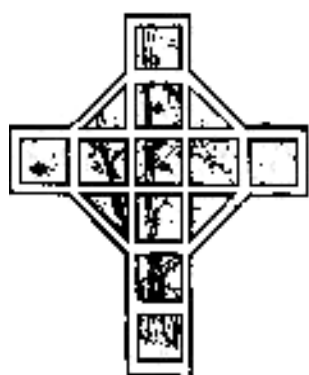


Westminster Presbyterian Church
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The Triangle

December 6th, 2011

WORSHIP DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Join us this Sunday, December 11, for the **Children's Christmas Program**.
It will be at 9:45am in the sanctuary.

You are invited to **evening vespers**, a short reflective advent service at
7:00pm in the chapel Tuesday, December 20; Wednesday, December 21;
Thursday, December 22 and Friday, December 23.

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 5:30, 8:00 and
11:00pm Saturday, December 24th. Childcare is available
at the 5:30 service and communion will be served at the
11:00pm service.



Worship will be at 10:00am on **Christmas Day** and **New Year's Day**.

PASTORS' CORNER
The Rev. Christine T. Long

Recently I was having a conversation with a repair person. Our chat took an interesting turn when the person asked what I did for a living. When I said I was a pastor in a Presbyterian church I was asked many more questions about the role of women in ministry and why I chose to be a Presbyterian ...instead of something else...particularly given my Catholic roots. Wow...what an interesting conversation! This person is from a vastly different Christian tradition than my own, yet, what an opportunity to share my faith and lend some understanding of Presbyterian Christians.

The Lordship of Christ is the most singular unifying factor of all Christians. From there, we are quite diverse in our understanding and practice of various doctrines like the sacraments, the Trinity, interpretation of Scripture and so on. One of the distinctive elements of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that is important to me is the concept of the priesthood of all believers. This doctrine upholds the idea that it is the right and responsibility of all followers of Christ to preach and proclaim Christian faith and that by the grace of Christ each believer has direct access to God (a priest or clergyperson does not have to mediate for them.)

The language for this doctrine comes from Bible verses like 1 Peter 4:9, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." As Presbyterians we understand that God is equally available and accessible to all. We empower and encourage every Christian to understand their potential to minister for God in their lives.

This doctrine does not leave out the need for order, authority or discipline within congregations and higher governing bodies of the church. Our denomination requires that we have ordered ministries that maintain and nurture the church. The ordered ministries are teaching elder (pastors), ruling elders (elders), and deacons. The PCUSA's Book of Order describes these ministries in this way, "Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church." (G-2.0102)

Deacons are elected to carry out the ministry of compassion, witness, and service in the spirit of Christ. Ruling Elders are elected to share in the discernment of God's Spirit and to govern God's people by helping the church to "discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life." (G-2.0301) Deacons and Ruling Elders serve three year terms and once ordained in the PCUSA to their ordered ministry they remain ordained to that ministry so long as they are members of a PCUSA congregation.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you discern and grow in your faith journey as a Presbyterian Christian. You never know when someone is going to ask you about your faith, your church or your denomination! But, of course, one of the most important ways we can articulate and express the Christian faith is to simply love with the love and grace of Christ. Remember to pray for your elected leaders.

Peace, *Christine*

Calendar for This Week and Next

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:15am Book Group (library)
Youth Lock-in

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00am Hanging of the Greens
12:30pm Christmas program rehearsal
4:00pm Golden Delicious Christmas
potluck (fellowship hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00am Worship
9:45am Children's Christmas
program (sanctuary)
11:15am Worship
12:30pm Youth Group

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

1:00pm Grief Support Group (lib)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:30am Men's Breakfast @ I-HOP
1:00pm Horizon Bible Study (lib)
7:00pm Bell Choir rehearsal
7:00pm Chancel Choir (chapel)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00am Bible Study (room 12)
6:00pm Session (at Bob Dixon's)
6:30pm Stephen Ministry (library)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:30am "Sew Happy" Quilters
12 noon Triangle articles due
1:00pm Dorcas Circle

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00am Worship
10:00am Congregational meeting for
the purpose of electing
church officers
11:15am Worship
12:30pm Youth Group
12:45pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30am Men's Breakfast @ I-HOP
9:30am Elizabeth Circle
11:00am Mary-Martha Circle
7:00pm Vesper service (chapel)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:30am Triangle folding (library)
10:00am Bible Study (room 12)
7:00pm Vesper service (chapel)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00pm Vesper service (chapel)
7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! It is with joy we welcome the following new members to our congregation. To learn more about these newest members, you are encouraged to read the short bios posted in the church narthex.

