

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 24 No. 4 April 2009

What Wondrous Love is This?

As wonderful as Advent is at Westkirk (the church all decked out, Silent Night in candlelight), there is no time of year more glorious at our church than Holy Week. It is an amazing week of expectation, pain, sorrow and joy! Being the busiest week of the year, folks often suspect that it is a dread for the pastor, but Holy Week at Westkirk is a 'wouldn't miss it for the world' time of year. This year is no exception. Our very own professional trumpet player, Jason Jones, will join us from Texas, the choir is preparing to lead us beautifully in worship, and Larry, as usual, has outdone himself in preparation.

The highlight this year just may be Good Friday. I will give a brief meditation continuing in our sermon series through the passages in Mark where Mark seeks to answer the question that is still being asked today, 'Who is this Jesus?' But Good Friday this year will be a communion service of shadows and stones. As you come into the sanctuary on Friday evening, you will receive a stone. For you, the stone may be a worry stone, a stone that represents a weight in your life, a stone that symbolizes an altar where you have had an encounter with the living God, or a stone that honors the memory of a loved one. You will be encouraged to hold your stone in your hand, to place your worries and burdens upon it, and to feel its weight. Together, we will meditate on the Scriptures as we hear Jesus' last words. We will pray, experience silence, and sing together. And then, at the end of the service, we will depart the sanctuary in silence, leaving our stone on a table, draped in black in the narthex. There, our stones will be left behind, like the worries, the burdens, and the weight of the sin Jesus bore as we remember the time he spent in the grave until Easter morning.

But of course, all the songs, the words, the reflection and even the stones, mean nothing if it were not for the willingness of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, to come in human form to identify with us, so that he could live a perfect life and become the substitute death penalty we should bear for our sin. The wages of sin is death. That is what we deserve in exchange for our lives, but Jesus was an innocent man. As we make our way through Lent, let us continue to reflect on the events to come, and turn toward God in faith, while turning away from our sin in repentance. Oh, what wondrous love is this, that Jesus, 2000 years ago, would lay down his life for my soul.

Pastor Michael



^{ESV} Luke 23:44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.



Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

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

Benae 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 | Dan Geisler | 2 | David & Mary Arnold |
| 2 | *Ben Dixon | 2 | Brad Haley & Somer Gillett |
| 3 | *Mallory Wickemeyer | 7 | Mark & Joy Dauterive |
| 7 | Gloria Huyser | 8 | Mack & Carol Harbour |
| 7 | *Emily Leahy | 10 | Christopher & Linda Wilde |
| 8 | *Brandon Boyd | 13 | Lee & Pat Gorman |
| 9 | Debbie Frondle | 17 | Chad & Amanda Carlson |
| 10 | Winnie Adden | | |
| 11 | Ellen Harrison | | |
| 12 | Regi Donaldson | | |
| 12 | Arlene Hubbell | | |
| 12 | *Elizabeth Leonard | | |
| 14 | Paul Carbone | | |
| 15 | Chris Brown | | |
| 16 | *Joshua Duff | | |
| 17 | Gary Glanzer | | |
| 18 | Lee Turnbull | | |
| 19 | Caitlin Miller | | |
| 19 | Shirley Sanders | | |
| 19 | *Nathan Vis | | |
| 20 | Brad Barron | | |
| 21 | Ann Bratney | | |
| 22 | Elaine Erickson | | |
| 25 | *Eric Moss | | |
| 26 | Mark Scheve | | |
| 27 | Joyce Koroch | | |
| 27 | Jorge Mesa | | |
| 27 | *Hayley Miller | | |
| 30 | *Molly Benson | | |
- *Youth member

Condolences

*Our deep sympathy to Joyce Koroch and the family and friends of **Donald Koroch**, who died February 25, 2009 in Des Moines. Don's funeral service was held at Westkirk on February 2.*

*Our condolences also to JoAnne Cook and the family and friends of **Harold Cook**, who died March 19 in Des Moines. The funeral service was held at Brooks Funeral Care on March 24.*

Schedule Change

Please make a note of a permanent date change for **Sunday Night at the Kirk**. To accommodate scheduling conflicts on Easter and Mother's Day, Sunday Night at the Kirk hereafter will be held on the first Sunday of the month. Please join us this month on April 5 at 6:30 p.m.





