



**PASTORS' CORNER**  
*The Rev. Dr. David Kegley*

*By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
(Luke 1:78-79)*

These words reach back to our Old Testament where God's people were taken captive and sat in the darkness of prisons due to political upheaval. They also reach forward where our not-yet-realized future will become like the morning sun; peace as we have never known it. What of the present?

The vision of the Christian faith puts us in-between. The words of the faith cause the future to break into the present. They disrupt the assumptions of the kingdom of this world with the dawning light of the kingdom of God's realm. The above quoted words come from Zachariah's song, in the Gospel of Luke. It is what Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, sings after the formal naming of his son at his 8-day-old circumcision ceremony. As the story goes some months earlier, Zachariah questions the angel Gabriel when told that he would have a son in his old age, his name would be John, and he would be a prophet. "How will I know that this is so?" he said. For his disbelief, Zachariah is stricken mute until John is named. So, when Zachariah confirmed in writing, "His name is John" at the circumcision ceremony, Zachariah gets his voice back. And what a voice!

We are a little like Zachariah. We've had our doubts. We've been tongue tied at times. But now we can be those who speak the dawn into a dark day. We can be those who allow the future of God's peace to disrupt the way of the world.

Look at racial discrimination and speak the tender mercy of our God into that sin, helping your church appreciate diversity and to become more diverse. Look at the unjust treatment of gays and lesbians and let the dawn break upon them, welcoming them into fellowship, affirming them as persons of God. Look at those in refugee camps, the millions in Haiti without homes, the homeless in our own community and speak the light to them by doing what you can for their relief. Notice wherever we omit the wonderful variety of ages and generations among us and bring all of them out of the shadows and into this illuminated circle of love. Look at those whose lives have been altered forever by war and speak peace to them by befriending soldiers who return from combat; by supporting peaceful resolutions internationally, nationally and locally; and by being a peacemaker in your own family. The sin of this world is getting defused with the light of God's kingdom like shafts of dawn streaming through your bedroom window. We can find our voices just as Zachariah did.

*Peace, David*

# Calendar for This Week and Next

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30, 8:00 & 11:00pm Christmas Eve  
Candlelight services (see  
front page)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

10:00am Worship

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

Church office closed

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

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

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00am Bible Study (chapel)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

10:00am Worship – celebrating Holy  
Communion and receiving  
Food Bank offering  
11:30am Youth Group

## MONDAY, JANUARY 3

Church office closed  
12 noon Triangle articles due  
12 noon Grief Support Group @  
Chambers House  
(Panorama)

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

7:30am Men's Breakfast @ I-HOP  
7:00pm Bell Choir (note new night)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

9:30am Triangle folding (library)  
10:00am Bible Study (chapel)  
3:30pm Children's Church planning  
(library)

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30am "Sew Happy" Quilters  
6:00pm Praise Team  
7:00pm Chancel Choir



## MORE ITEMS FOR YOUR CALENDAR . . .

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, noon, next Triangle article deadline  
Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am, join us as we take down the greens  
Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:45pm, Parenting Class Potluck  
Friday and Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Church Officer Retreat

*Please call the church office if your church event is incorrect or not on our calendar.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS . . .

### **Everyone is invited to join us for Adult Education Sunday Mornings**

Beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through April 17, 2011, from 9:45 to 10:45am.

No classes will be held Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

If you haven't been involved in adult Sunday School for awhile, consider being part of a class in the new year. Look over our new and interesting list of class offerings.

Note: *Childcare is available from 8:45 to 12:15 (including the Sunday School hour) in the Preschool.*

### **“The Upper Room”** – Bible study in room 12

Facilitator Elsa McLain & friends 357-9674 or [tmclain@gmail.com](mailto:tmclain@gmail.com)

“The Upper Room” study book available for \$4.

This PCUSA Bible study, “The Present Word” focuses on how the Bible speaks to our contemporary lives in today’s world. The class focuses on prayer time and shares in social events. This is an on-going class.

