

*The Westkirk Presbyterian Church*

# Shepherd

*Volume 24 No. 3 March 2009*

## **Follow Me**

As our new Stephen Minister trainees complete their preparation, await commissioning, and receive their first caregiving assignment, I'm reminded of the lesson in their final training session. It's simply, 'Follow Me.' Our sermon series in First John has been a challenge for us. Now, the Lenten season approaches and soon we will be celebrating the resurrection. But before we celebrate, we have to first make it through Good Friday. In the black Church, I often hear, "Sunday's Comin'." The sentiment is that no matter what we are experiencing now, Sunday's comin' – the victory is at hand!

Many of us are experiencing trials of various sorts. It may be the economy. I know several people who have not lost their jobs, but their company is cutting back and they are dealing with salary reductions. Some of you are experiencing medical issues – needing surgery, needing a solution, in recovery or suffering from a chronic condition. There are broken marriages, school issues, family crises. There is no end to the kinds of experiences we face in life. In fact, you may have, or benefit from a Stephen Minister right now!

But the not-so gentle reminders of the Apostle Paul in his first epistle remind us that as Christians, God has expectations of us. We are not to be conformed to this world, but different. We are not to experience these setbacks like everyone else. We are to bear the fruit of our relationship with God through Christ in all things – whether good or bad. What was our Fighter Verse from a few weeks back? <sup>NIV</sup> **1 John 2:15** "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." Thankfully, this world is not our home. We are only passing through. This life is temporary, eternal life is for keeps.

What is the will of God? Well, that's not as easy to discern as we might think. Of course, we are to love the Lord and glorify him forever, but how do we do it? One way Scripture commands us is simply by heeding Jesus' words when he says, 'Follow Me.' Jesus was the ultimate servant leader and he invites us to serve others as well. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, and belonging to him has its own opportunities for sacrificial living (and maybe even dying). We may not be martyred for Jesus, but we are called to 'die to self,' and put the needs of other, and the Kingdom before our own. What does Jesus mean when he calls out to you and says, 'Follow Me'?

**Pastor Michael**



<sup>ESV</sup> **John 12:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.



**The Session**

**Moderator** - Michael Mudlaff

*Class of 2009*

- David Arnold
- Van Harden
- Kevin Heer
- Kirk Yentes

*Class of 2010*

- Rick Eyerly
- Gary Robinson
- Jerry Tuinstra
- Melinda Turnbull

*Class of 2011*

- Chad Carlson
- John Donaldson
- Mark Scheve
- Trent Vis

**Clerk of Session** - Robin Riggins

**Treasurer** - Chris Brown

**Assistant Treasurer** - Aaron Pieper

**Commission Deacons**

- Christian Education** - Sandy Tuinstra, 2010
- Evangelism/Fellowship** - Regi Donaldson, 2009
- House and Grounds** - Hugh Sheppard, 2009
- Missions** - Gail De Graaf, 2010
- Prayer** - Paul Nelson, 2010
- Stewardship** - Chuck Heitbrink, 2009
- Worship** - Kevin Riggins, 2009

**Parish Deacons**

- Class of 2009*
- Barb Asman
- Benaef Duff
- Marilyn Long
- Marillyn McCulloch
- Fran Nugteren
- John Schwien
- Kris Thompson
- Sandy Tuinstra
- Sherie Whitehead
- Class of 2010*
- Linda Aldrich
- Jeff Brady
- Kay Cunitz
- Cynthia Fisher
- Nancy Schmidt
- Diane Skinner
- Myra Verros
- Eric Wickemeyer



