

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 4 April 2008

Workin' Hard for No Money

I think it's about time we all give some credit where credit is due. Over the past couple of years, I have been working with the Moderator of the Deacons (first, Benae Duff, and now, Kris Thompson), to elevate the role of the Deacons here at Westkirk Presbyterian Church. And I am thrilled to say that the work the Deacons are doing is paying off! We ask much of our Deacons because they are on the front lines of the caregiving ministry of the church. But that is one tough job! We still have instances where a member or family falls through the cracks, but much progress has been made. And as an added bonus, we have returned men to the ranks of Deacon and so far the early results there are also good. Being on the frontlines of the caregiving ministry means that the Deacons are often the first ones to know if a member of the church is in need. And when they are not the first to know, they are the first people we contact from here at the church office.

Caregiving is a difficult task because each member and family is different. Some expect the church to know and respond to every need, but others prefer to remain very private and do not desire or even appreciate much attention. The Deacons have to walk that fine line and do their best to get to know the members of their parish. I, as the pastor, see the benefit of the Deacons first hand. They are there when I cannot be there. I love it when I visit someone in the hospital and find out that the Deacon has already been there, called, or sent a card or plant! It makes my job easier and most importantly, we fulfill our God-given mandate to love one another.

So what specifically do the Deacons do? Well, in a nutshell, Deacons assist the Elders in giving care and concern to the congregation. The Book of Orders says that Deacons, "oversee the ministry of compassion of the congregation to the sick, friendless, bereaved, and those in any way distressed." Obviously then, a good Deacon has a real passion for the individuals and families of Westkirk Presbyterian Church. They exhibit the spiritual gifts of: encouragement helps, hospitality, intercession, mercy, and/or serving, in their every day lives; and they have the ability and willingness to keep strict confidences, and care for people without discrimination, under all circumstances.

Our Deacons do this in two ways. First, they maintain contact with their assigned 'parish' of members. Second, they are a part of a Deacon associated ministry, of which we have several: 'Café Kirk' Parish Dinners, College Student Care Packages, DMARC (quarterly) Food Pantry Collection, Kid's Worship Bags, Library, Military Support, New Baby Ministry (gift and meal coordination), Prayer Shawl, and the Stephen Ministry. And you can be involved in any of these yourselves. Let's not wait to hear from our Deacons – let your Deacon know that you appreciate their ministry, and ask how you can pray for them and assist them as they serve us and the Lord!

Pastor Michael



^{NIV} 1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ In the same way, their wives {11 Or way, deaconesses} are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. ¹² A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.



Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2008

George De Graaf
Chuck Heitbrink
Ron Long
Kevin Riggins

Class of 2009

Kevin Heer
Marv Nugteren
Barb Springer
Kirk Yentes

Class of 2010

Rick Eyerly
Ryan Glanzer
Jerry Tuinstra
Melinda Turnbull

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Aaron Pieper

Commission ChairPersons

Christian Education - Jerry Tuinstra
Evangelism/Fellowship - Van Harden
House and Grounds - Ron Long
Missions - George De Graaf
Stewardship - Chuck Heitbrink
Worship - Kevin Riggins

Board of Deacons

Class of 2008

Barb Asman
Dianne Glanzer
Bette Jones
Fran Nugteren
Kris Thompson

Class of 2009

Marilyn Long
Marillyn McCulloch
John Schwien
Sandy Tuinstra
Sherie Whitehead

Class of 2010

Linda Aldrich
Jeff Brady
Kay Cunitz
Cynthia Fisher
Eric Wickemeyer



- 1 Dan Geisle
- 2 Ben Dixon
- 3 *Mallory Wickemeyer
- 7 Gloria Huyser
- 7 *Emily Leahy
- 9 Debbie Frondle
- 10 Winnie Adden
- 11 Ellen Harrison
- 12 Regi Donaldson
- 12 Arlene Hubbell
- 12 *Elizabeth Leonard
- 14 Paul Carbone
- 15 Chris Brown
- 15 Hap Finestead
- 16 *Joshua Duff
- 17 Gary Glanzer
- 18 Lee Turnbull
- 19 Caitlin Miller
- 19 Shirley Sanders
- 19 *Nathan Vis
- 20 Brad Barron
- 21 Ann Bratney
- 22 Elaine Erickson
- 26 Mark Scheve
- 27 Joyce Korocho
- 27 Jorge Mesa
- 27 *Hayley Miller
- 30 *Molly Benson

*Youth member

Pocket Church Directory

It is nearly time to publish a new Church Membership Directory. Plans are to have it for you in May. Your help will be needed to verify your family information when proof lists are posted. The time will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. Please watch for it so you can help us have an accurate pocket-size directory.



