

TOP 5 REASONS TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS THIS MONTH:



#1 - Heritage Sunday! Get out your kilts and plan to join us on **April 21** for bagpipes, a parade around the parking lot, and the Highland festival with food, games, and more. Jr. String Ensemble and Youth Ensemble will even play a Scottish prelude in worship. Don't miss this festive celebration of Presbyterian heritage!

Photo by Allen Wachter

#2 - The Church Growth Leadership Summit, a groundbreaking two-day conference, will be hosted by Westminster **April 8 and 9**. Featured speakers include: Mark DeVries, founder of Youth Ministry Architects; Charles Arn, president of the American Society of Church Growth; and Joel Sartore, *National Geographic* photographer. For the full schedule and online registration, log on to friendlypresbyterianchurches.org.

#3 - Mission Outreach's Disaster Recovery Team will launch a fourth **mission trip to Joplin, Mo., April 14-20**. Spend a sunny spring week volunteering your time and talents and make a lasting difference for families left homeless by the May 2011 tornado. To sign up, contact **Ken Govaerts** (402.483.1726 or kkgovaerts@gmail.com).

#4 - The Spring Youth Retreat will be held **April 26-28** at Camp Calvin Crest. This faith-building event is required for all confirmands, optional for senior high youth. For registration forms and more info, contact Tiffany@westminsterlincoln.org.

#5 - During the month of March, 50 volunteers called members of Westminster to inform them about the **new church family photo directory** in the works - Lifetouch will take photos at Westminster **April 10-23**.

If you did not receive a call, please take a moment to log on to westminsterlincoln.org, click the link at the blue "photo directory" box, and make your appointment. You can also call Rev. Ellen Davis at the church office (402.475.6702 x117). If you are unable to attend the photo sessions, we can accept your personal photo for the directory. Mail it to the church with your identifying information, or email an attachment to PA@westminsterlincoln.org.

APNC'S SEARCH FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR IS ON THE MOVE!



Front row: Shalla Young, Carol Bishop, Bob Michaud.

Back row: Jody Kellas, Chris Campbell-Eells, Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Walker Zulkoski, Todd Peterson.

Photo by Allen Wachter

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has so far received 65 Personal Information Forms (aka resumes) of potential candidates. The APNC has reviewed and evaluated all PIFs received to date, and after contacting references for those of interest, has selected a short list of five candidates.

Skype interviews were conducted with the top five candidates in March. Following more extensive reference checks, the top two or three prospects will be selected for face to face meetings in April or May.

The APNC meets weekly. The committee is quite pleased with the progress made so far, and with the quality of applicants.

A checklist tracking the search process is posted online at westminsterlincoln.org. This checklist is updated as each step is completed.

***The Messenger* is a monthly publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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Pastor: Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald.....	x 110
Parish Associate: Reverend Ellen Davis	x 117
Business Administrator: Cheryl Rennick.....	x 105
Director of Fine Arts: Boyd Bacon.....	x 111
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts: Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon.....	x 111
Associate for Community Life and Growth: Tiffany Mullison.....	x 104
Preschool Director: Suzanne Schneider.....	x 103
Director of Children's Ministries: Betsy Guyer.....	x 107
Communications Coordinator: Rae Licari.....	x 101
Administrative Secretary: Marge Tomlinson.....	x 102
Custodians/Maintenance: Richard Gruenemeyer, Lyudmila Fomina, Tracy Hugelman, Mehmedalija Plicanic	

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SPOTLIGHT ON ...

YOUTH MINISTRY LONG-RANGE PLANNING

WITH MARK DeVRIES

Westminster's youth ministry is getting a major makeover, with expert guidance from celebrated author and youth pastor **Mark DeVries**.

