

The

# Westminster Chimes

Newsletter of the People of Westminster Presbyterian Church  
301 E. Whitaker Mill Road • Raleigh, NC 27608  
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Volume XLV, No. 10  
December 2009



## Notes from Your Temporary Shepherd

The holiday season is fast approaching. We will soon be gathering together with family and friends for Thanksgiving celebrations, followed by Advent and Christmas. In the midst of these holidays, our church is also moving through its Stewardship Season. During Thanksgiving, we reflect on the many blessings that God has bestowed upon our lives. As we give thanks, it is also appropriate for us to return a portion of what we have been given to God. This Thanksgiving, I invite you to think of all the ways that you are grateful for the ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The gifts we pledge to the church have a direct impact on the kind of ministry that our church will be able to do in 2010.

Stewardship season began on November 8<sup>th</sup>, which was Stewardship and Commitment Sunday. That Sunday, I preached a sermon based on Mark 12, where Jesus recognizes the widow's sacrificial gift. That story shows us that God cares about the motivation behind our giving: the Lord hopes that we will give because we love God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul, and all our strength. If you were in worship on November 8<sup>th</sup>, you had an opportunity to pick up your Stewardship Packet. We have mailed packets to those who were not in church that day. If you have not received a packet yet and would like to have one, please contact the church office.

**Dedication Sunday** will be **December 6, 2009**. Please take some time to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in 2010. You are invited to return your Pledge Card and Time and Talent Survey anytime between now and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please turn in your pledge card by December 6<sup>th</sup> so that the Administration and Finance Committee and Session can get to work on the 2010 budget. During the morning worship service on December 6, you will have an opportunity to bring your pledge card forward as a sign of how you are dedicating yourself to God in 2010.

The First Sunday of Advent will be November 29<sup>th</sup>. Preparing for Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year. There are travel plans to make, houses to decorate, trees to put up, and presents to buy. I invite you to also remember the "Reason for the Season:" that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, who is God's Son and our Lord and Savior.

Ever since I started here at Westminster, I have heard stories about how wonderful our annual **Hanging of the Greens** service is. I am looking forward to being able to experience the service first-hand in just a couple of weeks. The Hanging of the Greens service will be on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm with pre-music starting at 6:15 pm. There will be a reception in the fellowship hall following the service. I am grateful for the leadership that Eric Hendricks is providing to our church's music ministry program. He has brought a lot of energy and passion for his faith and has been working hard to make sure our Hanging of the Greens program will be a moving service.

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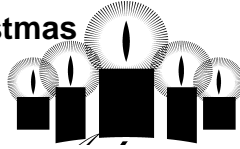
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# A Word From Our Pastor



## Advent and Christmas Sermon Series 2009-2010



Advent and Christmas are two of the most important seasons of the year for us in the church. Come and join us for

Sunday morning worship throughout Advent and Christmas as we reflect on the meaning of God sending his Son to earth in the form of a little baby who was born in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago!

**November 29, 2009: (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent) Psalm 25:1-10.** This psalm is a wonderful prayer of what we, as Christians, can hope for during Advent season. The psalm invites us to follow in the paths of the Lord and to receive instruction in truth and humility. While we buy presents and prepare elaborate Christmas meals, may we also take the time to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

**December 6, 2009: (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) Luke 1:5-25 & 1:57-79.** Luke tells the story of John the Baptist's birth to Elizabeth and Zechariah. The birth of John the Baptist was a sign that God is active in the world, fulfilling the divine plan. Once his son is born, Zechariah discerns all the wonderful things that God is doing and gives thanks to the Lord. Are we aware of how God is alive and working in our lives today?

**December 13, 2009: (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent) Luke 3:1-18.** The prophet John the Baptist came before our Lord and Savior to prepare the way for Jesus. John invites us to turn from our sins, repent, and to focus our attention on God. We will explore what it means to repent.

**December 20, 2009: (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Christmas) Luke 1:39-55.** When Mary learns that she will be giving birth to the Messiah, she is filled with joy. The birth of a child is a moment full of great promise and excitement. This birth is the most celebrated birth of all because God has sent humanity a Savior.

**December 27, 2009: (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas) Luke 2:41-52.** As a twelve-year-old boy, Jesus goes with his family to Jerusalem. Jesus stays behind when the rest of his family leaves so that he can sit in the temple and learn from the religious leaders. Luke tells us that Jesus grows in wisdom and stature. How can we grow and mature in our own faith journey?

