

December 2011

# WPC children

*bringing faith home: a resource guide and calendar for the families of Westminster church*

## Getting to Know...Sue Cull

Sue Cull is one of our talented Sunday School teachers. She leads the 2nd/3rd grade class. She also assists director of music Dale Rogers with Choristers and Children's Choir.

Sue joined the church in 1970 and has taught Sunday School for well over 30 years. Children of this church, across several generations, have lasting memories of their time in Mrs. Cull's class.



Q: What is your first memory of Westminster?

A: I remember being in the nursery because Sarah [her daughter] cried every Sunday. She was 16 months old and I was probably in the nursery most of the first year.

Q: What is something meaningful for you about this church?

A: Roland [her husband] and I met at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago. The architecture and windows are so similar to our church. There is such comfort and warmth here when I remember our life then and throughout these years.

Q: What is one of your favorite Bible stories?

A: The birth of Jesus ; and not just because it is coming up soon! If you can't understand the Old Testament

then you can't begin to understand the New Testament. Jesus' birth is the meeting of both.

Q: What are your most memorable moments as a Sunday School teacher?

A: I just love to watch them learn. At the beginning of the year they don't know the Lord's Prayer at all. By the end of the year, they are so proud to turn their pages over and recite it themselves. Second grade,

especially, is like a flower that is beginning to open. They can read and they are so eager.

Q: Why is children's Christian education important to you?

A: We are always one generation away from Christianity going away. If we don't teach the children then they won't be able to teach the next generation. I want the children of this church to know that I really care about them. I care how they do in school or in sports or in plays. I care about all parts of their life.

Q: What is something we might not know about you?

A: I used to be a really good tennis player. I played singles and could smoke a good serve!

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 4 at 5pm**

**Advent Celebration**

Enjoy the Chorister Musical, dinner fellowship and Christmas crafts and games.

**Weds, December 7, 14 @ 9am**

**Parents of Preschoolers Play Dates.**

Bring your child and enjoy fellowship with other parents as the kids play together.

**Sunday, December 11 at 11:30am**

**Mom's Group meets in Parish Hall.**

This is your chance to finish discussing *Permission To Speak Freely* and pick up January's book. Child-care is free but please RSVP by Thursday the 8th, 522-4415, so we have enough food and childcare.

**Sunday, December 18 at 10am**

**Christmas Pageant**

Following the Children's Sermon there will be an impromptu pageant in the K/1 classroom during Sunday School.

**Saturday, December 24 at 5pm**

**Children's Christmas Eve Service**

This 45 minute service is interactive and perfect for children and their families.

**Sundays, Dec 25**

Children, 2nd grade and older, are encouraged to celebrate Christmas in worship with their families. Children, birth-1st grade can still leave for nursery care/Sunday School.

*All events are held at WPC unless otherwise noted.*

## This Month In Sunday School:

### The Story of Jesus' Birth

Date	Scripture	Big Idea	Take Home Teaching
December 4	Luke 1: 39-56—Mary visits Elizabeth	God brings joy.	What joy has God brought to you?
December 11	Luke 1: 57-80—John is born	Speak the good news.	How can we point to Jesus like John?
<b>December 18 All Sunday School Impromptu Christmas Pageant—meet in the K/1 classroom following the Children's Time</b>			

*Want to add a birthday or submit other info to the newsletter? Want to add yourself or a friend to our mailing list? No problem! Just email Rev. Tasha at [tblackburn@wpcspi.org](mailto:tblackburn@wpcspi.org).*

# Prayer of the Month

As you prepare for Christ's birth, sing a verse from a Christmas carol during prayer time. Here is one example:

## Away in a Manger (adapted)

*Be near us, Lord Jesus,  
we ask you to stay  
close by us forever  
and love us, we pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven*

All I want for Christmas  
is...

...a goat!



# NATIVITY WORD SEARCH

F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
J	E	S	U	S	H	A	Y	H	F	J	S
E	M	A	R	U	S	T	A	B	L	E	C
R	G	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	J
U	L	U	J	J	F	M	W	S	H	B	E
S	O	G	O	L	D	Q	I	Y	A	J	E
A	S	U	S	H	U	W	S	G	H	U	A
L	P	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	N
E	Q	W	P	R	E	F	M	A	R	Y	H
M	A	Y	H	A	R	D	E	R	O	R	E
F	R	L	E	D	H	E	N	Y	D	R	R
M	A	R	Y	Z	S	E	P	H	J	H	D

## FIND THE WORDS:

Jesus, Joseph, Herod, Myrrh, Gold, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Mary, Wisemen, Shepherds, Frankincense, Stable

## GOAT UPDATE: YOUR OFFERING HAS PURCHASED ONE WHOLE GOAT!

Goats cost \$120 each and this month your Sunday School offerings hit that mark! Your goat will be sent to a farm, maybe in China or Albania, who will be taught how to care for it. Our goat will provide a gallon of milk for the family each day. They might drink the milk or make cheese and butter. Some of the milk can be sold which helps a family move from poverty to self-reliance. What better gift could you have put under anyone's Christmas tree this year. Congratulations and keep remembering your offering each Sunday!

## Teaching the Meaning of Christmas

—deepening your child's heart from an early age—

During this season it would be easy for our children to think Christmas is about Santa, snow and materialism. Help your child experience the power of Jesus' birth by trying out one or more of these practical ideas. You never know, you may start a Christmas tradition that lives on in your family for years.

1. **Read a Christmas book** to your child every night this month. There are plenty of options available in our own church library that will teach your child about the night Jesus was born.
2. **Put out a nativity set that your child can play with:** wooden, cloth or plastic sets are great! They can arrange the characters the way they wish. They could even get the job of "hiding" Jesus somewhere in your home until Christmas Day. Or, help them figure out which direction is East and have your wise men figures stationed there. Use the opportunity to talk to them about who Joseph and Mary were and all of the other characters.
3. Find a way to **give back to others** this year. Even if it is just baking cookies for your co-workers or neighbors, talk to your children about what you are doing and why you do it. If you support a charity or buy gifts for underprivileged families, take your children along to help. Use every opportunity you can to let them know your values and how they relate to your faith.
4. Finally, every family has to **make a decision about gifts:** their number, what they cost, who they're from. Whatever the decision is, be clear about it within your family. For example, I was once told that "three gifts was good enough for baby Jesus so that was probably good enough for any child." We have kept to this recommendation and give our children three gifts each. Your family may have other habits. Be clear with your children and you can minimize the "gimmies" and focus on the meaning of Christmas.

## Happy Birthday!

Dec 5

Sloan Bird is 3

Ryan Cozadd is 9

Dec 12

Carter Formea is 9

Allison Scott is 10

Dec 21

Ben Brower is 10

Sam Brower is 10

Dec 22

Sam Batterman is 3

Dec 23

Lanie Angelo is 6

Dec 27

Jack Zerfas is 11

## Congratulations!