The Bulletin Board

April Activities – See related articles in this issue.

Wednesday	4/1	WOW, supper 5:45 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	4/2	<i>The Passion of Christ</i> , 7:00 p.m.. Sanctuary Prayer Shawl Ministry (Johnson), 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Cunitz home), 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m. * * * * *
Friday	4/3	
Sunday	4/5	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service , 10:30 a.m. Sunday Night at the Kirk , 6:30 p.m. <i>New Life</i> , 6:30 p.m., Youth Room
Monday	4/6	Commissions meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	4/7	Stephen Ministry , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4/8	No WOW; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	4/9	Dorcas Circle , 1:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion , 7:00 p.m.
Friday	4/10	Good Friday Shadows and Stones Service with Communion , 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	4/12	No Sunday School Easter Breakfast , 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion , 10:30 a.m. Emeritus Worship , 2:00 p.m. The Gathering , 6:30 p.m., Youth Room
Monday	4/13	Omega Housekirk , 6:30 p.m. Commission Deacons Meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	4/14	New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4/15	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m. Shepherd May articles due
Thursday	4/16	Prayer Shawl Ministry , 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Cunitz home), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	4/17	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m.
Saturday	4/18	Fireproof Movie , 7:00 p.m., Great Hall Parents Night Out , 6:45 p.m. * * * * *
Sunday	4/19	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service , 10:30 a.m. The Gathering , 6:30 p.m.
Monday	4/20	Session Meeting , 5:30 p.m. Parish Deacons Meeting , 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	4/21	The Clan Housekirk , 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4/22	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	4/23	Women's Bible Study (Cunitz home)), 7:00 p.m.
Friday	4/24	Women's Bible Study (Mudlaff), 9:00 a.m.
Saturday	4/25	Spring Cleanup , 8:30 a.m. * * * * *
Sunday	4/26	Sunday School , 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service , 10:30 a.m. Club 56 Potluck Picnic , Noon, Church campus The Gathering , 6:30 p.m.
Monday	4/27	Omega Housekirk , 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	4/28	Bagpipers Luncheon , 1:00 p.m., Maxie's New Light meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4/29	WOW , supper 5:45 p.m.; Choir , 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	4/30	Women's Bible Study (Cunitz home), 7:00 p.m.



Dorcas Circle

All ladies of the church and their guests are invited to a faith lesson from *Walk as Jesus Walked; Making Disciples*. On April 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room, **Linda Aldrich** will be giving a lesson titled "Don't Forget Us." Please join us as we learn more about God, enjoy dessert together and get to know each other better. Refreshments will be provided by **Marilyn Lanham and Mary Watkins**.

In May, Dorcas Circle will be meeting a week later than regularly scheduled to participate in a special mission project. On Thursday, May 21 everyone will meet at the church at 12:45 p.m. and then car pool to Meredith Drive Reformed Church to assemble meals for the Heartland. . . . *Karen Admussen, Moderator*

Westkirk Welcomes New Members

March 29 marked a special day in the life of our church family. New friends were received into membership of Westkirk Presbyterian Church:

Gary & Sydney Arneson
Brian & Amy Soper
Frank & Lois Swartz

The group joined their respective Elders and Parish Deacons at a welcoming luncheon following worship. Commission Deacons hosted the event.

Be sure to wear your name badge to help these folks remember your name when you greet them.

