

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 22 No. 10 October 2007

Big Time Celebration

Reformation Sunday is one of the most wonderful Sundays of the year at Westkirk. If there is still time, mark it on your calendar (October 28) and plan to be here, because this year, Reformation Sunday will be a Big Time Celebration! Each year, we celebrate our church and her history. We reflect on our Reformed heritage, as well as the Scot-Irish Presbyterian heritage of our denominational roots. We have special elements in the worship service and a congregational meal afterwards. The date is also the anniversary of our charter, and our occupancy of this beautiful church building. But this year, there is even more to celebrate! In addition to all of the above, we expect several guests to come as we gather outdoors after the worship service to burn the original mortgage and praise God for what he has done to launch and sustain this church, and give us a fabulous vision for our future! There is the visible sign of that future in the new parking lot and construction that is under way.

And you are a part of that past, and of that future. For reasons some of us realize, and others do not, God has placed each of us here for a reason. You are a part of his plan. He is working out his plan in your individual life, and he is working it out in the life of this congregation too. It is no mistake that together, we are the covenant family of faith at Westkirk Presbyterian Church. And that's exciting! And what unifies us together is the worship of God. The Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Confession of Faith asks this question first, "What is man's primary purpose?" And the answer is, "...to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."

As we gather together on Reformation Sunday, we have so much to be thankful for: our heritage, our history, our church, our families and God's blessings to us. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to party! But in all the preparation, excitement and celebration, we must remember that above all, we gather together to worship and give God the praise and glory for all that he has done. He has done much. And there is more that his desires to do through us. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Let's come together for a grand celebration and rejoice at what he, not us, has done!

Pastor Michael

ESV **Psalm 106:48** *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!*





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
Marilyn McCulloch
John Schwien
Sandy Tuinstra



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|----------|--------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1 | Tom Gibbons | 28 | Brad Haley |
| 1 | Agatha Litle | 28 | Craig Van Gundy |
| 2 | Darlene Denison | 29 | *Tyler Mogle |
| 3 | Kevin Bone | 29 | Ron Reighard |
| 3 | Dorothy Olsen | 30 | Naomi Becvar |
| 4 | Wendy Brisbois | 30 | *Annie Ekstrom |
| 4 | Sonja Hansen | 30 | Clayton Kennedy |
| 4 | *Madeline Scheve | 30 | Mary Carbone |
| 5 | Miles Swenson | 31 | *Ryan Voggeser |
| 6 | Bernie Koebernick | | |
| 6 | *Lydia Scheve | | |
| 7 | Jerry Watts | | |
| 9 | Jen Dake | | |
| 9 | Kurt Huyser | | |
| 9 | Sean Raisch | | |
| 11 | Dawn Vis | | |
| 12 | Larry Breeding | | |
| 13 | Pat Ward | | |
| 14 | Allison Brown | | |
| 15 | Charlie Millis | | |
| 16 | Pearce Brown | | |
| 16 | Irene Reed | 3 | Nick & Molly Benson |
| 17 | Marsha Raisch | 10 | Kevin & Vicki Bone |
| 17 | Tom Leahy | 14 | Larry & Karen Breeding |
| 18 | *Samantha Dixon | 15 | John & Regi Donaldson |
| 18 | Jeanne Hunt | 17 | Rod & Cindy Welsher |
| 20 | Herb King | 21 | John & Marcia Kirkeby |
| 20 | Lillian Nash | | |
| 21 | *Macy Benson | | |
| 21 | *Ashley Norem | | |
| 22 | *David Leonard | | |
| 23 | Sharon Johnson | | |
| 24 | Joe Daugherty | | |
| 24 | Rebecca Koebernick | | |
| 24 | *Micah Mudlaff | | |
| 24 | Bud North | | |
| 25 | Tom Duff | | |
| 25 | Carol Harbour | | |
| 26 | Darrell Aldrich | | |
| 26 | Peggy Brady | | |
| 26 | Dave Carson | | |
| 26 | Jeannie Mesa | | |
| 27 | Kelli Glanzer | | |
| 28 | Bryce Anderson | | |

*Youth Member



- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 3 | Nick & Molly Benson |
| 10 | Kevin & Vicki Bone |
| 14 | Larry & Karen Breeding |
| 15 | John & Regi Donaldson |
| 17 | Rod & Cindy Welsher |
| 21 | John & Marcia Kirkeby |

Address Changes . . .