DeVries, founder of Youth Ministry Architects, a hands-on coaching service for churches aiming to move their ministries strategically forward, will visit Westminster as one of the featured guest speakers at the **Church Growth Leadership Summit** on **April 8 and 9**. He will also be on hand before the conference to consult on the long-range youth ministry planning at Westminster at a special meeting on **Sunday, April 7**. All members of the congregation are invited to join the discussion at this gathering, especially families with children currently in grades 5-8. Since parental involvement is crucial to the success of youth programs, parents of children in this range of ages are sure to be integral in building the strongest foundation for the Westminster youth ministry in upcoming years.

DeVries will bring significant expertise in developing a thriving youth ministry program to the April 7 meeting; he has served as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tenn., since 1986. DeVries has also authored a number of books on the subject, including the well-received *Sustainable Youth Ministry*, published in 2008. With insight gathered from in-depth research, DeVries will help Westminster assess and plan where to go next in developing a five-year plan to build and strengthen our youth ministry.

DeVries will have solid groundwork to build on - 14 families began assessing the current youth ministry program in March.

Please plan to join us for this exciting opportunity to build and strengthen the future of this church!



Above: Mark DeVries, an expert on building sustainable youth ministries, will visit to consult at Westminster on Sunday, April 7.

Mark your calendars!

Youth Ministry Long-Range Planning Meeting with Mark DeVries

Sunday, April 7

Youth Fireplace Room

5:30 p.m.

All are invited to attend and take part in this important discussion, **especially youth in grades 5-8 and their parents.**

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS!



History Buffs' next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13**. Join us for an engaging presentation from **Prof. Joe Starita** of the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. He will discuss his critically acclaimed book, *I Am a Man: Chief Standing*

Bear's Journey for Justice, which won the 2010 slot for "One Book, One Lincoln" and was shortlisted as a final selection for "One Book, One Nebraska" in 2011. Plan to join us in the **Lounge at 9 a.m.**, and bring a friend! History Buffs is open to anyone with an interest in history.

Ladies' Night Out returns!

**April 16; 5-7 p.m.
at Henry's on South**

Ladies of all ages are invited to the return of Ladies' Night Out! We'll gather together at **Henry's on South** (2110 Winthrop - just past 30th St. on South St., near Leon's Gourmet Grocer) for appetizers and social fun from **5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16**. Pass the word! Invite your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors, regardless of membership status at Westminster. There's no need to RSVP, but you can certainly let us know to look for you!

Questions? Contact Maggie Stuckey: magjostu@gmail.com. Ladies' Night Out is organized by Small Groups Ministry!

SMALL GROUPS OFFER MEANING AND MINISTRY

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.."

— *Matthew 18:20*

Within the close and friendly confines of a small group at Westminster, you will likely experience personal affirmation and find friendships that last beyond the group itself.

That has been the experience of Bruce Sheffield and Robyn Uebele, who lead Westminster's Small Groups Ministry, along with other members. Sharing in such a setting is a wonderful way to meet other members of the Westminster family.

You learn about members' interests and children, their experiences and talents. Often, members are able to console or celebrate with one another and enrich each other's spiritual journey. Some groups focus on a book or study; others on meals or entertainment events. Some groups take on a quiet ministry or helpful community tasks. Each group sets its own focus, agenda, and schedule. You will certainly benefit from the fun, deepening friendships and Christian fellowship offered by a small group.

Let us help you find others to begin your own friendship circle! Stop by Small Groups' Garden Room table on May 19 and share your interests and suggestions.

Contacts:

Bruce Sheffield
bgsheffield@gmail.com
402.783.0394

Robyn Uebele
robynu2@hotmail.com
937.935.6858

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE: JOPLIN, Mo.



Close your eyes and think of a high school graduation ceremony: after the formalities, everyone steps outside to take pictures and offer congratulations. Youth are laughing, planning which parties they will attend later that evening. It's a bright, sunny spring day; azaleas, daffodils, and blooming trees offer a colorful display. What could be better?

Suddenly, you notice a giant black cloud rapidly approaching; in mere minutes, the sun disappears, leaving the sky dark as night. You hear a great roar and see a huge funnel cloud approaching the city, engulfed in debris, destroying everything in its path. You realize the tornado is headed for your home, but you know you can't leave to rescue your belongings - you can only watch.

