

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ANGEL TREE- The Children of Westminster will have their own Angel Tree this year in the Children's Wing. All gifts will go to the Alzheimer patients at Heritage Green. Please bring your bag back to the church by December 17.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING - Please continue to give generously to help sponsor our child from Mexico. Your child may also pick up a Heifer bank to fill and bring back at Christmas.

NEEDS- We are still looking for a Kindergarten tool bench and kitchen. We also need empty Pringles cans. Anyone cleaning out their attic? Contact: Ann Wren at the church office.

OUTRAGEOUS OUTREACH- On December 21, 4th and 5th graders will meet in Room 107 at 10 a.m., pick up gift bags, ride the bus, and deliver Angel tree gifts to Alzheimer's patients at Heritage Green. The children will be back at noon. Look for link to Web in e-newsletter or sign up in the Take Note.

STORY HOUR- Every Thursday at 10 a.m. there is a preschool story hour in the Children's Library. Please join us.

ADVENT CALENDAR - Please come by the Children's Library and let your child look at the handmade calendar made by the Amani group from Kenya.

SPONTANEOUS NATIVITY - Come and have your child be a part of the Spontaneous Nativity on December 16. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. and the Nativity begins at 10 a.m. If you are not eating with us that morning, be sure to have your child there by 9:45 a.m. to get into a costume that will be provided. Join us! If you can help little ones get into their costumes please contact Ann Wren at the church office.

REMINDER - There is no church service or church school on Saturday, December 23 and 30. There is church school on Sunday, December 24 and 31 at 9:30 a.m. only. Nursery will be provided at 11 a.m.

Questions? Call Ann Wren at 299-3785. Look for sign-ups in Take Note, Children's E-newsletter, and web site.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

Middle & High School: 9:30 a.m. - Vine/Lawndale
Middle & High School: 11 a.m. - Friendly Avenue

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY EVENING:

Crossroads for High School: 5 - 6:30 p.m. Youth House
Middle School Fellowship: 5 - 6:30 p.m. Youth House

CHRISTMAS CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS - We want all youth to participate in the unique opportunities in our church this Advent season. We will not have Youth Fellowship on Sunday, December 3 or December 10, so that they may attend the drama on Dec. 3 and the choral production on Dec. 10. Please join your families for these unique events.

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE - Our next Black Box youth worship service will be on December 17 at 10:45 a.m. at the Vine/Lawndale Campus.

LEADERSHIP PARTY - There will be a Christmas gathering for all teachers, advisors, small group leaders, and youth ministry committee members at Davis & Lucy Jefferies house, 102 Falkener Drive, on Monday, December 11, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY - On Thursday, December 21, from 7 - 9 p.m. our college students are invited to a party in their honor at Michael & Sarah Kearney's home, 3500 Bromley Woods Lane. This will be a great time to catch up with old friends and enjoy fun, food, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Jennie Betton at 272-0198 or bettonfamily@aol.com.

There will be no regular Youth program on December 24. There will be a New Year's Eve Party/Lock-in at the Youth House. Watch the Take Note for more details.

Questions? Please call (299-3785) or e-mail the youth staff: Buck Cochran at buck.cochran@westpreschurch.org, Lucy Jefferies at lucy.jefferies@westpreschurch.org, and Leigh Vail at leigh.vail@westpreschurch.org.

Westminster News

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 2006

FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Friends:

The worship experiences of this Advent season will be fresh and rich. We'll start with a specially written and prepared Christmas story drama presented by Westminster's own highly talented Drama team. You have seen some of these folks in action before (at the Last Supper re-enactment) only this time they will offer fresh perspectives on the Christmas story. To accommodate the anticipated large crowd, the play will be presented at the Sloan Theatre of the Greensboro Day School (our Vine/Lawndale Campus) on Sunday, December 3, at 5 p.m. Come. Bring your children. Bring a friend. You'll be glad you did.

We'll continue our tradition of excellent Christmas choral music with a Chancel Choir and orchestra presentation in our Sanctuary at 6 p.m. on December 10. This promises to be a highlight as well, with a full orchestra and large choir leading us in a fresh expression of the Christmas message.

In addition, our weekly worship services at all campuses will explore the traditional advent themes of hope, transformation, joy, and peace, but we'll do so by profiling some cultural expressions of these themes through well known film. Culture knows no greater fascination than that of Christmas, and the resources are plentiful. In addition to consulting Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, this Christmas we'll also listen (at least a little) to a creature named the Grinch, a man named Ebenezer Scrooge, and maybe even a boy who wants a Red Rider BB Gun for Christmas. It should be meaningful, faithful, and fresh. We hope to see you often.