Please make these changes to your pocket directory.

Fran Nugteren

Cell: 515/975-1411

Audrene Hansen

e-mail: audie44@q.com

Wayne & Helga Hoffman

4314 Pond View Drive
White Bear Lake, MN 55110



The Bulletin Board

October 2007

- 1 **Commissions/Deacons** meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 2 **Stephen Ministry** meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 **WOW** (Westkirk on Wednesday) beginning with supper at 5:45 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Alpha meets at Java Joe's downtown Des Moines, 6:00 p.m.
- 4 **Highlanders** luncheon, 11:30 a.m. See article in this issue.
Prayer Shawl group meets at 7:00 p.m.
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- 7 **Sunday School** for all ages, **Explorers** (new member class), 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- 9 **New Light** meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 **WOW** beginning with supper at 5:45 p.m. Activities & Bible study, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Alpha meets at Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.
- 11 **Dorcas Circle**, Hospitality Room, 1:00 p.m.
* * * * *
- 14 **Sunday School and Explorers** 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service with Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night at the Kirk, worship service with contemporary music, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 **Session meeting**, 7:p.m.
The Shepherd articles due for November issue
- 16 **The Clan** small group, Hospitality Room, 1:00 p.m.
Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 **WOW** starts with supper at 5:45 p.m. Bible study & activities, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Alpha meets at Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.
- 19-20 **Alpha Weekend Retreat**, Wesley Woods
* * * * *
- 21 **Sunday School and Explorers**, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- 23 **Bagpipers** luncheon, 1:00 p.m. at Chicago Speakeasy, 1520 Euclid Ave., Des Moines
- 24 **WOW** starts with supper at 5:45 p.m. Bible study & activities 6:30 p.m.
Alpha meets at Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.
* * * * *
- 28 **Reformation Sunday**
 Sunday School and Explorers, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship with Blessing 'o the Tartans, 10:30 a.m.
 Burning of the mortgage, 11:45 a.m.
 Fall festival dinner, 12:00 noon
- 31 **WOW** starts with supper at 5:45 p.m. Bible study & activities 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Alpha meets at Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.



Hear Highlanders' Guest Speaker

Highlanders will meet for lunch **Thursday, October 4**, at the HyVee grocery store at Grand & Railroad in West Des Moines. The private dining room opens at 11:30 a.m.

The program will be presented at 12:15 p.m. by **Mikki Stier**, Senior Vice President, Government and External Relations, of Broadlawns Medical Center. She will tell us of challenges of the hospital and the possible move to Lutheran Hospital. Come prepared with questions about the Polk County Hospital.

Don't forget the Thursday special--a tenderloin sandwich for \$2.99 and their great salad/soup bar. Bring a friend or neighbor.

... Jack & Bette Jones, Coordinators

Dorcas Circle Invites You

Tuesday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. the Dorcas Circle will meet in the Hospitality Room to watch a DVD and discuss, "Who Is God?" **Gail De Graaf** will lead the program about spiritual leaders from the Bible and their relationship to God as well as what kind of situations tempt us to lose faith.

Marilyn Lanham and Karen Admussen will be hostesses. All ladies and their guests are invited.

Anyone who wishes may stay after the program to help wrap boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

... Karen Admussen, Moderator

You Are Invited to Explorers (Membership Class)

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

Classes begin **October 7 at 9:00 a.m.** and will meet each Sunday through October 28. New members will be received November 18 during morning worship.

If you are interested in attending these classes, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Any questions may be directed to Pastor Mudlaff or the church office (253-0330).

