

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Lincoln, Nebraska
Sunday, February 19, 2012

INDEX

i

MINISTRY

Senior Pastor’s Report, Andrew L. McDonald.	1
Interim Associate Pastor Report, Robert Snell.	3
Parish Associate Report, Ellen Davis.	5

SESSION

Ministry of Adult Education.	6
Ministry of Member Care.	7
Ministry of New Members.	8
Ministry of Outreach.	9
Ministry of Small Groups.	10
Ministry of Stewardship.	11
Ministry of Worship and Music.	12
Ministry of Youth and Young Adult (YAYA).	13
Administration and Planning.	14
Budget and Finance.	14
Nominating Committee.	15
Session Organization.	17
New Members/Membership Rolls.	18

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Children’s Ministries.	19
-----------------------------	----

ORGANIZATIONS

Presbyterian Women Report.	20
Westminster Host-Hostesses.	21
Ushers.	21
Library.	22
Westminster Foundation.	23

2012 Budget

Auditor’s Report

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT, ANDREW L. McDONALD

Jesus calls his disciples to make a difference in the world. We have had global and national awareness this year, beginning with a focus on World Religions, including the executive director of the World Parliament of Religions, and ending with a focus on civility in public discourse, in which we welcomed the governor, the mayor, a senator and Dr. James Davis of Middlebury College. We began and ended the year following Christ's call to be peacemakers in the world. It is exciting to be part of this faithful church.

We are steadily approaching our golden milestone of paying off the church loan. Currently, we are down from 1.5 million to \$75,000. We anticipate being able to pay off the debt sometime this year. So many people worked long and hard, and gave so generously to reach this goal. It has been a whole church effort. In the grace of God, we have had a marvelous time accomplishing this great good for current and future generations. To add to the atmosphere of joy, the Westminster Foundation invited us all to the Embassy Suites for a wonderful dinner and to inspire us toward the final vision.

We experienced the marvelous biblical call of Opening the Windows of Heaven. Becoming a congregation that encourages disciples of Christ to tithe has made a huge impact on our mission. Because of that, we have been able to move forward in mission, our congregational life, our education, and program staff, in particular the support that allowed us to hire or retain Betsy Guyer, Tiffany Mullison and the Rev. Bob Snell. What a difference Opening the Windows has made!

Betsy Guyer is back in at her position as Director of Children's Ministries. We were blessed to have Betsy come back to lead us in teaching children and reaching out to their families. She is an outstanding Christian educator and we are delighted to have her back.

Tiffany Mullison came on board as our Associate for Community Life and Growth. She has been working with the youth and youth groups from 6th grade through senior highs. The New Member Ministry is also an area of focus and she helped organize our "You've Got a Friend" invitation Sunday. That event inspired the congregation to invite 120 guests on one amazing day.

Our autumn theme, "Dream It! Do It! Discipleship!", led us to explore how God is calling us to dream new dreams and follow the call God gives us to make a difference in the world. With funds from the Opening the Windows of Heaven campaign, we sponsored our first Day of Discipleship, with members going out to feed the hungry and house the homeless. It was inspiring to see to many people doing "hands on" work together that day.

Confirmation Class hit a new high in our recent history, with 40 members in the class. Dr. Christy Dempsey has written a new curriculum for us as well as teaching each week. It is an energetic room on Sunday mornings, powered each week by great teaching – and a lot of donuts. Maggie Stuckey and Allysa Diehl have contributed greatly in their leadership for youth group, youth events and annual retreats.

We are inspired every week by the sanctuary choir, the youth choirs, the bells, the brass, the new youth orchestra. I am grateful for Masako and Boyd Bacon's gifts as they help us all to discover a deeper sense of awe and joy in worship. The musicians and their families come together around the wonderful weekly WOW dinner, prepared by the loving hands of Susan Zander with the help of Fred and their whole family. Their family helps us discover a deeper sense of church family each week.

Once I get started with this report, it is hard to stop, but I must. There are so many people to say thank you too, I could go on far too long. Many names will appear in these pages. Many, many more may not appear, but are equally part of the faithful discipleship of this congregation. Each gift, each effort, each word of love, counts. As Desmond Tutu says, "It is not forgotten by God, but it is taken up and held by God and used in God's good time for God's purposes."

The efforts of the congregation make up the faithful community of Christ, and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, reveals something of the love of God to us all. Thank you all for creating such a wonderful church.

May God bless Westminster, and all of you, this year.

The Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor

Interim Associate Pastor Report, Rev. Robert T. Snell

Dear Friends,

What a year! Through my work with Adult Ed, Outreach, Small Groups, and Stewardship, I joined with many, many gifted and devoted others in developing a host of programs, classes, and special events: *Citizenship & Sovereignty in a Global Age*, *Day of Discipleship*, *Call Waiting*, *Mission: Here, There, & Everywhere*, *Seven Deadly Sins*, *Ballroom Dancing*, *Opening the Windows of Heaven Art Show*, *Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner*, *Glee on a Sunday Morning*, *More Glee!*, *Englishing the Bible*, and *Civic Visions & Civil Discourse*.

I myself taught *Waking Up to God*, *Hearing and Heeding*, *Romans*, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, *Redux*, *Faith at the Movies*, *The Gospel According to Scrooge*, *The Birth of Jesus: A Twice Told Tale*, and *In Defense of Civility*; helped teach *Engaging Islam*; and led the Men's Tuesday morning Bible Study seven times and the Westminster Bible Class once. I preached eight Sundays and led the Maundy Thursday service.

Our second year of inspiring responses to God's call to bring the full tithe into the storehouse and God's promise to open the windows of heaven brought to \$165,000 the total cumulative increases in pledged giving. With our Preschool Director, Suzanne Schneider, we brought our preschool out of the red and into the black for the first time in many years.