Peruse the additional pages for news on our vibrant life and mission. We're so grateful for you all and continue to be amazed at the way God uses your many gifts and talents to accomplish extraordinary work in this world.

Peace,

Bob Buck Cindy Mark

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friendly Avenue Campus:

Saturday at 6 p.m. - Contemporary - in the Sanctuary
Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary - in the Sanctuary
Sunday at 11 a.m. - Traditional - in the Sanctuary
Sunday at 11 a.m. - Contemporary - in the Chapel

Vine/Lawndale Campus:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary - in the Bell Theatre

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper the first Sunday of the month at all services. In an effort to welcome all to the table, COMMUNION BREAD is casein and gluten-free.

See the ADVENT CALENDAR for changes to our Worship Schedule during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

WHOLENESS & HEALING SERVICE

December's Wholeness & Healing service moves to a NEW TIME. This gentle time of worship will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, December 10, at 9 a.m. The service is a time of meditative song, prayers for healing and wholeness, for general concerns, and the enacted prayer of the laying on of hands and anointing with oil for individuals who desire personal prayer. Several instrumentalists and soloists from our congregation lead the music for this service. There is also a time for the blessing of Healing Prayer Shawls.

FINANCIAL CORNER

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE FOR YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS - The general IRS rule for year-end contributions is that a contribution is effective when delivered. That means that a check deposited in the church offering in January 2007 cannot be deducted in 2006 even if it is backdated to 2006. One exception - checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2006 are deductible in 2006 even though not received until 2007.

2007 OFFERING ENVELOPES - For the upcoming year, we are offering you the option to choose whether or not you would like to have a box of offering envelopes. Due to the high cost of the envelopes and the many boxes we throw out each year, we will provide envelopes only to those who request them. If you would like a box or more information, please contact Aimee Bostic in the church office.

Return service requested

Westminster Presbyterian Church
3906 West Friendly Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27410
(336) 299-3785/fax (336) 299-5837
E-mail: info@westpreschurch.org
Website: www.westpreschurch.org

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:
Deadline Dec. 19 - January Newsletter mailed Jan. 3
Deadline Jan. 16 - February Newsletter mailed Jan. 31

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENSBORO, NC
Permit No 236



LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Stories From Our Missionaries

By MEREDITH BARKLEY

Editor's Note: Meredith Barkley left September 11 for Haiti. He'll be teaching English, operating two computer labs and trouble shooting the equipment. He'll also be working construction projects, helping a small radio station that needs journalistic direction and learning a new language.



FONDWA, Haiti – Soccer is big in Haiti.

I discovered just how big late one afternoon in early October. As I worked in my room high in the rural southern mountains, I heard someone rev a gas powered motor.

Generator, I wondered. Couldn't be. We hadn't had electricity in nearly a week. Before that it was spotty.

I went for a look. On the flat concrete roof of an unfinished building a dozen men gathered around a color television. They were powering it with a small, portable generator on the ground below. Yves, who lives across the lane, was working the remote.

I climbed to the roof for a look. There, between rebar sticking chest high out of the slab, stood two benches in a makeshift theater.

"What's going on?" I asked.

"Football," someone replied. He was excited. Football is what they, and just about everyone outside the U.S., call soccer.

The Haitian national team, I learned, was playing Jamaica later in the evening. They didn't want to miss it. So a television and generator, helped along by a car battery, materialized for the event. To improve reception, they'd strung a long antenna wire to the roof of a taller building.

Before long several dozen had trickled in. As they awaited the game they watched a glitzy French car show segment featuring the latest and greatest the industry had to offer. Bright lights. Weird camera angles. Special affects. Those Haitians, who live in crude cinderblock or wood shacks with no conveniences, were riveted.

Haiti lost the game. But the team's Fondwa fans relished the moment. And in what was surely a minor miracle, the skies were clear of storm clouds the entire night. It was one of the few evenings since I arrived September 11 that it hadn't rained.

As I settle in and learn more about life in these rugged mountains, I discover how much I have yet to learn about these people.

Most are poor on a level hard to imagine in Greensboro. But it is a mistake to cast them all as backward and unsophisticated. Some here speak English and two or three other languages fairly well, many have cellular telephones and a few know their way around computers. Some have e-mail addresses and visit internet cafes.

