

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 5 May 2008

To Know Christ and Make Him Known - Everywhere

The Great Commission is as well known a passage in Christian circles as you are going to find. And yet, churches today are abandoning their traditional support for global ministry. Some have been influenced by the culture to question whether or not it is appropriate for the Church to send missionaries to proselytize other parts of the world. Others choose to focus on ministries closer to home. Still others focus on one particular ministry or location and focus all their resources there. No matter what, it's difficult to get around Jesus' command in Matthew 28 to "*go and make disciples of all nations,*" or as Luke records in ^{ESV} **Acts 1:8**, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*"

Under the leadership of George and Gail De Graaf and Darrell and Linda Aldrich before them, I'm pleased that Westkirk strives for balance in the global responsibility of our vision, 'To Know Christ and Make Him Known.' Our Missions Commission is full of dedicated people with their own personal passions and preferences, but together, they work hard to support ministries in our own Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. Recently, I had the tremendous blessing of being able to visit one of our missionary families on their own home turf. Missionaries have the ability to coast along in ministry, far from their accountability structures, and frankly, report whatever they want to about the advance of the Gospel where they serve. As I visited Jonathan and Becky Schuster in Ireland, I was pleased to see first hand the fruit of their labor. And even more pleased (and surprised), that their ministry impact is even greater than what I anticipated.

First, the Swords Baptist Church that is sending Jonathan out as a church planter to Skerries, was packed. I expected 20 or 30. This church has outgrown the school auditorium they meet in and is already planning to find a new, permanent location. Then, I attended the weekly Bible study of the group that forms the nucleus of the new church. When the Schusters began four years ago, there were four in the group. But what I saw was a living room with no room for more. Twenty-six were present, and for the first time, someone other than Jonathan led the study. Finally, I visited the Irish Bible Institute on two days – first to observe and second to lead Jonathan's classes in practical ministry. Jonathan is one of two Old Testament instructors, and I was regaled with affirmation for him, and gratitude for us in supporting his work. What a blessing!

Missions Sunday is upon us. This is a special time in the life of our church. We will hear first hand from some of our ministry partners and learn specifically about the challenges they face in representing Christ in Europe. Don't shy away. Get involved! Dress up! Parade with a flag! Come to the luncheon and hear what the Lord is doing through us in other parts of the world. This is a great opportunity to get excited and learn – I will be there and I hope you will too!

Pastor Michael



^{ESV} **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



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
Marilyn McCulloch
John Schvien
Sandy Tuinstra
Sherie Whitehead

Class of 2010

Linda Aldrich
Jeff Brady
Kay Cunitz
Cynthia Fisher
Eric Wickemeyer



- 1 *Grace Hoepker
 - 2 Cindy Welsher
 - 4 Cody Raisch
 - 5 Lenora Chamberlain
 - 7 Glen Bassett
 - 9 Elaine Hurst
 - 9 *Madeline Leahy
 - 10 Stacie Bland
 - 11 Clarence Duke
 - 15 *Conner Barron
 - 15 Trent Vis
 - 16 *Lauren Brady
 - 17 *Ross Wickemeyer
 - 17 Bruce Wright
 - 20 Terry Thompson
 - 20 Jack Wildrick
 - 21 Ken Bratney
 - 21 John Donaldson
 - 25 Mary Arnold
 - 26 *Eliason Norem
 - 26 Rus Norem
 - 26 Marvin Nugteren
 - 27 Janelle Leahy
 - 29 Bill Oswald
- *Youth member

Serving in Araq

Elder **Kevin Heer** is serving in Iraq. Kevin would love to hear from his Westkirk family. You may drop him a line or two at <kevin.heer@blab.afcent.af.mil>

Reminder . . .

The closing date to receive articles for the June issue of the *Shepherd* is May 15. Please observe this closing date so that we may publish on time.



- 2 Chris & Pam Brown
- 3 Hugh & Deann Sheppard
- 4 Alvin & Lois Stecker
- 7 Dave & Sandy Carson
- 10 Dan & Christine Kinney
- 17 Paul & Jeannie Havnen
- 18 Jerry & Diane Skinner
- 26 Pearce & Allison Brown
- 27... Paul & Shirley MacLafferty
- 30 Loy & Ellie Brooks
- 30 Scott & Stacie Bland

Condolences . . .

