

ABOUT WESTMINSTER

The WBTS web site (www.wbts.org) includes factual information plus the current issue of the Spire. Sermons can be heard or read online, from podcasts, or on iTunes. More information including the calendar can be found on the website. Copies of sermons and current issues of the Spire can be found in the narthex. Our phone number is 386-767-8342; Fax 386-767-8341. The church office is open 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Sundays

There are two services each Sunday, one at 8:45, and the other at 11:00, with fellowship hour at 12:00 as people volunteer to host it. Sunday School classes are at 9:45. More information about Sunday School can be found in the Christian Education section of the Spire.

Glory's Stories

As the excitement of the holidays dies down, it's easy to get into a slump. The decorations and lights that make everything so festive disappear. You say goodbye to family who you may not see for a long time. All the good food and the parties have come and gone. It's okay to take moment to miss the holidays and take some time to readjust. But don't get stuck! Now is the time for new beginnings. Try some new recipes, take a short trip to a place you enjoy, find new books to read, go see a movie. Take care of yourself! Don't let yourself get in a spiritual slump either. Commit to something new in the church: maybe lend your voice to the choir, go feed lunch to people in the community with HUM, or try out a new Bible study. All the waiting of Advent and the excitement of Christmas may be over, but God is still moving and we are still waiting for the return of Christ. Let's keep learning, growing, and praying while we're waiting!

Fellowship Opportunities

Here are some of our fellowship or mission opportunities. Check the Spire Calendar for days and times.

Fellowship Hour - most Sundays following the 11:00 service. Those interested in hosting, helping, or funding a fellowship hour should call Leanne Coleman at 386-492-4282. You may also sign up on the podium in fellowship hall.

Caring Friends of Westminster

January 2 & 16, 1:00 pm, Peninsula Hall
 “You don’t understand what I am going through. Your life is the same today as it was yesterday and the day before. The other side of my bed is empty tonight; I am having coffee alone this morning. Everyone has advice – get a grip, get a hobby, join a club, stay busy.” I know you mean well, but unless you have been through it you cannot understand the pain and the hurt that Caring Friends understand; we are here for you. We have been through the same thing and it helps to vent your feelings and hear from those who understand. Join us each first and third Wednesday in Peninsula Hall at 1:00 pm. All are welcome. Should you have any questions call Kitty French (308-3800) or Marianne Sabatka (236-8534).

Men of Westminster Join us for our Monthly Breakfast on Friday, January 11th at 7am in Fellowship Hall. It's only \$5 for all you can eat homecooked breakfast, plus OJ and coffee. Great food, friends and fellowship! ...see you then...bring a friend! Contact Rodney Bookhardt with any questions. Rkbook@cfl.rr.com or 386-847-7871

Lunch Bunch is going to Cheddars on ISB (near Olive Garden) at noon on Thursday,

January 17 . Please contact Jari Arbogast at 386-761-2283 if you'd like to join us!

Bridge Group meets every Monday at 10 am in the Room A in Peninsula Hall. Contact Bill & Vera Becker for information. 386-304-7283

Outreach

We would like to thank you for all you do as a part of WBTS Presbyterian Church to serve the community and the world Church. Please have a safe New year and may the Love of Jesus Christ live in your hearts.

Halifax Urban Ministries

(HUM) If you would like to help with serving food at the Bridge of Hope (HUM) on the second Thursday of the month, from 9 am to 1 pm, please let us know. Thank you for supporting HUM. For more information, contact Patti Ford or Ginny Whitney and we will add you to the "call" list.



