

THE

Caller

January 11, 2012 Volume 16, Issue 1



WEST DES MOINES CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

FINANCES, FAITH, AND FUN February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Dr. Randy Ehrhardt will be facilitating a discussion course on finances during the five weeks of February (can only happen in this Leap Year). Sessions will be held in the Youth Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays (February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29).

This 5-week study will include biblical insights on money, credit, and stewardship; worksheets for home use on personal and family finances; class discussions; and a introductory financial planning tips. Topics include:

- Prioritizing financial goals and becoming financially free
- How to be a prudent consumer and cautious debtor
- Pay yourself first
- Enough of anything is too much
- Understanding the spiritual aspects of money
- Financial peace

This course is open to singles and couples of all ages. Enrollment is limited to 30. If you plan to attend, please sign up by January 22 on the Fellowship Hall board or call or email the church office. Please notify the church office if you need child care.

We hope you can join us for FFF in February!

New Year Offers New Opportunities

Did you know that with time, patience, and a little initiative church is one of the best places to find true and lasting friendships and relationships?

It's not too late to add another resolution to your list for this year. In 2012, won't you consider joining a small group based on your personal interests and schedule?

Turn to page 5 to discover the many ways you can become involved in a small group ministry at WDMCC.

Questions? Call the church office.

WDMCC Goes Bowling January 29

Adult Ministries invites everyone to an all-church bowling party on Sunday, January 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Warrior Lanes in Waukee. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes bowling, pizza, and pop. Please sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board by Sunday, January 22. Questions? Contact the church office.

Youth Host 25th Annual Valentine Dinner

Love In Any Language is the theme for the Valentine Dinner on Sunday, February 12. We hope you will join us for this special occasion that celebrates love and friendships and marks the 25th annual Valentine Dinner sponsored by our Chi-Rho and CYF youth groups.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with appetizers served *at your table* until 5:30 p.m. The menu features chicken parmesan or glazed pork loin, salad, rice pilaf, french cut green beans, German chocolate cake, and gelato.

Cost is \$15 per person and payment and reservations are due by February 5. Stop by The Gathering on Sunday, January 22 and 29 and February 5 to make your reservation or call the church office. Child care is provided through 5th grade.

You won't want to miss this 25th annual all-church event!

In This Issue 

Bunco Fundraiser page 2

Youth and Children News page 4

Ministry Opportunities page 5

January 22 Is All-Church Bunco Party

If you like to play Bunco or would like to try it for the first time, come to the all-church Bunco party on Sunday, January 22 in the Fellowship Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. All ages 5 and up may play. We will have snacks, drinks, and fun prizes!

To participate, we ask that you bring a monetary donation or any of these items: baby formula, baby wipes, laundry baskets, hairbrushes and combs, deodorant, hand and baby lotion, shaving cream, 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner for kids, and new socks, underwear, and undershirts in baby, toddler, and teen sizes. These items will be donated to the Youth Emergency Shelter in Des Moines, which helps runaway, abused, or troubled adolescents find safety.

, planned this fundraiser to help her fulfill requirements for a school citizenship project.

Let's help and the Youth Emergency Shelter.

VSA Traveling Art Exhibit Visits WDMCC

We're excited to bring the Very Special Arts (VSA) of Iowa traveling exhibit to WDMCC. It will be on display in The Gathering Friday, January 20 through Friday, February 3. You're invited to observe the artwork not only on Sundays, but also any time the church is open.

VSA's purpose is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and their communities by providing artistic opportunities. On Sunday, January 22, E.B. DeBruin of VSA will be in The Gathering to answer questions about the organization and the artwork.

Bring your friends and family to see this amazing art!

YES Hosts Red Hot Winter Party February 4

YES (Young Energetic Seniors) will break through the February blues with a Red Hot Winter Party on Saturday, February 4 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy delicious food and participate in some exciting red games. Wear something red, come join us, and beat the winter blues! Questions? Contact the church office.

New Caller Calendar Format

Beginning with this issue of the *Caller*, the calendar features a new 2-month format. Events are up-to-date as of press time and are subject to change. Questions? Contact the church office.