A couple times a week a crowd gathers for movie night inside the vacant building on whose roof we watched Haiti play. They probably use that same television. I have no idea where they get the movies.

You seldom see anyone reading a book or magazine, though, and few seem to know much about events in the outside world. Most would have a hard time pointing to Haiti on a map.

One thing that stands out, though, is that these people seem happy. They joke with each other, their children behave and the community really does keep an eye on them. Schools are strictly disciplined and those students who get out of line are dealt with sternly.

Some seem to work very hard. Others don't seem to do much at all. But they're friendly always. They greet you when you pass by and seem concerned about your well being.

Some can be annoying, though. In this land, where every native face is black, white-skinned folks like me stand out. Some, assuming we've got lots of money, dispense with the niceties and just beg. "Hey blan, give me dollar."

While you can't help but feel pity, most aid organizations, including mine, frown on handing out money. These organizations are trying to help folks here become self sufficient.

I work with Family Health Ministries of Durham, a nonprofit that focuses on medical and educational needs in Haiti and elsewhere. Here in the mountains, part of my job is to help maintain two computer labs – one at the local secondary school and one at a fledgling university an hour's walk up the steep slope.

I'm also learning the language – Kreyol (Creole) – helping several people learn English, working with the university on a distance learning project and tending to some maintenance problems.

The going has been slow so far. Where I live the internet has been down since early August and the electrical systems have been down more than up. I have, therefore, been unable to write blog entries like I had intended.

Other than that, I'm doing well, enjoying myself and thinking about all of you. For those who want to write, my e-mail address is meredith_barkley@hotmail.com. I may not be able to respond right away, but I will appreciate every one I receive.

For more stories, visit Meredith's blog at <http://www.westpreschurch.org/blogs/> or the Family Health Ministries, Inc. web site at <http://www.familyhm.org/>



FINDING AND SHARING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Meet "Mr. Birthday"

By JENNIFER KIRSCHNER

If you're new to Westminster, you might not have heard of him yet, but he's waiting to make your birthday a little brighter.

"All my life, I have sung to people about the gospel", says Carl Webb. After living most of his 87 years in Rockingham county, and spending much of that time leading congregational singing at revival meetings, Carl moved to Greensboro in 2000. He soon joined Westminster, and was impressed by all of the activity here. He said to himself, "I've got to find something to do to be in on all of this that's going on." In the fall of 2000, he was walking down a hallway at the church with his daughter, Betsy Hyslop, when he noticed an envelope hanging on a wall. He asked her about it, and she told him that it held a list of all of the congregational birthdays for the week. Inspiration struck, and he's been making birthday calls to each



NURSE'S NEWS

Healthy Hints for the Holidays

The Holidays are upon us. This busy time of the year can be a challenge for many of us. Here are some hints to help make your Holidays Healthy:

Eat Smart – The biggest nutrition problem is not what we eat, but HOW MUCH we eat! The secret to a serving size is in your hand.

- For example: a fist = 1 serving cup
- a palm = 3 oz of meat (1 serving)
- a thumb = 1 oz of cheese
- a thumb tip = 1 teaspoon of mayo
- a handful = 1-2oz of snack food

Listen to your body cues. Your internal signals of hunger and satisfaction can help you eat right if you listen to them. Don't forget to eat 5-9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

Drink Smart – Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water a day. Limit your intake of non-nutritious beverages like soft drinks and alcohol.

Move More – Often we are tempted to put our exercise routines on hold during this time of the year; however, exercise is a great way to help reduce the stress that comes with this time of year and to burn off the extra calories that we often consume. You can increase your exercise by simply walking more: take the stairs, park at the back of the lot, or take a walk around the block with your family (or to clear your head). Play football instead of watching football, dance with your kids and the new CD. Just move more!

Get Sleep – It is important to get adequate sleep. Our bodies need 7 to 8 hours of recoup time.

Wash your Hands – Best way to reduce the spread of illness is through good hand washing. The Center for Disease Control recommends that you wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, or use alcohol wipes or hand gel.

Keep a sense of Humor - Laughter can be the best medicine!

and every member ever since. He averages about 5 or 6 calls per day, with his busiest day including 17 calls. There has been only one day in six years when he had no one to call. Children often opt not to answer the phone on their birthdays, so he'll leave a message. Then they can listen to it over and over again.

The way he makes the calls has changed since he began. At first, he would end his calls with "Have a good day." After three or four years, he began to feel the need to do something different. "I want people to know about God's love and that he asks us to love each other as he loves us", he said. He shared his thoughts with Cindy Higgins, who thought it was a fine idea, and he began ending his calls the way he does today: "I'm your Christian brother and I love you."

