

The Chimes

of Westminster Presbyterian Church

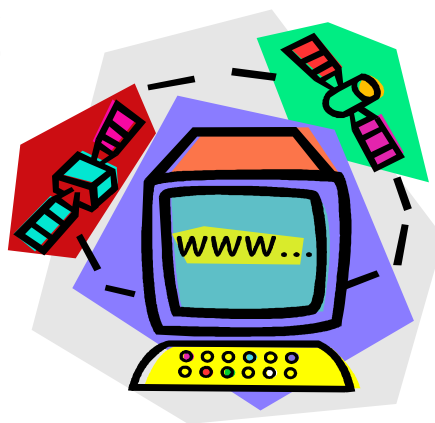
A monthly newsletter of events and opportunities for the members of Westminster

The Chimes on the Web **www.westminsterdayton.org**

**The Web site is our new front door.
Come on in...
We've been expecting you!**

By viewing *The Chimes* on the Web site you will be able to have immediate access to the full, colorful issue right away—no more waiting for the mail carrier. In this way we become better stewards by cutting costs and saving trees.

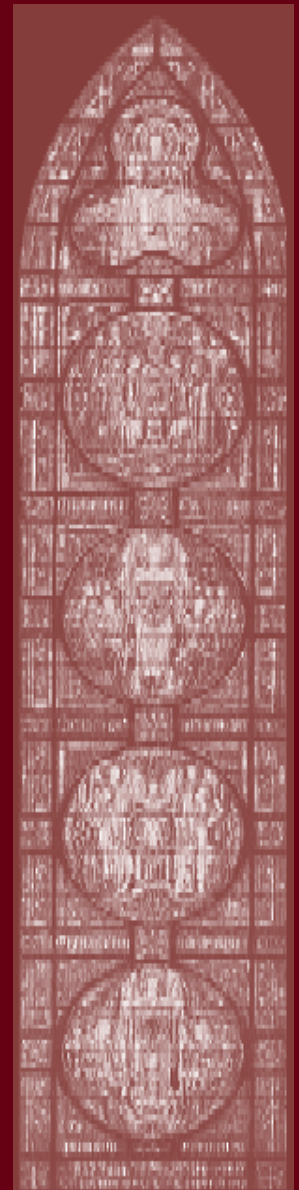
- Go to our Web site
- Click on the maroon tab "About Us"
- On the left-hand side of the page, click on *The Chimes* issue you want to view.
- Wait a few seconds for the information to load...then, relax and enjoy *The Chimes* in full color.



► This will be the last paper issue of *The Chimes* you will receive unless you contact the Church Office to remain on the mailing list.

**Please contact:
Amanda Newhart (223-7285)**

Where Loving God and Neighbor Is Transforming Lives



Meet Our New Officers

The following members were elected at the Annual Meeting of our congregation on February 22, 2009, and will be ordained/installed on Penetcost, May 31.

ELDERS

Scott Baird and his wife, Anne Proulx, joined Westminster in 1995, shortly after they moved to Dayton. Their daughter, Meredith, is a junior at Chaminade-Julienne High School. She became a member of WPC two years ago. Their son, Daniel, is in eighth grade. Daniel was born in Dayton and has grown up at Westminster. Scott works at Wright State University where he is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences. He has been very active in adult education here at the church where he is a frequent student and an occasional instructor. Scott also has served adult education at Westminster as a member of the Christian Education Committee (now Education and Practice Committee) and the Adult Ministries Team.

John W. Ey and his wife, Beth, are the proud parents of Katherine (currently a freshman at Kenyon College) and Caroline (tenth grader at Miami Valley School). John has previously served on session at Westminster and has served on the Finance and Personnel Committees, as well as being Clerk of the Session from 1998 to 2004. John is the President of Radiology Business Managers, Inc., a medical management company and is also the Practice Administrator for Dayton Pediatric Imaging, Inc., an independent group of hospital based Pediatric Radiologists at Dayton Children's. In addition to being involved in Westminster Church activities, John is involved in several non-profit organizations including The Other Place, The Dayton Foundation Development Committee and the local arts community. He has been a trustee at the Miami Valley School for over 10 years and currently is serving as Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair.

