

FEBRUARY
2018

The Westminster
WINDOW

Issue 2
Volume 16

Sunday Service Times: 10 AM Worship and 4 PM Jazz Vespers

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY
READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

02/04 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalms 5:1-8
Luke 7:36-50
Romans 12:3-8

02/11 Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

02/14 Ash Wednesday

2 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

02/18 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

02/25 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY
BIBLE STUDY - 1:30 PM
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS

Join us on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons as Pastor Denise guides us through the scriptures for the following Sunday. (This usually follows the Lectionary readings in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar.) Scriptures for the following month are also listed above, month to month. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while growing deeper in the Word. The study begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Questions? Contact Marilyn Luman.

**February Studies are
February 8 and 22**



Brief service of worship and imposition of ashes.

Join us for a special Ash Wednesday Service February 14 at 7 p.m. as we prepare our hearts for the 40 days of Lent. The one-hour service will include a message, worship and communion. We hope you will join us as we reflect on the incredible sacrifice of our awesome Savior Jesus Christ!

As we look ahead at Resurrection Sunday, we want to invite the church to study God's word together during the Lenten season. We have ordered the new 2018 *Presbyterians Today Lenten Devotional* calendar, available in the Narthex soon, to help us stay committed to daily time with God. You can access the calendar in several ways

1. EMAIL: Subscribe by e-mail (wpc@westminsterPeoria.org) to receive each day's reading in your inbox.
2. PRINT: Pick up a print copy of the Lenten Devotional on the table in the Narthex.
3. PDF: Download the pdf of the devotional calendar at: westminsterpeo.org

All are welcome to begin a Holy Lent Together.

ASHES AND CHOCOLATE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. Valentines' Day and Ash Wednesday – what a contrast between the secular and the spiritual! Like several of our Christian celebrations, the date corresponds to a pagan festival, the feast of Lupercalia. From February 13 to 15,

Continued on page 5



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Organist/Choirmaster **Thomas Clark-Jones**
Phone 309-673-8501 Ext. 6
Hours Monday-Friday 11 to 1 PM
Email music@westminsterpeoria.org

ON-SITE MISSIONS

WestMark Food Pantry **Elizabeth Richmond**
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Hours Weekly Monday 9 to 11 AM
Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

Westminster Infant Care Center
Director **Valerie Sager**
Phone 309-674-6701
Hours Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM
in accordance with Peoria school calendar
Email WICC1973@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Editing/Proofing

Peggy Carter

Collating/Securing

Dick and Norma Helfrich, Pat Wagner,
Monte and JoAnn Gibson, Alice Nash,
Marilyn Luman, Adele Fleming and
Peggy Carter.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Anna Bussian

The Circle of Friends will meet at the home of Edna Nugent on Tuesday, February 6, at 9 a.m. We will visit and then have a brief program on Ted DeGrazia, the artist.

Don't forget. Come to the parking area off Florence Avenue. Guest parking is the first row near the building. The door is locked but I will watch for you. If we are away from the door, please call from your cell phone to get in. If the spaces are full, park anywhere that is not under cover. All are welcome to join us, and be sure to bring a friend.

If you haven't signed up to host a month, please get in touch with Anna Bussian, who has the available months yet to be filled. ♥

MEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us for a good cup of joe and good conversation. We meet at Panera Bread, 2515 N. Westlake, weekly on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Invite a friend. It is always a good time and there is always room for more. ♥

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH JEANIE & BILL OLSON

Mary Lee

As many of you know, Jeanie and Bill left in January for their around-the-world cruise. You can travel along with them by visiting their blog at: olsonwwcruise.com and see the places they have visited. Read about their day and their fun excursions. You can even leave a comment at the end of each entry.

Their first port is Honolulu on January 28 to their last port in Fort Lauderdale on April 27. Aloha!

Blog along with them at: olsonwwcruise.com

Here is their first entry:

Boarding and getting underway: Tuesday January 22 and January 23, 2018 *The boarding went well, but it is strenuous for us. We took a short walk after breakfast before boarding the bus to the pier in San Pedro 15 minutes away. It was all very well organized and went very smoothly. We were in our stateroom by 1 pm. The four boxes we had shipped were lined up against the wall well out of the way. We rested a few minutes and then went down to the Club Restaurant for lunch. We joined Ginny and John, who are from Virginia. They boarded in Fort Lauderdale and have done the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.*

The afternoon, dinner, and safety drill with unpacking 7 of the 8 suitcases took us to bedtime. The seas had kicked up a bit once we

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Photo taken by Carol Carlson

Below is a photo that was taken on Sunday, January 21, after the 10 a.m. service. Westminster celebrated those members who have worshipped with us over the many years. They were honored for their participation in the mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



As they arrived, a boutonniere was pinned to each member, helping us recognize those being honored. The Member Care Committee handed out special gifts during the coffee hour while they mingled.

