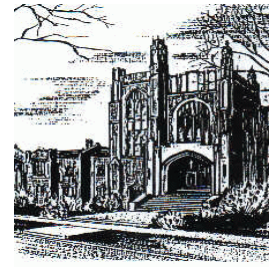


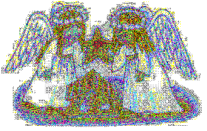
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1360 W. Main Street
Decatur, IL 62522

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The **W**estminster *Chimes*



Issue No . 12

December 2011

Happy Holidays!

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
The Westminster Chimes is published on a regular basis by
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1360 W. Main St., Decatur, Illinois 62522

The Church Staff

Pastor The Reverend Steve Hill
Minister of Visitation The Reverend Ronald T. Allin
Director of Christian Education Teresa Goller
Director of Music/Organist Christopher Holman
Administrative Secretary Pat Starbird
Sexton Skip Mower
Nursery Alyssa McCoy
Housekeeper Sharon Moore
Session Members: Renee Heath, Steve Huss, Pat Laegeler, John Phillips, Susan Gant-Reynolds,
Diana Rinchiuso, Dennis Honnold, Jane Ballion, Shannon Allen, Matthew Briggs

From The Pastor's Desk



...

Not Just Another Advent!

How many "Advents" have you experienced? The older my parents became, the fewer decorations they put up in their home. Age is not the only determination of wreaths, snowmen and Santa Clauses in a home. Where will you spend Christmas and will you have any Christmas parties in your home? We decorate for others, I mean, "really" decorate. This year my grandson was with us and we decorated the tree - that was enough to wear him out. Next weekend we will decorate the first floor and I will do the outside - at age six he isn't allowed on top of the house or on a ladder. At what level will you decorate your home for Christmas? Where on the continuum will you be if at one end we have "it doesn't look like Christmas" and at the other end is "a Christmas tree in every room?"

I have a confession, I prepare my home for you, my neighbors and my family. When I hang ornaments on the tree I cry, but not because my Lord and Savior is coming. I cry because I remember an ornament for my dog that died 15 years ago, or an ornament that reminds me of a little girl that used to meet me at the door, grabbing my leg and not letting go. But in the midst of all the work, there is something deeper going on. I look back with gratitude. I have been blessed with a dog that loved me as well as two little girls that thought I could do anything. My tree is filled with memories of past homes, my marriage, events and other symbols of a wonderful past. The first part of Advent is looking back with deep gratitude.

The next step in Advent is to make new memories - I can't preach last years sermons. Advent is about creating lots of memories, office parties, neighborhood parties, and the big finale is for family and too many presents for the children. On Dec. 4th we will have our "Advent Workshop" there will be new families and new items to create - memories. On Dec. 11th we will have new coral music to touch our hearts and minds. On Dec. 18th our children will tell a Christmas story and we will smile, because no matter how much you practice - kids say the darndest things. On Christmas Eve we come to sing Christmas songs and recreate

(Continued on next page)

a feeling from our past that connects us to our present and leads us into the future. And yes, we will have worship on Christmas. I understand the pressures of Christmas morning with children so.....come in your pajamas, slippers too, or sweats, or blue jeans or whatever you have on and we will worship our Savior, who came into the world, who is the world and will always be with us.

*Merry Christmas, for unto us a child is born,
Wonderful Counselor, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!*

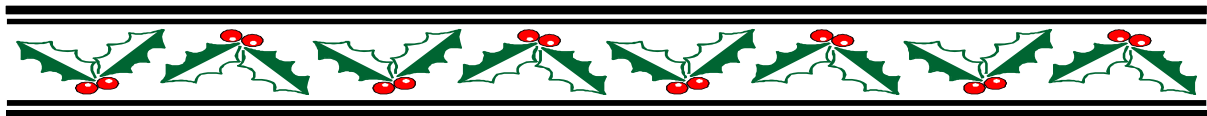
Steve



Christmas Eve Services at Westminster

5:00 p.m. Family Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion
11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion

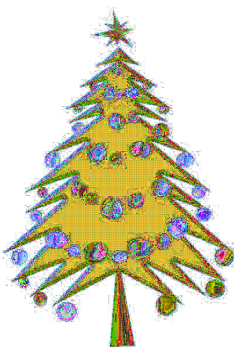
Please come, bring your family and friends and celebrate the birth of Christ with us!



