

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 23 No. 10 October 2008

It's Good to See a Project Come Together

Isn't it good to see a project come together? What a feeling of satisfaction – especially after many months of meetings to plan and organize. Along with Rev. Ron Burcham, my colleague from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, I have represented the Urbandale Ministerial Alliance on a task force determined to see the need for food assistance met for Urbandale residents who are experiencing a crisis or economic downturn in their lives. It has been a great journey, but all the better now that the fruit of our labor is in bloom. After a year of planning and waiting on the Lord to put all the pieces together, the food pantry will open its doors on October 15.

How did it get started? Well, last fall, Julie Fugenschuh, a representative from St. Pius' Pastor's Council, was the guest at our ministerial meeting and showed us the results of their recent study on issues of social justice in our community. We discovered that: over 16% (568 children) of Urbandale public school students receive free and reduced lunches, and 104 section 8 housing units are located in our city. But here was the most telling news: there is no human services office in Urbandale and all human service inquiries from our city were handled by the city of West Des Moines – to the tune of 764 residents in 2006. St. Pius surveyed those 764 names and 64% of those who returned their survey indicated that food was their primary need. The result? The pastors of the churches in Urbandale and Mayor Bob Andeweg and the City Council met together and agreed to form a partnership to provide food assistance to our neighbors. Wow! It is great to see the local government and the local congregations work together for the good of the community! A winning combination.

The Urbandale Food Pantry will be run by the long established Urbandale Caring Corps – increasing their visibility in the community, and enlarging the services they provide. Not only will their board oversee the entire operation of this non-profit organization, but a special board to work with the food pantry is also being formed. In order to accommodate all the parties in this government/ecumenical church opportunity, the following mission statement was adopted: **The Urbandale Food Pantry is a collaborative community effort to reach out to our neighbors and provide food assistance with dignity and compassion.** The pantry will be located on Douglas Avenue in the Cedar Ridge shops and offices complex (adjacent to Medicap Pharmacy), with convenient, bus-line access. We expect to serve 300-350 Urbandale households weekly with a five-day supply of pre-packaged, nutritionally balanced meals, from food donated by churches like ours to the DMARC food pantry distribution center.

How can you help? Our own Marsha Raisch has been instrumental in developing the communication plan for this effort, but ongoing help will be needed. You or your HouseKirk could volunteer to serve at the pantry; upfront requests for office supplies, a computer, and furniture must be fulfilled; along with drivers to

(Continued on Page 4)



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
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 Schwen
Sandy Tuinstra
Sherie Whitehead

Class of 2010

Linda Aldrich
Jeff Brady
Kay Cunitz
Cynthia Fisher
Eric Wickemeyer



1	Agatha Litle	28	Brad Haley
2	Darlene Denison	28	Craig Van Gundy
3	Kevin Bone	29	*Tyler Mogle
3	Dorothy Olsen	29	Ron Reighard
4	Wendy Brisbois	30	*Annie Ekstrom
4	Sonja Hansen	30	Clayton Kennedy
4	*Madeline Scheve	30	Mary Carbone
5	Miles Swenson		*Youth Member
6	Bernie Koebernick		
6	*Lydia Scheve		
7	Mike Grimmus		
7	Jerry Watts		
9	Jen Dake		
9	Kurt Huyser		
9	Sean Raisch		
11	Dawn Vis		
12	Larry Breeding		
13	Pat Ward		
14	Allison Brown	3	Nick & Molly Benson
15	Charlie Millis	10	Kevin & Vicki Bone
16	Pearce Brown	15	John & Regi Donaldson
16	Irene Reed	17	Rod & Cindy Welsher
17	Marsha Raisch	21	John & Marcia Kirkeby
17	Tom Leahy		
18	*Samantha Dixon		
18	Jeanne Hunt		
20	Herb King		
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	Jennie Meza		
27	Kelli Glanzer		
28	Bryce Anderson		



3	Nick & Molly Benson
10	Kevin & Vicki Bone
15	John & Regi Donaldson
17	Rod & Cindy Welsher
21	John & Marcia Kirkeby

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Betty Reedquist** on the loss of her daughter, Christine Paskins, who died on Sunday, August 24 in Des Moines.