Stephen Ministers Commissioned

During morning worship on March 22, we celebrated the commissioning of our newest Stephen Ministers:

Mary Arnold
Steve Brown
Tom Duff
Russ Harrison
John Schwien

We thank God for their gifts of caring and listening. Their ministries will increase greatly the overall ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ at Westkirk.

Please keep these people in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to their care receivers.

Stewardship Report for February

February was an exciting month for the ministry at Westkirk. Last year during the month of February we experienced several Sundays of bad weather. This year was just the opposite. Giving for the month was \$38,439 compared to last year's in-gathering of \$23,240. This represented an increase of over 65%. Expenses for the month were below our budgeted plan by 7.5%. These results, when combined with January represent a shortfall year-to-date of just over \$600.

As pledge payments are received for the Pledge Note due the end of this year, we are paying on the note as they are received. During the month we paid \$13,000. These pledges were in addition to the general offering for the month.

The average attendance for the month was 254, with an average of over 40 in the Children's Sunday Worship Services.

We are extremely grateful for the blessings God has and continues to shower on the Ministry at Westkirk as we continue to "Know Christ and Make Him Known."

. . . *Chuck Heitbrink, Stewardship Commission*

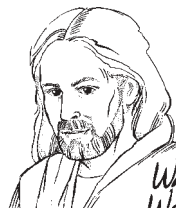
Holy Week at Westkirk



Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with our children singing and waving palm branches. There will be special piano and organ music by Debra Liljedahl and Larry Kussatz. The choir will present a stirring anthem with Barbara Robinson, soloist.

Thursday, April 9
Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.
With Holy Communion



A quiet hour for meditation and reflection on the events of the last time the Disciples supped with Jesus. Communion will be available for those who wish to partake.



Friday, April 10
Good Friday
A Service of Shadows and Stones
With Holy Communion, 7:00 p.m.,

Hear the last words of Christ from the Cross. You will feel the pain and anguish of our Lord through words of Scripture read by Pastor Mudlaff and the music of the choir, soloists Sharon Johnson and Kevin Riggins, and instrumentalists Jason Jones, Patti Liittswager, Elaine Erickson and David Liljedahl. Join in Holy Communion. Open your heart to the message of Good Friday.

Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday
Breakfast 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
No Sunday School Classes
Easter Worship at 10:30 a.m.



Join with family and friends for Easter breakfast at Westkirk. Our church chefs are planning a tasty meal which will be served by the Elders.

For 10:30 a.m. worship, special music will be presented by the children and the choir with accompaniment by instrumentalists Debbie Hoepker, David Liljedahl and Jason Jones. Pastor Mudlaff will deliver the Easter message.

Plan now to participate in each of these services which commemorate the last week of our Savior's earthly life and His glorious resurrection.

Marriage Enrichment Class Starting April 19th

Join Gail and me as we look into God's word to see what instructions He has for us regarding our marriage relationship. Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg of America's Family Coaches have written several books to help us also. They even have a map to show us where we should go, or where we might wind up along the way if we do not heed some warning signs.

We will start on Sunday, April 19 and hopefully cover it in 7 lessons. If you purchased books last winter, we will use those. (*Six Secrets to a Lasting Love*, and the *Discover the Love of Your Life Workbook*). You will need two workbooks per couple. One study guide. See Gail or George if you will need books. There is a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room. We will incorporate some material from the "Fireproof" movie and "The Love Dare" booklet. Pastor Michael, Gail and I attended an Update informational meeting put on by the Rosbergs and they will be venturing into a new Computer WebSite (The Great Marriage Experience) to help churches as well as couples discover more information as to where they are in relation to other couples. We will provide more information for you in the future...