Jo Anne and I have also enjoyed dessert and bridge once a month with our Westminster Bridge Group and dinner once a month with our Westminster Dinner Group.

My ministry with the larger church has included service on Presbytery Council, as Moderator of Presbytery's Personnel Committee, and as Stewardship consultant to First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island. Ecumenical work in the community has led to planning for an Abrahamic Traditions Dinner. "Children of Abraham: A Family Gathering," will invite Jews, Christians, and Muslims, who all trace their faith traditions to Abraham, to join together for food and fellowship in the shared conviction that it is a faithful and promising thing to do. We will host this exciting event here at Westminster on Thursday, March 29, at 6:00 p.m. Also involved are the Niagara Foundation (a Muslim group), St. Paul's, South Street Temple, ARYA (another Muslim group), and Interfaith Ministries of Nebraska.

Perhaps the "biggest news" I have to share with you in this report is my intention to retire at the end of 2012. I offered this early "heads up" to Session at its December meeting in order to provide ample time for the church to inaugurate and perhaps complete a search for a called and installed Associate Pastor with little or no interruption in ministry from this position.

For me, my time here at Westminster has been nothing short of a godsend. I am deeply grateful to Dr. McDonald, the Session, the staff, and the congregation for the warm welcome and unflinching encouragement I have received, and continue to receive. I cannot imagine, nor have I experienced, a better place to serve the Gospel of God in Jesus Christ. God did indeed save the best for last.

I look forward to our last year together with the same sense of promise and possibility that has made the past two years such a delight.

Grace and peace,
Bob Snell
Interim Associate Pastor

PARISH ASSOCIATE ANNUAL REPORT, REV. ELLEN DAVIS

Two words have been significant in my ministry here at Westminster this past year. Hope is the first. Just as God provided manna in the desert, so Hope has permeated my life this past year. Each visit with a member of this congregation has reminded me that each day of our lives we live in that Hope that knows no end, that promise that will be kept. God's Hope in Christ Jesus is the foundation of the lives of those I visit. It is evident in the smiles, in the confident living in less than ideal circumstances – perhaps a care center, a hospital bed, or at home alone. Even when the circle of friends that surround one is diminishing, still that Hope that the One who never leaves us is there in that place, keeps faith strong.

The second word is Light. The Gospel of John reminds us that the Light has come, the Light that cannot be put out, the Light that shines into our darkness. There have been dark places in the lives of Westminster members this past year, and I have seen the Light of Christ shine through and illuminate those dark places. Hope and Light: these two have been given to me by those whom I visit in home and hospital, care center and retirement community. Thank you for teaching me, for ministering to me through your faithfulness to Christ our Lord and Savior.

I am also grateful for the ministry of our Deacons who have faithfully and with devotion become friends with over 50 of our members. As needs arose, they reached out and brought Westminster to those who might not have had the opportunity to feel connected to their church.

I am also grateful for the ministry of the Member Care Ministry team. They have sent cards, made phone calls, and provided fellowship and connection for a large segment of our congregation through congregational care ministry and older adult ministry. The cards at “‘C’ is for Christmas” prepared by Kay Ballard with photos by Allen Wachter have again been a huge success and brought joy and a piece of Westminster on Christmas Eve into over 100 homes.

The anticipated outreach to the Lincoln military community is in its infancy but our Hope in Christ and the gifts of support for this new opportunity give us the ability to continue our planning and programming. Watch the Messenger and the Vine for updates.

I have found the study with Westminster Bible class and the Presbyterian Women's study leaders to be personally gratifying as we have deepened our understanding of the biblical message. Each month I have led the Bible class at least twice and met with the PW study leaders to explore the Beatitudes. The old is made new each time we explore familiar passages and see them in a new way. I want to thank those who have asked me to lead the Bible class and the women for the opportunities to grow in my own understanding of God's Word.

It has been a good year – from the Women's Retreat in January through the Lenten Wednesday devotions and studies to the Advent and Christmas celebrations that ushered in a new year at Westminster. May God, who knew us in our weakness and gave us strength to be faithful, guide our lives into new Hope and Light in this New Year 2012.

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5).

God's blessings,
Ellen Davis, Parish Associate

ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY

The new year began with a successful Women's Retreat (landing Westminster on the front page of the community section of the *Lincoln Journal Star*), with more than 100 women in attendance.

The Sunday morning Adult Ed Seminar Series in 2011 began with the second annual "Community Conversations" and a host of distinguished speakers including Lincoln's mayor, Chief of Police and the Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools.

Coinciding with a sermon series on world religions across the new year, Adult Education's February offering ("Engaging Islam") drew on the talents of Rev. Bob Snell, Prof. Simon Wood, and Lincoln community member Farida Ebrahim to provide attendees with a greater understanding of this important world religion and the local Islamic community.

Westminster partnered with UNL to bring Rev. Dirk Ficca, Executive Director of the Council for the Parliament of World Religions to Westminster to preach, contribute to the Adult Education series and deliver a public lecture at UNL.

Adult Education hosted a series of summer offerings—including a series open to all ages examining thematic parallels between the television phenomenon "Glee" and some of the Bible's teachings on living well with others.

In August, the Sunday seminar focused on "Englishing the Bible," offered in observance of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

After a September focus on "Citizenship and Sovereignty in a Global Age," the Sunday seminar series turned its attention to mission with a set of offerings focused on local, regional, national and international mission (including a Sunday devoted to celebrating Westminster's Day of Discipleship). The Sunday Seminar series closed the year with an advent offering: "The Birth of Jesus: A Twice-Told Tale" looking at the two birth narratives featured in the gospels.

