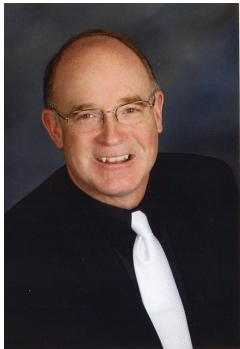


## WESTMINSTER 2012 ANNUAL REPORT SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT: TEN TERRIFIC THINGS



We are trying out a new format for the Annual Report! In order to make sure the good news reaches the

whole congregation, we're sending out the report as an issue of the *Messenger* - this very issue! Although there is no way we can relate all of the great things that have happened through the life of Westminster in the past year, we hope this report gives you a sense of our dynamic progress. Loving and faithful ministries have taken place through the work and membership of this wonderful church; there is much to celebrate, and a lot for which we are thankful to God. Let me start with 10 terrific things we celebrate from 2012:

**1. The debt is paid.** After years of concentrated effort, Westminster has paid off all the debt incurred from building projects. **We are now debt-free!**

Everyone who gave, helped, encouraged, and prayed about this deserves another big round of thanks!

**2. The 27th St. sign is built.**

Fifty years of effort went into expanding our parking lot, and this year, we were able to put the crown jewel on this project, with a sign that identifies who we are and invites the city to join us in our activities. Does it make a difference? Consider this: we had a record crowd on Christmas Eve (1400 people), which is an increase of 200-300 people in comparison with the last two years. *Something* brought in all those new faces. Think of it as a sign from God.

**3. New Drama Camp.** We took a risk and added a drama camp during LPS' spring break. We hoped for an attendance of 12-15 children, and ended up with more than 30! Thanks to Tiffany Pfeil and all who developed this camp, as well as those who made possible Vacation Bible School and Creative Arts Camp in our focal point children's ministries.

**4. WOW growth.** Westminster on Wednesdays saw a surge in attendance this year. Excitement about the music programs and great Adult Education led to the highest numbers we've ever seen, including the record-busting **148** people on 12-12-12.

**5. The Associate Pastor Search Committee is up and running.**

You can view the committee's progress with the checklist inside on page 11. One day after the opening was posted, we started receiving dossiers from pastors!

**6. Civic Visions and Civil Discourse.**

The Adult Education Ministry's Community Conversations series, with a star-studded roster of presenters, concluded with an all-day seminar about public civility. The *Lincoln Journal Star* article on the series inspired broad conversation about civility in Lincoln, including other churches following our lead in studying this topic.

(cont. p.2)

**(Senior Pastor's Report - cont.)**

**7. Meaningful mission.** In the midst of challenging economic times, Westminster expanded the St. Nick Project to deliver gifts to more than 500 people, rebuilt tornado-damaged homes in Joplin, Mo., saw nearly 100 volunteers on Day of Discipleship, contributed \$1000 worth of food-related goods per month to feed the hungry of Lincoln, and had youth deliver beds to poor children in Kansas City. Mission matters to us.

**8. Small Groups expanding.** Small Groups Ministry found creative ways to expand: camping trips, an exercise/marathon training group, history buffs, and more. Developing deeper friendships is a core part of sharing Christian life together.

**9. The unsung heroes.** Annual Reports celebrate obvious goals and accomplishments, but Westminster works as well as it does because of the efforts of the unsung heroes who share their love through acts of kindness and grace that often goes unseen. Things are going very well in this church, and that tells us there are a lot of people quietly sharing these acts of love. To these deserving servants of the Lord, we say a heartfelt "Thank you!"

**At right:** Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald assists Campaign chair Jim Nissen in "burning the note" at worship on Oct. 14 while children watch. The ceremony was held to commemorate the final payment on the Centennial Campaign loans. Westminster is now debt-free!



**10. Stewardship growth.** Trying to inspire a congregation to the biblical ideal of tithing is a challenge; doing so during an economic recession is even harder. Yet there have been hundreds of people who have taken on that challenge. Their increased discipleship giving has played a significant role in making all the good news in 2012 possible. Thank you to everyone who has been blessed to give, for your sharing and love.