... George De Graaf

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

- A man like **Adam**, who was cut off from all that gave meaning to life and needed someone to remind him of God's promise.
- A man like **Noah**, who witnessed the destruction of everything around him and needed someone to wait with him for a new day.
- A man like **Abraham**, who had to leave everything he knew and loved behind him and needed someone to journey with him to a new life.
- A man like **Moses**, who faced great opposition and needed a companion to support him and speak on his behalf.
- A man like **David**, who grieved the death of a wayward child and needed a shepherd's care.
- A man like **Elijah**, who though he was all alone and needed a still small voice to encourage him.
- A man like **Job**, who lost everything and needed someone to silently endure his pain with him.
- A man like **Peter**, who found himself in over his head and needed the strong hand of a faithful friend.
- A man like **Paul**, who knew the unending distress of a thorn in the flesh and needed someone to rejoice when he rejoiced and to weep when he wept.
- A man like **JESUS**, who knew intense disappointment, sorrow, grief, rejection, and loneliness and needed an angel of God to minister to him.
- **A man like you.**

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call Pastor Michael at the church office or via email or Stephen Leader Karen Breeding at klbreeding@msn.com.

Baptism

On March 1, 2009 we celebrated the baptism of **Cassandra Spring Rivers**, daughter of Janine Rivers and sister of Brandon, Steffon, Ashley, Brianna, Andrew and Jake. Cassie was born on November 5.

Holy Week/ Easter Prayer Concerns

- April 5 Pray for Holy Week Services, especially Palm Sunday's Service participants and those who attend to make preparation for Jesus' lordship in our lives.
- April 6 Pray for Westkirk Ministry Staff, Michael Mudlaff, Steven Randall and Karen Admussen.
- April 7 Pray for the Westkirk Support Staff, Elaine Hurst, Larry Kussatz and Barbara McCarger.
- April 8 Pray for the Westkirk Elders, and Commission and Parish Deacons.
- April 9 Pray that God will anoint the Maundy Thursday Service, helping all who attend to focus on our call to serve one another in humility.
- April 10 Pray that God will anoint the Good Friday Service, helping all who attend better understand how Christ suffered on our behalf.
- April 11 Pray that God will prepare hearts to attend the Easter Service, drawing those who may have become estranged from God back into his fold.
- April 12 Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to literally believe the truth of Christ's physical death and resurrection; open our eyes and hearts to those who are visiting Westkirk that day and may be hurting, and anoint the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Address Changes

Rowdy & Becky Smith
2812 Oneil Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516
George & Gail De Graaf
ggdegraaf@q.com

Spring Cleanup Scheduled

With warmer weather knocking on the door and signs of spring in the air, it's time for **Spring Cleanup**. The House & Grounds Commission will be hosting a Spring Cleanup Day and the entire congregation is invited!! We are looking forward to a fun day of fellowship with one another, all while offering a labor of love for the maintenance and beautification of the blessing that we've all come to know as God's house, our house, Westkirk.

With our Westkirk family growing and the building being used more and more, there are many small projects both inside and outside that we can take care of on Spring Cleanup Day. If we have 250 people show up, there will be work for everyone. The more people we have the better, and special work skills are not required, just a desire to join in and help. Please prayerfully consider this date and we hope to see everyone there!

Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, April 25

Location: Westkirk campus

Time: 8:30 a.m. until about noon

If you have questions, please contact the Church office, 253-0330, or Hugh Sheppard, 339-9944.

*... Hugh Sheppard,
House & Grounds Commission*





The World at Our Doorstep

Mission Sunday is May 3, 2009. We are planning a day for our local missions to gather in the morning so we may get to know them and their ministries better, and pray for them more effectively. So far we know Dave Burrier of HOPE Ministries, Mark Nelson of Freedom For Youth, Bob Larson of Teen Challenge, Dave and Karen Eggert of Campus Crusade at ISU Campus will be here. We hope that Mark McDougal of Ruth Harbor, and Ward and Gwen Schmeidel of Campus Crusade will also be joining us. We also have issued invitations to Eileen Boggess of the Urbandale Food Pantry and Jerry Van Cleave of JAIL Ministries.

