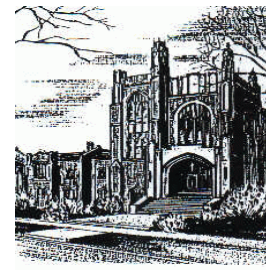


Westminster Presbyterian Church
1360 W. Main Street
Decatur, IL 62522

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The **W**estminster *Chimes*



Issue No. 12

December 2010



Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Church Telephone: 428-6603 - Church Fax: (217) 428-2580
The Church's E-Mail Address: wpcdecatur@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: 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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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, Dennis Honnold, Renee Heath, Charles Hunter, Steve Huss,
Pat Laegeler, John Phillips, Susan Gant-Reynolds, Diana Rinchiuso, Ardith Shaffer, Robert Smith,
Ed Woare.

From the Pastor's Desk ...



Why I Look Forward to Christmas

Something wonderful happens during the Advent season, people become more loving. Is it the Christmas music that starts before Thanksgiving? Maybe it is the natural joy that comes when we prepare for a baby to enter our family. Hope comes before love. I hope I am lovable or worthy of love. I hope God sees me as worthy of God's grace, love, power, truth and justice - all the good stuff. If I don't have the hope, I will not have the faith to be open to God's gifts, wonders and mysteries. Maybe it is the God inspired music and creativity that we experience that we long for during Advent that changes December. For example, if you go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp_RHnQ-jgU "Random Acts of Culture" is a response to God's love for us.

Jesus was born into a poor family and lived in Galilee (not even close to being like Macon county). In spite of His family's low economic status, they had hope, faith, joy, peace and love. It took a long time for Jesus to start his ministry, but look at what He was able to accomplish. He still touches and changes our lives today.

We have anticipation, the older I become the more I like to imagine what life can be like when the people of God come together to celebrate God in their life. During Advent, we focus on Hope, Joy, Peace, Love and the Christ Child. Advent is a time when we remember what God has done. God renews our spirit when we remember and find the power of hope through a baby. It takes time, patience, nurture, food, fellowship and learning for this Christ child to grow and be our Savior. The same is true for us - we need time to grow. Like our Lord, when we mature we can give and serve like He did. Christmas is also a time to encourage our neighbors, families and church members to dream and make those dreams come true.



Merry Christmas!
Steve

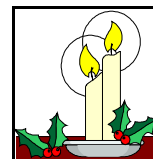


*Christmas Eve Services at
Westminster*

5:00 p.m. Family Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion

11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion



Please come, bring your family and friends and celebrate the birth of Christ with us!



*Children's Christmas Program
The Christmas Checklist*



Presented by Westminster Children

Sunday, December 19

During the 9:30 Worship service

Please join the Children as they tell the Christmas story with this fun and meaningful program featuring several well-known Christmas songs.

♪ Upcoming Musical Highlights in December ♪

December 12th ~ will feature the Chancel Choir singing "Christmas Day", a medley of Christmas favorites.

December 19th ~ Chicago jazz vocalist Angel Spiccia and saxophonist Perry Rask will be featured at our Jazz Christmas Service.



Christmas Eve Services ~ music will consist of vocalists, classical guitar, trumpet, and organ.

Advent Workshop

“Christ
Stories”



mas

Sunday, December 5

Following the 9:30 Worship Service

Everyone of all ages is invited to the Fellowship Hall for this annual event. This year we will visit Mary, Joseph, an Angel, the Innkeeper, a Wiseman, and a Shepherd to hear about their experience on the night Jesus was born. Take a peek into what you will experience...

...while visiting Mary you will be invited to help make baby blankets that will be donated to several organizations here in Decatur.

...Joseph will share his ancestry with everyone through a Jesse Tree activity

...the Innkeeper will tell you his experience and share some baked goodies

...test your knowledge of Christmas with the Shepherd while playing a fun game

...hear about the journey taken by the Wisemen and make an ornament for your tree or to share

...visit with an Angel and make angelic music plus a wind chime for your home

We hope everyone will join us again this year. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

We Know How to Party!!!

Special thanks to Diana Rinchiuso and Susan Gant for all their work in planning our November 21st celebration of faithful members of over 50 years. Diana went to most of our older members to listen to their memories of Westminster. There were many other people that made this celebration so wonderful. The Decatur Chordsmen, Philip Armstrong and our jazz musicians touched our hearts with music. Steve Huss, Westminster Logos Children, Gary Gray, Waneta Moses, and Jim Olendorf all shared in reading stories, prayers or Scripture. Bernice Doty, Teresa Goller, Jim Coryell, Eddie Goller and Lynne Winick were there to help us celebrate with food and fellowship. Esperance, Benie and Natalie Kalala, Louis Martin and Jeremiah Martin were there to do dishes as well as Joel Winick thank you for cleaning up after us all. There were many others who helped, many thanks to them too!