The HUM Food Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church in Port Orange continues to be very busy. Fifty turkeys were given out for Thanksgiving with money donated by WBTS. Another fifty turkeys were given for Christmas with money already in the HUM account. Port Orange Family Days gave \$7000.00 and all of it was used to buy more food from Walmart. This was much appreciated and needed. HOWEVER, this will not last long. Please continue to donate food. The need is huge. The majority of people who come for help are elderly and either cannot get along on their Social Security, and/or are caring for grandchildren (and even in one case great grandchildren). Thanks again for your help, Marianne Sabatka

The Two Cents Per Meal program originated with Presbyterian Women in 1976. It is a mission for raising awareness and funds for the battle against hunger. Congregations invite every member of all ages to set aside just 2 cents at every meal. This simple daily

action is an expression of our thanks for what we have received. It is also an ongoing commitment to "give them something to eat." as Jesus told the disciples in Mark 6:37. It is only 2 cents a meal but the smallest coin is multiplied when many join the fight. Look for more information about our PATH (Presbyterians Answer To Hunger) partners who receive the 2 cents a meal collection and the way you can participate with fellow WBTS members in the February Spire.

Worship

January Sermons

- 1/6 What Can We Learn from the Wisemen?
Epiphany & Holy Communion
- 1/13 Wonderful Words of Life
Ordination of Elders (11:00)
- 1/20 Timing is Everything
Kirkin' O' the Tartans (11:00)
- 1/27 Having Big Shoes to Fill

Flowers

- 1/6 John & Doris Kennedy
- 1/13 Billie Jean Morrissey
Jane Park
Rev. Jeff Sumner
- 1/20 Marianne Sabatka
Linda Dierstein
The Hulett Family
- 1/27 OPEN

If you have taken flowers home and have the empty white vases we'd like them back. You may leave them in the kitchen. Thanks!

Please contact Kristin in the church office (767-8342) if you'd like to provide the flowers for a service. She may call you to see if you would like to give flowers on the Sunday you gave them last year. Arrangements are \$26.00 each.

From the Choir Room

Sharon Kruger
Happy New Year 2019!

Psalm 19 written by King David declares that the heavens and everything else humans see is a living testament to the existence, glory and power of God.

Hymn of the Month: Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King Of Creation

Choir Trivia: Did you know that many of our choir members have hidden talents? One speaks fluent Japanese!

Congregational Life

Happy new year! January is a time of renewed promises and fresh starts. How about trying something new? The Congregational Life Committee meets in the Garden Room the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Join us! We have a fun group – and we usually have coffee and refreshments, too! We'd love to see you there, and you might be surprised by how much you enjoy this ministry. Even if you can't make it to a meeting, we'd be thrilled to have extra help setting up before fellowship hour, or cleaning up afterwards. Many hands make light work!

Our new member luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, January 27th at 12:00 p.m. Chef Mark Bartell will again be preparing a delicious meal for us, and tickets can be purchased for a very reasonable price. Please watch the bulletin for further information, and mark your calendars for this fantastic event.

Please consider hosting fellowship hour one week, either alone or as part of a group. Check the notebook in Fellowship Hall for available weeks. There are plenty of opportunities to host this wonderful weekly gathering for your WBTS family in the coming year. Thank you in advance for your hospitality ...

And speaking of hospitality, we'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank those who have hosted or contributed monetarily to the costs of fellowship hour in the fourth quarter of 2018:

October 14th – Anne Johnson, Lisa Peck and Friends

November 4th – 90th Birthday Celebration (hosted by Congregational Life)

November 11th – Heidi and Rick Kueber (with a cake from Rosie Perry)

November 18th – June Wendt

December 2nd – Barbara and Lee Stewart / Doug and Leanne Coleman

December 9th – Disciple 2 Class

December 16 – Jan Toles' Sunday School Class

December 23rd – Potluck Brunch between services

December 30th – The McConnell Family, in honor of Jane McConnell's 99th Birthday

**If we've missed anyone who hosted or otherwise contributed to fellowship hour, please let us know so we can mention you in a future issue of The Spire!*

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Ashley Camp, who – with the assistance of Kitty French, Marianne Sabatka and Kristin Downer – spent the better part of 3 days cleaning and re-organizing the kitchen. We appreciate your efforts to keep our kitchen neat and tidy more than you can imagine!

Administration

Financial Secretary News Happy New Year from your friendly Financial Secretary!! On Sunday December 30th you should have picked up your 2019 contribution envelopes. If you haven't yet, please do. It makes the accounting end of your donation so much more accurate. Some of you might have noticed that you have a new envelope number. We decided to update our numbering system and condense the number of envelopes we order. By doing this we saved the church a whopping \$744.58!!! So please throw away your 2018 envelopes and just use your new ones so there is no confusion. If you didn't receive envelopes, please put your name on the list on the envelope table and they will be there for you the following week.

