Kussatz, Ron Long, Kelli Miller, Michael Mudlaff, Bob Schmadeke, and Lee Turnbull, who spent a Saturday morning at the church when "somebody had to do it"!

**While a member of Westkirk, Phyllis Woolsey designed and constructed banners which are still used at our church. She did lovely needlework. When there was a baptism at Westkirk, she always stitched the infant's name and the date on the cloth used during the baptism.*



Cooks, Helpers Needed Now!

Westkirk on Wednesday, our church family night, begins with supper at 5:45 p.m., a wonderful time of Christian fellowship before Bible classes. BUT, it requires cooks and cleanup help, as well as dessert makers. Volunteer now to take a turn. It only requires an hour or so when several people get together on Wednesday. And it's fun, too. Don't worry, meals are planned for you and the food is on hand to cook.

You may choose the weeks you wish to help. Just select your dates from the list on the table in the Hospitality Room and sign up **now**. The dessert calendar is located on the easel at the entrance to the Great Hall.

Only **you** can ensure the success of our Wednesday supper hours.

Thank You Note . . .

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to Westkirk for your support and prayers. My mother, Florence Dugan, is now recovering from her recent illness and surgery. The doctors told us she had a large mass that was an "obvious cancer." Imagine the gratitude, joy, and the tremendous blessing we felt when final tests revealed it was no cancer at all!!

We firmly believe the Lord's hand was guiding her and keeping her safe throughout this trial. Our prayers were truly answered!

*Sincerely,
Jeff & Peggy Brady*

Altar Flowers

Flowers are needed for the Communion Table for each Sunday's worship service. Over the years the Altar Guild has acquired silk flowers for arrangements which are used when fresh flowers are not available.

Any member or friend of Westkirk may have memorial flowers honoring a relative or friend or a special celebration, such as a birthday or anniversary. The flower arrangements can be either silk or fresh cut flowers.

The fresh cut flowers generally are purchased and arranged for the church service by a member of Altar Guild (on Communion Sundays, only one bouquet is used). Following the service, the arrangements are given to the contributor for their own personal use or for shut-ins.

A sign-up calendar is posted in the Hospitality Room. Please place your name on the calendar for a particular Sunday. Then call the Flower Chairperson, Audrene Hansen at 243-1679, so that appropriate arrangements may be made for the bulletin and the purchase of the flowers.

... Audrene Hansen



Coming—Gourmet Dinner

Right now note on your calendar to hold **December 2, 6:30 p.m.** for a wonderful new event which will be presented by the Westkirk choir—a festive dinner and advent music.

This will be a first for Westkirk—a **holiday gourmet dinner with singing waiters (cooks, bussers, etc.)** all done by choir members as a **fundraiser for the East Wing.**

Here is an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping—a gift for a neighbor, someone hard to buy for, the person who seems to have everything, and, of course, for yourself!

As you know, some of Westkirk's best cooks are involved in the music program. They are planning a delicious meal for you. Here are the entrees which will be served at this four-course dinner:

Beef tenderloin with Mushroom Sauce
Chicken Cordon Bleu in Puff Pastry
Duet of Seafood in a Puff Pastry Cup

Tickets for this East Wing fundraiser will be on sale at the Welcome Center each Sunday beginning **October 15**. The price per person will be \$20. If you buy a table (which seats up to eight), the bargain price will be \$150. No tickets will be sold at the door. When tickets are purchased, please be prepared to indicate your choice of entrée.

After dinner, there will be entertainment by the choir. They will present **Emmanuel—God with Us!** by Lloyd Larson. Please see "Choir Notes" for information about this cantata.

For anyone who doesn't care to drive at night, transportation will be provided. A chauffeur will pick you up at your door and make the return trip after the evening's event. Just request this service when purchasing your tickets.

The choir looks forward to entertaining you on December 2. We can accommodate up to 80 reservations, so get your tickets early. In the event of a sellout, a second performance may be held Sunday, December 3. This will be a festive, fun-filled evening. Don't miss it!! If you have questions, please contact Larry Kussatz (327-1795), Chuck Heitbrink (276-2213) or Lou Heitbrink (254-9982).

Café Kirk Planned for October

Watch your mailbox for an invitation from your Deacon for a Café Kirk night in October! Dinners will be held **October 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Great Hall. This is a marvelous opportunity to have fun and fellowship with other members you may not have had an opportunity to meet! Be sure to contact your Deacon and R.S.V.P. to attend. If you have any questions, please contact your Deacon directly.

... Kris Thompson, Deacons Moderator



Mission Commission News. October 2006

Involvement

Talk about Total Church Involvement!!!