Weather Cancellations

In inclement weather, WDMCC announces **worship service and activity cancellations** on WHO-TV13, KCCI-TV8, and WHO-1040 AM radio.

If there are extreme weather conditions on Wednesdays and WDM schools cancel or dismiss early, **Friends in Faith** will not meet. During inclement weather when school is not dismissed we'll decide whether to continue FIF or call parents if conditions worsen. On bad weather days please pick up your children as soon as possible. We'll stay with them until you arrive.

WDMCC has weather radios to monitor conditions. Questions? Call the church office.

Young Adult Starts February 10

All young adults ages 18 to 30, single or married, are invited to an event hosted by FUSE, WDMCC's new young adult group. FUSE will meet for the first time on February 10 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room for food, games, and fellowship.

The main focus of this first event is to gauge the interest of a young adult group and to plan future events. FUSE will be a social group that also engages in mission projects at WDMCC and in the community.

Questions? Contact the church office at 223-1639.

School Supply Drive

will be leading a group of Texas Christian University students to the Inman Christian Center in San Antonio, Texas at the end of March. The college students will help with building projects at the Inman Christian Center and will deliver school supplies.

To help with this mission project, WDMCC is collecting school supplies in The Gathering through Sunday, January 29. Most-needed supplies are poster board, crayons, construction paper, children's scissors, glue sticks, and packaging tape. All supplies are appreciated.

The Inman Center was the location of WDMCC's 2011 Mission Trip. Founded in 1913, it is a neighborhood-based community center that offers childcare, recreation, and enrichment activities for infants, children, and youth, and many other services.

Thank you for supporting TCU students with this mission project!

Join All-Church Easter Choir

If you've ever had the desire to sing in a choir, now is your opportunity. Join the all-church Easter Choir, which is for everyone high school age and older. We will be singing two songs (Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" and the gospel-flavored "Garden of Tombs" by David Lantz and Susan Bentall Boersma) for Easter services on April 8.

To ensure we have enough music for everyone, please sign up in The Gathering on February 19 and or 26 or contact Scott Stilwell.

Rehearsals will be every Wednesday and Thursday in March, beginning March 8. We're offering these two rehearsal options, so you can attend the one that best fits your schedule. Rehearsals will begin promptly in The Sanctuary at 7 p.m.

We hope you join us to fill The Sanctuary with the joy of Easter!

Stephen Ministers Complete Training

Stephen Ministry training began for 10 members of our congregation in August 2011. Since that time our Stephen Minister trainees received 50 hours of extensive training in many Christian caring skills. Stephen Ministers will be commissioned next month to carry out ministries of caring with people who are experiencing such problems as hospitalization, grief, depression, loneliness, or other life crises. Under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Ehrhardt, Rev. Robuck and the Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to care

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have been trained and have committed to two years as Stephen Ministers.

Who benefits from Stephen Ministry? Everyone! Those who receive care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout their crises. Stephen Ministers benefit through their spiritual growth of being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at WDMCC is expanded. Most of all, you will benefit from the knowledge that special care is available for you if you need it. In addition, you can refer a family member, friend, or church member so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes WDMCC a much more caring place!

Please keep the Stephen Ministry in your thoughts and prayers.

What are people saying about Stephen Ministry?

"I was alone and had no one to turn to. Then I heard about Stephen Ministry. My Stephen Minister became a friend I could really count on."

"As a man, I found it difficult and awkward to reach out for help. But I'm glad I did. I probably could have made it alone, but it sure was a lot easier having a Stephen Minister to talk to."

"The best thing about Stephen Ministry was it was so confidential. Nobody even knew I had a Stephen Minister."

"I had never felt so alone as after my wife died. I had never opened up to anyone else before. My Stephen Minister helped me work through the painful feelings and helped me find hope again."

2012 Lighthouse Concerts Scheduled

The Lighthouse Concert Series has an amazing 2012 planned. Lighthouse Concerts feature contemporary Christian, folk, pop, and alt-country artists in an all-ages environment!

