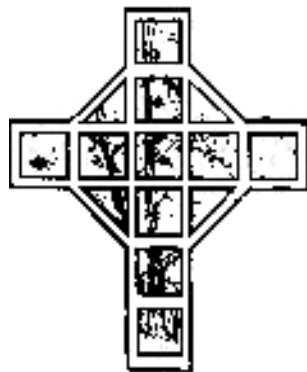


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The Triangle

December 20th, 2011

Worship Schedule

A vesper service will be held at 7:00pm in the chapel the evenings of December 20, 21, 22 and 23 (Tuesday through Friday).

These short services will be a time of music, prayer and reflection.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:30, 8:00 and 11:00pm on Saturday, December 24th.

Childcare will be available at the 5:30pm service only.

The 11:00pm service will include communion.

Worship will be at 10:00am on Christmas Sunday, December 25th.

Worship will be at 10:00am on New Year's Sunday, January 1st, 2012

We will return to our schedule of worship at 9:00 and 11:15am with Sunday School at 9:45 on Sunday, January 8th, 2012.

PASTORS' CORNER
The Rev. Dr. David Kegley

When I lived in Roswell, New Mexico, our house was located in a flight pattern, or wind condition, that often took hot air balloons directly over our back yard. It was especially

wonderful when the city had its annual balloon festival, but a hot air balloon could come over on just about any random day. I've always been fascinated by those things that just hang in the air as though by magic. Of course it's not by magic. The hot air is lighter than the air that surrounds the balloon and so it rises and floats. The balloon is doing work, moving up and through the air, yet utilizing simple elements of the natural world to function so elegantly.

When I read Matthew 11:28-30 I think of hot air balloons.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I picture a balloon suspended in the air as the human soul working. In this way we can allow the Spirit to supply the necessary energy and the needed buoyancy to do what is required of us. The text also asserts that Christ is our instructor and that he will not require more of us than we are able to deliver.

Repeatedly the word "rest" is used in the text; a word that emphasizes trust, a relaxing into the trustworthiness of God. The hot air balloon that is our soul allows for the Spirit's energy in an elegant and simple way. There are no moving parts, just the warmth of Spirit doing what Spirit does: lifting us to a higher level of life and of love in the trust of God's care.

My burdens seem heavier during this season and too much stuff gets crammed into the days. The themes of Advent seem to clash with our culture's drive to buy and sell. But there is a power at work that cannot be thwarted. To access this power, this grace, requires no money, no perfection, but only reliance on Christ.

This season, the balloon in my imagination is decorated with Christmas lights and is even more illumined than usual. It reminds me to relax into Christ's care. It reminds me that I can do exactly what Christ teaches me to do and without my normal restlessness. This image, in the Spirit of Christ, will carry me. The balloon is aloft and with beauty.

Peace, David

Calendar for This Week and Next

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00pm Vesper service (chapel)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30pm Christmas Eve candlelight service (childcare provided)

8:00pm Christmas Eve candlelight service

11:00pm Christmas Eve candlelight communion service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00am Worship Christmas Day

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Holiday – church office closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:30am Men's Breakfast @ I-HOP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00am Bible Study (room 9/10)

6:30pm Naomi Circle (chapel)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

12 noon Triangle articles due

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00am Worship New Year's Day

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Holiday – church office closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:30am Men's Breakfast @ I-HOP

10:30am Presbyterian Women (PW) Board (library)

11:00am PW Lap Project

7:00pm Bell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

9:30am Triangle folding (library)

10:00am Bible Study (room 12)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

6:00pm Praise Team

7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

WELCOME TO SIX NEW CONFIRMANDS

Following many weeks of study, on December 4th six students in Pastor Christine Long's Confirmation Class were received into church membership. You can look forward to their celebration of worship later in January. Those newest members are:

Turner Akin, son of Carl and Susan Harris

Spencer Johnson, son of Cris and Julie Johnson

Alex Kovacs, son of Greg and Debbie

Donovan Long, son of Jim and Christine Long

Laurel Mack-Wilson, daughter of Donna Mack and Steve Wilson

Kayla Sadlier, daughter of Phil and Barbara Sadlier

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Advent Craft Sunday was a success. Both children and adults had nine craft stations to choose from – everything from making picture frames to Yule log candle holders (which I hope will grace many tables this Christmas). Twenty-five Yule logs were made, and every single log was used! The best news, Lit Dudley, who sawed off the log bottoms, still has all his fingers upon completion of the task. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a craft this year. I've already started collecting ideas for next year which I hope will include a youth-sponsored breakfast fundraiser.

