

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 6 June 2007

Big Summer at Westkirk

Now that Mother's Day has come, we know that planting is safe and warm weather is here for the summer. Ah! Time for relaxing, summer vacations, fun in the sun, and family time. Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day – I can hardly wait! Even so, we still have a big summer planned here at Westkirk Prebyterian Church. While you are finalizing your calendars, we are getting excited for all the activities that will help us *Know Christ and Make Him Known* in ourselves and in our community.

- The Evangelism/Fellowship Commission is planning a series of movie nights for June, July, August and September. What a great time of fellowship, but even more importantly, a unique opportunity to invite our friends to Westkirk.
- This month, the Nehemiah 3 Committee of the House and Grounds Commission will be hosting a series of informational meetings to present the final plans of our Growth Initiative Projects – the build out, the expanded parking lot, and the remodeling of the mezzanine for seating. It's finally going to happen! The official congregational meeting for approval will be on July 1.
- But before then, Christian Ed will be hosting our great annual event for the entire church family – VBS! Please plan to come and be a part – even if you can only volunteer for one evening. You will love it and have a great time! And while you are thinking about it, bring one of the neighbor kids along!
- Several of our children are excited for another summer camp experience at Twin Lakes Christian Camp up near Manson, Iowa in July.
- With one more commitment, Pastor Steve is hoping to lead a Westkirk contingent of youth to New York City for a week of service, worship and of course, fun, with youth from all over the state of Iowa.
- Our marriage champions, George and Gail De Graaf will be hosting another Bible study focused on marriage and relationships.
- The Missions Commission has plenty of opportunities for your family or your HouseKirk to serve others in our community during the summer months.
- And then, by Labor Day, plans will be in full swing for our Fall Alpha Course. If you have not experienced Alpha, plan to attend this wonderful time of learning and fellowship. If you have, pray now about who God would have you invite to come. Our goal is to have 20 participants this fall.

So if you thought that the end of the Wednesday Evening church for the summer meant a summer hiatus for ministry at Westkirk, think again. How will you be involved?

Pastor Michael



ESV Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."



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

Commission ChairPersons

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

Board of Deacons

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
Marillyn McCulloch
John Schvien
Sandy Tuinstra



- 2 John Kirkeby
- 2 *Ryan Hansen
- 3 *Ava Carlson
- 3 *Ian Carlson
- 3 Bill Raisch
- 4 George DeGraaf
- 4 Shirley MacLafferty
- 4 Genevieve Stogdill
- 5 Joyce Gibbons
- 6 Linda McMullen
- 6 Susan Smith
- 7 *Luke Kinney
- 7 *Lindsey Vis
- 10 *Bradley Sonnichsen
- 11 Don Lanham
- 11 Lynn Etter
- 11 Jerry Skinner
- 12 *Lindsey Turnbull
- 15 Mary Jean Petty
- 16 Martha Jane Petty
- 16 Heather Schultz
- 18 Katie Ohlsen
- 18 Rod Welsher
- 19 Brad Miller
- 21 Nancy Thompson
- 22 Donna Willcox
- 23 Harold Cook
- 24 Nyleve Taylor
- 28 Joyce Durlam
- 28 Bob Schmadke
- 29 Lydia Webber
- 30.....Barb Springer
- 30 Brian Dixon

*Youth Member

Deacons Say Thanks

The Board of Deacons extends a hearty thank you for your great support of the May food pantry collection. The 225 grocery items and the \$630 cash donations will provide much needed help for many families in our area.



- 1 Dan & Jan Geisler
- 1 Bernie & Becky Kobernick
- 1 Marvin & Francis Nugteren
- 1 Bill & Wanita Oswalt
- 7.....Ron & Marilyn Long
- 8 Brad Barron & Caron Moore
- 8.....Jeff & Peggy Brady
- 9.....Pat & Mirium Alshouse
- 9.....Norma & Jake Chapman
- 10 Michael & Sasha Mudlaff
- 16 Wally & Alice Romans
- 16 Doug & Jess Kanis
- 16 Aaron & Jodi Pieper
- 17 Bill & Evva Dawdy
- 17 Tom & Joyce Gibbons
- 24 Mark & Erica Scheve
- 25 Stan & Nancy Thompson
- 26 Tom & Benae Duff
- 27 Tom & Janelle Leahy
- 27 Kirk & Heather Sonnichsen
- 28..... Rowdy & Rebecca Smith

Condolences . . .

