

# *Shepherd*

*Volume 22 No. 3 March 2007*

## **I Can't Be a Stephen Minister**

Maybe you haven't said this aloud, but you may have spoken it to yourself in the mirror – or at least thought it. Anytime a new challenge shows up, the 'I can't' phrase is bound to be nearby. You may have heard of Stephen Ministry, realized that you do have the gifts, the commitment, and the desire necessary to be a Stephen Minister, and you may even have sensed God's leading in this direction. But you're still not sure. You may be thinking: 'I'm not qualified,' or 'I wouldn't know what to say,' or 'I have my own problems,' or the best one, 'I don't have time.' Let's explore these real concerns.

First, what qualifications are needed? Well, you need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow and serve. You must be willing and able to maintain confidentiality. You need to make a commitment to training, ministry and supervision. If you meet those qualifications, your Stephen Leaders will equip you with the rest of what you need: training, support, encouragement, care and prayers. They will make sure that you succeed!

Second, the training is thorough and practical. It includes listening, dealing with feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, how to begin and end caring relationships, and how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, and experiencing other life crises. The goal of training is to prepare Stephen Ministers for whatever they might encounter when working with care receivers. Through reading, lecture, questions and answers, and skill practice, you will learn what you need to know to succeed as a Stephen Minister. After being assigned to a care receiver, Stephen Ministers participate in continuing education and Supervision Group sessions. This is where they care for and support one another and sharpen their caregiving skills.

Third, we all have problems, and some of those problems are so big you need to address your own needs and wait until later to be a Stephen Minister. After you have worked through your problems, however, your experience of finding God's help and care in your struggles is some of the best preparation you'll ever receive for caring for others during their tough times. Stephen Ministers aren't problem solvers – they are problem bearers. A Stephen Minister's job is to walk beside another person as that person works through his or her struggles. The Stephen Minister brings stability, prayer, and Christ's love to the care receiver's situation.

Fourth, few of us have more time. As a matter of fact, time is so precious that it only makes sense to use it on activities that make a real difference – in others' lives as well as in your own. When you make the commitment to be a Stephen Minister, you will find the hours you need to devote to it. Stephen Ministry becomes a priority among any activities you're involved in. The time investment is significant, but so is the contribution you will be making to building God's Kingdom. See you on March 8!

***Pastor Michael***



*ESV 1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*



Westkirk  
Presbyterian  
Church

**The Session**

**Moderator** - Michael Mudlaff

*Class of 2007*

Darrell Aldrich  
Bill Raisch  
Gary Robinson  
Jerry Tuinstra

*Class of 2008*

George De Graaf  
Chuck Heitbrink  
Ron Long  
Kevin Riggins

*Class of 2009*

Kevin Heer  
Marv Nugteren  
Barb Springer  
Kirk Yentes

**Clerk of Session** - Robin Riggins

**Treasurer** - Chris Brown

**Assistant Treasurer** - Ryan Glanzer

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Christian Education - Bill Raisch  
Evangelism/Fellowship - Van Harden  
House and Grounds - Ron Long  
Missions - George De Graaf  
Stewardship - Gary Robinson  
Worship - Chuck Heitbrink

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*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

*Class of 2009*

Marilyn Long  
Marilyn McCulloch  
John Schvien  
Sandy Tuinstra



- 1 ..... Erica Scheve
  - 1 ..... Nancy Schmidt
  - 1 ..... John Schvien
  - 2 ..... Rick Reed
  - 3 ..... Loy Brooks
  - 3 ..... Deann Sheppard
  - 3 ..... Erica Wickemeyer
  - 4 ..... Mary Newman
  - 6 ..... Paul MacLafferty
  - 7 ..... Andrew Thompson
  - 9 ..... Ellie Brooks
  - 9 ..... Helen Main
  - 11 ..... Gail De Graaf
  - 13 ..... Le Main
  - 14 ..... \*Carrie Asheland
  - 14 ..... Scott Bland
  - 14 ..... Dave Durlam
  - 14 ..... Wendy Reed
  - 15 ..... Mary Lu Younkin
  - 20 ..... Alex Phillips
  - 21 ..... Lindsay Brown
  - 21 ..... Julie Norem
  - 21 ..... Kevin Olsen
  - 22 ..... Don Korocho
  - 22 ..... \*Zach Kinney
  - 22 ..... Diane Skinner
  - 23 ..... Margaret Kennedy
  - 23 ..... \*Nicholas Miller
  - 25 ..... Kelli Miller
  - 27 ..... Christine Kinney
  - 30 ..... Koryn Johnson
  - 30 ..... Leah Johnson
  - 30 ..... Darlene Reighard
  - 31 ..... \*Laura Leonard
- \*Youth member

**Reminder!**

Daylight saving time begins  
**Sunday, March 11.**  
It starts early this year!