Healthy Living

New Light, Westkirk's new ministry for those with experience with depression or other mental health issues has begun! If you or someone you know has or is suffering through depression or anxiety, please join us for our New Light support group on **Tuesday evening, October 9 at 6:30 p.m.** The group time will last about an hour. Invite someone and offer to bring them along. Donna Halfhill, the founder/facilitator of the group that meets at Lutheran Church of Hope will facilitate our group until we identify and train a facilitator of our own. Come meet Donna and hear her story of hope through Jesus Christ!

Visit Westkirk's Website

Westkirk's website provides up-to-date information about what is going on at our church. Check it out at www.Westkirk.org.





Reformation Sunday Is a Family Day

A special day for our church family and friends. That's what's planned for **Sunday, October 28, 2007!** We begin with Sunday School and Explorers (new member class) at 9:00 a.m. Next comes Worship at 10:30 a.m., with emphasis on our Reformed Theology and our Scottish heritage. This also will be the 15th anniversary of Westkirk members receiving the key to the first phase of our beautiful building.

To emphasize our Scottish roots, we will observe the **Blessing of the Tartan*** This is a tradition begun at Westkirk a few years ago. Be sure to bring your family tartan to church that day. (Do you remember where you stored it for safe-keeping last fall?!) For our newcomers, stop at the office soon to pick up a six-inch tartan square, then in the center of the square, embroider, appliqué or iron on the first letter of your surname. (Go ahead, ask a friend if you need help!) Family tartans will be blessed during the worship service on the 28th.

We will welcome many of our charter members, including founding pastor Wayne Hoffman and his wife Helga. It will be a time of recollection and reflection.

Immediately following worship, we will be invited to gather outside for a special happening. We will burn the mortgage that was issued for the Sanctuary! The final payment was made in September.

Then, everyone is urged to come to the Great Hall for a fall festival of food! On the menu will be:

Roasted Pork Loin
Hamburgers
Green Beans
Parmesan Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Rolls & Butter
Assorted Cakes
Beverages

There are no tickets for this event. However a free-will offering to benefit the new wing will be accepted.

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

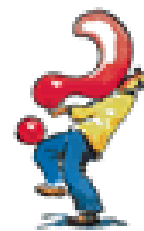
Alpha At Westkirk

Do you have questions about the Christian faith? Do you have a friend who you have been praying would come to know Christ? Have you considered joining the Alpha course? It's not too late.

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day or weekend away. It is low-key, friendly and fun – and is supported by all the main Christian denominations.

Alpha meets at Java Joe's Coffee House (214 4th Street, Downtown Des Moines) every Wednesday night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free dinner included (donations accepted). Why not take this opportunity to explore the meaning of life?

Questions? Call Pastor Steve at Westkirk Presbyterian Church at 515.253.0330.



Alpha

Upcoming Alpha Events at Westkirk

October 19-20: Alpha Retreat at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center, Indianola, IA

*If interested, please reserve your spot by calling the church office.



“All I got is a rock”

If you are familiar with the “Peanuts” cartoons and saw one of the comic strips on Halloween, or maybe the Great Pumpkin video, you would have heard Charlie Brown say those famous words. All of the other children received candy etc, in their sacks, and you would think about poor Charlie Brown with his rock.

A few of us from the Mission Commission attended a workshop for Operation Christmas Child recently and saw several thousand children with smiles as big as can be on their faces as they opened up a simple shoebox....Perhaps the first gift they have ever received. The shoebox had been carefully wrapped with colorful Christmas paper and then filled with somewhat inexpensive toys, candy, trinkets,

clothes, hats, tee shirts, mittens, ball & jacks, puzzles, crayons, toothbrushes, small stuffed animals, dolls, slinkys, books, etc. But by the smiles and sounds you would have thought they all received an I Phone or maybe a Computer Game worth a few hundred dollars. Believe me, those inexpensive gifts in our eyes were to them of great value, since they will cherish them for a lot longer than children here with the computer games.