Linda Hargis and her husband, Bob, are both from Cincinnati and have lived in Beavercreek most of their married life. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in November and have three adult children and two grandsons. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Linda is the Practice Manager for Greystone Family Care, a family practice and sports medicine office in Sugarcreek Township. Linda and Bob have been members of a Presbyterian church their entire married life. During that time Linda has served on numerous committees and has been active in a number of ministries in the church. Since joining Westminster in 1995 she has served on the Evangelism and Fellowship Committees, as a deacon, and is an active member of a small group, the ETA Presby group, and the Evangelism, Hospitality and Membership Committee. "It is an honor to be asked to serve as an elder, and I am looking forward to actively working toward the goals and missions of this church and our congregation."

Amy Lachman joined Westminster in 1997. She graduated from Muskingum College with a BS in Chemistry, and also earned an MBA from Bowling Green State University. She and her husband, Marshall, reside in Centerville with their three children, Joshua, Matthew, and Abigail. Amy runs a manufacturing company located in Springboro. She was a "Kirkmont Center kid." Kirkmont led her to Westminster. She met Brent Manley while volunteering at Kirkmont and he invited her to Westminster. Amy says, "I love the music program and the Christian education for all ages. I love the small church feel, paired with the big church programs. As an elder, I'm looking forward to helping lead the church through the next few years and to becoming a more active part of the life the church."

DEACONS

Pam Koerner has been a member of Westminster since 2004. She is married to Dick Koerner and they have two daughters. Pam graduated from Georgetown College in Kentucky and spent her career working as a social worker and hospital administrator at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, the state psychiatric facility that just recently closed. She is now retired. At Westminster, Pam attended the Westminster Academy for four years. She is the leader of Serendipity Circle, and is also active in a small group. In addition, she and Dick are members of a Presby group.

Linda Lane has been a member of Westminster since 1980 when she and her husband, Lee, now deceased, moved to Dayton from Trenton, New Jersey. Linda has four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson. For many years Linda combined working outside the home with being a mom to her growing family. Linda has served twice as a deacon. Her church involvement doesn't stop there as she is behind the scenes in many capacities including the lining up of Sunday bus drivers, wedding hostesses and office volunteers. Her special call is to education and Westminster Presbyterian Women (WPW), where she has served as moderator. She is also involved with women's issues at the Presbytery level. Linda likes to travel and has been on both Scotland trips and is a frequent participant on the Just Friends outings.

Gene Saunders has been a member at Westminster since 2006. He is an E.J. Brown mentor, youth leader, and also has served on the Evangelism, Hospitality, and Membership Committee as well as the Young Adult and Evangelism Ministry Teams. Gene is employed as a Marketing Research Analyst at Cox Ohio Publishing and earned his degree from Muskingum College in 2006 where he met his wife Sarah Therkelson Saunders. Gene and Sarah were married at Westminster in December of 2007. They reside in Centerville with their two pets, a dog named Mickey and Nessa the cat.

Ryan Thomas has been a member of Westminster since 2008, although he was also a member from 1999 through 2001. He serves as a member of the Young Children's Ministry Team and is a youth leader. Ryan is an assistant professor at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, where he teaches computer engineering. He and his wife, Elyn, have lived in many places together, including Michigan, Massachusetts, California and Virginia, but both were born and raised in Oregon. Contrary to popular belief, the little blonde haired creature often found crawling around Ryan's feet is not a rare monkey from central Asia, but rather his daughter, Mollie.



Musical Medleys



By the Knox Choir (grades 7-12)

Sunday, May 3, 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

Enjoy an evening of music from **Jesus Christ Superstar**, **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, and **Godspell** as presented in concert version in the Sanctuary.

A potluck dessert follows in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a homemade or store bought dessert to share and drop it off in the kitchen prior to the program. Beverages will be provided. After the concert, we will enjoy fellowship, delicious goodies and conversation.

A free will offering for youth summer conferences and trips will be received.

This is an event for all ages!

Urban Nights Comes to Westminster Friday, May 15



Preparations are already well underway to open our doors and welcome into Westminster the crowds who will fill the streets of downtown Dayton on Friday, May 15, from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Hundreds of young adults as well as “empty nesters” flock to this event annually. This is a golden opportunity for us to welcome many new faces into our building and give them a taste of who we really are.

In the Sanctuary we will have three rotating performers: Jerry Taylor playing our organ, Dennis Piermont playing his guitar, and The Reverend Dwight McCormick (Pastor of Springfield’s Northminster Presbyterian Church) doing his pastor stand-up comedy. Short tours of the Sanctuary and building will occur every 20 minutes and will be led by Paul Smith and Karen Clute. Our Mission Arts and Crafts sale will be in full swing, and visitors will be able to view a continually running PowerPoint slide show highlighting information about our mission trips and our Labyrinth ministry.