Westminster will have memorial poinsettias available this Christmas Season. The cost is \$9.00 each. Please make your check out to Westminster and note on it for Poinsettia. If you wish to donate a poinsettia in memory or honor of a family member or friend, please complete the slip below and turn it into the church office or call 428-6603 by Wednesday, **December 15, 2010.**



In Memory or Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ I will pick up the poinsettia after December 24th

_____ Please deliver the Poinsettia to a homebound member.

My phone number is: _____

Notes from the Session ...

“It is complicated.” Have you noticed the music during the 9:30 a.m. worship service has been

a little different lately? If so, you are not alone. Why is it the music different? It is part of our "Strategic Plan", our "Budgeting" process and Worship Team all working together. The goal is to provide a quality worship experience for the people of God that glorifies God. Having two services turned out to be, well, it was expensive. Money does not drive us, God's will directs us within limits. All three groups with the approval of Session have decided to create a blended worship service. We want to bring in more musical variety that praises God and touches our hearts. We are grateful for the creativity and gifts of Randy Reyman and Philip Armstrong to help us reach our goals.

We are also - ready for this one - changing the regular worship time on **Sunday, January 16, 2011, to 10:00 a.m.** If all our newsletters were telephones, I would be hearing voices of celebration and consternation. The truth is, in every church, there is not a single best time to worship for everyone. On this issue, we can't please everyone. For some, 10:00 a.m. is too early and for others, it is too late. The first proposal was for 10:30 a.m. but after a thorough discussion it was decided to make the time 10:00 a.m. Our hope and prayer for this compromise is that it isn't too early for those who like a slow paced morning and it isn't too late for the early risers. May God be praised at all times!

Get ready for a **financial campaign**. You can not help but notice the construction that has gone on all summer around the south and west sides of the building. We have tried to fix what needed fixing the best way, the right way at the lowest cost. We will need to landscape the lawn and repair the watering system. We want to fund the stage expansion in the sanctuary through this campaign and a few other projects. More details will follow soon.

By the way, there are three groups wanting to use our sanctuary in 2011 for musical performances. This will be a great way to get our name and location into the Decatur community. It will help us meet new people and demonstrate Christ's love to them through our hospitality. This is also part of our Strategic Plan for 2011.

LOGOS News

November was a very fun month for our LOGOS children and adults. We started the month with a Talent Night. The children and some of the adults shared their many talents. We were treated to gymnastics, football tricks, whistling, guitar playing, scooter tricks, piano playing, flute playing, and even a pirate!! The next week we were blessed with a wonderful evening with our Veterans. Everyone enjoyed getting to know our Veterans and hearing a little of their stories. We ended the month with a Thanksgiving Celebration.



In December, we will start the month with a Pajama Party. The next week we will have the pleasure of meeting several Millikin students from different countries as we Celebrate Christmas Around the World. We will end our month with a night of Christmas Caroling to our members.

Marion Medical Mission 2010 Update

2010 was a very difficult year for Marion Medical Mission. Tragedy struck several times during the past 6 months. In July Mr. Nedson Malata, the foundation of the Shallow Well Program in central Malawi, died of malaria. In late August, just ten days before Tom and Jocelyn Logan were to leave for Africa, their 36 year old son was killed in a diving accident. On October 14, 2010, Mr. Migriton Banda, the foundation of the Shallow Well Program in the Mzimba District of Malawi died of hepatitis. Both Mr. Malata and Mr. Banda were good friends of many, were loved by many and provided tens of 1000s of people with safe water. Rev. Masakifwa, Coordinator for the Tanzanian Shallow Well Program was driving a Shallow Well Truck on September 22 when a four year old boy ran out in front of the truck and was killed.



The difficulties and obstacles faced by MMM were unrelenting. Mr. Mahongo, Coordinator of the shallow well Program in Zambia, got malaria and developed pneumonia. Mr. Khosa, Coordinator of the Shallow Well Program in northern Malawi, got malaria. Mr. Soko, in charge of pump manufacturing got malaria., Jon Hanson, a first time MMM volunteer on Team 2 got malaria.

There was an acute shortage of diesel fuel in Malawi. Fuel had to be found in Tanzania and Zambia. The supplier for galvanized fittings for the shallow well pumps was unable to complete our order. We were out of pumps before Team 2 was to arrive from the US. Two days before Team 2 arrived the fittings for 1400 pumps arrived. Mr. Soko and his team of maintenance men worked non-stop for two days and had 700 pumps ready for installation when Team 2 arrived. Together MMM teams 1 & 2, along with the Coordinators, Field Officers, Synods, the ELECT Konde Diocese Bishop, church officials, installation supervisors, well builders and village communities carried the program forward. GOD IS AWESOME! Once again MMMs work was truly blessed.