Our sincere sympathy to Larry Kussatz and the family and friends of Larry's brother, Kent Kussatz, who died on May 5 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The memorial service was held May 8 in Lincoln.

We extend our sympathy to Mary Ann Doran and the family and friends of her cousin, Peggy Ann Shearer, long time member of Westkirk. Peggy died May 7 in Grinnell, Iowa. Graveside service and interment was at Montezuma, Iowa on May 10. A memorial service was held on May 17 at Westkirk

The Bulletin Board

Ladies Luncheon
Saturday, June 2, 11:30 a.m.

Reservations: Nyleve Taylor, 314-3252

**Teacher Appreciation
Breakfast**

Sunday, June 3, 8:15 a.m.



**Sunday Night
at the Kirk**
June 10, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly evening
worship service with
contemporary music

Summer Drive-In Movie
Friday, June 15, 8:30 p.m.
Westkirk Campus Lawn

A Night at the Museum (PG)
Bring lawn chairs & portable radio

**Growth Project
Informational Meetings**

Tuesday, June 12, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 17, 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.
(Refreshments will be provided)

Sunday, July 1
Luncheon immediately after worship
Official Congregational Meeting
to approve plans and financing
follows the luncheon

Refer to article in this issue

Sunday, June 17

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Father's Day
Guest Pastor: Warren Hunsberger

Return Baby Bottles
Fundraiser for **Ruth Harbor**

Summer Choir
Rehearsal following worship

Sunday, June 24
Summer Choir sings at Worship

See articles in this issue



Sunday Night at the Kirk to Resume in June

After a one month hiatus, Sunday Night at the Kirk resumes on **June, 10**. Join Pastor Michael and our guest worship leader, David Bush, for a warm evening of worship and teaching as we open our new Sunday Night at the Kirk sermon series, "The Apostle's Creed." If you are willing to consider being a part of Sunday Night at the Kirk, please contact Pastor Michael at the church office.



Westkirk Summer "Drive-In" Movie Series

Join us this summer at Westkirk for our first "drive-in" movie series. We'll be showing one movie each month, June through September, out on the church lawn for a night of fellowship and fun. This is the perfect opportunity to introduce someone new to our Westkirk family.

Bring your lawn chairs and a small portable radio and we'll provide the movie, popcorn, soda and more. Child care will be provided.

*Rain dates are scheduled for the following evening.

Date	Movie	Showtime
6/15	A Night at the Museum (PG)	8:30 p.m.
7/20	The Sandlot (PG)	8:30 p.m.
8/17	The Three Amigos (PG)	8:30 p.m.
9/14	Facing the Giants (PG)	8:30 p.m.

Fill Those Baby Bottles!

At the end of worship on May 13, our children distributed baby bottles. We were asked to take them home and fill them with our "loose change." This project will benefit **Ruth Harbor**, a local ministry for women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy and are in need of a home.

Your donations will help this ministry continue to reach out to young mothers and their babies. Please **return** your filled baby bottles to the church on **Father's Day, June 17**.



Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

On **Sunday, June 3 at 8:15 a.m.** there will be a breakfast for all Christian Education volunteers. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort these people have put forth this past year to teach adults, youth, and children. The following people will be recognized:

Adult Education: Van Harden, Kevin Riggins, Michael Mudlaff

Youth Ministry: Doug & Jess Kanis, Steve & Stefanie Randall, Bill Raisch

Nursery: Stephanie Dickinson, Heather May, Rachel Heer, Peggy Brady, Julie Norem, Sherie Whitehead, Pam Brown

3s/4s/PreK/Kindergarten: Elaine Hurst, Rachel Heer, Somer Gillett

First & Second Grade: Chris & Pam Brown

Third & Fourth Grade: Darrell & Linda Aldrich, Eric Wickemeyer, John Schwein

BLAST: Mary Millis, Karen Admussen, Steve & Stefanie Randall, Sasha Mudlaff, Amanda Carlson

Snacks: Barb Springer

WOW: Jerry & Sandy Tuinstra, Nancy Schmidt, Fran Nugteren, Lee & Melinda Turnbull, Rachel Heer

Kid's Own Worship: Sasha Mudlaff, Karen Admussen

Ladies Luncheon

There is still time to register for the spring luncheon on **Saturday, June 2 at 11:30 a.m.** This is always a special time of fellowship and good food. Be sure to come. Please contact **Nyleve Taylor (314-3252)** for reservations

A Day to Honor Fathers

Sunday, June 17 is the day set aside to honor fathers and other significant men who have influenced our lives. Plan to attend church with your special man (or men) to show them we thank God for their love, guidance and sacrifices. And for those men who are unable to attend or who have gone on to their heavenly home, we all wish to express our love and thanks.