NOW we invite all the congregation to mark this date on your calendars and come to Mission Sunday also!!! At 9:00 a.m. join us at Sunday School to hear some of these speakers.

Visit their exhibits between Sunday School and Worship to chat with them about their ministry. Worship with us as we hear Brett Strait of The Navigators in Colorado preach our Pentecost sermon. Stay for our luncheon buffet at noon and hear Dave Burrier as our main speaker, then hear from the other guests as well.

We hope it will be a blessing for everyone to participate in this day of mission emphasis. The contest for visualizing our theme is over, and we have had a number of wonderful drawings - more about that later, they will be on display on that Sunday.

Beginning this month there is a map on the larger bulletin board for us to have our two creatures "WESTK" and "EMCEE" help us locate where our central Iowa missions are located. By May 3, we should have the entire map covered!!!

We are looking for volunteers who would like to make a centerpiece(s) for our luncheon tables. Please contact Gail De Graaf .

On March 9 the Mission Commission served dinner at **Freedom For Youth** for the "Whiz Kids" and their tutors - about 40 people. It was a fun experience to see how God is blessing that ministry. They want us to do this three more times this year. Please contact Sherie Whitehead if you would like to join us next time to help us serve and see them in action.

We have no update regarding **Jessica Duff's** health condition. Keep her in your prayers as she continues to fight the effects of malaria.

Jonathan Schuster is in the states, and his family remains in Ireland until June when they come here. The family will be at Westkirk on July 24-26, and we will be planning special activities while they are here.

More updates are on the other bulletin boards in the narthex, check them out to keep up to date on them all.

Thank you for your support of missions at Westkirk--To God Be the Glory!!

Contact our Mission Commission members: Gail De Graaf, Cynthia Fisher, Somer Gillett, Lois Lundgren, Dan Marvin, Wendy Reed, Bryan Sharp, Sherie Whitehead, Ben and Terrie Bishop. Sit in on our meetings.

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

Our Ministry at Emeritus

Emeritus of Urbandale, our community's newest Alzheimer's and memory care facility recently contacted Westkirk and asked if we would consider ministering to their residents with a 30-minute worship service one Sunday afternoon a month. Of course we said, "Yes!"

As we briefly join with the beautiful residents of Emeritus on the second Sunday of each month, please consider joining us for a time of reading familiar passages from Scripture and singing the great hymns of our faith. Adults and children are welcome.

Our next visit to Emeritus is Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, you may contact Pastor Michael.

Career Support for Job Loss

While some changes are expected, others come suddenly with no warning. Either way, the reality of job loss or career change brings challenges. If you are facing an unexpected job loss due to the economic and employment challenge facing our country, come and find encouragement and support at **New Beginnings: Career Support**.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, here in Urbandale is providing a resource room equipped with computers, printer, and a volunteer who will assist in tasks associated with searching for a job. Along with the resource room, New Beginnings also provides support groups and special presentations to assist with the specific needs one finds when faced with job loss. These support group meetings and presentations are on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

The support group meets weekly and the schedule for the workshops is as follows:

- April 2 – Resume Writing
- April 23 – Interviewing
- May 7 – Job Market
- May 21 – Financial Planning/Mortgage

For more information, contact Reverend Tim Phillips at Gloria Dei, 276-1700.

A Special Wednesday Opportunity

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

This spring the members of Westkirk have a great opportunity to discover more about our Lord and Savior and share that joy with friends and neighbors who desperately need to hear the Gospel. Wednesday night the week after Easter, we will start the study "*Vintage Jesus – Timely Answers to Timeless Questions*." This study will equip Christians to have more understanding and confidence in communicating the deity and life-changing power of Jesus. It is an excellent opportunity to bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship of Westkirk on Wednesday and introduce them to the ultimate Truth in life.