Our condolences to **Marilyn and Ron Long** on the loss of Marilyn's aunt, Loretta Wright who died on Tuesday, August 26 in Des Moines.



Thought for the Day . . .

We don't change God's message—His message changes us.
. . . submitted by Mary Watkins



The Bulletin Board

October Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Wednesday	10/1	WOW , supper, 5:45 p.m.; Alpha , Java Joe's 6:00 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	10/2	<i>Financial Peace University</i> , 6:30 p.m. Reformation Celebration Planning Committee meeting, 7:00 :p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) , 7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry , 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	10/5	Sunday School; Explorers , 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service , 10:30 a.m.
Monday	10/6	Commissions meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10/7	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff) , 9:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/8	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	10/9	Dorcas Circle , 1:00 p.m. <i>Financial Peace University</i> , 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	10/12	Sunday School; Explorers , 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service/Communion , 10:30 Sunday Night at the Kirk , 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10/14	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff) , 9:00 a.m. New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry training , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/15	Articles for November Shepherd due WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	10/16	<i>Financial Peace University</i> , 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	10/19	Sunday School; Explorers , 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service , 10:30 a.m.
Monday	10/20	Session/Deacons Meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10/21	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff) , 9:00 a.m. The Clan (HouseKirk) , 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/22	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	10/23	<i>Financial Peace University</i> , 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	10/26	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m.; Reformation Sunday/Wing Dedication Worship Service , 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Showcase/Celebration Dinner , after worship
Tuesday	10/28	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff) , 9:00 a.m. Bagpipers Luncheon , 1:00 p.m., Chicago Speakeasy Stephen Ministry training , 6:30 p.m. New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/29	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Alpha , Java Joe's, 6:00 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	10/30	<i>Financial Peace University</i> , 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Yentes) 7:00 p.m.



Dorcas Circle

Thursday, October 9 all ladies of the church and their guests are invited to come to Dorcas Circle at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. **Lou Heitbrink** will be leading us in a faith lesson called "Wet Feet" from the DVD series *Faith Lessons of the Promised Land: Crossroads of the World*.

Dessert and beverages will be provided by **Fran Nugteren and Karen Admussen**. Please join us for faith, food, and fellowship.

(Continued from Page 1)

deliver food and stock shelves; and workers to remodel the leased property. And of course, we all can continue to give food and monetary donations to our quarterly Deacon food drives.

This has been an exciting opportunity for me to finally discover how all the diversity of the churches and clergy in our community can come together and unite with our common goal of serving the people of our city for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thanks for allowing me to serve you!

Pastor Michael



ESV Matthew 25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

From the Stewardship Commission

August was another exciting month for Westkirk. Giving was over \$40,000, a first for non-year-end months! We did have several unusual and non-recurring expenses this month. For example, a water bill to irrigate our new sod that exceeded \$2,000. However, our total expenses only exceeded our ingathering by less than \$1,500.

In the next few months the budgeting process for 2009 will begin. Commissions will be planning their yearly schedule and submitting their requested budgetary needs. **November 23** is designated as **Pledge Sunday**, the day we will make our financial commitment for the year 2009. Your pledge, known only to the church treasurer and the Lord, will be the final step in preparing our budget for next year. Look for more information concerning your opportunity to serve the ministry at Westkirk in next month's *Shepherd* and in the church bulletin.

... *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Chair*

New Light Depression Support Group

According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year. These illnesses of the brain can affect all of us regardless of age, gender, economic status, or ethnicity. **Nearly all of us have been touched in some way by mental illness**, yet individuals and families continue to suffer in silence because they are not receiving the support they desperately need.

If you are dealing with depression or anxiety, or if you are a caregiver to someone who is suffering, I encourage you to visit our **New Light Depression Support Group**. We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Lounge at Westkirk.**

I can guarantee you will feel welcome in this group as you have an opportunity to share your feelings in a **confidential environment**. You may also find that others in the group have experienced similar struggles in their lives.

Please check us out. **Our meetings this month are on October 14 and October 28.**

... *Dianne Glanzer, Facilitator*

Where Is Your Tartan Square?!!

Remember, you will need to bring your family tartan to church on Reformation Sunday for the **Blessing of the Tartans Ceremony** (Do you know where you stored it for safe-keeping last fall?). This is a tradition begun at Westkirk a few years ago.