In the pages that follow, there is more about 2012, plus some upcoming events for 2013. Christ has called us to an amazing church. Enjoy the good news!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

*Senior Pastor*

**The Messenger is a monthly publication of  
Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
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Phone: 402-475-6702 • Fax: 402-475-3148

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 Pfeil.....x 104

Preschool Director: Suzanne Schneider  
.....x 103

Director of Children's Ministries: Betsy Guyer  
.....x 107

Communications Coordinator: Rae Licari  
.....x101

Administrative Secretary: Marge Tomlinson  
.....x 102

Custodians/Maintenance: Richard Gruenemeyer,  
Lyudmila Fomina, Tracy Hugelmann, Mehmedalija  
Placanin

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  
BLVD LINCOLN NE 68502

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# CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY



**At left:** Vacation Bible Schoolers heed the call to DIVE IN! More than 100 divers joined us for Operation Overboard this year! Divers were challenged to “Go Deep With God” and learn more about faith.

**Below:** Children enjoy learning on new computers in the newly-remodeled Faith Village computer lab.



Children and Families Ministry enjoyed an exciting year full of family-friendly events in 2012. **Drama Camp**, held during LPS spring break in March, was a new addition to the roster, and a smashing success with 35 little thespians participating.

**Vacation Bible School**, led by CFM moderator/Dive Master Sonia Harford, was once again held during the sweltering summer month of June. The aquatic-themed “Operation Overboard” hosted more than 100 participants who were encouraged to “Go Deep With God” during the week.

**Spooktacular**, a safer, more family-friendly Halloween alternative, was updated for its

second year and saw a turnout of more than 400 trunk-or-treaters in the Westminster parking lot.

**Faith Building Blocks**, a new comprehensive learning program for children and youth, was established in 2012. This dynamic series of extra faith-building opportunities, which spans birth through 9th grade (baptism to confirmation), was designed to help children build a firm foundation of faith and a strong sense of God’s love, and to give families opportunities to learn and grow together in faith. Most of the “blocks” are one-session classes outside of regular Sunday school, and are designed for participation by both parents and children. Children at Westminster participated in the

Preschool Sunday School Orientation, Kindergarten Bibles, and Third Grade Bibles blocks for the program’s inaugural year.

In a joint venture with Westminster Preschool, CFM also helped facilitate renovations to two of the children’s areas - the Faith Village computer lab and the playground. Ten new computers were installed in the computer lab to update the equipment and provide the opportunity to run newer educational software programs and augment children’s education about technology and how it works. New pieces that were installed in the playground include: a new climbing piece, a built-in outdoor art easel, an outdoor classroom discovery table, and two new benches.



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# MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY



**Above:** One of the many structures undergoing repair in Joplin, Mo. Twelve Westminster volunteers spent a week in August working to repair areas destroyed by the tornado in 2010.

**At right:** Westminster volunteers use their smiles, time, and talent to transform about a dozen city agencies for Day of Discipleship on Saturday, Oct. 13.



## Mission Outreach Ministry

found a number of ways to heed God's call to mission - and to inspire others to do the same - this year. One of the most prominent efforts was found in **Day of Discipleship**, held on **Saturday, Oct. 13**. Nearly 100 volunteers used their smiles, time, and talent to transform about a dozen city agencies for the "Encore!" presentation of this annual local outreach event. After gathering for breakfast, Westminster members spent the morning cleaning, painting, assembling, repairing, building, and otherwise serving as volunteer labor for nearby agencies like Habitat for Humanity, Kids Against Hunger, and Friendship Home.

Westminster members also took their outreach efforts outside the city limits by making a **mission trip to Joplin, Mo.**, in August. This trip - Westminster's 13th mission trip in seven years - saw 12 selfless, caring people who gave their time and talent and traveled at their own expense to work in blistering heat to help people in need. Volunteers, coordinated by Ken Govaerts, assisted with disaster relief efforts to repair homes destroyed by the 2010 tornado.