- 1 ..... Erica Scheve
- 1 ..... Nancy Schmidt
- 1 ..... John Schwien
- 2 ..... Rick Reed
- 3 ..... Loy Brooks
- 3 ..... Eric Wickemeyer
- 4 ..... Mary Newman
- 6 ..... Paul MacLafferty
- 6 ..... Deann Sheppard
- 7 ..... Andrew Thompson
- 9 ..... Ellie Brooks
- 9 ..... Helen Main
- 11 ..... Gail De Graaf
- 13 ..... Le Main
- 14 ..... \*Carrie Asheland
- 14 ..... Scott Bland
- 14 ..... Wendy Reed
- 15 ..... Mary Lu Younkin
- 20 ..... Alex Phillips
- 21 ..... Lindsay Brown
- 21 ..... Julie Norem
- 21 ..... Kevin Olsen
- 22 ..... Don Koroch
- 22 ..... \*Zach Kinney
- 22 ..... Diane Skinner
- 23 ..... Margaret Kennedy
- 23 ..... \*Nicholas Miller
- 25 ..... Kelli Miller
- 27 ..... Christine Kinney
- 30 ..... Darlene Reighard
- 31 ..... Laura Leonard
- 31 ..... \*Reese Smith
- 31 ..... \*Rorie Smith

\*Youth member

**Happy Birth Day**

**Joan Thompson** is excited about the birth of a great granddaughter, Kelley Nicole Duncan, born January 22, 2009 in Des Moines. Kelley's mother is Joan's granddaughter, Tasha Mart.



- 4 ..... Steven & Linda McMullen
- 7 ..... Charlie & Mary Millis
- 10 ..... Rick & Wendy Reed
- 14 ..... Larry & Karen Breeding
- 21 ..... Jack & Marj Wildrick
- 24 ..... Barry & Sharon Johnson
- 27 ..... Steven & Lynda Brown
- 30 ..... Bruce & Golda Beals

**Condolences**

We extend sincere sympathy to **Jeff and Peggy Brady** and family. Jeff's father, Robert Brady died January 29, 2009 in Michigan.

And, our condolences to **Mark Hemmingway** and family on the death of Mark's brother, Paul.

Blessed be the memories of these loved ones.

**Baptism**

The baptism of **Samuel Peter Kinney**, son of Dan and Christine Kinney was celebrated February 15 at Westkirk. Brothers Luke and Zach also were in attendance. Sam was born February 26, 2008.

**Daily Bread Goes Green**

Westkirk has an opportunity to recycle your old issue/issues of *Our Daily Bread*. Jailhouse Ministries has offered to pick up old issues and any of the current copies left at the end of March. Don't forget to take your copy of the March, April and May *Our Daily Bread* and bring you old issues back to Westkirk by the end of the month.



# The Bulletin Board

## March Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Sunday	3/1	<b>Sunday School; Explorers Class</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m. <i>New Life</i> , 6:30 p.m.
Monday	3/2	<b>Commissions meeting</b> , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/3	<b>Stephen Ministry</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/4	<b>WOW</b> , supper 5:45 p.m.; <b>Choir</b> , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	3/5	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> (Johnson), 7:00 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Yentes), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	3/6	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m.
Saturday	3/7	<b>Blue &amp; Gold Banquet</b> , 9:00 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	3/8	<b>Sunday School; Explorers Class</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> , 10:30 a.m. <i>New Life</i> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Sunday Night at the Kirk</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Monday	3/9	<b>Omega Housekirk</b> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Commission Deacons Meeting</b> , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/10	<b>New Light meeting</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/11	<b>WOW</b> , supper 5:45 p.m.; <b>Choir</b> , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	3/12	<b>Dorcas Circle</b> , 1:00 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Yentes), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	3/13	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	3/15	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m. <i>New Life</i> , 6:30 p.m. <b>Prayer Service</b> , Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m. <b>April Shepherd articles due</b>
Monday	3/16	<b>Session/Parish Deacons Meeting</b> , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/17	<b>The Clan Housekirk</b> , 1:00 p.m. <b>Stephen Ministry</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/18	<b>WOW</b> , supper 5:45 p.m.; <b>Choir</b> , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	3/19	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> (Wilson), 1:00 p.m. <b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Yentes), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	3/20	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	3/22	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m.; <b>Worship Service</b> , 10:30 a.m. <i>New Life</i> , 6:30 p.m.
Monday	3/23	<b>Omega Housekirk</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	3/24	<b>Bagpipers Luncheon</b> , 1:00 p.m., Urban Grill, 86th St., Urbandale <b>New Light meeting</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/25	<b>WOW</b> , supper 5:45 p.m.; <b>Choir</b> , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	3/26	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Yentes), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	3/27	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	3/29	<b>Sunday School</b> , 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service, New Members Received</b> , 10:30 a.m.