If you are a member at Westkirk and not involved in one of the Mission Commission projects, please see me, because you could be one of the few who may have fallen through the cracks of our coverage and we certainly do not want that.

We have many groups working on one or more of the following projects and we are delighted with the help. The 40 Days Host Bible Studies will be participating. The Dorcas Circle will be participating. One of the Kids Own Worship classes will be participating. Even as an individual you can participate by bringing warm clothing to Church during October. If you do not have any extra warm clothing, then you may bring some non-perishable item for the Freedom for Youth collection also during October.

Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child

Donate empty shoe boxes. Wrap the shoe box and lid with children's Christmas wrap. Fill the shoe box with recommended items from the list which will be in October bulletins or see George De Graaf. Deliver the filled wrapped boxes to the collection center the week of **November 13**.

Hope Ministries

Help serve food on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Donate a turkey, ham, etc. Collect warm clothing for the Great Cover Up Drive (new or gently used coats, gloves, scarves, twin size sheets and blankets).

Freedom for Youth

Help in serving food to the young people (**October 9 or November 13**). Help in the collection of non-perishable items.

Twin Lakes Christian Camp

Help in shutting down and storing camp boats, etc. Help trim trees. Plant perennials, etc. Help paint.

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

Paul and Mary Carbone have moved to Pennsylvania and we thank them for their help during the past year.

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

Presenting . . .

Jack and Bette Jones

It's a pleasure to introduce Jack and Bette Jones. These Des Moines natives have been attending Westkirk for about two years. They are currently serving as the coordinators for the Highlanders. Bette started a term as Deacon last February.



Jack and Bette met in junior high school but didn't begin dating until nearly out of high school. Jack's education at Drake was interrupted by 3 years of service in the Air Force, from 1942-1945. He was based in England, flying 35 missions in a B-24 over Germany and France. On his return, he finished his degree at Drake and began teaching.

After teaching at Crocker, Hubbell, and Wallace Elementary schools, Jack was the principal at Crocker and Woodlawn schools. Taking a sabbatical, he earned his doctorate at the University of Nebraska and was offered a teaching position at Drake. He taught school administration for 20 years, retiring in 1984.

Bette did her nurse's training at Broadlawns Hospital, and studied at the University of Minnesota for credentials as a nurse anesthetist. She spent 16 years working at Methodist Hospital and 24 years at the VA before retiring in 1986.

Jack and Bette were married at Westminster Presbyterian Church and worshipped there for 40 years as they raised three children. Jack and Bette each served as elder. Their daughter Jennifer was also married there and currently lives in Urbandale. Their son Jeffrey lives in Bloomington, Minnesota, while son Jon lives in New Jersey.

After both were retired, Jack and Bette moved to their property at Lake Panorama. They enjoyed boating, swimming, golfing, and watching all the wildlife surrounding them, especially the birds. Jack and Bette also enjoyed many trips in the United States and abroad to indulge their bird hobby.

Returning to Des Moines in 2002, they made their home at the Reserve. Besides their activities at Westkirk, they enjoy seeing their four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bette sings in the choir at the Reserve, doing two programs a year, and edits their newsletter. She also belongs to a book club, plays bridge, and guides Bible class once a week. Jack leads an exercise group at the Reserve, coordinates fire safety, serves on the shop committee, and starts the Friday night movies. They also have more trips planned, including an Air Force reunion in Washington, D.C.

This dynamic couple is a joy to visit with and I encourage you to get to know them.

. . .by Kelli Miller

Choir Notes . . .

What an exciting year of music ministry is ahead for the Westkirk choir members. Although Fall rehearsals have begun, new members are still being recruited. If you would like to sing with this group, just come to rehearsal at 7:30 next Wednesday night.

Much of the excitement is being generated in anticipation of the new Gourmet Dinner/Musical event. The music selected is wonderful. **Emmanuel—God with Us**, arranged and composed by Lloyd Larson, is a service of Lessons and Carols.

The service of Lessons and Carols dates back to 1918 when the first such service was held at King's College in Cambridge, England. The origin, however, actually goes back to 1880 when a service of carols and related scriptures was developed by the Bishop of Truro Cathedral (England) for Christmas Eve. Over the years the basic format has been adapted and utilized by churches around the world over and over again.

Emmanuel—God with Us is another in a succession of Christmas works to employ the effective medium of word and song. It blends historic carols with newer compositions along with the Bible to tell the beautiful, ageless story of Christmas.