Also, if you are donating to anything besides your pledge to our operating account, such as Building Fund, HUM, etc., PLEASE note it on your envelope. I strive to be very accurate and this helps assure that. If you have any questions feel free to call me at the church. I am available every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am - 1pm.

Janet Lindfors



Library News

Linda Jacobs

This month we will look at how the life of one of the authors of the books in our library has influenced her writings. While the library has over 2700 titles, many by the same authors, there is a unifying theme to the collection reflected by these authors. The authors range from Verna Aardema to Colleen Zuck. Of the “A” authors, we have everyone from Aesop, Mitch Albom and Horatio Alger to Sami Awwad. The author of the month, however, is Karen Armstrong. She was born an Irish Catholic in 1944, and entered a religious convent at a young age. She soon became disillusioned with that life, and left to try other careers. She felt she "failed" at this series of career attempts—academic, schoolteacher, television presenter—before eventually finding professional and personal fulfillment as a writer about religion in the late 1980s. She has written more than 20 books on faith and the major religions, studying what Islam, Judaism and Christianity have in common, and how our faiths shaped world history and drive current events. . We have recently acquired a copy of her book “*A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*” (1993), in which she traces the evolution of the three major monotheistic traditions from their beginnings in the middle east up to the present day and also discusses Hinduism and Buddhism. In 2008, at the age of 64, she received the notable TED award of \$100,000. This award

is given to leaders with creative, bold wishes to spark global change. Her wish matches that of most of us here at WBTS; she asked for the ability to create a “Charter for Compassion”, a document based on the Golden Rule: that we should treat others how we would want to be treated. After all, isn't this the second of the greatest of all commandments? “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it:: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22: 37-39) The librarian encourages you to look at some of Armstrong's books, as well as at any of the other 30 books we have comparing how different religions view the important task of treating all others (not just some) with the love we have for ourselves.

Next month we will begin to list the books we have been collecting to help understand the lands of the Bible, in preparation for the Holy Land trip next summer.

Presbyterian Women

If you missed our December meeting, you really missed something terrific. We celebrated the Christmas Holiday early with three beautiful hymns performed by Don and Sharon Kruger and Ellen Joyner, followed by a lively sing-along led by Laura Jones. We then had refreshments of cookies, punch and eggnog, and while enjoying our refreshments, each person brought and talked about an ornament or Christmas Decoration that had special meaning for them.

And that wasn't all... Barbara Stewart orchestrated and directed a beautiful skit about the birth of our Lord and Savior, and we all sang "Joy to the World" accompanied on the piano by Marion Hughes. This was followed by a moving recitation of O. Henry's



"The Gift of the Magi" by our own Tony Fortune. It was beautiful.

Our gifts of four piece boxes of sugarless chocolate from Angell and Phelps were added to each shut in bag, as were our Christmas Cards. We also collected a vast array of items for our Shoe Box project (toiletries, etc.) for women in need.

We closed with prayer and had lots of leftovers to take home. And as they say, "A good time was had by all".

Last Call: if you would like to purchase either (or both) of the two books authored by Mary Kay Wagner (our November Retreat speaker) see or call Rosie Perry. 386-310-8215

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We continue the study of "Twelve More Women of the Bible" and this month's lesson will be on the "Bent Woman". Are you curious? Come join us.

Let's continue to be Disciples by bringing a neighbor or friend as a guest. We welcome everyone.

For the date and time of Togetherness Circle January meeting, contact Anne Johnson at 386-341-5707.

Barbara Wagner - Moderator (386) 756-5500
Barbara Stewart - Vice-Moderator (863) 295-1661

Travel With Us

Holy Land/Passion Play Trips

We have two pilgrimages planned. Our first will begin July 9, 2019 – a Holy Land trip. There are 39 signed up and we can take 45.

