

MUSINGS FROM THE LOOM

A *tapestry* is a piece of thick textile fabric with often complex pictures. The term is also used in reference to an intricate combination of things or sequence of events. I might suggest that our lives and the lives of those around us represent a “*human tapestry*;” we live lives that are often colorful, but they may be complex and complicated.



We may be people who are struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. We may be people who are hurting and in need of a

compassionate companion—a caring Christian friend who will provide emotional and spiritual support. So often, we just need someone who will “be there.” That someone could be a Stephen Minister.

What is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations, across the U.S. and Canada and in 29 other countries. Stephen Ministries was founded in 1975 and more than 12,000 congregations have enrolled in the Stephen Series.

Our church became a Stephen Ministry congregation in 1995 when our first class of Caregivers was trained and commissioned. The Stephen Ministry program at WPC has continued to grow and prosper and it serves as an important part of the ministry life at our church. While it is a lay ministry, Stephen Ministers work very closely with each member of our pastoral staff. Our Stephen Ministry leaders receive in-depth training and they serve tirelessly. Prior to being commissioned, Stephen Ministry candidates receive extensive training in all aspects related to Christian caregiving and they continue to participate faithfully in supervision and continuing education. It is then the responsibility of each Stephen Minister to care for a care receiver and stay connected to Jesus.

In Matthew 10:42, Jesus tells us, “And whoever gives to one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.” The church will always need preachers and teachers, and it will also need those gifted in service, hospitality, and caregiving. Under the umbrella of caregiving are such things as praying, listening, sharing about God and the Bible, and offering “a cup of cold water.” It is the distinct privilege of a Stephen Minister to be a purveyor of cups of cold water to those we care for.

We are called and available to serve you.
Blessings,
Dan Wilcox, Stephen Minister

CLERK’S CORNER

At its January 16th meeting, the Session:

- Joined with Deacons for the annual joint meeting, shared fellowship and dinner, heard rich statements of faith from five incoming deacons and four incoming ruling elders, sustained their examinations and look forward to their ordination/installation January 28th; - this is annually one of the holiest, most sacred experiences for deacons and elders;
- Offered thanks and appreciation to outgoing officers – Elders Jonathan Bonds, Ruth Simonson, Kathy Smedley, Jane Wendel and Ed McFalls, Deacons Barbara Baranski, Diane DeSieno-Lane, Shawn Dzielawa, Laura Gruen, Carmen Knox and Nicole Neesham and Trustee President Gary Liddick;
- Approved one child for baptism in January;
- Approved 2 Endowment Fund Grants: 1) Up to \$10,000 for a Honduran Reverse Mission Trip where 10 Honduran youth/chaperones travel to Westminster and engage with our youth and congregation and 2) \$1,264.74 reimbursement for Honduran travel for Serving at the Crossroads;
- Approved 3 Motions from the Outreach Team: 1) plan for all regular annual collections for Easter Baskets, underwear, hygiene kits, toiletries, backpacks, soup, socks, coats, turkeys, CVIM collections, Giving Tree and Dawn’s Place; 2) plan to host 2 Rise Against Hunger meal packing events in 2018 with a goal of packaging a minimum of 50,000 meals 3) schedule Shop for Hope for Sundays Dec 2nd and 9th in 2018;
- Approved 2 motions from Adult Spiritual Growth Team regarding the Philip Yancey event weekend March 17 & 18 – 1) approved selling tickets (\$15 with \$10 early bird) for the Saturday evening event to help underwrite costs, and 2) holding a luncheon on Sunday for Lenten Study Group participants allowing a cost covering fee to be charged for lunch;
- Received and voted to endorse Don Lincoln’s recommendations for Elder assignments to Ministry teams for 2018;
- Elected 5 Commissioners – Betsy Ballantyne, Laura Davis, Colin Kelly, Gail Tanzola-Seymour and Ed McFalls – for the Feb. 20th Donegal Presbytery meeting at Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown; and
- Heard thorough reports from the Youth Vision Team, Children’s Spiritual Growth, Personnel and Worship & Arts on many events and ministries on tap for the winter and spring.

Ed McFalls, Clerk of Session

LEARN ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE – INFORMATION AND CLEARANCE SESSION

Come and hear the Director of the local affiliate of Family Promise describing the work they do with homeless families in our area. Some of our own volunteers will also talk about helping with host duties here at Westminster. *Westminster is hosting Family Promise guests again for the week of February 18.* Come and get your questions answered at 11:00 a.m. on February 4 in Spellman Jr. Stay for help obtaining your child protection clearance! See you then!

