



SECOND CENTURY MESSENGER

VOLUME 81, ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

I love the summer, especially when things quiet down. When you can sit and watch the flowers grow and feel the Nebraska wind whisper among the leaves. When you can sit in the grass, quiet and still enough for some robin to come, with a hop and a chirp, to dig in the grass nearby. In the quiet, something changes.

In those moments when things get so quiet, that it becomes
easy
to
let
things
go.

Let go of what happened, and also of what was supposed to happen, and what did not happen. Let go of harsh words someone said. Let go of the myriad of things that the world says are supposed to matter, but do not. Let go of the “should have’s,” “could have’s” and “were supposed to have’s.” Let it all blow away in the Nebraska breeze, float up toward the blue sky and vaporize in the hot summer sun.

Just take in the goodness of God’s good creation. Let little things amaze you.

My raspberries came in this year. I planted them 3 years ago. Over the course of a few hours, another handful turns from green to bright red. Each one tastes like a raspberry alarm clock going off in your mouth. My tongue cannot believe what its just been given.

In my soul I hear Cat Stevens singing, “Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing Fresh from the Word!” In the quiet, the world becomes new again. And I think of Paul’s words, in my paraphrase,

“...anyone who is in Christ, is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see. It is all God’s work; God made us something different in relation to himself through Christ, and he gave us the ministry of becoming something new. I mean, God was in Christ, making himself new to the world, not holding anyone’s faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of becoming new. (II Corinthians 5:16-19).

The Christian life begins in transformation. It happens in a whole host of ways. Including in the quiet summer breeze.

Peace,
Andrew McDonald
Pastor

ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday Seminars,

9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall A

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING, REDUX

continues through July 10 but newcomers are always welcome! We've been joining together on Sunday mornings to discuss later chapters of William Placher's eminently readable, *A History of Christian Theology*. **Bob Snell** leads our discussion. See the church office for copies of the book or contact Debbie Minter at dminter1@unl.edu for more information.

MORE GLEE!

Building on the interest from our one-time May session, we're returning to this popular high school television drama/musical which takes on contemporary issues and provides us a lens for talking about our lives as Christians. This **intergenerational** Sunday seminar will offer a lively look at some past episodes along side some biblical themes. All ages are welcome! (You can catch an episode or two on Fox, Tuesday nights at 7 pm or on Fox television's website). **Tom Pappas & Maureen Hergert** will facilitate, July 17, 24 & 31.

ENGLISHING THE BIBLE

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. Oxford University Professor of Historical Theology, Alister McGrath is among those who hail it and the works of Shakespeare as "the two greatest influences on the shaping of the English language," inspiring poets, dramatists, artists and politicians. The King James "Authorized Version," however, represents only one milestone in the story of "Englising the Bible," the focus of our adult education seminar in August. Plan to join us in August as **Ernie Hines** takes us through the fascinating history as well as the cultural and theological movements that led to the King James Bible.

BE SURE TO KEEP ADULT ED IN MIND AS YOU MAKE PLANS FOR FALL

In remembrance of the bombings ten years earlier, the Sunday Seminar series in September turns to questions of sovereignty and citizenship in a global age with a series of illuminating guest speakers. The October seminars will take a closer look at particular local, state and national mission work sponsored by Westminster and by PCUSA.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE CLASS

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.—Parlor

July 3rd finishes the study of Joshua and questions of how God's people learn from prosperity. The following weeks in July we focus our study on the book of Judges.

Lesson leaders for July are:

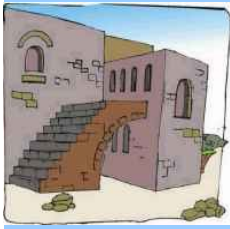
- July 3: Rev. Ellen Davis — "God Reacts to Disobedience"
- July 10: Rev. Ellen Davis — "Listening to God's Judges"
- July 17: Judge Arlen Beam — "Use God's Strength"
- July 24: Kathryn Govaerts — "Let God Rule"
- July 31: Rev. Ellen Davis — "Return to Obedience"

CROSSROADS

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. - Library

Crossroads class, for young adults, will meet once in July and once in August. Watch the Vine for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the weekend of September 30! Thanks to your commitment to Opening the Windows of Heaven during the last stewardship campaign, the Adult Education Ministry is able to bring Doug Wysocky-Johnson, Executive Director of Lumunos and former pastor of Covenant Community Church, to Westminster. He will facilitate a morning-afternoon workshop on Saturday (October 1) focused on **reflection, connection and discovery** for life from a place of faith and wholeness. Additional events are planned for the evening of September 30 and Sunday morning. Watch future Messengers for more information about this event.



FAITH VILLAGE

**(10:45 am only)
Age 4 yrs—5th Grade**

Children, 4 years old through 5th Grade are invited to join us at Summer Sunday School, held at 10:45 am each Sunday through August 14th.

Veggie Tales curriculum teaches us about kindness, humility, honesty and many other things!