**Resolve to support the Westminster food pantry!** Did you know the grocery bills for this local outreach program can reach higher than \$1000 each month? In fact, for November and December of 2012, the combined grocery bills totaled nearly \$2200. But you can help shrink that number! Contribute even just one can of fruit each Sunday and it will be a tremendous help. Remember, the food pantry helps feed six families *each week*! So remember the pantry when you shop for yourself, and resolve to support this local outreach ministry.

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## SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY



**At left:** Members of History Buffs are treated to a guided tour of the Nebraska State Capitol building on Nov. 28 by architectural manager Bob Ripley. History Buffs, a new small group open to anyone with an interest in historical topics, was founded this year and began meeting in the fall..

Small Groups Ministry participated in a good number of new activities in 2012. A Saturday morning group called **History Buffs**, open to all with an interest in historical topics, was founded and began meeting on a monthly basis in the fall. One of the group's programming highlights was a visit to the Nebraska State Capitol building on Nov. 29. Fourteen members of the group were treated to a tour by Bob Ripley, architectural manager, who recounted Nebraska historical facts in detail. The group was also guided to the very top of the building, just below the dome and its spire, *The Sower*, which is an area that has not been open to the public since 1942.

Not just one but *two* exciting overnight camping trips sponsored by Small Groups were planned and well attended this year. The first, on June 15-16, was held at Wagon Train State Park. Around 30 adventurous folks braved the elements in order to

**At right:** Small Groups sponsored two well-attended overnight camping trips in 2012, and plans to host more trips starting in the spring.

enjoy a potluck/cookout/picnic dinner, followed by the requisite campfire with roasted marshmallows, s'mores, and campfire singing. The second camping trip was held Oct. 19-20, at the West Optimist Club's private facilities at Branched Oak Lake. Another winning combination of potluck dinner and campfire was enjoyed by the hearty souls who braved the blustery winds for a night under the stars. Based on the success of the camping trips, Small Groups intends to plan other camping trips, starting in the spring of 2013.

Small Groups also sponsored a book study of Lynne Baab's *Friending: Real Relationships in a Virtual World*, which began in



September and was led by Ed and Jeanne Plander. This book was chosen in response to a need at Westminster to explore and emphasize what true friendship can mean in our congregation. *Friending* emphasizes how friendship with God can influence our relationships with other people, whether online or in person. The book explores the term "friending" as a verb in its usage with social media like Facebook, and examines many aspects of friendship that can be employed with both social media and more traditional relationships.



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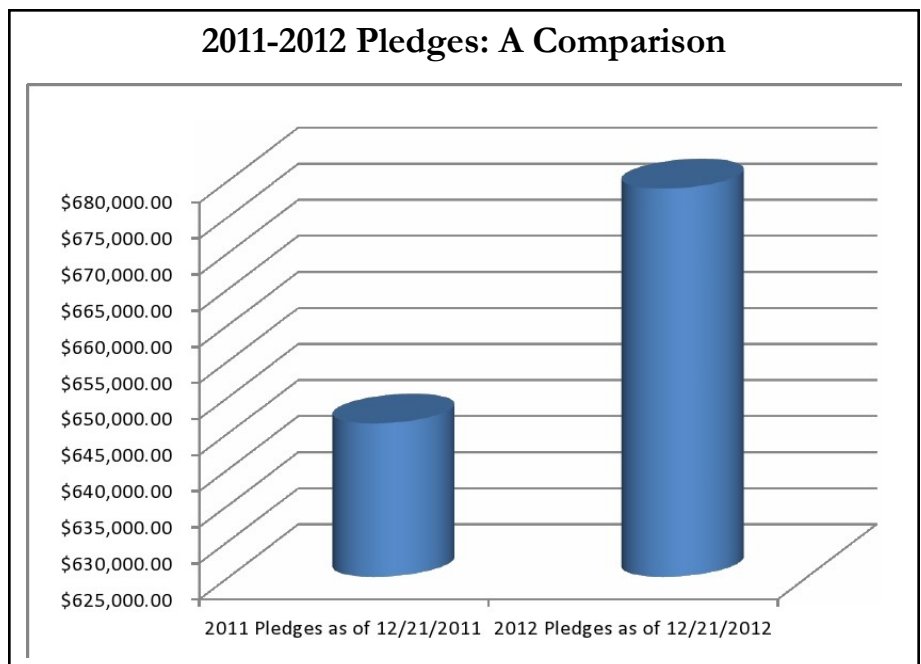
## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