**January 3, 2010: (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas) John 1:1-18.** Throughout the Christmas season, we have been learning about Jesus' humanity: how he was born of a woman in a manger in Bethlehem and grew up as a carpenter's son in Nazareth. John chapter 1 reveals Jesus' divinity: that he is the eternal Word who has been with God the Father since the dawning of creation. In our world that is filled with darkness and despair, Jesus comes to us as the light of the world!

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We publish the Westminster Chimes monthly and welcome submissions from readers. Those chosen for publication may be edited. Please submit either written or electronic copy to the church office no later than the third Tuesday of the month prior to publication.

### The Staff

Interim Pastor ..... Jody Moore  
Director of Music ..... Eric Hendricks  
Handbell/Chimes Director ..... Marilyn Reese  
Mothers' Morning Out Director ..... Dani Bailey  
Interim Adm. Secretary ..... Sue Ellen Jameson  
Custodian ..... Dwight Wilkins

\*\*\*

### The Session

Moderator: Rev. Jody Moore  
Clerk: Justine Piper

#### Class of 2010

Rose Creech  
Rudy Bartholomew

#### Class of 2011

Justine Piper  
Joe Morgan

#### Class of 2012

Emily Bradshaw  
Dink Puryear

\*\*\*

### The Diaconate

Moderator:  
Secretary:

#### Class of 2010

Pat Howell

#### Class of 2011

Betty Ray  
Rob Speer

\*\*\*

*Our mission is to lead people into a loving and growing relationship with Jesus Christ, and to strengthen His church.*

Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

## Pennies for Hunger December 27





The Worship Ministry Team would like to thank all those who have already contributed toward the Hanging of the Greens. We are still accepting monetary donations if you wish to donate. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church for "Hanging of the Greens."

## Service & Missions

### Helen Wright Center

Our next date for preparing and serving food for the Helen Wright Center is Tuesday, December 1. We will prepare a dinner for 40 ladies, deliver and serve the meal.

After the grocery shopping is completed, the meal prepared and volunteers for serving the meal arrive at our church at approximately 6:25 p.m. where we will then take the meal to downtown Raleigh, set up the tables and serve dinner to the ladies. Volunteers are finished by 8 p.m.

We will continue to serve meals four times per year in 2010. The schedule is always the first Tuesday of the Quarter and are : March 2, June 1, September 7 and December 7.

Also, for 2010, we have been put on their Urban Ministries Cancellation Crew. This means if a group cancels and cannot serve the ladies at the shelter, we will be given the opportunity to do so. I am told we'll get a week's notice if we are contacted for the Cancellation Crew.

Interested in helping with this ministry? Please contact Jimi Felton at 616-2196.

## SEVENTH ANNUAL HARVEST FEAST

Harris Teeter, in cooperation with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Triangle United Way, the City of Raleigh, Capital Area Transit, Raleigh Convention Center and Center Plate, will, on Sunday, December 6, hold the seventh annual Harvest Feast, from 12-4pm. This is a traditional holiday meal, served *free-of-charge*, to thousands of local residents, at the Raleigh Convention Center. Over 250 volunteers are needed to help stage this event. Among other duties, you'll be serving the meal, bussing tables or running trash.

To help please contact: Emily Zartman, at the Food Shuttle, 919-250-0043 or [volunteer@foodshuttle.org](mailto:volunteer@foodshuttle.org). All volunteers must be 15 years of age in order to participate. Thank you for your support of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

*Emily L. Zartman, Volunteer Coordinator*

## Notes from Your Temporary Shepherd continued from pg. 1

We are planning to have a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**. It will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm on the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be a modified Lessons and Carols Service, where you will have the opportunity to hear the Christmas story read and sing your favorite carols. At the end of the service, you will be invited to light your candle as we encircle the sanctuary and sing together "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." I hope you will attend both the Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. If you participate in these worship services, I am confident that you will feel the Christmas Spirit in powerful ways!

As I count my many blessings this Thanksgiving, I am grateful for the gift of being your interim pastor. I am thoroughly enjoying sharing in ministry with you and having the opportunity to be a part of this community. May God bless you richly during this holiday season!