- 4 ..... Steven & Linda McMullen
- 7 ..... Charlie & Mary Millis
- 10 ..... Rick & Wendy Reed
- 21 ..... Jack & Marj Wildrick
- 24 ..... Barry & Sharon Johnson
- 25 . Bob Swenson/Suzette Carter
- 27 ..... Steven & Lynda Brown
- 30 ..... Bruce & Golda Beals

**Stewardship Report**

The first month of 2007 was off to a cold and snowy start. Attendance averaged 164 per Sunday as compared to the last quarter average of just over 210.

**Year-to-Date:**

Receipts	\$23,459.75
Expenditures	<u>\$26,075.37</u>
Difference	(\$ 2,615.62)

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

... *Chris Brown, Treasurer*

**Condolences**

Our deepest sympathy to **Betty Reedquist** and the family and friends of **Howard R. Reedquist** who died February 18, 2007 in Des Moines. The funeral service was held at Westkirk on February 22 with Pastor Mudlaff officiating.

Howard truly will be missed by his Westkirk Family.

# The Bulletin Board

## Ushers/Sound Technicians Appreciation Breakfast

Saturday, March 3, 8:00 a.m.  
Westkirk Great Hall

*See article on next page for details*

## Dorcas Circle

Thursday, March 8, 1:00 p.m.  
Hospitality Room

Program: *Roll Away the Stone*  
Leader: Mary Lu Younkin  
*All women of the church are cordially invited*

**Stephen Ministry  
Informational Meeting**  
Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Hospitality Room

*Please see article in the issue  
for complete information*

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

Monthly evening  
worship service with  
contemporary music



**Highlanders Luncheon**  
Wednesday, March 21, 12:00 Noon  
Okoboji Grill  
8481 Birchwood Ct., Johnston

Speaker: **Steve Randall**  
Assistant Pastor, Westkirk

**New Member Class**  
Begins  
Sunday, March 25, 9:00 a.m.  
Church Narthex

Register for this class in the  
Hospitality Room

**Bagpipers Luncheon**  
(Single Seniors)  
Tuesday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.  
Sam & Gabe's Italian Bistro  
8611 Hickman Rd., Urbandale

*Reservations: Sally Harrison, 276-0775*

## Coming in April

- 1 Palm Sunday Service
- 5 Maundy Thursday Service
- 6 Good Friday Service
- 8 Easter Sunday Service & Breakfast
- 15 Mission Sunday



## Appreciation Breakfast for Ushers and Sound Technicians

There will be a breakfast on **Saturday, March 3 at 8:00 a.m.** to show our appreciation of those who faithfully volunteer as ushers and sound technicians. They are an important part of a smooth running worship service. Our sincere thanks to each of you for your commitment.

**Would you like to become a part of one of these teams?** Now is the time to volunteer. And, you are invited to breakfast to get acquainted with those who already are serving. If you would like more information, please contact **Chuck Heitbrink**, Worship Commission Chair, (276-2213).

## Highlanders Meet Third Wednesday

Highlanders will gather for noon lunch on **Wednesday, March 21** (the third Wednesday of the month) at **Okoboji Grill, 8481 Birchwood Ct., Johnston.**

The group is eager to welcome the guest speaker for the day—**Steve Randall, the new Assistant Pastor at Westkirk.** This will be a great opportunity to get to know Pastor Steve better and to show him a warm Highlanders welcome.

Remember, all Westkirk members and friends are invited to the monthly luncheons of Highlanders. Meetings are held in the private dining room at the Okoboji Grill. No reservations are required. Hope to see you there!

## Annual Meeting Review

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Westkirk was convened on Sunday, January 28 following a delicious potluck supper. About 70 active members attended.

Pastor Mudlaff, moderating the meeting, opened with prayer, declared a quorum and appointed Robin Riggins Clerk of the meeting. The minutes of the 2006 meeting and the report of the clerk were approved as presented.

