

The Chimes



SAYING GOODBYE by Marcia Dungan



A proper Presbyterian farewell was held honoring Sandy McConnel's retirement. The festivities began with an evening event held at the Mandalay Banquet Center on April 26. The dinner was attended by 278 guests, including family and friends from out of town. Georgie Woessner did a magnificent job guiding the guests through the evening. The program started with Tom Wilson speaking about how Sandy was called to Westminster in 1993. Remarks from Dennis Piermont expressed the sentiments from the Miami Valley Presbytery. John Neely's words touched on Sandy's impact on the Staff and their best wishes for him. The love and admiration of the congregation was summed up by John Ey.

In conclusion, Sandy's brother, Mike McConnel, represented the well wishes from his family. The guests were entertained by a guitar solo and an original song performed by a choir ensemble. A memorable moment came when Sandy sang and played a guitar duet with his guitar instructor. Sandy was presented with a beautiful memory book and a monetary gift of appreciation from the congregation. A special evening was enjoyed by all.



Sandy's final worship service at Westminster was April 28. The service was highlighted by his sermon entitled "Closing the Door." Bagpipe music was played by Mike McConnel, and other meaningful music was included in the service. The service concluded with the Dissolution of Pastoral Call.

Following worship, members and friends greeted Sandy at a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

They enjoyed seeing his official Pastoral Portrait and viewing the photos from the farewell dinner. It was a weekend filled with many emotions as the church honored a beloved Pastor and friend. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life.



ON OUR COVER

On May 19, the Calvin Fellowship spent the day gardening at the Peace Museum. They planted annuals and perennials and had a great day of fellowship.

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE by Pat Torvik



Westminster's search for a new Pastor/Head of Staff is generating a lot of interest nationwide. Our Congregation Information Form (CIF) on the PCUSA website has been accessed 364 times as of May 17, the date of this writing.

Twenty-five pastors have sent us an application for the position of Pastor/Head of Staff. In addition, approximately 40 others have been referred to us as potential candidates. This means the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is very busy.

PNC members are reading applications, listening to sermons, and doing research on those folks submitting applications. We meet weekly to compare notes and discuss the candidates. We began interviewing candidates after Memorial Day. The internet makes it easier to conduct our search as most churches now have a Web page making it possible to listen to and read sermons by potential candidates and sometimes watch videos of services and activities at their churches. Conference calling and internet services such as Skype allow us to have one-on-one conversations with candidates prior to requesting a personal visit.

If you have questions regarding the Pastor/Head of Staff search, please contact me via e-mail (torvikpa@gmail.com).

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS by Lola Signom

Two new part-time, temporary staff members joined our Westminster staff in May to assist in a smooth time of transition following retirement of our Pastor/Head of Staff at the end of April and until the new Head of Staff is called and on board.



The Reverend Tom York has begun his ministry as "Visiting Pastor" at Westminster, delivering his first sermon on Mother's Day, May 12. The Visiting Pastor position is a temporary, half-time role with the responsibility for leading worship and preaching up to three times per month, hospital visitation one day per week, and serving as Moderator of Session for Westminster. Tom is a graduate of Hanover College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as Pastor/Head of Staff for 38 years prior to retirement in June of 2012. Tom served congregations in Wausau, WI, and Columbus, OH, prior to serving as Pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati for 16 years.



Judy Hamilton, who retired from Westminster in January, 2011 after 14 years of service, has graciously agreed to return on a temporary, part-time basis in the role of Transition Administrative Assistant. Before her retirement, Judy was Administrative Assistant to Dr. McConnel. Judy will provide administrative support to the Pastor Nominating Committee and to the Visiting Pastor. She will also assist the Associate Pastor of Music and provide other administrative functions associated with the Transition.

We are blessed to have Tom and Judy join with our other dedicated Staff members, all of whom are working hard to keep the energy high during this time of transition.

PARKING LOT REMODELING by Craig Showalter

The parking lot remodeling project is nearly complete. The new asphalt is down, and the lights are hooked up. The new fence was installed this spring. The last details of hooking up the irrigation lines and completing the new landscaping will be finished in the coming weeks.

The project is still running under budget. We have also been awarded an additional grant.



The project is budgeted at \$260,000. The Fred M. Luther grant is covering \$100,000. The City of Dayton Office of Economic Development's Downtown Façade Improvement Program has awarded us a matching grant of up to \$10,000 toward the new fence, lighting and landscaping we do in 2013. The balance will come from Building and Grounds invested funds.

NEW BUILDING ASSISTANT by Craig Showalter

Perhaps you have noticed a smiling, thin fellow working in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. Damascene Nsabimana, refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, joined us in January.



Westminster is working in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Urban League, and the African Christian Community Center to provide Damascene a work experience opportunity. Through this same program, we have seen a couple other faces from time to time in our kitchen on Sunday mornings. Damascene also comes in two days during the week to help with light chores.

One of the big challenges has been that Damascene came to us without any English-language skills. Despite this, he works well under Marv Fleming's supervision. We are starting to notice that when Damascene does try to speak English, his accent sounds a lot like Marv's!