Team 1 had 20 volunteers who set a record of 1049 shallow wells in three weeks. Team 2 had 20 volunteers who also set a second record of 1207 wells. Tom and Jocelyn Logan continued working an additional week installing another 192 wells before returning to the US on November 7. As of November 11, 2010, an additional 60 wells were completed giving us a total of 2508 shallow wells which were built and installed providing an additional 600,000 of the extreme poor with a safe drinking source.

We thank you for your prayerful support. Without your support, and prayers, meeting our goal of 2500 shallow wells for 2010 would not have been possible. Please continue to join us in this miraculous work. A shallow well costs \$350 and there are still 771 wells to be funded this year. 771 opportunities to buy a well in honor of or memory of someone special or give an alternative Christmas gift. Every \$350 donation receives a picture of the village well their funds helped build.

Update by Tom Logan and Joyce Heath

Library Notes ...



Two Christmas gifts have been received for the library:

1. **BEDTIME STORIES** (*from the Kalalas*); a great pop-up book full of favorite stories.
2. **HUMPHREY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS** (*from the Robinsons*) recounts a young camel's grumbling about losing his favorite blanket and the heavy load he has to carry. The illustrations are special.

NEW!!!

Jan Karon book:

IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS ~ Father Tim vacations in Ireland.

Check it Out !!!



2010 Christmas Joy Offering

What Child Is This?



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. It is one of the special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes to help those in need.

The offering is distributed as follows 50% to the Board of Pensions and 50% to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. Your gifts will help active and retired ministers, as well as other church workers and their families deal with urgent financial needs. The Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges help to provide assistance to young women and men to further their education who might otherwise not be able to do so.

On Christmas Eve you will have the opportunity to contribute to this special offering. As we celebrate this holy night, we are reminded of the joy, peace, hope, and love this season brings to each of us through the gift of His Son.

Please prayerfully consider your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering and remember that we are blessed and through our giving we bless others.

Attendance for November

9:	30 a.m.	
Novembe	r 7	139
Novembe	r 14	119
Novembe	r 21	180
Novembe	r 28	113



Average for November 138

Financial Report for October

October Revenue	
Actual Receipts Received	\$33,812.54
Endowment Money Received	\$50,000.00
Interest Received	0
Trust Money Received	0
Total Receipts	\$83,812.54
Total Expenses October	\$56,426.13
Income Minus Expense	\$27,386.41



Per Capita Receipts ..

So far this year ... we have received \$5,002.61.

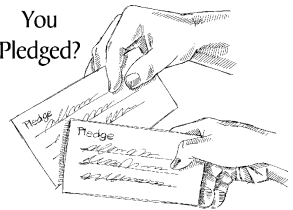
It's not too late to help meet our \$15,495.83 commitment to the General Assembly. The per capita apportionment 2010 is \$36.29 for each confirmed member of your family.

2010 Stewardship Campaign Report

To date we have received 92 Stewardship Commitments totaling Pledges of \$227,331.00.

There's still time if you have not turned in your commitment card. If you have misplaced it, please contact the church office and new card will be sent to you.

Have You Pledged?



Help decorate the tree in the Narthex!

We are having a mitten tree collection again this year benefitting those who are in need of hats, scarves, gloves and mittens in our community. You can help by purchasing hats, gloves/mittens, or by warming up your knitting needles, crochet hooks, and making items to donate to help keep those hands and heads keep warm this winter.

Celebrating Birthdays in December ...

1	Scott Clevenger	22	Bob Byrkit
4	Tom Hill	22	John Livasy
5	Elizabeth Bavor	23	Ann Adams
8	Judith Hails	23	Lenore Snyder
8	Paul Jurgens	23	Ryan Windhorst
8	Boyce Pickett	25	Connor Fryman
15	Anne Gray	25	Phyllis Storckman
15	Alice Stark	26	John Gentry
17	Sandy Coryell	26	Cindy Neff
17	Madison Sphar	28	Amy Sloan
18	Gary Gray	28	Barbara Walker
18	Carol Huss		
18	Pat Starbird		
20	Keith Gable		



†† *Congregational Life* ††

With Sympathy to the Family and Friends of :



Ruth Madden Schroeder, 95, died Sunday, November 7, 2010. She is survived by her daughters Susan Cobb, Marianne Wigert, Anne Schroeder, Wayne Schroeder, Jr, and families, also four grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Ruth was an active member of Westminster for 56 years.

Our Christian love, prayers, and sympathy are also extended to the McSherry Family. Kim's mother passed away recently in Missouri.

Please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers.