



## Newsletter – Westview Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

The Rev. V. J. Stover ,

Interim Senior Minister

5925 W. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46224

317-291-7871

May 2019

### *Minister's Moment*

Rev. V.J. Stover, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be your interim minister during this time of transition to announce the good news of God concerning his Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, by using the four voices of ministry, and to help you find your own voice in the ministry of this congregation.

To all of God's beloved in the congregation at Westview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank God for bringing us together for this important work of the spirit, that is to announce the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. From years before we have been prepared for this time which we have together, even before we knew the other ever existed. Throughout my life I have been prepared to be with you. By my various educational and professional experiences, God has been busy within me to be who you need at this time. Through all my travels in foreign lands and through all my work in various denominational settings, God has been preparing me to be with you. What is more, God has been preparing within you the necessary gifts that I will need to experience to be used in my next adventure in ministry. These gifts, both yours and mine, shall be voiced through four voices of ministry, prepared in faith, hope and love.

The first voice is that of a pastor. It is the voice of empathy and sympathy. It is the voice which soothes and calms an anxious spirit. It is the voice which encourages breath when you may find it impossible to breathe. It is the voices which says, "Times are difficult, but not impossible." It is the voice which says, "God loves you."

The second voice is that of prophet. It is the voice of challenge and change. It is the voice of justice and radical hospitality. It is the voice which calls the faithful to action and resolve. It is the voice which says there is a better way of being. It announces the bad news of a

situation and the good news of God's answer to it. It says that the way things have been is not the way things are to be into the future. It is the voice of decision. It says, "God loves you."

The third voice is that of priest. It is the voice of prayer and worship. It is the voice which carries praise and thanksgiving. It is voice of the people in supplication and fear. It carries our needs to the very ear of God. It comes to us in quiet private times as each of us study and read, and in public ways as we gather to worship. This voice, too, says, "God loves you."

The last voice of ministry is that of the proprietor. It is voice which oversees the working of the congregation. It is conversant with the constitution, by-laws, and unspoken ways of doing things in the life of the congregation. It is the voice of congregational history and who has the keys to the kingdom at 5925 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street. It is the voice of property. It is the voice of our worldly existence. It says, "God loves you."

Everyone has these four voices. Everyone can say, "God loves you." However, not everyone has strength in all four voices. Most only have one or two strong voices while the others are weaker. Within a congregation, all four are represented but not all four maybe used satisfactorily for the building up of the congregation. Some may even be used inappropriately.

My own voice in ministry is strongest in the pastoral and priestly modes, while I usually consider my prophetic and proprietary modes to be not as strong. I gather energy when I use the voice of the pastor and priest. If I were primarily and consistently to use my prophet's and proprietor's voices for my calling over the strengths of my other voices, I would soon grow tired and weak, and I would do damage to the congregation. Every Christian has these voices within them as a gift of the Holy Spirit. While I have retired from settled ministry, I have not retired from being a Christian. There is no such thing as a retired Christian. No one can

retire from using the voice of ministry for we have been commissioned to use them until we die.

From which of these voices do you gather strength? Which of these voices drain you of energy when you are engaged in using them? How can you be a help to this congregation by using your voices of ministry?

**During the Sunday school hour on Sunday April 28 and May 5, we will talk more about these voices.**

**This coming together of voices will be in the Gathering Area.** It will be a time when we will get to know each other better and how better off we are when everyone's voices of ministry can be used and heard.



Pastor VJ Stover

## MARGE GRAHAM

You are invited to the retirement celebration for Marge Graham, the Minister of Music and Worship, at Speedway Christian Church on May 5th. There will be a luncheon and reception for her in their Fellowship Hall following their 10:15am worship service. You must RSVP for this event at: 317-244-7656.

Speedway Christian Church  
5110 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Speedway, In. 46224

## FROM THE MODERATOR

We hope that you enjoyed Palm and Easter Sunday with the Interim Minister Rev. VJ Stover. Many of us were very pleased with both services. We wish to thank Rev. Stover for his enthusiasm and his willingness to guide us through this period of transition.

The Trustees are currently attempting to find out how we can make more electrical outlets available for our sister Church, *Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana*. During the last Joint Meeting, Rev. Bere Gil Soto asked if we could help them solve this problem.

We want to thank all those who attended the Lenten Studies program. As the sessions progressed, we gained more and more participants which made it very successful. Hopefully, you are enjoying our spring weather and are looking forward to a season of spiritual renewal and invigorating fellowship.

## THANK YOU

We want to express our gratitude for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and caring conversations that you shared during our brother's year of illness and his death on March 4<sup>th</sup>. David L. Edwards was our younger brother. His Celebration of Life Service will be May 11<sup>th</sup> in Loretto, KY. Our church family has been so supportive and we feel blessed.

Thank you,  
Sylvia Mill and Carol Edwards

# ELDER'S CORNER



## Let This Be Your Prayer

By Martha Smock

*To* live one day at a time, one step at a time;

*To* have the strength and the will to keep  
on keeping on;

*To* have the ability to make right and good decisions;

*To* have the courage to let the past go,  
to forge ahead resolutely;

*To* have the grace to meet each experience expectantly, happily;

*To* have the faith to know there is no loss  
or separation in God, that in God you are forever one with those you love;

*To* have the vision to see the good in all things,  
the Christ in all persons;

*To* have an awareness of God's presence,  
close abiding;

*To* know that "underneath are the ever-lasting arms," that God will never fail you  
nor forsake you;

Let this be your prayer.

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Excerpt from Unity: "Fasting and Feasting: A Spiritual Practice for Lent 2019"

*Submitted by: Rev. Mackeine Jordan*

**REMINDER:** Starting in June the Elder's meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month following the worship service. May's meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.



# REV. VJ STOVER



Rev. VJ Stover comes to us having served in settled pastorates at Mt. Summit Christian Church (CC), Lizton CC, Pittsboro CC, and Sheridan First CC (from where he retired after 21 years and 1 day). He has also served as interim minister at East Lynn CC (Anderson) and Frankfort First CC. In the Indiana region he has served in various capacities. But most recently as member and chair of the Congo partnership task force and for 30 years as counselor/director of various church camps at Bedford, Barbee, and Geneva. Rev. VJ enjoys composing and performing music, writing, gardening, and travel. He enjoys activities towards being physically fit, too. He is a widow without children, but enjoys “family” relationships with former foreign exchange students from Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, and Taiwan.

He has been a secondary music/art/drama instructor from the University of Evansville, Truman State University (Missouri) and Christian Theological Seminary.

## JANE’S MISSION TRIP THIS MONTH MIDWEST DISTRIBUTION CENTER

This month Jane Beard will be going on her annual mission trip to the Midwest Distribution Center in Illinois. The following are the various supplies needed: Their biggest need is 12 colored pencils, erasers, crayons and pencils. Also, needed are:

### Student Kits:

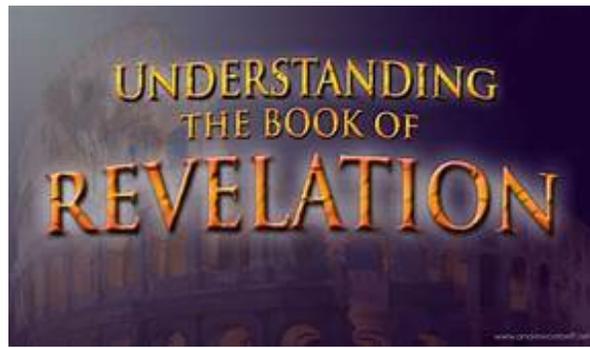
3 notebooks – 1 subject  
1 ruler  
6 pencils – no advertising,  
no patriotic, military or  
Camo  
1 pencil sharpener  
1 box of colored pencils  
1 box of 24 crayons  
1 pair of scissors

### Personal Dignity Kit:

1 bath towel  
1 wash cloth  
1 comb  
1 razor with guard  
1 nail clipper  
1 toothbrush (adult), no  
advertising  
1 toothpaste, 2.5oz. or bigger

### Receiving Blankets:

28x28 or 32x32  
no thermal or fleece



## BOOK OF REVELATION – JUNE 9 & 16

You will want to mark your calendars for two special Sunday school sessions in June. Rev Ron Allen will present a study of the Book of Revelation on June 9 and June 16, at the regular Sunday school hour, 9:30-10:15am. Plan to join us for these classes that are sure to be interesting and enlightening!

## MAY/JUNE CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT FOR MISSION/OUTREACH

“Purchased” will be our mission focus for May and June. Jessica Evans, Director of Purchased, wrote the following when we asked her for a list of needed items to support their important work. Her reply was so helpful, we are using it to share information with all of you. *“We are so humbled by your continued support of the work we are doing. What a blessing you are!”* Right now our biggest needs are:



- 1) Snacks for our 10 week long My Life My Choice groups. We facilitate these groups for girls, ages 12-18 who are at-risk or have experienced sexual exploitation and trafficking. We bring snacks each week, and the girls LOVE this! (Some favorite snacks are: cookies, hot Cheetos, takis, cheese crackers, chex mix, etc.)
- 2) Small water bottles – we bring the girls bottled water each week, so cases of small bottled are always a need!
- 3) Composition notebooks – we write back and forth each week to the girls in their own notebook during the 10 week class, and we use the plain, black and white composition notebooks. You can usually find them for about \$1 each!