Guest pastor for the day will be **Warren Hunsberger** of Teen Challenge of the Midlands. A popular guest at Westkirk, it is always an inspirational treat to have Pastor Hunsberger and his family with us. Pastor Michael will be on vacation at that time.

Stewardship Report

Here is the financial report for first four months of 2007. Currently our expenses are exceeding our receipts. In our plans for the current year we expected and planned for a temporary shortfall.

This month Westkirk began a new tradition, a special Communion Offering. This monthly offering would be directed to special needs identified and communicated to the congregation in advance. The Deacon Fund was designated this month and the offering exceeded \$1375.00.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at Westkirk.

Year to Date:	
Receipts	\$111,596.90
Expenditures	<u>\$128,977.10</u>
Shortfall	\$ 17,380.20
	... <i>Chris Brown, Treasurer</i>

Growth Project

Informational Meetings Announced

After several months of preparation, the Nehemiah 3 Committee of the House and Grounds Commission is pleased to announce the dates of three informational meetings set to provide our congregation with an opportunity to learn and interact more closely with the plans for our Growth Initiative Projects: the building addition, the expanded parking lot, and the remodeling of the mezzanine for additional sanctuary seating. Please plan to come and learn about the projects up close and ask questions of our staff team and the Session. Drawings, computerized images, costs and financing plans will all be available in advance of our official congregational meeting. Informational meetings will be held in the Hospitality Room on:

- Tuesday, June 12 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and
- Sunday, June 17 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided. Then, our congregation will enjoy a luncheon prior to the **official congregational meeting to approve the plans and financing on Sunday, July 1**, immediately following the morning worship service.

You Are Invited to a Piano Recital

Elaine Erickson will give an informal piano recital in the sanctuary at Westkirk on Sunday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m. The program will feature some of Elaine's compositions.

The public is invited to this free recital. Please come and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

Festival of Music Was Outstanding

A powerful worship service was presented by the Westkirk Choir on May 20. Scripture readings by choir member Elders introduced each musical number which followed. It was a deeply moving worship experience.

Our sincere thanks to Director of Music Larry Kussatz, the faithful choir members, accompanist Dianne Glanzer and guest instrumentalists for a very special event. How fortunate we are to have such a strong music ministry at Westkirk.



Thoughts to Ponder . . .

Too young to be heard, too small to be seen,
They have few defenders, or so it would seem.
But won't God demand we respond to their blood
Crying up from the ground? Turn with a flood
Of repentance and sorrow from burning our babes
In the flames of the altars of Choice's charades!

The gods of today are Convenience and Pleasure,
Though virtues when small, they've grown beyond
measure.
First they claimed liberty—turning blacks into slaves;
Now they've killed life—turning wombs into graves.
Pursuit of happiness—this they respect,
But life and our liberty—we must protect!

. . . By Jerry Tuinstra



Special Mission Request

For those who were at the Mission Sunday Luncheon, we heard Pat Amsden from Camp Appanoose give a summary of their ministry in Plano, Iowa. Marlin Docter of ICM also challenged us to come alongside and help in the building of a "Peacock House" for the Camp. There are pictures of it in construction on the billboard in the Narthex. Camp Appanoose also had a "Kitchen Shower" back in April and still has a few items on their "Wish List." If you as an individual or together as a House Kirk want to help out with some of these items, they are as follows:

1. 9x13 or 10x15 stainless or aluminum cookie sheets
2. Step stool
3. 10 commercial use spring loaded napkin dispensers
4. 10 eight-foot folding tables with rolling cart
5. 2 or 4 station refrigerated drink dispensers.

If interested in pursuing any of these, please see a member of Mission Commission.