## Annual Meeting Review

On Sunday, January 25, 2009 members gathered for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Westkirk Presbyterian Church. The meeting was preceded by fellowship and a delicious potluck supper in the Great Hall.

Pastor Mudlaff, Moderator, opened the meeting in the Sanctuary with prayer. Upon declaring a quorum present, he appointed Robin Riggins as Clerk of the meeting. The minutes of the 2008 meeting and the Clerk's report were presented, corrected and approved.

A presentation of the Leadership Development Initiative followed. A handout of 27 questions and answers was distributed and time allowed for members to read it. The following amendment to Chapter 15, Section 6 of the Book of Order was approved:

*Term of service of Ruling Elders and Deacons: The church at a duly constituted congregational meeting, may elect to establish limited terms of service for either or both Ruling Elders and Deacons.*

*A. Terms of Ruling Elders shall be for no less than three years except to initiate the system or to fill vacancies. There must be at least three classes; and an officer who has service all or part of two consecutive full terms shall be ineligible for reelection for one year.*

*B. Terms of Deacons shall be for two years except to initiate the system or to fill vacancies. An officer who has served all or part of a full term shall be eligible for reelection.*

A board of Commission Deacons was established to remove the responsibility for overseeing the various day-to-day Commission duties from the Elders.

This allows the Elders to be more involved in the Spiritual matters of the Church. Commissions will still be under the supervision of the Session.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Elder Chairman, Kevin Heer. The following individuals were presented for the positions indicated and all were unanimously elected.

### Ruling Elders

*Class of 2009 (One-year term)*

David Arnold            Van Harden

*Class of 2010 (Two-year term)*

Gary Robinson

*Class of 2011 (Three-year term)*

Chad Carlson            John Donaldson

Mark Scheve            Trent Vis

### Commission Deacons

*Class of 2009 (One-year term)*

Evangelism/Fellowship - Regi Donaldson

House & Grounds - Hugh Sheppard

Stewardship - Chuck Heitbrink

Worship - Kevin Riggins

*Class of 2010 (Two-year term)*

Christian Education - Sandy Tuinstra

Missions - Gail De Graaf

Prayer - Paul Nelson

### Parish Deacons

*Class of 2009 (One-year term)*

Barb Asman            Benae Duff

Fran Nugteren            Kris Thompson

*Class of 2010 (Two-year term)*

Nancy Schmidt            Diane Skinner

Myra Verros

Members-at-Large were then elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2009:

Bill F. Raisch

Barb Robinson

Dawn Vis

Reports from the various ministries at Westkirk were included in the printed annual report distributed at the meeting.

The Financial Report for 2008 was reviewed by Chuck Heitbrink. Chris Brown then presented the Budget for 2009. After discussion, the Budget was approved as presented.

There being no further business to come before the Congregation, the meeting was adjourned.

## Six Secrets to a Lasting Love

Join Gail and me as we together lead another marriage class put out by America's Family Coaches. Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg have designed this course to make us aware of the many needs of a successful marriage. Starting Sunday, April 19 during the Sunday School hour, we will be holding this class in the Multi-Purpose Room at the far east end of the new wing of the church.

If you were unable to attend last year or were unable to finish it, please come back and join us. For those of you who purchased the books last year, we will be using those same books.

We can see the impact that the world has on our marriages every day as we deal with time constraints, children, their activities, work related activities, etc. Making quality time for us as couples is a challenge. Let's talk about this and see what God's word has for us regarding this challenge. God designed the marriage relationship and He blessed it with His presence at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. He wants us to enjoy and be blessed in this relationship. If that is His desire, then why do we have problems or feel frustrated? Join us for some answers.