In the 2012 year, Stewardship continued its appeal for Westminster to work toward becoming a tithing congregation. Following previous years' themes of "Opening the Windows of Heaven" and "Stepping Into God's Future," the committee decided on **"Reaping God's Abundance"** for its annual call to action. The campaign to support the 2013 church budget, which began in October, was carried out through a series of letters mailed to members of the congregation, a new pledge card encouraging members to increase their pledges, and a retrospective booklet produced by Dale Minter. Nearly 60 percent of the pledges received by year's end showed significant increases; more than a third of those pledges showed increases for 20 percent or more.

Stewardship also once again coordinated and hosted the annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** for the congregation, held in Fellowship Hall on Nov. 8. Approximately 200 guests attended this festive event to celebrate and express gratitude for God's many gifts this year, with a delicious catered meal prepared by Kasia Bradley, an inspiring retrospective DVD crafted by Chris Pultz, and a musical program honoring **Boyd and Masako Bacon** in thanks of their musical gifts and dedicated service to Westminster in their years on the staff roster.



**Above:** Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald introduces Masako and Boyd Bacon at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, held on Nov. 8. The Bacons were honored at the dinner for their musical gifts and dedicated service to Westminster over the years.



# NEW MEMBER MINISTRY



**At left:** Nearly 100 children attended 10:30 a.m. worship on Genesis Sunday, Aug. 19. These received a special back-to-school blessing during the Children's Conversation portion of worship.

## Membership Summary

Jan. 1, 2012	1279
Gains to date	44
Losses to date	42
Membership to date	1281

New Member Ministry facilitated a number of new things at Westminster this year. Perhaps the most noticeable was the new double-sided sign installed at the corner of 27th and Ryons streets over the summer. One side of the sign is digital; the other is a more traditional, stationary marquee style. Both tell visitors, members, and the community at large about the good news about what's happening at Westminster. New Member Ministry collaborated on this project with Building & Grounds and Budget & Finance.

The **Journeying Together** program for new members was streamlined this year, from three class sessions to two. This decision was prompted by the desire to make the process easier and more convenient for potential new members. In October, 24 new members participated in the new Journeying Together program. Overall,

Westminster welcomed **more than 40 new members** in 2012.

A returning favorite event, **"You've Got A Friend,"** was held once again, this year in conjunction with Genesis Sunday. All congregation members received a letter encouraging them to invite a friend to attend worship at Westminster on **Sunday, Aug. 19.**

More than 50 new guests visited on this day and heard about the theme for fall, **"Transformation."** Nearly 100 children received a special Back-to-School Blessing at 10:30 a.m. worship and enjoyed a number of fun games afterwards. Adults toured the Ministries Fair in the Garden Room and shopped for books at the annual Library book sale.



**Above:** Children were treated to a variety of fun games after 10:30 a.m. worship on Genesis Sunday, Aug. 19.



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# MINISTRY OF WORSHIP, MUSIC, & FINE ARTS



**At left:** Children get shakin' during the energetic movement portion of Creative Arts Camp in July.

**Below:** Children "Camp Out!" at Westminster in July for Creative Arts Camp. Seventy-six children attended the camp, directed by Masako Bacon.



Members of the Ministry of Worship, Music, and Fine Arts had their hands quite full in 2012. Early on in the year, they assisted in preparing a number of services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Many churches do not have Good Friday services, so Westminster is somewhat unique in that respect. Boyd Bacon graced the Good Friday services with a special music piece he wrote, called **"Seven Last Words,"** which was performed by members of the congregation at both Good Friday services.

Westminster's harpsichord was repaired and rededicated in the fall. The harpsichord, which was donated in memory of Thomas Adamson in 1981, accumulated some structural problems over the years, but through the generosity of the Eleanor Adamson family,

repairs and modifications were able to be made that will help the instrument cope with Nebraska's drastic weather changes.