- 2 Brad Haley & Somer Gillett
- 7 Mark & Joy Dauterive
- 8 Mack & Carol Harbour
- 10 Christopher & Linda Wilde
- 13 Lee & Pat Gorman
- 17 Chad & Amanda Carlson

Happy Birth Day!

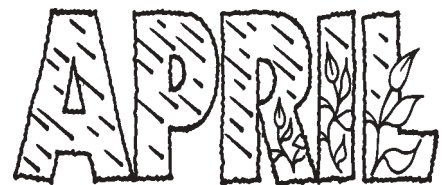
Congratulations to **Dan and Christine Kinney** on the birth of their third son, **Samuel Peter**, born February 26, 2008. The brothers are Luke and Zach.

And, congratulations to **Doug and Jess Kanis** on the birth of their daughter, **Kenzie Margreet**, born March 5, 2008. Kenzie joins her brother, Zeb.

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Barb and Max Asman** on the loss of Barb's mother, Bernice Bower, who died March 16, 2008 in Glenwood, IA.

Our sincere sympathy to **Florence Mills and Audrey Willcox** on the death of their sister, Opal Knipfer, March 21 in West Branch, IA. Funeral services were held at Westkirk on March 25 with Pastor Mudlaff officiating.





The Bulletin Board

April Activities. See related articles in this issue

- Tuesday** 4/1 **Women's Bible Study** 9:00 a.m., Hospitality Room
Stephen Ministry 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** 4/2 **WOW activities** start at 5:45 p.m.; **Bible classes**, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday** 4/3 **Highlanders**, 11:30 a.m., West Des Moines HyVee
- Saturday** 4/5 **Parent's Night Out**, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
* * * * *
- Sunday** 4/6 **Sunday School; Confirmation Class**, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday** 4/7 **Commissions, Deacons meetings**, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** 4/8 **Women's Bible Study**, 9:00 a.m., Hospitality Room
New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** 4/9 **WOW activities** start at 5:45 p.m.; **Bible classes**, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday** 4/10 **Dorcas Circle**, 1:00 p.m., Great Hall
* * * * *
- Sunday** 4/13 **Sunday School; Confirmation Class**, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday** 4/15 **Women's Bible Study** 9:00 a.m., Hospitality Room
The Clan Housekirk meeting, 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room
Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Shepherd articles for May are due
- Wednesday** 4/16 **WOW activities** start at 5:45 p.m.; **Bible classes**, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
* * * * *
- Sunday** 4/20 **Sunday School; Confirmation Class**, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday** 4/21 **Session meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** 4/22 **New Light meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
Bagpipers luncheon, 1:00 p.m., Maxie's, West Des Moines
- Wednesday** 4/23 **WOW activities** start at 5:45 p.m.; **Bible classes**, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
* * * * *
- Sunday** 4/27 **Sunday School; Confirmation Class**, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Club 56 potluck picnic following morning worship
- Wednesday** 4/30 **WOW activities** start at 5:45 p.m.; **Bible classes**, 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.



Highlanders News

Highlanders will meet **Thursday, April 3** at the HyVee Grocery at Grand Avenue & Railroad in West Des Moines in the private dining room. The room is open at 11:30 a.m. and the program will start at 12:15 p.m.

The speaker is **Tim Johnston, Field Operations Manager for Pinnacle Construction**, Westkirk's general contractor for the new wing and sanctuary remodeling. You will have an opportunity to hear about the new addition and to ask any questions you may have.

Because this spring **Jack & Bette Jones** will be completing their three-year commitment as coordinators for Highlanders, there will be a discussion following the program about new leadership and the future of the group. Be sure to come and bring your suggestions for next year!