DISCOVER THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE ALL OVER AGAIN!! Let us know if you need books (Study Guide and Workbooks) Cost is \$30 for Study Guide and two workbooks. . . . *George De Graaf*

## Usher Call

Looking to serve your church and add to our worship service? Why not prayerfully consider ushering? Ushers serve for one month. However, if your schedule requires your absence, others will assist in filling in.

Contact **Ferg Taylor** if you desire to serve and for additional information.

## Food Pantry Donations

The Deacons thank you for your faithfulness in contributing to the area food pantry. February gifts amounted to 287 grocery items and \$540 in cash. Each time you carry in a bag of groceries or make a monetary donation, you bring joy to many needy families in our community.

## Trumpet Easter Lilies

Now is the time to be thinking about Lent and Easter at Westkirk. The Altar Guild in conjunction with the Worship Commission will once again offer the Trumpet Easter Lilies for sale to help decorate for Easter Sunday.

The lilies will once again be purchased from Goode Greenhouse in Des Moines. The Trumpet Lily is a stately plant with several fragrant blooms. Order forms for plants will be in the Sunday *Westkirk News*. Please leave the completed form and your check in the basket at the **Welcome Center by March 15**. The price per plant will be \$11.00.

The lilies may be taken home or will be given to shut-ins of Westkirk. After its initial bloom, the plant can be planted outside and enjoyed for many years. Directions will be given for the proper planting.

. . . *Audrene Hansen*

## Dorcas Circle

All ladies of the church and their guests are invited to a Faith Lesson on Prophets and Kings. Bette Jones will be giving a lesson on *The Lord Is My Shepherd* on **Thursday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room**. Please join us as we learn more about God, enjoy dessert together and get to know each other better. Refreshments will be provided by Gail De Graaf and Ellen Kinnaid.

## Stewardship Report for January

January was a very challenging month for Westkirk. There were two Sundays with bad weather, large expenses for snow removal and large heat and electric bills as we begin to see the full expense of operating the new wing.

Giving was up for the month of January by almost 14% as compared to last year! We experienced an increase in expenses of over \$5,700 but managed to finish the month of January \$1,850 below our budgeted expenditures for the first month.

House and Grounds Commission is looking at options to reduce our utilities and other expenses. You can help too by shutting off the lights and lowering the thermostat if you are the last to leave an area of the building.

We are excited about the future ministry at Westkirk. We have so many opportunities to "Know Christ and Make Him Known".

. . . *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission*

# Commission News

## Music, Music, Music

The Westkirk musicians are busy preparing for the Lenten Season and Holy Week, culminating with a joyous Easter Sunday.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday, February 25, at which time the choir presented a beautiful arrangement of *Treasures in Heaven*. Communion was served at the evening service. Throughout the Lenten season, numerous soloists will share their talents, including Stephanie Bratney, Chuck Heitbrink, Barbara Robinson, Elaine Erickson, Sharon Johnson, Trent Vis and Kevin Riggins. Each Sunday during Lent the choir or small groups will present music especially fitting for the season.

**Palm Sunday, April 5** will feature musical presentations from Kids of the Kingdom and the Westkirk Choir. The choir will present a moving arrangement of *The Holy City*, with Barbara Robinson doing the soprano solo.

Moving on to Holy Week, there will be an evening of prayer, meditation and communion on **Maundy Thursday, April 9**, with the service beginning at 7:00 p.m. On **Good Friday, April 10**, the choir and readers will present **A Service of Shadows and Stones** at 7:00. Musical numbers that evening include: *God So Loved the World*; *Go To Dark Gethsemane*; *Three Crosses of Shame*; *You Are The Bread*; *King of Tears*; and *Surely This Was The Son of God*. Communion will be served at the end of the service.

**Easter Sunday, April 12** will include music by Kid's Own Worship and the Westkirk Choir. The choir will present two anthems beginning with a Choral Prelude, *An Easter Celebration*, featuring the choir, organ, piano, percussion and trumpet, along with the congregation. The anthem will be *Christ The Lord Is Risen* by Bach, featuring the choir, Debbie Hoepker on organ and Jason Jones on trumpet.