Our deepest sympathy to **Dawn and Trent Vis** on the loss of Dawn's grandfather, Henry Lode. Mr. Lode died on March 20 in Sheldon, Iowa.

We extend sincere sympathy to **Kris and Terry Thompson**. George Krohn, father of Kris, died April 15, 2008 in Storm Lake, Iowa. Mr. Kron was 92.

And, condolences to **Darrel and Linda Aldrich** on the loss of Darrell's sister, Ardith Sloan. Mrs. Sloan died on Friday, April 18 in Tucson, AZ.

Our sympathy to **Roger and Lori Nagel** on the loss of Roger's mother, Hansetta Nagel. Mrs. Nagel died on April 21 in Monticello, IA.





The Bulletin Board

MAY Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Thursday	5/1	Highlanders Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., West Des Moines HyVee * * * * *
Sunday	5/4	Sunday School; Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Mission Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Mission Luncheon following Worship
Monday	5/5	Commissions meetings, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	5/6	Just Give Me Jesus Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Hospitality Room Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	5/7	WOW activities start at 5:45 p.m.; Bible classes, 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	5/8	Dorcas Circle, 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room Just Give Me Jesus Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
Saturday	5/10	Linda Farr and Her Dancing Dog, 10:30 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	5/11	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday Worship Service; Confirmation, 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion; Mothers' Day
Tuesday	5/13	JGMJ Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Hospitality Room New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	5/14	WOW activities start at 5:45 p.m.; Bible classes, 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	5/15	<i>Shepherd</i> articles for June due JGMJ Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room * * * * *
Sunday	5/18	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. <i>Celebration in Scripture and Song</i> , 10:30 a.m. Food Pantry Collection
Monday	5/19	Session/Deacons meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	5/20	The Clan Housekirk, 1:00 p.m., Great Hall JGMJ Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Hospitality Room Stephen Ministry meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	5/21	WOW starts at 5:45 p.m.; Children's Dinner Theater, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	5/22	JGMJ Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room * * * * *
Sunday	5/25	Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Memorial Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	5/27	Bagpipers Luncheon, 1:00 p.m., Nick's Grill, Clive JGMJ Bible Study, 1:30 p.m., Hospitality Room New Light meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	5/28	No WOW activities
Thursday	5/29	JGMJ Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Hospitality Room



Highlanders Last 2007-2008 Meeting

Highlanders will meet on **Thursday, May 1** at the HyVee Deli at Grand and Railroad Avenues in West Des Moines for lunch. The private dining room will be open at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 12:15 p.m.

The program will be presented by **Jack and Bette Jones**. They will tell of several ways to have a safe and enjoyable vacation with little effort on your part. Come and learn about Friendship Force, Elderhostel, Close-up, bus trips, and day trips. Come and bring a friend to enjoy the program. This program will conclude the 2007-2008 activities.

... Jack & Bette Jones, Coordinators

Christian Education Commission

On **Monday, May 5** the Christian Education Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Hospital-ity Room to discuss Youth and Teacher Appreciation. Anyone interested in helping or finding out more about Christian education at Westkirk is encouraged to attend.

Memorial Sunday at Westkirk

Each year on the last Sunday in May, Westkirk has a special observance to honor those church members and friends who have passed on since the previous Memorial Day. Carnations are provided for family or friends to present in memory of their loved ones.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for forms to reserve a flower for the **May 25 service**. There is no charge for the carnations. Please be sure your reservation is received at the church office by **Sunday, May 18**.

Music Sunday Coming

Just before taking a summer break, our Westkirk choir has a wonderful treat in store for the congregation. On **Sunday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m.** the worship service will be a *Celebration in Scripture and Song* as part of the choir's ministry of music. You will hear some of your favorite anthems from the past as well as some exciting new selections. **Barbara Robinson and Ryan Glanzer** are soloists. There will be piano and organ accompaniment.