How do you express the joy of Christmas? How do you celebrate Jesus' birthday? Well, our K-5th grade Sunday school children did just that on Sunday, December 11th at our annual Children's Christmas program entitled the "ABC's of Christmas." Thank you to all the parents who brought your kiddos to the Saturday rehearsal and helped with the production.

This past month marked my one-year anniversary at Westminster. Time flies when you're having fun! I feel so blessed to be part of a wonderful staff and working for and being a part of an accepting and loving congregation. Thank you for all the support you all have offered me this past year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 9th-12th graders have studied Hinduism, Judaism, and Buddhism so far. They have visited Sanatan Dharma Temple & Cultural Center, Temple Beth Hatfiloh and will go to Olympia Zen Center on January 8th. We wrap up the *Which Way to God* curriculum in February with a trip to Idris Mosque in Seattle. For the remainder of the year there will be mini-lessons on Catholicism, Quakerism, Unitarianism, and Mormonism. If you a background in any of these you would like to share with the youth, please contact me.

6th-8th are busy this year. When I peak into their Sunday school room I usually see six or more youth. What a delight! Our middle school teachers are doing a fabulous job of keeping them engaged and teaching the word of God.

K-5th grade are learning all about relationships: Adam and Eve to Esther and Mordecai. Their rooms are full of evidence of their learning. Come take a peak sometime. We say a sad goodbye to Marty Braun who has been a faithful Sunday school teacher here at Westminster. To complete our 3rd-5th grade teaching team, I am looking for one more teacher. The teaching commitment is roughly once a month. Please prayerfully consider this calling.

Rachelle Dudley, Director of Christian Education



Merry Christmas from the Youth Group!

(From left: Spencer Johnson, Charlotte Sadlier, Matt Burkhart, Sara Bryan, Laurel Mack-Wilson, Zach Haring, Colin Fanning, Lara Crutsinger-Perry, Alex Kovacs, Turner Akin, Gilly Burkhart, Donovan Long, Tanner Jenkins, Bridget Long, Kayla Sadlier, Megan Sadlier)

My special thanks to Linda Bell, Sara Bryan, Cris Johnson and James Mobley for their help with the lock-in. Youth Ministry Coordinator, Lara Crutsinger-Perry

PROJECTION SYSTEM

Several months ago we received a generous commitment of \$30,000 for a new projection system. Additional contributions have now brought that special project fund up to a total of \$40,250.00. That amount will cover approximately 80% of the cost of the system.

As mentioned in the October 18th edition of The Triangle article, we are encountering numerous occasions when we need to project high-quality images for gatherings in the sanctuary. We also have creative staff members who would be able to add new dimensions to their ministry if they had this resource.

We are now so close to having the necessary money, it is probable that the goal of having the projection system become a reality can be accomplished. Anyone who wishes to help close the final monetary gap (approximately \$10,000) in this off-budget project is encouraged to contribute now. Please clearly indicate "Projector Fund" on any contributions you make. Thank you for your support.

Terry Shaw and Marv Ryser, for the Worship & Music Department

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS . . .

Sunday morning adult education opportunities beginning January 8th, 2012

You will find blue brochures in the literature racks with more information about these classes as well as offerings for Tuesday Night Together that begins in February.

1. **KERYGMA** – “The Gospel of Mark: *Jesus- Powerful, Courageous, Trusting*”
Bible study in room 7 Facilitator: *Kevin Krueger* (kdkrueger@comcast.net or 754-1318)
This eight-session class meets January 8th through February 26th.