Thanks,

George De Graaf, Mission Commission Chair

Considering Westkirk Membership?

If so, the next New Member Class will begin on **Sunday, July 1 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 this class may sign up for the group in the Hospitality Room.



BOOK REVIEW

When It Hurts Too Much to Wait

By Larry Richards

Admit it. We all have experienced times of asking God for something to happen or asking why something happened. We get anxious about things and can't wait for answers. Then we blame God for not listening. This author, a psychologist and biblical scholar, brings sensitivity to this question.

There are many ways we deal with problems. Most of the time we are pushing God to give us solutions NOW! But God does things in his own time. He is teaching us to trust him and in the meantime turn from bitterness and jealousy to hoping for his blessing and giving thanks to him for teaching us the way.

Real people are used in this book as examples of God's love and patience and how much we benefit from this. Even when we think our hope is in vain, we can't give up, for God is with us.

... Reviewed by Sally Harrison

Healthy Living

New Light, a support ministry of Westkirk Presbyterian Church, will be launching this fall to help break the stigma associated with depression and other mental illness. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting initiative. Until then, Pastor Michael, the Session and your Stephen Ministry wish to keep you informed about resources in our community that offer hope to those who are struggling through various tragedies, illnesses or experiences.

First, the June Presentation of the **Healthy Living Series** is entitled, "Healthy Self Concept Rooted in Christ." The talk and discussion will be held on Saturday, June 2 at 10 AM in room 214 at the Lutheran Church of Hope, 925 Jordan Creek Parkway, in West Des Moines. For more information, contact Lisa Davidson at 222-1520 or lisa.davidson@hopewdm.org.

Second, on Monday, June 11 from 6-8 PM, the **Hamilton's Family Services Symposium** will take place at Hamilton's on Westtown Parkway, 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines (across from Olive Garden). Sasha Mudlaff, along with her father Carlton Peterson, will speak on "Coping With Grief." Anyone experiencing the grief associated with the death of a loved one is invited to attend. Representatives from community grief support organizations will also be present to offer information about the services they provide. See Sasha or Pastor Michael for more information.

Third, depression is one of the most common consequences of women who have experienced abortion. One national polling organization estimates that by age 45, 1 in every 2.5 women in America have had an abortion. **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. Through Scripture-based exercises, prayer, counseling and a memorial service, each person is extended an invitation to receive forgiveness and wholeness that Christ, the Divine Physician, longs to give them. Lives are changed and transformed. The next retreats are in Rock Island, IL, June 27-29, and in Iowa City, June 29-July 1. For more information, contact Maria at (319) 338-2497 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org



Summer Time in Iowa



Mission Opportunities: It wasn't but a little while ago that we were asking for warm clothing for the "Homeless Children" here in the Des Moines area. Alec Sheppard brought them to our attention and we became concerned for them. They are still out there. They might not need the warm clothing, but they still need a Savior. We support ministries that will reach out to them and if you as a HouseKirk or as an individual feel God's leading, you might want to check with Julie Norem for Hope Ministries, Diane Skinner for Ruth Harbor or Sherie Whitehead for Freedom for Youth.

The Youth Camps (Camp Appanoose and Twin Lakes Christian Center) would be an excellent area to provide some assistance, also. I know Camp Appanoose is looking for high school and college age youth to assist as staff help (crafts, lifeguards, etc). Camp Appanoose is also looking for items for their new kitchen facility (stainless steel or aluminum cookie sheets 9x13 or 10x15, step stool, dish towels, dish cloths, glass casserole dishes (microwave use) See George De Graaf..

Mission Updates:

Ruth Harbor: Did you pick up your Baby Bottle yet? See Diane Skinner. We will collect them on Father's Day, June 17. Fill them up!

Freedom for Youth: If you have not yet visited the new facility on Hickman just west of Martin Luther King Drive, you might want to do that. The staff, as well as helpers from Westkirk and other churches, have turned this abandoned area into an eye-catching facility to reach out to the homeless here in Des Moines.

Greater Europe Mission – Ireland: Jonathan Schuster and his family have moved into a new home and have raised needed money to build a needed office for his books and studies. The town people have encouraged the Schusters by accepting the work on church planting that they are involved with. In addition, Jonathan continues to teach at the Irish Bible Institute and his wife (Becky) teaches local ladies' Bible studies. We look forward to meeting the Schuster family when they visit us on July 8. We plan to have a light luncheon after the Worship Service so you can hear their ministry update. Keep them in your prayers.