As you can see, the Westkirk musicians will be very busy for the next couple of months, all done for the Glory of God and to Make Christ Known. . . . *Worship Commission*

## House and Grounds Update

Despite the creaking bones and aching backs of those in attendance, we have launched the storage project in the basement of the east wing. Well under way is the construction of five storage rooms that will house and provide organization for Christian education material, office supplies, sanctuary and building décor, choir risers, house and grounds material and more. It was a fun time of fellowship and the workday, despite the impending aches and pains that appeared the following day, proved to be a great way to spend time together and get to know each other a little better. Thank you to Rick, Trent, John, Kurt, Chuck, Brad, Mark, Stiles, Larry, Steve and Nate for helping with the project!

Please feel free to contact any of your House and Grounds Commission members with your concerns or requests—Ron Long, Rick Eyerly, Trent Vis, Larry Whitehead, Kurt Huyser or myself.

. . . *Hugh Sheppard, House and Grounds Commission Deacon*



# Commission News

## Mission Commission

Spring is coming—slowly but surely! **Mission Sunday** is also coming, and our plans are underway to make it a great weekend of praising the Lord as we celebrate Pentecost with the theme “THE WORLD AT OUR DOORSTEP.” Mark **May 3** on your calendars and plan to attend the whole day.

**Brett Strait** of Navigators—the EDGE CORP—in Colorado will be preaching at the worship service. We have invited our local missions to join us, and a number of them will be sharing before Sunday School at their exhibits, during Sunday School, and at the luncheon buffet at noon. **Dave Burrier**, of Hope Ministries, will be our luncheon speaker.

We have already announced **our contest**, but here is the information again. You have two weeks still to complete your project. We want you to draw a picture, or use the computer, to visualize what our theme would look like. Use an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, one entry per person, and describe briefly why you picked your design. It needs to be turned in no later than **Sunday, March 15** to the Mission Commission. There will be four categories: youth to 18, hand-drawn, or computer graphic, adult hand-drawn or computer graphic. Everyone may enter. ALL submissions will be on display on Mission Sunday, and ONE design will be chosen for our programs. The designs will be judged on originality, overall attractiveness, unique and best visual to portray the theme: THE WORLD AT OUR DOORSTEP.

There will be several other activities announced in April’s *Shepherd!!!*

**Update: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**—Westkirk filled 200 shoe boxes. The whole Des Moines area churches totaled 14,133 boxes, and Iowa turned in a total of 29,739. The boxes, processed in Minneapolis, went to Abkhazia, Belize, Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, St. Vincent, and Trinidad. Check out the little bulletin board for pictures of local packing parties.

**FREEDOM FOR YOUTH**—The Mission Commission will be serving dinner to about 40 people on **Monday, March 9**. If your group would like to serve sometime, please let **Sherie Whitehead** know to help schedule a date. It is a great opportunity to serve the Lord as we serve others.

**JESSICA DUFF**—**Wycliffe Bible Translators** is suffering from after-effects of malaria, which she contracted in Nigeria. She is experiencing severe headaches and is on home health leave. Please pray for her.

**JONATHAN SCHUSTER**—**GEM Ireland** will be on a 6-month furlough beginning March 1. He will be in the states then, and Becky and the children will come in June. We will be planning a visit from them in July at Westkirk. Watch for further details. Their church plant is growing and drawing many people to visit. They are meeting in a school building which they have rented for a year. Pray for those people who will be carrying on the work while the Schusters are away.

**HOPE MINISTRIES**—They are looking for men’s white tube socks, and there is still a box for them in the narthex. Please contribute to this need. Thanks very much.

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 members. They are: Gail De Graaf, Cynthia Fisher, Somer Gillett, Dan Marvin, Julie Norem, Rus Norem, Wendy Reed, Bryan Sharp, Alvin & Lois Lundgren Stecker, Sherie Whitehead.