What we have been able to learn is that Damascene's old livelihood was tending cattle. He was transferred to at least two refugee camps in Africa before coming to America. He is here in Dayton with his wife and seven of his nine children – ranging from school-aged to adult.

DONE IN A DAY - APRIL 2013 by Jane Collins

On a chilly April morning, about 30 enthusiastic volunteers ventured out into our community to put Westminster's "Faith in Action." The teams worked at Linda Vista, the YWCA, and the Dayton Urban Ministry Center, doing a variety of work including gardening, cleaning, sorting, general repairs, and anything else they were asked to do.

The volunteers – longtime participants, new participants, and friends from the Hispanic Ministry from College Hill Presbyterian Church – returned to Westminster for lunch and fellowship. All team members noticed the presence of God in the faces of others as they shared a morning of service.



CATCH THE BUILDING SPIRIT

On Sunday, May 19, Westminster members added their thoughts and prayers to the boards that were used to build the "Catch the Building Spirit" Habitat House for the Enriquez Family. The build, a partnership between Presbyterians and Catholics, began on Memorial Day weekend and will continue throughout the summer.



CAMERON STEVENS IN THE MISSION FIELD by Nancy Hodgkins

Cameron is working for the Presbytery of Elizabeth as their Work Team Coordinator in their ongoing Hurricane Sandy relief effort. Elizabeth Presbytery will be hosting twelve volunteer groups from June 6 to August 17, and Cameron is in charge of finding appropriate work projects for the volunteers based on their skills. The volunteers are coming from Montana, Washington State, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. They will be working along the shore and on Staten Island doing Hurricane Sandy relief.



Cameron helped write a \$200,000 grant request to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Presbytery of Elizabeth. She is also helping First Presbyterian Church of Rahway write a \$5,000 hospitality grant request to turn the unoccupied manse into a Mission House that will host long-term volunteers doing Sandy relief.

Cameron was hired on March 1st for a six-month period.

A CALL TO MINISTRY

Alan Dyer graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, on Saturday, May 18, with a Master of Divinity degree. During his time at seminary, Alan worked at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. He began working in the youth ministry program, but then transitioned to working with young adults as the primary preacher for the Five at First worship service, a contemporary service held on Sunday evenings.



Alan has accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor at St. Simons Presbyterian Church in St. Simon Island, Georgia. Alan and his wife Erin moved to St. Simons Island the first week of June, and Alan began his ministry by leading a mission trip to Jamaica.



Westminster celebrated on June 2 as Alan was ordained as a Teaching Elder to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of the Miami Valley during the morning worship service.

E. J. BROWN PARTNERSHIP By Jim Henry



It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone, but now that summer is upon us, it is a good time to review what has transpired at our partner school, E. J. Brown Elementary.

Tutoring has always been the lynchpin of our collaboration, and this past year was no exception. We tutored every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon in Fellowship Hall and saw a lot of growth, not only academically but also socially and spiritually. Thank you to all our Westminster tutors for the time they spent with our students.

On May 15, we concluded the tutoring program with our annual "Celebrate Learning" dinner, and

honored our students, their tutors, teachers, and families with a wonderful buffet dinner prepared by members of the Mission Committee. One of the highlights of the evening was the drawing for the iMac computer donated by our recently retired pastor, Sandy McConnell. One fortunate student went home beaming with pride.



On May 21, we held our annual EJB Book Fair and took approximately 2,000 books for the students to read over the summer. This is the most books we've ever given away. The teachers brought their students to the Media Center every ten minutes, and the students selected five books each. It was wonderful to see how happy they were to receive their own books.



To wrap up the school year on May 31, we provided the entire EJB staff with our "Teacher Appreciation Luncheon." The classroom teachers, who represent the front lines in the war on poverty and ignorance, deserve so much more than the food we offered, but they were so thrilled to "dismiss" their students for the summer and sit down to a nice luncheon.

To keep in touch with the tutored students, we have always offered some kind of summer programming. This year we will hold a three-day camp experience. Our theme will be healthy living and eating, and we hope to expose the students to good nutrition and proper exercise.



Before we know it, it will be time to start another school year. Yikes! The fall issue of *The Chimes* will appear after school begins, so please don't forget to look for those back-to-school bargains and school uniforms when you shop. We'll have some reminders in the Sunday bulletins later in the summer. We'll also make our annual appeal for tutoring volunteers, but please start thinking and praying about this now. If you like children and have one hour per week to spare, see Jim Henry for details.

A NEW INTERFAITH COLLABORATIVE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

by Laurie Brubaker Davis

Earth Stewardship Team launched a new “Interfaith Collaborative for the Environment” (ICE Dayton) with a showing of the film, “Goodbye, the Levee Has Broken, The Story of the Great Dayton Flood,” on Sunday, April 14, at Temple Israel. This first event drew over 60 participants from the wide range of faith communities that make up the collaborative: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Temple Israel, First Lutheran Church, the Marianist Environmental Education Center, First Baptist Church of Dayton, Christ Episcopal Church, Beth Abraham, Greater Dayton Christian Connections, Shiloh Church, Dayton Baha’i Center, Dayton Region Green 3, Dayton International Peace Museum, Refuge City Church.