Christian Education Meeting

Monday, April 7 the Christian Education Commission will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room to discuss Vacation Bible School. Anyone interested in helping plan Vacation Bible School or talking about curriculum and training for Christian education is encouraged to attend.

Dorcas Circle

Thursday, April 10 all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to come to Dorcas Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. **Linda Aldrich** will be leading us in a faith lesson titled, "An Unlikely Disciple," from the series *Walk as Jesus Walked; Making Disciples*. **Kay Cunitz** and **Mary Millis** will be hostesses.

Designated Communion Offering

Each month on Communion Sunday, an offering is collected for a specific purpose (missions, youth, Deacons, etc.). This extra gift above and beyond our pledged amount can be a real boost for a ministry.

The **April 13** offering will be for *Just Give Me Jesus*, a revival for women being held April 18-19 at Wells Fargo Arena. This free event features world famous leaders. Funded by churches and individuals, your gift is very important for this ministry..

"Bowl for Kid's Sake"

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa is currently looking for Mentors in the Central Iowa area. As you may have seen on television, they are hosting a "**Bowl for Kid's Sake**," and if you are interested in donating to this fund or would be interested in serving as a Mentor, please see **Hugh or Deann Sheppard** . . . *Mission Commission*

Teen Challenge Tour

Sunday, May 18, 12:00 - 4:30 p.m.

The Mission Commission is hosting a tour of the **Teen Challenge** facility in Colfax and would like to invite you to join us on that date. Teen Challenge has offered to serve us a luncheon when we arrive. Robert Schmidt, who is the Community Relations Director at Teen Challenge and also a member of Westkirk, will be "Emceeing" the tour starting with some background of the ministry while we are riding over on the bus. The bus can hold up to 54 people so if you are interested in riding on the bus, please sign the sheet in the Hospitality Room so you are assured a seat. You can also drive your vehicle and follow the bus, but will miss out on the ministry background from Bob. If you have any questions, please see **Robert Schmidt or George De Graaf**. If you would like to offset the cost of the bus, it would be approximately \$10.00 per person and that can be collected on the bus.

Hymnals Presented

Our sincere thanks to **Clarence Duke** and **Barb and Jack Wilson** for their gift of hymnals for the balcony seating area. When Westkirk was first occupied, they also provided Sanctuary hymnals.

Hope Ministries Tea

Saturday, May 3

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sheraton West Hotel

50th & University

West Des Moines, Iowa

Speaker: Carol John from Oxnard, California

TOPIC: "Navigating the Speed Bumps of Life"

Note: She will also be leading a workshop, "Managing Pain and Suffering," in the afternoon, free for those who attend the Tea

How You Can Help

Soon the Session will post a list of items needed to furnish the East Wing. You will have an opportunity to sign up for specific gifts (the way we did for the West Wing). Watch for an announcement in the Sunday bulletin about the way you may help with this project.

TRIP TO MEXICO

Mission Trip for Adults.

November 6, 2008-November 11, 2008

The Mission Commission is sponsoring a Mission Trip to Monterey, Mexico. Rus and Julie Norem are heading up this excursion. It will be connected with **Back2Back Ministries** in Monterey and **Greg and Cathy Huffer**. They have several opportunities for groups to help out with the ministry there, from helping out in the orphanages to construction work at the ministry headquarters. Please check with Rus and Julie if interested and there will be a sign up sheet in the Hospitality Room for this trip. You will need a current PASSPORT and the current immunizations

In an effort to offset a portion of the trip expense, the Mission Commission will have a Garage Sale sometime in June at the Church. If you are a "Garage Sale" addict and would like to help out, we would appreciate your help. Please talk to Rus & Julie Norem.

... *Mission Commission*

O, What a Beautiful Easter Day!

Many members and friends of Westkirk were up bright and early to gather for Easter breakfast. As usual our loyal chefs and their crew prepared a delicious meal served in a festive setting.

The children helped set the happy tone for worship by singing at the beginning of worship. It was a beautiful service, with joyous music by the choir and instrumentalists and an inspiring sermon by Pastor Mudlaff. With the extra seating provided in the balcony, the 333 in attendance were accommodated comfortably. There was still room for more!

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped prepare for and participated in the Holy Week celebration. It made for a beautiful Eastertide!



