

## Church Family Stories

Sympathy is extended to:  
Bill Strough and his family on the death of Bill's wife, Jean, on November 1, 2014.  
The family of John H. Ramey who passed away November 2, 2014.  
The family of Irene Dickerson who passed away November 18, 2014.

### Flower Memorials and Gifts for Christmas~due 12/15

Your gift in memory or in honor of loved ones enables the Flower Committee to provide a beautiful setting in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Send the name of the person (s) you are remembering along with your donation (there is no set amount) to the church office, attention Robin Bennett. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The deadline is Monday, December 15, 2014. You may also pay online under "electronic giving" on westminsterakron.com.

### Pledge Cards/ Electronic Giving

2015 pledges continue to be received. Contact the church office at 330-836-2226 if you did not receive a pledge form. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program at westminsterakron.com. It only takes a few minutes to setup a recurring giving plan. Thank you for your past and future support!

### 2015 Giving Envelopes will be mailed

For 2015 you will be receiving your giving envelopes in the mail; one set in January and the second set in late June. We have switched to a cost-saving perforated booklet approach which will contain weekly envelopes as well as two special offering envelopes. Please tear out the envelope, fill it the needed information, seal it, and place a stamp on it to mail or bring it to worship with you. Please keep the church informed of any address changes by contacting Robin Bennett at rbennettsings@gmail.com.

### 2014 CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

Year to date totals October 2014

Budget (yearly).....	448,703
2014 Received (10 months).....(61.7% of budget).....	277,001
YTD budget (10 months).....	373,919

Interim Pastor, The Rev. Conley Zomermaand~pastorz.wpc@gmail.com  
Director of Christian Education, Sheila Svoboda~sheilasvoboda@gmail.com  
Director of Music/Organist, James Mismas~jamismas@gmail.com



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

1250 W Exchange • Akron, Ohio • westminsterakron.com • 330-836-2226

## December 2014 Script

### Hangings of the Greens~Sunday, December 7

Volunteers are needed to help decorate WPC for Christmas after worship on Sunday, December 7. Join friends for a light lunch in Wright-Herberich Hall, followed by the joyful work of decorating the spaces where we worship and fellowship. Strong, agile bodies are particularly needed for some of the tasks. Please contact Kayla at Kayla\_Elefritz@yahoo.com or call her at 330-564-7580 if you need childcare for this event and she would be happy to arrange it!

### Christmas Basket Donations and Delivery~Saturday, December 13

Our annual Christmas food basket delivery will take place on Saturday, December 13. We will meet in Wright-Herberich Hall at 9 AM. Our goal is to purchase, assemble, and deliver 250 baskets to people in need. You and your family can make someone's Christmas a little brighter by delivering and/or contributing money to help fill the baskets. Please consider donating baskets in honor of a loved one. Simply fill out the Christmas Basket insert in the Sunday bulletin, or in the literature racks and place it in the offering plate. Special donation envelopes are also in the pews for your convenience.

### Children's Pageant~Sunday, December 14

Pageant plans are in the works! The children will present the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14 during the worship service. Children are rehearsing during the children's choir time on Sundays. There will also be a full rehearsal on Sunday, November 30 at 4:15 PM (before the Advent Workshop and Potluck at 5 PM) and at 8:45 AM on the day of the Pageant, December 14th. Stacy Franzmann and Sheila Svoboda are our talented directors this year. Please see the article on page 3 about pageant donations.

