

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 1 January 2007

What's New for the New Year

For a couple of weeks in December, it seemed that there wasn't much good news to share. With four funerals in a very short time, we were grieving the loss of a charter member, a Ruling Elder, and two senior saints. We were in survival mode! All of us, Elders, Deacons, Staff and you - very, very busy. But God has shown his faithfulness to us. He has demonstrated once again that he holds us in the palm of his hand and is anxious to use our suffering and trials to refine us and prepare us for future joys. And so we persevered on with the plans that God had already laid out before us. And you, our church family, we stuck together and served one another well.

We did not allow the busy-ness of our family matters, or the Christmas season to distract us from other important ministry needs here at Westkirk. Gary Robinson, our Stewardship Elder, prepared a wonderful letter that gave us some more details about the upcoming building expansion. We wished we had more to share at the end of the year, but are pleased that we can begin to move forward on those projects soon. And, we're also pleased to announce that the Session has extended an offer to a candidate for our new Assistant Pastor position. According to our Book of Order, this role is a staff hire and not a 'called,' nor ordained pastoral position. According to that description, and with the approval of the Session, Chuck Heitbrink, Chris Brown, and I crafted a job description and began to wait and see whom God would bring to us that would not only meet the spiritual and professional qualifications, but be an excellent personal fit for our staff. Rather than establish a binding and narrow job description, we looked for a 'general practitioner,' of sorts, who will relish the opportunity to lead and equip members and attendees in a variety of ministry areas, but especially in our youth ministry. The interviews have taken place, background and references checked, and the Session is excited to introduce you to our new, full-time, assistant pastor, Steve Randall.

Since, at this writing, the details have yet to be worked out, I cannot yet tell you when he will begin. But, Steve will work to serve our youth as his primary area of ministry, and in addition to Christian Education, will also work with the Evangelism – Fellowship Commission in the areas of outreach and small groups. You will be hearing more about Steve soon. In the mean while, please take your first opportunity to welcome Steve and his wife, Stefanie, to our Westkirk family!

Pastor Michael



^{ESV} ***1 Corinthians 16:10*** *When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.*



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

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 -
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



- 2 Betty Reedquist
 - 2 Marj Wildrick
 - 3 Golda Beals
 - 3 *Rachel Brady
 - 3 Karen Breeding
 - 3 Doug Phipps
 - 3 Kirk Sonnichsen
 - 4 Jeannie Havnen
 - 5 *Ben Thompson
 - 5 *B.J. Deviney
 - 6 Kevin Davidson
 - 6 Dick Reed
 - 7 Caron Moore
 - 7 Jodi Pieper
 - 11 *Elam Brisbois
 - 11 Brent Willcox
 - 12 Stan Thompson
 - 12 Carol Bahls
 - 14 Chad Carlson
 - 16 *Jonah Mudlaff
 - 20 John Chenoweth
 - 20 Marcia Kirkeby
 - 21 Jeff Harrison
 - 21 Sandy Tuinstra
 - 21 *Trey Walsh
 - 24 Kevin Riggins
 - 25 Ashlee Obrecht
 - 25 Bev Olsen
 - 27 Joan Thompson
 - 27 John Becvar
 - 28 *Zeb Kanis
 - 29 Robert Buchanan
 - 29 Sasha Mudlaff
 - 29 *Andrew Voggesser
 - 30 Susan Oeffner
 - 30 Roberta Draper
 - 31 *Olivia Brisbois
 - 31 JoAnne Cook
- *Youth member



- 1 Kirk & Samona Yentes
- 19 Kevin & Bev Olsen
- 25 Jack & Bette Jones
- 27 Howard & Betty Reedquist

New Arrival

Emma Ann Brown, daughter of **Michael and Lindsay Brown**, was born December 8, 2006. The proud grandparents are **Bill F. and Marsha Raisch**. Emma Ann has a proud great-grandfather at Westkirk, too—**Bill R. Raisch**

Stewardship Report

Here is the financial report for November and for the current 11 months.