A New Bible for Westkirk

On Easter Sunday not only did the Sanctuary have a new look, there was a beautiful lectern Bible! Several months ago, a couple of long-time members, who wish to remain anonymous, asked the Worship Commission to secure a special Bible for the lectern. The task proved to be complicated, but an appropriate NIV version was finally located in England! This was just before Easter when the gift was to be presented. Fortunately, customs and the delivery service came through, with just days to spare.

Take a few moments to come up to see this lovely gift after worship. Our sincere thanks to the generous donors.

Think Stephen Ministry!

You are the front lines of caring ministry at Westkirk. As you meet and greet those around you this spring, think Stephen Ministry. When you see persons who seem troubled or are struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them that Westkirk has a special ministry where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. Ask their permission to refer them to a Stephen leader who will talk with them and help them decide if this is a service they would like to receive. By doing so, you may have helped them more than you will ever know.

Food Pantry Report

Our Deacons appreciate your support of their food collection project. The low February totals were somewhat disappointing, although perhaps to be expected since the weather forced cancellation of worship on Food Pantry Sunday! The Deacons thank you for your gifts of 177 food items and \$455 in cash donations. Our next opportunity to support this ministry is in May. Let's start planning now.

Ruth Harbor Walk for Life Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.

Ruth Harbor is hosting their third annual Walk for Life on Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. Mark your calendars for this event and more information will follow. Please check with **Diane Skinner** if interested.

Campus Crusade Fellowship Dinner at Sheraton West Saturday, April 26, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in what some of the students at ISU are involved with throughout the year, you may want to join us as we hear from them and other college students in the Midwest area. Campus Crusade is involved in the lives of college students worldwide and has an impact on the lives of international students who come to America for their education. We support David and Karen Eggert who are involved in the TIP Project at ISU. If interested, see **George & Gail De Graaf**. We have a table for 10 available.

Thank You Notes . . .

Thank you so much to everyone for your generous contributions of the diapers last fall and the kleenex and paper towels in February for Hope Ministries.

They are much needed and much appreciated. It is a joy to be part of such a caring church community.

*Cynthia, Julie & Lois
Your Ambassadors for Hope Ministries*

Our Westkirk Family –

Thank you very much for the wonderful worship/commissioning service we shared in January. We felt very affirmed, encouraged and loved.

We are very grateful for you and the partnership we share.

*Blessings to you all.
The Straits (Brett & Micki Strait)*

Dear Michael,

Thank you so much for the hospitality you showed the staff of For His Glory and myself. You and your congregation were so warm and welcoming. You are truly a blessing. Thank you so much and may you and your congregation be abundantly blessed.

*In Christ,
Jennifer Gibson*

A Big Thank You to the congregation for the great support of the "Hope Paper Drive." Many rolls of paper towels and boxes of facial tissue were collected and delivered.

Mission Commission

My family and I would like to thank you for sending the beautiful flower arrangement in memory of my cousin, Krisana. The thoughtfulness will always be remembered. The flowers were shared with Nazareth Lutheran Church for the Sunday morning worship.

*Audrene Hansen
Colleen Obrecht*



Mission Weekend at Westkirk May 4, 2008

EUROPE FAIR, focus this year, slightly different from past years.

***Gary De Graaf, Greater Europe Mission**, serving in Tours, France, will be our speaker at our Worship Service and share what the Lord is doing in France in planting His church.

***Peter and Ana Lucaciu, Romanian Evangelistic Medical Mission**, will be with us to share the Lord's work there during the Sunday School hour with the adults.

***Karen Langstraat** serves on the board of **Greater Europe Mission** and will be our speaker at the luncheon to share the

latest DVD and ministry of GEM, as well as how it all got started.

***Dan Marvin** will share **International Messengers** ministry, also during the luncheon. They will be doing English language camps this summer in Hungary.

*Possibly a video from the **Schusters in Ireland** at the luncheon.

TASTE OF EUROPE is our dinner theme, and we will serve at 12:00 noon. PLEASE sign up for the luncheon so we have enough seating.