Let's honor our talented musicians by having a full house on the 18th. Invite your friends to come along to church that day to worship God through music and the Word.

During the summer, special music will be provided, including a once-a-month appearance of the "summer choir." This will be a time for anyone who wishes to sing along to join the group. Rehearsals will be after worship on the third Sunday before they sing the following week.. If you have questions, please ask a choir member or **Director of Music Larry Kussatz**.

DMARC Food Pantry Collection

Empty grocery sacks will be distributed by the Deacons after the services on **May 4 and May 11**. The filled bags will be collected on May 18.

However, you may prefer to make a financial contribution rather than donating items. A monetary donation allows the Food Pantry to purchase larger quantities of specific food items that they need. You may simply make your check payable to *Westkirk Presbyterian Church* and indicate it is for *Food Pantry*.

Our collection in February was less than usual because our church service was cancelled on collection Sunday. Please prayerfully consider donating a little extra this time to help make up the deficit caused by the harsh winter.

Thank you for continuing to help feed the hungry by supporting this ministry.

... Dianne Glanzer, Deacon

From Stewardship Commission

The first quarter of our year is now complete and we are pleased to report that our giving for this time frame is within a couple hundred dollars of our budget. Due to unexpected increases in snow removal and energy costs, our expenses have exceeded our estimates by approximately \$3,600, creating a deficit to our budget for the first quarter. The first quarter is typically a difficult time in the financial life of the church, so we are pleased with our current standing. We expect to return to the black by the end of June. Thanks for your great commitment to the financial life of the ministry!

As was expected, there have been numerous changes, surprises and adjustments to the building expansion project. And with the lengthy and wet winter, we are experiencing some delays on the completion and clean-up of the exterior of the building. But, we are close to the completion date and the Building Committee and the Stewardship Commission are working hard to compile the additional costs and project a final number. Our goal is to have that total cost by mid-May. We will make a proposal to the Session for meeting the additional needs and pass that along to you at that time. The Building Committee and the Session have been very conscious of the costs related to this project and have worked to remain within the original guidelines of the project.

As such, we will not have any additional ‘contingency funds’ to utilize for new furnishings and other items. You may recall that we kept these items out of the contract in order to keep costs as low as possible. As we prepare to occupy our new space we will continue to identify several items and projects that we would like to add or complete in order to maximize our new space. So, we have prepared an initial ‘wish list’ of items that we ask you to consider as giving opportunities above and beyond your current giving to the general budget and building project.

Audio Visual Needs for the Children’s Multi-Purpose Room	\$3,800
Audio Visual Needs for the Youth Room	\$3,200
Kitchenette for the Youth Room	\$2,000
Additional materials to complete the Youth space	\$4,500
White/bulletin boards for Christian Education rooms	\$2,657
Senior Pastor’s Office furniture	\$4,000
Pastor’s Lounge furniture	\$4,500
Carpet and installation for the Hospitality Room	\$4,600
New access (door) to the exterior from the existing kitchen	\$6,200

As other items are discovered, we will pass those along to you as well.

We want to thank the members of the congregation for their gifts and prayerful support as we work together to complete this project. The goal of this additional space has always been to support our vision, “To know Christ and to make Him known.” . . . *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission*

Dorcas Circle

Thursday, May 8 all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to come to Dorcas Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. **Lou Heitbrink** will be leading us in a faith lesson titled *Why Christians Suffer: The Weight of Gethsemane* from the series Walk as Jesus Walked; Making Disciples. **Gail DeGraaf and Mary King** will be hostesses. Be sure to join us for a time of Bible study and fellowship.

. . . *Karen Admussen, Moderator*

Church Directory to be Updated

Our pocket-size Church Membership Directory will soon be revised. Now we need our members’ help. Please review your listing on the proof sheets at the Welcome Center. If the information is correct for your family, just mark it “OK” and initial it. If there are corrections, please print the new information. We will make every effort to have the listings in the new directory current. All additions and corrections should be made by **May 4** in order to be included in the new edition.



Spring!!

It brings so many opportunities to experience Missions at Westkirk and ways to become involved in the Lord's work here and abroad.