2—3 yr olds enjoy a Bible story time in Room 210 each Sunday at 10:45 am through August 14th.

Childcare is available in the nursery, 7:45—11:45 am each Sunday

COMING IN OCTOBER ART SHOW

A gala event showcasing the creative spirits, inspired imaginations, and artistic talents of Westminster's own members—a festive occasion that will enable us to share and ponder a multitude of visions evoked by God's promise to open the windows of heaven and pour down an overflowing blessing. What might that promise look like in oil or watercolor, ink or acrylic, sculpture or installation, photography or stained glass, charcoal or computer animation, or any other medium through which God's blessings might shine? Tell us, show us, delight us, enlighten us, inspire us. Show opens in the Haymarket's Burkholder Project on First Friday, October 7, with inspiration and fellowship for our members, witness and invitation to more than 1200 First Friday visitors, wine and cheese for everyone, and galleries filled with joy and promise.

The Muse be with You

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Parish Associate: Reverend Ellen Davis.....	x 117
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GENESIS SUNDAY!

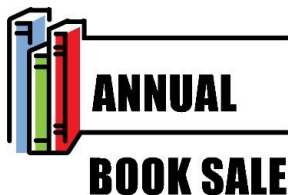
August 21, 2011

Bring a Friend to Church!

Plan to invite a friend or relative to join you for church on Genesis Sunday, August 21st. We're planning a fun day to kick off the new program year at Westminster with worship, food, fun games, fellowship and more!

Activities include:

- Sunday School Kick off
- Book Sale to benefit WPC Library
- Food for everyone
- Displays of upcoming events at Westminster Bounce House and Genesis Carnival Games



August 21st --circle this date on your calendar! Along with Genesis Sunday, it is also the day of the annual Westminster Library Book Sale, when all sorts of bargains will be available. You still have plenty of time to check your closets, shelves, garages and attics for items to donate. Just bring them to the library and we'll take it from there. Then come to the sale on August 21st and pick up some of those special bargains!



SUMMER CHOIR WILL BE BACK IN AUGUST!

Come everyone to gather praising voices! Summer Choir will resume on August 7. Meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 am on Sunday morning for this one-time base choir. Got a pulse and love for God? Make a joyful noise together!



CEDAR RAPIDS MISSION TRIP IN AUGUST

Our second 2011 mission to Cedar Rapids will be August 14-21. Please put these dates on your calendar. Cedar Rapids still needs volunteers to complete their re-build. They are renewing neighborhoods where some homes and buildings have been abandoned or remain vacant. The foundation known as Block by Block acquires the vacant homes, restores them to modern standards and sells them to low income folks. Unlike other devastated cities, Cedar Rapids has found a way of making certain that families who have re-built their homes will not be saddled with vacant flood damaged buildings in their neighborhoods. With the volunteer pool being drawn away to more recent disasters, there are fewer volunteers to complete the job in CR. Hope some good carpenters can give them a boost in August.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The circles will take a summer break and will not meet in July or August. The Bible study for the 2011-2012 year will be on The Beatitudes. Circle Leaders will meet Tuesday, August 9th at 1 p.m. in the Lounge.

Mission Sewers (Quilters) met in June to distribute the items they made over the past year. Pictured left to right: Jane Grabenstein-Chandler, Dorothy Glen, Ginny Welty, Martha McLeod, Emily Killham, Marge Young. (Not pictured: Ginny Rohrbaugh)

Items made:

- 3 lap robes for Lancaster Manor
- 10 twin sized quilts for Cedars
- 14 bibs and 1 mat cover for Cedars Northbridge



WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS



- July 5: Ernie Hines** - Bible Study
- July 12: Suzanne Schneider**, Director of Westminster Pre-School - "Westminster Pre-School"
- July 19: Rev. Ellen Davis** - Bible Study
- July 26: C. Arlen Beam**, Federal Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit - "Organization of Courts - Indian, Federal and State Courts Interplay with the Constitution"

One of the great things that happen at Westminster happens each Tuesday morning in the Parlor. A splendid bunch of Westminster men meet for food, fellowship and learning. A Continental Breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for First Timers) is available at 6:40 am; the program is at 7:00; we dismiss by 8:00. All Westminster men are cordially invited to come be a part of this great happening. It's a super way to start a Tuesday!

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Marriages: Best wishes to Brande Gagner and Jesse Dicks, married on May 21; Jessica Domant and Mike Yesilcimen, married on May 28; and Rudi Molet and Zac Wolfe, married on June 4.

Births: Congratulations to Wendy and Matt Morrissey, on the birth of Brett John, born June 2.