This study will challenge the Christian to stop and think hard about Jesus' own question that he asked thousands of years ago, "Who do you say that I am?" Additionally, this will introduce the fundamental principles about the nature, humanity and deity of our Savior. There has never been a better opportunity for us to "Know Christ, and Make Him Known"! Please, prayerfully consider who you will invite to join with us on Wednesdays.

The world we live in bombards us with its version of truth and offers many "saviors" to those who are without hope and hurting. We have the "Capitol T" Truth, and the honor and privilege to know and serve the one true Savior – what a blessing it is that God allows us to share this truth with a lost and lonely world. Join us for this incredible worship experience and bring a friend, I promise that you will be blessed. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Heer.



The Need for Prayer

As we pray for others and ourselves at Westkirk, one of our concerns should be that of reviving the Spirit of God within us and others.

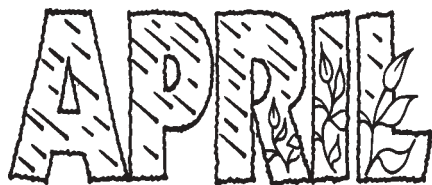
“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Our nation (which is each one of us) is in great need of healing and forgiveness. Things we are doing and not doing are blocking our way to know Christ and to make Him known. Join the Prayer Commission in the month of April in humbling ourselves, praying, seeking God’s face, and turning from wicked ways so that God will visit us with His presence and power in Westkirk and where we live and work.

The Prayer Room off the hallway on the Mezzanine level is available for you for prayer and meditation.

The Prayer Commission members will also be available at the front of the sanctuary after each Sunday service to pray with you if you will join us.

... Paul Nelson,
Prayer Commission



Thank You Notes . . .

Dear Westkirk Friends,

It really was a surprise! Thank you for the outpouring of love and encouragement you gave to me and my family on the occasion of my 5th anniversary here at Westkirk on March 1! It was a great reception and the basket was overflowing with cards and notes. I look forward to Advent and the opportunity to sport that beautiful new stole. What a joy and memory you created for me!

Special thanks go to Audrene Hansen, Chuck Heitbrink, Lou Heitbrink, Elaine Hurst, Terry and Kris Thompson, and Melinda Turnbull who made the day extra special. Thank you also, to the Parish Deacons who contacted the members of their parish and let them know of the surprise. I'm amazed that you all managed to keep it a secret! The congregation that takes care of and loves its pastor is an amazing blessing and is to be praised. I feel cared for and loved. Praising God for you,

*Pastor Michael for
Sasha and the Mudlaff Boys*

Dear Westkirk,

We were overwhelmed with gratitude when the beautiful card arrived from our church family after Marty's stay in the hospital. We want to thank everyone whose signature and good wishes came with the card. We have really enjoyed the beautiful fruit basket from the Deacons and thank our good friend Myra Verros for personally delivering it, and all who called and offered their support.

Marty & Ellen Kinnaird

Dear Partners in Ministry –

I wanted to thank you so very much for your continued faithful support of Hope Ministries and for collecting 139 pairs of white men's tube socks! What a blessing. Socks are always needed for our men and we thank you for helping to meet that need. What a privilege to see God's provision for our ministry through our faithful supporters like you. Thank you again for thinking of us and may God Bless.

Shelly Gennarelli

*Church Relations & Ambassador Coordinator
Hope Ministries*

Westkirk Presbyterian Church,

I am sending this note of deep gratitude to Pastor Michael and the Westkirk family. Your prayers, visits and support during my unexpected hospitalization gave me the strength to fight my way back to health. Marty and I both thank you for including us in your very special family.

*God Bless,
Jean Pillers*

Presenting . . .

Rick, Carolyn and Olivia Eyerly

What a pleasure to become better acquainted with the Eyerlys while enjoying the warmth of their hospitality (which included delicious apple pie, slice of cheddar cheese and a good cup of coffee) and the comfort and warmth of their lovely antique decorated home. We had worshipped together and shared pleasantries many times but now it was time to dig deeper and really get to know them.