When asked what he enjoys most about what he does, he says he likes that "the holy spirit can work through me to make people happy." He is also grateful for the appreciation that many people show for his calls. When asked how he would encourage others to find ways to serve God and the community, he replied, "Relax and be your Christian self. There are ways in every Christian's life to share God's love."

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

High blood pressure often occurs with no accompanying symptoms. The Health Team will offer free BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS by registered nurses in the Friendly Avenue Campus Adult Library on Saturday, December 16, from 7-7:30 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 17, from 10:30-11 a.m. and from noon-12:30 p.m. The Vine/Lawndale Campus screening will be near the entrance to the Sloan Theatre at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 17.

FELLOWSHIP

MEN'S BREAKFAST – There will not be a men's breakfast the first weekend in December – we will resume our regular monthly schedule Saturday, January 6, at 8 a.m. for our first breakfast of the new year. Please plan to join us for a great speaker, terrific food and wonderful men's fellowship!

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST – Saturday, December 16, we'll celebrate the holiday season with a breakfast feast prepared by our now famous men's chefs. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m. Following the breakfast all children are invited to participate in the Spontaneous Nativity in the Sanctuary. Look for meal sign ups on the web site and in the Take Note.

WOW MEALS – Westminster on Wednesday dinners will resume January 10. Enjoy a meal and a class – look for details to come in the Take Note and web site in early January. Many thanks to our chef Virginia Mitchell who prepares our delicious meals and to the many volunteers who made the evenings possible.

Join us for "A Christmas Tale"
Sunday, December 3, at 5 p.m.
At the Vine/Lawndale Campus
(Childcare available for ages 3 and under)

LOCAL OUTREACH

MORE BELL RINGERS NEEDED - Every year Westminster assists the Salvation Army with their annual Kettle Drive. Our drive is underway at the brand new Harris Teeter at the Shops at Friendly Center. We still need some weekday volunteers from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. To volunteer, please contact Vicki Dorman at 854-8007.

Westminster is sponsoring 24 families from the PARTNERSHIP VILLAGE community. Partnership Village provides transitional housing and case management to formerly homeless individuals and families. Our ministry provides families in need with Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas presents, Easter dinner, and back-to-school supplies. You are invited to participate in two ways:

Angel Tree - Angel trees will be in the Sanctuary, Chapel, and Bell Theatre beginning the weekend of December 2-3. Choose an angel gift request, and after purchasing and wrapping your gift (be sure to attach angel tag to gift) bring and place gift under the trees by noon on December 17. For gifts of clothes, include a gift receipt in case sizes are not correct.

Monetary Assistance - Financial contributions help provide our families with Thanksgiving and Easter meals, as well as purchase additional Christmas gifts as needed. Checks can be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, earmarked Partnership Village.

Looking for a unique gift this holiday season? Consider purchasing an HONOR CARD, with proceeds benefiting various local, national, and international non-profit agencies. Honor cards are available during Fellowship Time and in the church office through December 22.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES

Sign up for the ADVENT "FIRST CUP" DEVOTION SERIES - Again this year, Suzanne Henderson will prepare an Advent devotional series for us. The daily meditations, "Light in the Darkness: Isaiah's Message of Hope" will be available each weekday from Monday, December 4, through Friday, December 22. Each day's devotion will be available via e-mail, on the church web site, and in printed copies in the church office. Register to receive the devotions via e-mail at the church web site, www.westpreschurch.org, and join with others in hearing Isaiah's words of hope and promise as we again anticipate Christmas.

*Christmas with the Westminster Choir and Orchestra
Come, Let the Sounds of Christmas Surround You!
Sunday, December 10, at 6 p.m.
In the Sanctuary
Doors open at 5:20 p.m.
Concert will feature the 70-voice Chancel Choir
accompanied by a full orchestra*

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL OUTREACH

It has been a full and exciting fall with mission trips to Guyan Valley, WV with the Appalachia Service Project, to Long Beach, MS to work on Hurricane Disaster Relief and to Kenya on a vision trip to discern how Westminster might serve. All trips were successful in that the missions were served, completed, and all travelers arrived home much the better for their travels and experiences. A great deal of thanks goes to all who prayed, donated, and otherwise supported the trips. We need everyone's gifts.