A simple Shoebox has become a means used by Franklin Graham and the Samaritan’s Purse Ministry, to reach children around the world for Jesus Christ. Each box also contains a small paper book with the story of Jesus saying that He loves them in their language. If you would like to be a part of this unique ministry, join the Mission Commission as they look forward to packing and wrapping shoeboxes this fall period. One of the representatives said that she truly believes that each box has been selected by God for a specific child. Neat thought . . . and they make sure that each box contains more than a “rock”!

Operation Christmas Child (A Samaritan’s Purse Ministry)

We will be asking for empty shoeboxes in October so that we can have them wrapped with Christmas wrapping and then passed out to the congregation. They will need to be returned by mid-November to be shipped up to Minneapolis for shipment overseas. There are many ways you can be of help, even to the point of paying the shipping costs (\$7.00 per box) if you are not into wrapping and shopping for the small items. We will have tables in the Narthex as well as a video so that you may see some of the responses of the children receiving their shoeboxes. See **Sherie Whitehead or Somer Gillett** if you have any questions.

Hope Ministries

During October and November we will be collecting warm clothing, coats, gloves, mittens, hats, caps, jackets, etc, for the homeless people at Bethel Mission and Door of Faith. Start collecting those as you go through and pull out your winter outfits. If you lost weight over the summer, you may want to look for a new wardrobe and you can then donate the other outfits to Hope Ministries. Just a thought . . . Check with **Julie Norem, Cynthia Fisher, or Lois Lundgren Stecker** for information.

Freedom for Youth.

The Mission Commission will again be serving food to the youth in October. If your House Kirk or group would want to participate Tuesday or Thursday evenings or maybe a Saturday at lunchtime, check with **Sherie Whitehead or Wendy Reed** for information.

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, Cynthia Fisher, 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*



It Was a “Gold Shovel” Day!

September 19, 2007 was a great day. The sun shone down on the east side of the Westkirk campus as a group gathered for the official ground breaking for the new wing.

Pastor Mudlaff passed the traditional gold shovel to **Ken Bratney**, chairman of the building committee, and the first ground was turned as onlookers cheered. We are on our way!



August Financial Results

	August	YTD 07	Budget YTD 07
Receipts	\$32,945	\$241,127	\$248,400
Expenditures	<u>33,056</u>	<u>258,025</u>	<u>267,610</u>
Shortfall	\$ (111)	\$(16,898)	\$(19,210)

August was a breakeven month, despite several expenditures for the upcoming fall semester. Westkirk’s actual results through August continue to fall within budget.

With the congregation’s approval at the special August meeting, Westkirk’s debt on the original church structure will be retired in September. The absence of a monthly payment to the bank will also benefit the church’s financial situation for the last four months of 2007.

... *Chris Brown, Treasurer*



Stephen Ministers Commissioned

It was an exciting day on Sunday, September 23 when the first class of Stephen Ministers was commissioned in a moving service. The five candidates have faithfully completed the required fifty hours of training and have committed to a period of service and further training. Commissioned were:

Pam Brown
 Lenora Chamberlain
 Kay Cunitz
 Marillyn McCulloch
 Irene Reed

Congratulations to each of you!

Condolences . . .

We extend deepest sympathy to **Mary Dutcher** whose husband, Lawrence J. Dutcher died on August 17 in Des Moines.

And to **Doug and Jess Kanis** on the loss of Doug's grandfather, Cornie Boender, who died on September 1 in Iowa City.

Also to **Mona and Kirk Yentes**. Mona's sister-in-law, Vonnie Rieck, died August 29 at Pipestone, Minnesota.

And to **Winnie and Clarence Adden**. Winnie's sister, Isobel Richey Holloway died on September 15 in Brainerd, Minnesota.

