



2013

Westminster Presbyterian Church Annual Report



From Senior Pastor McDonald...

In a great many ways, 2013 was a wonderful year for Westminster. The Session set a series of goals that produced excellent results. To name just a few of our highlights:

After reviewing 100 dossiers, we called our top candidate as associate pastor, Rev. Jen Strickland.

We welcomed 58 new members, and our growth put us at the 138th largest church in the denomination.

We hosted the Church Growth Leadership Summit, with a series of nationally recognized experts who gave us great new ideas. At the summit, we welcomed 120 people from five different states.

Member Care's new church directory helped us to better keep in touch with each other.

YAYA developed a new vision and reorganized plans for our youth ministry. Because of these efforts, Youth and Young Adult Ministries saw continued growth in Middle School XL, and wonderful, new vitality and leadership in our High School and Confirmation ministries.

Building and Grounds began long-range planning for maintaining our building.

The Westminster Foundation developed a long-term plan and saw three large gifts, including the beginning of an endowment for the long-term maintenance of our stained glass windows.

The choir shared a wonderful array of music, as their ministry expanded in size and vitality.

New small groups formed for a diverse array of interests — including groups for dog lovers and cancer survivors, as well as “Genesis to Guinness.”

Worship included an in-depth exploration of the Parables of Jesus, to guide and challenge us.

On a personal note, in the midst of my family's devastating loss, we experienced what it means to have a truly loving Christian community to bear us up and uphold us. The world has changed for us. But your love, friendship and faithfulness has meant more than words can express.

Thank you for all the ways you share love and grace together through the hope we have in Jesus Christ. For all the love represented in this Annual Report, including your acts of faithfulness that are so numerous as to be beyond counting, thank you. To God be the glory.

Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor



Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald
Senior Pastor

Reverend Jennifer Strickland
Associate Pastor

Reverend Ellen Davis
Parish Associate

Cheryl Rennick
Business Administrator

Boyd Bacon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts

Suzanne Schneider
Preschool Director

Betsy Guyer
Director of Children's Ministries

Kalee Olson
Communications Coordinator

Marge Tomlinson
Administrative Secretary

Rachel Pickard
Youth Communications Coordinator

Devon Nelson
Middle School Youth Director

Maria Niechwiadowicz
High School Youth Director

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Adult Education Ministry

Adult Education at Westminster offered a broad range of learning opportunities in 2013, ending the year with the development of four new classes for January 2014.

Highlights of the year include:

- *Community Conversations* featuring presentations by Lincoln City Councilman Carl Eskridge, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, County Commissioner Deb Schorr and US Senator Mike Johanns
- February series featuring community activists emphasizing how individual citizens can make a difference
- Classes highlighting C.S. Lewis and the Screwtape Letters
- The *Moral Challenge of Climate Change*, which spotlighted Midwest climate changes, environmental stability, Faith and Caring for Creation and clean energy opportunities
- Representatives from child advocacy organizations presented a series titled "The Cry of a Child"

Committee Members:

Ernie Hines, mod.

Ken Moore

Tom Pappas

Ed Plander

Jeanne Plander

Jackie Storm

Jennifer Strickland, staff

Judy White

- Summer series dedicated to the book "Sinning Like a Christian," by Rev. William Wilimon of Duke University

- *Ethics in the 21st Century*, with guest speakers discussing ethics in the media, classroom, presidency and sports, among other topics

- An in-depth two-month review of the history of Christianity in America

Among these highlights were single Sunday sessions, hosting our visitors from Lohmen, Germany; Westminster Connections, detailing Small Groups opportunities; and "Preparing for His Coming: An Introduction to Advent."

Westminster Bible Class, coordinated by Rev. Ellen Davis, faithfully continued its Sunday morning studies of God's Word using "The Present Word." In addition to Rev. Davis, nearly a dozen lay members alternated as weekly coordinators.

Crossroads, a small group for young adults, continued a series of book studies and discussions. They later joined Faith Foundations, a new study by Associate Pastor Jennifer Strickland designed especially for adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

On Monday mornings, Dr. Ken Moore led a chapter-by-chapter study of Matthew, in addition to a similar series on Exodus to wrap-up the year.