The Nominating Committee presented the following individuals for the positions indicated and all were elected:

### Ruling Elders

*Class of 2009*

Kevin Heer  
Marv Nugteren  
Barb Springer  
Kirk Yentes

*Class of 2008*

Kevin Riggins

### Deacons

*Class of 2009*

Marilyn Long  
Marillyn McCulloch  
John Schwien  
Sandy Tuinstra

Members-at-Large elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2007 were **Kay Cunitz, Barb Robinson, and Rick Eyerly.** The rest of the committee will be made up of two Elders and one Deacon. Ruling Elder **Jerry Tuinstra** will serve as 2007 chairman.

Reports of the Commissions of the Session, the Board of Deacons and the Treasurer were accepted as presented, followed by the adoption of the 2007 budget.

Gratitude was expressed to the many people who faithfully perform duties that keep Westkirk running smoothly and looking beautiful to glorify God. Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.

## New Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting Set for March 8

Caring ministry at Westkirk Presbyterian Church will be expanding soon, as Stephen Minister training is about to begin! An informational meeting for all members and attendees interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, March 8** in the Hospitality Room. Applications will be available at that time. Once application is made, an interview will be scheduled and those selected to become Stephen Ministers will be trained and then commissioned for service providing one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

“Stephen Ministry training combines sound theological principles with current thoughts in psychology,” says Pastor Michael, who, along with Karen Breeding, Carolyn and Rick Eyerly, and Elly Smith, will teach the class. “The training is comprehensive. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth-producing and enjoyable experience.”

The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into twenty 2½-hour sessions that will be held on Tuesday evenings. Among the training topics are:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Confidentiality
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
- Caring for People before, during, and after Hospitalization



“Our trainees are really in for a neat experience,” says Pastor Michael. “They will learn a lot about caregiving, but they will also experience their own personal and spiritual growth. For some, the community that will form between the Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders will be what they enjoy most.”

Have you prayerfully considered becoming a Stephen Minister? More than a quarter-million people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 7,000 churches worldwide since the ministry began in 1975. “We’re definitely something big,” says Carolyn Eyerly. “The impact of Stephen Ministry on our congregation will be tremendous. People whose needs might otherwise slip through the cracks will come face to face with Jesus’ love through their Stephen Minister. Our first class will help our church touch that many more lives with the Gospel.”

Please pray about your role in our Stephen Ministry, and lift up the new training class over the coming months. Watch for updates in upcoming editions of *The Shepherd!*

### Annual Meeting Update

Here are the amendments and the additions made to be included in the 2006 Annual Report

#### Amendments:

#6 – add “Melinda and Lee Turnbull, Nancy Schmidt for serving children’s ministry on Wednesday nights.”

#15 – add “People who run the sound board: Brad Haley, Tom Duff, Greg Schmidt, Chris Brown.”

#17 – Gail and George De Graaf should be substituted for Linda and Darrell Aldrich

Replace Carolyn Chenoweth for Roberta Draper (who retired)

#### Additional resolutions:

- Chuck Heitbrink for his dedication and service to so many ministries at Westkirk.

- Kevin Riggins for leading the Genesis class.

## Marriage Mentoring Ministry Begins at Westkirk

Westkirk is now offering marriage mentoring through seasoned Westkirk couples trained by Dr. Mike Hartwig of the Iowa Healthy Marriage Initiative and the Iowa Family Policy Center. Mentoring services are available for couples experiencing marital conflict and who are in need of some assistance. Pastor Michael is also utilizing our trained mentor couples in conjunction with his premarital counseling.

The Iowa Healthy Marriage Initiative is a federally funded program (US Dept. of Health and Human Services) offered through the Iowa Family Policy Center. Westkirk's **Cindy Welsher** works for the Iowa Family Policy Center and is coordinating the program with Westkirk. **Bill and Marsha Raisch** are leading this effort, and **Gail and George De Graaf, Sandy and Jerry Tunistra and Kirk and Mona Yentes** are also trained and serving as mentoring couples.

In a nutshell, mentoring provides a vehicle for marriage preparation for premarital couples, and facilitates open couple communication, understanding and problem-solving (or processing) for married couples. The FOCCUS inventory is utilized to help pinpoint any potential or actual problem areas for couples. And then, through the mentoring relationship, couples develop a process for handling any actual problems, potential problems, or problems which might show up in the future! As marriages change over time, problems occur.