Many thanks to all of you who bought items at our annual Alternative Giving Sale. The beads and jewelry were a big hit, as were the other items from Kenya. Due to your generosity we expect to send over \$4000 to the Amani Children's Foundation to help support New Life Homes. You have provided food, clothing and medicine for many orphans served by this organization. If you are still interested in purchasing items, please come by Anne Hendrix's office, Room 205. There are a few things left for sale and some beautiful jewelry remains.

ONE MORE TIME !! - In addition, there will be one more opportunity to make jewelry. On Saturday, December 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we'll hold a workshop. You may buy what you make and any remaining jewelry will be for sale.

We look forward to 2007 and all that it has to offer. Mission trips will again go to Mexico, to Appalachia, to Honduras, and for disaster relief, to name a few. Information for these trips will begin to be published in January. Be on the look out for opportunities to serve.

THANK YOU

*Dear Westminster Friends,
Thank you for your constant, faithful support for my family and me during Jim's illness and death. Your cards, prayers, and many other expressions of your concern have made everything easier. I have experienced real peace, even in the darkest moments, and I know it comes out of your presence and prayers. I cherish my Westminster family and look forward to our times together.*

*With deep gratitude,
Carolyn Plumb*

*Dear Westminster Family,
Thank you for all your visits, flowers, and gifts. Now that I cannot come to church, I am very grateful for the many ways Westminster comes to me!*

Bea McGarity

I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the prayers, the food, the personal visits, the cards, and telephone calls during my recent right knee replacement surgery and rehabilitation therapy.

*In Christ,
Barney Miller*



2006 Advent Calendar



First Week of Advent

Angel Trees available for selection of gifts. Please return gifts to the church by December 17. Communion celebrated at all services.

Saturday, December 2
No Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 3
7 a.m. - Weaver House Breakfast & Worship (*Confirmands meet in church parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to serve.*)
5 p.m. - "A Christmas Tale" - Drama Team joins Vine Voices, Worship Band, Children's Choir, and Dance Team at the Sloan Theatre.

Tuesday, December 5
Noon - J.O.Y. Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday - Thursday, December 6 - 7
Fellowship Trip to Asheville

Thursday, December 7
9:30 a.m. - M.O.M.S. Group



Second Week of Advent

Pennies for Hunger Offering collected at all services.

Saturday, December 9
10 a.m. - Bead Workshop

Sunday, December 10
9 a.m. - Service for Wholeness & Healing
6 p.m. - Christmas Choral Concert in the Sanctuary with Westminster Choir and full orchestra (Doors open at 5:20 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 12
9:30 a.m. - Tuesday Morning Circle
Hostess: Trick Beamer, 299-5890
Address: 1803 Swannanoa Drive
7 p.m. - Tuesday Evening Circle
Covered Dish Supper - Bring a dish to share!
Hostess: Mary Hibbard, 288-7162
Address: 3410 Crosstimbers Drive

Wednesday, December 13
10:30 a.m. - Wednesday Morning Circle
Covered Dish Luncheon
Meet in main building, Rm.203
Questions? Call Carol Thomas at 299-4897.

Thursday, December 14
6:15 - 9 p.m. - McLeansville Prison Worship Service.
Meet at the church at 6:15 p.m. to carpool. Worship begins at 7 p.m.



Third Week of Advent

Saturday, December 16
9 a.m. - Holiday Breakfast - Great food prepared by the Men's breakfast chefs
9:45 a.m. - Spontaneous Nativity - Children pick out costumes and tell the Christmas story in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 17
10:45 a.m. - Youth Black Box Worship Service
11 a.m. - Christmas Music during the Traditional Worship Service
Noon - Return Angel Tree gifts to the Angel Tree.

Thursday, December 21
9:30 a.m. - M.O.M.S. Group
7 - 9 p.m. - College Christmas Party at Michael & Sarah Kearney's home



Fourth Week of Advent

Saturday, December 23
No evening Worship Service

Sunday, December 24
9:30 a.m. - No morning worship service at Vine/Lawndale campus
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service in the Sanctuary
11 a.m. - No Chapel worship service
11 a.m. - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
5 p.m. - Candlelight Contemporary Service in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. - Candlelight Contemporary Service at Vine/Lawndale campus
7 p.m. - Candlelight Service with the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary
11 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary

Monday-Tuesday, December 25-26
Church Office Closed



First Week of New Year

Saturday, December 30
No evening Worship Service

Sunday, December 31
9:30 a.m. - No morning worship service at Vine/Lawndale campus
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service in the Sanctuary
11 a.m. - No Chapel worship service
11 a.m. - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, January 1, 2007
Church Office Closed