

August 26, 2010

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Dear Friends,

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
CALENDAR**

August 29

Registration Sunday

Sermon:

Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

September 5

Sermon:

Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

September 12

Sermon:

Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

September 19

Third Grade Bible
Presentation

Sermon:

The Reverend Tasha L.
Blackburn

Each season of the year calls forth different emotions in us but, as we wave goodbye to summer and hello to autumn, I am reminded of what Frederick Buechner once wrote in *Listening To Your Life*:

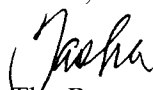
‘This is the day which the Lord has made,’ says the 118th Psalm. ‘Let us rejoice and be glad in it.’ Or weep and be sad in it for that matter. The point is to see it for what it is because it will be gone before you know it. If you waste it, it is your life that you’re wasting. If you look the other way, it may be the moment you’ve been waiting for always that you’re missing.

Perhaps it is because we are leaving behind the long summer days but, as the days shorten, this time of year asks us to take stock again. To ask ourselves what our life is really about. What are our priorities and how do those priorities show up in our day to day choices?

This fall make it a priority in your life to set your priorities. This can be difficult with the demands placed upon us but how much worse is it to have the days pass and be “gone before we know it?” Here at Westminster we are setting our priorities for the coming year. Some of those priorities will be highlighted at Registration Sunday, August 29. You can peruse and participate in these priorities by attending that event following 10am worship and finding a ministry opportunity that fits your gifts.

We will live out our priorities this year in our children’s education, our youth and adult programming, our continued care through our Parish Nurse and deacon ministries. We look forward to the arrival of Rev. Anderson as we seek to strengthen the church’s priorities through his efforts as well. As we take stock of our priorities on a congregational level, spend some time taking stock of your own priorities for, in this in-between season, time is precious. As Buechner continued, “If you were aware of how precious it is, you could hardly live through it. Unless you are aware of how precious it is, you can hardly be said to be living at all.”

Peace,



The Reverend Tasha Blackburn

Saturday at Westminster

August 28

Sermon:
Dr. Lonnie H. Lee

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

Opportunities abound for your participation in the music program at Westminster! Rehearsals for the fall will begin soon for the various musical groups. Find one that suits you and become a part of this vigorous music ministry that enlivens the worship life of our congregation.

Westminster Choir (High School and Adult singers) begins on Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. with the season kick-off of post-choir at Dale Rogers' home.

The **Westminster Choir Retreat** will be held on Saturday, September 11 at Indian Point Presbyterian Church from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. During the course of the afternoon we will have a chance to preview a good deal of the choral music for the coming season and Christmas, and enjoy the lovely country church in its quiet rural setting. Dinner for choir members and spouses will be at The Oaks, one of the grand Victorian houses in Petersburg following the retreat. Details will be in the choir e-newsletter, or call Dale Rogers at 522-4415 for more information.

Choristers (singers in Third through Sixth grades) will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 8 at 4:45 p.m. in the Music Room. This lively choir sings monthly and will present special musical presentations during the Advent Celebration and in the spring.

Church Mice (a musical experience for infants through age 4 and their parents, grandparents or caretakers) will begin its sessions on Saturday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the second floor classroom. Just follow the pathway of cheese to music, learning and fun.

Handbell Guild will meet on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. for an organizational meeting and rehearsal. Bring your calendars so that we might set the rehearsal schedule and Sundays to ring.

Westminster Children's Choir (singers in Kindergarten through Second Grade) will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, October 5 from 4:45 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. This choir of young singers will be preparing music for the Advent Celebration and for Sunday, December 5.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Registration Sunday will be on Sunday, August 29 following the 10 a.m. worship service. Don't miss this opportunity to register your children for Sunday School and sign up for other activities for all ages. Fall Sunday School begins September 5. Also, chickens and rabbits will be available for petting and voting upon for this year's Sunday School offering. Don't miss it!

Kindergartners receive their *Children's Guide to Worship* on Sunday, September 12 during the 10am service. Please meet in the church library at 9:45am to check in.

Third graders receive their Bibles on Sunday, August 19 during 10am worship. Please send in your response card with your child's name on it if you have not already or call the church office if you have a Third Grader this year who did not receive a letter.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Groups begin Sunday, September 12. We will kick off with an Amazing Race. The theme is "In-Famous Springfield." Parents are invited for the kick off dinner at 5:30 and can participate in the race and prizes/dessert at the end too! Find out more about the Fall schedule at Registration Sunday on August 29.

Junior High Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 19. Sign up for Sunday School at the Youth Registration table on the 29th.

Youth ushers will be trained for the coming year on Sunday, September 26 following the 10am service. Please note: your letter included misinformation. You will be trained on that day but not commissioned. If you would like to sign up to serve as a youth usher call the church office, 522-4415, or get your response card in!

WPC FINANCIAL OFFICE CHANGES

Rodney Sturgeon assumed the position of Church Business Administrator August 25. Rod is a graduate of Illinois College (Business Administration and Accounting) and formerly worked for the Dickey-John Corporation of Auburn and Dynitech Systems in Springfield. He also has significant experience with church and charitable organizations, including serving as volunteer executive director and controller of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Former CBA, Bill Smith, has been managing our financial operations on an interim basis since July 29 and will be orienting Rod to the details of his new position in the coming weeks.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month (except December, January, and February). Our next meeting will be September 17. The program will be "The Illinois Watch Factory" by Ann and Farrell Gay. Co-leaders are Mary Gail Romack and Bill Post. Program Chair is Sue Baker. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m.