God has planned for couples to marry and to stay together for a lifetime by fulfilling their marriage vows to one another (1 Corinthians 7). Marriage mentoring helps couples prepare for marriage and once married stay together in Christian love and devotion. If you are preparing to marry or are in need of marriage assistance and would like to meet with a mentoring couple, please contact Pastor Michael or Elaine through the Church Office (tel. 253-0330) and they will put you in touch with a mentor couple. You will have 4 to 8 once-a-week meetings with a mentor couple.

Please feel free to contact **Pastor Michael or Bill or Marsha Raisch** (tel. 270-6846) if you have any questions about this program. Bill and Marsha Raisch are the lead Westkirk mentor couple. Mentoring should be arranged by contacting Pastor Mudlaff or Ms. Elaine Hurst in the Church Office.

## Deacons Say Thanks!

Again your generous hearts are shown through your gifts to the Food Pantry. For the February 18 collections, 405 non-perishable items plus \$725 cash donations were received. Sincere thanks from the Food Pantry Committee of the Deacons.

As you may have noticed, our monetary gifts have been increasing in the past few collection periods. The DMARC Emergency Food Pantry welcomes the cash gifts. It allows them to purchase needed items in large quantities at discounted prices. So don't feel you have to make a special trip to the grocery store next quarter if it would be more convenient to make a check for the food pantry instead. All gifts are gratefully accepted to help hurting families in our area.

## Marriage Class from American Family Coaches

Starting in June after the regular WOW program ends, **Gail and George De Graaf** will be teaching the third of a series on marriage from Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg entitled "**Divorce Proof Your Marriage.**" This will run for eight weeks and end with the Marriage Covenant Sunday. More details in future *Shepherds*. If interested, see Gail and George De Graaf.

**[www.westkirk.org](http://www.westkirk.org)**

Have you checked out the Westkirk Web site? Please take time to visit and see all the information and links that are available. This site will be updated with the latest information and schedule changes.

## New Arrival!

Congratulations to **Aaron and Jodie Pieper** on the birth of their daughter, **Maya Sue** who was born January 24. Maya has an older sister, Ali.

## Thank You Notes . . .

Dear Westkirk

*The Phipps family wants to thank you for the flowers and all your cards & notes during this time. We are grateful for all of you.*

*Janet Phipps*

*Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.*

*The Family of  
Theodore S. Ward*

*Thank you so very much for the lovely luncheon and all your thoughtfulness.*

*Pat [Ward]*

Dear Westkirk –

*Thank you for all your prayers, support and visits. It has meant so much to us.*

*You are all wonderful people who give from your hearts in so many thoughtful ways.*

*Your willingness to share, help out and be there for us is greatly appreciated.*

*Many Thanks  
The Phipps Family  
Doug, Casey & Alex*

## Change of Address

Please make note of this new address:

**John & Debbie Frondle**  
4030 Cornell  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
Phone: 276-9340

## Presenting . . .

### **Kevin & Rachel Heer**



It's great to have the Heer family at Westkirk! They came at the recommendation of their former pastor in Saylorville and have made this their church home.

While Kevin and Rachel were just received as new members in March 2006, daughter Madeline was in the confirmation class of May 2006 and daughter Meredith has served as acolyte. Rachel was involved in Vacation Bible School last summer. The Heers hosted a 40 Days of Community small group last fall. Rachel also teaches a preschool Sunday school class and helps in the nursery. Kevin is one of our newest Elders, elected at the annual meeting in January.

Kevin moved around a lot while growing up. Rachel was born and raised in Texas. It was there that their paths crossed. They became sweethearts as juniors in high school. Kevin graduated from the Air Force Academy and is now a pilot for the Air National Guard. His hobbies include running, biking and tennis. He and Rachel have also been on the board of K-Life.

Rachel graduated from Baylor with a degree in fashion merchandising. She enjoys tennis and volunteers at Des Moines Christian School where their girls attend—Madeline in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Meredith in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Madeline plays tennis, while Meredith takes gymnastics at Chow's.

It is exciting to see a family become so involved so quickly. We look forward to getting to know them better and seeing the roles they will play in Westkirk's future.

*. . . by Kelli Miller*

## Considering Westkirk Membership?

If so, the next New Members Class begins **Sunday, March 25 at 9:00 a.m.** You need not have already decided to join the church in order to attend the class. This is an informational class that is also the first pre-requisite for membership. Those who wish to attend may sign up for the group in the Hospitality Room.