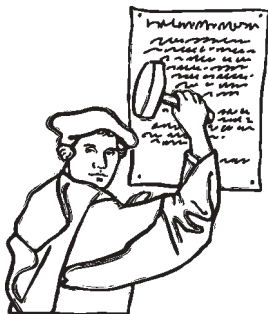
For newcomers, stop at the Welcome Center soon to pick up a six-inch plaid square, then in the center of the square, embroider, appliqué or iron the first letter of your surname. (Go ahead, ask a friend if you need help!) Family tartans will be blessed during the worship service on the 26th.

Your Help Needed to Make Desserts

On **Reformation Sunday, October 26**, we expect to serve dinner for 300!. Soooo, your help is needed to prepare homemade desserts.



A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Hospitality Room. **Regi Donaldson** is coordinating this effort, so you may call her for further details (276-6263).



Reformation Day



A Family Day of Celebration is coming to Westkirk Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, October 26**. We look forward to an exciting day beginning with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Van Harden's adult class will meet in the Sanctuary, while Dan Marvin's group will gather in the Lounge. The children will meet in their brand new classrooms in the East Wing.

Next comes Worship at 10:30 a.m. emphasizing Westkirk's reformed theology. The traditional **Blessing of the Tartans*** will remind us of our Scottish heritage. Part of the service will be devoted to a dedication service for our newly completed East Wing and recognition of some of the leaders who guided us through this year's journey (The ground-breaking ceremony was on September 17, 2007). We will welcome many of our charter members, including founding pastor Wayne Hoffman and his wife Helga. This will be a day of recollection, looking forward, and reflection.

Immediately following worship there will be two special events going on simultaneously. (1) **You are invited to tour the East Wing** where the children will proudly showcase their activities in their new classrooms. They have made a special effort to prepare for your visit, so be sure to check out their handiwork. (2) There is a **Fall Festival of Food planned for you** in the Great Hall. **Be very sure you include both in your Family Day at Westkirk.**

And, the menu for dinner includes:

- Roasted Port Loin
- Hamburgers & Buns
- Buttered Parsley Potatoes
- Kirk Green Beans
- Harvest Slaw
- Assorted Breads
- A Dessert Buffet
- Beverages

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

Please note that **transportation** to and from church will be provided on request. Just be sure to advise the church office (253-0330) no later than noon on Wednesday, October 22.

**Our version of the ancient Kirkin' o' the Tartans Ceremony, an old Highland custom which had to be performed in secret during the 18th century. Watch the church bulletin for additional information.*



Fall is in the air, cool weather is back and so we look forward with some anticipation to the winter season ahead. We may want to put it off in our thoughts and concentrate on the “Day at Hand” which is okay. However, there are several Mission programs that are gearing up so that they are prepared to handle the needs for cold weather which they know will come. Go out and enjoy the changing colors of the trees, enjoy the raking of the leaves and even jump in a few piles with your children or grandchildren... Enjoy the apple cider and the picking of apples as this is the season for all of that. And while you are doing that, reflect on the blessings that God has provided for you and your loved ones.

There are many even in this great country who have physical needs. We support the following Christian based organizations which provide clothing and food, but they also reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who come for assistance.

HOPE MINISTRIES: The Mission Commission will start collecting warm clothing for “**The Great Coverup**” program, which is a ministry to supply clothing and the good news of Jesus Christ to those in need. We will also be collecting paper goods for them, so if you see any bargains on paper towels, tissue paper, etc., pick up some extra for donating.

FREEDOM FOR YOUTH: You may want to help out here by serving a dinner for the youth with your HouseKirk. Check with a member of the Mission Commission for information.

RUTH HARBOR: The young girls who are supported by this ministry can most certainly use your prayers as they are making decisions about their future with a new child. Pray for their parents, relatives and friends as they wrestle with the various options. Mark and the team at Ruth Harbor provide both spiritual assistance and practical advice.