In conjunction with WOW, Adult Education sponsored three Wednesday night series by guest speaker Rev. Bob Jeambey, covering Celtic Christianity, historical cycles and the Christian movement in the pre-Constantine period. Other WOW presentations included a six-session series on discipleship led by Small Groups ministry, a two-month Faith in Fiction study and a month-long series on Advent in Art, both led by Pastor Strickland.

Another highlight for 2013 was our May brainstorming session on Adult Education open to all interested congregants. Their interests and suggestions will continue to be used as a guide in developing future programs.

Ernie Hines, moderator

Building & Grounds

Committee Members:

Dave Arunski

Dale Burrage

Stan Campbell, mod.

Tim Gergen

Cheryl Rennick, staff

Stan Thorpe

Small Groups Ministry

Creation of new Small Groups and support of existing groups were top priorities for the Small Group committee in 2013. On May 19, Small Group Connection Sunday took place in the Garden Room to help communicate what a Small Group is, advertise existing groups and explore new groups church members would like to form.

In an effort to tell our story, the committee created a new logo, updated information on the church website and continued to utilize advertisement opportunities in all church publications. The committee made funding available for Small Group books and speaker stipends, and put an increased focus on new member education. As a result, the Small Group committee saw increased interest, growth and creativity in the formation of new Small Groups at Westminster.

This past year, the Small Group committee enthusiastically fostered new Small Groups such as Faith & Cancer, led by Janice Rohwedder; Narrative Grieving, led by Jody Kellas; Genesis to Guinness (G to G), led by Geoff Cline; Parents of Preschoolers (POPs), led by Betsy Guyer; Barky Parky Pack, co-led by Kathy

Rohwedder and Robyn Uebele; One Book One Lincoln discussion group, led by Ken Moore; and a six-week WOW discussion group "Disciples Making a Difference," led by Bruce Sheffield.

In addition, many of our existing Small Groups continued to meet, nurture and grow in 2013. Fellowship groups such as Lunch Bunch, History Buffs, Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast, Knit 'n Sit, Ladies' Night Out, Prairie Readers, Westminster Club, Mission Sewing and Lohmen Group gathered throughout the year. Various study, dinner and mission-driven groups also continued to provide an excellent environment for individuals to deepen friendships, develop new ones and grow in Christian faith in the Westminster church community.

Robyn Uebele, vice moderator

Committee Members:

Geoff Cline	Pat Hackley
Greg Hershberger	Annette Marquez
Bruce Sheffield, mod.	Margaret Sheffield
Jennifer Strickland	Robyn Uebele, vice mod.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

The focus of our Mission & Outreach Ministry continues to center around doing good work locally, nationally and internationally. As we grow and mature in our faith, it becomes more important that we reach out to minister those in need. Some highlights of 2013 include:

- 1620 meals served at Matt Talbot and the Gathering Place
- 144 volunteers served these meals at Matt Talbot or the Gathering Place
- 56 individuals volunteered for our Annual Day of Discipleship in October
- Agencies we reached on our Day of Discipleship include CEDARS, Habitat for Humanity, Tabitha Meals on Wheels, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, to name a few
- 23 agencies shared information about their work and mission at our Mission Fair in October

- Volunteers took a mission trip to rebuild homes in Joplin, Missouri
- Westminster Food Pantry continues to serve families of varying sizes with supplemental food on a weekly basis

Deb Van Dyke-Reis, moderator

Committee Members:

Sarah Baltensperger	Ken Govaerts
Hank Hinrichs	Bob Michaud
Judy Roper	Jennifer Strickland, staff
Jennifer Smith	Deb Van Dyke-Reis, mod.
Carol Walbrecht	



Above: Congregation members sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" during December 15 worship. Left: Children participate in the production of "Blackbeard the Pirate" at Drama Camp in March.

Member Care Ministry

Member Care Ministry cared for Westminster members in a variety of ways in 2013.

A new church directory was produced and distributed. Committee members and congregants made phone calls to inform members of dates and time pictures were to be taken. They also greeted members during the photo sessions.