. . . *Gail De Graaf, Mission Commission Deacon*

# Commission News

## Evangelism and Fellowship

The Evangelism and Fellowship Commission at Westkirk is charged with the responsibility of:

- coordinating the welcoming and incorporation of newcomers into the congregation.
- promoting evangelistic outreach into the community.
- promoting and encouraging the development of a healthy sense of community within the congregation.

Our mission is to help others “to know Christ and to make Him known” by:

- sponsoring special outreach ministry events (tri-fold pamphlet mailers, gift for first-time visitors, managing the Welcome Center).
- assisting other commissions and program groups (ALPHA, Sunday Night at the Kirk, “We Miss You” ministry).
- developing ministry opportunities which effectively reflect our presence in the community (Movie Nights, Cookie Walk and Christmas Sale, Neighborhood Festivals).

The creation of Commission Deacons to lead commission meetings and projects, and refocusing the duties of the Elders to spiritual leadership and care of the congregation has created voids in commission membership to do God’s work effectively. Therefore, we invite YOU to prayerfully consider joining the Evangelism and Fellowship Commission to help us fulfill our mission. Ask yourself: If not I, who? If not NOW, when? Come, work for God. The retirement benefits are great!

The Commission meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. For more information or to sign up, please call Regi Donaldson (515-276-6263).

... Regi Donaldson,  
Evangelism/Fellowship Commission Deacon

## Prayer Commission

Prayer is an absolutely essential ingredient of a healthy and maturing spiritual relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our Heavenly Father expects each of us to develop a vibrant prayer life. Toward that end the Prayer Commission of Westkirk is sponsoring several events and activities throughout the Lenten period.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 25 and continuing through April 5, directed prayer for individuals and groups will be offered. Look each Sunday in the *Westkirk News* for a list of those for whom we will be praying the following week.

**Sunday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.** an evening **Prayer Service** for the whole church is planned. We will include music, scripture, directed and extemporaneous prayer. This will be an opportunity for you to join others in lifting to the Lord our concerns for ourselves, our fellow members, our state, nation and world.

Just prior to Holy Week, the Prayer Commission will sponsor *The Passion of Christ* showing in the sanctuary on **Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.** This will provide a wonderful opportunity for you and your friends to remember the great sacrifice Christ offered us on the cross.

The Prayer Commission has also established a **Prayer Room** in the Mezzanine area off the hallway between the two stairwells. Feel free to visit it if you want a quiet place to pray and meditate.

Each Sunday following the Worship Service members of the Prayer Commission will be standing in the front of the Sanctuary to pray with you. Feel free to come to any of us and ask for prayer.

... Paul Nelson, Prayer Commission Deacon

## 40 Days of Lenten Prayer Emphasis

Please keep these people or concerns in your prayers on the appropriate days throughout the Lenten Period. Thanks.