## Mission Commission News.

### *IMPACT . . .*

You never know when and where or by whom something will make an impact on your life and then all of a sudden, it happens. We had **Greg and Cathy Huffer of Back2Back Ministries** here to share their desire to go to Mexico and help with the orphanages down there. You could tell that the children in those orphanages made an impact on Cathy's life while she was giving her experience with them, enough for her to consider moving there. Some of you may have felt the same way after hearing them share their testimony and desire to go to Mexico. **Wendy Reed** of our missions group said that indeed she was moved by their visit and she will be maintaining contact with them via e-mail etc. and will consider a trip down to see their work after they have settled in a while.

Last Sunday **Alec Sheppard** (son of Hugh and Deanna) asked me if the Mission Commission could help him as he wanted to collect warm clothes for the homeless children in Des Moines. Talk about having an impact on someone!!!! I asked him what prompted his request, and he said he and his dad were out driving and Hugh said that there were children sleeping out under viaducts of the expressways at night. He wondered if they had warm clothes and if not, could he help provide some.. Whew--needless to say Alec made an impact on me. Having had some experience with being an orphan, I was extremely grateful that Alec felt a concern for them. As James says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." The Mission Commission is checking with Hope Ministries, Freedom for Youth, and others to see where the need is.

### **Hope Ministries**

**Julie Norem** is asking for trial size lotions, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, for the Hope Ministries "We Care Kits." They will collect these during March and April. There will be a container on a table by the Mission Board in the Narthex. Any of you who travel for work or pleasure, I am sure have seen these available for your use. They evidently have great use in the shelters.

### **Mission Sunday (April 15, 2007)**

It's exciting . . . we are receiving acknowledgements of this event from our Mission representatives as they are looking forward to being here to share with you about their individual ministries. We have **Robert Nordstrum of Overseas Missionary Fellowship**, who will be the speaker at the Morning Worship service, **Jessica Duff of Wycliffe Translators**, **Dave Eggert of Campus Crusade at ISU**, **Mark Nelson of Freedom for Youth**, **Mark MacDougal of Ruth Harbor**, **James Shelley of Teen Challenge**, **Marlin Docter of ICM**, **Dave Burrier of Hope Ministries**, and **Peter and Ana Lucaciu of Romanian Evangelical Medical Missions**.

We are thankful for the service that **Marv and Fran Nughteren** have given over the past year . They will now serve in the offices of Elder and Deacon respectively. We rejoice that **Somer Gillett** has joined us again after she has served as a Deacon for the past year.

The Mission Commission again thanks you for your support and if you have any questions please ask any one of the Commission members: George & Gail De Graaf, Somer Gillett, Ryan Glanzer, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

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

## Men's Morning Bible Study

*They are new every morning . . .* Have you been faithful studying the Word every morning? Are you interested in studying and sharing the Word with other men in the morning?

Then, you will want to get in contact with **Chad Carlson**. Chad is interested in starting a Men's Morning Bible Study. 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](mailto:ccarlson@stadiasportsmedicine.com).

*. . . great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:3.*

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Evidence Not Seen** by Darlene Deibler Rose

Experience this woman's miraculous faith in a Japanese prison during WWII. Darlene endured four years of forced labor and cruel deprivation at the hands of the Japanese Army. Her husband, Russell, became the first missionary to set foot in Kapaukaland to open the interior of Dutch New Guinea.

Russell and Darlene were sent to separate prison camps—never to see each other again. During her confinement at the notorious women's prison, she was the spokesperson for the largest barracks under a ruthless camp commander.

This woman was committed to faith and deep obedience no matter the situation. Seventeen days after the truce had been signed, her emaciated eighty-pound frame stepped into a rowboat and on to a flying boat to freedom back in America.

This is a story of a totally dedicated life, the excitement of adventure, and the satisfaction of accomplishment.

*. . . reviewed by Myra Verros*

## New Members

Introducing members welcomed into our church family on January 14:



### **Pearce & Allison Brown**

200 Terrace Road  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
Phone: 282-2826

## Steve Randall Reception

Westkirk members welcomed **Assistant Pastor Steve Randall** and his wife **Stefanie** at a luncheon following worship February 4. We are so pleased to have them be a part of the Westkirk family and excited to learn more about new ideas they will bring to us.



## News from Pastor Steve . . .

Dear Friends & Partners in Ministry,

As many of you know by now, one of my roles here at Westkirk is to direct and lead the high school student ministry. Over the past few weeks I have been beginning the process of getting to know the high school students who attend Westkirk. As an “ice-breaker,” we all took a trip to the new outdoor ice skating rink in downtown Des Moines. We had a great time skating and learning a little about each other. This may seem like a small thing, but I’ve learned over the years that a healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships and so we’ve started building the foundation of what we pray will become a vibrant and effective ministry to the youth at Westkirk and throughout the Des Moines area.