Robin Feather is heading the Urban Nights task force of the Evangelism, Hospitality, and Membership Committee, which is coordinating this event. Key to our success will be the number of volunteers willing to give two hours that evening to extend the best hospitality we can offer: multiple pairs of Westminsterites, of all ages, stationed throughout the building, the sidewalk and parking lot to welcome folks and help them find their way around our beautiful church. Can you help us? Perhaps you can recruit a friend, so the two of you can do this together. Please say “yes” and contact Robin Feather, Judy McCormick, or Laurie Davis.



Mission Arts and Crafts May 3, 10, and 15

We are moving – and expanding!

To SERRV: “To eradicate poverty, wherever it resides” is the goal of SERRV. The beautiful and useful pots, baskets, weavings, jewelry and toys that are featured in Westminster’s Mission Arts and Crafts sale are made by third-world artisans and brought to us through SERRV. SERRV supports equal rights for women, sustainable development and fair wages.

The Mission Arts and Crafts sale will now be held in Rooms 207-209 on the west side of the building. We hope that the more spacious setting will make it easier and more fun to find that special something for family, friends, grandchildren and others. You can find the perfect wedding or graduation gift, or perhaps a unique gift for one of those summer birthdays. And don’t forget Mother’s Day!

The Arts and Crafts sale will be open on Sundays, May 3 and May 10, both before and after worship. And new this year– the sale will be open during Dayton Urban Nights on Friday, May 15, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Grab some friends, enjoy downtown, show off our beautiful Sanctuary and get some shopping done at the same time. And most importantly, every dollar you spend goes directly to the artisans who use this money to improve the lives of their families and their communities.

Habitat for Humanity

Local Mission Offering to be Received May 31

Did you know that a \$25.00 donation to Habitat for Humanity will pay for one doorknob set? That \$65 will pay for one interior door? That \$200.00 provides carpet for one room? And \$750.00 purchases shingles for an entire house?

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Through a special offering on May 31, we have the opportunity to assist Habitat for Humanity. Due to recent budget cuts, the money received from this offering will be the **ONLY** financial support from Westminster to Habitat for Humanity. Please consider donating generously on the 31st.

For more information visit www.daytonhabitat.org.

Blitz Week Begins May 23

Volunteers Needed to Build Home

Calling all volunteers! We need your help to build a home for the Henderson family. This **Habitat House** is sponsored by the Catch the Building Spirit and The Presbyterian Coalition. The build will begin on May 23 with a Blitz week in which the major framing of the house will take place.

Sign up to volunteer today by going online at: <http://daytonhabitat.volunteerhub.com/Events/Browse.aspx>. Go to the Event Groups/Catch the Building Spirit and sign up for a date to work. If you don't have access to the internet, contact the Dayton Habitat Volunteer Services Director at 937-586-0860, ext. 16.

For more information about Westminster's involvement with Habitat for Humanity, contact Westminster members Jerry Shell (513-897-2882 or jtshell38@yahoo.com) or Karen Clute (937-299-3308 or karenclute@sbcglobal.net).



*If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

- Emily Dickinson



Parish

Church Office Closes for Lunch Hour

The Church Office is closed from **12:30 – 1:30 p.m. daily**. During that time the automatic phone receptionist will answer and give instructions in case of an emergency.

Church Tour

Interested in finding your way around the church and learning more about the beautiful building? Stop by the Welcome Center after worship on Sunday, May 3, at 11:20 a.m., for a brief tour that will conclude at 12:15 p.m.

Youth Lead Worship on May 3

Light, Faith, Action

The youth of Westminster will lead worship on Sunday, May 3. The theme of this year's service is *Light, Faith, Action!* This year the members of the youth fellowship groups have explored the Holy Spirit, what it means to call ourselves Christian and God's call to put our faith into action. They are looking forward to sharing with us what it means to be, "Inspired by the **light**, empowered by **faith** and motivated to **action**." The Junior High Bell Choir (grades 7-8), Senior High Bell Choir (grades 9-12) and the Knox Choir (grades 7-12) will provide musical leadership for the service. Westminster's 2009 High School Graduates will be recognized during the service. Join us for worship and invite a friend or a family with youth who may be looking for a church home.

Bridge Interest Groups

Come and be a part of one of our Bridge Interest Groups. These are open to everyone and provide a great place to bring a guest or two or three! Singles, beginners, and all walk-ins are welcome.

- Bridge Interest Group #1 meets Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m., in the West Parlor.
- Bridge Interest Group #2 meets Tuesday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Parlor.