... *The Prayer Commission*

- Feb. 25 Pray for Pastor Michael Mudlaff and family
- Feb. 26 Pray for Pastor Steven Randall and family
- Feb. 27 Pray for Karen Admussen and family
- Feb. 28 Pray for Elaine Hurst and family
- Mar. 1 Pray for Larry Kussatz and Choir
- Mar. 2 Pray for Barbara McCargar and family
- Mar. 3 Pray for Westkirk Elders
- Mar. 4 Pray for Westkirk Deacons
- Mar. 5 Pray for Westkirk Commissions
- Mar. 6 Pray for Westkirk House Kirks and all small groups
- Mar. 7 Pray for Westkirk Stephen Ministers
- Mar. 8 Pray for Westkirk Youth Ministries
- Mar. 9 Pray for Westkirk New Light Support Ministry
- Mar. 10 Pray for Westkirk First Ladies and all Volunteers
- Mar. 11 Pray for Westkirk Missionary—Gary De Graaf - Greater Europe Mission, France
- Mar. 12 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Jonathan and Becky Schuster - Greater Europe Mission, Ireland
- Mar. 13 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Dr. Peter and Ana Lucaciu - Romanian Evangelistic Medical Mission
- Mar. 14 Pray for Westkirk Missionary—Jessica Duff - Wycliffe Bible Translators, SEED Project, on medical leave due to malaria recovery
- Mar. 15 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Cathy & Greg Huffer - Back2Back, Monterrey, Mexico
- Mar. 16 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—David and Karen Eggert - Campus Crusade for Christ - Iowa State University, Bridges International
- Mar. 17 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Ward and Gwen Schmeidel - Campus Crusade for Christ - Upper Midwest Region
- Mar. 18 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Mark Nelson - Freedom for Youth Ministries, Des Moines, Iowa
- Mar. 19 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Hope Ministries, Des Moines, Iowa
- Mar. 20 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Heather and Brian Hanneman - The Navigators, at University of Colorado
- Mar. 21 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Brett and Micki Stait – The Navigators, Collegiate Staff
- Mar. 22 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Ruth Harbor, Des Moines, Iowa
- Mar. 23 Pray for Westkirk Missionaries—Warren Hunsberger - Teen Challenge of the Midlands, Colfax, Iowa
- Mar. 24 Pray for President Obama and Vice President Biden and families
- Mar. 25 Pray for US House and Senate Members
- Mar. 26 Pray for Gov. Culver and family
- Mar. 27 Pray for Iowa House and Senate Members
- Mar. 28 Pray for Westkirk's families
- Mar. 29 Pray that those whom God has chosen for His own will respond positively this week
- Mar. 30 Pray that those in tight financial circumstances will be drawn to Jesus Christ and that He will meet all their needs
- Mar. 31 Pray for our men and women in the Armed Service for their protection physically and spiritually
- Apr. 1 Pray that those contemplating abortion would find a life giving way of supporting their children
- Apr. 2 Pray for staff and children in Christian Schools and all homeschooling families in Iowa
- Apr. 3 Pray for Christian teachers and administrators in public schools in Iowa
- Apr. 4 Pray for all single parent families
- Apr. 5 Pray for Westkirk Holy Week Services

# Commission News

## Christian Education Commission

The topic for the Christian Education Commission for February was the Nursery. We discussed suggestions for improving the nursery in the areas of safety, cleanliness, spiritual development and workers. We addressed issues such as lowering the crib mattress, mounting the TV and name tags for children. The carpeting will be shampooed due to construction dust and a new routine has been established to insure toys are cleaned weekly.

A new nursery curriculum has been ordered to aid parents and children with spiritual growth. The policy handbook for the nursery will be updated. Parents and volunteers will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the changes. We are looking for a new nursery coordinator. We thank **Jodi Piper** for all her help last year in setting up volunteers and making sure the nursery was staffed. We are also looking for another paid worker to help in the nursery during services. If this is an area in which you would like to help, please contact Karen Admussen.

### Other Happenings:

To reassure members and friends of Westkirk, we are required by our insurance company to do background checks on all of our staff and volunteers.

Emphasis this quarter in Sunday School and WOW is on helping the children learn how to become good ladies and gentlemen in and around the church. When you see one of them displaying good etiquette, please commend them for it!

The annual Sweetheart Banquet sponsored and staffed by our teens was a huge success even though delayed one day because of weather.

Next month's topic will be **Vacation Bible School**. If you would like to contribute ideas or may have an interest in volunteering for VBS, we would love to have you join us at our next meeting!

. . . *Sandy Tuinstra, Christian Education Commission Deacon*



## Notes to the Church Family

*Westkirk Presbyterian Church,*

*The family of Paul Hemingway thanks you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. Thank you for your memorial. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.*

*Pastor & family of Westkirk*

*Thank you to Pastor Michael for the time he took to visit my husband the day of his angiogram. My husband appreciates that friendship.*

*The plant is lovely and is now at home – as is my husband. He is recovering and is anxious to be well & working!*

*Because He lives,  
Gloria & Pastor Dayton*

*Dear Pastor Mike and Staff:*

*This is a note to let you know that LaRue and I have finally sold our home in West Des Moines and have moved to Oklahoma. . . .*

*We would like to keep in touch with you folks and would appreciate receiving your SHEPHERD publication. Please do let everyone at Westkirk have our new address. . . .*

