Christmas Eve 2013 Family Services
4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 West 13th Street  *  Wilmington, DE 19806  *  302-654-5214  *  www.wpc.org

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

*Luke 2:16*
WELCOME

ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, we engage one of the deep mysteries of our faith. In celebrating Christmas, we try to push away the cares of the moment and the rush of things to do. As we worship, we create a wide, sweet space to listen, to pray, to sing, and to receive the gift of God’s presence. No one will ever make sense of how God, the Infinite, was revealed in the finite. So we tell a story and simply wonder at it all. Welcome to a house of wonder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome everyone to Westminster Church for these Christmas Eve Services. A special welcome is extended to visitors and those who return for the holiday. If you live in the Wilmington area and do not have a church home, we hope you will consider uniting with our church family.

You are invited to continue your Christmas Eve celebration by attending one of our Candlelight Communion Services tonight at 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Childcare will be available for the 8:00 p.m. service.

The Chancel flowers this evening are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Janet and John Rowell by the Linderman, Krick and Rowell families.

The beautiful wood and brass pew candles are given by Suzie Hurlock in loving memory of her husband Fred, who always enjoyed the season of Advent.

Church Holiday Hours: The Church will be open December 26, 27, 30, and 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. if you wish to pick up a poinsettia for delivery and/or drop off a year end donation. All donations postmarked by December 31, 2013 will be considered received and credited on your 2013 contribution statement. If you have questions concerning your 2013 pledge status, please email or call Debbie Brown (debbiebrown@wpc.org or 302-654-5214, ext 129).

Sunday, December 29: One morning service at 10:00 a.m.
Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season. We will offer Nursery and Sunday School for Preschoolers. Enjoy coffee and fellowship in Rodney Chapel following the service.

PASTORAL STAFF:
- Gregory K. Jones, Head of Staff
- Thomas R. Stout, Parish Associate
- Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

CHURCH EDUCATOR:
- Susan Moseley

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES:
- Robin Rosser

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:
- Debbie Brown

MUSIC STAFF:
- Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
- Mary Beth Davis, Director of Music for Children, Youth and Handbells
- Section Leaders/Soloists: Diana Milburn, Sharon Babcock, Justin Gonzalez, Jerry Polman
FAMILY SERVICE
4:00 P.M.

TOWER CHIME                                    Sue Spilecki

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born!
Alleluia!
Jesus is among us!
Alleluia!
Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!
Christ is born!

*CAROL  “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:                Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let earth receive her King;                        Let us our songs employ;
Let every heart prepare Him room,                  While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
And heaven and nature sing,                        Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven and nature sing,                        Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.              Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE                    Jacob & Teisha Fooks and Wyatt

We have been watching and waiting and Christmas is finally here! During this magical time, the Advent wreath helps us remember the Christmas story and the true meaning of the season.

Tonight we light the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, the Candle of Joy and the Candle of Love. And we add the large white candle in the center of the Advent Wreath: the Christ Candle.

As all the candles are lit, we know that God’s love shines in our world and in our hearts. We are Children of Light and we can spread God’s light to other people by sharing God’s love.

Dear God, Thank you for being our Light in the darkness. Help us walk in your Light today and always. Thank you for the season of Advent. A time to remember the hope, peace, joy and love we find in you. At Christmas and always, we are thankful for the gift of this church and each other. Amen.

Passages in bold print may be said by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand (as you are able).
*CAROL “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven’s all gracious King”:

The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the evercircling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.


CAROL “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

SHEPHERDS HEAR THE NEWS  Luke 2:8-14

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,  
Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
And the mountains in reply  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM  Luke 2:15-20

CAROL “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say  
They looked up and saw a star  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
And so it continued both day and night.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*
KINGS FOLLOW THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are,                      Glorious now behold Him arise,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,                      King and God and Sacrifice;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain               Alleluia, Alleluia
Following yonder star.                               Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night                     O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright;                      Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,                 Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!                      Guide us to thy perfect light!

GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

The entire Christmas Eve Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see page 15.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Living God, on this holy night we gather –

    to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels rejoicing in your work;
    to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us

    to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior,
    the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen

*CAROL

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
*BENEDICTION*

We go forth, this holy night

**Bearing God’s radiant Christmas light.**

May the story of Christ’s humble birth,

**God’s love poured out on all the earth,**

The Spirit’s dance in joy and power

**Fill us in this and every hour.**

Amen.