Children's Sunday is May 17

This is a "do not miss, must see" worship service. For the first time in six years, the children of Westminster (from two years old – 6th grade) will be leading the entire service on Sunday, May 17. The Kinder, Cherub, and Calvin Choirs will join together to sing the jazz cantata "100% Chance of Rain" by Walter Horsley, as the proclamation of the Word for the day. The Knox choir (Junior and Senior Highs) will be in the choir loft as the anchor choir for the morning. The children have been studying the story of Noah in their CrossRoads workshops and preparing prayers and litanies for the morning's liturgy. Our youngest children will offer the "Call to Worship in Word," and the children who attend "Come and See" will give the Benediction. As it is written in Isaiah 11, "and a little child shall lead them." Give yourself, your family, and friends the gift of being led by our children in worship on May 17.

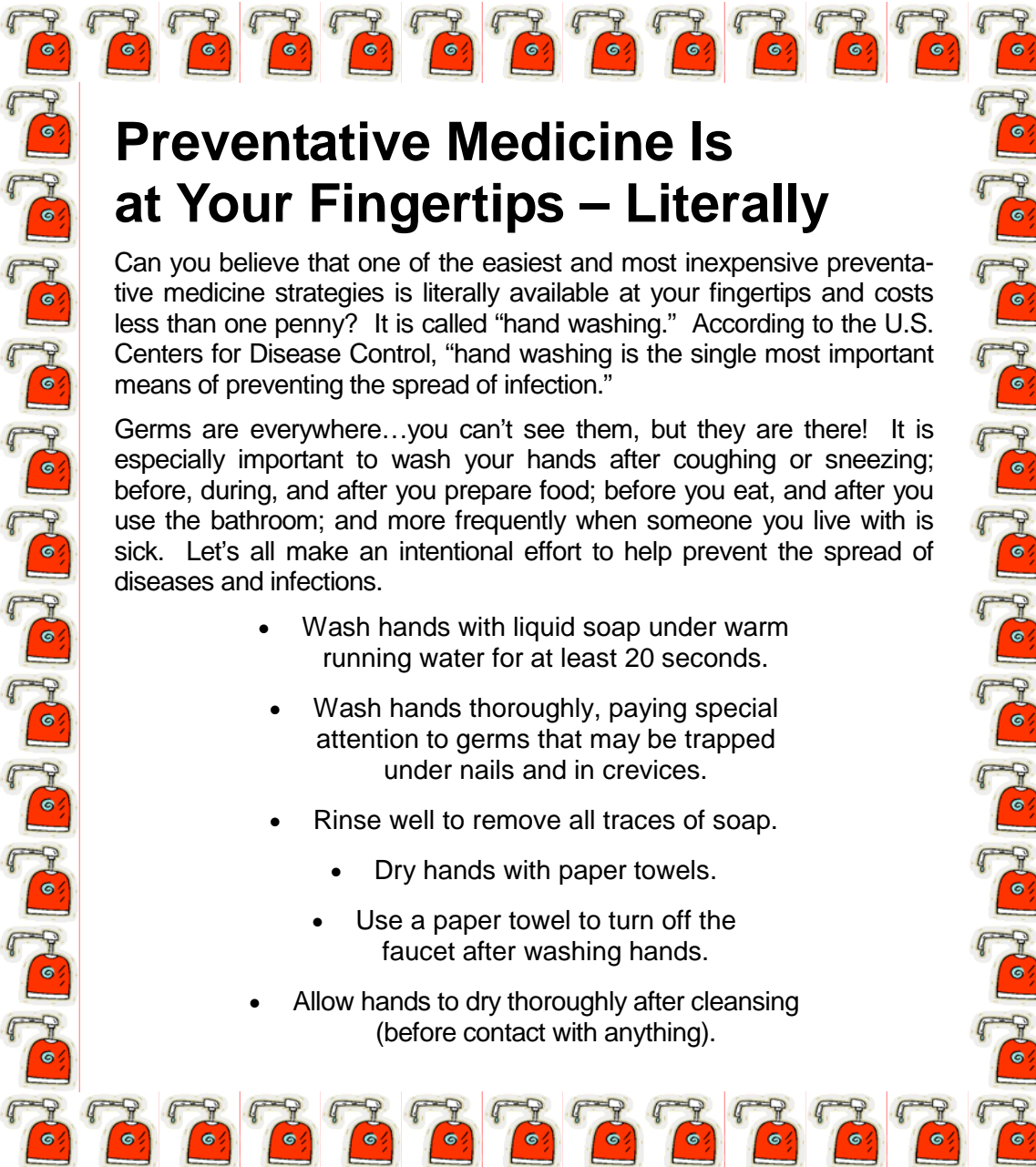
Moms' Group Is Changing Focus

The young mothers' bi-weekly playgroup for their children has changed to a Moms' Dinner Out group, meeting about once every month or six weeks. If you are a mom who could use some time away in shared fellowship, plan to join us. If you are interested, want more information, or can suggest a location for dinner (still undecided), please call or e-mail Meredith Elliott at 279-0821 or meredith.elliott@gmail.com . She will be able to add you to the e-mail distribution list.

Notes

Let's Stay Connected

There are times during the year when we would like to communicate with you electronically. For instance, we would like to notify you via e-mail when *The Chimes* has been posted on the Web site—that way you'll be the first to see all the great things that are happening at Westminster. In order to do that, we need your correct e-mail address. Please **send your e-mail address via e-mail** to carol@westminsterdayton.org. Please do not phone in your e-mail address.



Preventative Medicine Is at Your Fingertips – Literally

Can you believe that one of the easiest and most inexpensive preventative medicine strategies is literally available at your fingertips and costs less than one penny? It is called “hand washing.” According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, “hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection.”

Germs are everywhere...you can't see them, but they are there! It is especially important to wash your hands after coughing or sneezing; before, during, and after you prepare food; before you eat, and after you use the bathroom; and more frequently when someone you live with is sick. Let's all make an intentional effort to help prevent the spread of diseases and infections.

- Wash hands with liquid soap under warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash hands thoroughly, paying special attention to germs that may be trapped under nails and in crevices.
- Rinse well to remove all traces of soap.
 - Dry hands with paper towels.
 - Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet after washing hands.
- Allow hands to dry thoroughly after cleansing (before contact with anything).

The Art of Balance

by The Reverend Dr. George H. McConnel

As preached on February 22, 2009



Sandy McConnel

Luke 10:25-28

When I was a toddler I had a series of allergies that somehow worked against assimilating my food. I ended up with rickets like a starving child from Biafra. I had a concave chest and I guess it became a point of conversation in the neighborhood gossip circles. Anyway, at 92 my Mom is still more than a little bit sensitive when I have the temerity to remind her. The treatment was for me to drink goat's milk instead of cow's milk and to eat a balanced diet. Not being enamored of vegetables, the balanced diet was the hard part. When I wasn't able to hand off my vegetables to Punchy, our cocker

spaniel, I was likely to see them again for breakfast. Not a way to start your day. Peas be with you. I still find it difficult to balance my diet. Thank God for V-8 juice.

The summer between 5th and 6th grade, our family had an extended vacation at the Jersey shore. We joined a yacht club and my older brother and I were enrolled in the day camp. We took swimming and sailing lessons. Because there weren't many kids my age, I was assigned to a group of older kids to learn how to sail. They put five or six of us in a Comet sailboat with an instructor and sent us off. Everyone could tell rather quickly that I was fearful the boat would tip over. So it became kind of a game. Let's see how much Sandy screams when we tip the boat. My brother especially thought this was great fun.

Several years later I became an accomplished sailor and even came close to representing the United States in the '64 Olympics. I had conquered my fear of tipping along the way. If you can swim, it's really no big deal to capsize in a sailboat. I wasn't afraid anymore, but I kept my sensitivity for balancing the boat. That sensitivity led in part to my achievement in the sport. If you balance a small sailboat just right, you don't have to use the rudder as much; there is less drag on the boat, and you go faster. I had a feel for that balance.

Balance has a part to play in almost any sport – gymnastics, archery, shooting, baseball, basketball. You name it. Balance is particularly important in golf. What sets apart the really good golfers from the rest of us who love the game is the ability they have to control their tempo and body and stay in balance throughout the swing.

Balance is important to Jesus, too. In our scripture today he affirms the two greatest commandments: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind...and to love your neighbor as yourself. Balance is all over those two commandments. How are we to love God? We are to love him with all our heart, all our soul, all our

strength and all our mind. Not *just* our mind. It shouldn't be some kind of theological head trip. It is a balance of all four: heart, soul, strength and mind.