The week-long **Creative Arts Camp**, directed by Masako Bacon, was again held in July for children in grades K-5, with a "Camp Out" theme. Every morning at the opening assembly, Park Ranger Allysa Diehl and Bumble Bear provided Bible verses and lessons for the 76 children who attended. Children also enjoyed a welcoming craft class, led by Betsy Guyer, a multimedia art class, led by Jana Sesow, a music class with songs, games, and skit, led by Samantha Matulka, and energetic movement, led by Vivian Kim.

In the fall, Westminster welcomed Robert Lighthall as new interim director of Cherub Choir.

Cherub Choir and Alleluia! Amen! presented a special short musical called **"Oh! Jonah!"** on Sept. 30 at 10:30 a.m. worship. The musical piece creatively retold the biblical story of Jonah, who was transformed in the belly of a whale.

Finally, to close out the year, Westminster members were treated to a fine selection of glorious music in worship for the Advent and Christmas season services, including Robert Landes' **"Jazz Gloria,"** which Westminster Choir performed along with Nebraska Wesleyan University Jazz Choir on Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. worship.



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# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS (YAYA) MINISTRY

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**At left:** Youth transform fear with faith by tackling the challenging UNL climbing wall.

**Above:** Sleepyhead Beds in Kansas City was thrilled to see three carloads of Westminster youth and adults arrive at its warehouse on Saturday, Nov. 3. The group spent the day sorting donated bedding and assisting with deliveries to 87 children in need of a better place to sleep.

Westminster's youth and young adults were provided with plenty of exciting, fun, and mission outreach opportunities this year, courtesy of YAYA.

The senior high youth group was treated to two trips to the **UNL climbing wall** - once in the spring and again in the fall. Tackling the climbing wall encouraged youth to transform their fear with faith.

**WOW XL**, a new youth group for grades 6-8, was established for Wednesday nights during WOW. The group kicked off on Aug. 22, with nearly a dozen youth enjoying an *MMMM good* time! WOW XL programming combines music, message, motivation, and mayhem portions at each meeting.

Twenty-seven youth and adults attended the fall **confirmation retreat** at Camp Calvin Crest on Aug. 24-26. Friendships reigned among the youth: 8th graders were welcomed into the group; 9th graders bridged the connection; and 10th and 11th graders talked about why the retreats were essential to their spiritual development.

Westminster youth also organized and participated in a mission trip in Kansas City in partnership with **Sleepyhead Beds**. Eight youth and three parents made the journey in November to deliver 87 beds to children in need in the Kansas City area. Youth also delivered donated bedding that was collected during a drive held at Westminster prior to the trip.



**Above:** WOW XLers (youth in grades 6-8) gear up for the music portion of the evening. Each week, youth make a joyful noise to the Lord, raising their voices in song and celebration to start off the night's activities. Music, along with three other Ms (message, motivation, and mayhem), complete the WOW XL experience.

# MEMBER CARE MINISTRY



**At left:** Sunday, June 24 saw a flurry of activity from Westminster in Antelope Park. Vacation Bible School's "Operation Overboard" divers presented songs learned the previous week at the annual Presbyterians in the Park event, where 10:30 a.m. worship - complete with contemporary music and a potluck lunch afterwards - moved from the Sanctuary to Antelope Park's Band Shell.



**Above:** Member Care Ministry oversees the potluck lunch portion of Presbyterians in the Park on Sunday, June 24. Westminster members and their guests were served delicious pulled pork sandwiches by Member Care Ministry.

**Need to borrow a walker, crutches, or a power chair?** Or perhaps you have a durable medical supply item to spare? Call the church office at **402.475.6702** to get the list of durable medical supplies for loan, or to have your item/s added to the list.

Member Care Ministry found a variety of ways to care for members at Westminster in 2012.

A new **durable medical supplies lending program** was established in the spring. A call went out to church members who were willing to loan supplies such as walkers, crutches, and a power chair. These members and their supplies were then compiled into a list that was made available at the church office. Now, members seeking to borrow a certain piece of medical equipment can easily locate another member from whom to borrow that item.

**Older Adult Sunday** was celebrated on May 6. Members 75 and older received special recognition in worship that day, plus a special ribbon to wear and treats in the Garden Room after the services. Overall, the event was well-received.