The film was chosen because it depicts day-to-day events of the flood as told by those who experienced it and shows how this disaster, which could have transformed Dayton into a wasteland, instead brought out the best in its citizens, who joined together to eliminate the threat of floods to the Miami Valley for all time. A discussion in small groups, in which 48 of the participants took part, began to address shared concerns about the environment. The goal is to move from discussion to action on behalf of the environment here in Dayton.

WPW'S SPRING GATHERING by Joyce Ferguson

On May 11, Westminster Presbyterian Women (WPW) held their annual Spring Gathering in Fellowship Hall. Featured guest speakers were Tyra Jackson, Interim Executive Director at the YWCA, and Westminster member Shelley Burden, who has taken an active role in a new church outreach program with women in need at the Y. Our members learned a great deal about the workings of programs for women at the Y, especially those related to victims of domestic violence sheltered there. WPW members have long supported the Y programs in a variety of ways, including Sewing Circle Projects, volunteering, and donating funds. We are excited to continue those efforts and expand our involvement with this valued downtown neighbor, including the program Shelley discussed which is led by The Reverend Laurie Davis.

As a part of a Spring Gathering tradition that dates back to the reunion of the Northern and Southern Presbyteries in 1983, we collected a special Birthday offering which will go to Westminster Neighborhood Ministries - Child, Family and Adult Education Connection in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Women at the Gathering elected and installed a new slate of officers. WPW wishes to extend special thanks for the delicious meal prepared by Jane Rininger and Ruth Price. Our special group of women invites any Westminster women to join us in serving God and the Westminster community with our hearts and hands. Whether you have interest in one of our many circles or a position of leadership or any of our service projects, we would love to have you join us, for we know that more hands and hearts mean more joys to share.

CHILDREN LEADING WORSHIP

On April 21, our children (grades K-6) led worship, from the Call to Worship in Word through to the Benediction. They also presented the cantata, "Creation: It's Good." The Knox Choir supported them in the choir loft as the lead choir that day. And indeed, it was very good!



WINGS (Women INvolved in Growing Spiritually) at the YWCA enjoyed a Mother's Day event on May 8, planting pots of marigolds, and painting.



Cherub Choir Mother's Day Party
Each child was given one special stanza to sing with his or her mom.

Camping Interest Group by Julie Drumheller

The Camping Interest Group had a fun-filled season in 2012 with eight trips scheduled from April to October. We visited several favorite campgrounds: Lake Loramie State Park, Indian Lake State Park, and Pokagon State Park in Indiana. We returned to West Branch State Park near Akron, one that some of us newer campers had never visited. We also tried two new private parks: Kandels RV Park in Amish Country and Natural Springs Resort in New Paris, OH. Camping activities vary based on the particular park and whether water is near. Fishing is a popular activity as well as canoeing, kayaking, and pontoon boating. Biking and hiking are also popular activities. Of course, campfires are a must, especially on cool evenings.

We again have planned eight trips for 2013, with most of the trips occurring at state parks. We are returning to Lake Loramie State Park and Indian Lake State Park and are adding several new camp-



grounds again this year: Delaware State Park, Maumee Bay State Park, and Big Bone Lick State Park in Northern KY. A longer trip to Mackinaw City, MI, has also been included in this year's schedule. A listing of the 2013 camping schedule and contact information can be downloaded from the Westminster website.

New campers are always welcome to join the group no matter how limited or extensive their camping experience may be. The choice of camping equipment may vary widely, but the goals of the group are simple: relax, have fun, and enjoy the companionship of friends while enjoying the wonderful creation with which God has blessed us.

Newly Installed Deacons and Elders

Our new Elders and Deacons were trained on May 4 by Laurie Davis and John Shonle to prepare for their ordination and installation on May 26.



Deacons: Jon Manuel, Vail McGuire, Kathryn Lake, Scott Porter.



Elders: Karen Clute, Georgie Woessner (front row), Larry Pugh, John Jahoda, Dave Boezi (back row).

Among Our People

Deaths

James Allen Harlan	February 20, 2013
Russell E. Todd	February 20, 2013
Margaret "Peg" Wilson	March 18, 2013
Evelyn Battenberg	March 20, 2013
Larry Edward Stofer	April 7, 2013
John C. McNeill	May 9, 2013
William Keith "Bill" McCormick	May 15, 2013



Baptisms

April 7, 2013 Emma Pearl Gillespie, daughter of Jennifer and Andrew Gillespie

WELCOME

The following were accepted into membership this past February: from left to right, Regina, Mark, and Tiffany Tindall, Jason Albertini, Susie Day, Bryan and Melody McCallister, Raizor Sharp, Hannah Rehmert, and Heather Burden. Not pictured: Ernie and Allison McCallister, John, Tanya, Elizabeth, Samuel and Eli Rhodes.

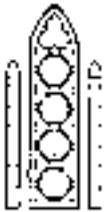


The 2013 Confirmation Class was received into membership on Sunday, March 10.



- Ice Cream Social, July 28
- Convocation Sunday, September 8

Visit www.westminsterdayton.org for more information on these and other events.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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