

IT'S TIME TO GROW!



What does it take to make a church grow? This is the question of our time. A

great number of studies have been dedicated to the question of why so many mainline churches have seen membership numbers decline. I think the far more vital question is, **What does it take to help churches grow?**

Thousands of churches across America are thriving, and there are leaders who have wonderful insights into what steps it takes to help churches make a big turnaround. Why not bring a number of those leaders together for discussion on this very topic?

Westminster has the honor of hosting the Church Growth Leadership Summit on April 8-9. At this conference, a broad array of speakers will share practical insights into what churches can do to make growth a reality. The summit is the brainchild of a group

I am part of that includes people from three presbyteries, which cover most of Nebraska. I am excited about the conference for three major reasons:

1. **It's time for Westminster to grow.** We have been stable in the size of our congregation for a long time. I want us to discover what we need to do in order to move upwards and better live out Christ's Great Commission to "spread the good news to all nations." (Matthew 28:19)
2. **Hosting this summit is a substantive way to offer support to hundreds of churches across Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, North Dakota, and beyond.** This is part of that great Presbyterian partnership where we love one another, including those churches spread out in small towns across the Midwest.

3. **According to the book of Acts, when Christians gather together, sometimes the Holy Spirit shows up and sets people on fire** (Acts 2).

As Irenaus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Powerful, unexpected, and wonderful things can happen when the body of Christ gathers.

I hope members of Westminster will consider doing two things. First, come and listen to what these speakers have to say. The brochure is inside, on page 2 - you don't have to come to the whole thing, but at least come to *part* of the summit. Second, let me or Marge know if you would be willing to help with hosting events and helping people experience the fellowship of the body of Christ as we learn to grow together!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

Senior Pastor

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? There is no "one size fits all" answer. A diverse group of successful leaders will share a variety of strategies. Come, listen to these leaders, listen to other engaged churches,

April 8-9, 2013

**Hosted at
Westminster Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE**

Featured speakers include:



Mark DeVries

Founder, Youth Ministry Architects

"Reaching the Next Generation"

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



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.



Joel Sartore

Photographer, National Geographic

"Saving the World - One Species at a Time"

- Award-winning, internationally sought-after expert and speaker.



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.



Wayne Alloway

Senior pastor, St. Mark's Methodist

"Vital Lessons from a Large Church"

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

Join us for five additional speakers and worship led by Westminster's senior pastor, Dr. Andrew McDonald, ASCAP award-winning musician Boyd Bacon, and AGO Diplomat organist Dr. Masako Bacon.

For more information, visit the Church Growth Summit link at friendlypresbyterianchurches.org.

Yes! I want to register for the Church Growth Leadership Summit!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Preferred phone #: _____

(with ZIP) _____

Church & denomination: _____

Payment enclosed: _____

(\$55 if paid before March 8; \$75 if paid after)

*Please make checks payable to Homestead Presbytery,
memo "Growth Summit."*

Return this slip with payment to:

Homestead Presbytery,

1135 Eastridge Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510.

**Office Use
Only**

paid _____

check # _____

date _____

initials _____

WELCOME TO 2013 AT WESTMINSTER!



Twenty-six new elders and deacons were ordained and/or installed on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 10:30 a.m. worship.

Thanks to all the retiring elders and deacons for their years of service to the church and its members!

Photo by Allen Wachter

2013 SESSION ORGANIZATION

MINISTRIES

Adult Education

* Ernie Hines
Judy White

Children & Families

* Sonia Harford
Emily Killham
Amy Neeman

YAYA

* Allysa Diehl
Mark Davis
Kailey Hill
Liz Uebele

Member Care

Kay Ballard
* Judy Buss

(* moderator)

New Member

Carol Campbell
* Dan Schafer

Outreach

* Deb Van Dyke-Ries
Carol Walbrecht

Small Group

* Bruce Sheffield
Robyn Uebele

Stewardship

Greg Hershberger
* Scott Nelson

Worship & Music

* Steve Hughes
Cyndy Maddux

COMMITTEES

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Shalla Young
* Jim Smith

Budget & Finance

* Marijane Hancock
Harry Seward

Building & Grounds

Dave Arunski
* Stan Campbell

Nominating

Nancy Stuckey
* Gail McNair

Personnel

* Ray Stevens
Kent Jagers
Kathy Anderson

DAVIS REACHES ORDINATION MILESTONE



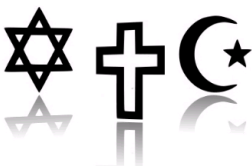
Congratulations to Rev. Lynn Davis on his 50-year anniversary of ordination!