Older Adult Sunday was celebrated on June 9. Members 75 years and older were sent a special invitation to the event and received a flower and special recognition during worship. Treats were served in the Garden Room to facilitate conversation after the service.

Committee Members:

Kay Ballard

Judy Buss

Ellen Davis

Joyce Douglas

Dorrie Gage

Susie Hughes

Faye Moulton

Teri Van Cleave

Presbyterians in the Park on June 23 was a fun way to start the Summer, even though rain moved worship inside Auld Pavilion. Vacation Bible School children sang the songs they learned the previous week.

Carl Eskridge delivered the sermon. Member Care committee members, with help from Susie Hughes, served pulled pork sandwiches to go with desserts and salads brought by congregation members. Many congregants helped with setup and cleanup.

Member Care participated in C is for Christmas. The committee's chili placed in the top three during the chili cook-off. Christmas cards for Westminster members that have difficulty getting to worship services were signed by attendees.

The committee also oversaw Cook-and-Carry, which provides food for families in time of need. This year volunteers served meals to more than 20 families. If you'd like to participate, call the church office and ask to have your name put on the list. Meals are intended to be easy to deliver—soups, casseroles, etc. We have a long list of providers, so no one individual is called too often. Member Care also keeps the Prayer Chain going throughout the year. Anyone can participate in the prayer chain as well, via email or phone. Call the church office and you will be contacted in your preferred way when a prayer request is made.

Kay Ballard

Stewardship Committee

2013 was an exciting year for the Westminster Stewardship Committee. Our theme for the year was "I Love to Tell the Story." We met our goals of:

- Raising more dollars than the previous year
- Increasing pledges and number of pledging units
- Celebrating the giving of our gifts on Consecration Sunday
- Finalizing the campaign before December 1
- Providing a Thanksgiving Dinner for the congregation
- Giving God the glory by our individual "financial" commitments

The year was highlighted by the "GIVING" of our gifts on Consecration Sunday, October 20. Special music and members "walking" their pledges to the front of the sanctuary made our offering even more special. The year included our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 7, with more than 200 members in attendance. Premier Catering provided our meal. Special thanks to Boyd and Masako for gathering the Westminster Choir to provide entertainment for this special event.

We would also like to thank Dale Minter for his work on our brochure, Chris Pultz for creating our annual video, and Allen Wachter for his continued dedication to Westminster with ALL that he does. Also thanks to all staff members for their contributions to this year's campaign.

God shows us all the wonder of his love through our members and their contributions to Westminster. I am proud to be part of such a Generous and Loving team that works for the good of our congregation.

J. Scott Nelson, moderator

Committee Members:

Stacy Graham

Greg Hershberger

Susan Jackson

Andrew McDonald, staff

Scott Nelson, mod

Cheryl Rennick

Allen Wachter



Director of Children's Ministries Betsy Guyer leads VBS youth in song at this year's Presbyterians in the Park.

New Member Ministry

Committee Members:

Carol Campbell
Andrew McDonald, staff
Ken Moore
Tiffany Mullison
Dara Peters
Dan Schafer, mod.
Allan Wachter
Donna Wyatt

One of the major goals for New Member Ministry in 2013 was to host the Church Growth Leadership Summit. Westminster hosted five nationally known speakers for a two-day seminar on the topic. One hundred and ten representatives from churches in five states attended. More than 40 Westminster members attended all or parts of this festival of learning.

Among the many things our members and staff learned were the following:

- When the Bible says, “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost,” (Luke 19:10) and “Go and make disciples of all nations,” (Matthew 28:19) it means church growth needs to be one of the top priorities of every church.
- The best way to help people begin to attend a church is to have a friend invite them. Inviting people into membership needs to be reclaimed as a goal of every church member.
- Church growth is not intuitive—it takes study and hard work.
- Faith is not a one-time decision—it is a process that takes time and love, and that leads to a lifestyle shaped by the love of Christ

- Our top priority should be developing a new worship service that will reach a new audience. It is also important that we keep supporting the worship service that we have as it spiritually feeds our current membership.
- Small Group ministry is very important—helping current and new members to develop friendships. People who can identify 7 to 8 people they connect with as friends in the church have a deeper and more solid spiritual experience.
- We need to identify important needs in the lives of people in our community. We can be especially helpful to people in times of transition or crisis. Like the story of the Woman at the Well, she thought she just needed water, but Jesus helped her realize she needed much more.
- Identify people’s passions and help them turn that into a ministry. Be a supportive and permission-giving church.