Other pre-mission weekend activities:

1. A large European map will be on display for you to sign your name on the countries from where your ancestors came to America.
2. If you would like to make a table centerpiece for one of the European countries, please see Gail De Graaf.
3. If your family, Housekirk, or group would like to set up a display on a European country using a small table and tri-fold board, that would be great - let Gail De Graaf know about your plan.
4. Consider writing a short paper (kids: perhaps it could be a school project for a grade!!) on one of the following topics you research:
 - a) Traveling in Europe,
 - b) My favorite cathedral/church,
 - c) The "Euro" currency vs. the U.S. dollar,
 - d) My grandparent/parent came from _____, and this is what they told me....,
 - e) I went to Europe and I was impressed with.....,
 - f) I would like to visit _____ and see....,
 - g) I love _____ cooking because....,
 - h) The story of the Reformation and beginning of Presbyterianism.
5. Here is GEM's list of European countries - I have information about many of them from GEM:
Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Ukraine, The United Kingdom.

We are planning to have a set-up time on Saturday, and perhaps a time of fellowship, dessert, or snack while we get things prepared for Sunday and looking at each other's displays.

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

On Mission with Small Groups

Pastor Steve Randall

At our recent Elder retreat we had a great time sharing, laughing, and discussing all that God is accomplishing in our lives and in the life of Westkirk. The focus of our time together was an exploration of the *practice* of our church mission – to know Christ and to make Him known. Afterwards I took some time to reflect on all that we discussed and the importance of our time together became very clear. We were talking about the legacy of Westkirk Presbyterian Church. We were talking about making sure that our mission does not become mere lip-service, but rather that it is lived out in every moment in which the members of Westkirk gather and interact with each other and with our non-Christian friends and neighbors. Toward this end, Pastor Michael encouraged all of us to explore how our mission is practiced in each area of ministry. This was a hard-hitting exercise, but it is an important one because we want the legacy of Westkirk to be about the depth to which the gospel penetrated the lives of each member of our church family.

As the Pastor of Small Groups at Westkirk, I want to share with all of you how I see our small group ministry fulfilling our mission to know Christ and make Him known, and why I think it's so important for all of us to consider joining a current small group or forming a new one.

It is the purpose our small groups to see lives transformed by integrating all areas of life and faith, developing relationships to live out love for Jesus in community, and to see expressions of gifts being used to further the kingdom of God within our homes and neighborhoods, ultimately manifesting in the salvation of unbelievers.

Here is how our HouseKirk ministry integrates with the mission of Westkirk:

Living for Jesus: As a community of believers, the common thread that brings us together is our love for Jesus. Whether through prayer, Bible study, service, or fellowship, we seek to bring Glory to Jesus.

Authentic Relationship and Connection: As our culture longs for authentic relationship and connection, HouseKirks provide a place where we can deal with the realities of life. HouseKirks are intended to be places where group members do life together and to reach out to neighbors and others in the community with an understanding of the needs and desires present in all our lives – a need to know Christ and to know Him well.

Loving People: We love one another by sharing in life's struggles and victories. We heed the scriptures by encouraging one another and calling each other to repentance as we deal with sin. We love each other and those around us through acts of service and through hospitality to those who visit our groups.

Transforming Lives: As stated before, transformed lives must be the fruit of our labor in groups. We endeavor to see all areas of our lives submitted to God and exposed to the light, so that we glorify Jesus through our whole lives. We seek to see non-believers become believers, believers to live in freedom, and for all our members to live lives in the Spirit as God intends.

Christianity is intended to be lived out in community. *Our goal is to see every member and person who calls Westkirk home to be connected in meaningful community.* That is not to say that HouseKirks are the only way that this is accomplished but it is the primary way for most of us. As one of your pastors I encourage you to find a small group to join if you haven't already. If you need help finding a group, you can stop at the Informational Kiosk at church or email pastorsteve@bluebottle.org. In addition, it will take many more leaders and homes opened up to accommodate the needs of Westkirk. If you are interested in leading a group, please contact Pastor Steve at the church office or by email.

Remember, Christianity is meant to be lived out in community ... and not just surface-level living where we see each other on Sunday mornings and at the occasional Wednesday night activity, but real community where you share your heart, your struggles, and all that is going on in your journey with Jesus. Ask yourself how well you are doing at connecting with others in our church family and please let me know if I can help you get connected.