Bill and Dorothy Culliton, 5010 Sunset Dr NW, Olympia 98502, (253) 686-6486

Chip Deitrich, 12116 Dream Street SW, Olympia 98512, 456-3233 – Chip attends church with his wife Debra and daughter Alexis.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR PNO HELPERS!

Our recent Parent's Night Out was a HUGE success with about thirty children attending and enjoying wonderful crafts, games, dinner and a movie in the chapel. PNO is a new addition to Westminster's programs and has been well received by church members and the community as a whole. We couldn't accomplish this amazing night without the help of so many volunteers.

A special "Thank You!" to the crew who helped at our November 18th evening.

- ♦ Sue Harris, first and foremost, for her organization and leadership.
- ♦ A big thanks to Marti Braun, Carol and Ron Stoker, Jennifer Laine, Luci Kegley, Rachelle and Lit Dudley, Paul and Julie Taylor, and Carl Harris.
- ♦ Our Youth were an integral part of the night leading games and crafts and generally having fun with the kids! Thanks to Matt Burkhart, Scott Vannerson, Zach Haring and Charlotte Sadler. Thanks also to Turner Akin, Forrest Dudley and Trevor Shaw who pitched in!

Mission & Fellowship's Outreach Committee is thrilled with the response we've had to PNO so far and we'd love to continue hosting this event every couple of months. That means we need YOU to help us out! We'd love to include all members of all ages in the fun - volunteering to help check children in and out, help with a craft or dinner etc. It's a great night and we'd love to have it a multi-generational experience.

Look for information about our next event coming in 2012 and thanks again to everyone who helped make it a huge success!

Susan Harris, for Outreach Committee (Mission & Fellowship Department)

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE ADVENT BANNERS

A Message from Marj

The new Advent mini banners are highlighted by the Christmas Rose, and are my gift to Westminster. You can look up the legend of the Christmas Rose on Google for background information. After many years of service on the Chancel Committee, I am retiring from this role in January, and would like to give my heartfelt thanks all those who have helped me with design ideas, sewing, and time as we have created Liturgical decor for our church over the years.

You are invited to help with
Hanging of the Greens
this Saturday, December 10th at 9:00 am.



Gratefully, *Marj Marion*

MUSIC NOTES

The Olympia Choral Society (OCS):

Directed by WPC's Terry Shaw, the OCS will be performing its annual Christmas Benefit Concert, "A World of Christmas," on Friday & Saturday, December 9 and 10 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 11 at 2:30pm. Admission is FREE! You are advised to arrive early – doors open thirty minutes prior to each performance. Several Westminster members are in OCS: *Jim Long, Jennifer Shaw, Sara Bryan, Glenn and Coleen Yeary and Rochelle LaRose.*

Christmas at Westminster is coming!

Christmas Eve services this year will feature the Chancel Choir and orchestra singing a new cantata titled, "Tapestry of Light," by Joseph Martin. This piece of music is taken from traditional Irish folks melodies and traditional Christmas carol lyrics and beautifully woven together to bring the message of the birth of Jesus to us. The Chancel Choir will be joined by our resident orchestra made up of the *Sears' family, Christine and Bridget Long* and others.

Terry Shaw, Director of Music Ministries

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Good News of Great Joy!

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings we participate in each year through General Assembly. The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which helps students develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. This offering will be collected at Westminster on December 18th.

Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need. This offering is our opportunity to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

Help us support these students and faithful servants in their hour of great promise and hour of great need. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope in the pew racks, and then please give generously on December 18th.

