



SECOND CENTURY

MESSENGER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

Goals From the Beginning

We Presbyterians have been involved in politics from the beginning. John Calvin was a lawyer who became a preacher, and then mixed politics and pulpit to shape church and city. When John Knox came to Geneva, Switzerland, he described Calvin's city as the closest thing he had ever seen to heaven on earth. Then John Knox went back to Scotland, and sought to implement that same spirit in his own church and nation.

If you look at our Presbyterian constitution, (Book of Order) today, you will see this reflected in fully half of the six goals of the church, called the Great Ends of the Church, namely,

the preservation of the truth;

the promotion of social righteousness;

the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (F-1.0304)

To be absolutely clear, as a church or denomination, we do not advocate for one political party or another. And we do not support individual candidates. But being involved in issues of moral importance in the public realm is a Christian calling from God and a Christian duty.

A highlight of this month is our examination of a central moral issue of our time – civility. The national culture has been hijacked by rhetoric that divides people. I have heard painful testimony of people who have lost friends because they are in a different political party. This type of uncivil atmosphere is far too prevalent today. National politics has set a destructive tone of division.

Stop and think – how can we discern truth if we cannot hear different points of view? How can we find wisdom or seek God's guidance without listening for important facts and values that others perceive? Perhaps the most important moral issue of our time is finding ways of speaking that allow political discussion at a higher level of discourse. We need a renewed rhetoric of moral discussion. We need to start insisting that our politicians honor one another. Simply put, we need to find and advocate for a new sense of civility.

I find Westminster a very rich and fulfilling spiritual home because of the diversity of political and social perspectives. People treat each other with respect and dignity in the midst of their diverse beliefs. It is fitting that we take this strength and grow stronger.

So this month we are not only bringing in a number diverse political figures to talk about this topic, we are also hosting James C. Davis, author of *In Defense of Civility*. This is going to be an important discussion. I hope we as well as our guests are inspired to think again about how we talk about important issues. The nation needs to reshape its style of debate, so we can find shared purposes along with shared sacrifices, for a better future. Or to put it in historic Presbyterian terms, I hope we can discover for our generation how we can exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor

ADULT EDUCATION in 2012:

Offering Faithful Reflection

Beginning February 12, a series that prepares us for deeper reflection on (and better conversation about) life's final quarter will be offered. Many of us have journeyed along-side of loved ones as they approached the last years of their lives—some as day-to-day caregivers; others, close in spirit but witnessing from longer distances. This series will feature discussions such as long term care insurance, power of attorney, "Do not resuscitate" orders, in-home, out-of-home and hospice care, led by experts in these areas. This series will also ask broader questions about death and the legacies that death makes possible. Speakers include Dr. Todd Sauer, Medical Director, UNMC's Hospice and Palliative Care Services Center; Attorney Reg Kuhn and Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald.

Vacation Bible School

Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep With God

Deep Sea Divers entering Preschool-5th Grade in Fall 2012 are invited to dive into the waters.

Dive in and discover God's underwater universe! Children journey miles below the water's surface into God's Word to find what true faith is all about.

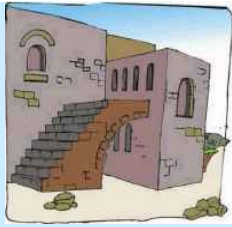
Get out your flippers and mark your calendar now for June 18-22, 2012. Together we will dive into the waters of God's Word and discover what it means to have deep faith. Each day features an ocean insight.

Volunteers are welcome to join us on this deep diving adventure. Grab your gear and volunteer to serve as a Lead teacher for singing, crafts, recreation, Science, storytelling snack and more. If you like to hand behind the coral reef and create, we also need behind the scenes design and decorate divers. Youth entering grades 6-12 are also invited to help our Deep Sea Divers in this outrageous adventure.

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FAITH VILLAGE

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

Faith Village (K-5th grade) 9:00 and 10:45 am

Memory Verse

“And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people”. And immediately they left their nets and followed him”. Mark 1:17-18

Faith Villagers begin each morning in their class groups. Please watch the board at the base of the stairs for each classes’ location. We will wrap up our learning time with a few songs and a chance to thank God for our blessings with an offering. Offering envelopes are available in Faith Village for children to take home. Parents are encouraged to help their children make this a regular part of their Sunday morning routine.

Regular attendance at church and Sunday School is very important for children as they are creating the building blocks of their faith. Regular attendance creates a feeling of comfort, routine and lasting friendships. Faith Villagers with perfect attendance will be recognized at the end of each month.

Long ago, Jesus his disciples to learn from him and to teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness to the good news and to share Jesus’ story with others. During January in Faith Village, children will:

- discover the first disciples that Jesus called were ordinary fishermen;
- see that Jesus calls people today to follow and be disciples;
- experience ways we can follow Jesus;
- discover Jesus calls people who are less than perfect to be disciples;
- explore different ways of sharing Jesus’ story with others.

A BUTCHER, A BAKER, A CANDLESTICK MAKER?

In Faith Village children learn about God’s amazing love for us through their 5 senses. There are currently openings for loving adults to lead workshops in February, March and April. Please consider a spirited response to this call to use your God given talents to help our children build the blocks of their faith. Contact betsy@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-475-6702.

Kindergarten of Eden (preschool age) Room 210 at 10:45 am

Using the Wee Believe curriculum, nurturing adults help children build a foundational understanding of God’s love for them. In January, children will explore these stories:

- Shepherds Visit Jesus
- Angels Praise God
- Wise Men Visit Jesus
- Simeon knows Jesus

Each week children are encouraged to bring non-perishable items as an offering for the Westminster Food Pantry.

WOW

Westminster on Wednesdays

*Join your friends at WOW for
Dinner, Fellowship & More!*

5:45 - 6:30 pm in Cole Hall

*\$3 children, ages 3-12 yrs; \$4 Adults;
\$14 max/family*

WEDNESDAY EVENING CIVILITY

On Wednesday evenings from January 4 to February 8, at 6:30 pm in the Lounge, let's get together to read and discuss *In Defense of Civility*, by James Calvin Davis. Davis writes, "I believe that religion can participate-perhaps even lead-in the rejuvenation of healthier public conversation." He develops this conviction historically, theologically, and philosophically exploring what counts as moral values and what it means to hold them "in order to uncover the shared concerns that lie beneath some of our most intractable differences". He hopes to illuminate "a better way for Americans to engage in conversation about the issues that most perplex us." He writes not for the specialist, but rather "for the general reader, the lay person who finds him or herself dissatisfied with the current state of political discourse." He reminds us of the virtue of civility, provides a model of moral discourse, and then applies it to issues like abortion, stem cell research, same sex marriage, euthanasia, war, poverty, and the environment. Davis is Associate Professor of Religion at Middlebury College and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Books are available through our Adult Ed ministry for \$5.00. Bob Snell will moderate these one hour discussions immediately following our WOW dinner

JANUARY 4 - MOVIE NIGHT

Join us following WOW dinner for a family movie in the theater, complete with popcorn.

Knit N Sit

Drop in at the church library 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays to learn to knit, work on craft projects, find inspiration for creative expression, and enjoy fellowship! Everyone welcome!

WOW MENU FOR January

4th Chicken sandwich, French fries, salad, dessert
11th Chili & cinnamon rolls, salad, dessert
18th Ham & potato casserole, salad, dessert
25th Nacho bar, salad, dessert

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

We look forward to seeing you back at Sunday School on January 8 at 9:00 a.m. 6-7th graders will meet in Faith Village; Confirmation Youth (8-9th grade) meet in the Youth Room (orange room); Senior High Youth (10-12th grade) meet in the Youth Lounge (blue room). Join everyone in the Youth Café starting at 8:45 a.m. for treats and to catch up on your winter break.

YOUTH GROUP

12 Disciples Leadership Group (well, really we have 15 youth leaders in this elite group) will meet on January 15, for lunch, following 10:30 a.m. worship.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, January 22, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for an evening led by the Disciples. Come to let your voice be heard in planning activities for 2012. February events are scheduled for February 5 and 26.

Youth Ski Trip

We will be taking a one day ski festival at Mt Crescent Ski Area in Iowa. Friends who don't attend WPC are welcome. This trip is for 6-12th graders - skiing experience is needed. Register by turning in a \$50 deposit, WPC Medical Release/Information Form and Mt Crescent Release of Liability form to Tiffany by January 8. Adults and youth must complete all paperwork to be registered. Additional payment can be made the date of the trip - once we have all reservations, we know the exact cost.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Circles will meet in January as listed below. All women, young, old and new members are welcome. The Bible study for 2011-2012 year is "Confessing the Beatitudes".

Call the contact for the circle you prefer.

- Circle 1** Wed. Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m. Church Lounge
Marge Young 402-327-8190
or Jane Fredrickson 402-792-2949
- Circle 3** Wed. Jan. 4, 10:00 a.m.
Willa Mussman 402-488-9467
- Circle 4** Mon. Jan. 2, 7:00 p.m.
Martha Dennis 402-489-6345
- Circle 5** Tues. Jan. 10, 10:00 a.m. Church Lounge
Frances Knosp 402-420-2424
- Circle 6** Tues. Jan. 10, 7:00 p.m. Church Library
Ashley Lammers 402-477-0706

Anyone interested in sewing? Mission Sewers will meet January 25, at 1 p.m. in the church lounge. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler 402-483-6533 or Martha McLeod 792-2774.

**WESTMINSTER
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFASTS**

Westminster men start out the year 2012 with excellent programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first timers) is available at 6:40 am. The program follows at 7:00, with dismissal at 8:00.

- Jan. 3: Roger Ghormley - Fifth Annual
Version of "Getting to Know You"
- Jan. 10: Don Tilley - "13 Myths of Nebraska"
- Jan. 17: Dr. Andrew McDonald - Bible Study
- Jan. 24: Ian Thompson, Madonna Therapy plus
Wellness Coach/Physical Therapist
Angie Hilsabeck, Madonna Proactive Member
Coordinator - "Your Wellness"
- Jan. 31: Tom Cassidy, Director Lincoln Public
Safety

All Westminster men (and their friends) are cordially encouraged to come be a part of a great to start the New Year. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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

- Carol Bishop
- Jim Bishop
- Tim Gergen
- Jane Grabenstein-Chandler
- Marijane Hancock
- Irvine Linch
- Scott Nelson
- Teri Nelson
- Jean Patoka
- Judy Roper
- Franny Seward
- Harry Seward, Jr.

LIFETIME JANUARY EVENTS

Lunch Bunch – January 13th

The Lunch Bunch invites you to join them at 12:30 p.m. at Brewsky's, 2840 S 70. This group is open to both men and women and offers shut-ins transportation from their homes. There are no age restrictions. Need a ride? Contact the church office, 402-475-6702, or Jeanne Giles, 402-484-6651, by Wednesday, January 11.

Prairie Readers – January 18th

Facilitator Faye Moulton is asking that each reader come with at least one suggested title for us to read in the upcoming months. Each reader will do a "blurb" about their suggested book. Join us at 1:00 pm in the Parlor for a stress free hour, in a warm place, talking about books with friends.

Westminster Club will not meet in January. We will meet on February 28. Watch the February Messenger for the program. See you then.

2012 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	2 <i>Building Closed</i>	3 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 4:30 pm Personnel Com. 5:00 pm Adult Ed. Mth. 6:00 pm A & P Outreach Ministry	4 9:30 am Circle 5:00 pm Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit N Sit In Defense of Civility Book Discussion 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir	5 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Holiday of Trees Comm Bible Study	6	7
8 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Education Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 1:00 pm PS Holiday Programs	9 11:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Member Care 5:00 pm Stewardship 5:30 pm YAYA 6:00 pm Worship & Music Preschool Staff Meeting Building & Grounds Boy Scout Troop 61 Cub Scout Den Meetings	10 6:45 am Men's Fellowship 10:00 am PW Circle 5 Noon OA 1:00 pm Chapel Chat 3:45 pm Youth Ensemble 4:30 pm Budget & Finance 7:00 pm Circle 6	11 5:00 pm Youth Bell 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Knit N Sit In Defense of Civility Book Discussion 7:30 pm ACOA Westminster Choir	12 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study Noon LACE	13	14 9:00 am Women's Retreat
15 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Education Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School (Ordination/Installation of Officers)	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday <i>Building Closed</i>	17 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA	18 1:00 pm Prairie Readers 4:30 pm Foundation Marketing 4:45 pm Foundation Investment 5:00 pm Foundation Board Youth Bells 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs Discussion In Defense of Civility Book Knit N Sit ACOA Westminster Choir	19 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study	20 4:00 pm Cub Scouts Track Set Up & check in	21 8:00 am Pinewood Derby Wingn A Prayer
22 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Education Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	23 11:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 61 7:00 pm Recovery Group	24 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 1:00 pm Chapel Chat	25 1:00 pm Mission Sewing 5:00 pm PW Circle Leaders 5:30 pm Bible 5:45 pm WOW Dinner 6:20 pm Carillon 6:30 pm Children's Choirs In Defense of Civility Book Discussion Knit N Sit ACOA Westminster Choir	26 6:30 am Koop Group 9:30 am Bible Study	27	28 8:00 am Wingn A Prayer 9:00 am In Defense of Civility Seminar
29 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Adult Education Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	30 11:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery Group	31 6:45 am Men's Fellowship Noon OA 1:00 pm Chapel Chat				



CIVIC VISIONS AND CIVIL DISCOURSE: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Adult Education gets back into action on January 8. Join us for this new twist on the Westminster tradition in which civic leaders share their sense of community's most exciting opportunities and pressing challenges. Speakers include:

January 8	Mayor Chris Beutler
January 15	Governor Dave Heineman
January 29	Rev. James Calvin Davis
February 5	Senator Kathy Campbell

This series will focus specifically on civic discourse and its importance to democracy. We are pleased to announce a visit on the weekend of January 29, by Rev James Calvin Davis, Prof. of Religious Studies at Middlebury College and author of *In Defense of Civility*. Mark your calendars now for a Saturday event (January 28) featuring Rev. Davis, in which he'll guide us in reflecting on what "civility" means and why we, as Christians, may be uniquely called to foster this quality in our communities and world. In addition to the Saturday seminar, Rev. Davis will preach and lead Adult Education on Sunday January 29.

Swanson Scholarship Applications Now Available

Applications for the Swanson Scholarship(s) are now available in the church office or can be printed from the Westminster Foundation website www.westminsterlincoln.org/foundation. The scholarship provides \$500 in financial support for the undergraduate education for the recipient for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The applicant should be an active member of Westminster or have a parent/guardian who is an active member of the church. The applicant should be currently a full-time student or have been admitted for full-time study at an accredited institution of higher learning for the 2012-2013 academic year.

While the scholarship is open to any and all courses of study, preference will be given to the applicant who shows an interest in a course of study related to education and community service. Previous applicants are encouraged to apply again.

Applications should be returned to the church office by March 1, 2012.

The Swanson Scholarship is generously given by Libby and Steve Jacobs in honor of Libby's parents, Mary and the late Bill Swanson, who are long-time members of Westminster.

Questions should be directed to Julie Olson at (402)-423-0156.