The youth have also been attending **New Life** on Wednesday evenings. New Life, named with 2 Corinthians 5:17 in mind, is a program I began before coming on staff at Westkirk and currently serves 20 to 25 youth every week. We meet at the Simpson Barn in Johnston and typically have a time of fun and fellowship, followed by a message about the gospel presented in a way that is relevant to youth.

I would like to ask each of you to join us in ministering to the youth at Westkirk. There are a number of ways that you can be involved and I would like to take a little time to let you know how you can help build a vibrant ministry to students here at Westkirk. First, I’d like to ask you to pray for our group. A number of the students who attend New Life are from unchurched families. Please pray that these youth and their families find their way into a Bible teaching church. Our hope is that they’ll consider joining our family at Westkirk, but if that’s not God’s will, please pray that these young people find a church that knows Christ and will make Him known to each of them. In addition, please pray that the youth who currently attend Westkirk would feel welcome at New Life and that they would begin to build friendships with the other students who attend the Wednesday night program. Also, please pray that all of the students would continue to grow in their faith and that they would seek answers to their questions about what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Another way you can get involved is by considering joining the student ministry team. We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Christ and a desire to care for students. As I mentioned, a healthy youth ministry is built on healthy relationships—between adult staff and students. It’s in relationship with Christian adults that students begin to understand God’s love and experience it in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in a student’s life. During the next few weeks I will be working to establish a student ministry team of adults to partner with me in ministry to our youth. Please prayerfully consider joining the student ministry team and making an eternal investment in the lives of our youth.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank each of you for helping Stefanie and I feel so welcomed at Westkirk. We have enjoyed getting to know all of you and have appreciated all of your efforts to make us feel a part of the Westkirk family. Stefanie and I look forward to getting to know all of you better in the coming weeks and months. Thank you!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

# Youth and Children's Ministry

## What Students Need

The most effective way to impact students is through significant relationships with caring adults in their lives. One of the common roadblocks for adults getting started in youth ministry is they have misconceptions about what it takes to be a youth worker.

### Common misconceptions are:

- You must be young
- You must have extensive Bible training
- You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- You must be a captivating communicator
- You must feel secure
- You must be able to act like one of the students
- You must have plenty of free time
- You must know everything about the latest youth culture
- You must be wild, crazy, and dynamic
- You must be liked by all students
- You must own a 15-passenger van

### Here's the truth about what students need:

Students need adults who will. . .

- love God and live for Him
- be interested in their life
- take initiative to spend time with them
- pray for them
- be real
- say encouraging words
- believe in them
- laugh and have a good time
- remember their name and care for them
- share God's love through personal experience
- be consistent in their attendance
- be patient

If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved in student ministry at Westkirk, please contact **Pastor Steve** by phone at **515-253-0330** or by e-mail at **stevenrandall@westkirk.org**.

## Children's Ministry Update

Fifth through eighth graders are invited to come have a **BLAST** at the Admussen home on **Friday, March 9**. The festivities will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. There will be popcorn, ping pong and a movie. Friends are welcome, too.

It's no joke. On **April 1, Palm Sunday**, the children will wave palm branches and sing a joyous song during the worship service. We encourage all children to participate. The children will be learning the music in Kid's Own Worship this month, so it's important for them to come each week. On Palm Sunday, the children will meet in the Narthex at 10:00 a.m. to rehearse.

For Holy week, Westkirk has a special worship activity for the whole family called **Walking in His Footsteps**. In the Hospitality Room, a multimedia journey will take your family through 12 interactive stations that follow Jesus' last seven days. The walk is intended to bring each person closer to Jesus, step by step. Walking in his Footsteps will be set up **Wednesday, April 4 through Easter Sunday, April 8** for all to experience Jesus' sacrifice and victory in a new and personal way.

Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School: Monday, June 25-Friday, June 29**. There's room for everyone's God-given talents. We'll need volunteers for music, drama, decorating, teaching, snacks, games, registration, crafts, photography, and sound to help us and others Know Christ and Make Him Known! Next month find out what adventure we'll be having this summer and look for sign-up sheets.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

*The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up--Mark Twain*

## ***The Shepherd***

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Bob Schmadeke  
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## ***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 & Jessemyn 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



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