### Westminster December Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Pageant-Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 AM  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-Wednesday, December 24 at 5 PM  
-- the Rev. Diane Walker, preaching  
First Sunday after Christmas, December 28 at 10:30 AM  
--the Rev. Nancy Kahaian, Eastminster's Interim General Presbytery,  
preaching

## **WPC Adult Education Class--January 11-February 1, 2015**

### **“Evil and Suffering in God’s World”**

**presented by Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby**

**9:30 AM, Sunday mornings**

We all have witnessed--personally or vicariously--natural disasters, violence, and other tragic circumstances that cause pain and suffering. It is natural to ask, “How can a loving, all-powerful God allow this to happen?” Using resources from the Bible and the Christian tradition, the Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby will lead a four-week discussion of the existence of suffering and evil within a world created by a loving and merciful God. We will explore how our Christian faith calls us to respond to the suffering that we see around us in a broken world. The Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby is Associate Pastor of Furnace Street Mission in Akron and Senior Community Chaplain of Tough Work Outreach, which serves people in crisis and those who work with them. Her doctoral research was on addressing compassion fatigue in professionals who work with people who are in crisis. Sandy serves as an on-call chaplain at Akron Children’s Hospital and as Chaplain Associate at Akron General Medical Center. She received a B.A. in history from Bucknell University, an MBA from the Darden School at University of Virginia, and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Methodist Theological in Ohio. Before going to seminary, she worked for BFGoodrich for eighteen years, serving as Vice President of Strategic Planning. She is the author of “Trauma and Healing: The Power of Stories,” in *Alienation and Connection: Suffering in a Global Age*, Lisa R. Withrow, editor (2011).

### **New Officers and Leaders elected to serve at WPC**

The congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church met after worship on October 19 and elected members to the following positions:

**Elders**, Class of 2017: Harloe Cutler, Mary Johnson, Kyle Vuchak, Todd Willis.

**Deacons**, Class of 2016: Cindy Beidler, Bob Leonard, Evie Martindale, Jim Shriner, Dave Stobbs, Jamie Willis, Sophia Louise VanDerSchyf.

**Endowment Trustees**, Class of 2015: Ben Hoffman; Class of 2017: Rae Leonard, Gerry Young.

**Church-Wide Nominating Committee**, at-large members: Ryan Adams, Todd Feemster, Marcia Holcomb, Erin Spring, Bruce Stebner.

Elders and Deacons met for a training session on Nov. 8 and will be ordained and/or installed after the New Year. The list of committee members will also be updated after the first of the year. Remember to pray for our new and continuing servant/leaders at WPC.

### **Acme Receipts for PW**

This fundraiser goes to our mission program - both locally and globally. Please look for the boxes in the Narthex and Wright-Herberich Hall. Thank you again for your continued support.

### **Be a Communion Volunteer**

All former and current Elders and Deacons are invited to serve our congregation by volunteering as a Communion Server. Sign-up sheets for 2015 are on the bulletin board by Wright Herberich Hall. If you wish to receive the sign-up sheets via e-mail, please add your name to the list hanging next to the sign-up sheets. Thank you for your service.

### **Holiday Greetings to you all!**

Another Advent/Christmas season in Akron for me. I suspect it will be my last. However many years I do this interim thing, it still amazes me how much I miss the first time. As we began planning this year’s events, I spent a lot of time saying, “Oh, yes, now I remember.” I look forward to another journey through the seasons with you.

I write ‘season’ because Advent and Christmas are two distinct stops along the church calendar, each quite separate though related in meaning and importance. I’m sure I will say something about their relationship during worship. WPC tends to be a busy gathering place year ‘round. It is particularly so during December. Read each article on each page of this Script to find the place or places where you can grow in your faith in Jesus Christ and commit to new avenues of service this month and in the coming year.

I recently read an article put together by a group of historians about the important personalities in human history. At the top of this list was...Jesus. Whew, what a flurry of debate undoubtedly occurred among those scholars, not all of it positive...or even Christian. However, it served to remind me that we don’t simply gather together to celebrate the birth of a cute, snuggly, plump child born in an unusual setting. That poor child grew up to change the world! Even secular sorts recognize that reality. So I would like to encourage you to make the consideration personal. How has the birth and life of Jesus transformed you? Are you a better person because you are a Christian? Do you seek to be a more devoted disciple of the Savior each day?

Scholars agree that the world is a different place because Jesus was born in Bethlehem a couple millennia ago. The essential question for us is whether Jesus has come alive in us today. Take the time to ponder that thought during this holy season.