This Leadership Summit was hosted by Westminster in partnership with Homestead Presbytery, Central Nebraska Presbytery, Missouri River Valley Presbytery, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. We look forward to the second event in 2014.

We celebrate that Westminster had a year of modest membership growth. We look forward to building on that and expanding as we help the congregation to claim our call to reach out and invite our friends and family in authentic faith, hope and love.

Nominating Committee

The 2013 Nominating Committee presented the following slate at the Annual Congregational Meeting, which was held on Sunday, November 17, 2013. The slate was unanimously elected.

Foundation (6 year term)

Ross McCown Karen Janovy

Session (3 year term)

Dale Burrage Geoff Cline
Joyce Douglas Jeremy Gegg
Sarah Gergen Stacy Graham
Karen Hoffman Rachel Pultz
Allen Wachter Dan Wherry

Session (2 year term)

Bob Schoettger Maggie Stuckey

Session (1 year term)

Tom Pappas Liz Uebele (Youth)
Quinn Van Dyke-Ries (Youth)

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Strand Marcie Ryan
Jane Hines Nancy Delgado
Dallas Waggoner

Worship, Music & Fine Arts Ministry

Many thanks to members of this ministry, as well as our staff representatives Boyd and Masako Bacon, for their dedicated service throughout 2013.

The ministry assisted in setup, organization and cleanup for a number of special services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter services, Heritage Sunday, and Presbyterians in the Park.

This year's Creative Arts Camp, "Kingdom Quest," took place July 15-19. Five members of the Society of Creative Anachronism gave a presentation about medieval life and engaged in a mock battle. Special thanks to Linda Burchard, Susie Hughes, Cyndy Maddux and Mary Kay Schoettger for their help with crafts, snacks and scenery.

On October 20, Sunday School children sang three parables from their "Once Upon a Parable" musical. The following week, the Nebraska Wesleyan Choir sang during 10:30 service. Westminster Choir provided entertainment at our November 7 Thanksgiving Dinner.

The Advent Season was blessed with abundant special music including a special double bell choir, performance of Randall Stroope's "Hodie," our children's Christmas musical, and Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

In addition, WPC sermons now air every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on KFOR radio.

Throughout the year, the committee has continued to prepare for our upcoming alternative worship service. To that end,

some new audio/video equipment was purchased and installed, as well as a new drum set. We will continue working on this with hopes of implementing the service sometime in 2014.

In addition to all of the efforts our congregation gets to see, there are also many unsung heroes behind the scenes that I would like to thank. These individuals purchase and setup communion elements, record the 8:00 a.m. sermon for KFOR, lead our youth choirs and manage our audio/visual. There are volunteers who help with the children's musicals and creative arts camp, or make snacks to serve to visiting musicians, in addition to many others! Special thanks to Martha Kingsbury for being our music librarian as well.

Steve Hughes, moderator

Committee Members:

Boyd Bacon, staff	Masako Bacon, staff
Scott Colborn	Steve Hughes, mod.
Martha Kingsbury	Cyndy Maddux
Carolyn McCall	Bob Schoettger
Mary Tomlinson	Mike Tomlinson
Sydne Wirrick-Knox	

Ushers (3 year term)

Barbara Arunski	Stacy Berringer
Maranda Franke	Freda Gregg
Michael Gregg	Carolyn Harp
Cindy Hill	Steve Hill
Karla Jensen	Jim Laux
Pat Leach	Chris Nider
Dave Shamblin	Sue Shamblin
Tami Wellmann	Chris Whitehead
Mark Whitehead	

Usher (1 year term)

Bailey Jex

Deacons (3 year term)

Margo Gamet	Doug Karsting
Kathy Karsting	Dan King
Jill McCarty	Janice Rohwedder
Kathy Rohwedder	Robin Stone