OTHER MISSION NOTES: Jessica Duff (Wycliffe SEED Translators) We Praise God and rejoice that Jessica is feeling better after her bout with Malaria. Pray for upcoming trips and training camps that she will attend. **Brian & Heather Hanneman, and Brett and Micki Strait, (Navigators)** They are in full swing with the college students. Keep them in prayer as they witness to many at University of Colorado. **Karen and Dave Eggert (Campus Crusade For Christ)** At ISU, CCC put on an Orientation Week for International Students which was supported by the University. That helped in supporting the work in which Dave and Karen are involved. We Praise God for that opportunity. **Gary De Graaf in France, (Greater Europe Mission)** Gary reports on the Church in Tours, that they will have a dedication service of their new building, inviting the mayor and others as the work is growing. Gary is looking ahead to starting a new work in Lille in northern France.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP: November is around the corner!!!! That is when the Mission team will be heading down to Monterey, Mexico. Rus and Julie Norem have been working overtime getting all of the necessary paperwork in, filling out forms, obtaining the best airfares, as well as making sure all of the necessary health requirements and passports are in hand for this trip. The Mission Commission has set aside a third of the cost for this trip from the special projects fund. The Mission Team has helped the raising of the second portion of their cost. Individuals from the congregation have helped in the support of this trip as well. Many thanks to all of you for supporting this effort. So far we have the possibility of 12 persons going. Keep them in your prayers.

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, Dan Marvin, Rus & Julie Norem, Wendy Reed, Jerry & Diane Skinner, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Larry & Sherie Whitehead.

George De Graaf, Chair

Presenting

Aaron and Jodi Pieper

When you have exciting, happy news, you want to shout it from the highest rooftop, or proclaim it in the *Shepherd*. So now, hear this! Aaron and Jodi Pieper will welcome a new member into their family at the end of April, 2009. The welcoming committee will include older sister Alicia (Ali) almost 5 and older-sister-in-waiting Maya, age 20 months. Congratulations to this growing family!



Aaron and Jodi are ardent Cyclone fans, as a prominent, but tastefully stated front-lawn ornament attests. Once inside the tidy, bright Urbandale home, where the large windows seem to bring the outdoors inside, but without the pesky gnats, mosquitoes or humidity, hints about the family are seen on the walls in prints by popular artist, P. Buckley Moss. One has four brightly dressed little girls and reflects mom and her three sisters. Two other prints, in poster style, are quiet reminders of time spent in Illinois (a small, white church which was near their home) and in Iowa (the Terrace Hill mansion in Des Moines).

Married seven years, Aaron and Jodi have known each other all their lives in their home town of Westside, Iowa, attending the United Church of Westside and at Ar-We-Va School, so called for the three combined towns of Arcadia, Westside and Vail. The two became friends in their confirmation class in junior high and started dating during their college years while Aaron attended Iowa State University, class of 1998 (Finance), and Jodi attended Buena Vista University, class of 1999 (Corporate Communications).

After graduation, Aaron's career took him to Chicago and a job at CDW, a computer reseller. A year later, Jodi too moved to Chicago, working for Caremark, a prescription benefit company. They married in 2001. Realizing the importance of family after they started their own, they moved back to Iowa. Aaron started to work for Check Point Software, selling security software to computer resellers from home. Jodi continued to work for Caremark, also from home, but she changed career paths following the birth of Maya. She became a stay-at-home mom and an in-home day care provider.

Starting a family gives many of us an impetus to be more grounded in our faith, and so Aaron and Jodi visited several churches to find "a fit." They joined Westkirk in June 2006, citing the friendly people, Pastor Michael's teaching sermons, the traditional service and the church's clean-lined architecture. Seeing the church for the first time, Jodi exclaimed, "I can see Ali getting married in this church!" (Perhaps Maya and the next member of the family, too).

Aaron serves as assistant treasurer at Westkirk, and Jodi is nursery coordinator for scheduling parent helpers and has been involved in Vacation Bible School for the past three years. Both are participants in Alpha this fall. Any free time is spent with family, friends, and church activities, an occasional round of golf and, of course, Cyclone football games.

Let's keep Aaron, Jodi, Ali and Maya in our prayers as we await the arrival of the new member to their family and to our church family.

