



SECOND CENTURY MESSENGER

VOLUME 81, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

World Religions: What Do We Do Now That Everyone Is Everywhere?

It used to be that you could take a map, and color which religion ruled in separate parts of the world. Now, everybody is everywhere. There are as many Muslims in the U.S. as there are Presbyterians. Last year, a congregational survey revealed that the number one topic of concern was world religions. It reveals how important this issue is globally to have world religions be the top choice for people in the middle of the country.

Research shows that Americans have little knowledge about other religions but are interested in learning more. This sermon series will help you gain some basic understanding about each religion in dialogue with Presbyterian Christianity. They are not intended to answer all questions, but rather to see areas that are important for mutual understanding and respect. We will lift up agreements and candid disagreements, concerns and possibilities, and look for how we can work together for a better and more peaceful world.

January 2	Christianity and the World Religions
January 9	Hinduism
January 16	Buddhism
January 23	Judaism
January 30	Confucianism
February 6	Islam
February 13	The Executive Director of the World Parliament of Religions, the Rev. Dirk Ficca will preach and teach.
February 20	One Final Word on World Religions

As Stephen Prothero says in “God is Not One,” religion has the power to defuse a time bomb, but it also has the power to ignite one. Humankind needs both the hope that religion gives, and the realism to see its dangers. This series will provide ways of opening our hearts and opening our eyes to other religions. Above all, I believe it will be a fruitful way of exploring our faith in Christ.

Please come, join the conversation, and bring a friend!

Andrew McDonald
Pastor

Opening the Windows of Heaven

UPDATE!

Our journey toward becoming a tithing congregation has made a thrilling start filled with the promise of God opening the windows of heaven and pouring down an overflowing blessing. Nearly two thirds of the 210 pledges turned in so far have included an increase. Those increases range from a low of 1.9% to a high of 650%. The average increase is 34.1%, and the median increase is precisely 20%.

We have made a bright beginning but we also have a long way to go. There are many more pledges still to come. If you have not turned in yours, we urge you to do so right away. No less in the church than anywhere else, prior planning prevents poor performance. However the stakes for us are higher still because for us the issue is not so much poor performance as it is faithful and effective deployment of God's resources for the sake of advancing God's present and coming kingdom. Please help us plan faithfully and deploy effectively by mailing in your pledge today or placing it in the offering plate this Sunday.

WE'RE ON THE WAY!

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Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts: Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon	x 111
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Join old and new friends at WOW Dinner & Fellowship

5:45—6:30 pm

\$3 Children, Ages 3—12 yrs; \$4 Adults;
\$14 max/family

January menus include:

- Jan. 5: Chicken Breast, Roasted Red Potatoes, Asparagus, Salad, Fruit and Dessert
- Jan. 12: Pancakes, Sausage Links, Salad, Fruit and Dessert
- Jan. 19: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit and Dessert

*Plan to stay for choir, adult ed,
knitting and fellowship!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME JANUARY 5

All children's choirs, Youth Bells,
Westminster Carillon and Westminster Choir

**Let's MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE
UNTO THE LORD!**

WAKING UP TO GOD— Rev. Snell facilitates our reading and reflection on Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World* in which the author seeks to heighten our sensitivity to the "altars in the world—ordinary-looking places where human beings have met and may continue to meet up with the divine. More that they sometimes call God." [Curious about this wording? Join us to find out more!] In her book, Taylor nudges us along on a wonder-filled journey toward discovering the sacred in the mundane, the holy in the ordinary, God in the everyday; a journey toward becoming what she calls "fully human." **Begins Wednesday, January 5.** We'll meet right after the WOW meal, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Copies of the book will be available at our first session.