Now open your eyes. This scenario is what the citizens of Joplin, Mo., experienced in May 2011: an F5 tornado ripped through the city, destroying 8000 buildings and claiming the lives of 161 souls.

What do you do if you are the victim of such a disaster? You have just lost everything you own. Where

do you sleep or eat? What do you wear? You no longer have a job because your business was destroyed. *What do you do?*

You can help! Thousands of volunteers from across the nation come to Joplin and other disaster areas to help rebuild and heal, including members of the Westminster Disaster Recovery Team. Join us for our fourth mission trip to Joplin on April 14-20. We'll build, paint, finish, and clean to help put a Joplin family's home back in order.

Contact:

Ken Govaerts

kkgovaerts@gmail.com

402.483.1726

BIG VISIONS, BIG MISSIONS, INSPIRED TO ACTION

I have participated in quite a few ministries and committees at Westminster, but this is my first experience in searching for a new pastor. It has been a lot of work, but the experience has also been very rewarding. One of the tasks of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is to represent our church to interested ministers through the Church Information Form. Through the CIF, our committee explains how we are **"Spiritually Alive, Broadly Inclusive, and Growing in Mission."** My passion has always been growing my faith through mission outreach.

We have some in-depth conversations in our APNC meetings as we explore the

strengths of the congregation. I was especially interested in Dr. McDonald's discussion of theological issues of our church. As Dr. McDonald explained his views, I was drawn to the concept that God inspires us to transformed lives and a new creation. God has asked us to be "fishers of people," to reach out and save lives. It is up to each of us to have transformed lives. We need to find our strengths and offer them to the church.

Westminster has big visions. I love being a part of these visions. We seek big missions that inspire us to action. I think of the mission trips over the years to places like Mexico, Pearlinton, Ms., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and now Joplin, Mo. Westminster offers ample opportunities to reach out and save

lives through mission: serve the homeless at the Gathering Place or Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach; support our food pantry by donating food or money; volunteer for any of the other numerous mission opportunities available. This is your chance to be inspired to a changed life!

I believe Westminster is a good church seeking to be a *great* church. As we open our lives to receive the new associate pastor, I pray that God inspires all of us to changed lives and a new creation.

- Bob Michaud

HOP INTO SPRING WITH APRIL ADULT ED OFFERINGS

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Hope for Creation: Responding to the Moral Challenge of Climate Change

Join us in April for a new Sunday morning Adult Ed seminar series on the “hot” topic of climate change! Meet in the **Lounge** to hear from an insightful group of guest speakers.

April 7 “A Scientific Update on Climate Challenges Affecting the Midwest” - Dr. Clinton Rowe, UNL Department of Geosciences

April 14 “The Role of Faith Communities in Increasing Environmental Sustainability” - Rev. Kim Morrow, minister of sustainable living

April 21 “What Does Our Faith Tell Us About Caring for Creation?” - Rev. Dr. Ken Moore, director of Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light

April 28 “Clean Energy Opportunities in Nebraska” - Duane Hovorka, executive director of Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Crossroads

Crossroads Class meets in the **Library** to discuss current and newsworthy events, as well as how these events impact our lives as Christians. Young adults are invited to join in! Current topics include Marianne Williamson’s *The Law of Divine Compensation*.

Westminster Bible Class

Join us in the **Parlor** for a study session from *The Present Word*.

April 7 “The Lord Appears,” Luke 24:36-53; led by **Kent Wolfe**

April 14 “The Holy Spirit Comes,” Acts 1:1-13; led by **Ernie Hines**

April 21 “Living With Hope,” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; **Ernie Hines**

April 28 “Hope Comes from God’s Grace,” 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 9-17; led by **Rev. Ellen Davis**

Mondays at 11 a.m.

Matthew on Mondays

Rev. Bob Snell will resume leading study of the Gospel according to Matthew on **April 15**. Plan to join us then in the **Lounge** - new members are always welcome!