Mark your calendars for January 13 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall when *The Redd Foxx All-Stars* (Matt & Scott Stilwell) play their way through music of the 1960s through the '80s in all genres. This event is also a Soup Supper for WDMCC's Music and Fine Arts Ministry. Come for great homemade soup and fun live music. Cost is only \$5 per person at the door.

On February 17, we welcome the contemporary Christian band *Lightswitch* to The Sanctuary at 7 p.m. These brothers from Wisconsin capture the current sound of the Christian pop landscape by delivering it with great musicianship and an awesome message. Youth, plan to come to this awesome show and invite your friends! Tickets are only \$10 at the door.

Here's a glimpse of the rest of our 2011-2012 season (runs from July to July). Season passes are available beginning in May and are only \$90 for a year's worth of concerts.

March 9: Kate Campbell

April 13: Doug & Telisha Williams

May 11: Big Joe & Jen

June 8: Ronny Cox

Check out the full schedule at www.lighthouseconcerts.webstarts.com.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Scott Stilwell.

**Mark your calendars
and join us for the fun!**

January 13-15

CYF Retreat at CCC in Newton

January 15

NO Youth Choir

5p Chi-Rho Only

January 22

4p Youth Choir

5p Ministry Teams and Valentine
Dinner preparation

January 29

3p Youth Choir

4p Bowling Party

February 5

Super Bowl Parties

Make Plans For Summer Youth Trips

CYF will travel to Colorado Friday, July 13 to Saturday, July 21. Activities include doing mission work at the Colorado Christian Children's Home in Denver, visiting the Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, and Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs; seeing the Columbine Memorial; and hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. Cost is \$210.

Chi-Rho will head to Lake Michigan and Crystal Lake Saturday, June 9 to Thursday, June 14 for fun and mission, including preparing a children and youth camp for the summer camping season, hiking, and camping. Cost is \$150.

Questions? Contact Pastor Randy. To reserve your place, a registration form and nonrefundable \$25 deposit are due by January 22.

Lead Me Back To Bethlehem: Advent At WDMCC

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Friends In Faith Family Event Is January 25

Friends in Faith (K-5th grade) invites you to a family event on Wednesday January 25 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Fun activities include board games, billiards, air hockey, Twister, and bingo as well as a Wii bowling tournament – and lots of food!

Please contact Martha McDanel or Pam Redford if you plan to attend.

Above: Youth and children presented an inspiring message in their Christmas Eve program titled "G.P.S." Right: The heavenly angel choir. Below Right: A scene from the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Below Left: The 47th annual Live Nativity Scene at WDMCC.

SMALL GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES, AND ADULT MINISTRIES

Chore Corps, a men's group, meets @ 7:30 a.m. Thursdays (and other days as needed) to help with indoor/outdoor church maintenance tasks. Contact Blaine Burright.

Church Ladies (20- to 50-something) gathers the 4th Monday for casual fellowship (conversation, snacks, and lots of laughs). The next meeting is **Monday, January 23** at @ 6:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share.

Connections Plus (for couples and singles in their working years). Save **Friday, April 20** for the next event.

Couples Bible Study will be attending the FFF class on Wednesdays during February. Enrollment is limited to 30. Please sign up by January 22.

Crafts Therapy meets Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in GB-123 to make crafts for the annual Bazaar. Supplies are provided. If you're looking for a relaxing time creating and talking with other ladies, please join us. It's fun and therapeutic! Contact Martha McDanel.

Disciples Men gathers for breakfast, fellowship, and occasional work projects on the 3rd Saturday @ 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Golden Mixers, a social group for those 60 and older, enjoys activities throughout the year. The next event is a potluck on **Tuesday, January 24** @ noon. Paper products and beverages provided. Contact Martha McDanel.

Helping Hands assists with various housekeeping chores around the church @ 8:30 a.m. on Mondays. Contact the church office.

Lunch Bunch is a group of single, widowed, and divorced women of all ages who enjoy food and fellowship. They meet for lunch on the 4th Wednesday (2nd Wednesday in November and December) @ 11:30 a.m. at various restaurants. They also meet for breakfast on the 1st Friday @ 9 a.m. at Hy-Vee on Mills Civic Parkway. RSVPs are not necessary.

Men's Current Issues Discussion Group meets Mondays @ 7 a.m. at Fountain West Care Center in WDM for coffee and discussion.

Monday Bible Study meets Mondays @ 1 p.m. in the Library.

Parents' Night Out Would you like a free sitter for your children? A guaranteed evening out once a month? Try PNO on the 3rd Friday (September-May) from 6 to 10 p.m. Your children will have fun and be supervised by volunteer parents. The only requirement is that you agree to take a turn watching the children one or two Fridays a year.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 3rd Saturday @ 9 a.m. in the Library to knit and crochet prayer shawls, which are blessed individually before they're given away. All knitters and crocheters welcome. The shawls are made of three or four skeins of a soft yarn (Homespun Lion Brand).

Quilt Group meets occasionally for a sewing day to work on a project, learn a new technique, share sewing tips and ideas, and enjoy fellowship.

Women's Book Group meets the 1st Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library. On **Thursday, February 2**, Pam Redford will review *A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother* by Janny Scott. Questions?

Y.E.S. (Young Energetic Seniors) Group offers Christian education, fellowship, and mission opportunities for couples and singles age 50+. Y.E.S. meets Sundays @ 10 a.m. in FH-303. Y.E.S. also meets for breakfast the 1st Saturday @ 7:45 a.m. at Hy-Vee (74th & University).

Remembering In Our Daily Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with members recovering from illness, surgery, and accidents; residing in care facilities; serving in the military; mourning the loss of loved ones; and celebrating life's special milestones. If you have a special prayer request for *The Caller*, please email caller@wdmcc.org or call the church office. Due to HIPPA laws, we can only publish requests received from you or your immediate family members.

Dear God, For those we have not remembered, we pray that you do remember them by name and give them peace and comfort. Amen.

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Food Pantry Sundays

3rd Sunday!

January 15

February 19

March 18

April 15

May 20

June 17

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16

Give Cash: Money donated buys more food, which is purchased at wholesale prices.

Give Food: Most-needed items: **100% Juice** (tomato, orange, or vegetable in a can or plastic bottle); **Fruit** (canned in water or 100% juice); **Vegetables** (tomatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables, or sweet potatoes, canned with no salt added); **Beans** (dry or canned in water); **Fresh Fruits & Vegetables** (potatoes/sweet potatoes, bananas, apples, carrots, grapes, oranges, tomatoes, melons, broccoli, or bell peppers); **Peanut Butter**; **Meat** (tuna or chicken canned in water); **Whole-Grain Pasta/Egg Noodles**; **Brown Rice** (regular or instant); **Vegetable Soup** (low-sodium); **Whole Grain Crackers** (wheat saltines); **Spaghetti Sauce**; **Cereal** (instant or regular oatmeal with no sugar added, whole grain brands, granola, or shredded wheat); **Fresh Whole Grain Bread Items**; **UHT Milk** (shelf-stable, low-fat in aseptic packaging, no canned milk); **Infant/Baby Formula**; **Diapers/Baby Wipes**; **Personal Products** (shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, or deodorant).

Please donate well in advance of expiration date and prime ripeness.

Give Bags: Paper and plastic are needed by DMARC Food Pantry.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Connections Class: Led by Dr. Randy Ehrhardt, this class provides educational opportunities for singles, couples, and anyone who is looking for an opportunity to discuss and learn more about the Bible. Have you ever wanted to understand the Bible from the beginning of time to now? Do you want a better understanding of when Biblical events happened in history? Connections Class will be an unfolding progression of Bible characters and events arranged chronologically from Genesis to Revelation. Connections meets in the Fellowship Hall.

Connections Plus: Hosted by Dr. Randy and Sue Ehrhardt, Connections Plus is for all singles and couples who are in their working years. (You don't have to be a part of the Connections Class.) Quarterly events include a barbecue on October 15 @ the Ehrhardt's and a Christmas Party on December 3. Watch the *Caller* for more details.