Rev. Davis was ordained by Black Hills Presbytery of the Synod of South Dakota on Jan. 31, 1963, at his home church, First Presbyterian of Bison, S.D. His first call was to First Presbyterian of Atkinson, Neb. Four years later, he entered the U.S. Army Chaplaincy and served two tours in Vietnam.

Following his military career, Rev. Davis served parishes in Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota, as well as five interims in the Synods of Lakes and Prairies and Mid-America. Upon retirement, he has served as pulpit supply, Session moderator, and choir member, and has also volunteered in the community with a number of civic organizations.

ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS DINNER SET FOR MARCH 7

Mark your calendars for the 2013 interfaith dinner on **Thursday, March 7!** This event, a collaborative effort between Niagara Foundation, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Union College, and the South Street Temple, among others, will be held at **College View Church**, 4801 Prescott Ave, at 6 p.m. The dinner aims to bring together Muslims, Christians, and Jews with the theme of “Family Values in Abrahamic Traditions.”



This year's dinner will also feature a presentation from **The Interfaith Amigos**, a national touring group dedicated to promoting more effective interfaith dialogue. Rabbi Ted Falcon is known as a spiritual guide, author, therapist, and teacher of a number of Jewish traditions. Imam Jamal Rahman is a popular speaker on Islam, Sufi spirituality, and interfaith relations. Together, they have worked since 2001 to explore the frontiers of interfaith spirituality with a unique blend of wisdom and humor. They will be joined at this event by a local Christian minister.

Advance tickets are required; cost is \$15 per person. Because last year's event sold out in less than a week, organizers have added a free lecture at 7:30 p.m. This lecture is open to the public; however, **registration is required** to ensure adequate seating.

To purchase dinner tickets or RSVP for the lecture, visit www.niagarafoundation.org/nebraska/abrahamic-tradition-gathering-2013 by Feb. 28.

The Messenger is a monthly publication of
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd. • Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 402-475-6702 • Fax: 402-475-3148

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.....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 Pfeil.....x 104

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.....x 103

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SECOND CENTURY MESSENGER (USPS
680-440) PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN
NEBRASKA. \$2 SUBSCRIPTION
PRICE, POSTMASTER SEND
ADDRESS CHANGES TO WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2110 SHERIDAN
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WOMEN'S RETREAT A JOYFUL GAME-CHANGER

Nearly 100 women filled a rotation of rooms at Westminster with joy and an eagerness to learn on Saturday, Jan. 12 for the 3rd annual Women's Retreat. Cynthia Milligan kicked off the morning's festivities with an engaging keynote speech, "Doing Life With God." Milligan shared insights from her own life with warmth and humor.

"Cynthia's keynote was a gracious sharing of personal life stories about how God enters our lives," said Tiffany Pfeil, retreat organizer. "I think women really appreciated the honest sharing, devout discipleship, and relatability."

The rest of the day was devoted to relaxation and renewal in the form of workshop sessions designed to empower women with tools to make game-changing

decisions in their own lives. Attendees were able to choose from a dozen sessions on a variety of topics.

"From art to Oz to finding your inner ninja, this retreat was truly a time to relax, renew, and rejoice," Pfeil said.



Top right: Cynthia Milligan kicks off the Women's Retreat with insights in her keynote speech, "Doing Life With God."

Above: Women discover the artist within at "Page Changers: The Altered Book," one of 12 workshops on a variety of topics available at the day-long retreat.

Bottom right: Cleaning Ninja Katherine Brandenburg shares tips for speedy weekly deep cleaning.



Photos by Tiffany Pfeil

WESTMINSTER YOUTH ACCOMPLISH MORE!



Photo by Allen Wachter

Four Westminster youth were ordained on Sunday, Jan. 20: Bailey Jex and Michelle Delgado (youth deacons) and Kailey Hill and Liz Uebele (youth elders). The Youth and Young Adults Ministry presented these youth with celebratory cakes to recognize their outstanding achievement by being nominated, elected, and ordained to serve Westminster. Uebele and Delgado were ordained alongside their mothers, Robyn Uebele and Nancy Delgado; Hill follows a long line of ordination in her family as the fourth generation to be ordained as a Presbyterian elder.