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

WOW book study: “Setting Our Faces Toward Jerusalem”

Rev. Robert Jeambey continues leading discussion of Brian McLaren’s *A New Kind of Christianity* for WOW evenings in April! Meet in the **Lounge** at **6:30 p.m.** to talk about ten questions that are transforming Christianity as we know it. New participants are invited to join!

DRAMA CAMPERS SET SAIL ON SPRING BREAK



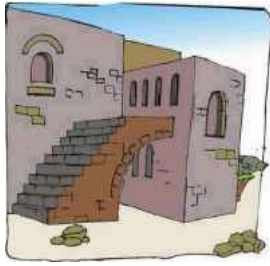
A record-breaking 54 participants attended the second annual Drama Camp at Westminster! This special camp for children in grades K-8 was held March 11-16, during LPS's spring break. Many cast members returned from last year's "Week in Wonderland" for "Walk the Plank Week" - all told, the 2013 cast hailed from 22 Lincoln-area schools.

This year, Westminster partnered with Missoula Children's Theatre, the nation's largest touring children's theater group. With an original musical production called *Blackbeard the Pirate*, MCT brought more than 40 years of expertise to the table. Drama Campers auditioned for roles as plucky pirates, savvy sailors, melodious mermaids, crabby crabs, and a host of other colorful characters on Monday, then spent the rest of the week rehearsing and learning various theater techniques under the guidance of MCT's dynamic directing duo, Chris Chamblee and Jessica Eisenberg. The week of adventure concluded with a pair of swashbuckling performances on March 16 in Westminster's own sanctuary; a combined audience of 400 attended.

"Walk the Plank Week" was made possible by the work of many "mateys." Special thanks to all the pirate pals who pitched in to make our second week-long Drama Camp experience golden!



Photos by Allen Wachter



THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

*You shall love the Lord with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.”*

— Deut. 6:4-5

Faith Village (9 and 10:45 a.m.)

The Bible is the special book of our faith; it contains God’s teachings that help us know how God wants us to live. In Faith Village during April, children will explore the Shema and its importance, the Beatitudes and their meaning, and Christ’s commandment to “love our neighbors as ourselves.”

Through workshops such as art, computers, video, storytelling, and cooking, Villagers will be challenged to think about ways Jesus’ teachings were very radical and new.

Kindergarten of Eden (10:45 a.m.)

Children will continue to explore the stories of God’s amazing love for us through songs, crafts, stories, and play. An offering for the Westminster Food Pantry is collected each week; children are encouraged to bring nonperishable items to help feed the hungry.

WHO CAUGHT CABIN FEVER?

Despite the one-week delay from being snowed out, Cabin Fever was a warm success! Nearly 40 members of Westminster families and volunteers gathered the evening of March 1 to build relationships and indulge in some traditional, albeit indoor, campfire fun.

Attendees ate a cookout-themed meal of delicious hot dogs, dreamt of warmer days to come, and considered options for camping, both within Westminster and at Camp Calvin Crest. Small groups created family tree keepsake art with hand and finger painting techniques, while the larger group enjoyed hula hooping and other games in the gym, with a focus on cooperation rather than competition.



The night ended with an creatively imagined indoor campfire as the setting for s’mores and campfire songs. After recalling a recent Sunday school lesson of the Great Commission with “Pass It On,” campers moved and grooved to “Father Abraham” and sang praise with “Father I Adore You.” Cabin Fever attendees agreed the event was exactly what they wanted in a fun family night at Westminster.



Photos by Betsy Guyer

NEWS NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Grow with us! Journeying Together April 14 & 21

If you've been waiting for the right time to officially join the Westminster family, wait no longer! The next session of **Journeying Together**, the two-part new member class at Westminster, will be held **April 14 and 21**. RSVP to Marge: 402.475.6702 or Marge@westminsterlincoln.org.