What Kind of Woman Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

- A woman like **Sarah** who faced a major change in life at an advanced age and needed someone to listen to both her joy and apprehension.
- A woman like **Hagar** who was abandoned along with her child and needed someone to offer her hope and remind her of God's presence.
- A woman like **Hannah** who struggled with her inability to bear a child and needed someone with whom to share her sadness and pain.
- A woman like **Naomi** who had lost her loved ones and needed someone to hear her sorrow and pain.
- A woman like **Ruth** who left everything that was familiar to her and needed someone to journey with her in her new life.
- A woman like **Esther** who was faced with a major decision and needed someone who could listen to her concerns and offer encouragement.
- A woman like **Mary of Nazareth** who lived with both the joys and struggles of having an exceptional child and needed someone to help her sort out the ponderings of her heart.
- A woman like **Martha** who was burdened by the demands of daily life and needed someone to help her regain sight of what was most important.
- A woman like **Mary Magdalene** who received healing from inner turmoil and needed someone to walk with her as she build a new life.
- **A woman like you.**

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call Karen Breeding at 963-3954.

Westkirk at “Fall for Urbandale”

Our church was represented at the local fall festival on September 22 at Walker Johnson Park. Volunteers manned the “Westkirk Presbyterian Fishers of Men” booth where people tossed ping pong balls into fish bowls to win fish crackers.

A big thank you to Van Harden, Karen Admussen, Nyleve Taylor, Irene Reed, Barb Springer, Kay Cunitz and Steve Randall for their help on this project.

Best Wishes to . . .

Jeff and Amanda (Krell) Harrison who were married in a private ceremony on July 29, 2007. Then a wedding service for family and close friends was held at the Candle Lit Way Wedding Chapel in Dallas Center on September 9. The couple’s new address is 6095 Goldfinch Drive, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327. Jeff is a member of Westkirk. He is the son of Russ and Ellen Harrison and grandson of Sally Harrison.

And to **Joe and Sarah (McCargar) Daugherty** who were united in marriage at Westkirk on September 9, 2007. Pastor Mudlaff officiated the ceremony. Joe and Sarah became members of Westkirk in June 2007.



Coming in December – Gourmet Dinner Concert

Note on your calendar right now to hold **Saturday, December 8** for a wonderful event which will be presented by the Westkirk choir—a festive dinner and Advent music. Guests will gather at **6:00 p.m. for a brief reception** in the Hospitality Room before **dinner is served in the Great Hall at 6:30 p.m.**



This event is back by popular request—a holiday gourmet dinner with singing waiters, cooks, bussers, etc., all done by choir members as a **fund raiser for the East Wing.**

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

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

Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Sauce
Baked Chicken Breast with Tuscany Sauce
Stuffed Flounder topped with Crab and Shrimp

Tickets for this East Wing fund raiser will be on sale at the Welcome Center each Sunday beginning October 14. The prices are \$24 for beef entrees and \$20 for chicken or seafood. If you buy a table (which seats up to eight) the bargain price will be \$150. No tickets will be sold at the door. When purchasing tickets, please be prepared to indicate your choice of entrees.

After dinner, there will be entertainment by the choir. They will present the cantata **Emmanuel—God with Us**, arranged and composed by Lloyd Larson. This is a service of Lessons and Carols.

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

The choir looks forward to entertaining you on December 8. We can only accommodate up to 96 reservations, so get your tickets early. This will be a festive, fun-filled evening. Don’t miss it!! If you have questions, please contact Larry Kussatz (327-1795), Chuck Heitbrink (276-2213) or Lou Heitbrink (254-9982) .

Presenting . . .

Shirley Sanders



Shirley Sanders is the person of the month. Here is a bit of her history.

Shirley was born and raised on a farm near Ortonville, Minnesota which is on the border of Minnesota and South Dakota. She graduated from the Ortonville Public School. She then went on to Hamline University in St. Paul where she became proficient in the secretarial line of work. It was there she met her future husband, Bob Sanders.

Bob and Shirley farmed for ten years in North Dakota, their farm bordering on Canada. They had four children, first two girls and then two boys. They moved 200 miles south to Jamestown in 1955 where Bob went to work for the North Dakota Farmers Union. The children attended the Jamestown schools. Shirley was a homemaker until the last of the children was in high school then went back to work as a legal secretary. All four children graduated from college. One of those children is Becky Koebernick, who along with her husband Bernie also attend Westkirk. The other children live in Cincinnati, Seattle, and Minneapolis.