Saturday, May 3: attend the HOPE Ministries Tea at 11:00 a.m. at the Sheraton West Hotel in West Des Moines.

Saturday, May 10: walk the two-mile course in Ruth Harbor "Walk for Life" at 9:30 a.m. You may sign up supporters to help encourage your walk!

Sunday, May 18: join us in our bus trip to Teen Challenge in Colfax, IA. Board the bus at church after worship service and we will be served lunch there, then receive a tour of the facility, and meet residents. A donation of \$10.00 each will help cover the expenses of the bus.

MISSIONS WEEKEND at Westkirk begins on **Saturday, May 3** at 4:30 p.m. when we will set the tables, and set up displays for our European mission theme.

Please sign the stickers for your family's country for the large European map in the narthex, if you haven't already done so.

Sunday, May 4: WHY MISSIONS???, WHY EUROPE???, WHY MAY 4???

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes will have the opportunity to have the missionaries sign their passports and color the country flags represented.

9:00 a.m. Adult classes will hear Peter and Ana Lucaciu present the work of Romanian Evangelistic Medical Mission in Romania. There will be an opportunity to visit the displays before, in between, and after the scheduled activities.

10:30 a.m. The assembled, costumed, flagged Procession of the European Nations into worship. Our guests will be introduced at that time. Our theme for the service is Pentecost and God's Work through the ages.

12:00 noon We will assemble in the Great Hall for our Smorgasbord Luncheon, "A Taste of Europe" The centerpieces have been provided by members of Westkirk from many countries in Europe. Our speakers at the luncheon will be Mrs. Karen Langstraat, who serves on the board of Greater Europe Missions, Dan Marvin, who works with International Messengers organizing summer English camps (this summer in Hungary), and Pastor Michael Mudlaff, who will share about his recent visit to the Schusters in Ireland. The Lucacius will also have time to say a few words to our gathered crowd. Then we will experience dessert!!! Please sign up or call **George or Gail De Graaf** for the luncheon.

Next month we will have a **LARGE GARAGE SALE** on **Saturday, June 7** to raise money for the proposed mission trip to Monterey, Mexico to visit the Huffers at Back2Back. Our youth **may also plan a car wash** at the same time. **Please be saving and setting aside things and treasures for this great event.** The Mission trip is in November if you are interested in joining the group. Any age is welcome...See **Rus and Julie Norem** 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, Dan Marvin, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

... *George De Graaf, Chair*

Michael Goes to Ireland!



RUTH HARBOR WALK FOR LIFE

Ruth Harbor is a Christ centered home and program for young women facing unplanned pregnancies. One of the main fundraisers has been their annual **Walk for Life**. The walk gives those of us who care about these young women and their babies an opportunity to help in a very practical way. When friends, families, and co-workers sponsor a walker, it enables Ruth Harbor to continue providing the following services at no charge: food, housing, transportation, counseling, quality healthcare, education, spiritual guidance, parenting training/adoption assistance, life skills training, job interest assessment and consulting.

Gather a group—HouseKirks, Sunday School groups, Commissions, etc.—and make the walk one of your service projects, or just come as individuals and/or families! It is only 2 miles, so all ages can participate. You will be asking your family and friends to sponsor you with a single, generous, tax-deductible gift for your participation in the 2-mile event, instead of being sponsored on a per mile basis. If you can't walk that day, walk in your own neighborhood and just put your sponsor form into an envelope and mail to the address shown on the front cover.

A neat long sleeve T-shirt will be given to anyone who receives sponsorships totaling \$175 or more. Sponsor pledge forms and further information is available in the Hospitality Room.

WHEN: Saturday, May 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Meredith Trail near Principal Baseball Park (from I-235, take the downtown exit to 5th Avenue. Go south on 5th Avenue about a mile, past the Science Center). The road changes to SW 5th Street and dead-ends at the walk-site parking lot.

You do not collect the money. Your pledge forms may be turned in at the Walkathon, and the money will be collected through the mail.

Please give **Diane Skinner** a call at 225-0723 for further information.

"THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT"

Construction Report

The building project is coming in like Spring, slowly but surely and with its ups and downs. The East Wing now has air conditioning and heat. The plumbing and electrical has been roughed in and trim carpentry has started. The walls are ready to paint and the ceilings are finished. Pastor Michael's office has some bookshelves in place. The cupola sits in the small multi-purpose room. Cabinetry has been installed in most rooms. In a few weeks the East Wing will be going through its finishing touches—carpet laid, painting completed, woodwork stained and finished, fixtures installed, lights placed and switched on.

The new parking area has been striped. Lights are in place and working. Once the work on the East Wing has been nearly completed the grading will begin and the dirt moved into place. The original parking lot will be re-striped once the project is completed and repairs to the parking lot have been made. We will need some help with landscaping once the grading has been completed. Those that are interested in helping in that regard should contact **Ron Long** or any other Building & Grounds Committee member or come to the Committee meeting the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

The seats for the balcony should be arriving any day now and will be installed by the supplier. I've tried out the same seats where Dave and Joyce Durlam attend church in Raleigh, NC and the seats are very comfortable. The stadium seating allows you to see the front of the church very well from the balcony. There are also some minor repairs to the sanctuary that need to be made over the next few weeks.

After the contractor and subcontractors have finished their work the City of Urbandale inspectors will perform a final inspection and then, hopefully, provide the Church with an occupancy permit. Like Spring, it seems this is a long time coming but with the beauty that Spring provides, it is well worth the wait.

. . . *Bill F. Raisch, Building Committee*

New Light Depression Support

New Light is a faith-based support group with a focus on **Hope, Love, and Acceptance**. If you have current or past experience with depression and/or anxiety disorders (either personally or with a family member or friend), or if you are struggling with some issues in your life, you are encouraged to attend this support group.

New Light is a fellowship opportunity where you can express your feelings in a caring and **confidential** environment. We learn from each other and find comfort in knowing that others may be experiencing or have overcome similar trials in their lives.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room at Westkirk. I encourage you to call me at 285-3515 or send an e-mail to gglanzer@aol.com if you would like more information about the group. We would love to have you join us.

. . . *Dianne Glanzer, Facilitator*

HouseKirks

A new blog, www.housekirks.org, has been developed to help group leaders and members find resources for studying God's Word and for building and maintaining community in your group. This will also be a place for you to find information about curriculum ideas and to post comments about your group's experiences with the various curricula you have used in the past.

This blog is also for those of you who are interested in finding out more about what a HouseKirk is and how you can get involved in this important ministry within our church.

Please visit this new site for more information or contact **Pastor Steve** directly if you have a question about your HouseKirk or you'd like to join a HouseKirk and begin doing life together with a small group of Christian friends.

Presenting . . .

Jeff and Peggy Brady

On a cold, rainy, dreary, windy April day, nothing brightens things up better than the sunny face of a small child, or the welcoming nudges of a friendly dog, or a bakery treat. Enter all three, (4-year-old Lauren, the golden retriever Riley, and a fresh blueberry pie) into the beautifully appointed dining room of the spacious and out-of-the-way Adel home of Jeff and Peggy Brady. Two older daughters of the household, Rachael (9) and Sarah (7), were attending school.



Jeff is a Family Practice Physician at Mercy West in Clive. Born in Des Moines, but raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he attended Michigan State University and then returned to Des Moines where he completed his medical studies in 1989 at Des Moines University and Iowa Lutheran Hospital. There he met Peggy, a Medical Assistant, and they were married in 1996.

Jeff likes to golf, sometimes, but found a more exciting past-time—road racing. A member of Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), he races a converted Mazda Miata and finds racing very therapeutic. He won the Shifter Go Kart National Title 5 years ago and was awarded a trophy of which Peggy is very proud.

Peggy, a stay-at-home mom, works a couple days a week for Parents as Teachers, a federally funded program for early childhood parent education and family support. She was born and raised in Marshalltown, Iowa and attended community college in Marshalltown and DMACC. She later graduated from the occupational therapy program at the College of St. Catherine, valedictorian of her class, of which Jeff is very proud.