Construction Report

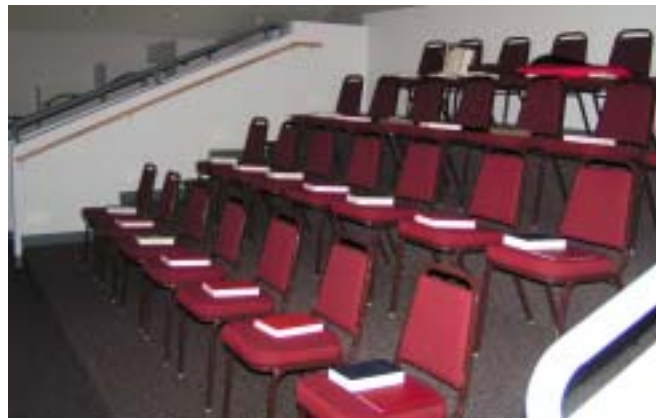
The Building Committee meets bi-weekly. We have pretty much finalized all the decisions on purchasing and structural changes for the overall project.

Throughout the remainder of March the sheetrock work will be completed and electrical and plumbing roughed in throughout the East wing. This will take a couple of weeks and mean there will be a few more weeks of dust around the Narthex and Sanctuary. We were still on target to finish the balcony for Easter except for the new stadium seating and overhead lighting. We used chairs for balcony seating on Easter. The new seats will arrive some time in April.

The Narthex had new carpeting by Easter. The carpeting in the Narthex extends up both sets of stairs to the balcony. The balcony is covered with carpeting that matches the carpeting throughout the new wing (except for the office areas.) You should also notice some painting changes in the Sanctuary giving it a new look.

The new project completion date is early to middle May. Much of the finish work will be completed in April and early May.

Bill F. Raisch, Building Committee



PRESENTING . . .

Eric Wickemeyer

Eric is a newly elected Deacon and has been so busy in teaching Sunday School the last four years that some of us had not adequately become acquainted with him and his family. John and I enjoyed visiting with Eric around our kitchen table and hearing him enthusiastically describe his background and events of his life which brought him to Iowa and, eventually, to Westkirk.



Battle Creek, Michigan, was the place of his birth but the first of many family moves came, for him, at the age of one, to Ohio. Eric's father's occupation was in business marketing which took the Wickemeyer family of six (mother, father and four boys) to Ohio, New York, Canada, and New Jersey. When graduation time for Eric came, the family lived in Summit, New Jersey, and he graduated from Summit High School.

Eric's interest and ability in art took him to Art School in Baltimore, Maryland, for one year. He then went two and a half years to Fairleigh Dickenson University in Madison, New Jersey, taking Communications classes. Through these interim years Eric "moonlighted" in carpentry and construction which allowed him to make money and learn and use skills which would serve him well in the future.

The next four years he worked as an Assistant Buyer in the furniture of B. Altman & Co. in Manhattan, NY. We are now in year 1986. The owners of B. Altman decided to sell the business and Eric found himself looking for work. By this time, one of Eric's brothers, a practicing cardiologist in Des Moines, invited him to come and look for work here. The fall of 1986 he made the move and was delighted with the change of pace and life style of mid-westerners. He found work in Younkers Store for Homes and became a clerk to the buyer in their floor coverings department. Many of us remember when Younkers closed the Store for Homes. I'll bet we weren't as disappointed as Eric!

He took some computer operations classes at DMACC and started job hunting again. He worked for Iowa Paint and then in 1989 was in computer operations management at Mercy Hospital. Can't you just imagine his frustration with that job! He decided to get back to doing what really gave him satisfaction which is working with his hands. This led him to Monarch Renovations, which is his present employment.

The year 1995 was when Eric was introduced to the lovely Melissa and after a six-month courtship felt blessed that such a beautiful person would accept his proposal! Not that they had originally planned it, but arrangements were becoming more complicated than either of them wished. So they went to Las Vegas where their ceremony was held at the Candle Light Chapel, performed by a Baptist minister who gave them great instruction on how to be good "helpmates." March 3, 1997 Mallory was born and Ross was added to their family in 2000. These children bring great joy to Eric and Melissa and they want God's best for their lives.

When he was asked about hobbies, I was surprised to learn Eric has a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and he was quick to inform me, with pride, that Mallory has a 1st Degree Black Belt and Ross is working on it. Woodworking gives Eric great satisfaction and he has used this talent to do work around the church, when asked.