Deacons (1 year term)

John Paul Wirrick	Sydne Wirrick Knox
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Committee Members:

Shelley Kuzma	Andrew McDonald, staff
Gail McNair, mod.	Bob Schoettger
Nancy Stuckey	Francy Scheele
Grace Willnerd	

Youth & Young Adults Ministry

Westminster's Youth & Young Adults Ministry has a longstanding tradition of strength, compassion, innovation and joy. With this foundation, the YAYA Committee is blessed to oversee an established Youth Ministry program comprised of four equally critical components:

Committee Members:

Mark Davis

Christy Dempsey

Allysa Diehl, mod.

Betsy Guyer

Kailey Hill

Devon Nelson

Maria Niechwiadowicz

Jennifer Strickland, staff

Maggie Stuckey

Liz Uebele

Ashley Vorhies

- *Intellectual Programming:* Weekly Sunday School classes with age-appropriate studies of faith, values and core Presbyterian beliefs for all youth

- *Spiritual Programming:* Candelight prayer service, bi-annual retreats at Calvin Crest, "Jesus Fish" prayer circle, and more

- *Service Programming:* Bi-monthly projects include volunteering and mission projects for the church community and community at-large

- *Social/Recreational Programming:* Bi-monthly activities both indoors and outdoors

Our Ministry is led by a strong core of caring leaders. We are grateful to these adults and youth for sharing their time and talents, week-in and week-out:

- Part-time Youth Ministry Staff: Maria Niechwiadowicz, senior high and youth group leader; Devon Nelson, middle school and WOW XL leader; and Rachel Pickard, communication coordinator

- Multiple volunteers and Westminster staff who assist with Sunday School and youth groups

Ashley Diehl, moderator

Children & Families Ministry

Children & Families Ministry enjoyed the success of multiple events and activities in 2013.

- Our **Faith Building Blocks** program continues to grow under Betsy Guyer's leadership.
- **Sunday School** reaches an averages 50 children each week (pre-K through 5th Grade) with the strong leadership of our teams in both Kindergarten of Eden and Faith Village. Our Fall 2013 offering went toward global mission, purchasing a water buffalo for an African family.
- **WOW** has seen consistent growth in 2013 with weekly attendance nearing 100. The Zander family provides a wonderful home-cooked meal. Along with fellowship, we're blessed with multiple education opportunities for all ages.
- **VBS** was highly successful, with approximately 125 children from Westminster and beyond in attendance, under the direction of CFM member Carrie Lee. We journeyed through a world fair, retelling stories of both the old and new testaments.
- **Drama Camp** was lead by Missoula Children's Theater and Tiffany Mullison during the LPS spring break. Thespians, at program capacity, enjoyed an incredible week and performed a high-spirited play at the end of the week.

- We hosted **Fall Sports Camp**, a new endeavor led by Betsy Guyer.
- **Eggstravaganza** brought nearly 135 children to Westminster. This community event included music, crafts and games, telling of the Easter story and concluded in an Easter egg hunt.
- Our third annual **Spooktacular** took place in Westminster's parking lot for approximately 400 children. Trunk-or-Treating and seasonal games made for a fabulous, safe afternoon event. Friends of CFM, both church leaders and corporate sponsors, made this year's event a great success.
- **Cabin Fever**, a Westminster family evening at the church provided opportunities for fellowship, including a cook-in (meal), family craft, group games, s'mores and camp songs.

Sonia Harford, moderator

Committee Members:

Rob Bennetts

Betsy Guyer, staff

Karen Hoffman

Carrie Lee

Francy Scheele

Kelly Braswell

Sonia Harford, mod.

Emily Killham

Amy Neemann



Robyn Uebele gives instructions during Vacation Bible School week.

Administration & Planning Committee

The Administration & Planning Committee's work for the year centered on goal setting and long-range planning. As a group, we spent the majority of our time monitoring progress of all committee goals for 2013 and facilitating a process to track these various projects.

Committee Members:

Dave Atkinson

Andrew McDonald, staff

Jim Smith, mod.