Peace in Christ,

## December Bible Study Schedule

Please join us in December for our last three Bible Study classes of the year with our Interim Pastor, Jody Moore. We will be studying the following passages in December

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>: Bible Study at 6:30 pm on Luke 1:5-25 & 1:57-79

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study at 6:30 pm on Luke 3:1-18

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study at 6:30 pm on Luke 1:39-55

## Stewardship

The fall financial stewardship campaign began October 29, 2009 with a letter from our interim pastor, Rev. Jody Moore to all members. November 8, 2009 was Stewardship Sunday and Dedication Sunday will be December 6, 2009. This is a time to reflect on the many gifts we receive from God, the many needs of Westminster in these difficult economic times and how we will respond. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the missions of our church and listen to the preaching on Stewardship based on Jesus' teachings.



**Thursday  
November 26**

**Have a Blessed  
Celebration**

## Congregational Care

We have added three more members to our shut-ins at Westminster. Idell McElrath is at Sunrise Assisted Living at Crabtree Valley. Jim and Margaret Lambeth are at Whitaker Glen with neither one of them driving anymore. We hope you will call the church office for their addresses to send them Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. With the help of our Congregational Care group leader Betty Ray, Emmie Aull and Edith Liles we recently enjoy a meal at their favorite restaurant - Watkins Grill. They were treated like royalty as everyone was so happy to see them. They were then taken for a nice visit with Edith Yopp and the three friends had a good old time. Betty Ray, Jimmy and Justine Piper, and Rev. Moore have visited all our shut-ins the past few weeks. We are so thankful they all are in such nice places and taken care of. Remember them in your prayers. To all the members of Westminster, Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Sunday, November 22, the Thanksgiving Offering for Barium Springs Home for Children will be received. Barium Springs Home for Children was founded in 1891 by the Synod

of North Carolina. Hundreds of children and families are cared for each year by this ministry. Recent economic struggles have brought an onslaught of new children and families in need of services. The generous support of Westminster's members and friends over the years have helped this ministry reach more and more children and families in need. Please consider your financial gift for the Thanksgiving Offering. Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church for "Thanksgiving Offering—Barium Springs Home for Children." Your support is greatly appreciated.



Harold and Inez Fuller standing with flower arrangement dedicated and in memory of All Saint's Day.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 20, 2009. A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is a special offering to provide congregations direct ways of supporting the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges. The receipts from the offering are distributed equally between the two. Through the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. The Shared Grant Program under the Board of Pensions is open to all current and retired church workers and meets needs that might be considered routine as well as financial needs resulting from a variety of problems such as: flood, tornado, or unexpected family expenses. The Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges share will go towards providing scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. Any donation you can give to the Christmas Joy Offering will be appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church for "Christmas Joy Offering."



## The Hanging of the Greens . . . . .

Probably began with pre-Christian mid-winter festivals. In the winter, the green boughs were brought into the house to ensure the return of foliage in the spring. Christians continued to decorate with evergreens as a sign of Christ's victory over death and his promise of eternal life. On December 6, the Hanging of the Greens will begin at 6:30 p.m. with pre-music to commence at 6:15 p.m. Eric Hendricks, our music director, has planned some beautiful music. We look forward to hearing from an expanded choir with choir members from various other churches in Raleigh, our choir, music students from Meredith and State, and special musicians. We invite you to come and hear the readers, music and be a part of the litanies. During this service you will see the greens hung, the beautiful poinsettias brought into the sanctuary, and the lighting of the trees. A nursery will be provided for babies and children under six.



**The church office has new address and phone number for Rudy and Helen Bartholomew, now living in Chesapeake, VA.**

## Worship



The Advent Season, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time of hope, a time of preparation and a time to get ready for the world's best news! During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, we receive the risen Christ who comes to us in Word and Spirit, and we await with hope Christ's coming in final victory. Ad-

vent is from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." During Advent we become one with those who waited in darkness for the revealing of God's light and who dared to hope that God's salvation could come in the birth of a child. As we re-live the story each year, we gain new and deeper understanding of the meaning of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We celebrate God's gift of Jesus Christ and give thanks.

In our world, Christmas has become a commercial event. During Advent we are challenged to reclaim the customs that help us celebrate God's gift of love in Jesus and to avoid or curtail those things that stand in the way. Gifts, cards, and parties need to express love, not obligation, and they need to extend beyond our immediate circle of family and friends to those who most need love and care.