Blessings,

Pastor Zomermaand

## GROW

### **Eye-Opener Bible Study~Thursday's at 8 AM in Room 106**

This group may be one of the best kept secrets at Westminster. Meeting every Thursday morning from 8-9 AM is 10-15 members who study a book of the Bible...and we have a good time doing it! However, we'd like to shed the "secret" image and grow. Adding 5-10 new members would be a great start. To learn more about this group, *join us Thursday, December 11 for our quarterly breakfast at the Eye Opener* restaurant in the plaza across from West Point Market. No Bible Study that day, just a fun social gathering. Call Shelley Koutnik at 330-864-2422 if you plan on attending on 12/11 so we can save a seat for you!

### **Book Club**

We meet the first Monday of the month in the library at WPC at 7 PM. All are welcome!

- December 1, *Longbourne* by Jo Baker. Longbourne is set among the servants in the world of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, so come enjoy a Potluck dinner and viewing of the 2005 movie, *Pride and Prejudice*. All are invited, we would love to see you!
- January 5 - *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, (led by Linsy Biege)
- Feb 2 - *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, (led by Kristy Yates)

## SERVE

### **Outreach**

Save the dates for our Holiday Outreach Activities:

- Christmas Basket delivery starting at 9:00 AM in WHH on Saturday, December 13. See separate article on page 1 to make a Christmas Basket donation.
- The Giving Tree will be in the Sanctuary throughout Advent to collect hats, scarves, and gloves for children at ACCESS. Please encourage children to participate and help keep children in the local community warm this year.

### **Good Neighbors**

The demand for food at Good Neighbors remains high. Don't forget to help during the holidays by bringing food to worship on December 7 and January 4. They also need paper and plastic grocery bags. Place them in the box marked Good Neighbors in the coatroom.

### **Sewing Group donation box in coatroom**

The group is in need of adult size towels to make bibs for local nursing homes.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

**Sundays, 9:30-10:15 AM**

### **Advent Schedule:**

- ALL GRADES WILL MEET TOGETHER DURING ADVENT IN ROOM 202.
- Grades 6-12 will meet in the Student Center.
- Adults will meet in Room 106 starting November 30 to join Pastor Zomermaand for an adult focus on Advent and "Decluttering for Christmas." Join us to discuss this spiritual but hectic time of the year. Pick up a copy of the advent calendar and join us.
- Preschoolers-Kindergartners Child Care: During 10:30 Worship, after the Doxology in worship, 3 year-olds through Kindergartners may go to Room 104 for supervised, age-appropriate activities. Please pick them up after worship.
- Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, during the second half of worship, all children in Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to attend rehearsal for children's choir. Children will be dismissed to Room 207 in the Education Wing for rehearsal after the Doxology in worship (approximately 10:50 AM) and can be picked up after worship.

### **Pageant Donations for Sunday, December 14**

On Sunday, December 14, as part of the pageant, we will bring unwrapped gifts forward to the altar. These gifts will be delivered that day to Children Services to be put in the Holiday Room Program. These gifts are then selected by foster parents and grandparents for children in their custody. Some items of greatest need include: **For tweens & teens:** personal care products, body pillows and pillow cases, hand held games, brightly colored slippers, trendy purses, wallets and jewelry. **For school age children:** dolls (all ethnicities), large cars and trucks, craft kits, action figures, puzzles and activity books. **For infants & toddlers:** baby dolls, baby blocks, new stuffed animals, educational toys, cloth or board books and large sized cars and trucks. *Thank you for helping to instill the joy of giving in your children and the joy of Christmas to families in need.*

There will be NO Sunday School on December 28 or January 4, 2015.

Rejoin your education class on Sunday, January 11, 2015.

### **Adult Fellowship on Sunday, December 21**

Come celebrate the Christmas season while we share food, drink, and cheer with your Westminster friends in a casual atmosphere. Join us at the Grau's home, 172 Kenilworth Dr. on Sunday, December 21, 7 PM-9 PM.