Alongside of these Sunday seminar offerings, a number of ongoing Adult Education offerings continued to thrive. The Westminster Bible class continues to move ahead with various biblically themed offerings, meeting on Sunday mornings in the church parlor. The Bible Experience class (having met together since fall of 2009) concluded its study of the Bible this summer. Crossroads, a Sunday morning fellowship and study experience for young adults, continued its meetings in the Church library each Sunday morning.

Thanks to the congregation's faithful response to the "Opening the Windows of Heaven" stewardship campaign, the Adult Ed was able to host and plan a series of special events across the year. In addition to Rev. Ficca's visit (in February), Adult Ed was able to sponsor a retreat in late September focused on listening for God's call, facilitated by Rev. Doug Wysocky-Johnson and a January (2012) retreat focused on Christian vision and civil discourse (facilitated by Dr. James Calvin Davis).

In addition, across 2011, Adult Ed offered a series of Wednesday night offerings (facilitated by Rev. Bob Snell) on a range of topics including a book/discussion group working with Barbara Brown-Taylor's *An Altar in the World*, and a "Faith in Film" series.

Moving into 2012, the Adult Education ministry looks forward to building on the energies and faithful vision of the congregation in order to develop a set of offerings that continues to sponsor our growth in Christian faith and fellowship.

Submitted by
Deb Minter, Moderator

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY

As members of Member Care Ministry, the following people faithfully attended meetings and shared in our ministry's work: Kathy Anderson, Kay Ballard, Ellen Davis (staff), Dorrie Gage (moderator), Judith Klems, Faye Moulton, Susie Hughes (vice moderator), and Teri Van Cleave. Dalyce Ronnau and Bob Morey served as Special Task members.

Congregation contacts were made monthly to Westminster members whose service attendance had lapsed. These contacts were made through friendly phone calls and written notes. This service helps in keeping our membership roles current in addition to reaching out to members. Signing the pew pad is very important.

Cook and Carry continues to be an active program within our ministry. Faye Moulton is currently the head person for this program, with Dorothy Glen serving as back-up when Faye is out of town. Members receive a hot meal or a plate of cookies when there is a family need, due to an illness, a death, surgery, a birth, etc. Susie Hughes designed a sign-up sheet to use in acquiring new volunteers, and Faye wrote a letter to the volunteers thanking them for their continued service. Member Care thanks Dorothy Glen for her ad hoc services.

Member Care promoted the use of name tags, encouraging members to wear them at Sunday services and church events. Notices about this appeared in the Messenger and Vine several times during the year.

Heritage Sunday in May honored our long-time members. Kay Ballard designed a "Westminster Memories" display board and Susie Hughes created a family tree of church families for display.

Presbyterians in the Park is an annual June event. Ellen Davis, Dorrie Gage, Judith Klems, Faye Moulton, and Teri Van Cleave helped organize and facilitate the pot-luck luncheon.

Caring for military families became a new focus for our ministry. Cards and care packages were sent to our member military families. Ellen Davis has taken the lead in the Military Ministry Program, now in its early stage. With a proposal and grant in place, she is working closely with Interchurch Ministries in developing the program.

The Westminster Prayer Chain was reactivated this year. Susie Hughes took the lead with this, enlisting new volunteers and organizing how our volunteers are notified of prayer requests.

“C ‘is for Christmas” is another Westminster favorite. Member Care helps with this event by providing Christmas cards which are signed and sent to our shut-in members and military families. Kay Ballard designed and printed these beautiful cards. Dorrie Gage, Judith Klems, and Faye Moulton prepared and served chili for the event.

Discussion has started concerning the possibility of loaning/sharing durable medical supplies within our congregation.

Submitted by
Dorrie Gage, Moderator

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY

This past year was a very active one for our ministry as we sought to fulfill our mission to grow the membership of Westminster. Our *Journeying Together* new member classes welcomed 41 new members to our church family. We continued our new format for the three classes that kicks off with a welcome lunch but also includes three detailed presentations and learning opportunities for new members.

Tiffany Mullison joined our committee mid-year as a second staff representative and with her invaluable help we engaged the congregation in two invite-a-friend-to-church Sundays that we themed “You’ve Got a Friend at Westminster.” Members were asked to invite someone they knew to come to worship on designated dates. Response was excellent as well over 100 guests visited and experienced at its best before, during, and after Sunday worship. We hope to continue that outreach and build a tradition within our membership of being welcoming ambassadors for Christ.

We also moved the church closer to its dream of having a sign on 27th & Ryons streets as the session formally approved the request to proceed provided city approval and a fund raising plan is in place. Much work has yet to be done, but we hope to help in any way we can to bring to life in 2012 this sign as Westminster’s own beacon of hope and joy reality for passers by.

Additional outreach efforts included sending Christmas cards to all members who joined our church in the past two years. And cards of peace and welcome were also sent to all known visitor families who came to Westminster on Christmas Eve.

Members Mark Whitehead (moderator), Allen Wachter (vice moderator), and Dan Schafer served on the committee. Pastor McDonald and Tiffany Mullison served as staff representatives to the committee.

We enthusiastically encourage anyone who has a kind and welcoming spirit to join our committee in 2012 and help make each visitor and each new member feel at home here at Westminster.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Whitehead, moderator

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH

Members: Interim Associate Pastor-Rev. Bob Snell, Moderator-Sarah Baltensperger, Vice Moderator-Judy Roper, Secretary-Deb Van Dyke-Ries, Bob Michaud, Ken Govaerts, and Katie Zulkoski

Westminster and our community have been blessed by the generosity of our congregation during this past year. The Ministry of Outreach was granted approximately \$16,000 to serve others in 2011. We were also allowed a generous grant to support the Day of Discipleship, through the congregation and the Opening the Windows of Heaven campaign. We have used this money efficiently and creatively, and are excited to share our story.

Cedar Rapids IA was hit with the 500 year flood in June 2008. The Cedar river crested at 32 feet, flooding 9 square miles of the city. Nearly 4,000 homes had to be evacuated. Many of the homes that were damaged were in lower economic areas of the city where folks, who had suffered the greatest losses, had the fewest resources to recover.

In 2010, Ken Govaerts led a team to Cedar Rapids to help the flood victims. In 2011, we were blessed to be able to provide two additional teams in May and again in August. Members who graciously responded to this disaster this year were: Ken Govaerts (Coordinator), Jim White, Greg Hershberger, Cathy Hershberger, Steve Hughes, Michael Gregg, John Paul Warrick, Edison McDonald, Gary Moulton, Bob Michaud, and John Young (Bob Michaud's father-in-law).

All homes worked on were being refurbished by a coalition of organizations formed to recover homes that have not yet been restored. The organization is named **Block-by-Block**. These are homes that have been abandoned by the owners and remain a blight on the otherwise renewed neighborhood. Block-by-Block purchases the homes and through grants and money recovered by selling the restored homes, is able to complete the renewal of the neighborhood in this way.

October was an exciting month for the Ministry of Outreach, as we hosted the first annual Day of Discipleship on October 15th. Over 100 volunteers from Westminster and around the community, went out to the Friendship Home, Fresh Start, CEDARS Youth Services, Kids Against Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, and the Good Neighbor Center to help with special projects! Because of the efforts of so many, the Friendship Home has a beautiful and well-lit children's area (including a Winnie the Pooh mural); Fresh Start has a brightened outdoor area, donations organized and sorted, bed frames installed, and floors repaired; the TLC moms at CEDARS have a newly painted dining room, living room, and recreation center for pregnant teens, moms and their children; almost 12,000 nutritious packages of food were put together at Kids Against Hunger for children around the world, a family will have a new foundation for their new home through Habitat for Humanity; and the Good Neighbor Center has newly painted rooms for their clients. We were overwhelmed by the response of the congregation and community, and it was truly a meaningful event.

In 2012, Ken Govaerts will be leading a committee focused on mission trips for Westminster, and as well as serve as a resource for the community. This committee will be working to coordinate a mission trip to Cedar Rapids, IA in April, and a mission trip to Joplin, MO in August. Mission

Outreach will continue to strive to create and inform the congregation of community-wide volunteer and mission opportunities, and look forward to positively impacting more organizations through our second Day of Discipleship in October.

The Ministry of Outreach committee looks forward to the continued support of the Westminster Food Pantry, St. Nick Project, Gathering Place, Friendship Home, Matt Talbot Kitchen, Child Guidance Center, Clinic With a Heart, and many other wonderful missions.

Submitted by
Sarah Baltensperger, Moderator

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Our goal for this year has been to ensure that there are an adequate number of small groups providing opportunities for Bible study, nurturing friendships, and social activities.

To help us function better, we compiled a list of participants in current active small groups. We found at least 80 people involved. We plan to use this list to enhance activities and studies for next year.

In January, Chris Stokes began a Friday morning small group of men to study and discuss methods of establishing closer relations between fathers and daughters. This was entitled Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters.

In July and October, Maggie Stuckey led the way in arranging the Ladies Night Out which was highly successful.

In Sept., we started a study of Seven Deadly Sins and Their Corresponding Virtues in several groups ranging in age from 20's to 70's, which included Wed. night, Sunday morning at church and several groups in private homes. There were a total of 65 people involved in this study.

Also in September, twelve couples were involved in a six week ballroom dancing class that was led by Kim Dondlinger as a private instructor in the Westminster gym. This required obtaining \$150 from the "Dream Fund" (Opening the Windows of Heaven).

Unfortunately, on September 18th, the third annual golf outing was cancelled due to inclement weather.

In November, we provided \$80 to the Crossroads Sunday study group to purchase books (Call Waiting) to use in their studies.

In 2012, we will utilize and expand the participant list. We will encourage formation of new groups with new members. In February, we will begin adult coed volleyball in the gym following the WOW dinner to encourage fellowship. In March, we will start a small group called "What's Cooking with

Susie" which will involve learning to cook for young mothers and families. This will be led by Susie Hughes.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their time and efforts for making this year successful. These include Steve and Sandi Larson, Maggie Stuckey, Maureen Hergert, Chris Stokes, Margaret Sheffield and Pastor Bob Snell.

Submitted by:
Bruce Sheffield, Moderator

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This ministry in 2011 continued its call for Westminster to journey toward becoming a tithing congregation. We built our 2011 campaign upon the progress made in the "Opening the Windows of Heaven" and evolved the appeal by adopting the theme "Stepping Into God's Future."

Activities for 2011 included being the coordinating committee for the church's art show. Members contributed pieces that they felt were their personal interpretation of the theme "Opening the Windows of Heaven" in the art genre of their choice. Art by adults was displayed at the Burkholder Project studios in Lincoln's Haymarket district during the month of October, and then was displayed at Westminster. Children also participated through a variety of opportunities in Faith Village and their art was also displayed at the church during October.

Stewardship also was the coordinating committee for Westminster's 2011 Thanksgiving Dinner held at the church on November 3rd. Approximately 180 guests gathered in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, instrumental music performances by Mac McCune and Jerry Solomon, plus a retrospective DVD that looked back at the activities and accomplishments of Westminster over the past year. The event was supported by a free will offering. Feedback from guests was extremely positive and we were happy to make this event happen.

The 2011 campaign to support the 2012 church budget began in October and was supported by multiple letters, a new pledge card, a retrospective booklet that showed in words and pictures a number of the opportunities supported in 2011 by pledge giving. And the message continued the ongoing appeal to join in pledging if you haven't started yet, and for current pledging families to consider increasing your existing pledge by 20% over last year's pledge until you reach the biblically inspired tithe of 10% of household income to the church.