Greater Europe Mission – France: Gary De Graaf reports that he is working with a family to start a new church plant in a town near Tours in France. Gary says that when the groups get to around 40-50 people, they start considering the need to start a new group (We in the USA try this when we reach 200 or more) Continue to pray for Gary and the ministry in France.

Greater Europe Mission - Garrett Family:

A few weeks ago, you may have heard about or seen the destruction of a town in Kansas (Greensburg) that was 95% destroyed by a tornado. The Garrett family (Tim, De Ann, and two children Jacob and Katie), whose home was destroyed, had just started serving with GEM. Some 30% of their support came from families in that town. Since we support two missionaries with GEM, they reached out for assistance for this family. The Mission Commission provided some monetary support for them, but if you would like to do that individually, you can place your donation in a Mission envelope found in the Pews and mark it for "The Garrett Family."

Thank You for your part in supporting all of these ministries. Should you have any questions regarding the Missions that we support, please see any one of the Mission Commission. They are, George & Gail De Graaf, Somer Gillett, Ryan Glanzer, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Stuart Smith, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

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

Presenting . . .

Ken and Ann Bratney

You are about to read an account of the lives of Ken and Ann Bratney. They have been members of Westkirk for quite some time. In fact, they joined one week after the closing date for charter membership. So read on—you will find they have lived interesting lives.



Ken was born in Portland, Oregon and called that home until the age of thirty-seven. Ann grew up near Ballantine, Montana which is east of Billings, Montana in Yellowstone County. Her father was from Iowa so right there is the Iowa connection. She attended Iowa State College in Ames majoring in Home Economics. Ken was in the Naval Officer Training Program at Helena, Montana. There he met Ann's brother who introduced Ken to this fellow's baby sister, who was Ann. Ken was in service a little over two years and after discharge took advantage of the GI bill. He attended the University of Iowa and studied hydraulic engineering. After his graduation, he and Ann were married and moved back to Portland. Here their five children were born.

During the time that Ken and Ann lived in Portland, Ken worked in an engineering office. He became interested in the seed and grain equipment business which eventually resulted in their leaving Portland and moving to Iowa. Ken then started his own business. At first he worked from his home. Ann pitched in to help by working in the office because Ken was often traveling. In addition to the office work, she was doing her part in the raising of the children and driving them to their many activities. Later they relocated the business, which is named the "Bratney Companies," into their own office and warehouse facilities in Urbandale, Iowa. At the present time there are over one hundred fifty employees. One son is the president of the company and another son manages the business out of the Boise, Idaho office.

Both Ken and Ann grew up in Christian families. Ken added "thank goodness" after making that comment. He was baptized at age twelve in the Disciples of Christ Church in Portland. Ann attended the Congregational Church with her family in their home area. Through their moving process they attended different churches and somewhere became acquainted with the Presbyterian Church and became members of Westkirk. They feel it is a rewarding experience watching Westkirk grow both in membership, physical facilities and spiritually. They truly feel they are a part of a real Christian family.

Ken and Ann now reside at Deerfield Retirement Facility in the western metro area. Both are coping with retirement. They always find something to do, thereby utilizing and enjoying their time. As long as health is good they enjoy cruises and going to see their children and grandchildren. This summer three grandsons will be married. One is a pediatrician, one a lawyer and the third is a material science engineer. All three are soundly rooted in the Christian faith.

I truly enjoyed my morning learning more about Ken and Ann. If you don't know them, you will usually find them sitting on the east side of the sanctuary. Introduce yourselves and get to know these folks.

. . . by Helen Main

Thank You Notes . . .

Dear Michael,

Gene and I were so pleased with our time spent in remembering and honoring Mom [Evelyn Galardi] with you and friends at Westkirk on Friday. Not only was it comforting to hear others share about Mom, but it was a wonderful opportunity for us to tell our story too. As we read about grieving we understand this is important too.

Thank you, too, for your visit with Mom in the hospital. I know it meant a lot to her that you came. We also appreciate your timely help as we prepared to travel with Dad's cremains. Your family's assistance will always be treasured. Westkirk continues to be a place of special memories for our family.