Our other trip leaves July 6, 2020 and is called Alpine Wonders. You may go on the trip without going to the Oberammegau Passion Play if you desire. We have 22 signed up, but the limit is the 5000 seat auditorium for the Passion Play. If you are interested in going, a small deposit now will hold your place and guarantee you a ticket to the play. The information for both trips is in brochures that you may pick up at church. You may also go

the website at www.eo.travelwithus.com to see the itinerary. Register by calling 1-800-247-0017.

Reservations for the 2019 Church Cruise on the brand new Norwegian Bliss are now closed. Stay tuned for information on plans for a 2020 cruise.



The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are with Dorothy Lanier on the death of her daughter Bette Cummings in December.



Topic: Creating Advanced Directives (including dementia)

Presenter: Chaplain Jenny Sumner
Carswell, Tampa General Hospital

When: Sunday, January 13 at 12:15 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

Jenny Sumner Carswell sees it every day – people who have become incapacitated without their wishes known. It is difficult on the families involved. Come and learn how to leave these documents. Included is one we haven't dealt with at WBTS before that plans for dementia care.

Topic: Simple Things to Keep You More in Shape at Home

Presenter: Lucas Porto, personal trainer

When: Wednesday, January 23 at 9:30

Where: Fellowship Hall

We have had Lucas do presentations for us in the past and was very well received. Come and learn exercises you can easily do at home to stay in shape for the New Year.

CHAIR YOGA with Caron & Jack Krier
 When: Each Thursday in January from 10:00 – 11:00 am
 Where: Peninsula Hall
 Cost: \$40.00 per 4-week session or \$10 Drop in Class
 (Cash or checks made out to Caron Krier Please bring payment to the 1st session)
 To register: 386-767-8342 (Kristin Downer, Church Secretary)
 Questions? Contact the Criers at 386-333-9069 (home) or 352-350-0072 (cell)

What's Right About My Church The Following article was submitted to the journal "Presbyterian Outlook" for use in their column, "What's Right About My Church." They published it in their December 17th issue. The file copy of the journal is in the office for now.

After reading [the article] "Addiction and Recovery," I decided to share what our congregation is doing. Commissioned Pastor Tobias Caskey was a new member in 2011, looking to take his life experiences and make a difference in our community. He started the "Friends of Francis" program collecting clothes, bicycles, and other equipment to help homeless people in their quest for employment. That ministry grew into him becoming the Chaplain for Solutions by-the-Sea, a ministry to 160 recently incarcerated or addicted men. Our congregation, through Tobias, is making a difference and gave him permission to do weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communions. From a new member, to a Ruling Elder, to a

Commissioned Pastor, Tobias has stepped up to serve his Lord and be a valuable member of the church. Now he is under care of our Presbytery and enrolled in Dubuque Seminary to become a Minister.

Submitted by,
 Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sumner, Pastor,
 Westminster By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church
 Daytona Beach Shores, Florida

Embroiderers Guild This group meets in our Fellowship Hall the first Thursday of each month from 9 – 1. It is an open group so any of our church members are welcome to come!

Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Rosie Perry

If you want to become more deeply rooted in your faith, come to this three-day spiritual weekend retreat for Christians who want to deepen their relationship with the Lord. During the retreat, Pilgrims (those attending for the first time) worship and study together in small groups. They interact and discuss presentations given by lay people and clergy who have been trained to serve in leadership roles. You'll return from the retreat awed by the Father's power, overflowing with the Holy Spirit, and ready to share the love of Christ. David and Rosie Perry from our church attended the Pilgrimage last year and found it to be a very worthwhile and inspirational experience enhancing their own faith journey. For this coming Pilgrimage, Rosie will be on the staff and David will be a support person for the retreat. You can contact either one of them (386-310-8215) for more information and assistance with the application. Deadline to apply will be March 1, 2019 for the Pilgrimage that will take place at The Retreat in Silver Springs, Ocala, FL from Thursday evening, March 28, to Sunday late afternoon,

March 31, 2019. Brochures will be available in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. The website is www.floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org.

A thought to ponder: *Ask* people to fulfill a task, and they will usually do so.
Tell people to fulfill a task, and they may do it resentfully.
Just ask!