ADULT EDUCATION

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Westminster Presbyterian Church is part of a thriving and growing city. Join us beginning January 9 to hear more from community leaders who will share visions for the future of Lincoln and some of its institutions. Speakers include:

Jan. 9: Mayor Chris Beutler

Jan. 16: Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director

Jan. 23: Dr. Steve Joel, LPS Superintendent

Jan. 30: Tom Casady, Police Chief

(Note that there is no Sunday Seminar on Jan. 2)

ENGAGING ISLAM

In February, we will seriously consider PCUSA's recently adopted document, "Toward an Understanding of Christian-Muslim Relations" through engagement with the Muslim faith tradition and calls for greater interfaith exchange. In the early part of the month (Feb 6 and 20), **Rev. Bob Snell** will lead us through a brief educational introduction. **Rev. Dirk Ficca**, Executive Director of the Parliament of World Religions will join us on Feb 13 to talk further about interfaith exchange and Christian-Muslim relations. Toward the end of this series, we'll be joined by noted Qu'ran scholar **Dr. Simon Wood** of UNL's Department of Classics and Religious Studies (Feb 27) and **Farida Ebrahim** of Lincoln (March 7) to learn more about this religion and the experiences of practicing Muslims in Lincoln.

BE: THE BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. - Lounge

Journey through the New Testament this year with the Bible Experience class. Join us in the Lounge at 9 am on Sunday mornings as we seek to deepen our understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. All are welcome!

WESTMINSTER BIBLE CLASS

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.—Parlor

Our study in January focuses on the promises of hope found in the words of the prophet Isaiah. All are welcome! January lesson leaders are:

Jan. 2: Kent Wolfe

Jan. 9: Helen Sagan

Jan. 16: Dr. Bud Tenney

Jan. 23: Rev. Bob Snell

Jan. 30: Rev. Ellen Davis



CROSSROADS

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. - Library

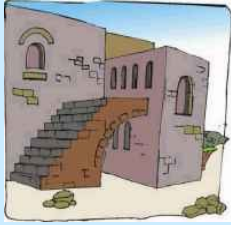
All young adults are invited to join **Dr. Gene Armstrong** in the Library on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We know God speaks to us...so how do we respond? That is the focus of our discussions...relating the scriptures to modern life.



ST. NICK VISITS RURAL NEBRASKA

Van after van arrived at Westminster to load up with bags of gifts for families in need, living in rural Nebraska. This year the St. Nick Project provided gifts for 428 people in 46 communities in outstate Nebraska. Gifts were purchased by over 150 Westminster families and were brought to the church to be wrapped by over 50 members and friends. The St. Nick Project wants to thank each and every person who, purchased, contributed, wrapped, bagged and gave moral support

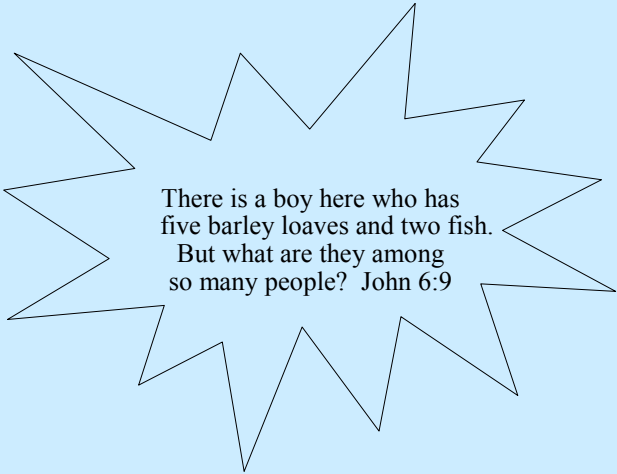
to this mission project. The success of this project has relied on the tireless support of many members...many who have participated since its start...24 years ago. We hope that your experience was meaningful, and a reminder of what Christmas means to each of us and those less fortunate. St. Nick says thanks and hopes that you will join in again next year...our 25th!



FAITH VILLAGE

**(9:00 and 10:45 am)
Kindergarten-5th Grade**

Join us in Faith Village as the children study the story of Jesus feeding 5,000. We will use art, cooking, music and computers to explore the meaning of Christ's message! The children will have the opportunity to learn how to use compassion, trust and sharing in their daily lives!