November:

Receipts	\$28,783.67
Expenditures	<u>27,933.68</u>

Surplus \$ 849.99

Year to Date:

Receipts	\$285,724.43
Expenditures	<u>269,152.67</u>

Surplus \$ 16,571.76

... Chris Brown, Treasurer



The Bulletin Board

Highlanders Luncheon
Thursday, January 4, 12:00 noon
Okoboji Grill

8481 Birchwood Court., Johnston
Speakers

Jeff Sovern, Pappajohn Learning Center
Elly Smith, Stephen Ministry
Note change of location.

Alpha Classes Begin
Sunday, January 7

Starts with Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Westkirk Great Hall

See article in this issue

WOW Resumes

Westkirk Family Night
Wednesday, January 10

Supper at 5:45-6:30 p.m.
Classes for all ages at 6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Night
at the Kirk

January 14, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly evening
worship service with
contemporary music



Dorcas Circle

Thursday, January 11, 1:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room

Program: *City of the Great King*
Leader: Gail De Graaf
All Westkirk women cordially invited

Westkirk Annual
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2007
Westkirk Great Hall

Potluck Supper --- 5:00 p.m.
Business Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Attendance of all members of Westkirk
is requested to conduct the business
of the Congregation.

*Please see article in this issue
for complete details*

Bagpipers Luncheon

(Senior Singles)

Tuesday, January 23, 1:00 p.m.
Club Car Restaurant
13435 University Avenue, Clive.

Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775



Highlanders Change Meeting Place

A New Year! A new restaurant! And perhaps a new day! Highlanders will meet on **Thursday, January 4 at the Okoboji Grill, 8481 Birchwood Court, Johnston at noon.**

The best way to reach Okoboji Grill is to go north on 86th Street, across 35/80 and turn into the shopping area immediately to the east (right). It is about 1/2 block in, on the north (left) side of the street. We plan to make this our permanent home.

The speaker will be **Jeff Sovern** of the **Pappajohn Learning Center** downtown. The Pappajohn Learning Center is a consortium of seven Iowa universities offering evening and weekend classes for working adults.

Also speaking on the 4th will be **Elly Smith** who will tell us more about the **Stephen Ministry**.

Highlanders is a group of Westkirk members and friends who gather monthly, September through May, for luncheon, fellowship and an interesting program. Come on January 4, bring a friend, and learn all about these unique learning and service opportunities.

... *Bette & Jack Jones, Coordinators*

WOW Activities Resume

Our first Westkirk on Wednesday family night of 2007 will be on **Wednesday, January 10**. Supper will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m., followed by activities for all ages at 6:30 p.m.

It takes dedicated man/woman power to maintain the supper schedule. Volunteers are needed for food preparation and cleanup. Cooks just need to arrive at 4-4:30 p.m. to prepare the meal. (The menus is planned and food is on hand.) Look for the sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room.

Or you may volunteer to provide dessert one night. The sign-up sheet for this is on an easel in the Great Hall.

There is expense to the church involved in presenting these suppers each week, so a free-will offering is collected to help defray the expense. (It costs the church an average of \$3.00 per person each night to purchase supplies for the meals.) Your contributions are needed and very much appreciated.

Bagpipers? Who Are They?!

When members of the Bagpipers participated in the candle lighting ceremony in December, a number of people were curious as to just what and who are these Bagpipers. Well, they are a group of single folks 55+ years old who enjoy Christian fellowship and a chance to go out for a nice lunch at various restaurants. This is a strictly social gathering of Westkirk members and friends.

All singles (men and women) who meet the age requirement (or almost) are welcome to the monthly outings which are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month, year around, except November and December when the lunch is on the third Tuesday. Just call **Sally Harrison (276-0775)** for reservations no later than noon the Monday before.