Congratulations to Westminster youth with fabulous attendance at Sunday school for first semester! Outstanding attendance is a credit not only to our youth; we recognize it takes positive encouragement from parents, grandparents, and siblings to be part of 9 a.m. Sunday school. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated youth and those who support their learning and spiritual discipleship.

Perfect Attendance

August Van Cleave

Outstanding Attendance

Brady Jex
CJ Jurgens
Thea Kerns
Lauren Larson
Dane Nelson
Greta Solomon
Audrey Smith
Katie Whitehead
Maddie Whitehead

Great Attendance

DJ Bergo	Karynn Brown
Crew Charlton	Liam Dempsey
Charlie Gallentine	Elliot Hill
Taryn Hoham	Tyler Hoham
Jake Kerns	Jared McBride
Sara Nyberg	Ryley Thomas
Quinn Van Dyke-Ries	Clara Walstad
Mason Wilken	Betsy Zander

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH ADULT ED

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Community Conversations: Changes That Transform

Westminster's **Community Conversations** series continues on Sunday mornings in February, with a shift in focus to private community leaders who are concerned with **"Changes That Transform."** These four featured speakers will share stories of how they were able to rally community support for causes they back, often in the face of widely divided public opinion.

Feb. 3 Shelley and Paul Freeman; creators, The Cameron Effect, a program that promotes forgiveness

Feb. 10 Diane Walkowiak, freelance writer and speaker; helped save the Industrial Arts Building on the former State Fairgrounds

Feb. 17 John Krejci; activist for peace and justice, church renewal, and prison reform

Feb. 24 Dick Campbell; part owner of Campbell Nursery, long active in civic affairs as a private businessman

Westminster Bible Class

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

Feb. 3 "Supremacy of Christ," Colossians 1:15-22; led by **Kent Wolfe**

Feb. 10 "Full Life in Christ," Colossians 2:6-15; led by **Bill North**

Feb. 17 "Clothe Yourselves in Christ," Colossians 3:5-17; led by **Bud Tenney**

Feb. 24 "Spiritual Disciplines," Colossians 4:2-6; led by **Rev. Ellen Davis**

Crossroads

Each week, the Crossroads Class meets in the **Library** to discuss current and newsworthy events, as well as how these events connect and impact our lives as Christians. Young adults are invited to join us for conversation and community!

Mondays at 11 a.m.

Matthew on Mondays

Join us on Mondays in the **Lounge** as **Rev. Bob Snell** leads a continuation of study for the Gospel according to Matthew.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Setting Our Faces Toward Jerusalem: A WOW book study

Join us in the **Lounge** at **6:30 p.m.** on Wednesday evenings in February and March as **Rev. Robert Jeambey** leads study of Brian McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity*. The book raises a series of questions McLaren believes today's thinking Christians should ask about core doctrinal beliefs. This seven-week Lenten experience begins on **Feb. 6**.

Mark your calendars for March!

Adult Ed will present a four-week Sunday seminar series on C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, beginning **March 3**. Join us in **Fellowship Hall A** at **9 a.m.** for a peek into these satirical letters, which provide detailed instructions on how to undermine faith and promote sin, mingled with insightful observations on human nature and Christian doctrine.

TOP 5 REASONS TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS MONTH:

#1 - The annual **Spring Stated Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, Feb. 17** at the close of 10:30 a.m. worship. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2012 annual reports, the presentation of the 2013 budget, and approval of the pastor's compensation for 2013.

#2 - **Lunch Bunch**, Westminster's best monthly intergenerational small group, will meet this month at **Perkins Restaurant**, located at 2548 S. 48th St., on **Tuesday, Feb. 5** at **11:30 a.m.** Visitors and new members of all ages are welcome to join the fun! Rides are available; call the church office at **402.475.6702** by noon on Monday, Feb. 4.

#3 - **Prairie Readers** will discuss noted Nebraska author **Tillie Olsen** at this month's meeting on **Wednesday, Feb. 20** at **1 p.m.** in the **Parlor**. Born in Wahoo, Neb., a daughter of Russian immigrants and a working mother starved for time to write, Olsen drew from her personal experiences to create a small but influential body of work. **Dr. Linda Pratt**, professor of English at UNL, will be the gathering's featured guest speaker; our friends at the South Street Temple and Tifereth Israel will also join us. For more information, contact **Faye Moulton (402.423.7608)**.