There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? John 6:9

Our Memory Verse for January:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" Psalms 23:1

Share this with your children! We will have a new verse every month!

January is a time for renewal and resolutions. Make a decision TODAY to bring your children to Sunday school each week. Most children prefer having some routine in their lives. As parents we can model the spiritual discipline of learning and worshiping each week. This routine will help our children grow in their spiritual lives and form a firm foundation for them as they mature.

Kindergarten of Eden (Preschool Sunday school)

Through stories, crafts, songs and learning centers preschool age children will learn that Jesus was a young person learning about God, too. Children will learn the story of Jesus going to the temple and Jesus being baptized. They will come to understand that just like Jesus, we learn and are baptized, too

ATTENTION! 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS!

Interested in becoming an acolyte? Training will be Sunday January 16 at 10:00 am and Wednesday January 12th at 5:15 pm both held in the Sanctuary! Questions or to sign up, please contact Nicole!

Faith Village begins each week as children mark their attendance on a chart. Each month children who have attended each Sunday are given a small reward and recognition in front of their peers!

Villagers sing songs and collect an offering each week. Please help your children learn the basics of stewardship by encouraging them to remember their offering. Envelopes are available in Faith Village.

Perfect Attendance December 2010			
Lars K.	Liam D.	Sierra W.	Avery E.
Kalissa M.	C.J. J.	Cael D.	Kaylee E.
Betsy Z.	Olympia G.	Sidda P.	Noa J.
Dakota B.	Alex L.	Mitchell T.	Matthew M.

Parents, grandparents and all the rest of the adults of the congregations are cordially invited to help fulfill the promise made to our children at their baptism by volunteering in Faith Village. Teachers are needed for the rest of the school year. Just 3 weeks out of the month at the 10:45 am time OR 1 week out of the month at the 9:00 am session could be a transforming experience! (For the children and YOU!). All materials, supplies and curriculum are provided!

Please contact Nicole Effle, Interim Director of Children and Family Ministries, if you have questions, comments or want to volunteer!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All women, YOUNG, OLD and NEW MEMBERS are *invited* to visit or join a circle! Call the hostess for the circle you prefer. Circle meetings are as follows:

- Circle 1** Wed. Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m. Church Lounge
Marge Young 327-8190
or Jane Fredrickson 792-2949
- Circle 3** Wed. Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m.
Jean Patoka 488-1833
- Circle 4** Mon. Jan. 3, 7 p.m.
Linda Burchard 477-5572
- Circle 5** Tues. Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m. Church Lounge
Pat Beams 423-2956
- Circle 6** Tues. Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Church Library
Ashley Lammers 477-0706

Anyone interested in sewing? Mission Sewers will meet January 26, 2011 at 1 p.m. in the church lounge. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler 483-6533 or Martha McLeod 792-2774.

WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS



Each Tuesday morning in the Parlor a group of Westminster men get together for food, fellowship, and learning. A Continental Breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for First Timers) is available about 6:40 a.m. The program follows at 7:00 a.m. Dismissal is by 8:00. Here is the January lineup:

- Jan. 4: Roger Ghormley - Fifth Annual Version of "Getting to Know You"
- Jan. 11: Rev. Ellen Davis - Bible Study
- Jan. 18: Gary Moulton - UNL Professor of American History - Retired - "Lewis and Clark's New Look"
- Jan. 25: Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald - Bible Study

All men are cordially encouraged to come be a part of this very special time. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

LIFETIME JANUARY EVENTS

Lunch Bunch – January 11th

The Westminster Lunch Bunch invites guests to join them for lunch and conversation at 12:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. January's luncheon will be at Carmela's Bistro at 4141 Pioneer Woods Drive, just north of 70th & Pioneers. The group consists of both men and women who carpool to different restaurants while offering shut-ins transportation from their homes. Those needing rides should contact the church office, 475-6702, by Monday, January 10th.