And when we love our neighbors, as we love ourselves, that's a balancing act too. How do I love myself? Well, certainly I don't think everything I do is wonderful. I mess up—a lot! It's called "sin." There's not a day that goes by that I don't need to say a prayer of confession by noon. So, loving my neighbor doesn't mean I have to love everything my neighbor does. After all, I don't love everything I do! I need to balance between loving my neighbor and hating the sin my neighbor does. Isn't that what we learned in Sunday School—hate the sin, but not the sinner? It is a matter of balance.

There's even a measure of balance between the two commandments. We aren't supposed to become hermits living off in some wilderness so that we can think about God all day. I know some Christians throughout history have done just that, but not Jesus. He always came back from the mountain top. He went away to pray, but then came back to live out his faith in the world. We are to love God *and* our neighbor. It is a matter of balance.

One of the main characters in the movie classic *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* is Ralph Hopkins (played by Fredric March), president of the United Broadcasting Corporation. Hopkins has been a success by the world's standards. He heads a major corporation. He is wealthy, and he is well-known. He has poured his entire life into his work.

But, all is not well with Ralph Hopkins. Ralph's health is not good. His doctor recommends that he sleep more and work less. In nearly every scene we see Ralph in search of a drink. Though Ralph has been a success at business, his personal life has been a dismal failure. Though the word *divorce* is not used, it's clear Ralph and his wife share no intimacy. In fact, though they are cordial, they live in separate homes.

In a particularly sad, yet moving, scene, Ralph Hopkins reveals his life's "mistake" to one of his employees, Tom Rath (played by Gregory Peck). "You know where I made my mistake?" Ralph asks. "And yet somebody's got to do it. Somebody's got to dedicate himself to it. Big successful businesses just aren't built by men like you: nine-to-five, home and family. You live on 'em, but never build one. Big successful businesses are built by men like me. We give everything we've got to it, lift it up regardless of anybody or anything else. And without men like me, there wouldn't be any big successful businesses. My mistake was in being one of *those* men."

Balance. There is a danger of doing too much, as well as of doing too little. Life is not for work, but work for life. When work is carried to the extent of undermining life or unduly absorbing it, work becomes blameworthy, not praiseworthy.

Sandra had an unusual problem, and it would be the ruin of her family. She lived in Cincinnati with

her husband, Alexander, and three children ages two, three, and five. When her husband could no longer bear with her problem, he moved out of the home. Two weeks later he called the police to report that his wife was neglecting the children. The police drove to Sandra's apartment and found deplorable conditions. The children's playroom was littered with broken glass and debris, and there were children's handprints in human feces.

Sandra's problem, said her husband, was a compulsion for surfing the Internet. She spent up to 12 hours a day at the computer.

Police Sergeant, Paul Neudigate, said, "She would lock the children in their rooms so as not to be bothered. The place was in complete shambles, but the computer area was clean—completely immaculate." Police took custody of the children and charged Sandra with three counts of child endangerment. In a world filled with interesting and pleasurable things, balance and self-control are survival skills.

God knows, we are living in an extremely anxious time—two wars and the worst economy since the Great Depression. Unemployment is sky rocketing. More than one person has recalled the words of FDR, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Yet it doesn't seem to help. We are afraid and that seems to be exasperating the problem. At least that's what the pundits are saying.

Our church is going through an anxious time as well. The two are directly related. A national Web cast on Thursday put on by the Alban Institute stated that those churches most affected by the current economic downturn are ones with a high dependency on invested funds and ones with a well-to-do membership. They didn't specifically mention Westminster, but they could have. Like many colleges and other not-for-profits, the value of our investments dropped by a third in 2008. For nine months your church leaders have tried to discern how to balance our budget.

One point of contention continues to be our invested funds. What should we do? Spend some or not? At what rate? The Session's answer, as I wrote to you several days ago, was to seek to balance current needs and future viability of the funds—to look at the intergenerational equity involved—our generation and future generations, too. It is not an easy task or even an easy conversation. We have cut over \$225,000 from our budget. We are taking \$130,000 less from our invested funds than last year.

It is not an easy conversation—certainly no lack of opinions. Some would have us not use any draw on our invested funds. Anyone who has taken Economics 101 knows that would be best for the future. On the other hand, we also know the church is not a bank. Some folks point to "Aunt Tally" (fictitious) who left \$50,000 in 1965 when she died. They say Aunt Tally wouldn't want us to go into the principal, just income and dividends. Others say Aunt Tally gave us the money for a rainy day and what we have here is a tsunami. You can make a case for both points of view. I've heard both points of view from donors and potential donors about their bequests to the church. The ones who really feel strongly about just utilizing the income often give their money that way—with restrictions—which we honor.