Moms Group meets the third Sunday of the month (September 19) for brunch after worship. Leave the kids with family and enjoy an hour of adult conversation! If you are a mother of a young child(ren) we would love to have you join us. Currently we are reading *Living With Less So Your Family Can Have More*. You can purchase the book from the church office. For more information about meeting times and special events, call Suzanne Borland at 529-5334 or Rev. Blackburn at 522-4415.

Parents of Pre-Schoolers (POPS) will be coming back to Westminster starting this fall. This is a group for parents of children ages infants to 5 years. It will offer a monthly event that will allow us to meet new families or reconnect with old friends. On Registration Sunday we will have a sign-up sheet as well as more information about our first event, which will be a lunch buffet after 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, September 26 at 11:30 a.m. A main dish will be provided, as well as lemonade, water, and tea. Please bring a dish to share. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Kelly Bassett at 546-7322.

Page-Turners Book Group meets in the library on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is September 22. The group is reading *That Old Cape Magic* by Richard Russo. If you have questions, call Lorraine Pilcher at 787-5043. Anyone interested in discussing books is encouraged to attend the next meeting.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO

...**Jay Dee Shattuck** and his family on the death of his sister, Jolene Masini, August 6.

...**George Hughes** and his family on the death of his sister, Loie Arney Lett, August 9.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

...John and Roz Lewis on the birth of their daughter, Nicolina Johanson, August 7. WPC grandparents are **Tom and Judy Lewis**.

BARBARA DIRKSEN would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards during her recent surgery.

HELPING HANDS SEPTEMBER DINNER

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee under the leadership of Keith Hamilton will be preparing a meal for Helping Hands residents on Friday, September 10, 2010. Anyone interested in helping with this meal should call Keith at 546-5035

VOLUNTEER MISSION DAY

The Peacemaking and Social Justice committee has planned a day for mission on Friday, September 10, 2010 at the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach located at the Hospital Sisters of St. Frances Motherhouse in Riverton. The grounds are beautiful and peaceful, a treat to visit for anyone who participates. You will learn about this locally organized effort that recycles \$6 million a year in surplus medical equipment and supplies each year to hospitals around the world. Most of the products would have ended up in landfills, but instead they are being put to use helping people in need. As a volunteer, you must be able to lift 20 pounds. You will help sort supplies and prepare boxes for shipping during your shift. There are two shifts: 8:30 – noon and 1:00 – 3:30. Lunch will be served at the end of the first shift and before the second one. During lunch one of the Sisters will share stories about the scope and impact of this project. Please call the church office to register at 522-4415 or email cbrown@wpcspi.org. Indicate which shift you prefer and if you will be eating lunch.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

Elizabeth Circle meets on September 13 at 5:30 p.m. We will begin our "Introduction to Horizon's Bible Study on Joshua." The books are available to pick up from the cabinet to the right of the office in the West Narthex. Please check your name off the list when you do so.

Lydia Circle will meet September 21 at 9:30 a.m. for Lesson 7, presented by Carolyn Beatty. Hostess is Bev Orr. Devotions are led by Sharon Turner.

Dorcas Circle will meet September 15 at 9:30 a.m. for a program, "Exercising the Faith: Health Connection," presented by Judy Ridinger, Parish Nurse. Hostess is JoAnn Brown.

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet Friday, September 3 at noon for a program and luncheon. The program will be "Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy" presented by Amber Miller, Kemmerer Village Residential Therapist. **Please make every effort to phone your luncheon**



reservations to the office by Wednesday, September 1. Or you may sign up at your circle meeting. Reservations are necessary so that the Kitchen Chairs may have an accurate count when preparing food for circle members and their guests. Thank you!

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME BAZAAR

Donations are now being accepted for the Fall Bazaar in October. Any garage sale items, except clothing, may be taken to Fairhills Residence from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. any day of the week. For large donations, tax deductible receipts can be issued. The deadline for donations is Monday, September 27. Call 787-2095 if you need more information.

AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS WITHDRAWAL

The church now provides for the automatic withdrawal from a member's checking or savings account to pay contributions to the church. For many members this can be a convenient way of paying their pledge each month by designating an amount to be deducted from a checking or savings account. This amount can be changed at any time. Participation in the program can be discontinued at any time. Contact the Church Business Administrator at 522-4415 to enroll in the program or for more information.

September Meal-a-Month Children's Menu

Peanut Butter, Jelly,

Children's Cereal,

Chunky Mixed Fruit

Optional: Dry Milk or Dry Cereal

Soap, Laundry, or Dish Detergent

(No baby food)

ADOPT A STREET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will be holding the third Adopt-a-Street litter removal on Saturday, August 28th, beginning at 9:00 am. Westminster has adopted Walnut Street between Monroe and Canedy Streets. Time commitment is one hour or less. All ages are welcome and everyone is encouraged to bring work/garden gloves. (Students - This is a great opportunity for service hours!) Anyone wishing to help is encouraged to contact Sue Scaife at suescaife@comcast.net or 787-8496 by Friday, August 27th.

MORE KNITTERS WELCOME!

Westminster's Knitting For a Mission group is currently working on baby blankets, baby sweaters, men's scarves, children's (not baby) hats and mittens for all ages. If you can knit a dish rag, you can knit a baby blanket! Join us the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. (or so) in the Ziegler Library or knit at home. Finished items should be left with Connie in the office. Questions? Please call Sue Cull at 529-2354.

**The Next Reporter Deadline is
September 27**