Advent Workshop

"The Jesse Tree"

Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for this annual event on Sunday, December 4 following the 10:00 a.m. Worship service. This year everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to experience "The Jesse Tree". Join us for lots of activities and experiences for all ages! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!



Children's
"Stars Tell the Story"
Sunday, December 18
During the 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
Christmas Program

Attention
Young Marrieds, Young Moms, Young Singles

*Keep this Date Marked
January 8, 2012 (Second Sunday)*

11:00 a.m. ~ After Worship
Lottie Cook Lounge

Mission, Coffee, Bible Study
Join us in making plans

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

H O P E P E A C E
Love Joy

Library...Did You Know?

Westminster Library is a fascinating place! Anyone who enjoys reading can find loads of books of all types: Biographies, inspirational seasonal, Biblical commentaries, many different Bibles, prayers, help books on a variety of subjects, fiction, child problems, death and heaven, music, holidays, recent books, various religions, ...

If you would like some new ideas for Christmas you'll find some in our over looked library.

Check it Out!



Bible Study

What to Know More About the Bible?

You can join your friends and grow together by joining this group. The cost is \$6 for a book, that will help you remember the really important events, ideas, and spiritual truths. We will meet once a week, attendance is not mandatory, at a time when most of us can gather together. Please let me know if you would like a book by Dec. 15th. We will start reading on January 1, 2012.

Call me to register at 428-6603 or email me atwpcrev@sbcglobal.net.

Pastor Steve

Help Decorate the Mitten Tree



We are collecting mittens, scarves, and hats again this year to benefit those in our community who are in need. You can help by purchasing hats, gloves/mittens, or by warming up your knitting needles or crochet hooks and making items to donate. Let's help keep those hands and heads warm this winter. You may bring your items and place them on the Christmas tree in the Narthex



Toy Drive

The Mission Committee is collecting new toys to distributed to the Northeast Community Center for the children of families in our community that would otherwise not be able to have a visit from Santa this year. Please place your contributions in the basket in the Narthex or drop them by the church office.

Food Pantry Collection

The food pantries in Decatur are in need of food items of all kinds including canned fruits and vegetables, soup beans, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, canned tuna and chicken. Baskets are available for your donations in front of the church office and in the Narthex.



2011 Christmas Joy Offering

Good News of Great Joy



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.

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

Special Thanks ... to the PW Ladies who cleaned, cleaned out, and organized our Main Kitchen area recently. We appreciate all their hard work and efforts and the kitchen looks great. We had a surprise visit from the Health Department and received a 98 per cent rating. THANK YOU LADIES!!!

Fantastic!

♪ *Upcoming Musical Highlights in December* ♪

December 4 ~ *Second Sunday of Advent* ~ Communion

Early music trio sings works from Renaissance England by William Byrd, with organ works by Thomas Tallis and Orlando Gibbons.

December 11 ~ *Third Sunday of Advent*: ~ Westminster Choir

The Westminster choir joins in worship for the Third Sunday of Advent, singing German Advent carols by Max Reger and Johann Sebastian Bach.

December 18 ~ *Fourth Sunday of Advent* ~ Children's Service & Jazz Sunday

The children of Westminster assist leading the service, recounting the story of the nativity with favorite carols. The hymns will be led by Randall Reyman and friends.

December 24 ~ 5pm ~ *Christmas Eve* ~ Family Service

Family focused, message for all ages, and singing of special Christmas carols.

December 24 ~ 7pm ~ *Christmas Eve Communion* ~ A Renaissance Christmas

Communion adorned with 17th century works by early music quintet, singing Missa "O Magnum Mysterium", and O Magnum Mysterium by Thomas Luis de Victoria, and O Nata Lux by Thomas Tallis. The singers:

Katherine Buzard, Princeton University

Nicole Branz, Millikin University

Christopher Holman, University of Illinois

Jason Morgan, Millikin University

John Wagstaff, Oxford University/University of Illinois



December 24 ~ 11pm ~ *Christmas "Midnight" Communion* ~ Service of French

Noels. This worship, following the midnight liturgy, incorporates organ and solo vocal music from the early French Baroque period, with light-hearted Christmas carols, called noels. Soprano Jodi Prosser, Eastern Illinois University, and organist Christopher Holman.

December 25 ~ *Nativity Day*

A service of favorite Christmas carols, with Jodi Prosser.

January 1 ~ *New Year's Day* ~ Communion

Widely acclaimed young soprano Celia Williams sings music from 19th century England.