So, we've tried to balance our use of the unrestricted invested funds. We've cussed and discussed. We've prayed and asked God for guidance. We've talked to experts. We've voted in secret and publicly. We've talked with the ministers present and with the ministers absent. In the end we decided on a budget which tries to live into a balance. Did we do it right? Were we perfect? I don't know. I think we're in the ballpark, but certainly I'm not sure it is the perfect answer. No one knows what the next 18 months will bring.

One thing I am sure of, dead certain, 100% certain, Aunt Tally didn't give her \$50,000 in 1965 so we could have a church fight over it in 2009. "Here folks, I'm leaving you \$50,000 when I die. Forty-four years from now I hope you really disagree about how to use this money. Maybe some of you will get energized over this instead of getting energized over Jesus. Wouldn't that be great? Maybe some of you will stop going to church because the Session doesn't meet your definition of running a good business." I mean, can you imagine that? Whew! I can't.

Back in 1960 C. S. Lewis wrote a book called *The Screwtape Letters*. Lewis imagines the devil, Screwtape, giving advice in letter form to his nephew, Wormwood, on how to get the Christians from following Christ. It's an amusing, yet insightful book—very entertaining. "Get them to dwell on the hypocrites in the church," Screwtape tells Wormwood. "Get them away from scripture. Get them to major in minors." If Screwtape were writing today, I'd bet he'd advise Wormwood to get us to spend an inordinate amount of time on worrying and discussing and obsessing about our invested funds, so we'd forget about loving God and neighbor.

Once upon a time, according to the tales of the Hasidim, Rabbi Israel joined the disciples, pipe in hand. It was a good time to ask a question.

"Tell us, dear rabbi," they said, "how should we serve God?"

The rabbi was surprised at the question but then began at once to tell them this story:

There were two friends, and both were accused of a crime before the king. Since he loved them, he wanted to show them mercy. He could not acquit them because even the king's word cannot prevail over a law. So he gave this verdict:

A rope was to be stretched across a deep chasm, and the two accused were to walk it, one after the other. Whosoever reached the other side was to be granted his life.

It was done as the king ordered, and the first of the friends got across safely.

The other, still standing in the same spot, cried to him: "Tell me, my friend, how did you manage to cross this terrible chasm on that thin and swaying rope?"

The first of the two prisoners called back: "I don't know anything but this: whenever I felt myself toppling over to one side, I leaned to the other."

Rabbi Israel makes two points. First, no one solves the pressures of life simply by standing still. When life is off balance, the only way to stay on our feet is

-continued next page-

“The Art of Balance” (cont’d from page 9)

by moving in the other direction. Standing still—going on doing what we’ve been doing—only intensifies the tilt we’re in.

Second, any excess—leaning either entirely to the right or entirely to the left—will only damage us one way or the other in the end. Extremes are not the answer to anything. Stopping everything leaves us without a sense of purpose, the heartbeat of our lives, a reason to get up in the morning. On the other hand, doing more of the same or doing it faster—even in an attempt to end the pressure—only hastens the burnout or the breakdown.

There is a picture hanging crookedly on your living room wall. It bothers you, so you walk to the picture and push up the side that is hanging low. You step back, squint your eyes, and decide now the picture is straight. You leave the room feeling good about getting things to look the way they should.

The next day you walk through the living room and are surprised to see the picture is once again hanging as crookedly as it did yesterday before you straightened it. You conclude you must have failed

to get it really level the day before. Again you push up the side hanging low, step back, eyeball the picture, and decide this time you have it right.

The next day to your great frustration you find the picture hanging crookedly again. You are sure you had it right the day before. You push it straight and walk away wondering whether it will be crooked again tomorrow.

The next day it is crooked again. What’s going on! Then it dawns on you. Perhaps the wire on the back of the picture is not centered on the wall hook. You take hold of the picture, slide it to the left a fraction of an inch, and then level it.

The next day when you return to the living room, you find your picture hanging straight and true, the way you left it the day before.

A picture will stay balanced only if it is centered on the hook. Without that, any corrections are temporary. In the same way, until we center ourselves in Jesus Christ, no matter how hard we try to straighten out our lives, they will eventually fall out of line.



Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Let’s learn and grow together.

Every Sunday, 9:00 – 9:40 a.m.

Lectio Divina

This class experiences the ancient spiritual practice of “sacred reading” of the day’s scriptures, seeking a personal word from God through the biblical text. Class members lead the group.