Kathy Marshall, for the Mission & Fellowship Department

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN TO HOST EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER IN FEBRUARY

There will be room at the Inn when our church hosts the Emergency Overflow Shelter for Homeless Women February 3-16, 2012! We partner with Interfaith Works and many area churches to provide this vital service to women who have no place to spend the night. We provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment where they can relax over a snack, take a shower and get some sleep before venturing back into the cold the next morning.

Providing this shelter takes the help of many members and friends from our congregation. Please take some time to prayerfully consider how you can help this year. There are many different ways to help.

Hosts: Of course the most vital role is to be a host. We need 2 hosts for each night we have the shelter and at least one host each night needs to be female. We provide beds in room 7 which serves as the hosts' room and HQ of the shelter.

Greeters: We also need greeters, 2 or more each night for a few hours. Greeters come for the opening of the shelter at 7:00pm and stay until everyone has settled in – usually about 9:00-10:00pm. Greeters help provide a welcoming atmosphere and also act as shower monitors if any of the guests want to use the showers.

Extra Volunteers: Finally, we need volunteers to do **laundry** every few days, and people to donate **snack foods**, soap, shampoo, coffee and hot chocolate. A crew of people to help move the shelter supplies to the next host church (United Churches of Olympia) on the morning of February 17 is also required.

You can sign up to help with one of these needs after worship on December 11 and 18 or call / email Paul Taylor 438-0173 / prtjat@yahoo.com or Elsa McLain at 357-9674.

Paul Taylor, for Mission & Fellowship

CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT – JUNE 1 – 3, 2012

It is time to begin planning for the Church Family Retreat, scheduled for June 1 – 3, 2012. Are you ready for adventure, fun and fellowship in our own backyard? Yes – this year's retreat will be held right here at home, with great opportunity to enjoy our beautiful church facility and surrounding area. We will begin Friday night, play, worship, eat, and learn together all weekend, and end with a shared worship service Sunday morning.

Would you like to help plan this year's retreat? Please contact Kathy Marshall at 493-2487 or Sue Harris at 791-2034 and let us know of your interest in working on this special event. Our planning team will begin meeting after the holidays.

Kathy Marshall, for Mission & Fellowship

FOR AND ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS . . .

A memorial **service for Arvid Nordman** will be held on Saturday, December 17, at 2:00pm at the Chapel by the Sea in Moclips, Washington. Arvid, husband of Virginia Nordman and father of Lisa Midles and Lorna Linden, passed away on September 20, 2011.

Thanks to all the generous people who donated coats to our **coat drive**. We delivered sixty-seven coats to the Olympia Union Gospel Mission!

Dorris Hensel, for Westminster's Presbyterian Women

More than 110 individuals and families now receive their Triangle by email. If you would like to **receive The Triangle by email**, please email the church office (office@wpcoly.org) and let us know. You are always welcome to return to the mailed version.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the 2011 **Operation Christmas Child** program! With your generous help the church donated seventy-two shoeboxes packed with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for disadvantaged children around the globe. Every box means that a child and their family will experience the joy of the Gospel. Thank you for your generous efforts to help the world's children!

Karen and Jennifer Crooks, OCC Coordinators

Westminster's **Book Group** will meet Friday, December 9, at 9:15 in the church library. We are reading *CATCH 22*, by Joseph Heller, as it is the 50th anniversary of its publication. Anyone is welcome to attend, whether you have read the book or not. *Suzanne Fell, ssfell@comcast.net, 459-2404*

REPORT FROM YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

As of Tuesday, December 6, we have received **134 pledges**
for a total of **\$408,689.00**
toward a budget **goal of \$480,000.00**.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who have responded.

If your 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.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

November 20 - 197 (53 at 9:00am)

November 27 - 186 (46 at 9:00am)

December 4 - 237 (75 at 9:00am)



GREETERS FOR DECEMBER:

Dave and Lillian Clark (Joan Drittenbas)

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 15th before noon.

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