

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1360 W. Main Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

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*Issue No. 1*

*January 2010*

## ***From the Pastor's Desk ...***

### ***New Law, More Laws and Grace"***

Starting in January there is a new law that may or may not effect you. Here is the law: ***A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message".***

I am surprised that the law didn't go further and say a person may not operate a motor vehicle when talking on a cell phone. I have not been in a close accident when someone was texting. I have been in two somewhat close calls when the other person (it just happened that it was a woman driving but please read this whole message before you say I am sexist) was on their cell phone – talking. The first was when I was in a funeral procession and the lady was not paying attention – she did have a green light. The second time, a lady was on her cell phone talking, and not paying attention to the traffic around her and we almost collided. So, I can understand why texting and driving would be bad, but what really scares me is: people talking on cell phones while driving. There should be another law passed. Men are not allowed to talk to their significant other while driving a motorized vehicle. I speak from personal experience once again. It was a Friday night and I am driving south, getting close to downtown Decatur. I was speaking with feeling and the light was yellow. (You should know that I think the timing of yellow lights in Illinois is barbaric. New Jersey has a more civilized timing of yellow lights that gives me the extra time I need to safely make it through an intersection.) My prejudice came out as instinct when I saw yellow, I thought I could make it. I was paying attention to a good conversation with my wife, not the timing of yellow lights. Anyway, I quickly realized my poor judgment in thinking I could make it through the intersection- not even close. As I am going through the intersection I look for a police car – my heart sinks as I spot one on a corner – as the youth of today say – my bad.

I experienced grace because I broke a known law and didn't receive a ticket. If only there was a law against talking to my wife I would have focused on my driving and I would not have run the red light. But I am a flawed driver and it is just a matter of time before I make a mistake. The apostle Paul said the law is not bad (Rom. 7), it is the people that are flawed, thus we need grace. Grace works, I am a more careful driver, being self aware of my proclivity to "make it on the yellow". Fortunately, when I went through the red light, the policeman in the car was talking on his phone or daydreaming or looking for a more obvious violation – I don't know why he didn't pull me over – it was grace. I thank God for grace and the law of "love" that makes us all grace filled people. My hope for us all in 2010 is to live a grace filled life as we seek to love God with all our heart, mind and strength.

*Steve*

**Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday**

**Church Telephone: 428-6603 - Church Fax: (217) 428-2580**

**The Church's E-Mail Address: [wpcdecatur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpcdecatur@sbcglobal.net)**

**Web Site: [wpcdecatur.org](http://wpcdecatur.org).**

**In Case of a Pastoral Emergency:**

**Contact the Church Office 428-6603 or The Reverend Steve Hill 429-0867**

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## ***The Church Staff***

Pastor ..... The Reverend Steve Hill  
Minister of Visitation ..... The Reverend Ronn T. Allin  
Director of Christian Education ..... Teresa Goller  
Director of Music ..... Randall Reyman  
Organist/Bell Director/Youth Music ..... Rose Marie Thompson  
Administrative Secretary ..... Pat Starbird  
Bookkeeper ..... Helen Miller  
Sexton ..... Skip Mower  
Nursery ..... Alyssa McCoy  
Housekeeper ..... Sharon Moore  
Session Members: Rick Adams, Donna Dunnuck, Charles Hunter, Dennis Honnold, Steve Huss, Cindy Neff, John Phillips, Ardith Shaffer, Susan Shaw, Donna Spangler, Chris Williams, and Ed Woare.

## *Stray Thoughts from a Minister of Visitation ~ Ronald T Allin*

In the eighteen weeks I have been part of the pastoral staff of Westminster, much time has been spent in pouring over records, looking at a pictorial directory, seeking to remember names and relationships, and sharing in hospital visits and home communions. This has been a good experience.

My initial job description provided for twenty hours per week of congregational visitation. That is, naturally, an evolving description. The future may add or detract details but the central effort will continue to be to visit all of the members of this congregation and any others who may provide insights and inspiration to my reporting to the Head of Staff and the session. This is a support ministry.

Especially welcome are invitations from readers of this newsletter to arrange home visits. These are at the core of my work in your service. I will appreciate hearing from you by phone, by email, [wpcronn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpcronn@sbcglobal.net), or a written note addressed to Westminster Church, 1360 West Main St., Decatur IL 62522.

*Ronn*

### *Exercise Equipment Wanted !*

Do you have good, working exercise equipment that you are not using? We would like you to consider donating the equipment to the church. We are looking into ways to utilize our gym and would like to offer exercise options, open gyms, and/or exercise groups. When you donate your equipment you will be given a letter showing the donation which can be used on your taxes. Please call the church office for more information and to request pick up if needed.