CHILDREN’S SPIRITUAL GROWTH



“In Remembrance of Me...”
Prepare your family for Lent!
Interactive Communion Workshop for
Children & Families
Grade 2 - Grade 5
February 3, 2018 8:45 - 11:30AM
in Spellman Hall
RSVP to Sue Spotts
sspotts@westminsterpc.org or
610.399.3377 ext 106

PIZZA NIGHT AT THE LANDING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

All teens are invited to discover a surprising and life-changing journey in partnership with God. Join us February 22, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 in The Cove (407-408) for pizza, music, conversation, and worship. The Landing is a safe, healing place where you can learn to live a freer, healthier, and more God-centered life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MORNING share with the Vision Team what brought you to Westminster and why you stay by joining one of the three listening sessions being held in Spellman Hall. Session start times are 8:30 or 9:45 or 11:10 a.m. We need everyone’s input!

LAST SUNDAY for Dawn’s Place collections to support survivors of human trafficking.

AN EVENING WITH PHILIP YANCEY – Last week for the early bird rate of \$10. After January 31, rate will be \$15 for the event on March 17, 2018 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Meet the award winning author of our Lenten Study –**The Jesus I Never Knew**. Sign-ups for our Lenten Study Groups and registration for the evening event continue today. See insert for more info.

TUESDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP GROUP meets Tuesday, January 30, in Spellman Hall from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Our speakers this week are Westminster members, Nick Tortorello and Lutheran Pastor, Ed Kane. Their presentation is entitled: “**New Spiritual Opportunities for Men at Westminster.**” Come learn about the Wednesday evening Bible Study, **A Gathering of Men**, the Yancey Lenten classes on *The JESUS I Never Knew* and first ever **Men’s Retreat to Sandy Cove**. All men and women are welcome to attend.

WPC VETERANS GROUP. On Sunday, February 4 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 413. Over Christmas, Ed Brandt visited soldiers and chaplains in Iraq and Kuwait. Ed will share his experience of celebrating Christmas in Erbil and what it was like meeting soldiers and contractors who are serving in severe and not so severe circumstances. We will discuss the role of a chaplain in a combat environment and the types of religious support offered.

Our EASTER BASKET PROJECT needs volunteers! Once again, we plan to collect donated items to fill Easter baskets to give to children through organizations like the Domestic Violence Center and Chester County Migrant Ministry. **However, we need your help!** This is a wonderful service project for families with young children. If you can give some time to organize and support this special ministry, contact Laureen Smith at lsmith@commoncentsplanning.com.

The **NEW FLOWER DONOR CALENDAR FOR 2018** has been posted on the bulletin board across from the church parlor. There is a choice of donating one or two arrangements at the cost of \$50 each. Sign up indicating your choice, and you will be contacted by the flower coordinator prior to your chosen Sunday. Contact Marge Muehlberger at mmuehlberger@comcast.net with any questions.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the Women's Retreat at Sandy Cove Retreat Center in North East, MD the weekend of April 27-29. Join other women as we explore what connects us and draws us closer to God. Using Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Our Life*, we will explore how the cup is a rich symbol of life, with its fullness and emptiness, brokenness and flaws, and all of its many blessings. Brochures available at the Information Center and the church office to register.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the First Annual Men's Retreat at Sandy Cove Retreat Center in North East, MD. Join men of all ages April 13-15, 2018 for a weekend spent exploring and deepening your understanding of what it means to live in Christ. Led by Rev. Lewis Galloway of Indianapolis, the retreat examines how men are called to live out their lives personally, as members of the Church, in family and personal relationships, and in work and retirement. Brochures are available at the Information Center and the church office to register.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP: Members and friends of Westminster will head to Washington, DC for the week of July 15th – July 19th for our annual Intergenerational Mission Trip. Participants will learn about hunger, homelessness, and poverty issues, while serving in the city and worshipping together. This trip is for children who have completed 4th grade, and for youth and adults of all ages. You may register as a family or as an individual. For additional info, contact Ann Hatfield at ahatfield@westminsterpc.org.

BRIEFS FOR BROAD STREET. Imagine what it would feel like not to have under garments and specifically underwear. We all take that luxury for granted, however, our friends at BSM often do not have those basic necessities. During the month of February, we will be collecting new men's boxers, all sizes, although the larger ones are in more demand, and women's hipster briefs, sizes 5-10. A little fabric goes a long way toward making people feel good about themselves. There will be labeled bins at each of the entrances where they can be dropped off. Your continued generosity is always appreciated.

A DIVORCE RECOVERY AND SUPPORT GROUP will begin on Wednesday, March 21st, and will be held each Wednesday evening through May 9th, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The weekly program will provide a ministry of care in a small group setting for individuals who are newly separated, divorcing, or divorced for some time. The program is based on *The Divorce Recovery Workbook* by Mark S. Rye and Crystal Dea Moore. The eight weeks of classes will cover a range of topics, including grief, forgiveness, communication, and future relationships. If you are interested in receiving additional information, please contact Pastor Ann Hatfield at 610-399-3377, ext. 114 or ahatfield@westminsterpc.org, or pick up a brochure at the information desk.