Peggy enjoys scrapbooking (a new verb that may not have found its way into Webster's). It's an arts and crafts activity making unique collages using family photos, colorful paper and appropriate cut-outs, clip art, etc. to record family memories that are creative and beautiful. This activity brings mom and the girls together for family-time and fun. Peggy also enjoys flower gardening, which is tricky when surrounded by wooded areas and farm fields where deer play and love to nibble tender plants. Even when planting daffodils (not pleasing to deer) amidst tulips, the deer will seek out the tulips among the daffodils.

Both Jeff and Peggy are good cooks. Peggy sees it more as necessity; Jeff sees it as a fun hobby and even took some gourmet cooking classes. Italian cuisine is the family favorite.

The journey of faith is ever evolving for this young family where having children led them to be more grounded in their faith. Jeff came from a Protestant background, and was a member of the local, small Congregational church, served as a Junior Deacon and was active in youth services. He points out that the traditional Congregational Church of his youth is not the Congregational Church of today. Peggy came from a solid Catholic background on both sides of her family, but struggled to find a personal connection to the faith. The church's emphasis seemed focused on avoiding sin, not on worshiping God. Both Peggy and Jeff searched for a church that taught the biblical word of God. Peggy's conversation with Pastor Michael and one with Sasha at a MOPS (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers) meeting, brought them to Westkirk on Christmas Eve 2004.

Today, Jeff serves as a newly elected Deacon, and Peggy designs and updates the bulletin board by the nursery, responds to calls for meals for members who are ill, and is a helper in the nursery and Kids' Own Worship.

On any given Sunday, look for the Bradys in the hospitality room after the service. There you'll find three young sunny faces and a fresh-baked cookie treat sure to brighten your day. If you think you also need Riley, well that will have to be at another time and another place.

. . . by Regi Donaldson

Thank You Notes . . .

*During a time like this we realize
how much our friends and relatives
really mean to us...*

*Your expression of sympathy
will always be remembered.*

Barb & Max (Asman)

LeRoy & Jeanne

Westkirk Family,

*Thank you for the lovely basket with Calla Lily,
Daffodils & Palm. The yellow touch of flowers &
ribbon was very special as that was Mother's favor-
ite color. Your prayers and concerns were comfort-
ing to us. Her last few days were spent peacefully &
comforting.*

*God love you,
Barb (Asman)*

Westkirk Staff & Friends,

*Thank you so much for the gift basket. It was full
of wonderful food & treats. Zeb especially enjoyed
the chips & cheese. We really appreciate your
thoughtfulness. We've enjoyed getting cards from
many of you, too.*

*We miss everyone at Westkirk & can't wait for you
to meet Kenzie.*

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

*We wish to thank you for the floral arrangement
for Krisanna Rhoades. We also would like Prayers
for her family during this very difficult time. These
are tough days but know God is walking with us
understanding our pain & helping us bear it.*

The family of Krisanne Marie Jensen Rhoades

Dear Friends at Westkirk,

*I want to thank you for all the prayers and kind
words and deeds from members of the church. They
were very faithful for us and my family in times of
great need.*

*Only prayers got me through this terrible ordeal.
I'm already getting better at home with help. Thank
you very much again for your prayers and help.*

Dottie & Ken Phillips

My Westkirk Family,

*Thank you to my loving Pastor Michael for the
floral remembrances and for his visits and prayers.
Also thanks to my dear Deacon, Cynthia Fisher, for
her visits, flowers, and prayer shawl. I also appre-
ciated the visit from my good friend, Joan Thomp-
son.*

*My birthday was made extra special by the flow-
ers I received from "my two boys" and the flowers
and visit from Barb Springer.*

*Words cannot express my gratitude to my West-
kirk family and for the love and comfort I felt com-
ing my way during this difficult time.*

Winnie Adden

*During a time like this we realize how much our
friends and relatives really mean to us . . . Your ex-
pression of sympathy will always be remembered.*