Westminster would like to say "Thank You!" for all of your service. The work of the ministry can not go forward without the time and talents of those within the family.

Let them know how much you appreciate them. ♥

LENTEN 101

Article taken from the Presbyterian Mission, Presbyterian Church (USA) Magazine

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. People in the pews may be asking questions. Why do Presbyterians participate in Ash Wednesday? Isn't it a Roman Catholic rite? What is the purpose of Lent in the Reformed tradition? Are we supposed to give up something for Lent? Congregations, increasingly called to welcome seekers and new Christians, are aware of the importance of defining the language of faith and interpreting the traditions of the community. A basic guide to Lenten practices may be helpful.

LENT

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. New be-



WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY

Elizabeth Richmond

During the month of **December** the WestMark Food Pantry provided food to **1509** individuals.

We can always use peanut butter, applesauce, canned meat and fruits, macaroni and cheese, cereal.

Our highlighted items for the month of February are Fats, Oils, & Sweets. Items like:

Jelly and Jams	Honey
Mayonnaise	Sugar
Vegetable Oil	
Salad Dressing	Syrup

The partnership we have with St. Mark's Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those who might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks. ♥

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Elizabeth Richmond

Come help unload deliveries: every first and third Tuesday, **February 6 & 20, at 11:30 a.m.** Then on Thursday, **February 15, at 1 p.m.** The fourth Thursday, our larger delivery of the month, **February 22, at 11 a.m.**

We also can use some help filling in for our regular volunteers on Monday mornings. If you are interested in helping once-in-awhile but cannot commit to every Monday, call Elizabeth Richmond at 309-697-9720 and let her know. We will add you to the list of volunteers to call when needed. ♥

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Another Great Event by the: Gretchen R. Iben Art Series

A CHILD'S INTRODUCTION TO JAZZ

Thomas Clark-Jones

The Illinois River dominates the landscape of the Peoria area, being one of the great rivers of mid-America. Jazz travelled up the Mississippi River through Memphis and St. Louis and on northward to the Illinois River and Peoria and ultimately, Chicago. This strong heritage of jazz will be celebrated in an event for children, presented by the Gretchen Iben Arts Series of Westminster Church. On March 4, a multi-media event will bring the great music of America to our children in the Peoria area. At 3:00 p.m. the event starts in the Fellowship Hall with art projects

that will feature instrument building, and activities to show the journey of jazz up the rivers. At 4:00 p.m., our Jazz Co-Ordinator, the legendary David Hoffman and a group of his friends from the jazz community, who are some of the finest practioners of the jazz art, will bring an interactive introduction to jazz for children of all ages. The program is specifically geared to elementary age children, but people of all ages will enjoy this innovative program bringing jazz to our young people. There is no charge for the event and the

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WICC BOOK CLUB NEWS

NEW BOOK NOOK IN THE MAKING

Valerie Sager

William Leitch (father of Elizabeth Richmond) generously donated \$2,000 to establish a Book Nook for the WICC Early Childhood classroom. These funds will be used to purchase child-friendly furnishings, age appropriate literature, and extension activity items. An additional benefit from this gift will be the implementation of our Family Engagement Program that will enable our parents to check out book kits that will provide extension activities that enrich the child's learning experiences with their family.

A big "THANK YOU" to Mr. Leitch for this generous and heartfelt gift. ♥

WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

Valerie Sager

Westminster Infant Care Center returned from Winter Break to find a big box of brand new books waiting for all of our children! How exciting to open the box and read each title out loud as the little ones squealed with delight. A special thank you to Holly Ruck (daughter of Jerrie Ruck) for this generous donation of children's literature. Reading is an essential daily activity in our Early Childhood classroom. New books are always needed and appreciated. Thanks so much, Holly! ♥



WICC BOOK CLUB DONATION

☐ YES. I want to give to reading!

Make checks payable to:
Westminster Presb. Church

Name: _____

Write on memo line:
WICC BOOK CLUB

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Clip and mail this form to:
WICC Book Club

Westminster Presb. Church
1420 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Email: _____

Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$ _____

the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The name of the festival was derived from "lupus," meaning wolf, suggesting that the festival was associated with a pagan god who protected herds from wolves. It was also associated with the myth of the "she-wolf, who nursed Romulus and Remus. These twin sons of a human and the Roman God, Mars, were the mythological founders of the city of Rome. The celebration included a fertility rite, which today would be called an assault of women.

Instead of gifted with chocolates and roses, women received lashes from whips made from strips of skin of animals slain for sacrifice to the gods by naked, drunken men. These lashes were believed to render women fertile. The rest of the fertility rite is a bit sordid for a church newsletter, but suffice it to say, there were probably a lot of babies born during late fall in the early Roman Empire.

February 14 became part of the Christian calendar during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, from 268-270. The Emperor executed two men by the name of Valentine on Feb. 14 in two different years. Due to their martyrdom, these two men were given sainthood, and Feb.14, the day of their martyrdom, became a feast day. It is no coincidence that this Christian holiday became a bigger celebration than most saints' days. This Christian holiday, established in the fifth century, rivaled that violent and bawdy pagan holiday, Lupercalia. Through the years, particularly spurred on by English writers Shakespeare and Chaucer, Valentines' Day became more of a secular celebration of romance.

So, this year Ash Wednesday becomes a rival celebration to Valentines' Day. A day of confession and repentance versus a day of flowers, chocolate candy, wining and dining... hmmm...who do you think will get the most celebrants?

There are no Ash Wednesday parties or gifts. The only food and drink is a small bite of bread and a thimble-sized serving of wine – and even that is grape juice in many Protestant churches. It is not surprising that Ash Wednesday has not been a significant day to those denominations that are neither non-Catholic nor Anglo-Catholic

(Episcopalians and Lutherans).

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Although confession and repentance bring peace to mind and soul, it does not offer what the Apostle Paul called delights "of the flesh." Paul is often, mistakenly, accused of condemning any pleasure or joy. John Calvin has gotten the same false accusation. Yet, both men would, no doubt, be saddened by the fact that more people will be found in bars and restaurants on this Feb.14 than in churches.

During Lent we are invited to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor by exercising the Disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Living out a discipline takes our Lord's words about obedience and self-denial seriously. Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matt.16:24).

The often debated question is "Is it better to give up something or take up something for Lent?" My interpretation of the bible is that any sacrifice that does not give to someone else is little service to God's kingdom. Does giving up foods that you fear are making you overweight serve the kingdom of God? Perhaps, if your motivation is honoring and preserving the gift of life and a healthy body God has given you. But, is this not only half of the sacrifice? When we have more than we need on our tables, Jesus reminds us that we have a responsibility to help those whose tables do not have enough food.

I am not advocating sacrifice merely for the sake of sacrifice, nor am I proposing (a little pun!) to skip celebrating Valentines' Day. Another word for "almsgiving" is "works of love." Having loved ones is a gift from God. Love is what God desires for us to guide our relationships and our actions. So, why not celebrate both Valentines' Day and Ash Wednesday?

May God be with you on your Lenten Journey,
Pastor Denise ♥



Ecclesiastes 3:20



SESSION NOTES

From the January 9 Meeting



Respectfully,
Brian Hakes, Clerk of Session

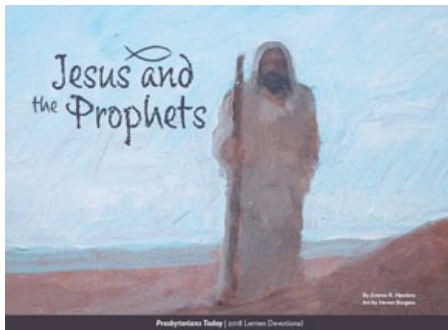
- ♦ Received thank you letters from:
 - The Center for the Prevention of Abuse for a \$375 mission gift.
 - Presbytery missions in the amounts of \$235 towards Peace and Global Witness, \$8,480 for Disaster Relief and \$50 for the CWS Blanket Fund.
 - ♦ Both Peoria Public Schools and the Peoria Children's Home have expressed interest in using the classroom space in the William R. O'Neill Parish House.
 - ♦ A subcommittee of the Finance committee performed an internal audit of the accounting procedures.
 - ♦ The March 4 Gretchen R. Iben event will be a children's concert introducing jazz to kids. It will be preceded with activities.
 - ♦ The Church roll has been updated and there is a downward revision to 146 members.
 - ♦ Member recognition is January 21.
 - ♦ Debbie Chance and Marian Borders will be received into membership on January 21.
 - ♦ The drain in the new bathroom has been re-plumbed at a cost of \$480.
 - ♦ WICC will have 8 children enrolled at the end of the school year.
 - ♦ The WestMark Food Pantry served 1,509 people in December
 - ♦ The Peoria Police Department will moderate a safety seminar on January 16 at Northwoods Community Church. The seminar is in response to mass shootings that have taken place and the Peoria Police Department will share safety measures that churches can implement. ♥
-

2017 GIVING STATEMENTS

Gary Leonard

Giving Statements were issued in mid-January for members or regular visitors who contributed to the church during the year. If you did not receive your statement and would like to receive one, please contact our Financial Secretary, Denise Wirth at 309-439-7940 or email her at: financesecy@westminsterpeoria.org. Also, contact Denise if you have any questions about your statement. Financial support of Westminster is one way that we express our faith. Your contributions were used to support the church's ministry, missions, properties, and operations during 2017. ♥

JESUS AND THE PROPHETS



*Presbyterians Today,
2018 Lenten Devotional*

There is a potent connection between Jesus and the prophets. The prophets communicated the word of God; Jesus is the Word of God. The prophets pre-

dicted the coming of the prince of peace; Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Not only did Jesus continue the prophetic ministry, he is the fulfillment of the prophetic mission.

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PC(USA) pastor, board trustee for Union Presbyterian Seminary and director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., has assembled a collection of challenging daily reflections, Scripture and prayers to help us on our Lenten journey. The Lenten Devotional features oil paintings by Steven Burgess, an artist from upstate New York who is a member of First United Presbyterian Church in Salem, N.Y. The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and contemplation of the power and promise of the paschal mystery. Perhaps there are no better models of how to live Lent than the prophets.

These devotionals will be available as soon as they arrive. Watch for them in the Narthex. ♥

Reclaimed by Reformed churches in the last few decades, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Palms waved at the previous year's Palm Sunday service are saved and burned to create ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. Participants on Ash Wednesday come forward for a minister or elder to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes, saying the words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," from Genesis 3:19. With these words, disciples are reminded of their mortality and, when combined with the sign of the cross, they are also reminded of the hope of the resurrection.

Christians do not receive the sign of the cross to attract attention or to be noticed by others; they receive the sign of the cross to focus on who they are as human beings, bound in death and life to Christ. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent provide time to explore the mystery at the heart of the gospel that being a Christian means a new life through Christ.

The Thursday before Easter Sunday is the day to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The story of Jesus breaking and blessing bread at the Passover meal, as a reminder of his life given freely for all, is told in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This Passover act became the sacrament of holy com-

On January 21, during the morning service, we announced two new people who have become part of the Westminster family. Let's be sure to give them a warm welcome the next time you see them in church. They are:

Marian Borders
2427 W. Kellogg Avenue
West Peoria, Illinois 61604
773-334-7781
No email

Don't forget to add their information to your church directory. Watch for their story in an upcoming edition of the *Window*. ♥

Dr. Michael Gizzi from Illinois State University will be giving a lecture on the Arab-Israeli peace initiatives. This is a follow-up to the lecture "Palestine Today" that was given on January 21 by Dr. John Nixon.

We will meet on February 4 in the Fellowship Hall following the morning service. Come and hear another point of view. All are welcome, so tell your friends. ♥

2	Anna Bussian	12	Conrad Stinnett
3	Jordan Case	17	Alex Cullen
6	Julie Hill	18	Dick Helfrich
10	Carol Borders	19	Emma Cullen
11	Sally Fitch	25	Bettye Thompson
		28	Diane Case

16 Pastor Denise & Tom Clark-Jones

munion in the Christian church. Celebration of communion is usually the centerpiece of a Maundy Thursday service.

Another element of a Maundy Thursday service may be the act of foot washing. Many scholars believe the term *maundy* is taken from the Latin word *mandatum* or *mandate*. John's Gospel does not tell about the institution of communion at his last Passover meal; it highlights the story of Jesus girding himself with a towel, taking a basin of water, and washing his disciples' feet. John 13:34 includes Jesus' words, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." The observance of foot washing is practiced in some Presbyterian churches as a reminder of the kind of love and servanthood Christ asks of his disciples today.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Friday before Easter is the day to remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Many wonder why this day is called good. This Friday is sometimes called Holy or Black Friday, but the term *good* reminds us of Jesus' blameless, good, and pious life. Churches sometimes have a special worship service between noon and 3 p.m. to represent the hours that the sky turned dark as Jesus suffered and died. Many congregations base Good Friday worship on Jesus' last words from the cross.