Prairie Readers – January 19th

Jeanne Giles will be the discussion leader for Prairie Readers when the group meets at 1 p.m. in the church parlor on Wednesday, January 19th. The chosen novel is *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave, a British author. *Little Bee* is about two women whose lives are tied together by an unexpected meeting on a beach in Nigeria. Little Bee tells the reader, "We must see all scars as beauty. Okay? This will be our secret. Because take it from me, a scar does not form on the dying. A scar means, "I survived".



Prime Time—January 28th

*Have you heard? Can it be?
Ja, Ja, Oui, Oui, Si, Si.*

The "Annual" Prime Time Foreign Film Night is coming in January. Foreign Film Night is always popular and you are all invited. We'll gather for a potluck supper and then enjoy a "Linda Burchard Special" movie. (Bring your own table service, please.)

Friday, January 28 6:00 p.m. Cole Hall

Come in out of the cold and enjoy the warmth of friends and good food, plus a cheap movie. Contacts: Carolyn Harp 261-6897, charp3@neb.rr.com, or Linda Burchard 477-5572, ljburchard@windstream.net. We hope you'll join us.

Westminster Club will not meet in January. Watch the February Messenger for information about our February meeting.

WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL NEWS

www.wpslincoln.org



The preschool suffered a great loss with the sudden death of Miss Jean on December 7th. She was an inspiration to all of us who worked with her. She taught preschool here at Westminster for the past 12 years and touched the lives of hundreds of children.

Jean's family has set up an endowment memorial fund to go towards scholar ships for preschool here at Westminster. This scholarship is meant to go to children that otherwise might not be able to attend our program. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please let me know.

Lincoln Public Schools' graduation requirements include 20 hours of community service and Westminster Preschool is an approved site to complete these hours. If someone you know needs to complete these hours, give me a call!

As I wrap up my first year as Director of the preschool program, I have many fond memories including the opportunity to lead this program through another successful accreditation with NAEYC, hosting the Auction and developing a new preschool website. I am looking forward to 2011 and the many adventures to come!

Suzanne Schneider

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Baptism: Levi Cameron, son of Amber and Cameron Scholl

Bereavements: Prayers for the family and friends of Elizabeth "Betty" Krejci, who died on December 10; Bernie Nider, who died on December 15.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

The following members celebrated birthdays during December and renewed or became members of the Foundation Birthday Club:



Cori Amend	Beth Kimminau
Matt Bergmeyer	Irvine Linch
Fritz Blatt	Scott Nelson
Gentry Colborn	Teri Nelson
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler	Jean Patoka
Marijane Hancock	Don Purvis
Don Hand	Roger Van Cleave
Amy Hesse	Dick Wood
Claire Hoppe	



WESTMINSTER FOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 13TH

Mark your calendars for February 13th, the date for Westminster's Food Drive to help stock Westminster's Food Pantry shelves. The food is packed and delivered to Lincoln's People's City Mission each week, which in turn is distributed to hungry families in the community. Our Food Pantry is successful because of your help and your generosity in donating food and monetary contributions.

We thank Jane and Gus Fredrickson, who go to the Lincoln Food Bank once a month and shop, load and carry the food to our pantry. Next we want to thank the packers: Kim and Mary Beth Johnson, Pat Leach, Jerry Johnston, Larry Peach, Kent Spicer, Cheri Ryan, Lee Darnell, Marcia Hollestelle, Jane Lacy, Fred and Susan Zander, Pat Hackley, Ben Kessler, Martha Kingsbury, Scott and Nancy Stuckey, Deb Schorr, Nancy Hlava, Martha Rowe and David and Kathy Anderson.

We also appreciate all of you who bring boxes. A huge thank you to Scott Stuckey who brings boxes several times a month. A big thank you to Kim and Mary Beth Johnson, who are in charge of arranging for the packers and preparing the packing schedule.