#4 - **Westminster Club's** featured program for February will be **"All About Westminster Preschool,"** an in-depth presentation from Westminster Preschool Director Suzanne Schneider. Plan to join us at **5:30 p.m.** in **Cole Hall** on **Tuesday, Feb. 26** for punch, fellowship, dinner, and more.

#5 - Westminster's annual food drive to benefit the Westminster Food Pantry will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 24**. Hank and Nora Hinrichs will hand out sacks with suggested food items listed on Feb. 10 and 17. Please return your sacks of food to the church on Feb. 24. If you are unable to attend that day, food and monetary are welcome at any time!

BONUS!

Cabin Fever: Feb. 22

Banish the winter doldrums with **Cabin Fever!** Parents and children (pre-K through 5th grade) are invited to this special almost-spring family event at Westminster. Join us on **Friday, Feb. 22** from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** to spend some good quality time building and strengthening your family relationships. Enjoy a cookout-style dinner and s'mores, engage in group activities like crafts and games, make a joyful noise with campfire songs, and more! Invite a friend to join the fun!

Family donations of \$10 are suggested to defray costs; additional donations are encouraged to support the Westminster Food Pantry.



NEWS NOTES

THE SEARCH CONTINUES! APNC MAKES EVEN MORE PROGRESS

As of Jan. 22, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has received 50 Personal Information Forms of potential candidates. This includes 33 computerized matches from the Church Leadership Connection system of the national church and 17 self-referrals. The APNC meets weekly and is currently evaluating the PIFs received to date.

Members are encouraged to submit the names of ministers who would be a good fit for Westminster. If you wish to suggest a name, it is important to first receive the minister's permission. If you have questions about the process or a name to submit, please contact **Carol Bishop** at **402.488.1082** or **bishlinc@neb.rr.com**.

A checklist tracking the search process is posted on **westminsterlincoln.org** and updated frequently.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Circle 1** Weds., Feb. 6; 9:30 a.m.; Lounge
 Ginny Welty; 402.464.7642
- Circle 3** Weds., Feb. 6; 10 a.m.
 4801 S 76th St.
 Nora Hinrichs; 402.423.2730
- Circle 4** Mon., Feb. 4; 7 p.m.
 2650 Calvert St.
 Faye Moulton; 402.423.7608
- Circle 5** Tues., Feb. 12; 10 a.m.; Lounge
 Jane Grabenstein-Chandler;
 402.483.6533
- Circle 6** Tues., Feb. 26; 7 p.m.; Library
 Jane Hines; 402.488.8302

Mission Sewing will next meet on **Wednesday, Feb. 27** in the **Lounge**. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler at 402.483.6533 for more information.

GROW WITH US: JOURNEYING TOGETHER

There's no time like **now** to become a member at Westminster! Journeying Together, our orientation class for new members, will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 6** at **5:45 p.m.** That's a WOW night, so you're invited to be our guest for dinner, too! Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald and members of the New Member Ministry will show and tell all you've ever wanted to know about life at Westminster.

On **Feb. 10** at **9 a.m.**, the Journeying Together experience will continue. Meet with leaders of the congregation to hear more about what it's like to be a member, then make your membership official during 10:30 a.m. worship.

Contact **Tiffany** or **Marge** at **402.475.6702** to RSVP or more information!

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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

Arlen Beam	June Blatt
Ruth Elwell	Ernie Hines
Cliff Hollestelle	Barbara Jones
Pam Martin	Scott Nelson
Teri Nelson	Todd Peterson
Gen Schmidt	Larry Shafer
Nancy Stuckey	Chris Whitehead
Amber Winter	

COMING SOON!

NEW CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY

Plan ahead for Westminster's new church family directory! Family and individual photos will be taken beginning **April 10**. Online registration will be available in March. Stay tuned for updates!



Westminster Preschool
is now enrolling for the
2013-2014 year! Visit
wpslincoln.org or email

Suzanne@westminsterlincoln.org to learn more.



MUSIC NOTES

♫ Alleluia! Amen!, WOW XL, and Westminster Choir will meet in the Chapel on **Feb. 13** from **6:30 to 6:55 p.m.** to rehearse for the **Ash Wednesday** service. Cherub Choir will meet in Room 210 from 6:30 to 6:55 p.m.; parents may pick them up and join worship at 7 p.m.