Gwen Thorpe

Over the course of the year, we asked various Session committees to rate their progress. We hope this tracking will become part of the regular goal process to assist in coordination, accountability and allocation of resources (including operating funds).

We also reviewed many of the church's past long-range plans to prepare for an update to our current strategic and long-range plans. This timing should work well in conjunction with the annual Session retreat in January.

Other various items considered by the group include:

- Allocation of a bequest to the church
- Ideas gathered from the Church Growth Conference
- Considered issues related to planning for the new contemporary service

We had a lot of good discussion and ideas for ways to grow the church and maintain our current momentum. I appreciate all the time and assistance from our committee members.

Jim Smith, moderator

Westminster Foundation

During the 2013 year, the Westminster Foundation was truly blessed. The Foundation exists to support the ministries of our congregation. It has endowment funds to support specific ministries, as well as a general fund that helps to enhance the general work of the congregation.

Foundation Trustees:

Jody Batten

Clay Bradley

Kevin Harford

Ken Koop

Lillie Larsen

Marilyn Maude

Andrew McDonald, staff

Allen Moore,

Jim Nissen

Julie Olson

Cheryl Rennick, staff

Bill Roper

Harry Seward, session

Ron Wachter

The Foundation, in partnership with the Session, identified six strategic areas vital for the future of Westminster. Our shared vision is to grow endowments in these areas in the next few years. Growth will come from people who feel God has blessed them to be a blessing to future generations. In 2013, we received the following:

Stain Glass Windows: \$109,081. We need an additional \$40,919 to reach our goal of \$150,000 for future repairs.

Major Event Endowment: \$10,000. We need an additional \$190,000 to reach our goal of \$200,000.

The Trinity McDonald Endowment for Visual and Performing Arts: \$35,000 to begin an annual celebration of the arts.

General Purpose Endowment: \$3,000 was received through memorials to the Foundation.

Preschool Scholarship: \$550 was received through memorials.

Worship & Music: \$3,000 was received through memorials.

Foundation Birthday Club: \$14,252 was received to add to our General Fund in the Foundation.

We want to express our sincere and deepest thank you to all of the individuals and families that included the Foundation as a one time gift or through memorial gifts. You have added more than \$188,400 to the Foundation in 2013.

Gifts in memory of: Wanda Joy, Adaleen Geiger, Richard Geiger, Carol Lampshire, Don Purvis, Jerry Johnston, Lyle Young, Ray Mitchell, Richard Wood, Trinity McDonald, Helen Johnson, Katie Nissen, Nancy Tyrrell, Ted Maude **Estate Gifts:** Dolores Painter **Other Gifts:** Jim and Ginger Nissen

Thank you!

Deacons

2013 Board of Deacons

Michelle Delgado

Nancy Delgado

Jud Douglas

Jane Grabenstein-Chandler

Julie Fowler

Jane Hines

Gwen Hlava

Bailey Jex

Martha Kingsbury

Pam Martin

Rex Martin

Carolyn McCall

Ruthann Nahorny

Sarah Parker

Larry Peach

Mary Peach

Ed Plander

Jeanne Plander

Diane Robie

Caroline Schainost

Barbara Schliesser

Herb Schliesser

Willie Shafer

Jackie Storm

Claire Titus

Steve Titus

Roger Van Cleave

Matt Walker

Larry Wieskamp

Bryan Willnerd

Grace Willnerd

John Paul Wirrick

Sydne Knox-Wirrick

The Deacon's started the 2013 service year with a great retreat to Lied Lodge. Saturday afternoon was spent getting to know each other and understanding our duties for the year.

One of the most well-known services the Deacons provide is giving elderly members a ride to church on Sundays. This year alone, more than 800 rides were provided. Deacons also visit those members unable to attend services; this year regularly visiting around 50 members.

Deacons also served communion to the congregation on a monthly basis.

A great celebration was had during our annual Easter Breakfast. This year we served more than 300 people and enjoyed contributing to the celebration of our risen Lord!

Part of the Deacon's mission is to provide comfort and joy to the congregation. It is never needed as much as during funeral services. This year 13 funerals were hosted by the Deacons. We welcomed into our church and grieved with nearly 3,000 people. We also chose to spend funds on funeral table décor, including beautiful lanterns with battery operated candles.