Continued on next page

TWO HOUSEKIRK MESSAGES IN ONE!

Message One: For Those That Have Never Been To a Housekirk

Listening is an important part of our faith and that's what we do at church services. But, after realizing from the Bible and from our own heart that it is essential to interact with other Christians who, like you, are experiencing joys, trials, temptations, family issues, challenges, work issues, health issues and sorrows, many Christians understand that it's time to be in a smaller group of believers. That's what our Housekirk groups are. There are a number of them that meet at various days and times for conversation, study, prayer or being prayed for, and generally caring for each other. No Christian is an island. God clearly teaches we need other believers. He made us for Him and for each other. Message one is....please join a Housekirk. No matter what your age or situation, we need each other. There are existing Housekirk groups. New ones can be started. They usually have 5 to 10 people. Call Pastor Steve for information at 253-0330.

Message Two: For Current or Former Housekirk Members

Thank you for being there, for your sake and the sake of others in you group! Remember that your group may study or talk about whatever it chooses and that Pastor Steve has some resource materials if you need them. A few simple things can make or break your Housekirk. One of our most successful and long running groups says much of their success is due to consistency. Choose a regular day and time and stick with it. Plus, one of their group members gives a typewritten reminder to all members at church the Sunday before the group meets. If some members aren't at church that Sunday, he calls to remind them. So, if someone can't be there we can often get a prayer request from them. Message two is...Keep up your Housekirk! It is important to your members, the church and you!

. . . *Van Harden, Evangelism/Fellowship Commission Chair*

* * * * *

Continued from previous page -- Wickemeyer

The Wickemeyers have attended a few churches in Des Moines on their journey to know God and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A senior pastor of First Assembly and Bible classes there helped them on that journey. In 2002 they moved to their present home and wanted to attend a church in their neighborhood, if possible. Eric phoned Westkirk Presbyterian Church and talked to Pastor Hoffman, telling him they were looking for "simple Bible teaching." Pastor Hoffman told him the times of their Sunday School and Worship service and said, "If you come and stay after the worship service, you'll get a cookie!" He especially remembers the friendliness of people, most especially recalling Bill and Marsha Raisch, Joyce and Dave Durlam and Bob Schmadeke, greeting and introducing themselves. Four years ago Eric started teaching children's Sunday School with "Miss Elaine" who has been an inspiration in his spiritual growth as have the great sermons and music of the worship service.

Though our time together was short, we were inspired by the story of Eric's life and the process God used to draw him to desire to know Him and have that personal relationship with Christ. Eric is humbled and pleased to serve a term as Deacon and we all can thank him for making that commitment.

. . . *Carolyn Chenoweth*



New Life Student Ministry

*Westkirk Presbyterian Church &
Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church*

Life as a student ... or who are the students in our church?

“Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.” (v11)

One of the oddities of our modern culture is the creation of the teenager. You may say, “Hold on there, haven’t there always been ‘teenagers’?” Actually no, at least not in the way we think of them today – that is, as individuals journeying through a specific life-stage meant to prepare them for adulthood. That idea is a result of the industrial revolution. “Teenagers” are thought to be in a state of preparation ... for college ... for a career ... for parenthood ... the list goes on. They are supposed to be getting ready for the important stuff of life ahead of them. In other words, they are to be learning and studying so that they will be ready when their day comes. They are students. That’s interesting, at least to me. Shouldn’t we all be doing that? Aren’t we all preparing for a life to come? Aren’t we all supposed to be studying?

Do you think that you’ve arrived? Do you tend to think that you’ve learned what you need to learn and now know what you need to know? Do you see yourself as having more answers than questions? Do you think you’ve got the Bible all figured out? Do you know all there is to know about what it means to be a follower of Jesus? Do you view your spiritual gifts as unchanging and therefore unworthy of more investigation?

Do you carry around a hunger to know? Do you want to understand more deeply and more fully? Do you have a humble, open, and seeking heart? Are you approaching life with the mentality of a student? Or have you forgotten what it means to be a student? If you’re sitting in the pew, then God’s not done with you yet. He’s still teaching ... are you still learning?