### **Journey Through the Bible Series: “Book of Acts”** – Bible study in room 7

Jim Ryan 456-6625 or [Ja\\_ryan4710@comcast.net](mailto:Ja_ryan4710@comcast.net) and

Andrew Rayment 486-4232 or [andrewrayment@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewrayment@hotmail.com)

Study book available for \$10.

Learn about the history of the early Church in studying the Book of Acts. The study book provides questions to dig deeper into the text, information on the historical/cultural setting, original language, and what the passage meant for its first readers, as well as insight into life applications for today, for individuals, congregations and communities.

### **Discussions on Being Series: - “Einstein’s God”** – Exploratory study in rooms 9/10

Greg Burkhart 357-4210 or [gburkhart4210@comcast.net](mailto:gburkhart4210@comcast.net) and

Adam Teachout 923-4195 [raptorrancher@comcast.net](mailto:raptorrancher@comcast.net)

A unique way for adults to launch conversations about God. "Life changing decisions start with life changing conversations". The first unit "Einstein's God" explores religion's place in the hallways of science and how it impacts the mysteries of the universe that surround us all, including the beauty of complex geological systems and the universal language of mathematics.

### **Nutrition & Fitness** – Practical Application study in room 8

Terry Shaw 705-3041 or [wpcmusic@msn.com](mailto:wpcmusic@msn.com) and

Deb Haynie 943-9456 or [rlhaynie@comcast.net](mailto:rlhaynie@comcast.net)

This class on nutrition and fitness will be informative and practical! You will learn what you need to enhance your current diet and exercise regimen. This class is for everyone, no matter age, fitness, or anything else. If you want to learn more about how to sustain a healthy lifestyle, come to this class for a fun experience.

*Sandy Crouch*, for the Christian Education Department

# YOUTH NEWS . . .

Early in December, the youth worked together to put on Candles & Carols in the brand-new Fellowship Hall. They had a great time decorating and preparing together and the event came off well! Each of ten tables was filled with congregation members-- young and old-- who were able to sing along with a variety of well-known carols and contemporary Christmas songs. We also enjoyed lovely solos by two of our talented youth members, Bridget Long (oboe) and Laurel Mack-Wilson (vocal).

We celebrated the holidays again on December 17<sup>th</sup> at a holiday lock-in. We had a "Yankee gift exchange" through which a nice, *wide variety* of gifts were shared. (Alex Kovacs left with a lovely Pretty Little Pony handbag and Charlotte Sadler with a World Wrestling Federation figurine!) We celebrated Christine Sears' birthday and, in keeping with lock-in tradition, ate lots of treats! We prepared care packages to send to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to reflect on how fortunate we are and recognize the many small things we take for granted. A special thanks is extended to Sara Bryan, who spent Thursday night volunteering at the overflow shelter in the upper CE wing, then spent time chaperoning (and, as always, *entertaining*) the youth on Friday night. Thank you so much for your involvement with our congregation's youth, Sara!

Regular youth group meetings will resume from 11:30 - 1:00pm on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Pastor David and I had been considering covering a unit on theodicy (how can evil/unfair acts in God's world be just?), but narrowed the theme to "grief". --In a world where information is spread so quickly and, often, viewed graphically, youth must have skills and knowledge surrounding how to cope with the sadness caused by loss and injustice. Together, we'll discuss the causes of grief experienced by modern youth-- and how to deal with each stage of grief. Youth Group is a place where friendships are forged based on a shared belief and faith in our God and our church family. As such, it can prove to be one of the greatest sources of support for young people through hard times.

During the holiday break, we'll be mapping out the remainder of the school year and next summer's mission trip, which will be an in-state experience. We will spend our Winter Retreat on the Olympic Peninsula and play in the snow at Hurricane Ridge in February. In early May, we'll hold a fresh new version of the Youth Auction, which will depend on the donations of gift baskets to be auctioned during an evening dinner event. Stay tuned for more news on how you can be of assistance to the youth in the springtime!

We wish our entire church family a lovely Christmas and a wonderful, safe, and happy New Year!

*Katrina Riippa*, Youth Ministry Coordinator

## 2011 PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE . . .

As of Tuesday, December 21, we have received **157 pledges**  
totaling **\$405,738.00**  
towards our goal of \$480,000.00.

