

# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

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My Family in Christ,

Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, Christians are challenged to go further in accepting and loving God's will for us and the world.

Stewardship plays an important role in the lives of Christians who truly seek to follow Jesus. To understand what stewardship truly means we only have to read the very first verse of Genesis. **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).** This important verse affirms that we (and everything else in all of Creation) are the precious possessions of the God who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth.

Faithful stewardship means that we fully acknowledge we are not our own, but that we belong to God. Stewardship is the consecration of one's self and possessions to God's service. It means as stewards of God we are managers of all the assets that God, our Creator, has given to us.

That is why stewardship is the work of a lifetime. Our first spiritual battle once we understand ourselves to belong to Christ is usually with our will. We want to control our lives, and the idea of handing over control to God or anyone else goes against the grain. Stewardship involves a conversion of the heart, but it is a joyful thing when we truly place our trust in the Lord and share our gifts out of the pure joy of committing ourselves to God's great plan for our lives.

As Christians, stewardship is not an option – it is a requirement to do just what Jesus asked of his disciples: to give up our attachment to all that we possess, to place our trust in the Lord and follow Him. Jesus' disciples were changed when they said 'yes.' Each of us needs to be changed in some way when we say 'yes.'

**Stewardship Sunday will take place on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Your generous financial gift and gift of time vastly increases the number of people we can serve through our ministries. We do have all the resources we need in our Westminster community to be a vibrant community of faith. Please consider increasing your pledge this year.

Pastor Joe

## WHATS HAPPENING AT WPC

### P.O.W. RETURNS (Play On Westminster)



Last year, Director of Music, Erika Sayar, donated violins from her business (The Violin Doctor) to support an exciting new mission project at Westminster. The idea was to offer a free violin and a free weekly violin lesson to disadvantaged middle-school aged children. Five excited and enthusiastic middle schoolers responded to our offer.

The free lessons were offered by a colleague of Erika's in the Wall School District, but over the summer he accepted another teaching position and was unable to teach P.O.W. this year.

Last week, we found another music teacher, Mr. Jeffrey Boga, a music teacher at the Red Bank Regional High School who has agreed to teach our kids. Mr. Boga has performed on violin during our last two 11 pm Christmas Eve services and is a major addition to our fledgling mission violin program. Lessons for our kids will resume on Thursday, November 15 from 5-6 pm in Harlan Hall.

### 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



The 2018 Stewardship Campaign kicked off last week with a letter from our Campaign Chair, John Pillarella, and a stewardship sermon on Sunday. Westminster's 2018 stewardship campaign will continue through Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Stewardship Sunday.

Over the course of the next 4 weeks a series of interesting speakers from both within and outside of our community of faith, will briefly share how our vibrant ministry has impacted them in profound ways.

## CROSSROADS CAFÉ

Thank you to our performers Malena Towers and the Crossroads Mission Band, and to everyone who came out and supported the event.

Malena opened the evening with uplifting contemporary Christian songs. The Crossroads Mission Band put a rock-n-roll spin on traditional hymns and had the place clapping, dancing, and rocking.

Everyone had a rousingly good time!



## HURRICANE FLORENCE



Westminster did it again! With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the sweat, blood, tears (read: effort) of many Westminster members and friends, we were able to fill a 54 ft tractor-trailer over a 3-week period with desperately needed hurricane relief supplies bound for ground zero - Wilmington/New Bern, N.C.

The truck (courtesy of the Kortenhaus family and Speed Global Services) and Pastor Joe departed for the Myrtle Grove Presbyterian church in Wilmington on Tuesday, October 16. The truck was warmly received by 20 volunteers from the church and community on Wednesday at noon. Together they happily unloaded the truck and began immediate distribution of disinfectants, mops, brooms, shovels, baby diapers and wipes, a washer and dryer, and 500 pounds of locally donated beef jerky.

## FIELD OF FLAGS

Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am

The Field of Flags honoring the 6,932 soldiers who gave their lives in service to their nation in Iraq and Afghanistan will be dedicated tomorrow at 10 am. The event will feature stirring bagpipe music: the Posting of Colors by the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Core; a greeting from Middletown Mayor Kevin Settembrino and Freeholder Gerry Scharfenberger; a keynote speech by the Monmouth County Prosecutor, Christopher Gramiccioni; and patriotic songs.



## TAIZÉ SERVICE

A Time of Prayer and Meditation  
Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm



Former Director of Music, Joe Moffit, will lead our congregation in a special Taizé service of worship on Wednesday, November 7th at 7:30 pm.

## RICHARD LUDLUM RETURNS

Former Music Director, Mr. Richard Ludlum, has agreed to substitute for our current Music Director on Sunday, November 11th.

## MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Family Promise



WPC cooked dinner for 15 homeless people in September as part of the Family Promise organization. Family Promise is an organization of churches that provide shelter for homeless families, usually women with children. Churches who are able provide sleeping quarters on their campus for a week at a time, usually 4-6 times a year. We have partnered with Christ Episcopal Church on King's Highway in Middletown to provide dinner on the Saturday nights they are hosting. Our next date is December 8.

A small number of people meet in the Harlan Hall kitchen at 3:00 p.m., cook a complete dinner and have a lot of fun together. The food is delivered to Christ Church by 5:30 p.m. So this is an activity that only requires a couple of hours.



Yes, *shockingly* our recreation of Bethlehem is only 1 months away. Saturday, December 1, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Please consider how you might participate in this attempt by WPC to Keep Christ in Christmas. For those of you who are new to the congregation, our Bethlehem program turns Harlan Hall and other parts of the WPC Campus into “Bethlehem” at the time of Jesus birth. We have various stations where visitors can participate in activities reminiscent of what would have been happening at the time. Some of which include spinning wool into yarn, grinding frankincense and myrrh, learning some carpentry skills, and perhaps the most popular (all right I’ll admit the Potters’ animals are the most popular) - the food table, where one can try various foods that were eaten at the time of Jesus in Israel.

This event drew 200+ visitors last year. And there are many ways to help, including the following:

1. Lend a pop-up tent - we need at least 7.
2. Bake for the food booth - recipes provided.
3. Sew a costume - for yourself or someone else. Patterns and fabric provided.

Be one of the Bethlehem villagers, or other characters needed to both man the stations and create the right atmosphere. Some kings and a couple resembling Mary and Joseph have been seen wandering around.

Help with decorating, set up and tear down.

Please watch for our organizational meeting in October and see Lenita Gullman with any questions (or commitments!).

Come help us celebrate the birthday of the Savior and give an early Christmas gift to the community.

# Leapin' Lizards!

**Daddy Warbucks:** Absolutely not! I'm a businessman. I love money, I love power, I love capitalism. I do not now and never will love children.



## reens & TWEENS

If you are a Middle schooler or highschooler, please join us Sunday November 4, 2018 in Harlan Hall following coffee hour for our Greens & Tweens event.

We will be showing the classic movie "Annie" and playing some games.

Is the bible still relevant 2,000 years later? What about this 1982 movie 36 years later? Can we learn any biblical principles from this movie? Will Annie ever find her real parents? Does Oliver Warbucks really know Miss Farrells first name? Will the Sun really come out Tomorrow or is it a Hard Knock Life for Us? Bring a friend or two, join us and find out!

If you would like to help  
please contact Amy Weston at 732-233-5705, by email at [a.weston00@gmail.com](mailto:a.weston00@gmail.com)  
or thru the church office if you have any questions

## DEACON FOOD PANTRY Items for November

Canned vegetables, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French's fried onions, turkey gravy, stuffing, and cranberry jelly.

*He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.* John 21:16 KJV



### How to Access Our Food Pantry

The food pantry in Harlan Hall is kept stocked through the generosity of and for the benefit of Westminster members and the community at large. Should an emergency arise and a member or someone from the community needs food, call either Lori at the church office or Pastor Joe at 732.671.2585 (your call will be kept in complete confidence). They will notify the Moderator of the Deacons, Pam Wayde, and she will put together the parcels. The groceries may be picked up immediately in some cases or as early the next day by arrangement with either Pastor Joe or Pam Wayde.