2. “Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week”

Bible study in room 7

Facilitator: *Kevin Krueger* (kdkrueger@comcast.net or 754-1318)

This five-week study (March 4 through April 1, 2012) deals specifically with the last week of Jesus’ life.

3. **THE UPPER ROOM** Bible study in room 12

Facilitator: *Elsa McLain* and Friends (357-9674 or tmclain@gmail.com)

The study books are available for \$4. This PCUSA Bible study, “The Present Word” focuses on how the Bible speaks to our contemporary lives in today’s world.

4. **PRACTICAL STUDY**

“An Altar in the World: *A Geography of Faith*” by Barbara Brown Taylor

Meets in room 11 Facilitator: *Pastor Christine Long* (ctlong@wpcoly.org)

Author reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see – from simple practices such as walking, working and prayer. Please notify Christine by December 30th. Books may be purchased at most book stores or Amazon for about \$12.50.

REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Following is the financial report as of the end of November 2011.

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Income	\$35,077.91	\$453,098.05
Expenses	<u>\$47,622.49</u>	<u>\$453,225.85</u>
Totals	-\$12,544.58	-\$ 127.80

REPORT FROM YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As of Tuesday, December 20, we have received **141 pledges**
for a total of **\$415,249.00**
toward a budget **goal of \$480,000.00.**

If you have not been able to turn in your pledge, they may be mailed to the church office or placed in the labeled box in the church narthex.

THANKS TO THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

I want to thank everyone that rang the bell during this Christmas season. This mission helps the Salvation Army provide emergency assistance with rent, utility bills, clothing, food and other basic human needs. Last year we helped the Salvation Army raise \$200,000 during the Christmas 2010 season.

We were able to fill fourteen of the fifteen slots needed. I do want to personally thank everyone that rang the bell this year: Tom and Elsa McLain, Caren Rose, Susan Girard (x2), Don Johnson and helper, Connie Robinson and Linda Bell, Paul Taylor, Dina Dixon, Jim and Phyllis Ryan, Francis and Emily Elstrott, Bill Culliton, Kevin Gastreich, Carol Vannerson, and Ron, Elizabeth and Nicholas Stoker. This mission would not be possible without your help!

Debra Haynie, for the Mission & Ministry Department

POPULAR FOOD BANK ITEMS

Westminster receives donations for the Thurston County Food Bank the first Sunday of each month. Checks may be written to Westminster with a food bank notation on the check. The Food Bank also appreciates paper grocery bags that are in good shape. Following is a list of food bank items listed in order of preference.

Canned Protein: Spam, Seafood, Corned Beef Hash, Ravioli & Ham, Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Peanut Butter, Chicken, Roast Beef, Tuna

Vegetables: Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Carrots

Soups/Broths/Tomato Products: Vegetable, Beef and Chicken Soups, Tomato Sauce, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Broth, Tomato Soup

Fruit: Pineapple, Peaches, Apricots, Pears, Cranberries, Applesauce

Unusual, but Popular: Ground Coffee (not decaf), Oil (olive, canola & vegetable), Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Baby Food

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

December 11 – 194 (55 at 9:00am)

December 18 – 220 (67 at 9:00am)



GREETERS FOR DECEMBER *Dave and Lillian Clark*

Pastor: **David Kegley**, dkegley@wpcoly.org

Associate Pastor: **Christine Long**, ctlong@wpcoly.org

Director of Music Ministries: **Terry Shaw**
wpcmusic@msn.com

Director of Christian Education: **Rachelle Dudley**
rdudley@wpcoly.org

Youth Ministry Coordinator: **Lara Crutsinger-Perry**
LaraCP@wpcoly.org

Sunshine Preschool Director: **Dinali Dhammapala**
ilanid7@yahoo.com

Bell Choir Director: **Leah Wilson**
Lwilson372@aol.com

THE TRIANGLE is published the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The next article deadline is Thursday, December 29th before noon.

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