*CAROL*  

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, 
Sleep in heavenly peace, 
Sleep in heavenly peace.  

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia”;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Mary          Tara Hoopes  
Joseph        Matt Hoopes  
Baby Jesus    Garrett Hoopes  

The Angels, Shepherds and Kings are children from our Sunday Preschool Program.
TOWER CHIME

Sue Spilecki

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ, the light of the world, is born to us.

Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

*CAROL  “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let earth receive her King; Let us our songs employ;
Let every heart prepare Him room, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
And heaven and nature sing, Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven and nature sing, Repeat the sounding joy,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Neve & Talia with their grandparents, Jerry & Sue Spilecki and Great Grandfather Bobo Kline

We have been watching and waiting and Christmas is finally here! During this magical time, the Advent wreath helps us remember the Christmas story and the true meaning of the season.

Tonight we light the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, the Candle of Joy and the Candle of Love. And we add the large white candle in the center of the Advent Wreath: the Christ Candle.

As all the candles are lit, we know that God’s love shines in our world and in our hearts. We are Children of Light and we can spread God’s light to other people by sharing God’s love.

Dear God, Thank you for being our Light in the darkness. Help us walk in your Light today and always. Thank you for the season of Advent. A time to remember the hope, peace, joy and love we find in you. At Christmas and always, we are thankful for the gift of this church and each other. Amen.

Passages in bold print may be said by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand (as you are able).
LESSONS AND CAROLS

JOSEPH’S DREAM  Matthew 1:18-24
*CAROL  “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Robert Moore and Suzie Hurlock

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
and peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sue Linderman

CAROL  “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

SHEPHERDS HEAR THE NEWS  Luke 2:8-14
Gina Campanella

CAROL  “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM  Luke 2:15-20
Carol Shortlidge

ANTHEM  “Christ Was Born on Christmas Day”  arr. Pat Messick
Sunshine Choir & D.R.U.M.
Flute: Sarah Davis
KINGS FOLLOW THE STAR

Matthew 2:1-12
Kyle Carrick, Jill Getty and Chase Pfleegor

CAROL

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”
Verses 2,3,4: Choir

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

The entire Christmas Eve Offering is given to those in need beyond our walls. Please see page 15.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Shines the Light”
Words: Susan Dengler
Brian Bowersock, Sophia Malatesta and Lizzie Sprague
Music: Lee Dengler

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Miraculous God,
We know this story so well.
All the characters are familiar.
All the words are known by heart.
All the songs have been sung so many times.
We love this story and its comfortable, comforting familiarity.

We praise You for the miracles which come to us in the familiar.

At the centre of this story is the eternal God stepping into human history.
The All-Powerful One choosing to live in fragile flesh.
The Creator becoming a creature.

We praise You for the miracle of God becoming human.

At the centre of this story is the God, revealed to men and women.
A God Who works miracles through ordinary people.
A God Who enters every willing soul to birth new life.

We praise You for the miracle of Your life within us.

Miraculous God,
May we see You, know You and be united with You again this Christmastime.

May our lives be changed by Your miraculous love,
and may we become part of Your miraculous plan of salvation
Now and always.
Amen.
**CAROL**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,           For lo, the days are hastening on,
That glorious song of old,                 By prophet bards foretold,
From angels bending near the earth,       When with the evercircling years
To touch their harps of gold:             Comes round the age of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,”   When peace shall over all the earth
From heaven’s all gracious King”:         Its ancient splendors fling,
The world in solemn stillness lay,         And the whole world give back the song
To hear the angels sing.                  Which now the angels sing.

**BENEDICTION**

**CAROL**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Choirs: Go tell it on the mountain:
        Over the hills and everywhere;
        Go tell it on the mountain
        That Jesus Christ is born!

All:  Down in a lowly manger
      The humble Christ was born,
      And God sent us salvation
      That blessed Christmas morn.

All:
        Go tell it on the mountain:
        Over the hills and everywhere;
        Go tell it on the mountain
        That Jesus Christ is born!