PW & Cheer Guild Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 8, 2011
Fellowship Hall
Speaker: Tena Zendel-McWilliams
"Christmas Memories"
Lunch 12:00 noon
Cost: \$7.00 per person

Menu
June's Chicken Entree
Barb's Green Beans & Almonds
Audrey's Rolls
Cranberry Salad
Peppermint Ice Cream Pie

Reservations Please Call 428-6608 by December 5, 2011

Celebrating Birthdays in December ...

4	Thomas Hill	18	Carol Huss
5	Elizabeth Bavor	18	Pat Starbird
8	Judith Hails	20	Keith Gable
8	Paul Jurgens	22	Bob Byrkit
8	Boyce Pickett	22	John Livasy
14	Jesse Taylor	23	Ann Adams
15	Anne Gray	23	Ryan Windhorst
15	Alice Stark	25	Connor Fryman
17	Sandy Coryell	26	Cynthia Neff
17	Madison Sphar	28	Barbara Walker
18	Gary Gray		



†† *Congregational Life* ††



With Sympathy to the Family & Friends of ...

Phyllis Joy Storckman, 82, died Sunday, November 6, 2011. Services were held at Brintlinger and Earl Funeral Home on Thursday, November 10 with the Reverend Ronald T. Allin officiating. Graveside services were held at Sumner Cemetery in Sumner, IL. She is survived by her husband, Grant and sons Joel and Steven and their families. Please remember this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Attendance for November 2011



	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>
November 6	119
November 13	107
November 20	148
November 27	74

Average for November 112

Financial Report for October 2011

October Revenue	
Actual Receipts Received	\$27,480.21
Endowment Money Received	0
Total Receipts	\$27,480.21
 Total Expenses October	 \$47,220.88
 Income Minus Expense	 -19,740.67



Per Capita Receipts

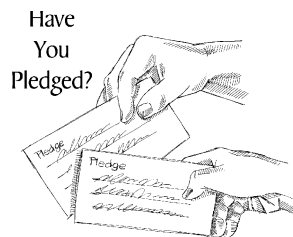
So far this year ... we have received \$4,895.38 from approximately 30 people.

It's not too late to help meet our \$15,656.83 commitment to the General Assembly. The per capita apportionment 2011 is \$37.91 for each confirmed member of your family.

2011 Stewardship Campaign Report

To date we have received 65 Stewardship Commitments totaling Pledges of \$173,990.00

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.



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 **Monday, December 19, 2011.**



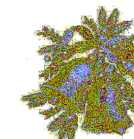
In Memory or Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

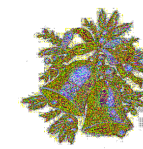
_____ I will pick up the poinsettia after December 24th

_____ Please deliver the Poinsettia to a homebound member.



My phone number is: _____



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (NRSV)(Isaiah 9:6)



Calendar of Events ~ December 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 1:30 p.m. Rules of the Road	3 Chordsmen Concert 6:00 p.m. /Sanctuary 3 & 7 p.m. MU Vespers
4 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Worship Communion 11:00 a.m. <i>Advent Workshop</i> 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 3 & 7 p.m. MU VESPERS	5 6:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Mtg.	6 9:30 PW Board Mtg.	7 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Chair Exercise 3:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. LOGOS Narcotics Anonymous	8 11:30 a.m. <i>Cheer Guild/ PW Christmas Luncheon</i> 7-9pm Camera Club	9 10:00 a.m. LaLeche League	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	12 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Meeting 12:00 noon CWU Annual Meeting & Luncheon	13 2:00 MU Master Classes 6:30 p.m. WENA Board 7:00 p.m. Endowment	14 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Chair Exercise 12:00 p.m. Finance Mtg. 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting 5:00 p.m. LOGOS Narcotics Anonymous Quilt Guild Christmas Luncheon	15 3:30 p.m Trustee Meeting 1:00 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle at Jean Jones'	16 9:00 a.m. Volunteer at Good Samaritan Inn 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	17 3:00 p.m. Butler/Hurley Wedding
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent JAZZ SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship\ Children's Program 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Deacon's Mtg.	19	20	21 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Chair Exercise Narcotics Anonymous	22	23	24 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Services</i> 
25 CHRISTMAS 10:00 a.m.  Worship No Sunday School <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i>	26 HOLIDAY- OFFICE CLOSED	27 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 