We began the Advent season with the "C is for Christmas" chili dinner by providing cornbread, cheese and cookies to compliment the meals of our wonderful chili chefs. If you enjoyed additional snacks at church during Advent Sundays, those were also provided by the Deacons!

At the end of 2013, our group voted unanimously to give an offering to both the Trinity McDonald Memorial Fund and Westminster Food Pantry. We pray that these gifts bring comfort and joy to our church and beyond!

If you are interested in serving as a Deacon, please contact the church's Nominating Committee. We provide many services to the congregation and need many ready hands!

Grace Willnerd

Personnel Committee

Committee Members:

Kathy Anderson

Matt Bergmeyer

Martha Brown

Beth Hamilton

Kent Jagers, mod.

Andrew McDonald, staff

Ray Stevens

Dan Wherry

The Personnel Committee welcomed a number of new staff in 2013. Our search for an Associate Pastor was concluded in July with the addition of Rev. Jennifer Strickland. Since her ordination, Jen has lead a weekly Bible study for college students (University Presbyterians) as well as five Adult Education classes. She has also fostered the growth of Small Groups and participated in special events such as Westminster's Women's Retreat and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service at South Street Temple.

Our youth program has grown with the addition of three staff members. Maria Niechwiadowicz was hired as High School Youth Leader, Devon Nelson as Middle School Youth Leader, and Rachel Pickard as Youth Communications Coordinator. In addition, Kalee Olson also joined us this fall as Communications Coordinator and Receptionist, bringing our total number of staff (including Preschool) to 27.

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Westminster men will start the New Year with a great lineup of programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first-timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. with an hour-long program beginning at 7:00 a.m.

February 4

Bible Study

Rev. Jennifer Strickland

February 11

"Back Pew Farmer Preview"

Tom Pappas

February 18

Bible Study

Rev. Andrew McDonald

February 25

"The Care and Feeding of Shepherds"

Dr. Ken Moore

Foundation Birthday Club

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

Arlen Beam
June Blatt
Judy Buss
Stan Campbell
Cliff Hollestelle
Barb Jones
Pam Martin
Todd Peterson
Gen Schmidt
Chris Whitehead

All In The Family:

Best wishes to **Lindsay Pickering** and **Joshua Blood** who were married on December 28.

Comfort for the family and friends of **Ted Maude**, who died on December 28; **Warren Barth**, who died on January 7; **Jud Douglas**, who died on January 13; **Richard Skelley**, who died on January 15; and **Larry Ehlers**, who died on January 20.

Upcoming SMALL GROUPS

Ladies' Night Out

Monday, Feb. 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Macaroni Grill (6800 S 27th St.)

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m.
Beacon Hills (5353 N 27th St.)

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1:00 p.m.
Two books: "Shanghai Girls" and "Dreams of Joy" by Lisa See
Westminster

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Ramona Riley (466-5715)

Circle 3 Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 10:00 a.m.
6611 Everett St.
Suzann Johnson (489-4840)

Circle 4 Monday, Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m.
2811 Cable St.
Linda Burchard (477-5572)

Circle 5
Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 10:00 a.m.
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler (483-6533)

Circle 6
Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Jane Hines (488-8302)

Mission Sewers
Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 1:00 p.m.

WOW Menu for February

Served Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Served with salad, fruit and desert. \$5/adults; \$3/children; \$15 max per family

Feb. 5: Beef and noodles

Feb. 12: BBQ chicken, cornbread

Feb. 19: Turkey tetrazzini

Feb. 26: Ham & bean soup, cheese toast

Barky Parky Pack

Saturday, Feb. 22, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
National "Walking the Dog Day"
Frank Shoemaker Marsh (N 27th St. and Bluff Rd.)

History Buffs

Saturday, Feb. 15, 9:00 a.m.
"North Korean Experiences"
with Lynn Davis and Don Larson
Westminster

Books Become Us

Tom Pappas will lead a new adult education class on Wednesdays beginning February 5 at 6:30 p.m. Books Become Us is a lively celebration of books in our lives. Participants will discuss favorite, inspirational and memorable reading experiences. Come hear what others have to say and uncover what reading has meant and is meaning to you.