THE THRIFT SHOP'S wish list has seasonal holiday items. Don't forget Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter, in particular. Have you given any thought to volunteering at the shop? Karen Koepke is waiting for your call at 610-692-9298 or by email at thriftshop@westminsterpc.org

HOMEMADE SOUP FOR BROAD STREET continues throughout January and February. Our next soup delivery to Broad Street is February 10. Bring in soup that day or leave soup in a gallon bag in the church kitchen freezer. For more info or questions, contact Dana Loundas at danaloundas@aol.com.

FINANCIAL

Donate from your smart phone! Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response code reader!



Scan the QR code with your Smart phone to give online.

December 2017

General Fund – mission and church operations

Year To Date	Actual	Budget	% vs Budget
Tithes & other revenue	\$2,150,901	\$2,204,539	-2%
Expense	\$2,158,444	\$2,204,539	-2%

We want to sincerely thank you for keeping your General Fund pledges up to date; this month revenues have fallen short of what we expected and budgeted. We encourage you to keep up consistent giving, so that we can achieve 100% of our pledged support. Please consider electronic giving. Setting up your giving is simple through the "Give Now" button on the online pledging and giving page on the church website, or pick up an authorization form in the church office.

Capital Fund – Debt Reduction

In 2017, we reduced the mortgage principal by \$221,000. Our outstanding mortgage balance is \$433,679.

Continued contributions to the Capital Fund are more than welcome and will be used to pay down principal to further reduce our mortgage debt. Donations can be made online or by check, payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with Capital Fund written on the memo line of the check.

Thank you for your commitment to the mission /ministry of WPC

**FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS –
JANUARY – SOUP (LAST FEW DAYS)
FEBRUARY – CEREAL**

Calendar for week of January 28, 2018

Sunday, January 28	
8:30 A.M.	Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
8:30 A.M.	Congregational Event in Spellman Hall
9:45 A.M.	Traditional Worship in Sanctuary / Sunday School Preschool-8 th Grade – Live streaming
9:45 A.M.	Congregational Event in Spellman Hall
10:30 A.M.	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir room)
11:00 A.M.	Baptism Class (Chapel)
11:10 A.M.	Contemporary Worship in Sanctuary / Sunday School Preschool-5 th Grade
11:10 A.M.	Congregational Event in Spellman Hall
5:30 P.M.	Parent Focus Groups (Spellman Jr.)
5:30 P.M.	Youth Fellowship (Spellman Hall)
Monday, January 29	
9:00 A.M.	Thrift Shop open for donations until 4:00PM
9:00 A.M.	Fitness Class (Spellman Hall)
9:30 A.M.	Mom's Bible Study (407-408)
1:00 P.M.	Thrift Shop open for sales until 4:00PM
6:30 P.M.	Preschool Board Meeting (406)
Tuesday, January 30	
9:30 A.M.	Tuesday Morning Fellowship Grp (Spellman Hall)
10:00 A.M.	Thrift Shop open until 4:00 PM
Wednesday, January 31	
9:10 A.M.	Prayer and Communion Service (Chapel)
9:30 A.M.	Women's Weekly Bible Study (Choir room)
10:00 A.M.	Thrift Shop open until 4 PM
4:30 P.M.	Kids JAM (Spellman Hall)
4:30 P.M.	Contemplative Intergenerational Group (Library)
6:00 P.M.	Handbell Rehearsal (213)
7:00 P.M.	A Gathering of Men (413)
7:00 P.M.	Women's Evening Weekly Bible Study (406)
7:00 P.M.	Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday, February 1	
	Thrift Shop closed
9:00 A.M.	Fitness Class (Spellman Hall)
7:00 P.M.	Troop 93 (Spellman Hall)
7:00 P.M.	Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
7:00 P.M.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir room)
7:00 P.M.	Celebrate Recovery (414-415)
7:00 P.M.	The Landing (407-408)
Friday, February 2	
10:00 A.M.	Thrift Shop open until 4 PM
Saturday, February 3	
8:30 A.M.	Communion Workshop (Spellman Hall)
9:00 A.M.	Thrift Shop open until 1 PM
9:00 A.M.	Chancel Choir Workshop (Choir Room)
Sunday, February 4	
8:30 A.M.	Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
9:45 A.M.	Traditional Worship in Sanctuary / Sunday School Preschool-8 th Grade – Live streaming
10:30 A.M.	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir room)
11:10 A.M.	Contemporary Worship in Sanctuary / Sunday School Preschool-5 th Grade
5:00 P.M.	Taizé Worship (Chapel)
5:30 P.M.	Youth Fellowship (Spellman Hall)
Attendance: 1/21/18: 904	
Offering Figures for 1/21/18:	
General Fund:	\$19,348.50
Capital Fund:	\$ 392.50
Joy	\$ 100.00
Per Capita:	\$3,515.00 YTD Per Capita \$ 9,179.00
Initial:	\$ 555.00 YTD Initial \$ 1,790.00

NEWS AND EVENTS

January 28, 2018



**WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church**

**Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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