... by Regi Donaldson

4 Men, 2 Women Set to Begin Stephen Minister Training

Caring Ministry at Westkirk Presbyterian Church will be expanding soon, as six of our members have begun Stephen Minister training. At the completion of their training in February, they will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They will then join the three active Stephen Ministers in providing on-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

“The training is excellent. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth producing and enjoyable experience,” says Pastor Michael. The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into twenty 2 1/2-hour sessions that are being held on Tuesday evenings here at Westkirk. Among the training topics are:

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

“We are excited to facilitate the training,” says Carolyn Eyerly. “One of the exciting things about being a Stephen Leader is learning right along with the Stephen Ministers. We expect to learn a lot about caregiving, but we know that it will also be a time of personal and spiritual growth for all of us. Our trainees are really in for a neat experience.”

Members of this new training class are: Mary Arnold, Steve Brown, Tom Duff, Russ Harrison, John Schwen, and Linda Wilde. Westkirk will have trained 11 members as Stephen Ministers since beginning Stephen Ministry in 2007. More than a quarter-million people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 7,000 churches worldwide since the ministry began in 1975. We are excited to provide, yet another way to help us provide distinctively Christian care to our congregation, as well as people from the community. People whose needs might otherwise slip through the cracks will come face to face with Jesus’ love through their Stephen Minister. Our new class will help KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN to that many more lives.

Please lift up the training class in your prayers over the coming months and watch for regular training class updates in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin. The Leaders are: Karen Breeding, Rick and Carolyn Eyerly, Pastor Michael Mudlaff and Elly Smith

New Phone Number

George Falk

1-252/443-3999

Ask for Room 309

George really enjoys phone calls and news about his friends at Westkirk. Pick up the phone and give him a ring.

Address Changes

Cody Raisch

Coe College

G.M.U. 804

1220 1st Ave., N.E.

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Sean Raisch

Coe College

G.M.U. 865

1220 1st Ave., N.E.

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Lindsay (Michael) Brown

3429 66th St.

Urbandale, IA 50322

cell: 515/306-8812

Happy Birth Day!

It’s another grandchild for **Van and Denise Harden**. Luke and Courtney Harden are the proud parents of new baby girl.

Youth Room Work Day: Saturday, October 4

The new youth room is nearly completed and we will be working on some of the finishing touches on Saturday, October 4 from 8 a.m. until Noon. Please mark your calendars if you’d like to join us. If you have questions, please call Pastor Steve at the church office.

Thank You Notes . . .

Westkirk Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank all of you at “the Kirk” for your warm hospitality and generous support. It makes our frequent trips to see family in Iowa possible, and it is always an extra blessing to share in worship with you. I pray for your continuing prosperity and growth, and, God willing, we’ll see you by Easter!!

Much love—

The [Jason] Jones Family

Westkirk Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your generosity and support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*The Family of Betty Winter
[Christine Kinney’s Mother]*

Dear Westkirk Presbyterian Church Family,

The family of Loretta Wright acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Thank you for the beautiful plant in memory of our Grandma/Aunt. We appreciated your thoughtful gesture so much

Joel & Selma Swanson Family

Westkirk Presbyterian,

Thank you for the Gift Certificate.

Mark Dauterive

Westkirk Family,

Ron and Marilyn thank each and everyone of you who sent cards, gave hugs and cared in the recent loss of Marilyn’s Aunt. The plant that was sent from Westkirk was beautiful. God had gained another beautiful lady to sing his praises.

*Thank you again!,
Ron and Marilyn Long*

Dinner Concert Tickets on Sale

It may seem a bit early to start making December plans, but tickets go quickly for the annual **Christmas Dinner Concert** presented by the Westkirk Choir. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 13** and make plans to invite friends to come along with you (perhaps an early Christmas gift, a thank-you gesture, a gift for someone hard to buy for).



This event is back by popular request—a holiday candlelight dinner with singing waiters, cooks, bussers, etc., all done by Westkirk Choir members. **This is a fund raising effort by the choir for outreach ministry.**

A gourmet dinner is planned with these entrees:

<i>Skewered grilled shrimp with fruit salsa</i>	\$20
<i>Stuffed chicken breast in puff pastry</i>	\$20
<i>Sliced beef tenderloin with Madeira wine sauce</i>	\$24

If you are looking for a bargain, why not gather friends and purchase a table (which seats up to eight) for a special price of \$150.

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 a return trip after the evening’s event. Just request this service when purchasing your tickets.