"Belonging to God" - Synod School 2013 July 21-26

Synod School, the annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, will be held this year at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, July 21-26. Log on to lakesandprairies.org/school.html to check out course descriptions and find registration information.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Circle 1** Weds., April 3; 9:30 a.m.; Lounge
Ginny Welty; 402.464.7642
- Circle 3** Weds., April 3; 10 a.m.
2720 Van Dorn
Carolyn McCall; 402.435.0154
- Circle 4** Mon., April 1; 7 p.m.
3728 C St.
Sarah Parker; 402.405.5734
- Circle 5** Tues., April 9; 10 a.m.; Parlor
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler;
402.483.6533
- Circle 6** Tues., April 23; 7 p.m.; Library
Jane Hines; 402.488.8302

Mission Sewing will next meet on **Wednesday, April 24 at 1 p.m.** in the **Lounge**. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler at 402.483.6533 for more information.

Youth Garage Sale Saturday, May 4

Westminster youth will once again hold a deluxe **garage sale on Saturday, May 4**. All funds raised will benefit the Westminster Youth Group! Drop off your gently used garage sale-type items (no computers or large appliances) between noon and 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3. To volunteer your time and talents for setup, cleanup, or food service during the sale, contact Tiffany@westminsterlincoln.org. Last year's sale raised \$550! Let's make this year's sale even bigger and better.



SAY HELLO TO AMPELMANN!

Ampelmann is the iconic crosswalk image from former East Germany, where Lohmen is located. Westminster's friends from Lohmen will visit during the first week of August. Mark your calendars now! Please plan to meet them and join in activities during the week that will strengthen our Christian connection. Look for Ampelmann as our logo and guide going forward.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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

Bennett Bacon	Colleen Batten
Martha Brown	Linda Burchard
Mark Davis	Nancy Davis
Chip DeBuse	Carl Glen
Ann Horne	Suzann Johnson
Loy Olson	Joan Roberts
Dan Schafer	Erika Schafer
Lisa Smith	Mary Swanson
Dale Young	

Early notice: Hostamania
Sunday, May 12

In spite of the groundhog's utter failure to accurately predict an early spring this year, **Hostamania** will still be held on Mother's Day, **May 12**. It's a good time to thin, donate, shop, and learn about plants for your garden! Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Camp at Calvin Crest this summer! Children and youth can experience unique opportunities to grow spiritually, physically, and emotionally at Camp Calvin Crest. For summer camp information and registration, pick up a brochure in the information racks or log on to calvincrest.org. Financial aid is available!



MUSIC NOTE

♪ Plan to join us in singing the Hallelujah chorus together on **Sunday, April 14!** Meet at **10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary to warm up. Everyone is invited to participate; no steps required.

Prairie Readers will next meet on **Wednesday, April 17** to discuss *Gone Girl* by critically acclaimed author Gillian Flynn. This suspenseful novel is set in North Carthage, Mo., and begins with the disappearance of a young woman on the eve of her fifth wedding anniversary. Join us at **1 p.m.** in the **Parlor** for a lively discussion led by Barb Schliesser! All book lovers are welcome.

Lee Nyberg will present **"Living Well"** at Westminster Club's next meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for dinner, fellowship, and more on **Tuesday, April 23** at **5:30 p.m.** in **Cole Hall**.

All In The Family:

► *Bereavements:* Comfort for the family and friends of Nancy Tyrrell, who died Feb. 28.

WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Tuesdays; 6:45 a.m. in the Parlor

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2 | Bible study, led by Rev. Ellen Davis |
| April 9 | "Tribal Colleges: Culture and Higher Education on the Plains," presented by Charles Braithwaite, editor of <i>Great Plains Quarterly</i> and senior lecturer for UNL's Department of Communication Studies |
| April 16 | Bible study, led by Rev. McDonald |
| April 23 | "Are We Alone in the Universe?," presented by Daniel Claes, UNL professor of physics and astronomy |
| April 30 | "Fatal Air Crashes in Nebraska During World War II," presented by author Jerry Penry |
-

Join the Lunch Bunch this month for a visit to a favorite destination, the **Hillcrest Country Club!** The Bunch will meet at **11:30 a.m.** on **Tuesday, April 2**. RSVP to Jeanne Giles (402.484.6651) by April 1 so Hillcrest staff can prepare adequate seating for the group. Hillcrest is located at 90th and O streets, accessible from either A or O streets.