In the summer, **Presbyterians in the Park** was held at Antelope Park, with a potluck picnic lunch in the Auld Pavilion following the out-of-doors worship at 10:30 a.m. Member Care members prepared and served delicious pulled pork sandwiches at the June 24 event.

Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace University**, a financial education class, was offered on Wednesday nights in the fall for WOW. The class ran for 10 weeks, from Sept. 5 through Nov. 14, and was well-attended by members and visitors alike, with more than 20 registrants participating in the class and learning how to manage finances "God's way."



# ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is making good progress in the search for a new associate pastor. As of Dec. 18, the Church Information Form has been completed, approved by the Westminster Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and posted on the Church Leadership Connection system of the national church. The CLC will match our CIF with dossiers of potential candidates. In January, the APNC will receive those matches, as well as dossiers from interested ministers who apply directly in response to the online CIF or to ads we will place in church publications. Then, the process of screening applications can begin.

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

The checklist at right is posted online at [westminsterlincoln.org](http://westminsterlincoln.org) and will be updated as each step is completed.

## **The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:**

Carol Bishop (moderator)  
Chris Campbell-Eells  
Jody Kellas  
Bob Michaud  
Todd Peterson  
Shalla Young  
Walker Zulkoski

## **Process for Associate Pastor Search**

### **Session:**

- ☒ Delegates Mission Study to Administration & Planning Committee

### **A&P:**

- ☒ Engages the Congregation in small group meetings to gather information.
- ☒ A&P writes Mission Study

### **Session:**

- ☒ Approves Mission Study

### **Presbytery Committee on Ministry:**

- ☒ Approves Mission Study.

### **Personnel Committee**

- ☒ Assess Your Finances and consult with Session
- ☒ Clarify accountability structure of Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

### **Congregational Nominating Committee:**

- ☒ Nominates Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and requests Session to set a date for election.

### **Congregation:**

- ☒ Elects Associate Pastor Nominating Committee in a congregational meeting.

### **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee in partnership with the Pastor:**

- ☒ Meets with Executive Presbytery & COM representative for training/orientation.
- ☒ Writes Church Information Form
- ☒ CIF approved by Session and Presbytery Committee on Ministry
- ☒ CIF posted for national search
- ☒ Receives Personal Information Forms (dossiers) from interested ministers.
- ☐ Screen PIFs for appropriate candidates
- ☐ Initial phone call with long-list candidates.
- ☐ Narrow to short list
- ☐ Contact References
- ☐ Committee phone call or Skype contact.
- ☐ Narrow to list of 2 or 3 candidates
- ☐ Executive Presbyter does background checks
- ☐ Meet prospective pastors face-to-face.
- ☐ Committee on Ministry interviews candidates face-to-face.
- ☐ Candidate preaches in neutral pulpit.
- ☐ Choose nominee and extend invitation with terms of call
- ☐ Present Candidate at Congregational Meeting for vote.
- ☐ Present Candidate at Presbytery Meeting.

### **Session:**

- ☐ Ordain and/or Install Candidate

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## BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE



**At left:** Westminister's fall confirmation class poses around the new digital sign at 27th and Ryons streets during Sunday School Picture Day. The sign, which was installed over the summer this year, also features a traditional, stationary marquee side opposite the dynamic digital side.

**Below:** The east stained glass windows of the historic Sanctuary were removed and repaired over the summer. The outside of the windows now features stronger clear protective glass for enhanced durability and energy efficiency.

