

# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter from Westminster

OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE IN ALL WE DO

*believe*



- 07 ~ Jack Clark
- 12 ~ Ella Dunklee
- 13 ~ Madeleine McClane
- 20 ~ Glenn Müller
- 31 ~ Clinton Simmons

## A DOG'S PURPOSE

(from a 6 year old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolf hound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, 'I know why.'

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, 'People are born so that they can learn how to live a good Life - - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?' The Six-year-old continued, 'Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long.'

Remember, if a dog was the teacher, you would learn things like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

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When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.<sup>1</sup>

There comes a time in life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh, forget the bad, and focus on the good. So, love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is part of LIFE.....Getting back up is LIVING.....<sup>1</sup>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Pastor Angie*

<sup>1</sup> W. Bruce Cameron

<sup>2</sup> José N. Harris



## Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapter 1337— “Prayers and Squares” The Prayer Quilt Ministry.

The Prayers and Squares ministry aims to promote an active prayer life among the participants, not just to make and give away quilts. We strive to involve as many people as possible in our prayer efforts.

Together with the United Methodist Church, meetings will occur on the first Saturday and the third Monday of the month. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. – January Meetings: Sat. Jan.04 and Mon. Jan. 20.

Prayers and Squares had a festive Christmas Party hosted by Holly Cagle.

Thank you, Holly!

Come sew, and be creative!



## Christmas Adopt a Family

We adopted 3 girls ages 3 and 1 (twins) for Christmas. Catalina and Kalivida (1yr. old twins), Onna (3 yr. old) Our Prayers and Squares group delivered (two visits so far), three quilts and food, diapers and clothes and a twin stroller to the aunt and uncle caring for a 3year old and twin 1 y/o girls. In addition to their own 4 children. Sierra and Austin are so grateful. For our prayers and donations. The little ones are getting speech and play therapy as they were a little behind. They are making great progress. Sierra has our advent calendar posted by her calendar and said it is a great comfort to read daily.



## **A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year**

*Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.*

*We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.*

*Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set you way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.*





Minute for Missions

Beginning this month, if you see the kids during passing of the Peace with “bounty buckets”, please give them your change.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

December 02, 2024 Westminster participated in ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army at Walmart



BLUE CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE  
December 09, 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- ▶ **ELDER TRAINING**— Beginning January 05, there will be Elder training at 9:30 a.m. for all Session members and others interested in learning what it means to be an Elder. We will meet each Sunday in January.
- ▶ **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**—January 12, during service.
- ▶ **LITURGISTS/LITTLE LAMB TIME SCHEDULE** — Please check the Schedule so you don't forget which Sunday you are the liturgist & Little Lamb time leader. Please sign up for available dates.
- ▶ **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER** — WILL RESUME JAN. 07— 9:00 a.m.—upstairs in the conference room.
- ▶ **TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY**— WILL RESUME— JAN. 07—10:30 a.m.—downstairs in Clingan Hall.
- ▶ **MEN'S WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE**— WILL RESUME JAN. 08— 7:00 a.m.— 10:00 a.m.—downstairs in the dining area "Hill Hall".
- ▶ **PRAYERS AND SQUARES CHAPTER 1337**— Together with the United Methodist Church, we shall meet on the first Saturday and the third Monday of the month— January Meetings: Sat. Jan.04 and Mon. Jan. 20. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Holly Cagle.
- ▶ **REFRESHMENT SIGN-UP LIST:** Please check the refreshment sign-up list on the bulletin board in the kitchen to sign up on available dates. Please don't forget your date. Thank you!
- ▶ **SESSION MEETING**—Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- ▶ **SUNDAY SCHOOL—ADULT & CHILDREN**—9:30 a.m.
- ▶ **FELLOWSHIP TIME**— Join in on "Fellowship Time" with refreshments after worship.



### PRAYERS AND SQUARES NEWS

Kody was gifted his first sewing machine and thread from the Unique Quilt Guild.

Such a surprise and we are so proud of him.

We look forward to prayer quilts made by Kody.

**Tuesday Morning Prayer**

9:00 a.m. – upstairs in the  
Conference Room  
Resuming January 07, 2025



**Bible Study**

Tuesday -10:30 a.m.  
Downstairs, Clingan Hall  
Resuming January 07, 2025



**Session Meeting**

Wed. January 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Adult and children

**9:30 a.m.**

Join in on the  
Wednesday: Men's Coffee and  
Donuts:

7:00 a.m.— 10:00 a.m.  
Resuming Jan. 08

•Join us for  
“Fellowship Time”  
refreshments after Worship  
(Downstairs in Hill Hall)

**27 persons,  
average attendance for  
December**



**Offerings for  
December 2024**

**Pledges: \$5708.00**

**Non-Pledges: \$600.00**

**Basket: \$329.00**



*Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit, which brings good out of evil and prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life, and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.*

Luke 2:40 (NKJV)

*And the Child grew and became strong in spirit,  
filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.*

**Hours:**

**Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.**

**Fellowship/refreshments after Worship**

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