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of Dottie Hof, who died on May 31; Darlene Rebensdorf, who died on June 19; and Henry Cech, who died on June 20.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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



- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Joyce Baird | Gladys Lehenbauer |
| Kim Boehler | Ginger Nissen |
| Pat Hackley | Bill Roberts |
| Marcia Hollestelle | Herb Schliesser |
| Jean Jeffrey | Neal Wilson |
| Earl Lampshire | |
| Lynn & Ellen Davis | - Anniversary |

JULY LIFETIME ACTIVITIES

LUNCH BUNCH—*July 14th*

The Westminster Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, July 14th, 12:30 pm, at **The Egg and I**, in Clocktower Center, 70th and A St. Men and women are invited to join us for fellowship and lunch. Those needing rides should contact the church, 475-6702 by Wednesday, July 13th.

PRAIRIE READERS - *July 20th*

Prairie Readers is focusing on Willa Cather in July. We will meet July 20th at 1 pm, at the Nebraska History Museum at 15th and P.

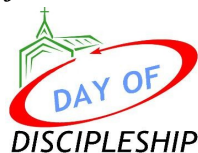
In addition to discussing the book for this month, *My Antonia*, we will view a short video on Cather and take a docent-led tour of museum's Cather exhibit. This will be followed by a trip to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus where we will visit the Special Collections at Love Library to see a trove of newly acquired Cather materials there.

Here is an opportunity to learn more about the woman who was highly successful and wrote so eloquently of Nebraska. All are welcome. We will meet in the lobby of the museum.

WESTMINSTER DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP *October 15, 2011*

Make plans now to attend a day in service to others across our community. Teams of disciples will serve areas and agencies including Friendship Home, YWCA of Lincoln, Kids Against Hunger and many more!

Plan to join us, October 15, 2011.



www.wpslincoln.org

Summer has started and the preschool children are enjoying every minute! In June we went on a walking field trip to Piezanos and learned how to make pizza and it was so much fun to eat the end product! (Our friends at Piezanos donated their time and the pizzas to the preschool)

We have our electronic sign in and out system up and running so parents just have to scan a card to check their children in and out. This is such a great advantage for families and for the preschool. The system also allows the children's contact and emergency information to be readily available to the staff with just a click of a mouse!

The Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes both have a few openings left for the 2011-2012 school year, so if you know a family with a child ages 3-5 that would benefit from a high quality, accredited Christian based preschool program, please refer them to our program.

Some of the benefits of our program include: NAEYC Accreditation, 1:8 teacher to student ratio, educated, qualified staff, safe and nurturing environment where children learn, play and grow.

We are also looking to hire a part time preschool teacher for our MWF morning and afternoon sessions for the school year. Applicants must have a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood, education or a related field. Applicants should contact Suzanne at 402-475-6702 x103 or apply in the Preschool office.



102 chefs in training attended the Shake it Up Café vacation church school at Westminster Presbyterian Church. They were greeted by 44 youth and adult volunteers at the reservation desk each morning. At the morning assembly, Chef Basil and Scraps taught about the day's secret ingredient and healthy eating tips. Youth volunteers were Servers; Adult volunteers were Sous Chefs.

The Chefs in Training experienced hands on learning through storytelling, science, art and recreation. The chefs donated items to the WPC food pantry throughout the week. All chefs were awarded a canvas bag packed with a photo of their group, information on WPC, and art projects from the week.



Each year, VBS is a success because of FUN and committed people. This year volunteers gave 1,020 hours in preparation, decoration, perspiration and dedication. To be part of VBS next year, please email Tiffany at tiffany@westminsterlincoln.org.

An especially sweet THANK YOU to members of Eastridge Presbyterian Church who provided WPC with the wonderful decorations! The decorations from Shake it Up were mainly constructed from repurposed items and will be used by 5 churches this summer.

Thank you also to all the members who shared their recycling with us. The preschool children enjoyed creating instruments from common kitchen items as well as pretend shopping excursions.



**2011
CREATIVE ARTS CAMP**
July 18 - 22 9:00 am - Noon
K- Gr. 5 (in Fall)



“Happy Trails!”

Explore creativity in deeper levels with the theme of the pioneer story which is set to mirror the story of Moses.

5 days of SERIOUS FUN with Arts, Crafts, Drama, Music & Movements.

All classes led by a specialist of each area from the community. Children will explore their creativity all week long with a pioneer theme!

Pick up (or download from our website) a brochure/registration form for the details.

\$40 per Child/ \$85 max for a family
(after July 1)

Contact: Masako Nakamura Bacon,
md@westminsterlincoln.org
or 402-475-6702x111

Let's celebrate summer! Mark your calendar for another fun and relaxing Ladies Night Out with your Westminster friends!

**WESTMINSTER
LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

5:00 to 7:00 PM

at Red9 [the old P.O. Pears],
322 South 9th Street
on the Outdoor Patio



All ladies of all ages are invited to Ladies Night Out, and you don't have to be a Westminster member! Please pass the word! Invite your friends, your neighbors, your daughters, your sisters, your mom, your coworkers...anyone!

This event has been organized by the Westminster Small Groups Ministry.

Questions? Contact Maggie Stuckey,
magjostu@gmail.com.

No need to RSVP...just show up!

See you on the July 12!