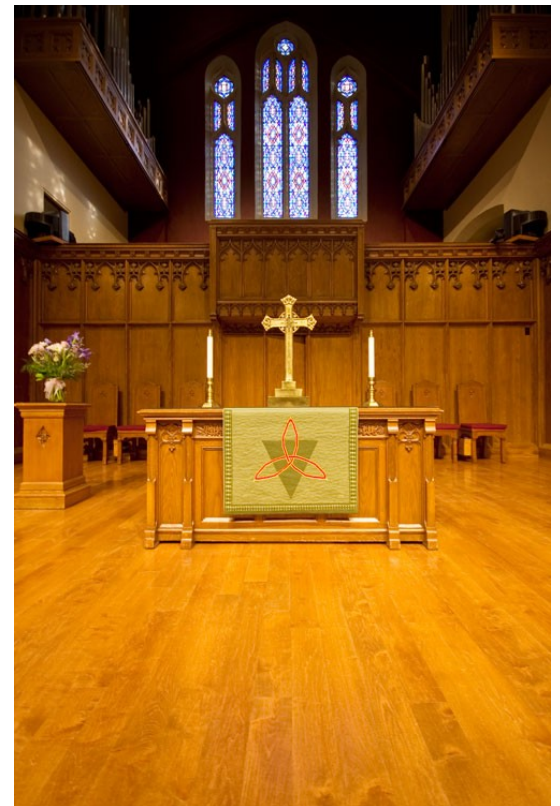
Two major projects to transform the physical aspects of Westminister were overseen by Building and Grounds this year.

The new double-sided sign on the corner of 27th and Ryons streets was completed and installed over the summer. One side of the sign is digital; the other is a more traditional, stationary marquee style. Both tell visitors, members, and the community at large of the good news happening at Westminister. Building and Grounds collaborated on this project with New Member Ministry and Budget and Finance.

The second major renovative undertaking of 2012 was to restore the Sanctuary's historic east stained glass windows. The stained glass was removed piece by piece, restored, and replaced over a period of several weeks during the summer.

The outside of the windows now features stronger clear protective glass, a quarter inch thicker than before, which enhances their durability and energy efficiency, thus ensuring maximum protection for the beautiful interior stained glass.

Building and Grounds is grateful for the designated gift in the Capital Campaign that made this work possible! And while we celebrate this window's completion, we also face the challenge of restoring the rest of the windows in the Sanctuary and Chapel.



The estimated cost for these repairs starts at about **\$1400 per window**, with an estimated **project total of \$389,005**. Contact Jim Nissen, Cheryl Rennick, or Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald for information on how **you can help!**



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# WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION

Westminster's Foundation had quite a transformative year in 2012. New mission statements for the Foundation and the Legacy Society were drafted and approved this year. They now read as follows:

"The mission of the Westminster Presbyterian Foundation is the solicitation and management of gifts and bequests to sustain the Christian ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church."

"The mission of the Legacy Society is to encourage perpetual gifts in support of the Christian ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church through its Foundation."

The Foundation Marketing Committee continued to develop written guidelines for increasing the perpetual gifts needed to provide growth in the corpus of the Foundation. Toward that end, a new brochure was drafted and underwent a number of revisions, and will hope to see the light of publication in 2013.

The annual Swanson Scholarship was awarded to **Hope Waggoner**, who demonstrated a high level of involvement with activities at Westminster.

Foundation Birthday Club gifts in 2012 totaled approximately **\$13,000**.

## Westminster Foundation Board of Trustees:

**2012:** Barbara Dinsdale, Julie Olson  
**2013:** Clay Bradley, Don Hamann  
**2014:** Jon Jackson, Ron Wachter  
**2015:** Jody Batten, Kevin Harford  
**2016:** Ken Koop, Allen Moore  
**2017:** Jim Nissen, Lillie Larsen

Endowments in 2012 grew by approximately \$8000. A generous gift was made in honor of Legacy Society Member Bill Palmer.

The Foundation contributes financially every year to projects and ministries at Westminster, including music, Christian education, mission work, and projects overseen by Building and Grounds. This year, the Foundation contributed an approximate total of **\$90,000**.

The Foundation also developed plans for 2013 to double the size of the Legacy Society.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women met in monthly Circle meetings throughout the year for education, prayer, and fellowship. Beginning in the fall, Circle meetings focused their study on *The General Epistles: 1 & 2 Peter; 1, 2, & 3 John; and Jude*.

The Mission Sewing group delivered 13 twin-size quilts to CEDARS Home for Children in May. One quilt was also donated to the Calvin Crest Auction.



**Above:** The Mission Sewing group shows off quilts they made to be donated to CEDARS Home for Children. Mission Sewing met once a month for most of the 2012 year.