### **Childcare Request Procedures**

When childcare is needed for your meeting or event please contact Kayla Elefritz, Childcare Director, either via email at Kayla\_Elefritz@yahoo.com or on her NEW PHONE NUMBER!!! 330-564-7580.

### **Well-Made Cinnamon Rolls**

The Third Annual Well-Made Bake Sale: WPC's youth group members want to make your holiday preparations a little bit easier. We will be making homemade cinnamon rolls on December 14. Students will be taking orders in Wright Herberich Hall following worship on December 7 and 14 or contact the church office at 330-836-2226 to place an order.

### **Lock 3 Ice Skating and Hot Chocolate!**

On Sunday, January 4 from 3-5 PM families of Westminster will be meeting at Lock 3 to ice skate. Hot chocolate included! Hold the date and plan on joining us for this fun event!

### **Befrienders**

Would you like a friendly visitor or do you know of anyone who would like one? Call Margie Brideweser, 330-645-0813 or Anna Marie Wilton, 330-836-5463.

### **Snow Removal-Seasonal paid help needed**

Help Wanted--early risers looking for a Sunday morning workout, we need you! This is a seasonal, paid, very part-time position to remove snow on sidewalks at the church. Interested persons please contact Brad Hall at 330-936-9344.

### **Five at Five Concert Series -- Season Sixteen, remaining concerts**

February 1, 2015	Akron Baroque: Super Bowl Baroque!
April 12, 2015	James Mismas, <i>organ</i> , and friends celebrate his 50th year as a church musician!
May 10, 2015	Opera/Broadway Gala

Mark your calendars for this unique season of musical concerts -- something that truly makes WPC unique. Children are always welcome and childcare is available. These events are very popular, come early for a good seat. Concerts are from 5-6 PM. Doors open at 4 PM.

### **COME**

### **Men's Group**

The Westminster Men's Club will meet on Monday, December 8 at 11:30 AM at the Olive Garden on West Market Street. All men are welcome to this time of fellowship. For more information call either Joe Henninger (330-867-5938) or Jon Daugherty (330-666-5645).

### **Third Sunday Dinners**

The next dates for Third Sunday Dinner will be December 21 and January 18. As the weather cools come warm your heart, souls, and stomach with fellowship and a warm meal. We look forward to everyone joining us, please invite a neighbor, friend, or someone in need.

### **ENCOUNTER**

### **Presbyterian Women**

Calling all WPC ladies, Presbyterian Women is for you! PW Circles meet monthly September-May (and in-between on occasion) for fellowship and Bible Study.

This year's study is *Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*.

-Discussion Circle meets 1st Tuesdays at 10 AM contact Polly Fisher (330-664-1022)

-Martha Circle meets 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 PM contact Cathy Melver (330-873-1156)

-Mary Circle meets irregularly contact Denise Howell (330-780-6763)

-Metanoia Circle meets 4th Thursdays at 1 PM contact Mary Lou Griffiths (330-688-7196)

-Evening Circle meets 3rd Mondays at 7:30 PM contact Ginny Melver (330-374-1157)

-Sewing Circle meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 PM contact Peggy Messaros (330-666-9086)

**SAVE THE DATES: Saturday, December 6, from 1 PM-3 PM *Recharging your Soul*** – A holiday tea hosted by the Evening Circle with vocalist Heather Parr who

received her doctorate in voice from OSU and maintains a private voice studio. She is a also part of Hospitality Singers and preforms as a soloist. Also save:

Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 10 AM-2 PM & Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10 AM-2 PM

### **Monday Supper Club~January 26, 2015**

All are welcome to join us in Wright-Herberich Hall at 6 PM. Bring a casserole, vegetable, salad, or dessert to share and your own place setting. Beverages are provided. Our program will be presented by Suzanne Winland of the Infinite Legacy Project here at WPC. To make a reservation, call Pat and Sharlene Santelli at 330-825-7583.