Tickets go on sale **Sunday, October 19** at the Welcome Center before and after worship. Please remember that payment is required to hold your reservation. You also will need to specify entrees at that time.

The choir looks forward to entertaining you on December 13. We can only accommodate up to 96 diners. Don’t be disappointed. Get your tickets early. This will be a festive, fun-filled evening that you won’t want to miss.

If you have questions, please call Larry Kussatz (577-6101), Chuck Heitbrink (238-1824) or Lou Heitbrink (254-9982).



Cookie Walk

Westkirk's Third Annual Cookie Walk is coming soon. It will be held on Saturday, December 9.

We need lots and lots of Cookies. We hope the weather is better than last year and that we will have the room filled with buyers.

More information will be in the Shepherd and church bulletins as the date gets closer.

There will be a signup sheet for cookie bakers and helpers for that day starting in October. Look for it in the Hospitality Room. For more information: Contact Reggie Donaldson (276-6263) or Nyleve Taylor (314-3252 after 4:00 p.m.).

Get all your good cookie recipes out and let's make this a big success.

*Thank you,
Evangelism/Fellowship Commission*

Thanksgiving at Westkirk

Yes, the Westkirk chefs will be preparing the annual Thanksgiving family-style feast on Thursday, November 27. Look for details on menu, reservations, etc. in the November *Shepherd*.



Pastor Steve Takes on a New Role at Church (and at Home)

Greetings Westkirk Family,

God has certainly blessed Stefanie and me this year, no more than with the arrival of our sweet little Elliette. Nearly three months old now, Ellie is healthy, strong, and such an incredible blessing in our lives – praise God! Of course, the arrival of our little one has created the need for a little change at home. After much personal prayer and discussion with Pastor Michael, I have decided to take on a part-time role here at church (which began in September) so that I can stay home with Ellie during the day.



So how will my role at church change? I will still be leading the senior high youth group, directing Alpha, filling in from time to time in the pulpit, and doing home visits, but will not be available as much during the day at church (of course, Ellie and I can still be reached anytime at home, so please feel free to call anytime to see how we're doing). I also will be stepping away from leading the HouseKirk ministry, but will continue to assist HouseKirk leaders whenever possible.

Stefanie and I are very excited about these new changes in our life together and feel so very blessed to have the opportunity to have Ellie at home with me during the day. We are very thankful for all of you who have offered your help and advice and we look forward to continuing to serve God together with all of you in our family at Westkirk.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve



Children's Ministry

Upcoming Senior High Events

- 10/4 Youth Room Work Day, 8 a.m. to Noon
- 10/5 Youth Group, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- 10/12 Sunday Night at the Kirk, Dinner, 5 to 8 p.m.
- 10/19 Youth Group, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- 10/26 Corn Maze, Geisler Farm, Ankeny, 6:30 to 8
* Meet at Westkirk at 6:30 pm.



Pastor Steve and the senior high youth would like to thank Chuck Heitbrink and Terry Thompson for helping make our trip to Lake Panorama so much fun!!

Fall classes are in session and the children are busy studying the Bible, memorizing verses, and learning how to apply God's Word to their lives. I am very thankful to all the parents, teachers, and helpers who make Children's Ministry possible. We appreciate having our own classroom space, too!

This month we look forward to a BLAST retreat at Riverside camp on October 18-19, a unique visit by John Calvin on Reformation Sunday (October 26), and a special Halloween celebration at WOW on October 29.

Please take a moment to pray for the children at Westkirk and their teachers. Pray also that God would use each event to draw more children closer to Him.

Sunday School:

Ages 3-First Grade: Karen Admussen, Linda Wilde

2nd-4th Grade: Brian Dixon, Eric Willcox

5th-6th Grade: Darrell & Linda Aldrich

WOW:

3 & 4 Year Olds: Erica Scheve, Sasha Mudlaff

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Nancy Schmidt, Jennie Meza

3rd-6th Grade: Jerry & Sandy Tuinstra, Lee & Melinda Turnbull

BLAST: 7th-9th Grade: Amanda Carlson

Kid's Own Worship: Sasha Mudlaff

Kids of the Kingdom: Gloria Huyser

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



WOW...A Balloon Launch!

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
Dianne Glanzer
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, 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

October 2008

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