Results of the campaign continue to inspire. Through December 2011 net pledge giving increased over \$40,000 from what was pledged in 2011 to what is pledged so far for 2012. The campaign will continue into 2012 to secure as many pledge commitments as possible from our member families. We hope to realize as much as a \$50,000 net increase in pledge commitments for 2012, but of course that is not yet certain. In a time of economic challenge locally and nationally as we emerge from

the recession, the committee finds Westminster's collective commitment to pledging and increased giving to be truly moving and inspirational.

Members of the committee for 2011 were Allen Wachter (moderator), Alan Wood (vice moderator), and Stacy Graham. Staff representative (and our inspiring leader) was interim associate pastor Rev. Bob Snell.

Submitted by
Allen Wachter, Moderator

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP, MUSIC AND THE FINE ARTS

Many thanks are due to the members of this ministry for their dedicated service throughout 2011, and also to our dedicated staff representatives Boyd and Masako Bacon.

The Ministry members were as follows: - Mary Kay Schoettger (Vice Moderator, Secretary and Baptisms), Bob Leavitt (Communion), Dave and Linda Miller (Chancel Guild), Freda Gregg (Communion Preparation), Linda Burchard, Martha Kingsbury and Steve Hughes. Prairie Meis represented the Ushers

The Maundy Thursday service consisted of a symbolic Seder meal, Susie Hughes organized the finger foods for it. The ministry was responsible for preparing the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The Nebraska Wesleyan Jazz choir performed during the Palm Sunday service. In May we had our annual "Heritage Sunday" service, this went well with the pipers and festivities. Worship in the Park was on June 26th, the music was by the Oasis blue grass band. October 2nd was World Communion Sunday a variety of international breads were served. There were four services on Christmas Eve, 3-00PM, 5-00PM, 7-00PM and 9-00PM, the 7-00PM had a more modern theme than the others which were traditional. The ministry was responsible for the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent season.

The Nebraska Brass performed in concert on March 27 with members of the ministry serving refreshments. Creative Arts Camp in July had a "Happy Trails" theme. It was a great success attracting a record attendance of 81. On December 11 the Westminster Choir performed the Vivaldi Gloria, we also had a Children's Pageant. The dedication of our Choir is to be commended as in addition to the Sunday services they rehearse 2 hours each week. Martha Kingsbury is the librarian and keeps all the sheet music in order.

This year Todd Eno resigned from the Audio Visual group after 14 years of devoted service, I would like to thank him for his many hours working in the background to record and enhance our worship experience. I would like to thank the outgoing members of our ministry, Linda Burchard, Dave and Linda Miller, and Freda Gregg for their service.

Boyd and Masako Bacon have worked tirelessly to enhance our worship, music and the arts in our congregation and deserve our thanks

This year to encourage young musicians, they have been performing during some services.

The chancel guild met several times during the year, ensuring the sanctuary and chancel are in good condition.

Members of our ministry participated in the “‘C’ is for Christmas” Chili contest taking 2nd prize for the second year running.

This has been a successful year for the ministry, and we have all enjoyed being part of it.

Respectfully submitted
Michael Gregg Moderator

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YAYA)

James D. Berringer – Moderator
Allysa Diehl – Vice Moderator
Maggie Stuckey
Steve Larson
Brenda Waggoner
Ashley Vorhies

Kristin Larson
Devon Nelson
Christy Dempsey
Andrew McDonald
Tiffany Mullison

The YAYA Committee has been very busy planning and organizing all kinds of projects and activities for the youth from 6th to 12th grade.

What an exciting start to the year we had as the Confirmation Class started their 2nd year in the new two year program! With our kick off weekend retreat at Camp Calvin Crest, Christy Dempsey teaching the class, and a couple service projects already tackled, the class is off to a great start! We currently have about 40 youth participating in the confirmation class.

The youth have participated in lock-ins, movie nights, a haunted ghost tour, swimming party, sledding afternoon, Gathering Place, super bowl party, laser tag, random acts of kindness, bowling, parking lot games, skiing trips, international trips, Trunk or Treat, Safe Quarters, “‘C’ is for Christmas”, babysitting, Confirmation lunch, Baccalaureate breakfast, etc, etc.

We have been discussing a possible trip to Montreat the summer of 2012 and a Germany trip in 2013. One German youth is already planning on coming back and staying with a member family the summer of 2012. These trips are important for the education and growth of our youth, church and those that we touch along the way!

Thank you to the congregation for supporting our youth and activities. These are our next leaders of the church and community!

Submitted by,
James D. Berringer, Moderator

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Since the end of last year the committee has been engaged in discussions and decisions relating to Westminster's budget process and the distribution of new monies that may come in under the "Opening the Windows of Heaven" tithing program.

The challenge for the committee was to decide how to plan for programmatic needs when unsure of budget outcomes. If the church gets the extra money anticipated under the move toward tithing, how is it to be allocated to committees? As it is, requests have come to A&P from Session committees with the understanding that even if approved by A&P such requests still have to be approved by the Session and money beyond normal budgetary needs has to be obtained. We also wanted to make sure that requests flow from the larger long-term interests of the congregation and meet the strategic goals established by the committee last year.

Our responsibilities fall under four general categories, and we've spent time working in each of these areas:

- (1) develop long-range plans and periodically reevaluate and update them;
- (2) review matters that do not fit the scope of existing committees of the Session;
- (3) give the pastor a place to discuss plans and objectives, and voice sentiments of the larger issues of the congregation; and
- (4) be a catch-all committee for broad issues of the church.