Westminster Bible Class

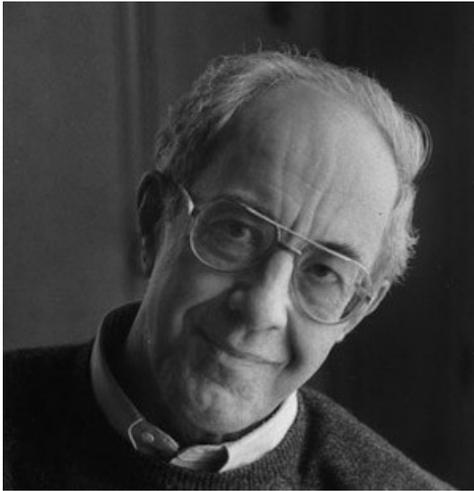
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

February 2: Hear and Do the Word
James 1:19-27, led by Ernie Hines

February 9: Treat Everyone Equally
James 2:1-13, led by Ernie Hines

February 16: Show Faith by Your Works
James 2: 14-26, led by Kent Wolfe

February 23: Control Your Speech
James 3:1-12, led by Rev. Ellen Davis



Spiritual Journey with Henri Nouwen

Join Senior Pastor Andrew McDonald beginning Sunday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m. for a four-week series exploring the teachings of spiritual revivalist Henri Nouwen. Rev. McDonald studied with Nouwen at Yale and will share insights from his time there.

Organ Concert and Hymn Sing

Westminster will host Rosalind Mohnson as part of the 2014 Lincoln Organ Showcase on Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate with special music and sing beloved hymns and songs of praise! Westminster Choir, Carillon and Alleluia! Amen! will lead us in song.

2nd SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:30 a.m.
Join your WPC family and friends for second helpings at 2nd Sunday! This month's menu: Pasta with choice of sauce (alfredo, marinara or creamy tomato sauce), garden salad and bread.
Cost is \$6/adults, \$4/children 10 & under

Youth Events

Faith Village — Peer Pressure
"Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and do good."
~ Hebrews 10:24

Preschool Parent Education
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Asthma/Allergy Management in Children
Nan Nathenson of Community Asthma Education Initiative

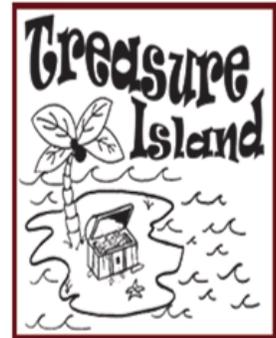
Parent's Night Out
Friday, Feb. 14, 6:30-10:00 p.m.
Fun and games for children ages birth through 5th grade; RSVP to Rachel at rachel@westminsterlincoln.org

Faith Building Blocks — 5th Grade
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.
"The Lord's Prayer"

Uncover the buried treasure at Treasure Island March 10-15!

Looking for a spring break adventure for your K-8TH grader? Look no further than Westminster's 3rd Annual full-week Drama Camp! This year's production is produced in partnership with **Missoula Children's Theatre**, the nation's largest touring children's theater group. Children will enjoy education on theater topics like characterization, music, staging, movement, and more! The week concludes with a pair of swash-buckling performances; Children will transform into your favorite characters right before your eyes!

Register with the form below for your chance to uncover the buried treasure! Space is limited! Register before March 1 for only \$125 (Late registration after March 1 is \$150, if space is available) Registration fees are nonrefundable, and include a commemorative MCT T-shirt and two complimentary tickets to the show March 15



Yes! I want to participate! **March 10-14 (9-3:30) March 15 Performances (3 & 5:30 p.m.)**

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____
Parent's Name _____ Address (with Zip Code) _____
Preferred Phone _____ Parent Email _____
Allergies/Special Needs (list on reverse if more space needed) _____
Emergency Contact: Name/Relationship _____ Preferred Phone _____

Office Use Only
Paid _____ Check# _____
Date _____ initials _____

Please return with payment to:
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd; Lincoln, NE 68502



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