The next lunch date is **Tuesday, January 23 at Club Car Restaurant, 13435 University Avenue, Clive**. Looking forward seeing you there!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2007

This meeting is a “must attend” for all members of Westkirk. You have a special privilege and responsibility to participate in this annual business meeting of the congregation. Circle the date on your calendar *today*. Friends of the church also may attend, but only members may vote on matters presented at the meeting.

Come to the Great Hall at **5:00 p.m. for a potluck supper**. Bring your favorite dish to share. Table service and beverages will be provided. It is a well-known fact that church people are great cooks, so you can be assured of a tasty meal!

The **business meeting of the congregation** will follow at **6:00 p.m.** This is the time to review the events of the year 2006, approve reports of the Commissions, Deacons and other ministries of Westkirk, and plan for the coming church year. Elders and Deacons will be elected to serve the congregation for the next three years. Then the current financial statement and the budget for the year 2007 will be presented.

Here is your opportunity to offer encouragement and helpful suggestions to your church leaders who are doing the best job possible in serving the Lord at Westkirk. Your presence and votes are very important to the life and health of Westkirk. **Reserve the evening of Sunday, January 28 on your calendar now!**

Dorcas Circle News

On **Thursday, January 11**, Dorcas Circle will meet to hear a program, *The Lamb of God*, led by **Fran Nugteren**.

All women of the church and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend circle meetings for Bible study, dessert, and fellowship. If you are available on the 11th, please plan to come.

Serving as hostesses that day will be **Karen Admussen and JoAnne Cook**.

If you would like additional information, please contact **Moderator Karen Admussen** at the church office (253-0330).

Alpha Is Coming!

Join us in the Westkirk Great Hall on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., **beginning January 7**, for food, an interesting presentation and fascinating discussion. Sign up now and consider bringing a friend! We will explore topics such as:

Why did Jesus die?

How can I be sure of my faith?

Why and How do I pray?

How does God guide us?



Alpha—a Practical Introduction to the Christian Faith



January 2007

What's New for Missions?

During the last few months of 2006, we have seen how the Church body has become involved in various ministries in each of the House Kirks or Bible Study groups. Some of you have helped out at Freedom for Youth, in serving food or helping them with the cleaning of their new facility. We also helped in the cleaning of cabinets in their new kitchen. Other groups have participated in the Samaritans Purse project, "Operation Christmas Child," by filling and wrapping shoe boxes for children in distressed countries. Other groups assisted at Hope Ministries by donating clothes and delivering them to their collection center. It was great to see the enthusiasm from those involved as they provided help to each ministry. The Mission Commission is grateful for that response and would like to see it continue in the coming year. There are so many opportunities available for assistance, not just in monetary ways but by our becoming involved physically, personally, which will encourage us all here at Westkirk.

We support foreign ministries such as Romanian Evangelical Medical Mission where in times past some from our congregation have gone over to help by providing medical assistance. Our Young People have gone down to Mexico with Missions Ministry to help build a house for specific church families. Adults are encouraged to do that also. The Youth again are considering whether that is a mission work project they want to be involved with this coming year. I will ask other foreign missionaries and ministries, like the Schmeidels with Campus Crusade, if there are areas where we can help. The Mission Commission representatives for specific Home Ministries receive information as to projects that we can do here in Iowa.

1. **Twin Lakes Christian Camp** has carpentry work, painting, helping in opening the camp for summer, etc. Our representatives are **Rus and Julie Norem**.
2. **Ruth Harbor** has several areas that require assistance—working with girls, mentoring, helping with correspondence etc., annual household duties such as raking of leaves, putting up storms and screens, painting, etc. **Diane Skinner** is the representative for this ministry.
3. **Hope Ministries** has many areas for assistance. The holiday season was wide open for serving food, delivering food to needy families, distributing presents, etc. Our ambassador to Hope is **Julie Norem**.
4. **Freedom for Youth** has just acquired some property with buildings that are being renovated. The need for carpentry, plumbing, electrical as well as assistance with computer training and craft assistance are available. See **Sherie Whitehead** for opportunities for this ministry to homeless youth.

I could keep on going, but the key thought for this New Year is "How can Westkirk help"?? The Missions Commission again thanks you for your support and if you have any questions, please ask any one of the Commission members: Rus & Julie Norem, Ryan Glanzer, Marv & Fran Nugteren, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead, and George & Gail De Graaf.

. . . George De Graaf, Mission Commission Chair

Our Deepest Sympathy to . . .

—**Kay Cunitz** and the family and friends of Kay's husband, **Dick Cunitz**, who died December 2 in Adel. Funeral services were held at Westkirk on December 7 with Pastor Mudlaff officiating.

—**Janet Phipps** and the family and friends of Janet's husband, **Dick Phipps**, who died December 3 in Des Moines. Pastor Mudlaff officiated at his funeral service on December 8 at Westkirk.

—**Ron and Darlene Reighard** and the family and friends of Ron's mother, **Barbara Reighard**, who died in Des Moines on December 11. Funeral services were held at Westkirk December 15 with Pastor Mudlaff officiating.

Pastor Michael Receives Scouting Award

At the recommendation of a long-time family friend and minister, our own Pastor Michael Mudlaff was recently presented with the **God and Service Award** in conjunction with his role as our pastor and his work with Des Moines Christian School Cub Scout Pack 316. The Reverend Llewellyn Walker, now of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was formerly the committee chairman of the Boy Scout troop of which Pastor Michael was a part, growing up in Delavan, Wisconsin. Chuck Heitbrink, and the local (Mid-Iowa) council of the Boy Scouts of America, along with Sasha, the boys, and Michael's dad, Lee F. Mudlaff, were all a part of the surprise.

The God and Service Award is a national recognition awarded by churches and agencies in cooperation with Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.). It is given for distinguished service by adults who minister to young people through the church and the Boy Scouts of America, or another national youth agency. This award is for members of independent Christian and non-denominational Protestant churches. It was designed to express appreciation for outstanding leadership and significant contributions by an adult to the spiritual, social and physical lives of young people. **Congratulations, Michael!**

Recent Baptisms Create Excitement at Westkirk!

On Saturday evening, December 16, two candidates for membership at Westkirk were baptized by profession of faith in Jesus Christ! In order to allow for them to be received as members into our covenant family of faith here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church, our neighbors at Olivet Baptist Church graciously offered the use of their baptistery and worship center for a winter baptism. **Heather Sonnichsen** was baptized, and along with her husband, **Kirk**, the two of them were received into membership the following morning here at Westkirk. As part of the ceremony, their children, **Brooke, Bryce and Bradley** were also dedicated to the Lord.

Likewise, **Rowdy Smith** made a profession of faith in Christ and was baptized in the presence of several of his family members who made the trip for the occasion. He and his wife **Becky** also became members on Sunday the 17th. The Smiths are expecting their first children, twins, in April. We are thrilled to see what God is doing in the lives of our church family. Thank you to the other Westkirk members who were present for the special event!



Thank You Notes. . .

Dear Westkirk Family,

Thank you for all of your wonderful support since hearing the news of Dick's death. My family and I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of hugs, tears, prayers, food, and flowers shared with us during this difficult time.

I am especially thankful for Pastor Michael's personal and caring touch at Dick's funeral, as well as all those who helped in the kitchen serving the meal afterward. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. May God bless you all.

We are comforted knowing Dick is with our loving Lord and know we will find strength in Him in the days ahead.

*With love,
Kay Cunitz*

Westkirk Family,

With warm appreciation and a prayer that God will bless you for being so kind.

Thanks for all your prayers and kind words at the time of my mom's death. We really appreciated your flowers also.

Paul & Donna Nelson

Thank You Notes. . .

Dear Pastor Mike and

Westkirk Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you for your wonderful comforting words and kindness in the service for Ronald on Monday. It made a difficult time easier for us, including Vivian felt like she was with us too.

A special thanks to Elaine and Kay, Norma and Ronald and Vivian's friends.

Your kindness and sympathy at this time are deeply appreciated.

*Ronald Spencer's Family
Jerry, Carolyn, Elaine and family*

We have been overwhelmed at the tremendous love and support extended to my mother during her decline in health this past year, and also to Darlene and I, especially during these most difficult days following her passing. Mom loved worshipping at Westkirk and had many friends here. It was wonderful to celebrate her life, as she was a believer, but she is now a happy and whole person once again. Death is for the living, and the love and support received by her family is proof of that. Thank you to her church family for "being there" for her and for us during this time.

Ron and Darlene Reighard and Family



Men's Bible Study

Men, are you tired of watching football? Are you interested in finding another way to study the Word, fellowship and bond with "the boys"? Then, you will want to contact **Chad Carlson**. Chad is interested in starting **Men's Morning Bible Study** in January. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Chad at (515)309-2686 or e-mail him at ccarlson @stadiasportsmedicine.com.

Church Was Decorated Beautifully

How beautiful our church looked during Advent and Christmas! The poinsettias you shared were a colorful addition to the sanctuary as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior. Thank you to all who made this possible.

And thank you to **Audrene Hansen** and her helpers for the decorating throughout the Westkirk campus. Everything was lovely and festive.

New Members Received

On Sunday, December 13 the following friends were received as members of Westkirk. Please add their names and address information to your church directory.



Chad & Amanda Carlson
4503 160th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322
309-2686



Cynthia Fisher
2457 Patricia Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
276-7603



Jerry Horpestad
2400 30th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310
274-3639



Rowdy & Rebecca Smith
7507 Roseland Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
334-5512



Kirk & Heather Sonnichsen
3814 67th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322
278-8105

Allison and Pearce Brown will be received into membership at a later date



New Members enjoy fellowship and a dinner after Worship Service.

What does **Gary Glanzer** know that **Diane** doesn't? Make sure and ask Diane about her special gift.

Presenting . . .

William R. Raisch

John and I were warmly welcomed into Bill's lovely and spacious condominium at The Reserve, where he presently lives since returning from Arizona in February 2006. The Charter members of Westkirk need no introduction to Bill, but we may be able to tell them some interesting things about his life while introducing him to the many new people among us.

Bill is a native Iowan, having been born on a farm in Franklin County, near Geneva, and raised with three brothers and two sisters. After graduating from Geneva High School in 1941, he joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Center for basic instruction. Bill actively served in WWII for five years. He was assigned to a submarine chaser along with sixty other men and at age nineteen he supervised the engine room crew, which was an important responsibility for a young man. The last two years of active duty Bill was a V-12 student at Iowa State College (now Iowa State University). This program was offered to persons slated for Navy commissions. After being separated from active duty he joined the Naval Reserves where he served for another five years. Following the war, he attended Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI), graduating in 1947 with a degree in Industrial Technology.

During college at UNI, Bill noticed an attractive young woman who frequently was out mowing her lawn when he returned home from classes. He managed to meet her and in 1946 Shirley Ross became Mrs. William Raisch.

There were six children born to Shirley and Bill: daughter, Terry, a UNI graduate in Human Services, now living in Grinnell; Bill (William F.), a Drake graduate, Urbandale attorney, with wife, Marsha, active members of Westkirk; Charles, a school administrator in the Colorado; Kevin has a PhD in micro-biology, now living in Birmingham, Alabama; Mark has a degree in Computer Science, now at Florida Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg; Paul has a Biology degree and works and lives in El Paso, Texas. The family includes eighteen Grandchildren and the recent birth of Emma Brown brings the Great-Grandchildren count to five.

After college, Bill taught Industrial Arts at Jefferson, Iowa. Wanting to do his part to make improvements in school systems, he went back to school at Drake University and obtained a Masters degree in school administration. He was principal at Monroe, superintendent of schools at Walker, Waukee, and Prairie City; Director of Instruction at Charles City; Superintendent for 10 years at Manchester; sold text books for six years and was Superintendent at Van Meter for two years, where he suffered a stroke and retired in 1981.

The next five years were difficult with both Bill and Shirley having health issues. They remained in this area during that time and joined the forming Westkirk congregation just before Shirley's death in 1986. Bill is a Charter member of Westkirk Presbyterian Church and served as the chairman of the building committee responsible for planning and overseeing the construction of the beautiful building where we now worship. It was interesting to learn about the construction experience Bill brought to this task due to directing reconstruction of schools which had been destroyed by tornados in two communities where he had served.

When asked if he had any hobbies, Bill said he didn't have time for hobbies. . "Children were my hobby." I'm sure he was referring to his own as well as those under his supervision in the schools he served. Son Bill tells us his father didn't miss his children's sports events—even coming to practices.

We thank you, Bill, for your willingness to allow God to use your leadership abilities and your dedication in serving ten years as an Elder here at Westkirk. We thank God for placing a man of your talents and experience in the right place at the right time.

. . . by Carolyn Chenoweth

Thank You, Choir

What a wonderful evening you provided with the Advent gourmet dinner and concert. How surprised guests were when they entered the Great Hall to find it transformed into a beautiful dining room with soft lamp light and festive candle lit tables. The dinner was exquisite and the music was a wonderful way to begin the Christmas Season.

Our thanks to each member of the choir, their families and a few volunteers who worked make this happen. Choir members helped plan, sell tickets, set tables, prepare food, serve guests and clean up. Guests are already inquiring about next year's event!

The Music Department provided great music each Sunday during Advent and Christmas Eve. Our sincere thanks to **Music Director Larry Kussatz and accompanist Dianne Glanzer**, the choir and soloists. You helped prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

We are fortunate indeed to have such a fine music ministry at Westkirk. It can only be done by a group of very talented and dedicated people. **Our special thanks to each of you!**



Carols and Candles Service

The sanctuary was filled with worshipers for the Christmas Eve service. The children had a special message, the choir sang, and we heard the familiar story of Jesus' birth read from the Bible, along with Pastor Michael's inspiring message.

There also was beautiful instrumental music provided by the **Hoepkers**, regular attendees at Westkirk. Thank you, **Debbie and Randy**, for sharing your talents with us.

After the candlelight service, friends gathered in the Hospitality Room for hot cider and Christmas cookies, hosted by **Scott and Stacy Bland** of the Evangelism and Fellowship Commission.

Choir Notes

After a heavy schedule of special Christmas music, the Westkirk choir is taking a short vacation. But they will return to their regular places on Sunday, January 14. **Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

If you have been considering joining choir, now would be an excellent time for new members to come in or for anyone who has not been able to participate for awhile to return. If you have questions, please speak with **Director of Music Larry Kussatz** or a choir member. Come, you'll enjoy being a part of the important ministry of music.



Tins and Baskets Wanted

If you clean out closets and drawers once the holidays are over and don't know what to do with empty baskets and tins, please notify me. I am in charge of the bake sale section of the annual Fund Raiser for the Agape Center held in November. Containers will be needed to divide up the baked goods that are donated, so I'm starting to collect items that will hold one or two dozen cookies, muffins, fudge, snack mixes, etc. They do not need to be new but should be clean. Keep this need in mind.

... Myra Verros (276-9140)

Especially for Men!

Men, the Children's Ministry needs your old neckties. Do you have some you haven't worn in 25 years? Do you have some you will never wear? Do you have some that you would be glad to part with? Please bring them to the church office by **January 10**. Thank you for your donations.

Divorce Proof your Marriage Classes

Coming in March, **Gail and George De Graaf** will be teaching the main book of Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg, "*Divorce Proof your Marriage*." Some of you have attended the Conference where they alluded to this book in their presentation. At Westkirk, we previously have studied "*The Five Love Needs*" and "*Guard Your Heart*."