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, a sign of everlasting life. Four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are set in the circle. A white candle for Christmas Day is placed in the center. Purple is the traditional color used by many churches during Advent and Lent because it represents both penitence and royalty. White is the color of joy and festivities, a suitable color for the Christ candle in the Advent wreath and for the Christmas Eve Service. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent with an additional candle lit each Sunday in the Advent Season. On Christmas Eve, the white Christ candle is lit. Beginning Sunday, November 29, 2009, the candles of hope, love, joy, and peace will be lit.

### Dates to Remember

- November 22..... Thanksgiving Offering**
- December 4..... Christmas Decorating**
- December 6 ..... Dedication Sunday**
- December 6 ..... Hanging of the Greens**
- December 20 ..... Christmas Joy Offering**
- December 24..... Candlelight Service**

## Our Church Family



**Welcome to  
Westminster**

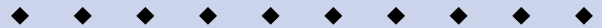
**Kathy Rhoderick**  
joined our  
church family on  
Sunday, Oct. 18.

### November Birthdays

Hennie van der Vaart.....	12
Alice Njoroge .....	15
Jayne Felton .....	16
Audrey Pickard .....	19
Pierce Reeve .....	24
Pat Howell .....	27
Betty Ferrell .....	29
Conway Lanford .....	30

### November Anniversaries

Angela & Paul Thieman.....	13
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### December Birthdays

Mary Perry .....	5
Frances Sanders .....	5
Marilyn Reese.....	9
Lewis and Betty Ferrell .....	29
Emily Bradshaw.....	13
Anne Nordan .....	15
Weilie Lanford.....	16
Nancy Martin .....	18
Sandra Mullen .....	20
Odessa Little.....	21
Ann Zucker .....	21
Lewis Ferrell .....	24
Bernice Jones.....	27
Peggy Thomas .....	27

### December Anniversaries

Chuck and Bev Norwood.....	11
Harry and Betty Warren.....	19

## Fellowship Supper

What a wonderful fellowship supper and program we had on Thursday, Oct. 15. Fried chicken from Harris Teeter, homemade pineapple coconut cake and then of those good vegetable dishes brought by our members. The Wyatts volunteered to handle the supper and Justine and Jimmy Piper set up the fellowship hall with lovely fall arrangements, fall garland, big pump-



kins and yes, white tablecloths. After the meal Rev. Moore distributed copies of the Seven Steps of the Interim Process for getting a permanent pastor and the summary of the congregational search inventory. He discussed each handout in detail,

then organized groups for further discussion on the survey and responses. Our congregation did an outstanding job of completing the survey. We received surveys from 50% of our members, which is excellent. Thank you for such a job well done.

Our next Fellowship Supper is Thursday, Dec. 17. Our Mother's Morning Out parents are invited and the program will feature a musical presentation from some of the children of our Mother's Morning Out Program.

### *Thank You!*

We wish to thank Drew Drake, asst. Mgr. of Harris Teeter at Cameron Village for providing our church a discount on the fried chicken which was served at the October Fellowship Supper. The store address is 501 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh, 27605

### Website Update

This past month, it was determined that our church's website needed some updating and a fresh NEW look. Over the next few weeks our website ([www.westminster-raleigh.org](http://www.westminster-raleigh.org)) will begin to take on a bold new design as we move into the Web 2.0 standard. In addition, please note that all church staff email addresses have been updated to reflect our website.

Rev. Jody Moore [jmoore@westminster-raleigh.org](mailto:jmoore@westminster-raleigh.org)

Eric Hendricks [ehendricks@westminster-raleigh.org](mailto:ehendricks@westminster-raleigh.org)

Sue Ellen Jameson [secretary@westminster-raleigh.org](mailto:secretary@westminster-raleigh.org)

Those that have not been added will be in the next few weeks. Please bear with us as we begin to make this important transition.

*Eric Hendricks*

## Music Ministry



### **Life without Music?**

Wow! I cannot believe another year has already gone by! Seems just like yesterday I was preparing Christmas music for my previous congregation and now preparing for the season again. The old saying "time flies when you are having fun" must certainly be true. I love music and all it means to me in my life and I can't imagine living without it. Have you ever thought what life would be like without music?

I took a moment this past month to reflect on this question. The results in my life became puzzling to me. As I began to pray, reflect and plan for this special holiday season and to carefully select the music for Sunday worship and Hanging of the Greens Services I had to think about this question. The results were a little shocking.

- No radio in the car while you are driving
- No music videos on TV
- No entertainment when we go out to eat
- No music to lead in worship

Can you imagine our worship service without the beautiful sounds of the organ, piano, or choir member's voices?