In Christ,

Gene and Maryann Handley

Our thanks to Lou and Eleanor for serving that afternoon.

Philemon 7: Your love has given me great joy and encouragement.

Westkirk Knitting Group,

I'm so thrilled that you thought of me with this beautiful prayer shawl. I love the colors you used, & I know I will enjoy it very much.

Thank you & may God bless you.

With love,

Darlene Wilson

Dear Westkirk Family,

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support after the passing of my brother Kent Kussatz. The flowers the church sent for the memorial service were beautiful.

It is comforting to have such a thoughtful church family at a time like this.

Many thanks,

Larry Kussatz and Family

Dear friends in Christ,

I cannot find the words that adequately express the depth of gratitude in my heart for all the kindnesses you have shown me and my family over the past several months. The outpouring of love, prayers and support has been so wonderful and truly a blessing from God. The many meals you have provided and continue to provide have been so generous (and delicious!) and have allowed me to put my energy into recuperating and being a mother to my three children. It is such a blessing to have a hot, nutritious meal prepared for us at the end of a long day.

I am also very grateful to those who have watched over my children when I have doctor appointments. It gives me such peace to know there are so many people that are willing and able to help out during this difficult time. You have embraced me and my family with the love of God in a profound way, and you have shown me what it truly means to be part of a church family. May God bless all of you.

Debbie & Randy Hoepker

Nathan, Nicholas & Grace

Thank everyone at Westkirk who helped with Peggy's service and thank all for the beautiful flowers. It is absolutely beautiful. The roses are starting to open up—it will be beautiful for a good 2 weeks or more.

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Mary Ann Doran

And the Family of Peggy Ann Shearer

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Update

Children's Worship Sunday: The children did a wonderful job leading our worship service on Mother's Day. Thank you to Sasha Mudlaff for faithfully and enthusiastically leading the children in worship every Sunday during Kid's Own Worship. Children's Worship Sunday would not have been possible without her dedication and the help of the following parents: Gloria Huyser, Diane Leonard, Peggy Brady, Brian & Lynn Dixon, and Heather Sonnichsen. Also, thank you to Sasha and Hamilton's Funeral Homes for donating the color copies of the children's drawing for the bulletin cover.

Summer Sunday School: Just because there's no school doesn't mean that we stop studying God's Word! This summer Kevin & Robin Riggins will lead the children in learning to be agents for God on Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, June 3-Sept. 2. All children ages 3-12 are encouraged to explore what it means to live as God's disciples and then enjoy a snack at the end.

Summer Kid's Own Worship: Kidmo is back! During worship time the children will be using this action-packed DVD curriculum to sing worship songs, memorize Bible verses, and compete with Bible knowledge.

SonForce Kids Vacation Bible School: Are your children registered for this adventure? Have you volunteered to be a part of this soul enriching experience? Did you check to see if you have any needed supplies lying around your house or if you can afford to purchase any? If not, don't delay. Call Karen Admussen at the church office today to find out how you can help the children "Know Christ and Make Him Known." You and your children don't want to miss this once-a-year event the week of **June 24-28**. Volunteers, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 10** after church to finalize plans for VBS.



Youth News

Congratulations, Graduates!!

We would like to recognize Westkirk's high school and college graduates and their families. The following individuals graduated this past May.



High School Class of 2007

Sean Raisch ... Sean graduated from Urbandale High School on Sunday, May 27, 2007. Sean will be attending the University of Iowa in the fall and will be majoring in Political Science and History. He plans to walk-on the Division I baseball team at the University of Iowa. Sean and his teammates at Urbandale kicked off the 2007 high school baseball season on May 21.

Miles Swenson ... On Sunday, May 27, 2007 Miles graduated from Urbandale High School. He will attend Simpson College this fall to prepare to be a high school teacher. Miles also was on the Urbandale baseball team which started their season on May 21. He plays guitar and entertains with juggling and card tricks. Miles will go to Germany for three weeks in August to visit friends he met through a student exchange program..