Your 2011 offering envelopes will be available to be picked up Sunday, January 2. If you are not on our list and would prefer monthly envelopes, please call the church office soon. Any offering you want recorded for 2010 needs to be in the church office by December 31, 2010.

## FOR AND ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

**Our Prayers and Sympathy** to the family and friends of Doris Smith. Doris died Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Her service will be held at a later date.



**Thanks to the Deacons:** Naida Banker and Ellen Haars sent expressions of thanks to the church for the Christmas baskets of fruits and candy that were delivered to their homes by our Deacons. Several others sent their thanks directly to the Deacons.

**Thanks to the Bell Ringers:** I would like to thank all the wonderful people that rang the Salvation Army Bell. They are as follows: *Russ and Marty Braun, Carol Vannerson, Bill and Kathy Gillis, Emily and Holly Elstrott, Jim and Phyllis Ryan, Don Johnson, Paul Taylor, Sid and Vicky Wyrick, Tom and Elsa McLain, Charla Currier, Susan Girard, Linda Bell, Connie Robinson and Suzanne Vinson.* It is because of you that this mission is such a huge success. Thank you so much. *Debra Haynie*

**Email Triangle Available:** Westminster has almost ninety individuals who receive their Triangle by email. If you would like to see what it looks like, please call or email the church office ([office@wpcoly.org](mailto:office@wpcoly.org)) and we will send you a sample. You can decide at that time if you prefer the mailed or emailed version.

## FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2011

The new flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex near the library. If you would like to provide flowers for worship, you may sign up on the calendar. Capitol Florist provides the flowers, so you need only to provide a check for \$40 made out to Westminster with "worship flowers" on the notation line. If you prefer to bring flowers from your own garden, be sure to let the church office know well in advance so that we can call Capitol Florist. You will be called the week before you provide flowers for information to put in the worship bulletin.

## MUSIC NOTES: “CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER”

The “Hallelujah Chorus” is one of the most familiar pieces of music that exists- and for good reason. Has anyone been able to express the word “Hallelujah!” in a more fitting and triumphant manner? George Frederic Handel wrote his oratorio, MESSIAH, in just 24 days in the late summer of 1741. An oratorio is simply an un-staged opera. As one can imagine by listening to the text, MESSIAH was written for Easter. It has two distinct parts, the Christmas section and the Easter section. Both were intended to tell the story of the life of Jesus, from birth to resurrection. This Christmas Eve, the Chancel Choir and a small orchestra will bring to our worship several movements from the beloved MESSIAH. The five movements will be added to the worship service to fit liturgical purposes, or simply to use song as the means of prayer.

*Christmas at Westminster* is a special time of year and we are grateful for the singers and musicians who will be presenting Handel’s MESSIAH for our worship on Christmas Eve. The orchestra will also present two of the instrumental movements of the MESSIAH as a prelude to the service – so please come early!

Our bell choir, under new director Susanna Judd-Newkirk, will also be with us and playing two songs during worship, one with the orchestra and one with the Chancel Choir. Please join us at 5:30pm or 8:00pm for *Christmas at Westminster!* Thanks.

*Terry Shaw*, Director of Music Ministries

## LIST OF POPULAR ITEMS FOR FOOD BANK DONATIONS

As many of you know Westminster collects a monthly offering for the Thurston County Food Bank. In a Minute for Mission at worship a few weeks ago, Carol Vannerson shared a list of popular items at the Food Bank. Following is that list in order of preference. Our next collection date is Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### 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

### Fruit

Pineapple; Peaches,  
Apricots; Pears; Cranberries; Applesauce

### Soups/Broths/Tomato Products

Vegetable, Beef and Chicken Soups  
Tomato Sauce  
Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Chicken Broth  
Tomato Soup

### Unusual, but highly popular items

Ground Coffee (not decaf)  
Oil – olive, canola & vegetable  
Mayonnaise, Ketchup and Mustard  
Baby Food

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:**

**December 12 – 212 (78 at 9:00am)**

**December 19 – 209 (78 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: **Katrina Riippa**

KaRiippa@gmail.com

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

**The next article deadline is Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> before noon.**

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