Pastor Steve

New Life (High School) April Calendar

4/2 Film and Theology @ Westkirk, 7 p.m.	4/16 Film & Theology @ Westkirk, 7 p.m.
4/6 Band Practice @ Crown Point, 5:30 p.m. New Life Club @ Crown Point, 6:30 p.m.	4/20 Youth Band Practice @ Crown Point, 5:30 p.m. New Life Club @ Crown Point, 6:30 p.m.
4/9 Film and Theology @ Westkirk, 7 p.m.	4/23 Film & Theology @ Westkirk, 7 p.m.
4/13 No Band Practice Sunday Night at the Kirk, 6:30 p.m. New Life Club @ Westkirk, 8:00 p.m. * Bring \$3 for pizza	4/27 Youth Band Practice @ Crown Point, 5:30 p.m. New Life Club @ Crown Point, 6:30 p.m.

Children's Ministry

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.” ~ Deuteronomy 32:4

Moses spoke these words to the elders and officials of Israel near the end of his life. He was worried that the Israelites would rebel and turn away from God once he left. As parents we often worry about our children, too, but this verse reminds us that we can trust God. Because God is perfect, we can trust Him that the experiences He is giving our children are shaping them into what He wants them to become, and that He is working in both the good and bad times to turn our children toward Him. Now that's good news! Keep praying that God would use each of your children's experiences to draw them closer to Him.

In addition to Sunday School, WOW, and Children's Church, Westkirk has many opportunities for your family to grow closer to each other, to God, and to others:

Saturday, April 5 is Parents' Night Out. Start thinking now about what you'd like to do with the love of your life that evening. Bring the kids to church anytime between 5:00-8:00 p.m. and we'll feed them dinner as well as plan an evening of fun with them while you enjoy time with your spouse. There is no fee for this event; however, donations are accepted to help send our youth to camp this summer. Please sign up at the welcome center so we can plan accordingly.

Children's Worship Sunday is Mother's Day, **May 11**. The children will help lead worship by participating in the various aspects of worship, such as greeting, ushering, serving as acolytes, singing, reading scripture, etc. During Kid's Own Worship and Kids of the Kingdom, the children will be signing up for different tasks and learning the various parts of our worship service.

A new group will be starting this summer called **Club 56**. We invite families of all current fourth and fifth graders to a potluck picnic on **Sunday, April 27** after church. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided and prizes will be awarded to those who bring their registration forms.

Summer is almost around the corner, and **Twin Lakes Christian Center** has many different camps to offer this summer. The deadline for their early bird special is **April 15** this year, so check out their website at www.twinlakescc.com.

Also, don't forget to put **Vacation Bible School** on your calendar for **July 27-31**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gloria Huyser or Karen Admussen.



The Shepherd

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

Managing Editor - Lou Heitbrink
Assistant Managing Editor - Kelli Miller

Contributing Editors

Karen Admussen
Carolyn Chenoweth
Regi Donaldson
George and Gail De Graaf
Audrene Hansen,
Sally Harrison
Helen Main
Michael Mudlaff
Steve Randall

Production Staff

Dan & Jan Geisler
Chuck Heitbrink, Fran Nugteren
Bob Schmadeke, Genevieve Stogdill
Joan Thompson

Staff of Westkirk

Pastor - Michael Mudlaff
Assistant Pastor - Steven Randall
Administrative Assistant - Elaine Hurst
Director of Children's Ministry - Karen Admussen
Director of Music - Larry Kussatz
Accompanist - Dianne Glanzer
Youth Coordinator - Hugh Sheppard
Stephen Leaders
Karen Breeding, Carolyn Eyerly, Rick Eyerly,
Pastor Michael Mudlaff, Eleanor Smith
Custodian - Barbara McCargar
Head Usher - Fergus Taylor
Communion Stewards
Kay Cunitz & Cynthia Fisher
Paul & Jeannie Havnen
Ron & Marilyn Long
Wedding Coordinators
Carolyn Eyerly, Lou Heitbrink, Irene Reed
Flower Chairperson - Audrene Hansen
First Ladies
Jan Geisler, Lou Heitbrink, Fran Nugteren
Darlene Reighard, Myra Verros, Mary Lu Younkin



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

April 2008

Nonprofit

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