We considered how each of these items might be effectively implemented at Westminster. These points may be considered when the church's vision statement/long-range plan is reviewed next year.

Submitted by
Gary E. Moulton, moderator

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget and Finance Committee spent the year monitoring the church's finances on behalf of the Session and congregation. Due to the generosity of our members, 2011 pledge receipts increased by almost \$50,000 when compared to 2010. This increased income allowed the church to sponsor several new events, to provide our staff a raise in their compensation and to begin to replenish our church cash reserves. On a final joyful note, the church will be able to close its 2011 books with a very small surplus.

Our combined church budget, including the Westminster Preschool, is now approximately \$1.2 million. In addition to the generous support of our members, it would be impossible for us to accomplish our fiscal goals without our church staff being fiscally responsible in all they do. Thanks to each one of them for their diligence with a special thank you to Cheryl Rennick, our Business Administrator, who does such a wonderful job in keeping our church finances in good order.

The 2012 budget is a challenging one for the Session and the Budget and Finance Committee asks each of our members for your continued financial support of Westminster. In particular, if you have not yet made a 2012 pledge please do so. This small act on your part will aid the Session as it undertakes the mission and ministry of your church in the coming year.

This year I had an amazing group of members of Budget and Finance Committee who willingly gave of their time and talent in serving in this important, but often behind the scenes ministry of our congregation. These members were Mike Minnick, Scott Howerter, Chip DeBuse and Marijane Hancock. Thanks to each one of them for their willingness to serve.

Submitted by,
Reg Kuhn, Moderator

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2011 Nominating Committee began meeting in early May and continued to meet twice a month through October. The following members were very dedicated and active in our task of securing members to serve as elders, deacons, ushers and on the Foundation. Those members were Art Knox, Pat Hackley, Lesley Jagers, Jenny Gegg, Mary Durrie, Carolyn Otte, Rob Baltensperger, Carolyn Harp and Nancy Stuckey, moderator. The following slate was presented at the annual meeting in November and was unanimously accepted.

Foundation

Lillie Larsen
Jim Nissen

Nominating

Jane Allman
Arlen Beam
Beth Hamilton
Sue Shamblin
Dan Wherry

Session

Carol Campbell
Jud Douglas
Greg Hershberger
Daniel McCollough - youth
Gail McNair
Amy Neemann - 2 yr term
Scott Nelson - 2 yr term
Ray Stevens
Deb Van Dyke Ries
Carol Walbrecht
Judy White - 2 yr term
Shall Young
Hans Zander - youth

Deacons

Matt Andersen - youth
Nancy Delgado
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler
Martha Kingsbury
Lois Katt
Carolyn McCall
Trinity McDonald - youth
Karen Olson
Sarah Parker
Ed Plander
Jeanne Plander
Caroline Schainost
Barbara Schliesser
Herb Schliesser
Willie Shafer
Matt Walker

Ushers

Barb Arunski
Tom Champoux
Amy Clare
Wendi Coffman
Blythe Guyer - youth
Shayne Guyer
Jon Jackson
Susan Jackson
Ben Johnson - youth
Jill Johnson
Emily Killham
Owen Killham
Brian Lammers
Hunter Maude - youth
Brittney Nelson - youth
Jeff Pearson
Linda Petersen
Mike Rasmussen
Peggy Rasmussen
Kiann Ridgeway
Robyn Uebele
Amber Winter

2011 Elder Assignment to Session Ministries/Committees

* moderator

MINISTRIES

Adult Education

Ernie Hines 13
* Deb Minter 11

Children & Families

Sonia Harford 13
Amy Neemann 13
*Kelly Tollefson 12

YAYA

* James Berringer 12
Allysa Diehl 13
Kristin Larson 11
Devon Nelson 11

Member Care

Susie Hughes 12
* Dorrie Gage 12

New Member

* Mark Whitehead 11
Dan Schafer 13
Allen Wachter 11

Outreach

* Sarah Baltensperger 11
Judy Roper 11

Small Group

*Bruce Sheffield 13
Chris Stokes 12

Stewardship

* Allen Wachter 11
Alan Wood 11

Worship & Music

*Michael Gregg 12
Mary Kay Schoettger 12

COMMITTEES

Administration & Planning

Maureen Hergert 12
* Gary Moulton 11

Budget & Finance

Marijane Hancock 13
* Reg Kuhn 11

Building & Grounds

Dave Arunski 13
*Stan Campbell 13

Nominating

Carolyn Otte 11
*Nancy Stuckey 13

Personnel

Matt Bergmeyer 12
* Kent Jagers 12
Barbara Wright Chollet 11

PRESBYTERY

COMMISSIONERS

Gary Moulton

Clerk of Session

Beth Hamilton

CLASS OF 2011

Sarah Baltensperger
Reg Kuhn
Kristin Larson
Deb Minter
Gary Moulton
Devon Nelson
Carolyn Otte
Judy Roper
Allen Wachter
Mark Whitehead
Alan Wood
Barbara Wright Chollet

CLASS OF 2012

Matt Bergmeyer
James Berringer
Dorrie Gage
Michael Gregg
Maureen Hergert
Susie Hughes
Kent Jagers
Mary Kay Schoettger
Chris Stokes
Kelly Tollefson

CLASS OF 2013

Dave Arunski
Stan Campbell
Allysa Diehl
Marijane Hancock
Sonia Harford
Ernie Hines
Amy Neemann
Dan Schafer
Bruce Sheffield
Nancy Stuckey