Bob was with the Farmers Union and Shirley was a legal secretary for 25 years. Bob passed away in 1989. Shirley continued to live in her own house until 2004 when she moved to Des Moines.

Shirley has numerous interests. She and Bob took many fishing trips, plus traveling waterways by canoe. After Bob died, she traveled through all of Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries. Shirley was a member of Homemakers, the United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, and Legal Secretaries Association. She did much volunteering at the church and held every position available in the circle. She also was a Stephen Minister. She has an honorary life membership certificate of the Presbyterian Women in the U.S.A. Another very special award presented to her was Professional Legal Secretary of the Year for North Dakota in 1987. Currently she belongs to the Dorcas Circle at Westkirk, The Clan small group, and a book club (most books are available on tape through the Library for the Blind).

Shirley started losing her eyesight about seven years ago, due to macular degeneration. Her vision loss has been gradual, but now the vision is so poor that she cannot see the face of the person with whom she is speaking. Therefore, when speaking to her, first give your name. Do this each time you talk with her. By doing this she is able to learn who you are. Before her vision loss, she made beautiful quilts and also played the piano. She is a delightful lady.

One last thing Shirley really wanted in this biography is that she enjoys being at Westkirk. Get to know this special lady!

. . . by Helen Main

Baptism

On Sunday, September 16 we celebrated the baptism of **Abigail Jean Van Gundy**, daughter of Craig Roger and Rene Lynne Van Gundy and sister of Annie Ekstrom. Abigail was born July 3, 2007. Maternal grandparents are Rick and Sharon Meier of Granger, Iowa. Paternal great-grandparents are Howard and Betty Haugen also of Granger.



Pictorial Directory Coming

Because of the many requests for a directory showing photos of our members and friends, your wishes are about to come true!

Watch the Sunday bulletins for scheduling information for a beautiful new directory. Plans now are to begin taking photos November 13.

Be sure to sign up right away when the picture-taking schedules are announced. With your help, everyone can be included.

New Life Youth Ministry

Fall is here and we're looking forward to a new year of spiritual growth and fun with the high school students at *New Life*. This year will be another step forward in the direction of our mission to help youth to know Christ and to make Him known to those who currently do not have a relationship with our Lord and Savior; and to that end, we have made a number of exciting changes to the *New Life* ministry for this year.

First, we've added small groups so that youth have the opportunity to form closer relationships with each other and an adult leader and dig deeper into God's Word. We're also collaborating with Urban Heights Covenant Church in Urbandale in order to better serve all of our youth. Also, we're currently working to establish a youth worship band, lead by Hugh Sheperd. Lastly, we've built a team of mature Christian adults who have made the commitment to help disciple our youth, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the members of Westkirk who have answered this important call. The following individuals have committed to serve our young people:

Mandy Carlson
Kevin Heer
Elaine Hurst
Diane Leonard
Casey Phipps
Hugh Sheppard

Having these individuals commit themselves to our youth is an answer to prayer. Please thank them personally for their service to the *New Life* ministry. How can you help? One simple way is to pray for our group on Sunday nights as we begin to gather at 6:30 p.m. Pray that youth who are visiting feel welcomed, pray that the message being delivered will relate to truth of God's love to our young people, and pray that God would draw our youth to Him. If you're interested in helping out at *New Life*, please contact Pastor Steve.

In His Dust,

Pastor Steve

Upcoming New Life Events

October 12-13th: Senior High Fall Retreat at Twin Lakes Christian Center in Manson, IA



Children's Ministry

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal." -Isaiah 2:4

In September we began our fall season with a balloon release for WOW. This year we heard from two people who found balloons. The day after we released the balloons, we received a phone call that **Marilyn Lanham's** balloon had traveled to Osage, IA. A few days later a letter arrived for **Isaiah Mudlaff** that his pink balloon had landed in Rockford, IA. **Jerry Tuinstra** helped us see how the colorful balloons floating into the sky reminded us of Jesus, who rose from the dead and walked among the disciples before ascending into heaven to be with his Father.