Adult Education Classes Continuing through May 24

11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Religious Literacy: Hinduism

This seminar will continue an introductory study of the world religions. Studies of Judaism and Islam were offered last spring. Hinduism is often stated to be the “oldest living major religious tradition.” It is formed of diverse traditions and types and has no single founder. Hinduism is the world’s third largest religion after Christianity and Islam, with approximately a billion adherents, of whom about 905 million live in India. This class is led by Pastor Sandy McConnel.

The Power of Forgiveness

When Garrison Keillor reflected on his early religious training, he said that the people talked a lot about forgiveness, but practiced little forgiveness. Most of us fit that indictment. Last June the abbreviated class on this topic received such good response that numerous requests were made for an expanded number of sessions. In response, the class will have six weeks to view the video, *The Power of Forgiveness*, use Kenneth Briggs’ book of the same title, and discuss how forgiveness can originate from God’s presence within us. Retired pastor, The Reverend Ray Merz, will lead this stimulating class.

Among Our People...



Westminster member, **Edman Gray** will receive from the Oakwood High School Alumni Board the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009. Edman graduated in the Class of 1957, attended Yale University and served in the U.S. Navy. He has been very involved in several local non-profit organizations including the Big Brother, Big Sister program.

Diane Frey, a professor in the Department of Human Services at Wright State University and Westminster member, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association for Play Therapy (APT). Diane was honored for her outstanding career contributions that have advanced and promoted the value of play therapy, as well as her work with the APT. The first person to ever write about the use of play therapy with adolescents and adults, Diane is the author of five books and has helped grow the APT organization to more than 5,000 members in 18 countries.

Deaths

March 17, 2009
Luanne Weaver

March 19, 2009
George Sheets

March 23, 2009
Richard Swanson

March 30, 2009
Lucy Caldwell

Baptism

March 29, 2009
Isabel Faith Dembiczak
Daughter of Jennifer and Jason Dembiczak

Did You Know...

... that 12 Westminster youth and 6 adults participated in the **Spring Youth Retreat** at Kirkmont Center, March 27-29? The retreat was sponsored by the Youth Network of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. The Keynote speaker this year was Scott Neely, son of The Reverend John Neely.

...that \$3,548.54 was collected in the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** collected on Easter Sunday, and the money collected will support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program?

...that the Westminster youth prepare and serve the **E.J. Brown Parents' Night Out** dinner once a month for the students and families who participate in the tutoring program.

...that beginning in March, some of our 4th – 6th graders have been lighting our communion table candles? They will continue to do so through June 7, taking a break during the summer and then starting up once again in September. Have you noticed the great job our young **Calvin Acolytes** are doing? This year's Calvin Acolytes are Carolyn Ljungren, Rebecca Helt, Alec Hamer, Anne Paquette, Jonathan Vicarel, Andy Mayhew, Jessica Harmon, Santiago Shillington-Perez, William Boezi, Morgan Isham, Callia Tellez, Hannah Knorr, Kevin Helt, Michael Keller, Joe Keller, Jakob Harmon, and Shayla McMahan. Tom Best is their leader. If you have a rising 3rd grader who would like to become a Calvin Acolyte this fall, please contact Tom Best or Laurie Davis.

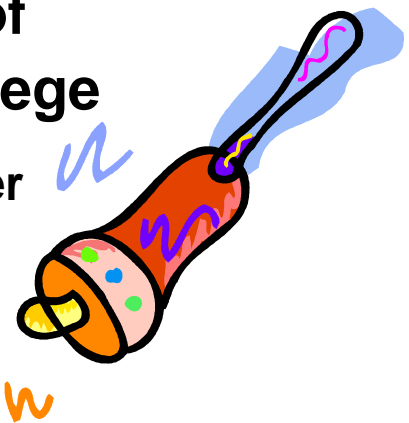
...that the **Thursday morning sewing group** has done it again! They designed and sewed together **20 new worship bags**, just in time for our youngest worshipers to begin using on Easter Sunday. Thanks to these ladies' handiwork, we now have two types of worship bags: one for pre-readers and another for readers, filled with worship-related quiet activities for children to use during our Sunday morning worship. Every Sunday the worship bags can be obtained from, and returned to, a large basket in the Narthex.

Concert Bell Choir of Westminster Choir College

to perform at Westminster

Wednesday, June 3
7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

A free will offering will be received.

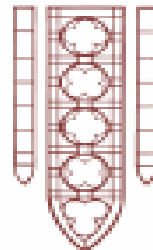


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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