

The Chimes

Westminster
Presbyterian
Church

www.westminsterspmo.com

December 20, 2011

Volume 59

Number 26

1551 East Portland

Rev. Ellen G. Brantley, Pastor

(417) 866-2711

*Please make plans to join us at
Westminster Presbyterian Church
As we celebrate the birth of Jesus*

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve we will gather
for Communion during our special Candlelight service.



On Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25, there will be no Sunday school but please come for worship at 10:30 a.m. and wear your jeans, your new Christmas sweater, or your flannel pajamas and fuzzy slippers. We will sing Christmas carols and share our favorite Christmas memories.



Support those feeling blue this Christmas

Our beloved cat, Goldie, died yesterday. He was the first pet I ever lost, aside from goldfish and turtles, and it hit me a lot harder than I ever imagined.

This experience - along with visiting people in the hospital and conversations with those who are in serious financial distress - has reminded me why I continue to conduct a "Blue Christmas" service every year. I don't remember ever having more than 20 people in attendance at these services (even when we shared it with Southminster), and I have had fleeting moments when I get discouraged and wonder if it's "worth it." After all, none of us needs "one more thing" to do during this time of year. But when I see how much it means to those who attend, I realize it is probably the **most** worthwhile thing I do during the holidays.

It is too easy to get caught up in the baking and shopping and celebrations and forget about all the people who have experienced loss. The pain and emptiness of loss - the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, the loss of health, the loss of a job, the loss of financial security, even the loss of a pet - is often only magnified by all the merry-making around us.

So I invite you to join us for **Blue Christmas at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 21**, in the prayer center (last room on the right, upstairs). If you're worried about crying through the whole thing, I understand. But you certainly won't be alone. And I always say, if you can't cry in church, where can you? You'll have the love of your church family surrounding you.

Finally, if you aren't feeling the pain of loss right now, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for those who are. Even better, join us for the service and be in prayer among us.

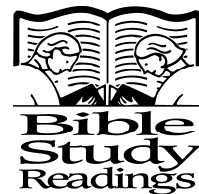
"Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

Hope and peace,

Ellen

Bible Study Readings for December

Dec. 19 Bible Study for Sunday, Dec. 25
Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20; Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98
Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



December 26 NO BIBLE STUDY



Blue Christmas Prayer Service

For those who suffered loss,
Who are grieving,
Who are suffering,
Who are feeling hopeless,
Who are needing comfort...

Those for whom the holidays are not so merry and bright.

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.
In the Prayer Center (last room on the right, upstairs)

Come and be reminded that God promised "Light for those who sat in darkness."



Community Blood Center of the Ozarks Miracle of Giving Blood Drive

December 12-31, 2011

Reser Donor Center
2230 S. Glenstone
Monday and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday thru Thursday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Campbell Donor Center
220 W. Plainview
Monday and Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday thru Thursday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Blood pressure checks



The Health Ministry of Westminster will offer free blood pressure screenings after worship Sunday, January 1, 2012, in the library. Take advantage of this important service.

Help us fill our mitten tree



Westminster will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves

for children at Campbell Elementary. If you wish to donate, please bring your items and place them on the mitten tree in the Narthex.

The Christmas Heart

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2,000 years ... underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

—George Matthew Adams

Good News of Great Joy 2011 Christmas Joy Offering



A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This special offering provides financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families as well as enabling deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions -which comprises a broad range of programs -the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers in their hour of greatest need by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances.

Those also receiving benefits from the enduring legacy of the Christmas Joy Offering, are today's racial ethnic Presbyterian students who may receive much needed scholarship assistance while their schools may get help with basic operating costs.

Westminster's Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on **Sunday, December 18**. Your generous gifts will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

Encounter Group

WHAT: Potluck Christmas party

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19th

WHERE: Westminster Choir Room

Bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.

If you wish to contribute to the purchase of animals through the Heifer Project, please bring \$2.

Fun surprises are planned. Don't miss it!



COMMITTEE MEETINGS & CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 18

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.
Worship/Choir Cantata, 10:30 a.m.
Brunch after worship in the Narthex
Caroling/Afterglow, 4:00 p.m.
AA, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 19

Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Shawl, 12:30 p.m.
Session, 5:30 p.m.
Encounter Group, 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20

Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Blue Christmas Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 22

Woodcarvers/Whittlers, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 24-Christmas Eve

Communion, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25-Christmas Day

NO Sunday School
Casual worship service, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27

Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 28

Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 29

Woodcarvers/Whittlers, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2012-New Year's Day

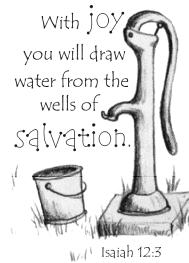
NO Sunday School
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Blood pressure checks in the Library
AA, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 2

OFFICE CLOSED

WELL OF LIFE REPORT

From Mary Phillips, Mission & Evangelism



Westminster and the eight other member churches served the following numbers for the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011:

Families Served 2,268

People Served 4,804

Estimated Value of food \$34,385

Rent and Utilities \$10,814

ALL of the money contributed by the member churches goes for food (80%) or rent/ utilities (20%). None goes for the move to our new facility at 418 S Kimbrough. A separate account has been set up for donations for the remodeling and move. The account has \$2000 as of 11/17. St Agnes has set aside \$20,000 for this purpose and the Well of Life will need to put in about \$10,000. Father Mike reported 11/17 that the building is almost ready for remodeling to start.

“Christmas For Those Alone” dinner will be served at First & Calvary 12/25 11:30-2:30.

Please remember if you are a member of Westminster, you don't need to live within the Center City to come to the Food Pantry for food. It's available to you four times a year with 30 days between visits.

Volunteers are needed especially on the interview desks using a computer to enter information on several Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 869-2865 to help.



PDO News

"Parents' Day Out & Preschool"

From Lisa Hemsworth,
PDO Director

You Are Invited!

It doesn't seem possible... it is almost Christmas!

So, the PDO Christmas Program is right around the corner!

This year's production is called "The Gingerbread Man" and will feature the story, along with songs and poems by each class. It will be held on Wednesday, December 21, at 11:00 am in the gym (entry will be through the exterior gym doors). Refreshments will follow. We would love to have you attend!

Merry Christmas to ALL!



Sympathy to

Fairelyn Bayless and family, whose grandmother passed away December 10

Health Concerns

Ruth Doelling, St. John's

Garrison Taylor, pins removed in his leg

Macy Jett, recovering at home

Joann, Stuart Brantley's sister, dialysis in hospital

Kylie, friend of Jessica Parrish, eye surgery

Bryant Donaldson, 17 year old friend of Chris Elswick, stroke

Helen Gurnon, Pastor Ellen's mother, on hospice care

Virgie Hankins' 2 year old great granddaughter anticipating eye surgery

Jerry, friend of Jamie Evans, heart attack

Alex, Rosemary Kammerer's grandson, recovering from hand surgery

Mike, Charles Parrish's brother-in-law, cancer

Julie Kays, friend of Jean Sellars, cancer

Carla Shelton, friend of Davina Sappington, ovarian cancer

Shawn, a 36 year old man with intestinal cancer

Susan, friend of Fairelyn Bayless, husband diagnosed with cancer

Camden Schreckenghaust, friend of Jean Sellars, recent surgery

Montana Pickens, 17 year old friend of the Jetts, undergoing cancer treatment

Harvey Addleman, Duane's brother, prostate cancer spread to his jaw

Nancy Addleman, recovering at home from knee surgery

Roxanne Darby, friend of Mary Shearholdt, double mastectomy, chemotherapy

Carl Davis, friend of the Drakes, colon and liver cancer

Michelle Butts, friend of Mary Shearholdt, lymphoma

Gary Smith, Fairelyn Bayless' brother-in-law, skin cancer and mother is stable

Please call the church office [866-2711] with your prayer concerns. They will remain on the list for thirty days unless you notify the office or Pastor Ellen. The Care Line may be reached by dialing ext. 6 for updates. Thank you.



Let It Shine

Whatever else be
lost among the
years,

Let us keep Christmas still a shining
thing.

Whatever doubts assail us, or what
fears,

Let us hold close one day, remem-
bering

Its poignant meaning for the hearts
of men.

Let us get back our childlike faith
again.

—Grace Noll Crowell

It's a girl!



Jessica Sappington
McBride had a baby girl
on Sunday, December
4th—D'Aaizyah. Proud
big brothers are D'Andrian
& D'Anthony Jamar. Jessica is the
daughter of Nancy Sappington and
granddaughter of Betty Baker.
Congratulations!

Worship Assistants



**If you are unable to fulfill your responsibility
please find a substitute and notify the church
office. Thank you.*

Liturgist:

December: Janet Cavener

Sharing Time

Dec. 18: Pastor Ellen

Dec. 25: Pastor Ellen

Hospitality/Greeting Teams

Dec. 18: Tom & Janet Cavener,
Derek & Mary Lowrance

Dec. 25: Mary Shearholdt, Louise Harmon
Doug Esselman, Tom Wyrick

Sound techs

Dec. 18: Lucas Brantley

Dec. 25: Bill Piston

Acolytes

Dec. 18: Jessica Parrish

Dec. 25: Ashley Carroll

Offering Helpers

Dec. 18: Luke Courtney

Dec. 25: Preston Martin



From the Session

Just a reminder:

*You can read the full
Session meeting*

*minutes at www.westminsterspmo.com
when you sign up for a member account
OR there is a copy available to read on
the bulletin board outside the office.*

The Chimes, the monthly calendar, prayer concerns, PDO information, and Pastor Ellen's sermons may be viewed on the church website: www.westminsterspmo.com

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1551 E PORTLAND
SPRINGFIELD MO 65804
12/20/11

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



If you have a special prayer request for the Prayer Chain, contact Ingrid Schumacher (883-4803), or the church office (866-2711).

Reminder — **Best Choice labels** go to benefit the Regional Girls Shelter. Please place your labels in the box on the table in the office hallway.

Christian Education — 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Monday — Friday
www.westminsterspmo.com



CHIMES Deadline:
December 29, 2011

CHIMES articles may be e-mailed to the church at westminster2@sbcglobal.net, placed on the administrative assistant's desk, or mailed to the church office.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Mission Statement
Adopted 1/17/11
Worshipping God,
Welcoming All
A Family of Faith,
Centered on Christ.