College Class of 2007

Ann Harrison ... Ann graduated from Simpson College on May 19, 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and endorsements in the areas of reading and mathematics. While at Simpson she participated in the CAB (Campus Activities Board), which brought entertainment to the campus on the weekends, served as a tutor on campus and in the inner city, was a group bible study leader (a group that is associated with the Religious Life Council on campus), and was able to travel to Chicago, New Orleans, Alaska, and Russia. Ann will marry Chris Hilton on June 30. She will be residing in Lincoln, Nebraska and plans to be a substitute teacher while looking for a permanent position.

Cody Raisch ... Cody graduated from Indian Hills Community College on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. He graduated Phi Theta Kappa, a junior college honor society for those students graduating with a 3.5 grade point average or better. Cody will also graduate Junior College Academic All-American (Baseball) with a grade point average of 3.6 or better. He played baseball for Indian Hills, one of America's top junior college baseball programs. Cody was 5-0 at Indian Hills with a 2.5 ERA. Next year he will play for a Division I or II college program at a 4 year school. Cody has 3 years of eligibility for baseball. He is currently visiting schools and has yet to determine where he will go to school this fall.

Samantha Turnbull ... Sam graduated from the University of Iowa on May 12, 2007 with a double major in journalism and anthropology. She plans to work in Iowa City this next year and then to pursue an advanced degree.

Please help us wish each of these graduates and their families congratulations on their many accomplishments.

Summer Choir Schedule

During June, July and August while our full choir is on vacation, there will be a summer choir which will sing on the fourth Sunday of the month. This group will rehearse immediately after worship on the third week.

Now's your chance. If you have been longing to sing with the choir but have limited time for a full schedule, why not join in for the summer. There are openings for all voices. You might even want to stay on when weekly rehearsals begin in the fall!

Youth Ministry

Youth News

Summer has finally arrived!! Many of our youth have been waiting in great anticipation to be able to say those words. Now, instead of focusing on finals, college entrance exams, and homework, their focus will turn toward finding a summer job and having some much deserved fun. We have had a great year together and, with their help, have seen some tremendous growth in the youth ministry program (we have nearly 20 regular participants for Club each week at the Simpson Barn in Johnston!!). It has been a blessing for me to get to know the youth in our congregation and to watch them grow in their faith during the course of this school year.

The youth are also waiting in anticipation of a number of summer activities, including attending Twin Lakes Camp and going on the Caravan trip to New York City. Also, throughout the summer they will be doing the behind the scenes work to help make our first annual Westkirk Summer “Drive-In” movie series an entertaining time for everyone – at each movie the youth will be serving popcorn and pop and collecting donations to help pay for summer camp and Caravan.

The group will continue to meet all summer long at our regular time on Wednesday evenings, so whether you are an adult who has been thinking about volunteering or a student who has not yet been able to make to Club on Wednesdays, there will be plenty of chances for you to come see what New Life is all about. We hope to see you at Club or for one of our many special events – including movie nights, a trip to an Iowa Cubs baseball game, Adventureland, camp outs, and an end of the summer pool party.

Pastor Steve

Assistant Pastor & Youth Director

New Life

Recent and Upcoming Events

- 6/1 Free Concert, 7 p.m. at First Federated Church
- 6/6 **Club, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Simpson Barn**
- 6/8-6/9 Student Leadership Team Camp Out & Rock Climbing Trip, Backbone State Park
- 6/10 **Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m.**
Youth Movie Night, 8:30 p.m.
- 6/13 Club, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Simpson Barn
- 6/15 **Westkirk Drive-In Movie Fundraiser, 8:30 to 10 p.m.; meet at Westkirk at 7:30 p.m.**
- 6/17 No Student Leadership Team
- 6/20 **Club, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Simpson Barn**
- 6/24 Student Leadership Team Meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. at Westkirk
- 6/27 **Club, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Simpson Barn**

Please check the Westkirk senior high website at <http://www.newlifeyouth.org>

News from Highlanders

There was a large group attending this spring's last meeting of Highlanders on May 16. The room at Okoboji Grill was filled with joy as we listened to Audrey Willcox sing World War II songs, so familiar to most of those attending.

It was decided to look for a meeting place with buffet service for next season. **Coordinators Jack and Bette Jones** will welcome volunteers to help with the search for another location.

The Highlanders' “quarter cup” had yielded \$50 after expenses, so it was unanimously voted to donate this amount to Vacation Bible School for this summer's program.

Thank you, Bette and Jack, for a season of very interesting and entertaining programs.

The Shepherd

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