Rick grew up in Des Moines, graduating from Roosevelt High School. He worked for HyVee Food Store's produce department in Des Moines, Tarkio, Missouri, and Omaha, Nebraska. Anxious to be his own boss, he embarked on a partnership in a vegetable growing and marketing firm at Oakland, Nebraska. While working he took courses in business law and interpersonal relations at DMACC and University of Nebraska, Omaha. During his vegetable growing years (22 years ago) he began working part time in real estate and for the last twenty years has worked full time in real estate, the last 10 were here in the Des Moines area.

Carolyn Irvine was born in Eau Clair, Wisconsin, and at the age of six her family moved to the Quad Cities area of Iowa. She graduated from Bettendorf High School then attended Marycrest College in Davenport and University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, studying communications/public relations. She found employment with MidAmerican Energy in Davenport as communications specialist, training new customer service employees.

Carolyn had a sister living in Des Moines who organized a 70's party, inviting Carolyn to come from Davenport to attend which she did dressed as Cher, long hair and all. Though no one would admit it, there might have been some match making going on as Rick and Carolyn were the only "singles" at the party. They really "hit it off" and I think I heard one of them say, "It was love at first sight." That meeting was ten years ago. Three years later they were married. Carolyn transferred to MidAmerican Energy in the Des Moines area.

To their marriage Rick brought a daughter, Ashley, now 23, married and living in Bondurant. Carolyn brought her daughter, Olivia, now 13, in eighth grade at Urbandale Middle School and very much a member of our church family.

Both Carolyn and Rick were raised in Christian homes...Carolyn, Methodist and Presbyterian background and Rick, Methodist until eight, then Assembly, Lutheran, Church of Christ, and Presbyterian. They have been attending Westkirk almost five years and especially appreciate the Bible based messages that apply to everyday living. Rick became an Elder last year and is participating in a Bible study and leadership class and is a member of the House and Grounds crew. Ask Rick about the Bogalusa, LA, trip to help Katrina ravaged folk. Both serve Westkirk as Stephen Ministry Leaders. Carolyn is one of three wedding coordinators. Olivia is a member of the Youth Group and looking forward to the six-day mission trip to Detroit and Church Camp this summer. She has willingly provided child care when called upon.

Carolyn joined Rick in the real estate business with the ReMax firm and is his marketing manager for the real estate business as well as the two car wash businesses they own (the full service Ankeny Auto Spa and self service Waukee Auto Spa). Don't know when these people find time for hobbies but I think being organized is the key. Rick has a wonderful coin collection that includes some ancient, Biblical coins. Carolyn schedules time for garage sales, estate sales, and antique stores. While Carolyn plies the aisles of antique stores, Rick gets lost with the coin collections.

What a pleasant and interesting family! Perhaps you already know them. If not...Reach Out!

. . . by Carolyn Chenoweth

Westkirk Student Ministry



BLAST (Junior High Ministry) will be going to Walnut Creek Community Church on Sunday, April 5, during the Sunday School hour, to hear author **Josh McDowell** present evidence supporting the resurrection of Jesus. The event is free of charge and parents are encouraged to come along with us!! Students and parents may either meet us at Walnut Creek Church or, if you need a ride, may meet at Westkirk at 8:00 a.m.

When: Sunday, April 5. Doors open 8:00 a.m. Event begins at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Walnut Creek Community Church at Jordan Park,
2251 Fuller Road, West Des Moines

Who: Youth, Parents, and anyone else interested in joining us.

Speaker: Josh McDowell

Topic: *Evidence for the Resurrection*



BLAST Calendar

4/1 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)*

4/5 Sunday School at Walnut Creek Community Church; 8:30 am.

4/8 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)

4/15 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)

4/22 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)

4/29 W.O.W. (Westkirk on Wednesday)

*Blast also meets for Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.