Soooo, you can look at this list and bring any item(s) beginning Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Place them in the smaller basket in the Gathering Area. Thank you so much for all support for “Purchased”.

## **MAY 10 – Our Second Annual “ALL DAUGHTERS DINNER”**



We are excited to announce the second annual “All Daughters Dinner” to be held on Friday, May 10, 2019 at Westview Christian Church. Social hour will begin at 6:00pm, with dinner at 6:30pm. This was a very popular event last year and you don’t want to miss this years’. Invite your favorite gal(s) and save the date.

You can purchase your tickets on 4/28 and 5/5 in the Gathering Area. The night of the event they will be \$10.00.

Gluten free and diabetic options will be available (advance ticket sales only). Please let us know when you purchase your tickets.

Bring your Grandmother, Mother, Sisters, Daughters, Nieces, Neighbors and friends to join us on our special evening.

Door prizes, entertainment, family, friends and good food will take center stage for the evening.



**No, you won't  
have to eat  
brussel sprouts.**

# **SPEEDWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE**



Thursday (5/9), Friday (5/10) and Saturday (5/11)  
Speedway Public Library will have a huge book sale. Saturday  
all the books you can fit in a sack will be only \$5.

## **PRISCILLA CIRCLE**

Priscilla Circle will hold their last WCW meeting of the study year on May 18th (3rd Saturday) at 10 AM. We will start our new study this Fall on Saturday, September 14th. If you have "a Blessing Box", please bring it to the May meeting. Blessing Boxes help support Woman's ministries and our boxes will be turned in this summer. Blessing Boxes may also be brought to church at any time. Thank you Sylvia Mill for your inspired, interesting lessons and fellow WCW ladies for a wonderful productive year.

## **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME**



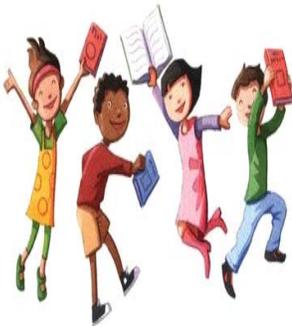
Indianapolis Indians tickets have been ordered for the Westview Christian and Iglesia Hermandad Christiana families and friends for Friday night, June 14th at 7: 15pm. There will be fireworks following the game. Tickets are priced at \$14 per person. Please let Stuart Mill know as soon as possible if you're interested in going. Money for the tickets needs to be given to him no later than Sunday, May 26th in order that he might purchase the tickets

before his family's vacation, and have them available on Sunday, June 9 for distribution after worship.

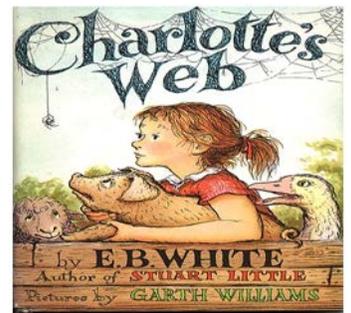
# THANK YOU WESTVIEW

Thank you, Westview for the remarkable amount of donations given by you to those needing a helping hand here in Indianapolis. Julian Center, Wheeler Mission, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police, Recycle Force, Family Promise, Indiana Women's Prison, and Exodus Immigration. Many, huge bags of men's, women's and children/teen's clothing, all occasion cards, educational puzzles, hundreds of paper plates/cups/utensils, tons of cleaning supplies, soft cuddly teddy bears, and small appliances have found their way into the hands of those needing joy and comfort. Thank you!

## WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE CHILDREN'S USED BOOKS AT HOME?



You're probably aware of what it's like to go grocery shopping with children. Folks that shop at St. Johns pantry do. So the Pantry is starting a "Book Fairy Pantry" so children that accompanying adults can read while adults shop and talk and even take a book home with them. Now you know what you can do with those books at home!



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Rev. V. J. Stover  
(E) westviewcc.doc.pastor1961@gmail.com

~ MAY 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Joint Congr. Mtg., 5:30pm	3	4
5 9:30am Sunday School  10:30am- Worship	6	7  Pulpit Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	8	9	10  All Daughters Dinner, 6:00pm	11
12 9:30am Sunday School  10:30am- Worship  Mother's Day	13	14  Board Mtg., 7:00pm	15	16	17	18 Priscilla's Circle, 10:00am (Last meeting until 9/14)
19 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am- Worship Elder's Mtg. after svc. Family Promise, 25 years Reunion Event	20	21 Lunch Bunch MCL 11:30am	22	23  Race Worship, 7:00pm	24	25
26 9:30am Sunday School  10:30am- Worship	27 	28	29	30	31	

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.westviewchristianchurch.org](http://www.westviewchristianchurch.org)

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# **Westview Christian Church, Indianapolis**