TENEBRAE

One other Lenten practice often observed during Holy Week is Tenebrae, Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." The unique feature of this worship service is the extinguishing of one candle after each reading until the room or sanctuary is totally dark. The darkness reminds those present of the days Jesus spent in the tomb. This service can be held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. Scripture for this service usually consists of Gospel readings describing the Last Supper through the crucifixion, including the last words of Jesus from the cross. The end of the service is usually marked by the lighting of one candle, reminding those present that the darkness does not overcome; the light will shine again. Easter is coming!

TELL ME MORE

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. ♥

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111)

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that

Continued on page II . . .

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Brian Hakes Class of 2018
Christian Education.....	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Church Life	Jill Bell Class of 2018
Finance	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership	Carol Carlson Class of 2018
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel.....	Larry Hicks Class of 2019
Properties	Don Bell Class of 2018
Worship	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2012

**SESSION MEETS ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY, MONTHLY,
6:30 PM, IN THE PARLOR!**

DEACONS

Moderator	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian.....	Class of 2020
Sue Burnham.....	Class of 2020
Mary Dill	Class of 2018
Kim Mitchell	Class of 2019
Alice Nash	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2020
Marge Willadsen.....	Class of 2020



MEET STEVEN SAGER

A NEW MEMBER of the WESTMINSTER STAFF

Ashley Foster

Steve Sager is the newest staff member here at Westminster. At the beginning of November, he took on the job of Buildings Manager.

Steve was born in Peoria and raised in Elmwood, where both of his parents still reside. He attended Elmwood Grade School and Elmwood High School. He has three sisters. He went on to attend the University of Maryland, where he studied Psychology and Business Management.

Steve has been married to Val, the head of the Westminster Infant Care Center staff, for 37 years. They have one son, Yuri, and a 5-year-old granddaughter named Lilly. Steve served in the United States Navy for 26 years. His job was in Cryptology, which involved working with codes.

He did a great deal of traveling during this time. Steve and Val lived in Iceland for six years, Scotland for eight years, and Guam for three years. They also lived in Hawaii and South Carolina. Steve retired in 1999, and he and Val returned to Elmwood.

Steve has had a number of jobs since he has been retired. He worked in IT at Advocate Bromenn Medical Center in Bloomington. He was a training manager for Affina, which involved a good amount of traveling. He worked for Workforce Development in Galesburg as a communications officer. He also worked for Carl Sandburg Community College in Galesburg as the Director of Business and Community Education. In addition, he worked for AgReliant, which is a Genetics Lab. He extracted DNA from corn in order to determine the DNA levels in it.

Steve has several hobbies. He enjoys reading, swimming and cooking. He also likes to watch old movies. Steve and Val are both Jewish. They converted together many years ago. Steve decided that he wanted to work for Westminster because it is a place that is familiar to him. According to his Jewish faith, he sees it as "healing the world," i.e. "a service to others."

Westminster is very pleased to have Steve as part of our staff. ♥

Child's Intro to River Jazz from page 4 . .

entire community is welcome. Following the musical part of the program, some jazzy refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. This program replaces the Jazz Vespers on that particular Sunday afternoon. Come! Enjoy! A youthful program from the Iben Series. ♥

got out into the Pacific and walking around took a bit of care and caution. We were glad to get flat. We slept well. Tuesday dawned cloudy and the boat was rocking quite a bit. We maneuvered our way to breakfast and then then to a presentation on Hawaii and Honolulu. After lunch I finished unpacking the last suitcase and two of the boxes. Bill is using the boxes for a shelf. I will unpack the other two as we need the supplies.

After dinner we attended a terrific show put on by ventriloquist Mark Merchant . He had four puppets: an eagle, a lady of the night, a black boy and one he called wing-tip. They each led into fun jokes covering the gamut of politics, Social issues, sex and celebrities.

The picture below is us with Mark and the wing-tip puppet. We enjoyed. ♥



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Article taken from onegreathourofsharing.org

PURPOSE

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

HISTORY

During World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. At the prompting of newly-elected Presiding Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill of the Episcopal Church in 1946, a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. On nationwide radio, he challenged members to raise "one million dollars in



RING OF COLOR COFFEE MUGS

Drink your morning cup of coffee out of the new Westminster ceramic mugs. They are equipped with a large D-shaped handle for a comfortable grip. They are a glossy black outside with an ocean blue interior with a matching trim on the outside. These awesome new 13 oz. mugs have an hourglass-like shape that blends perfectly into every kitchen.