New Life (Senior High Ministry) will be going to Drake University on Saturday, April 4 to hear author **Josh McDowell** speak on the topic *Is Christianity Relevant Today?* We will leave from Westkirk at 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the event will begin at 7:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to join us!!! Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear a nationally known speaker on this important topic!!

When: Saturday, April 4

Where: Drake University Athletic Field House

Who: High School Students and Parents

Speaker: Josh McDowell

Topic: *Is Christianity Relevant Today?*



New Life Calendar

4/4 Josh McDowell @ Drake; 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

4/5 New Life Game Night! 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Youth Room)

4/12 The Gathering; 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Youth Room)**

4/19 The Gathering; 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Youth Room)

4/26 The Gathering; 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Youth Room)

** New Life's Sunday Night Bible Study has adopted a new name . . .

The Gathering! Same time, same place, different name. If you're a high school student, please come check out The Gathering!!

Children's Ministry

“ . . . just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.” Romans 6:4b (Good News Bible)

The world tells us that Easter is all about wonderful things like bunnies and eggs and flowers and chicks, but the world neglects to tell us the most amazing thing about Easter—Christ's death and resurrection! I love the anticipation of Easter, starting with Ash Wednesday, going all the way through Lent, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then finally Easter!

This year the children have several ways that they can learn more about the true meaning of Easter. **Kids of the Kingdom** will sing on Palm Sunday and **Kids Own Worship** will sing on Easter. Between Maundy Thursday and Easter, there will be an interactive opportunity for families to Walk Where Jesus Walked. The Sunday School rooms will be divided into 12 stations that represent Jesus' last week. Please take the time to walk through with your children to help them get to know Jesus in a new way and feel closer to Him.

After Easter we'd like to give you an evening out to watch the movie *Fireproof* on Saturday, April 18 in the Great Hall. Show time is from 7:00-9:00 p.m., so bring your children to church at 6:45 p.m. and we will have the nursery available for ages 0 - 3. There will be entertainment in the youth room downstairs for ages 4-12. Please contact Karen Admussen if you would like to take advantage of this great offer.

CLUB 56 will be gathering together this month, also. All current fourth, fifth, and sixth graders and their families are invited to a potluck picnic on Sunday, April 26 after church. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided.. Besides food, the agenda includes games and time to talk about upcoming events.

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

Christian Education - VBS

This year our Vacation Bible School will feature Paul & the Underground Church in Rome. Mark your calendar for July 19-23, 6:15 until 8:15 p.m.

It will be similar to Jerusalem Marketplace that we did several years ago. There will be a marketplace with drama, food, and crafts; family groups, worship, and, of course, games outside. Paul's church will be meeting underground.

Gloria Huyser will be the director again this year, with Rachel Heer helping to coordinate the nursery and Karen Admussen coordinating the marketplace crafts.

In the near future we will be looking for volunteers for recreation, family groups, acting, decorating, registration, Bible teaching and more. Please be praying about where YOU can help! There are opportunities for all age groups to participate.

. . . Sandy Tuinstra, Christian Education Commission

WANTED: 13 Brave Adults

Can you spare an hour this summer to share your faith story and your career with the children? The title of this summer's Sunday School is My Faith & My Career. Adults are needed who will share how they came to Christ, how it affects their career, and what they do in their job. Retirees are welcome, too. This is an excellent opportunity to be a role model, plant seeds of faith, and inspire children to lead godly lives!

Summer Sunday School is from 9:00-10:00 a.m. every Sunday from June 7--August 30. The children range from first grade through sixth grade. Speakers would be encouraged (but not expected) to bring in any or all of the following: favorite Bible verse, favorite Bible story, favorite hymn or Christian song, an activity/craft/game/snack/show-and-tell that relates to the career.

If you are interested, please sign up in the Hospitality Room or contact Karen Admussen for more information.

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

Proof Reader - 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

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Karen Breeding, Carolyn Eyerly, Rick Eyerly,

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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

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