It takes many, many people to make this project successful. Food donations from our congregation as well as from Antelope Church of the Brethren help keep our shelves full. Additional food items are purchased from the Lincoln Food Bank and Ideal Grocery with the monetary gifts that we receive.

Empty grocery sacks (with a grocery list) will be handed out after worship on Jan. 30th and Feb. 6th and are to be brought back on Feb. 13th. Thanks again to all of you!

Hank and Nora Hinrichs, Pantry Coordinators

January 2011 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed. Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>3 <i>Building Closed</i></p>	<p>4 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble 4:30 pm Personnel Com. 5:00 pm Adult Ed. Min. 6:00 pm A & P Building & Grounds Outreach Ministry</p>	<p>5 9:30 am Circle 1 Noon Brown Bag Lunch 5:00 pm Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit Together 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir</p>	<p>6 6:30 am Koop Group 8:30 am Holiday of Trees Discussion 9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>7 2:30 pm Recorder Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Women's Retreat</p>
<p>9 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed. Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 1:00 pm PS Holiday Programs 6:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>10 11:00 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Stewardship Committee 5:30 pm YAYA Worship & Music Min. (Gregg S.) 6:00 pm Small Group Ministry 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 61 Cub Scout Den Meetings Children & Families Min.</p>	<p>11 6:45 am Men's Fellowship 10:00 am PW Circle 5 Noon OA 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble 4:30 pm Budget & Finance 7:00 pm Circle 6</p>	<p>12 5:00 pm Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit Together 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir</p>	<p>13 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Presbytery Business & Finance</p>	<p>14 2:30 pm Recorder Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed. Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School (Ordination/Installation of Officers)</p>	<p>17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday <i>Building Closed</i></p>	<p>18 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble</p>	<p>19 1:00 pm Prairie Readers 4:30 pm Foundation Marketing 4:45 pm Foundation Investment 5:00 pm Foundation Board Mtg. Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Faith Building Blocks Knit Together 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir</p>	<p>20 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>21 2:30 pm Recorder Rehearsal 4:00 pm Cub Scouts Track Set Up & check in Elder/Deacon Retreat</p>	<p>22 8:00 am Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>23 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed. Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>24 11:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 61 Cub Scout Den Meetings 7:00 pm Recovery Group</p>	<p>25 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble 5:30 pm Westminster Club</p>	<p>26 1:00 pm Mission Sewing 5:00 pm Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit Together 7:30 pm ACOA</p>	<p>27 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>28 11:45 am PEO 2:30 pm Recorder Rehearsal 6:00 pm Prime Time</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Ed. Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>31 11:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery Group</p>	<p>Feb. 1 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble 4:30 pm Personnel Com. 5:00 pm Adult Ed. Min. 6:00 pm A & P Building & Grounds Outreach Ministry 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting</p>	<p>Feb. 2 9:30 am Circle 1 5:00 pm Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit Together 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir</p>	<p>Feb. 3 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>Feb. 4 2:30 pm Recorder Rehearsal</p>	



♦
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BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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www.westminsterlincoln.org

**RELAX,
RENEW,
REJOICE!**



The Westminster Women's Retreat will be held on January 8th. This will be a wonderful way to unwind after the holidays and celebrate the new year. Opportunities for workshops include: Guided Imagery, Journaling, Pilates, Moving to the Psalms, "Ask the Dr.", Book suggestions, Hearing about faith journeys from other women, Gardening, Bible study on Relaxing, Prayer, and caring for our families, among others. There will also be a Quiet Room for individual meditation and reflection. Women can design their own retreat by choosing the option that interests them during each session. This retreat is designed for women of ALL ages and interests.

Childcare is available, and the cost is \$7.50, which includes lunch. The day will include other activities which will be fun and inspirational. Call the church, 475-6702 to register. Bring a friend---we look forward to seeing you as we spend the day together.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 31, 2011

*A
Churchwide
Celebration*

With

*Dinner at
Embassy Suites*