*Sound Technician:  Jim Rees, Kingdom Sound*
*Storytellers:  Westminster By Heart*

*Westminster By Heart* is a group of lay members committed to learning the scripture by heart and bringing it to our congregation throughout the year in our worship services. All of tonight’s scripture presenters are members of this group. Whether experiencing the story as teller or listener, hearing the story told is powerful and provides a new way for us to understand and connect to the stories of our faith. If you would like to know more about telling stories, or, *Westminster By Heart*, contact Mary-beth Howard at m-b@comcast.net or Shelley Gnade at shelley.gnade@gmail.com.
CHRISTMAS 2013 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In Loving Memory of:
Bill Albert
Carol and Gene Hopkins
Bernie Alexander
Eleanor Barineau and Libby Drake
Paul and Rose Jones
Bill Deans
Teddy Bedrossian
E. Howard Bedrossian, MD
Rosetta Bedrossian
Our Parents and Other Loved Ones
Herb Bowersock, much loved Poppop & Dad
Betty & Ralph Unsted and Marian & Starr Parker,
Loved Grandparents
Our parents
Helen M. Thompson and Forrest G. Thompson
Ken Burg, my friend
Douglas Alexander Buttner, my brother
Our Parents
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Checkel
Inez M. Cobb
Inez M. Cobb
Betty Coker
Maury Colbert
Mary Jo and Phil Collins
Robert and Janet Eissner
Charles and Emily Evans
Grace and John P. Reighard
Marilyn and Buddy Weintraub
Bobbie Prein
Wesley Dudding
Megan Sue Walker
Cyndi McGivney
Janet and Jack Foster
Sara Jane Evans and Charles Pfleegor
Richard and Eleanor Freeth
Loved Ones
Scott Dege
Mr. and Mrs. James Guthrie
Fay Hamlin Daniel and David M. Hamlin
Nick Marcopulos
Elizabeth Higgins
Cathy Hodges
Irmadel and Maurice Ward
Wanda and Russell Hogue
Fred Hurlock, Jr.; Frances and Fred Hurlock, Sr.
Sarah and Dave Frie and son David
Our parents, Gretchen and Bill Iobst
Our parents, Lee and Si McNeely

Given By:
Rich and Taryn Albert
Rich and Taryn Albert
Susan, Shawn, Kristen, John and Will
Dodson Barineau and family
Bill and Nancy Barlow and Family
Fay Deans Barnaby
Ned Bedrossian and Family
Ned Bedrossian and Family
Ned Bedrossian and Family
Ned Bedrossian and Family
Nancy and Herb Boden
Ron, Beth and Brian Bowersock
Ron, Beth and Brian Bowersock
Ron, Beth and Brian Bowersock
Debbie and Chuck Brown
Dianne Browne
Sally Buttner
Sally Buttner
Polly and Jim Carter
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Jeanne and Bob Checkel
Rosemary and Barry Cobb
Bill Cobb
Jim Coker
Nancy Colbert
Donna and Clark Collins
Their family, the Eissner's and Stabler's
George and Sandi Evans
George and Sandi Evans
Nancy Anne Fleming
Nancy Anne Fleming
Nancy Anne Fleming
Nancy Anne Fleming
Nancy Anne Fleming
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Anne Foster and Chip Pfleegor
Corinne and Julia Freeth
Nancy Gemmell
Edie Guthrie and Lauren Cardillo
Edie Guthrie and Lauren Cardillo
Jane Arthur Hamlin
Cathy Higgins
Cathy Higgins
Her parents
Tom and Carol Hogue
Tom and Carol Hogue
Suzie Hurlock
Suzie Hurlock
Fred and Jane Iobst
Fred and Jane Iobst
**CHRISTMAS 2013 MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**