WOW (Westminster on Wednesdays)

"Put more Spirit in your week!"

WOW Dinner

5:45-6:30 p.m. in Cole Hall

\$3/children; \$4/adults; \$14 max per family

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| April 3: | tuna and noodles with biscuit |
| April 10: | spaghetti with meat balls and garlic bread |
| April 17: | baked chicken and rice with asparagus |
| April 24: | homemade hamburger/cabbage sandwiches and fries |

All meals are served with salad, fruit, and dessert.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS: TWO EXCITING SUMMER CAMPS!

Everywhere Fun Fair Vacation Bible School



Monday-Friday June 17-21 9 a.m.-noon

Everywhere Fun Fair takes children (preschool through 5th grade) to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including in their own neighborhoods! Children will also be introduced to special places from all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors. The week's adventures include interactive fun and great music, super science, cool crafts, global games, and more!

Paid registration before May 15 is \$25 per child, \$50 maximum per family; after May 15, the cost is \$30 per child, \$60 maximum per family. **(Registration costs are nonrefundable.)** Extended care (7:30-9 a.m. and noon-5 p.m.) is available for an additional \$50 for the week and **must be reserved in advance.**

Contact Betsy Guyer at betsy@westminsterlincoln.org or 402.475.6702 for more information, or **register online today at westminsterlincoln.org.**



CREATIVE ARTS CAMP 2013: KINGDOM QUEST!

JULY 15-19 9 a.m.-noon

Kindergarten-Grade 5 (in fall)

"Seek first the kingdom of God...." Matthew 6:33

Hear ye, Hear ye! Explore your artistic gifts in a variety of art forms with **Medieval** themed activities. Each class will be directed by an expert in the area from the community!

ASSEMBLY: Listen to Words of Wisdom and get ready for our quest!

ART: multi-media creation

CRAFT: Let the fun begin (as children arrive, engage in an exciting activity)

MOVEMENT: Use your whole body for expression. Great exercise!

MUSIC/SKIT: Learn fun rhythms and songs and a skit

\$40 per Child/\$90 max for a family (before June 15); \$45 per Child/\$100 max for a family (after June 16)

Partial Scholarship Available

Extended care (7:30-9 a.m. and noon-5 p.m.) is available for an additional \$50 for the week and **must be reserved in advance.**

Register online: westminsterlincoln.org

Contact Masako Nakamura Bacon: masako@westminsterlincoln.org or 475-6702 x11



2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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westminsterlincoln.org

Church Growth Leadership Summit

Now is the time for your church to grow!

Join us for a two-day summit to discover practical strategies to grow your church! How do congregations grow? A diverse group of successful leaders will share a variety of strategies. Come, listen for the Spirit to move! Your church can grow!

Featured speakers include:



Mark DeVries

Founder, Youth Ministry Architects

“Reaching the Next Generation”

- Answering the key questions to connect with a new audience.



Joel Sartore

Photographer, National Geographic

“Saving the World - One Species at a Time” - Award-winning, internationally sought-after expert and speaker.



Wayne Alloway

Senior pastor, St. Mark's Methodist

“Vital Lessons from a Growing Church”

- Strategies that led a medium-sized church to grow to 2000 worshippers each week.



Charles Arn

President, American Society of Church Growth

“Reaching Out to the Unchurched in Your Community” - Practical ways to connect your community with your church.



Candace Hill

Coordinator of education ministries, PCUSA

“Setting a Feast for New Disciples”

- Tools for using the Bible to grow your church and grow disciples.

Join us Monday evening for worship with Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Charles Arn, and special music by Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon and Westminster Choir.

For full details and online registration, visit the Church Growth Summit link at friendlypresbyterianchurches.org.