♫ **Lenten Devotions** will be held Feb. 20 and 27, and March 6 and 20, 6:20-6:35 p.m. in the Chapel. Choir rehearsals on those Wednesdays will be adjusted as follows: Youth Bells, 5-5:45 p.m.; Westminster Carillon, 6:40-7:30 p.m.; Alleluia! Amen! and Cherub Choir, 6:40-7:30 p.m.; Westminster Choir, 7:40-9 p.m.

All In The Family:

► **Births:** Congratulations to Kylie and Jay Fallick on the birth of Carter Lewis, born Jan. 7; to C. Leigh and Jason Hellbusch on the birth of Emma Nicole, born Jan. 19 (grandparents Lynn and Ross McCown); and to Sarah and Josh Lovell on the birth of Annabelle Grace, born Jan. 22.

► **Bereavements:** Comfort for the family and friends of Wanda Joy, who died Jan. 10; and for the family and friends of Patricia Olson, who died Jan. 30.

Correction: Deborah Minter's name was omitted from the list of Administration and Planning Committee members for 2012 in the January 2013 issue of *The Messenger*. We deeply regret this error!

WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesdays; 6:45 a.m. in the Parlor

- Feb. 5** Bible study, led by Ken Moore
- Feb. 12** "CEDARS - In the Past, Today, and Tomorrow," presented by Bill Blue, director of CEDARS Home for Children
- Feb. 19** "A Look at One of Lincoln's Major Assets," presented by Lynn Johnson, director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation
- Feb. 26** Bible study, led by Rev. Ellen Davis

WOW (Westminster on Wednesdays)

"Put more Spirit in your week!"

WOW Dinner

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

(5:30-6:15 p.m. during Lent)

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

- Feb. 6:** chicken noodle soup & toasted cheese sandwich with lemon bars
- Feb. 13:** pancakes, sausage, & fruit
- Feb. 20:** ham loaf, sweet potato casserole, & peas
- Feb. 27:** hamburger hot dish surprise with chocolate cake

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



Drama Camp

Monday-Friday March 11-15

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Performances on Saturday,
March 16 at 3 & 5:30 p.m.



Walk the Plank Week with

Blackbeard the Pirate!

Need a spring break adventure for your K-8th grader? Look no further than Westminster's 2nd annual full-week **Drama Camp!**

This year's production, *Blackbeard the Pirate*, 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 crabby crabs, melodious mermaids, savvy sailors, and plucky pirates right before your eyes!

Register with the form below for **Walk the Plank Week**. 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 on March 16.

Yes! I want to Walk the Plank with Blackbeard the Pirate!

Child's Name _____

Grade _____

Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Address (with ZIP code) _____

Preferred Phone _____

Parent Email _____

Allergies/Special Needs (attach another sheet if more space needed) _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Preferred Phone _____

Relationship _____

Please return form with payment to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church;

2110 Sheridan Blvd.; Lincoln, NE 68502.

Office Use Only

paid _____ check # _____

date _____ initials _____



2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6702
westminsterlincoln.org



LENT AT WESTMINSTER

Join us for worship!

Ash Wednesday service: Feb. 13; 7 p.m.; Sanctuary

Begin this year's Lenten journey together at the Ash Wednesday service! Westminster Choir, Alleluia! Amen!, and WOW XL will sing at this special service.

Lenten Devotions: Wednesdays; 6:20 p.m.; Chapel

Join us for Lenten Devotions on Wednesday evenings in the Chapel beginning Feb. 20! Devotions will begin at 6:20 p.m., following the WOW dinner, and conclude at 6:35 p.m. This year's theme is "We Love Because He First Loved Us." Each week, we will worship around the theme as it reflects:

"God's Love For Us" (Feb. 20)

"Love For God" (Feb. 27)

"Love For the Family of God" (March 6)

"Love For Others" (March 20)

During weeks with Lenten Devotions, WOW dinner will be held 5:30-6:15 p.m., Westminster Carillon and children's choirs will meet 6:40-7:30 p.m., and Westminster Choir will meet 7:40-9 p.m.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Art Exhibit; begins Feb. 17

Garden Room and Memory Lane - sponsored by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation