

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 2 February 2007

Why Study the End Times Anyway?

The Pastor's Class at Westkirk on Wednesday evenings has begun a tradition, of sorts, in reading a book together after the first of the year. Last year, we read the excellent (and readable) work on Reformed theology, *The Doctrines of Grace*, by Phillip Graham Ryken. How exciting to see several of us 'finally get it' when it comes to some of the more difficult aspects of the beliefs of our Reformed, Presbyterian tradition! This year, we have selected a book by R.C. Sproul that keeps us thinking Reformed, but takes us to where most Christians don't want to go, and want to go, at the same time: eschatology – the study of the last things. The book is entitled, *The Last Days According to Jesus*, and it presents a perspective on end times prophesy that is a Reformed, but minority view in today's doom and gloom theology of the future craze.

I'm not going to give you all the details. I mean, if you are that interested, you'll have to come on Wednesday nights (see note below)! But, today, as we picked our way through the book's introduction, we were hit face to face with one of, if not the most important, reasons we even bother with end times stuff. Many of us have been inclined to ignore the topic all together. The prophesy zealots wear us out with their excitement over the latest person identified as the anti-christ. We can hardly keep up with all the lingo – pre-millennial, amillennial, post-millennial – and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Our eyes glaze over and we become pan-millennial – 'it will all pan out in the end!'

I used to say to those who want to check out of the debate, 'well, if God put it in his Word, then he wants us to know something about it.' As true as that is, even I have to admit, it's not a very satisfying response. In Sproul's introduction, we come face to face with significant reasons why eschatology is important – the authority of Scripture is at stake. In fact, Sproul contends that much of the reason why the inerrancy of the Bible is in debate today, is because over the past 150 or so years, theologians have determined that if Jesus' own predictions of the future were not true, then the Bible is not true. Is it? Much is at stake. At Westkirk Presbyterian Church, we hold firm in our belief that the Bible is God's inerrant Word, and therefore, our final authority in life. If we're right, then among other things, we must discover whether or not Jesus was right or wrong in his prophesies of the future. Eschatology may not be the most important thing, but it is important. And we're having fun checking it out!

Pastor Michael



^{ESV} **Mark 13:30** *Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.*



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
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



- 3 *Alec Sheppard
- 3 *Jeanelle Welsher
- 5 Pat Gorman
- 5 Samona Yentes
- 6 *Anastasia Admussen
- 6 Dottie Phillips
- 7 Donald Dory
- 11 Lou Heitbrink
- 12 *Nathanael Mudlaff
- 13 Vicki Bone
- 13 Alice Romans
- 14 Wally Romans
- 16 Audrene Hansen
- 22 Mike Dake
- 22 *Bryce Sonnichsen
- 28 Gary Robinson

*Youth member

New Addresses . . .

Beth & Chris Mogle

4417 74th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322
cbmogle@msn.com

Katie Ohlsen

210 S. Prairie View Dr. #25
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Phone: 490-2752

Marillyn McCulloch

marillyn@spiderswebdm.com



- 4 Le & Helen Main
- 22 Ron & Darlene Reighard
- 26 Hap & Juanita Finestead

Make Note of this Change!

Westkirk has another change of email address. Please make note of this in your Church Directory so you will have the latest information when you wish to send a message to the church:

westkirk@westkirk.org

Stewardship Report

Here is the final report for 2006. We finished the year with a surplus of over \$34,000.

Our thanks **Ryan Glanzer** for his dedicated service as our Assistant Treasurer and for completing the year-end individual contributions reports.

Year-to-Date:

Receipts	\$366,583.03
Expenditures	<u>\$332,477.95</u>
Surplus	\$ 34,105.08

Thank you for your generous gifts to the ministry at Westkirk.

. . . *Chris Brown, Treasurer*

The Bulletin Board

Steve & Stefanie Randall Welcome Luncheon

Sunday, February 4
Immediately following worship

Westkirk Great Hall

Alpha Course Each Sunday Evening

Starts with Supper at 5:00 p.m.

Westkirk Great Hall

Dorcas Circle Thursday, February 8, 1:00 p.m. Hospitality Room

Program: *The Weight of the World*
Leader: Lou Heitbrink
All Westkirk women are cordially invited.

Sunday Night at the Kirk February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly evening
worship service with
contemporary music



Food Pantry Sunday

Bring your filled bags by
Sunday, February 18

Grocery sacks will be
distributed after worship on
February 4 and 11

Highlanders Luncheon

Wednesday, February 21, 12:00 Noon
Okoboji Grill, 8481 Birchwood Ct., Johnston

Note change of date and new location

Speaker: **Sasha Mudlaff**

*"How our garden grows: reflections on
a family's business and passions"*

Ash Wednesday Service

With Holy Communion
Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.

No supper or Bible classes
Choir rehearsal following service

Bagpipers Luncheon

(Single Seniors)

Tuesday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.

Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano
5990 University Ave., West Des Moines

Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775



Ash Wednesday Service Planned

Westkirk will have an Ash Wednesday worship service at **7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 21**. There will be Holy Communion.

The choir will be present to begin a special series of vocal numbers for the Lenten Season.

Highlanders: Mark Your Calendars

As you know, Highlanders have changed the location for meetings to the **Okoboji Grill, 8481 Birchwood Court, Johnston**.

There is another change, approved by the group at the last gathering. Since the private meeting room is not available on our previous monthly date, Highlanders will now meet at **noon on the third Wednesday of the month (the next luncheon will be held on February 21)**.

Speaker for February will be **Sasha Mudlaff** who always brings an interesting message. **Elly Smith** will bring us news about Stephen Ministry. **Don Lanham** will host the event.

All Westkirk members and friends are welcome. No reservations are required. Hope to see you there!

Dorcas Circle Meets

The second Thursday of the month, **February 8**, Dorcas Circle will meet at **1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room**. All women of the church and friends are encouraged to attend.

A faith lesson called “**The Weight of the World**” will be presented by **Lou Heitbrink**. The lesson will highlight Jesus’ final night in Gethesemane on the slope of the Mount of Olives before He bore the weight of our sins on the cross.



Hostesses for the day **Wiggs Lyman** and **Juanita Finestead** extend a special invitation to all ladies of the church.

Food Pantry Collection February 18

Let us share our bread with the hungry. Isaiah 58:7

Donations to the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry will be collected on **February 18**. Grocery bags will be distributed by the Deacons after worship on February 4 and 11. Please fill your bag(s) with items from the attached list and return it to the church on the 18th.

The Food Pantry is also glad to receive cash donations to purchase specific needed items. Checks payable to *Westkirk* with *Food Pantry* notation may be placed in the offering plate.

Remember that we collect only once each quarter, but the Des Moines Area Religious Council Emergency Food Pantry serves more than 9,200 different families each year!

We are pleased to report that Westkirk donated a total of 2,106 items and \$1,417 in cash during the year 2006. Thank you for your continued support!



... *Dianne Glanzer, Deacon*

Let's Welcome Steve Randall!

As you know, Pastor Michael was pleased to announce last month the hiring by the Session of **Steven Randall** as our new, **Assistant Pastor**. Steve will have a chance to introduce himself in upcoming issues of *The Shepherd*, but we thought we would give you an inside look at why we thought the Holy Spirit led us to Steve!

Steve is a qualified and creative young man. Don't let his youthful looks surprise you; our Pastor Steve will be completing his PhD from the University of Northern Iowa later this year. A seasoned writer and researcher, Steve brings a wealth of youth education and experience to his role here at Westkirk. In addition to being an instructor and research assistant at UNI, Steve also has experience as a youth camp director (among military youth in Korea!), and a program director with the Boys and Girls Clubs. Despite no formal seminary or Bible college training, Steve comes to us from a similar position at another Presbyterian church in central Iowa. He has served as a Youth Pastoral Intern at his home church, Orchard Hill Reformed, in Cedar Falls, and has been trained by the nationally known youth ministry, Young Life.

Steve is married to his college sweetheart, **Stefanie**, whom he met in a rock climbing class while they were both attending UNI. She enjoys crafts, reading, exercising, playing piano, and is learning to knit. Stefanie is a dentist at Primary Health Care, Inc., a nonprofit community health care center primarily serving those less fortunate. She splits her time between the Des Moines and Marshalltown

clinics. Steve and Stefanie have been married for three years and together they enjoy spending time with friends and family, rock climbing, hiking, biking, spending time at the library, and going out for ice cream. They currently reside in Stefanie's hometown of Ames.



Bringing excellent skills, loads of ideas and creativity, a vision for youth and youth ministry, and a great passion for evangelism and small group ministry, Pastor Steve will serve in the dual roles of Christian Education (youth ministry) and Evangelism and Fellowship (Alpha, House Kirks). Those are big shoes for any one person to fill, so please prayerfully consider how the Lord may be calling you to come

along side Steve and serve our youth, be a part of Alpha, and/or our House Kirk ministry. Together, Steve and Stefanie are attending Alpha here at Westkirk and are excited to get to know the youth, as well as the rest of the Westkirk family.

Let's welcome Pastor Steve and Stefanie!

Randall Welcome Luncheon

Plan now to attend a luncheon in honor of **Steve Randall**, our new Assistant Pastor and his wife **Stefanie**. Let's show them a hearty Westkirk welcome following worship service on **February 4** in the Great Hall.



Up and Running

Wow! The work of the Mission Commission is up and running full steam ahead. The Month of January was exciting as we received a new ministry here at Westkirk—**Back2Back Ministries** (like standing back-to-back to provide support for one another), based in Colorado Springs. We are partnering with **Greg and Cathy Huffer**, along with their three boys (Ben, Luke and Mark) as they

have just arrived in Monterey, Mexico working with the four orphanages, plus assisting in staff duties scheduling church groups as they come down to help with the many opportunities there. We are excited for them as they start this new work, so keep them in your prayers.



Heather Murken who is with the **Navigators** at the University of Northern Iowa has become “**Mrs. Brian Hanneman**” and will join her husband as they work together for the **Navigators** in developing the “Nav” Program at the University of Colorado in Boulder. **Pastor Michael** had the privilege of singing at their wedding which was held in Cedar Falls, January 13, 2007. We rejoice with them as they start this new venture in their lives. Pray for this ministry at Boulder.

Gary De Graaf (Greater Europe Mission - France) is now in Tours, France helping with church planting there. He has an apartment now and his address is;

Gary DeGraaf
13, rue François Villon
1er Étage, Appt. 15
37100 TOURS
France

If you know some French, send him a card or letter. If you do not know any French, send him a card anyway, he needs to maintain some English so he can come back to the States. Keep Gary in your prayers as well as those new church plants getting started.

Mission Sunday April 15, 2007

The Mission Commission is already in the process of setting up this program. We will have a special speaker at the morning worship service and will have many representatives here with us. They will be with those ministries that we support, not only financially but also assisting in their day-by-day activities. We are looking forward to presenting this for you. It will provide an opportunity for you to meet these reps and hear what they are doing to deserve your support.

These ministry representatives also look forward to being here as they appreciate meeting you and seeing what the other ministries are doing as well. Keep the Commission in your prayers as well as those representatives who are planning to be here.

The Missions Commission again thanks you for your support and if you have any questions please ask any one of the Commission members:

Rus and Julie Norem, Ryan Glanzer, Marv and Fran Nugteren, Wendy Reed, Jerry and Diane Skinner, Alvin and Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry and Sherie Whitehead, and George and Gail De Graaf.

... George De Graaf, Missions Commission

What Does it Take to Become a Stephen Minister (and what do you receive in return)?

Okay. Admit it. Stephen Ministry has crossed your mind a few times. You might even have picked up a brochure or talked with your pastor about it. But now you want to take a closer look at the idea of becoming a Stephen Minister. You're wondering: is this right for me? Here are some guidelines that might help you in your decision making.

Gifts

A Stephen Minister is a person with the gift of mercy, who shows compassion and gives encouragement to and prays for those he or she cares for. Many Stephen Ministers say that they receive much more from the caring relationship with their care receiver than they give.

Commitment

A Stephen Minister devotes time, energy, and resources to this ministry. In return, a Stephen Minister has the chance to participate in meaningful ministry, make a major difference in another person's life, and grow as a joyous child of God.

Training

A Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. He or she learns about listening, assertiveness, confidentiality, and many other aspects of caregiving. After completing the initial training, there is continuing education. Stephen Ministers find that their relationships become richer and deeper at home, church, work and with friends.

Dedicated Service

A Stephen Minister serves wholeheartedly. This isn't a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study and commitment. In return, the Stephen Minister receives grateful thanks from his or her care receiver, our Stephen Leaders, the congregation, and our Lord.

Accountability

A Stephen Minister is accountable to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, the other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver. In return, he or she receives support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.

Continuous Learning

A Stephen Minister is open to adjusting and adapting his or her caregiving to fit the needs of the care receiver. He or she learns more about caregiving at each meeting with a care receiver and at each supervision session. Stephen Ministry is an experience of continuous learning, growth, and joy.

A new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting soon. The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God's guidance as you consider this opportunity. For more information, contact **Karen Breeding, Rick or Carolyn Eyerly, Pastor Michael or Elly Smith.**



Rick And Carolyn Complete Training

In early January Rick and Carolyn Eyerly completed a week-long training session in the Stevens Ministry. We are blessed to have this couple join the other Westkirk members who will be leading this important ministry.



Presenting . . .

Kirk and Samona Yentes

John and I enjoyed our evening getting to better know Kirk and Mona and found it easy to stray from the basic questions of our interview because of the wide range of knowledgeable subjects and our similar interests.

Kirk is the younger of two sons born to Darrell and Joan Yentes in Holdrege, Nebraska, where Darrell was high school principal and Joan the librarian. Kirk excelled in the sports of football and track, being on the All State Football Team and the State Champion Shot-putter in Track and Field. After high school Kirk attended Kearney State College but transferred to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where he received degrees in Criminal Justice and English. He has worked as a farm hand, for the railroad, carpet layer and salesperson, and now as a representative for carpet manufacturers.

Samona is the youngest of 15 children born to Klaas and Alice Groen of Leota, Minnesota. The Groens were dairy farmers and sent 14 children to Christian School. After graduating from Leota Christian Grade School and SW Minnesota Christian High School, Mona attended Dordt College for one year. Several years later she attended the Des Moines campus of Upper Iowa University and in 1999 received her BS in Marketing.

Kirk and Mona became acquainted through a church function at First Federated Church and, after several years of friendship, acknowledged a special attraction existed between them. As single parents (Kirk was raising two girls, ages 12 and 7, and Mona a nine-year old boy) and desiring to maintain integrity in their relationship with their children, themselves, and their God, they sought counseling, even before dating. What a wise decision! A year later, on January 1, 1997, they were married with the blessing of their young children.

The Yentes are now empty nesters. Their oldest girl, Melissa, is married to Jesse Post and has given them their first grandchild, Taylor Grace. They live in southwest Minnesota, near the community where Mona grew up. Brian Smit lives and works in Ames, Iowa. Molly Yentes is a sophomore at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Currently, Molly is studying in Europe.

Of course, Mona's church background is Christian Reformed. Kirk considers himself "unchurched" in his early years. His mother took him to Sunday school as a young boy but for many years he was not interested in spiritual things. Through the birth of his first daughter he experienced an awakening to interest of the ways of God. He came to faith in Christ in his mid thirties. Through personal and group Bible study he continues to grow in his knowledge and faith in Christ.

Kirk and Mona sent their three children to Des Moines Christian School. Kirk was serving a term on the board at the time the school decided to hire a development director. Listening to the qualifications needed for that position, he realized his wife would be perfect for it and suggested she be considered. Subsequently she was interviewed and hired and Kirk graciously resigned from the board to avoid a potential conflict of interest. This is the position Mona currently enjoys. Prior to working for Des Moines Christian School, she served over a decade as lobbyist, representing the Iowa Association of Christian Schools and Iowa Right to Life Committee.



. . . continued on next page

Kirk and Mona share a passion for Christian Education to disciple children for Christ and to equip them with a biblical worldview. They are convicted from scripture (Deut. 6:4-6, Prov. 9:10, Ps. 53:1, Luke 6:40...) that Christ should be the basis and center of education as He is the Source of Truth and the Foundation of our lives.

Free time for hobbies and interests is hard to find but when he can, Kirk enjoys hunting, fishing and reading. Life itself is of great interest to him. He serves as one of our friendly and helpful ushers. Mona enjoys scrap booking, reading and swimming. Last summer she helped with Bible School. Most Sundays both can be found participating in Van Harden's Sunday School Class.

Their first visit to Westkirk was meant to honor and encourage their friend Michael Mudlaff, but they felt so at home with the simplicity and beauty of the Worship service and the tranquility of the setting that they decided to return. They stayed and became members. The love of Christ and the passion for Christian education that Mona and Kirk have go hand-in-hand with the motto of our Westkirk—*To Know Christ and Make Him Known.*

... by *Carolyn Chenoweth*

Here's Bill!

The January issue carried the biography of **Bill R. Raisch**. The article ran without a photo because Bill took off for a Disney World family reunion before we could get his picture!



New Members Received

We welcomed the Browns to our church family on Sunday, January 14. (They were unable to be in attendance when their class was received in December.) Please introduce yourself the next time you see them at worship or other church functions.

Pearce & Allison Brown
200 Terrace Road
Des Moines, IA 50312
Phone: 282-282

Our Sympathy to . . .

—Pat Ward and the family and friends of her husband **Ted Ward** who died January 13, 2007 in Des Moines. The funeral service was held at Westkirk on January 19 with Pastor Mudlaff officiating. Blessed be the memory of this long-time member of the Westkirk family.



Think Easter Lilies

It is the time of the year to make plans for Easter. The Worship Commission has decided that the sanctuary again will be decorated with trumpet Easter lilies for the Easter morning worship service.

The Altar Guild is arranging for members and friends of Westkirk to be able to purchase the lilies for use at Easter worship. The cost of each Easter lily this year will be \$12.00. The order form will be in the Sunday bulletins in late February.

As in the past, the lilies may be taken home or given to a shut-in following the Easter morning worship service.

If you have any questions, please contact **Audrene Hansen**, 243-1679.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Since the Congregational Annual Meeting was held after press time for the February *Shepherd*, please watch for a report in the March issue, including photos of the new Elders and Deacons who will be installed on February 4.

In the meantime, if you were unable to attend the meeting, copies of the Annual Report are available at the Welcome Center.

BOOK REVIEW

She Calls Me Daddy by Robert Wolgemuth

Soon after your little girl came to live with you, you found yourself wondering if you could take this one back. You turned your girl over, hoping to see “Refundable” or “Return for Deposit” stamped somewhere. No such luck.

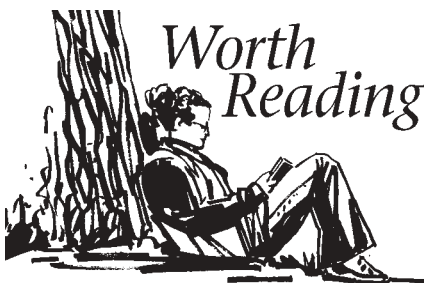
What’s worse, building this girl is a project that’s going to take a long, long time--like 20 years. Building this girl is your job and you’ve got to make it to the end. You are dealing with a person, who has her own agenda, her own mind and will. However, you can create an environment that gives you and her the best shot at success. This book is about low-risk fathering.

Protect and don’t lecture. Be sure and check out the Builder’s Checklist that starts on page 52. Words have unbelievable power. They can restore and renew people. They can lift the heart and heal the spirit. Remember they can also cause pain. Words once spoken can never be unsaid. One of the most important things a dad must do is teach the skills of communication. The only way to teach conversation is to give your undivided attention.

Give your daughter an “awe” for God. Help to develop a daughter’s personal faith and give her a glimpse of what it is to actually be in God’s presence.

Pick it up and benefit from reading and heeding this book. It will give you many smiles, happy tears, and a lot to think about and share with your daughter.

...reviewed by Myra Verros



Thank You Notes . . .

Hi!

Greetings from sunny Florida! Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity to attend the Stephen Ministry Leaders Training. Both Rick and I are so very excited about the information we are receiving & can't wait to share it with others. What an experience this has been—and it's only Tuesday.

Also thank you so much for the beautiful gift basket. We've enjoyed it so much already.

See you Sunday!

*Love,
Rick & Carolyn Eyerly*

Westkirk Pres. Church,

Thank you for your warm reception and for the opportunity to share with you about God's leading in our lives. We are excited to share with you about how God is working in the lives of these children of Monterrey.

*Thanks for your prayers & support.
Greg, Cathy, Ben, Luke & Mark [Huffer]
[Back2Back Ministries]*

Dearest Family of Westkirk,

I think I've died and gone to Heaven! (Except for the pain at times!)

I want to thank everyone for all the kindnesses shown...the food, the plant from the choir, the cards, and most important—all the prayers—which has contributed to my healing and well being. There isn't a better “family” out there than our family at Westkirk and our leader—Michael.

*God's precious love to all
Marilyn McCulloch*

*Life,
like a mirror,
never gives back more than
we put into it.*

DMCS

Des Moines Christian School

The Office of Dr. Bob Stouffer, Superintendent

November 27, 2006

Pastor Michael Mudlaff
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
2700 Colby Woods Drive
Urbandale, Iowa 50322

Dear Michael:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Westkirk for making my time with your congregation so enjoyable on Sunday, November 26th. My positive experience began with Elaine's effervescence and concluded with sincere thanks when I left the service on Sunday morning.

Van Harden's adult Bible fellowship class was outstanding, filled with solid biblical teaching and open discussion by the people in attendance. I walked away with a stronger faith and a better understanding of sin and God's ultimate plan for removal of the curse.

I was welcomed warmly by a number of people – Darrell Aldrich, George and Gail De Graaf, Kirk and Samona Yentes (of course), and others.

Chuck Heitbrink did an excellent job of preparing me for the logistics of the service, and he led worship quite well.

I was grateful to receive an honorarium. You should know that I made a faith promise to God that I would sign over any honoraria checks for my speaking this year to a missionary whom Cheryl and I are supporting. I have signed over the entire amount of the Westkirk honorarium to Luke Hukee, whom God is using mightily with Drake University students. You blessed me, and I passed the blessing on to the work of the Lord.

Again, I was pleased to assist you. I hope you know that I am willing to help you at any time, Michael. You are a blessing to Des Moines Christian School and certainly a blessing to me as well. Keep up your great work at Westkirk Presbyterian!

Your brother in Christ,



Dr. Bob Stouffer, Superintendent
Des Moines Christian School

The mission of Des Moines Christian is to equip the next generation to think, discern, and act through biblically-directed, Christ-centered education.



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND...

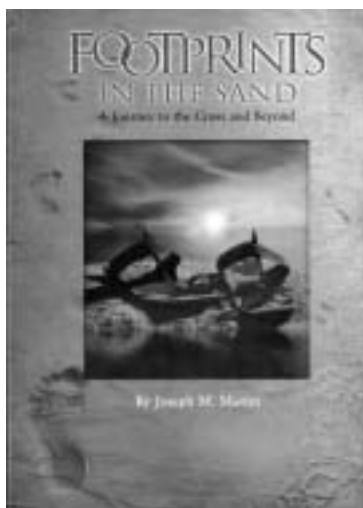
A Journey to the Cross and Beyond

During the seven weeks of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday, the Westkirk Choir will be presenting excerpts from the cantata *Footprints In The Sand* written by Joseph M. Martin. Some of the anthem titles are: *Songs For The Journey, Footprints In The Sand, The Master Has Come, Rise Up! Rejoice!, Lift High Your Songs Of Praise, Come To The Table Of Grace, The Garden Path, Come Walk With Me* and *Pathway Of Hope*.

Experience anew the journey of faith in this dynamic choral cantata. Travel the dusty roads of Galilee, the ancient streets of Jerusalem and trace the path that leads to Calvary.

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Light." With this acclamation, Jesus established for all people the pathway of faith. These sacred words have become our

pillar of light and truth through the wilderness of this world. His footprints in the sands of time are a golden trail that leads us into joy. Yes, Christ is the journey and He is the journey's end. Come let us walk together and we will follow the footsteps that lead to faith and beyond.