In addition to the dinner music, the choir is busily preparing special numbers for Reformation Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

Thanksgiving at the Kirk— You Are Invited

It's time to circle **November 23** in red on your calendar. That's the day for the **Annual Westkirk Family Thanksgiving Dinner!**

Once again Larry Kussatz and Chuck Heitbrink extend an invitation to come to Westkirk that day. They want to be sure that everyone will have the opportunity to be part of a large "family" Thanksgiving gathering. For those who no longer prepare holiday meals for their families (large or small), plan to come to the Great Hall.

Chuck and Larry already are planning the menu for a family-style Thanksgiving feast, complete with all the traditional trimmings. Yes, they will serve their special sweet potato casserole! There is always lots of delicious food (even some take-home leftovers) and a wonderful time of fellowship.

The November issue of the *Shepherd* and church bulletins will carry details on reservations. Tickets are never sold for this event. However, there will be an opportunity for a freewill offering to benefit the Music Department at Westkirk.

Oswalts to Retire

The ever-faithful caretakers of our building will be retiring soon. **Bill and Wanita Oswalt** have served Westkirk for the past several years, keeping our church always company-ready, bright and shining.

Visitors often comment on the cleanliness of our facilities. Bill and Wanita, you have done an outstanding job maintaining our house of worship—always adjusting your schedule to accommodate the activities of the church.

The Oswalts have indicated they will continue on the job until new custodial help is in place. Our sincere thanks to this Christian couple for their special ministry. We are glad they are members of Westkirk so we will continue to see them regularly.

Are You a Procrastinator?!

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

Children's and Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry Update

Our God is an awesome God and he can use frogs, dogs, and RVs to teach us about himself. Last month at the F.R.O.G. Festival the children learned that a frog can remind them to Fully Rely on God. When Susan Lawrence brought her dog, Annie E., the children heard that we can be rescued from sin by our Savior, Jesus Christ, just like Annie was rescued from an abandoned house. We need to stay connected to God through prayer and Bible reading just as Annie stays connected to her master by a red leash. The RV showed the children that as Christians we need to travel the road of life together: worshipping, serving and reaching out.

This month the children continue their *40 Days of Community* lessons titled "Interstate 4 One Another" where they hear a Bible story on DVD, learn a Bible verse, discuss the lesson and receive a memory tag for their key chain each week. During Kid's Own Worship, the children are learning new worship songs which they will be singing in church on Celebration Sunday, November 12.

On Wednesday nights (WOW) it is wonderful to have more families joining us. The children's class has doubled in size! Each week the children hear a Bible story and learn more about prayer. They also earn Bible trading cards for participating, bringing friends, memorizing verses, and more.

Another joy we have is a dedicated group of fifth through eighth graders. Last month we had a BLAST at Cutty's Resort swimming, playing mini golf, eating, paddle boating, roasting marshmallows over the fire . . . and eating lots of sunflower seeds. Thank you, **Rus and Julie Norem** for hosting this get together. It was a great way to kick off our new group—Believing, Laughing and Studying the Truth.

On Sunday mornings the fifth through eighth graders are also studying *40 Days of Community* using a devotional called "Get Together." On Wednesday night they do a variety of things like lounging in bean bag chairs, watching Christian music videos, playing games and discussing topics such as "How to talk to friends about God." Remember, WOW is a good time to bring a friend along!

. . . Karen Admussen,
Director of Children's ministry



Youth Update

W.O.W. is in full swing. We started off our year with a cook-out at Doug and Jess' and had a great turnout. It was fun to see everyone after the summer and catch up! For the next month or so, we will be studying the *40 Days of Community* with the rest of the church. We will be looking at the role of youth every Wednesday evening during the campaign.

On Thursday evenings, a small group just for youth is also getting together to study this topic. We'll get the exact details to the youth as soon as they are worked out. This small group is currently taking the place of Sunday School, which no longer meets on Sunday mornings. So, all youth are encouraged to join the Thursday night small group.

The youth at Westkirk are also encouraged to meet with K-life on Monday evenings to enjoy a large group setting with other youth. If you would like to know more about K-life, you can check out their website at <http://desmoines.klife.com> or ask Jess about it.

We have a great year ahead of us. If you've never come to our youth activities, please join us. If you're a regular, keep on coming. We'd love to see you!

. . . Jess Kanis,
Youth Coordinator

The Shepherd

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Staff of Westkirk

Michael Mudlaff - **Pastor**

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Karen Admussen - **Director of Children's Ministry**
Doug & Jessemynn Kanis - **Youth Coordinators**

Larry Kussatz - **Director of Music**

Dianne Glanzer - **Accompanist**

Bill & Wanita Oswald - **Custodians**

Fergus Taylor - **Head Usher**

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Fran Nugteren, Joan Thompson



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