**In Loving Memory of:**
Wallace and Lillian Spielman  
Hillis Johnston  
Jane, Ann and Jay  
Don R. Kuespert  
Jacqueline Layman and David Elwell  
Loved ones  
Jerry Lee  
Our Parents  
Charles M. Krick, Jr. and Ann E. Linderman  
Rich Lunardi  
Bob Marsh  
Jessie and Cerd Marsh  
Carolyn McKeown  
Our fathers, Robert M. Barto and Laurance McPheeters  
Our friend, Cathy Carpenito  
Lillian and John Michener  
Alice, Arnold and Charles Sharpley  
Ingrid Pamm  
Robert Currin  
George Pfautz  
Catherine Myers Moore  
Rachel Davis Myers  
Louise H. and William Poole  
Helen A. and Robert Hunt  
Rita Thomas  
Our Parents  
Wally Johnson  
Florence Drexel  
Elizabeth and Hepner Van Horn  
Wilma Tull  
Our Parents  
Jay, Ann, Grammy and Grandpap  
Our Parents  
Dorothy and Paul Steen  
Duane Wasson  
HM3 Anthony C. Garcia  
LCPL James D. Argentine  
LCPL Joshua M. Bernard  
LCPL Matthew R. Lembke  
LCPL Joshua R. Whittle  
Wayne Suiter  
Our parents  
Lea and Helen Warner  
My Parents  
L. Martin Gravely  
Sally Wemmers  
Chad and Chris Miller  
Barbara W. Wheatley  
Alday C. Wilson and Dorothy M. Wilson  
Phil and Jo Collins  
Walter and Sonia Wolanski

**Given By:**
John and Dede Johnston  
The Kline Family  
Cynthia H. Kuespert  
Melody and Arch Layman  
Virginia Lee and Family  
Sue and Bob Linderman  
Teresa Lunardi and Aaron Wemhoff  
Anne Marsh  
Barbara and Jerry Fedeler  
Bob McKeown  
Jon and Susan McPheeters & Family  
Bunny and Jack Michener  
The Pamm Family  
Sonja Pfautz  
Cassandra Lloyd Moore Piovoso  
Stephen C. Poole  
Elizabeth Hunt Poole  
Margo Reign  
Charlie and Linda Reinhardt  
Robin and Hayley Rosser  
The Ruoss family  
Bob and Sue Scofield, Peter Rittenhouse  
Donna and Tom Shaw  
The Spilecki Family  
David and Jane Stabler  
Barbara Steen  
Judy and Paul Stoffer  
Andrew W. Stoffer  
Jane Suiter  
Lowell T. and Lois B. Underhill  
Wayne Warner  
Linda Budd Watson  
Barbara Gravely Welch  
Craig Wemmers  
The Westminster Staff  
Her Grandchildren  
The Wilson daughters and their families  
John, Kristen and Will
In Honor of:
My beloved husband, William S. Browne
Teresa Lunardi
Robin Rosser
Arch H. Layman, Sr. and Clementine Elwell
Gavin, Payton, Gates and Valerie Thompson

Given By:
Dianne Browne
Betty Bercaw Crowell
Betty Bercaw Crowell
Melody and Arch Layman
Stark and Sandy Thompson
CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

During Advent, as we await the celebration of the birth of Christ, we are filled with hope that our world might become a better place for all. As the hands and feet of Christ, we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in distress. Christ said that when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison, we minister to him. Our Annual Christmas Eve Offering gives us a way to share a portion of our blessings with people in dire circumstances. Will you help those in our community and in other troubled spots around the globe find hope?

Our Christmas Eve Offering will support local ministries (70%) and global ministries (30%) that provide food, shelter, education, clean water, and promote peacemaking.

25% of this year’s offering will go to the Urban Promise College Retention Fund which provides financial assistance for students who have progressed through the Urban Promise mentoring and youth leadership training programs and are now in college. Urban Promise equips children and young adults who live in urban neighborhoods with opportunities for academic achievement and servant leadership.

Throughout the year, Westminster donates food to the pantries at LCS/St. Stephen's Lutheran and Hanover Presbyterian Churches. They provide food assistance for those in need in our community. One in four Delawareans, half of them children, need emergency food assistance during the year. 20% of your offering will support these life-sustaining ministries.

Another 25% of your offering will go to support Sojourners’ Place. Unlike emergency shelters which provide a short-term place to escape the weather, Sojourners’ Place offers homeless women and men a place to call home while they get their lives back on course. A successful graduate leaves Sojourners’ Place with a full-time job and housing.

25% of your offering will be shared equally between providing educational opportunities for girls and women in Guatemala and the Congo who have been affected by violence and exploitation in their countries, and our “Safe Water in Guatemala” (SWIG) water filter project, allowing families to experience life without GI distress. 5% will go to our Peacemakers Committee that supports projects that help to promote peace in our community and around the globe.

Thank you for your support! We extend wishes for a joyful Christmas and a wonderful and peaceful New Year to you and your loved ones.