# *Annual Meeting*

*Sunday, January 31, 2009*

*Fellowship Hall*

**Menu:**

**Egg Casserole**

**Biscuits & Gravy**

**Danish & Bagels**

**Fruit**

**Juice, Coffee, Tea**

**Breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Worship Service and the Annual Meeting.**

**Following breakfast children ages 3 through sixth grade will be invited to attend a special time of fun and learning.**

**Child care for nursery ages will also be provided.**

***Please plan to join your Westminster family for this time of worship and fellowship as we look ahead to the year 2010.***

## *Celebrating Birthdays in January ...*

1	Jane Gray	21	Barbara Phillips
3	Richard Gray	21	Grace Smith-Phillips
8	Norma Stewart	22	Dennis Minks
9	Bruce Leonard	22	Laura Shaw
10	Bailey Foster	22	Helen Woare
10	Ryan Spangler	24	Nan Rickelman
11	Bill Clevenger	26	Jason Hillyer
11	Ray Livasy	26	Mark Livasy
12	Christine Fasick	26	Chip Martin
12	Abby Martin	28	Lynn Davis
14	Bob Farrington	28	Kathy Farrington
16	Renee Heath	28	Jo Ann Luttrell
17	Barbara Byrkit	29	Barbara Yatsko
17	Shirley Lowman	30	Tim Toney
17	Virginia Snell	31	Bradley Day
17	Walter Walker	31	Diana Rinchiuso
18	Bea Fisher		

## *Lynn's Helping Hands for January ...*

Joanne Leonard	423-4240
Helen Baulos	422-1226
Audrey Sanner	877-6370
Barbara Abbott	429-4697

### *What does Lynn's Helping Hands do ...*

We provide a loving food service to the family of deceased church members, being whatever they desire - a meal in the church fellowship hall or their home following a memorial service or funeral, or we can provide for a dessert reception in the library lounge or parlor. We also deliver casserole dishes to members released from the hospital to their homes. This is an excellent opportunity to serve the members of the church, and their families, when they are in need.

## *Cheer Guild Meeting*

Program: ***Social Meeting of Members***  
Place: Church Parlor ~ 12:00 p.m.  
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Hostesses: Nancy Eichenauer & Sandra Hunter

**Bring your own sandwich!**

## *Game Night* *Saturday, January 16, 2010*

*6:00 p.m.*

Everyone of all ages are invited to join us for a fun night of food and games! Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres or finger food to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide dessert and drinks. We will have babysitting for children three and under, plus games in the gym for children four and over.

We will start out by enjoying our hors d'oeuvres and finger foods while playing a trivia game for all ages. The children will then go to the gym for their games while the adults will stay in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy their games. We will then all come back together to enjoy dessert.

We hope everyone will join us for this fun night! Please call Teresa if you have any questions (428-6603).

## *LOGOS News*

After a three week break the LOGOS children will return on Wednesday, January 13. We will begin the month with "A Taste of Italy", then enjoy a Chocolate Feast. We will end the month with Talent Night when the children and adults will share their talents during our Family Time Fun.

It's not too late to join us on Wednesday evenings! All children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are encouraged to join us for Bible Study, Worship Skills, Recreation, and Family Time. Please call Teresa to find out more about joining.

We also need help in the kitchen with cooking and cleaning up. If you would like to sign-up for one week or more please call Teresa (428-6603). Thank you!

## *Stewardship Note ... Need Offering Envelopes?*

If you would like to have offering envelopes for 2010, please call the church office (428-6603).

## *PW Dates to Remember ...*

**Meeting** ~ Tuesday, January 5 ~ 9:30 a.m.

**Workday** ~ Tuesday, January 12 ~ 9:30 a.m. Help Needed!  
Everyone Welcome!

**New Year's Resolution** ~ Exercise  
Exercise made easy! Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.  
In the Church Parlor ~ Chair Exercises

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Knit and crochet patterns available. For more information call Barbara Phillips 423-5729

## *Special Thanks*

*To: Westminster Presbyterian Church*

*We thank you for participating with food baskets for Thanksgiving to help us at The Northeast Community Fund. What a blessing this is to our ongoing ministry of helping families. Even though the Community fund has been in existence since 1969, there has never been a greater need for the services it provides than now. We continue to serve more families each month. We praise the Lord for churches, groups, and individuals like you who give generously so that we can continue to assist so many families with food and other emergency needs. 2009 will prove to be an exciting year as we work on our new building, develop a new daily food distribution system, and continue to serve people with present and develop new programs that would allow us to serve more families. With donations like yours, we will be able to accomplish our mission: "To assist the needy families in our community with the resources available in a caring and Christ-like manner."*

*It was great to partner with you in assisting families at Thanksgiving. I value the good working relationship we have.*

*Blessings,  
Jerome C. Pelz*

## *Congregational Life*

**Jackson Ryan Windhorst** was baptized on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at Westminster by the Reverend Stephen R. Hill. He is the son of Ryan & Stephanie Windhorst

**Ethan Thomas Winick** was baptized on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Westminster by the Reverend Stephen R. Hill. He is the son of Ben & Beth Winick.

**Sydney Jean Winick** was baptized on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Westminster by the Reverend Stephen R. Hill. She is the daughter of Ben & Beth Winick.

### *With Sympathy to the Family and Friends of:*

**Shirley E. Nicholson** - died on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at Fairhavens Christian Home. Funeral services were held at Westminster on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 with burial at Fairlawn Cemetery.

**E. Wayne Schroeder** - died Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Private family services were held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Blue Chapel. Burial was at Graceland Cemetery.

**Helen G. Fairweather** - died on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, in DMH. Funeral services were held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on December 11, 2009.

*Please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers.*

## *Community Opportunity*

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration Banquet**  
**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2010**  
**Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Decatur Conference Center and Hotel**  
**Speaker: Mr. Fred Gray**  
**\$30**