CORPORATION

President - Alan Wood
Secretary - Marijane Hancock
Treasurer - Reg Kuhn

Proposed: 11/10
Approved 1/22/11

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2011

Matt Andersen	Owen Killham	Erik Nore
Sophia Baillie	Joe Kubick	Dara Peters
Janis Barnett	Levi Larson	Ed Plander
Jennifer Bennetts	Hunter Maude	Jeanne Plander
Rob Bennetts	Trinity McDonald	Diane Robie
Cyndi Brown	David McIntosh	Henry Sipp
Celeste Chapp	Jean McIntosh	James Smith
A. J. Elgert	Kristin McIntosh	Jennifer Smith
Lisa Elgert	Tyler Minter	Chip Smith
Jim Hancock	Sean Mulvaney	Marilyn Smith
Marlene Hancock	Susan Mulvaney	Robyn Uebele
Bailey Jex	Brittney Nelson	Larry Wieskamp
Carol Jurich	Melanie Nelson	Donna Wyatt
Joe Jurich	Sam Nelson	

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

Members on Active Roll January 1, 2010		1290
Members received on profession and reaffirmation	26	
Members received by certificate of transfer	15	
Other	0	
Total		41
Members transferred	17	
Member deceased	19	
All other losses	17	
Total		53
Total Members, December 31, 2011		1278

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School

Faith Village (kindergarten through fifth) continues to excite children about the Bible and all its wonderful stories. Through various workshops all children can experience and learn in a way that is truly meaningful to them. So many people have volunteered as Shepherds or Workshop leaders over the years, I cannot thank you enough. I am sure that many of you would agree that you learn almost as much as the children when you spend time in Faith Village!

In Faith Village children are excited about bringing friends to visit. A Sunday school offering continues to be collected each week and the Lord's Prayer is recited. Attendance is tracked monthly in Faith Village for both 9:00am and 10:45am sessions. Children are rewarded with a small token for each month they have "perfect attendance".

Kindergarten of Eden for Preschoolers (10:45am)

Thank you to our special group of teachers: Sonia Harford, Carrie Lee, Karen Hoffman, Kelly Braswell, Emily Killham, Beth Anne Bryson, Erika Schafer and Stephanie Bradley who tirelessly share their gifts with these eager preschool minds! They continue to utilize the Wee Believe curriculum which allows for games, songs, art projects and interactive storytelling to share God's Word. As new children regularly join the group, the teachers have mastered the art of integrating our youngest preschoolers into the established group and made them feel welcomed!

Westminster on Wednesdays (WOW)

Our families spent many fun filled Wednesday evenings in fellowship and enjoying the delicious homemade food from Susan and Fred Zander. WOW averages 65-70 individuals each week and offers a place for families to not only share a meal, but to get to know other families in our congregation. The 6th annual pie fellowship was shared with chess pie, pecan pie, cheesecake and many other delectable flavors thanks to our families!

Bibles

Bibles were given to the Kindergarten and Third grade classes in the Fall of 2010. The third grade families also attended a "How to Use my Bible" class, to help them dive into scripture together!

Family Events

CYF hosted a large number of incredible family events during 2011.

- Easter Party and Egg Hunt
- Genesis Sunday Fair with our very own Bounce House!
- Heritage Sunday Festival
- Pajamarama

Spooktacular in October was a ghoulish success! An estimated 300 people from the congregation and community attended for dinner, games, stories, songs and the Trunk or Treat. 40 vehicles were decorated in the WPC parking lot with themes ranging from Charlotte's Web to Husker-mania. An especially devilish thank you goes out to all the volunteers who really sank their teeth into making this event so wonderful.

Vacation Bible School

The children of Westminster dined on the word of God at "Shake It Up Cafe" during June! We had

a record number of participants from Westminster and the community! Volunteers helped children learn to carry out God's recipe in workshops using science, music, games, art and more. Thank you to all who made this a successful and memorable event!

A special thank you is given to the Children and Family Ministries Committee members for their hard work and dedication! They are: Kelly Tollefsen, moderator, Sonia Harford, Tiffany Mullison, Carrie Lee, Amy Neemann, Rob Bennetts, Emily Killham, Nicole Effle, and Abbe Boonstra.

I am grateful for the enthusiastic welcome I have received as I return to my position as Director of Children's Ministries at Westminster. It is truly a blessing to be called to nurture these children on their journey of faith. Thank you for your support.

Betsy Guyer
Director of Children's Ministries

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Westminster Presbyterian Women continue to be faithful to their mission of nurturing faith through Bible study, prayer and support of mission in the church worldwide. The 2011-2012 *Horizons Bible Study Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer is being used by all of our circles as the basis for discussion of some of the most difficult issues facing the world today: the economy, hunger, poverty, Christian community, water issues, a woman's role in society, faith and the public life, and justice and peace. Leaders meet in study with Rev. Ellen Davis each month before circle meetings.

Westminster Presbyterian Women supported church wide mission programs through the Faith Mission Pledge (\$1,531) and Thank Offering (\$406.00), as well as supporting the work of our local organization and the ministry of the Least Coin, an ecumenical movement of prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation.

Local mission through the Mission Sewers, who meet monthly except during November and December, has been coordinated by Jane Grabenstein-Chandler and Martha McLeod. The Sewers created and sent nine twin sized quilts to Cedars, three lap robes to Lancaster Manor and five bibs to Cedars Northbridge in 2011. The Sewers appreciate donations of new fabric and fabric scraps as well as monetary donations to pay for batting and thread. They always welcome new sewers.

Leadership for Presbyterian Women is provided by the Circle leaders with Linda Miller acting as moderator:

Circle 1 – Ginny Rohrbaugh, Ginny Welty, and Marge Young

Circle 3 – Linda Miller

Circle 4 – Martha Dennis

Circle 5 – Frances Knosp

Circle 6 – Ashley Lammers

Overseeing the properties of Westminster Presbyterian Women are Eliza Sams and Ginny Rohrbaugh.

Our circles are always open to new members. Contact information and dates of meetings are available through the Church Office and the monthly *Messenger*. Join us, won't you?