*Your gift was very nice. I miss my husband so
much. Keep me in your prayers.*

*Jeannie High
(Sister-law of Wanita Oswald)*

Dear Michael,

*Please express the thanks from Opal's (Knipfer)
family for the beautiful flowers and the plant. When
a person has the privilege of living to 98, there are
fewer people to celebrate her life and flowers mean
even more.*

*Thanks again for all you did, and thanks to the
Deacons as well. You all helped us immensely.*

*Pat Dustin
(Daughter of Florence Mills)*

Dear Friends of Westkirk,

*I sincerely thank you for your prayers, flowers,
visits and telephone calls while I was in the hospital
and at home. My knees are healing well and walk-
ing is becoming easier each day. God's love in you
shone through as you cared about me. Again I thank
you for that love.*

*Sincerely
Helen Main*

Pastor Steve's Debut

Pastor Steve preached his first and second sermons as he filled the pulpit while Pastor Michael was away on sabbatical in Ireland. The messages were inspiring and provoked much thought and discussion about how we minister together as a church family. Congratulations on a job well done! We look forward to hearing more in the future.

Marriage Covenant Ceremony

On Sunday, April 20 the following couples, who have completed the marriage classes led by George and Gail De Graaf, renewed their marriage vows before the congregation.

Chad & Amanda Carlson
Kurt & Gloria Huyser
Roger & Lori Nagle
Steve & Stefanie Randall
Hugh & Deann Sheppard
Eric & Melissa Wickemeyer
Jack & Barbara Wilson

Their signatures have been added to the plaque in the church office.

Deacons Enjoy Lunch

A group of present and former Deacons, along with First Ladies and the Pastor's wife, gathered at Okoboji Grill for fellowship and food. **Kris Thompson, Deacon Moderator**, led some fun games to get the event off to a warm start. Much conversation and laughing followed. This annual get-together is always a "don't miss" event!



Yo, Ho, Ho, Westkirk!

Avast ye Mateys! We're teaming up with Urban Heights Evangelical Covenant Church this summer to bring VeggieTales VBS "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" to our community!

From July 27 through the 31st, we're askin' all landlubbers who want to be "Heroes for God" to join us on a Pirate adventure like none other. We'll swap tales about the Bible's finest heroes, make pirate treasure crafts to keep and wear, and have fun! No walkin' the plank for you this summer - climb aboard the HMSteadfast with us, where the King himself is calling you to be a part of His eternal crew.

We're also looking for a bunch of lively scawwags to volunteer themselves before, during, and after the week of VBS. Do you feel your sealegs wanting to kick up their heels? See our bulletin inserts to find a role that you can play - pray that God will use your spiritual gifts to help out.

Save the dates on the calendar!
Start talking with your friends!
Hold a VeggieTales movie night at
your house to spread the word!

Have any questions??
Call Admiral Gloria Huyser (284 - 7443)
or Captain Karen Admussen (at the church)
for details or to volunteer!



Got Knowledge?

Are you graduating this spring or do you know someone who is? Please let us know. We want to honor our graduates at our Sunday morning worship service on **June 1**. Whether you are a graduating high school senior or a brand new PhD, we want some information about your recent achievements and your plans for the future.

Graduates and parents of graduates, please contact the church office by Sunday, **May 25** with information about your school, date of graduation, and a brief description of your future plans so that we may celebrate your accomplishments as a church family.

Whatever You Did for the Least of These . . . You Did for Me. . .

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..."

Last month in his sermon, Pastor Steve spoke of bringing us together through knowing and listening to others in our congregation at Westkirk. We have many opportunities at Westkirk to respond to Jesus' great love by showing that love to others. **Stephen Ministry** is one way our congregation shows that love to people who have deep needs for care. You also have many opportunities to show Jesus' love during the week. As you encounter people this week, try asking yourself, "How can I show them Jesus today?"

. . . *Elly Smith*

Last WOW Activities Until Fall

Wednesday, May 21 is the last the last WOW until it resumes in early September. Those of us who have been enjoying the suppers on Wednesday nights extend a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who prepared the suppers, brought desserts and helped with cleanup, and to **Larry Kussatz** for planning the menus and shopping for food each week. We really appreciate your dedication.