Starting **March 21** and running for eight weeks, we will meet on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Church Lounge. If you are interested in attending these classes, please see George & Gail De Graaf.

Happy New Year!

Youth Ministry

We are on a nice little break for Christmas and New Year's, but we will **start meeting again on January 10**. We will continue to study Paul, and we have started a new video series called *Noomba* that is very interesting. It sparked quite a conversation among our group as we learned about forgiveness. We will be looking at a different topic once a month.

We also will be taking our annual tubing trip to **Sleepy Hollow in February**. I will let the youth know the exact date and time as soon as the details are nailed down. It will be on a Wednesday evening, and all youth are encouraged to come and bring their friends. It's always a good time!

Hope everyone had a great Christmas! See you in 2007 – we meet up in the balcony on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m

... Jess Kanis,
Youth Coordinator



Children's Ministry

Happy New Year! Isn't it exciting to know that God has plans for us this year, including our children?! What plans do you have for God? James 4:8 says, *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.* The New Year is a good time to start a new tradition or accept a new challenge. Perhaps that means praying for your children, praying with your children, reading Bible stories to them, having quiet time, memorizing scripture, volunteering for something in the church, reading devotions with your children, or talking about your faith with them. I encourage everyone, because the rewards are out of this world!

W.O.W. will resume on **January 10** with **KNOT**, Know the Old Testament, for children ages 3-4th grade. Along with learning the Old Testament, there will be knot tying and scroll making, too. Why Knot Come and See? The 5th-8th graders will be having a **BLAST** with **Jerry Tuinstra** in discovering what the Bible says about Revelation and the End Times.

In Sunday School the children will learn about the beginning of Jesus' ministry, including Jesus resisting temptation, Jesus' first miracle, and Jesus teaching in the synagogue. Parents can continue teaching and discussing the lesson at home with suggestions from Driving Home the Point, a handout that the children bring home each Sunday. Besides jokes and funny cartoons, the handout has suggested verses to look up each day, a challenge question for parents, a family movie idea, and activities for different age groups.

How about some winter fun at **Twin Lakes Christian Center** in Manson, Iowa? Children in grades 4-6 can attend Snovernite Adventure January 13-14, and those in grades 7-8 can attend Snoblast Challenge February 9-11. This is a great opportunity to play games, meet new friends, listen to a "rockin" worship band, and hear entertaining speakers give biblically-based lessons. More information is available at www.twinlakescc.com/winterfun.htm. Let me know if you are interested, and we'll arrange for transportation.

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



W.O.W. Kids present.....
"Happy Birthday, Jesus"



Westkirk Children's Tone Chime Choir

On Sunday, December 10, the Westkirk Children's Tone Chime Choir made their first appearance. The group under the direction of **Pam Brown** presented:

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

The Shepherd

Communication Organ of
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
2700 Colby Woods Drive - Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: 515/253-0330
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George and Gail De Graaf

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Michael Mudlaff

Myra Verros

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Hap & Juanita Finestead
Dan & Jan Geisler
Chuck Heitbrink
Bob Schmadeke
Genevieve Stogdill
Joan Thompson

Staff of Westkirk

Michael Mudlaff - **Pastor**

Elaine Hurst - **Administrative Assistant**

Karen Admussen - **Director of Children's Ministry**

Doug & Jessemynn Kanis - **Youth Coordinators**

Larry Kussatz - **Director of Music**

Dianne Glanzer - **Accompanist**

Rick & Barbara McCargar - **Custodians**

Fergus Taylor - **Head Usher**

Communion Stewards

Kay Cunitz

Paul & Jeannie Havnen

Ron & Marilyn Long

Wedding Coordinators

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Flower Chairperson

Audrene Hansen

First Ladies

Jan Geisler, Lou Heitbrink

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