If you would like to have one of our new coffee mugs that showcase our logo and church name, they are available at \$4 each. You can see a sample in the Narthex along with an order form and envelope to place your money in. Just place it into the offering plate, hand it to an usher, turn it into the office or mail in the coupon below. We will have your coffee mug(s) on the table in the Narthex waiting for you to pick up by the following Sunday. ♥



WESTMINSTER RING OF COLOR MUG

Make checks payable to: WPC

Write COFFEE MUG on the memo line

Clip and mail this form to:

**Westminster Presb. Church
CO MUGS**

1420 W. Moss Ave, Peoria IL 61606

Quantity ordered ____ X \$4.00
equals amount enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Thank
you*

The Paschal Mystery continued from page 8. . .

turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus. ♥

OGHOS continued from page 10 . . .

one hour" to help people and communities in need. During the first three years, Episcopalians raised \$3.8 million.

In 1949, church leaders from several denominations formed an ad hoc committee to organize an appeal aimed at supporting the separate campaigns of American churches. Their joint statement in support of this effort in essence conveyed the importance of strengthening the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas. Pulling together, they could prove to the world the great power generated when Christians are united in a common cause.

In 1950, the title "One Great Hour of Sharing" was used for the first time. Its goal was to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world, who suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Currently, the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises eight Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and Church World Service. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls the

Continued on back page. . .

WORSHIP

Celebrating God as a church family.

10 a.m. Sunday Morning
Jazz Vespers at 4 p.m.

CONNECT

Engaging as a Follower of Christ

- ♦ Men's Coffee Fellowship: weekly, Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.
- ♦ Circle of Friends: monthly, at 9 a.m. September through May. ♥

DEVELOP

Growing as a Follower of Christ

- ♦ Attend lecture on the Arab-Israeli Peace Initiative on Sunday, February 4, at 11 a.m.
- ♦ Bible Study: monthly, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.
- ♦ Do the Lenten Devotional. (cover) ♥

SERVE

Honoring God by Serving Others

- ♦ HELP with the Children's Intro to Jazz. (pg. 2)
- ♦ HOST Circle of Friends for a month. (pg.2)
- ♦ DONATE food for the WestMark Food Pantry (pg.3)
- ♦ FILL IN on occasion when the food pantry needs help.
- ♦ VOLUNTEER to serve (run sound, usher, host coffee hour)
- ♦ PLEDGE to the church ♥

PRAY

Humble Yourself before God

- ♦ Pray for WPC, our elders, deacons, and for our homebound members (Wanda T., Shirley K., Helen H., Dorothy M., Hettie B., Florence W., Marilyn H.
- ♦ Those we serve through the food pantry and the Infant Care Center.
- ♦ Pray for needs of our family, friends, and loved ones: Erika, Lynn H., Adele F., Jane C., Jack A., Nancy L., Rosemary M., Patty, Janet, Brooks M., Marcy M., John G., Dave & Julie H., Renny, Ron & Lynne, Barbara, Brian H., Jim C., Elizabeth S., Ashley, Jan Z., Jim Z., Anne, Laura & Eric, Nelda K., Linda S., Marilyn W. & Julie, Bruce & Jan A., Eunice S., Joan R., Joe, Keith, & Zoe, Brad B., Mike, Tom, Sylvia, Carolyn, and Diana. ♥

WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Ave.
Peoria, Illinois 61606

Rev. Denise
Clark-Jones

JOIN US
SUNDAYS

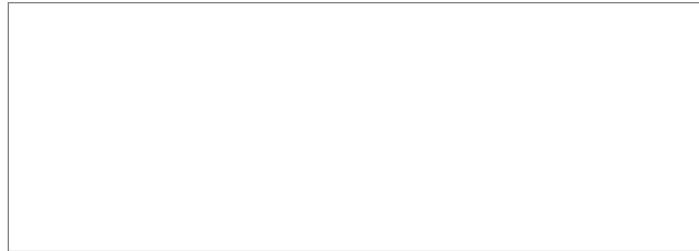
10 AM
Traditional Worship

4 PM
Jazz Vespers

*Serving God with
Open Mind,
Hands, and Heart*

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ASH
Wednesday
February 14 - 7PM



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



OGHOS continued from page 11 . . .

offering Week of Compassion. In various ways, all work in cooperation with Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. From the 1990s to the early 2000s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, most use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created. ♥