Youth News

Last month I shared with all of you that youth would be beginning a new series at **New Life**, exploring theological questions within the context of movies. Our key verse for this series was Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so **be wise as serpents and innocent as doves**," and our goal was to begin learning how to interpret culture (because it's nearly impossible to escape it) through a Biblical lens so that we can live in the world without compromising our faith.

It was amazing how deep our conversations were as we explored the films that we viewed. We discussed the creation story, salvation by grace through faith, the reality of suffering in light of a loving God, the existence of heaven and hell, what our resurrected bodies will look like, what happens immediately after we die, whether or not there will be marriage in heaven, whether we will recognize those we love in heaven, who Jesus was, general and special revelation, the difference between the Biblical truth of eternal suffering and the modern idea of annihilation, the insufficiency of hell to save people (i.e., getting to heaven is about loving God, not fearing Hell), and much, much more. To say the least, we had quite a month together!

The youth and I would like to encourage you to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves as you go about living in our culture. It is nearly impossible to escape the influence of the world and the messages that are promoted through the use of art and entertainment, but we need to know what the Bible teaches and be able to recognize when a false gospel is being presented right before our very eyes. Hollywood is masterful at borrowing material from the Bible and creating believable stories with a slight, but significant, twist on truth. As Christians we need to be looking for these deviations from Truth so that we can recognize them and not allow ourselves to be deceived.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Children's Ministry

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight.
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14*

A magazine advertisement I saw recently showed a beautiful diamond ring with the words "What will you leave to your children?" Instead of making me think of the physical inheritance that I would leave to my children, it made me think of the spiritual legacy I was leaving behind. Do my children know my testimony? Do they know all that God has done in my life? Do they know the prayers he has answered for me? Do they know the desire I have to know God and obey him? Do they know the hope I have in him that one day I will be in heaven and live an eternity there? What will you leave to your children?

At Westkirk we want to leave the children with the knowledge that God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. We teach this through Bible stories, worship, prayer, games, crafts and activities both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. However, this month the children will be teaching us .

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, is Confirmation Sunday and Children's Worship Sunday. The children will have the privilege of leading everyone in worship. Confirmation students will present their statements of faith, children in Kids of the Kingdom will sing and greet, and children in Kid's Own Worship will usher, sing, play music, speak, acolyte, read scripture, and even help clean up afterward.

On **Wednesday, May 21**, come follow the children down the Romans Road for a **WOW Dinner Theatre**. Dinner will be served from 5:45-6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation given by the children and a celebration to conclude WOW for the spring. Join us again in the fall as we start up again in September.

Since summer is almost here and **Twin Lakes Christian Center** has many different camps to offer, check out their website at www.twinlakescc.com. and sign up for an unforgettable, incredible week.

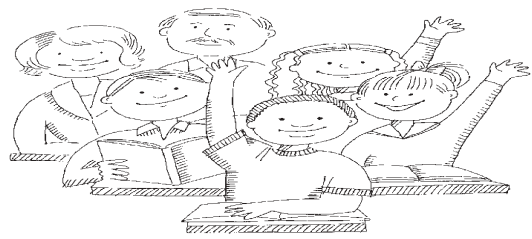
. . . Karen Admussen, Director of Children's Ministry

Baby Bottle Blessing

On **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11**, the children will be handing out baby bottles to everyone at the end of the service as a fundraiser for **Ruth Harbor**. Ruth Harbor is a local home for women who are alone and facing unplanned pregnancies. Our goal is to exceed the \$800 that the church donated last year. This ministry supports young mothers and their babies. Simply fill the baby bottles with change, cash or checks. The checks may be made out to *Westkirk Presbyterian Church* with *Ruth Harbor* written in the memo. Then return the baby bottles on **Father's Day, June 15**. Thank you in advance for your contributions to help change lives!

Mother's Day is May 11

We have a very special way of celebrating Mother's Day at Westkirk. The children will lead us in worship and the confirmation class will be making their statements of faith as they are admitted as members. Plan to join us for a moving service!



Sunday School
for all ages

The Shepherd

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