As we gather in the next couple of weeks for worship I would like for you to reflect on your life and how music plays a major role in it. My reflection caused me to praise God for the gift of music and to begin saying thank you to everyone who makes it happen.

To all the choir members, our organist, college students, I personally thank you for your commitment to God's call at Westminster and the ministry you helped to create and sustain. I hope everyone has a great and wonderful holiday season. Be reminded to give thanks to God for another year of music and remember the true meaning of this wonderful season. I encourage everyone to make plans and invite friends/family/neighbors to the Hanging of the Greens Service on December 6. It is truly going to be an awesome service celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

*Eric, Director of Music*

### **Volunteers needed .....**

**On Friday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. we will be decorating our church. We need women and men who are able to come and participate in this event. We will be putting up the nativity scenes, placing the candles and decorating the Jesse and Chrismon trees.**

# DECEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30am-1:30pm MMO  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)  6:25pm Helen Wright Ctr 6:30pm Bible Study 8:00pm AA/Alanon Mtg.	2 9:30am-1:30pm MMO 10:30am Alanon  7:00pm Chancel Choir	3 9:30am-1:30pm MMO  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)	4 10:00 am Bible Study  9:00 am Decorate for Christmas  8:00pm AA Meeting	5 1:00 pm HOG Dress Rehearsal
6 9:30am Church School 11:00am Worship ADVENT II JOY RINGERS DEDICATION Hanging of the Greens Pre-music 6:15 pm Program 6:30 8:00pm AA Meeting	7 9:30am-1:30pm MMO 10:30 am Handbells	8 10:00am Circle #1  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)  6:30pm Bible Study 8:00pm AA/Alanon Mtg.	9 9:30am-1:30pm MMO 10:30am Alanon  7:00pm Chancel Choir	10 9:30am-1:30pm MMO  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)	11 10:00 am Bible Study  8:00pm AA Meeting	12 9:00 am Girl Scouts
13 9:30am Church School 11:00am Worship ADVENT III Minute for Missions Christmas Joy Offering 8:00pm AA Meeting	14 9:30am-1:30pm MMO 10:30 am Handbells	15 9:30am-1:30pm MMO  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)  6:30pm Bible Study 8:00pm AA/Alanon Mtg.	16 9:30am-1:30pm MMO 10:30am Alanon	17 9:30am-1:30pm MMO  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+)  6:30 pm Fellowship Supper MMO Christmas Program	18 10:00 am Bible Study  8:00pm AA Meeting	19
20 9:30am Church School 11:00am Worship JOY RINGERS ADVENT IV Christmas Joy Offering 12:30pm Session Meeting 8:00pm AA Meeting	21 NO MMO until Jan 4	22 NO MMO until Jan 4  3:00pm Dance Practice (Women 55+) 5:00pm <i>Chimes</i> deadline 8:00pm AA/Alanon Mtg	23 NO MMO until Jan 4 10:30am Alanon	24 NO MMO until Jan 4  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 <b>MERRRY CHRISTMAS</b>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm AA Meeting	26
27 9:30am Church School 11:00am Worship PENNIES FOR HUNGER 8:00pm AA Meeting	28 NO MMO until Jan 4	29 NO MMO until Jan 4	30 NO MMO until Jan 4	31 NO MMO until Jan 4  8:00pm AA New Years Eve Party		



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New Reader? Come Visit Us! We're so glad that you picked up this publication. We hope you will find it interesting, provocative and worth your time. And, if you are not a member of any church, please take the next step and worship with us, any Sunday, 11:00 a.m. We are a growing, active place with friendly people who will welcome you, and without "pressure." Please call us at (919) 828-0507 for more information and tell us how we might respond to your needs.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## December 6

**Pre-Service Music**  
6:15 p.m.

**Hanging  
of the Greens**  
6:30 p.m.

Don't miss this beautiful service. This is always a great event in the life of our church. Bring your family and friends to this Advent celebration at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Reception following the service.

*Nursery available for young children.*

## December 17

### Dinner & Christmas Program

Supper 6:30 p.m.  
MMO Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.

Come join us for our annual Mothers' Morning Out Christmas Pageant. Please bring canned items for the Urban Ministries food pantry. Meet in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

## December 24

### Candlelight Service 7 p.m.

Don't miss this beautiful annual tradition of carols and candlelight. This short service is especially appropriate for young people, so be sure to bring your children and grandchildren with you.