Have You Met Our Custodians?

As you know, **Rick and Barbara McCargar** have assumed the responsibilities of custodians at Westkirk. Please introduce yourself when you see them on the church campus.



New Shepherd Staff Member

With this issue, we welcome **Kelli Miller** to *The Shepherd* staff to assist with the regular monthly articles and proofreading. Kelli has written for the newsletter in the past. We look forward to her contribution to future issues.



Articles Due

Just a reminder ---

March issue articles due by February 15.



Children's and Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry Update

January brought us weather extremes, but thankfully God isn't so fickle. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and promises to be with us forever, wherever we are. In the Children's Ministry we've been striving to find out more about this wonderful God of ours in unique ways:

The preschool and kindergarten children each received a devotional called *Jesus Wants All of Me* to encourage them to spend time every day with God.

Will & Anna Admussen and Ashley Norem attended **Snovernite Adventure** at Twin Lakes Christian Center January 13-14. Although there wasn't much snow, it sure was cold! The lake had frozen clear and smooth which made for ideal skating conditions. Besides skating, the children played lots of games and attended four chapel sessions where they worshipped and were challenged to be R.E.A.L. Christians.

In Sunday school the children are learning about the life and teachings of Jesus, and on Wednesday nights they are learning about the Old Testament. Starting with Genesis, the children are making snakes out of donated ties, are learning different types of knots, and are creating scrolls for each of the five types of books found in the Old Testament.

The BLAST group is studying Revelations and the End Times on Wednesday nights with **Jerry Tuinstra**, and on January 26 they had an overnight blast at the church as they played games, watched a movie, then helped out Hope Ministries the next morning.

February 9-11 there is an opportunity for seventh and eighth graders to go to Twin Lakes camp for **SnoBlast Challenge**. The session starts at 7:00 p.m. Friday and goes to 11:30 a.m. Sunday. The cost is \$75 for a weekend of spiritual growth and fun. To register, log on to their website at <http://www.twinlakescc.com/>.

Even though the weather forecast for February remains uncertain, God's love is a sure thing. Don't forget to share it with your children today!

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

Youth Update

The holidays and breaks from school are well behind us, but we have a lot of things to energize us this February! We want to warmly welcome Steve Randall as the assistant pastor. He will be taking over the youth program. He has great experience working with youth and some wonderful ideas for the youth here at Westkirk. Jess and Doug have not moved away, yet, so they will still help out when needed.

We also have our annual tubing night at Sleepy Hollow this month. We will probably go towards the end of the month. When the date is set, Jess or Steve will pass along the details. As always, just remember to dress for the weather and invite your friends.

We will be going through a transition period as Steve settles in, so bear with us and you soon will feel the excitement about the youth program at Westkirk!

... *Jess Kanis*



The Shepherd

Communication Organ of
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
2700 Colby Woods Drive - Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: 515/253-0330
e-mail: westkirk@westkirk.org

Managing Editor - Lou Heitbrink

Contributing Editors

Karen Admussen
Carolyn Chenoweth
George and Gail De Graaf

Jessemynn Kanis
Kelli Miller

Michael Mudlaff
Myra Verros

Production Staff

Hap & Juanita Finestead

Dan & Jan Geisler
Chuck Heitbrink

Bob Schmadeke
Genevieve Stogdill

Joan Thompson

Staff of Westkirk

Michael Mudlaff - **Pastor**
Steven Randall - **Assistant Pastor**
Elaine Hurst - **Administrative Assistant**
Stephen Leaders

Karen Breeding, Carolyn Eyerly, Rick Eyerly,
Pastor Michael Mudlaff, Eleanor Smith
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 & Cynthia Fisher

Paul & Jeannie Havnen

Ron & Marilyn Long

Wedding Coordinators

Carolyn Eyerly, Lou Heitbrink, Irene Reed

Audrene Hansen - **Flower Chairperson**

First Ladies

Jan Geisler, Lou Heitbrink

Fran Nugteren, Joan Thompson



2700 Colby Woods Drive
Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: 515-253-0330
Fax: 515-253-0596

Nonprofit

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DES MOINES IA
PERMIT NO. 5083