Compiled by Rev. Ellen Davis

WESTMINSTER HOSTS

(Hands Out Seeking To Serve)

Sharing God's love by extending a warm welcome to visitors is the objective of Westminster HOSTS. Each Sunday we can be found near the guest books in the Garden Room and Narthex. As guests sign the book, we make them feel welcome and answer any questions.

Jane Allman
Georgia & Van Duling
Larry & Judy Ehlers
Beth & Lyle Hamilton
Gwen Hlava
Sandy & Stuart Howerter

Rex & Wilma Messersmith
Cathie & Dave Miller
Bob & Jean Carol Murphy
Ginger & Jim Nissen
Mary Orth
Ginny Rohrbaugh
Lee Sonderegger

WESTMINSTER USHERS

Ushers offer a genuine sense of welcome and help to create a place and attitude of meaningful worship in the reformed tradition.

Ushers are nominated for a three year term and are elected by the congregation. They assist church members before, during and after weekly worship services and at special worship services.

New teams are formed and begin serving in February. These teams maintain their accountability by using a usher checklist.

Members of the 2011 Board of Ushers were:

Cori Amend	Nancy Dawson	Jack Lacy	Trish Ross
Barb Arunski	Kerstin Eckstrom	Toni Lacy	Caroline Schainost
Dave Atkinson	Tim Gergen	Steve Larson	Steve Teget
Jeanne Atkinson	Stacy Graham	Prairie Meis	Gwen Thorpe
Wayne Beams	Lyle Hamilton	Shane Meis	Stan Thorpe
Theresa Burrage	Cathy Hershberger	Faye Moulton	Ashley Vorhies
Carol Campbell	Greg Hershberger	Rich Nolte	Diana Wild
Jeanne Cuda	Dan Hoffman	Janyce Person	Eric Wachter
Lee Darnell	Susan Horne	Brad Rief	Matt Walker
Tod Davenport	Sharon Johnson	Bill Roberts	Katie Zulkoski
Jefferson Davis	Dan King	Joan Roberts	Walker Zulkoski

LIBRARY REPORT

The Westminster library has had another successful year. Although I don't have the numbers to support it, I would say that usage has increased, judging by the number of books that need to be re-shelved each week. I feel encouraged by this and hope the trend continues.

In July we finished up our second year of weekly mini-reviews in the Vine. We have had some faithful readers who looked forward to the reviews and told me they were helpful in finding new titles to read. After a brief recess I hope to begin them again this year. New titles as well as books of special interest are usually on display in the window areas of the library, and are available for immediate checkout.

Our biggest event, of course, was the 5th annual book sale in August. Thanks to the people who were generous with their donations -- and equally generous in their purchases -- we made a total of \$661.65, which will be used to purchase supplies and more titles to add to the collection. Quite a few of the donated items were retained in our library, and anything not sold was given to the People's City Mission.

Just before the end of the year, we took a big step toward finally getting our collection data on-line. Linnea Fredrickson and Marge Tomlinson worked together to locate the correct software and to get everything up and running. We still have some things to learn, but we are making progress.

Linnea has been a tremendous help in all our projects, but especially with the computer setup. I owe her a big thank you! Thanks also to the Zander family who made short work of boxing leftovers and cleaning up after the book sale. And an extra special thank you goes to Roger Ghormley, who for years has done all the computer work for the library, including data entry, printing labels, and keeping me in line. We reluctantly allowed him to retire from his duties this year -- it won't be the same without him!

Martha Kingsbury, Librarian

WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION

The Westminster Foundation worked with the church's website developer Chris Pultz to change and enhance the Foundations presence on the church website in an effort the grow the Foundation. The major addition was a section for Legacy Society members to give a testimonial to why they feel it is important to remember the church in their wills.

The Foundation also underwrote the all-church celebration at the Embassy Suites in March and contributed \$136,000+ to the overall operation of the church.

The annual Swanson scholarship was awarded to Anna Schoettger in May.

The Westminster Foundation had generous gifts from Legacy Society members through their estate plans. Jean Stradley's gift was designated to the Building and Grounds Endowment, Bill Palmer's gift to the Great Commission Endowment for evangelism and church growth. We are grateful for their naming Westminster in their wills and sharing in this way with countless future generations. We also had a new endowment established for the Westminster Preschool through gifts from the family and friends of Jean Gardner. As this fund grows, we will be able to provide scholarships for children of families in need. Each gift reflects something they especially cared about at Westminster.

In the fall we successfully completed a review of our 2009 and 2010 financial position and activities with the help of the firm HBE Becker Meyer Love LLP.

We would like to thank the following gifts of Memorials and Legacy to the Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation

Barb Cobb Memorial	General Endowment
Bowen Taylor Memorial	General Endowment
Dorothy Kingery Memorial	General Endowment
Dottie Hof Memorial	General Endowment
Don Hand Memorial	General Endowment
Elaine Andelt Memorial	General Endowment
Elb Schmidt Memorial	General Endowment
Fritz Blatt Memorial	General Endowment
Happy Schrepf Memorial	Great Commission Endowment
Henry Cech Memorial	General Endowment
Ione Ronin Memorial	Christian Education Endowment
Jean Tinstman Memorial	General Endowment
Judy McCallister	General Endowment
Ronald Rowbotham Memorial	General Endowment

One goal for 2012 is to grow the Foundation with the assistance of The Presbyterian Foundation.

The Foundation board consists of the following members: Julie Olson, Barbara Dinsdale, Clay Bradley, Don Hamann, Jody Batten, Kevin Harford, Ron Wachter, Ken Koop, Todd Peterson, Jeanne Cuda, Al Moore, and Jon Jackson.

Submitted by
Jon Jackson, President