Y.E.S. (Young Energetic Seniors) Class: This class pursues many biblical, spiritual, and life issues in a discussion-style format led by Ron Townsend. YES is open to all adults, with the focus on those in the 50+ age group. Y.E.S. meets in FH-Room 303.

Good Fellowship Class: This Bible study class, led by Rev. Alison Robuck, meets in the Library. This class focuses on the 70+ age group, though all adults are welcome.

Children's Ministries will continue using the rotation model for Wonders of the Word (WOW) Church School classes. Children (ages 2-5th grade) will have fun learning God's Word in these centers: Bible Story, Computer, Food Science, Music, and Game/Activity. Again this fall all 4-year-old children will receive a picture Bible. All classes, as well as the nursery (available for those under 2), are located in the Gym Building.

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS MINISTRIES

The 2011–2012 worship year will be another fantastic year of music at WDMCC with many opportunities to sing in choirs or participate in musical outings. We strive to present meaningful musical experiences for participants and listeners alike, so check out these offerings to see which music opportunity is calling you.

Children Friends in Faith Choir meets Wednesdays. (See page 9 for details.) Children will learn songs to present in worship and for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Led by Pam Redford.

Youth Youth Choir (6–12th grade) sings current praise and worship songs to add energy to our worship services. (See page 8 for details.) Led by Pam Redford and Scott Stilwell.

Adult Choirs

Chancel: Rehearsing every Wednesday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m., this choir presents blended and traditional anthems for our 11 a.m. service, as well as for special Sundays and holidays. Led by Scott Stilwell.

Vision: Meets @ 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings to prepare an anthem for the 8:45 a.m. service. Focusing on one-rehearsal pieces, this group is perfect for singers who have limited time during the week and like the idea of a drop-in choir. Led by Scott Stilwell.

Sanctuary: Meets the 1st and 3rd Monday @ 7 p.m. A group that sings several times a year, Sanctuary is a choir experience that does not require weekly rehearsals, but does require a little more work outside of the group and memorization. Led by Scott Stilwell.

Unspoken Praise: Sign language choir for children, youth, and adults meets @ 8 a.m. Sundays in FH-Room 302. UP presents the word of God in song through interpretive signing.

Other Music Ministries

Instrumental Ensemble: This group performs several times during the year and will have called rehearsals on specific Mondays. Anyone who plays a brass, percussion, wind, or string instrument is welcome to join.

Music Ministry Outreach: A group gathers the 3rd Sunday of the month @ 10 a.m. to visit care facilities and shut-in members to deliver the gift of worship in song. It's like going caroling at Christmas, only we do it every month! All interested church members are encouraged to join.

Tuesday Tunes: The 4th Tuesday of every month @ 1 p.m. in the Music Room becomes a hymn sing! Gather together to sing the classic hymns of the church, then stay for homemade desserts and fantastic fellowship.



**WEST DES MOINES
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Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
www.disciples.org

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Services at 8:45 and 11 a.m.
Church School at 10 a.m. for all ages

SERMON TOPICS

January 15 *Stepping Up!*
Rev. Alison Robuck Isaiah 6:8

January 22 *Don't Sell Yourself Short!*
Dr. Randy Ehrhardt Mark 1:14-20

January 29 *When God Speaks, You Better Listen*
Dr. Randy Ehrhardt Jonah 1:17-2:10

WDMCC STAFF

Dr. Randy Ehrhardt	Senior Minister
Rev. Alison Robuck	Associate Minister
Dr. Jim Kratz	Pastoral Minister
Scott Stilwell	Music and Fine Arts
Martha McDanel	Children's/Elder Ministries
Stephanie Murphy	Office Administrator
Joy Butler	Creative Ministries
Claudette Sederburg	Hospitality Ministries/Financial Secretary
Pam Redford	Children's Choirs
Sheryl Neal, Lisa Lewis, Becky Chaloupecky	Accompanists
Blaine Burright	Facility Ministries
Joyce Landis	Treasurer
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West Des Moines Christian Church*

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