*We have enjoyed our association with you all at Westkirk and now are busily active trying to find a new church home. God Bless,*

*Ron & LaRue Pennell  
P. O. Box 241, Mead, OK 73449*

*Dear Pastor Michael and Westkirk Family,*

*Thank you very much for the lovely plant which arrived on my 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday, January 23. What a nice surprise! – And the plant will live on.*

*As a Founding Elder and Chair of the Good Samaritan Commission, I was the one who took flowers (& sometimes cup cakes) to our members in the hospital, nursing homes or homebound with so much pleasure on both sides. Now I was the recipient. Thank you again,*

*Love,  
Bette Criswell Burroughs*

*I would like to thank the Deacons, especially my Deacon Dianne Glanzer, for her visits, calls and flowers while I have been in and out of the Hospital and at Heritage Court.*

*I have also enjoyed all the visits from Darlene Dennison, Chuck Heitbrink and Pastor Michael. They all have brought a little sunshine during the long winter months along with all your prayers.*

*I'd also like to thank all my Westkirk friends for the Birthday cards in celebration of my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*

*Margaret Caster*

*We would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the Westkirk family for the many ways they reached out to us as Marv fought his losing battle with cancer. God bless you all!*

*Fran Nugteren, Jerry & Sandy Tuinstra*

# Westkirk Student Ministry

## Upcoming Blast (Jr. High) Events

The Blast group will be serving with the Kids Against Hunger Program on Saturday, March 7 to package food to be sent to those in need overseas. If you're a Jr. High student and you would like to help out, please contact Pastor Steve.



- 3/4 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)
- 3/7 Kids Against Hunger
- 3/11 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)
- 3/18 No Blast – Spring Break!
- 3/25 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)
- 3/27 Laser Tag @ Tokens; 6:30 to 9 p.m.

\* Blast also meets for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the youth room.

\*\* Check the Blast website ([blast4youth.org](http://blast4youth.org)) for more information, to download event waivers, and to sign up to receive our monthly newsletters.

## Upcoming New Life (High School) Events

- 3/1 New Life; 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Youth Rm)
- 3/6 Bowling & Pizza; 6:30 to 9 p.m.
- 3/8 New Life; 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Youth Rm)
- 3/15 No New Life – Spring Break!
- 3/22 New Life; 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Youth Rm)
- 3/29 New Life; 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Youth Rm)

\* Check the New Life website ([newlifeyouth.org](http://newlifeyouth.org)) for more information, to download event waivers, and to sign up to receive our monthly newsletters.

**Thank you** to everyone who helped make our second annual Sweetheart Banquet, such a fun and spirit-filled evening!! The youth had a great time serving our church family and together we raised nearly \$800 for middle school and high school students who are attending camp or participating in missions this summer. Thanks again for supporting our young people!!

A very special thank you to **Larry Kussatz, Chuck Heitbrink, and Terry Thompson** for volunteering their time and culinary talents to help the youth make the evening a success.

# Children's Ministry

**Congratulations: Eric Brown** received an Ipod Shuffle last month for earning the most points for Bible memorization during the Armor of God unit at WOW.

**VBS:** Mark your calendars for July 19-23 for this year's Vacation Bible School. This summer's theme is Rome—Paul's Underground Church. Please join us at the Christian Education meeting on **Monday, March 2** at 7:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room if you'd like to contribute ideas, volunteer or just find out more information.

**Summer Camp:** Twin Lakes Christian Center has some classic and new opportunities for you and your children this summer. Be sure to check out their website at [www.twinlakescc.com](http://www.twinlakescc.com) and register before April 1 to get a discount.

Family Camp July 3-5 or July 17-19

Explorers (entering grades 2-3) July 5-7 or Aug 9-11

Adventure Camp (grades 4-6) July 5-10

Junior High (entering grades 6-9) July 12-17

Sr. High (entering grades 9-12) June 28-July 3

In addition to these, the junior and senior high students can also choose from Rough It, H2O or Mission Camps.

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



## ***The Shepherd***

Communication Organ of  
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