Last month the 6th-8th graders had a BLAST at Cutty's Resort swimming, eating, and playing. Thank you, **Rus and Julie Norem** for hosting this cookout. It was a great way to kick off the new season for parents and teens. This year BLAST will be joining Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church on Wednesday evenings to combine our middle school groups for a study of the Lord's Prayer led by **Amanda Carlson**.

Kid's Own Worship is new this fall, too, as the older children dive into the Bible with Bible Blitz, and the preschool and kindergarten children have their own worship time with **Gloria Huyser** starting this month. Parents, please remember to check your children in when they are attending all Children's Ministry activities and put on their nametags. We want to continue to offer a safe environment for your children, and by using nametags and promptly picking up your children when classes are over, we can monitor the children better. Also, please remind your children to bring their Bibles for Sunday School and Kid's Own Worship.

A fun family evening is planned for **Friday, October 26** at the Geisler Farm in Ankeny. Activities include a hay ride, corn maze, dinner, and a bonfire with s'mores. Check the bulletin for more details.

Saturday, November 3 is Parent's Night Out. We will watch your children while you enjoy some quality time together. Dinner, activities, a new Veggie Tale movie, and snacks will be provided for children from infants to preteens. The nursery will be available for babies and toddlers. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome to support the youth fund. To register for Parents' Night Out, sign up in the Hospitality Room or contact Karen Admussen in the church office.

. . . Karen Admussen Director of Children's Ministry



Thank You Notes . . .

Dear Pastor Michael and Westkirk Family,

Thank you very much for your prayers during my recent illness. I'm back to work and mending well, praise be to God!

*Sincerely,
Diane L. Leonard*

Dear Westkirk Staff & friends,

Thank you for all your prayers for Grandpa Boender over the years & lately for his family.

We also appreciate the food basket you sent. It was wonderful & very thoughtful.

*Thanks!
Doug, Jess, & Zeb (Kanis)*

Our Westkirk Family,

Thanking God for you. Thank you for reaching out and touching the lives of others with the love of the Lord.

You Are Appreciated.

*With grateful thanks and love,
The Van Gundys*

Dear Pastor Mudlaff and Westkirk family,

It was great to see so many of you at church and at the luncheon. We were very touched by everyone's kind words, and the whole day was very special for us. As always, the food was delicious; thank you to everyone who helped out.

Thank you also for the framed picture – it looks great in our new home. We look forward to seeing everyone when we come up to visit again.

*Thanks,
Doug, Jess, and Zeb Kanis*

Dear Westkirk Friends,

When Rene' and I found each other a little over five years ago, I knew it was God's grace. And when we found our way to Westkirk two years ago we knew it was in His plan. And two months ago, when our daughter, Abigail, came into this world we knew it was God's loving kindness that made it so.

But, even with that knowledge, when one doctor told me that my wife was close to being gone, and another doctor told me that my daughter only had a fifty-fifty chance of living, I began to question the "how's" and "why's."

But several of you came to be with me, by my side, and to try and comfort me, and remind me of His grace and glory as I awaited the news and tried to figure out how I was to carry on. And even now, two months later, it stirs the emotions.

But it did bring comfort, and it did bring encouragement to know that my little family was in the hearts and prayers of our much bigger family at Westkirk. And that I was not alone at all, but that there were people praying for us all over the country and even the world. Amazing how fast word travels in this day and age!

But, I have been remiss in expressing my thankfulness to all of you who took time to remember us in your prayers and I want to sincerely apologize for not doing it sooner. It meant a lot to me and Rene' and also made a big impact on some of our family members and even the hospital staff how "all those people from Rene' and Craig's church were out in the waiting room."

When God led us to Westkirk, it changed our lives, and the love and kindness we have been shown from our Westkirk family has meant more than we will ever be able to express.

*Our deepest thanks,
Craig, Rene' and Abigail Van Gundy*

The Shepherd

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