**Looking for the 2012 Budget Report?** The Budget Report will be given at the Spring Stated Meeting. Plan to join us at Westminster on **Feb. 17!**

# WESTMINSTER DEACONS

Westminster's Deacons felt the power of transformation this year. Perhaps the most prominent change was the restructuring of the Deacon teams, with Team 6 members reallocated among the remaining five teams.

Deacons cheerfully served the annual **Easter Breakfast** on Apr. 8, which included delicious Miller & Paine cinnamon rolls. A momentous 87 dozen cinnamon rolls were pre-sold - more than at any other breakfast on record! Around 300 people were served and enjoyed food and fellowship.

Throughout the course of the year, the Deacons provided care for a number of routine events in addition to serving food at special events like "C" is for Christmas and the Easter Breakfast. They gave rides to Sunday worship to a dozen members each week, and called on elderly, homebound, and recovering members on a regular basis. Deacons also provided bereavement hospitality at ten funerals held at Westminster in the 2012 year.



**Above:** Deacons serve cornbread and "cheese and macaroni" at "C" is for Christmas. The annual Advent kick-off event was held in Fellowship Hall on Dec. 2.

## 2012 Over The Road Teams

### Team 1:

Shelley Kuzma  
Barbara Schliesser

Ashley Lammers  
Bryan Willnerd

Carolyn McCall  
Grace Willnerd

Trinity McDonald  
John Paul Wirrick

### Team 2:

Matt Andersen  
Ed Plander

Carolyn Harp  
Jeanne Plander

Jane Hines

Mary Orth

### Team 3:

Beth Carveth  
Sarah Parker  
Sydney Wirrick-Knox

Steve Carveth  
Bob Peterson

Jean McIntosh  
Sally Peterson

Kathy Moore  
Matt Walker

### Team 4:

Nancy Delgado  
Dallas Waggoner

Gwen Hlava  
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler

Ruthann Nahorny

Roger Van Cleave

### Team 5:

Scott Colborn  
Herb Schleisser

Martha Kingsbury  
Willie Shafer

Marcie Ryan  
Karen Stevens

Carolyn Schainost  
Claire Titus



# PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



**At left:** Rev. Robert Snell, associate pastor at Westminster since 2010, retired at the close of 2012.

**Above:** Rev. Snell's ministry and retirement were celebrated with a "Farewell to Bob" open house on Dec. 16.

**Below:** Westminster staff grew by one this year as Rae Licari joined in April as the new receptionist and communications coordinator.

Westminster's Personnel Committee kept busy in 2012 with transformations to the lineup to the church's staff, both actual and anticipated.

**Rev. Robert Snell** announced his intention to retire at the end of 2012; the search for a new associate pastor began with much gusto. The Administration and Planning Committee prepared a Mission Study that was made available to all members of the congregation during the summer, and an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was soon thereafter nominated and elected by the congregation to

facilitate this search. Carol Bishop graciously agreed to serve as moderator on this committee. The APNC made great progress by year's end, quickly completing a significant portion of the Associate Pastor Search Checklist (for the complete checklist and more details on the APNC, see page 11). Rev. Snell was honored with a **"Farewell to Bob"** open house on Dec. 16.

Westminster staff also grew by one as Rae Licari joined in April in the role of receptionist and communications coordinator.



The Personnel Committee would like to extend gratitude to all members of Westminster's staff this year: Boyd and Masako Bacon, Rev. Ellen Davis, Betsy Guyer, Rae Licari, Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Tiffany Pfeil, Cheryl Rennick, Suzanne Schneider, Rev. Robert Snell, and Marge Tomlinson. Thank you!

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2012 Nominating Committee presented the following slate at the annual congregational meeting, which was held on Nov. 18; the slate was unanimously accepted.

## **Foundation (6 year term)**

Marilyn Maude  
Bill Roper

## **Nominating Committee (1 year term)**

Shelley Kuzma  
Francy Scheele  
Bob Schoettger

## **Session (3 year term)**

Kathy Anderson  
Kay Ballard  
Judy Buss  
Mark Davis  
Kailey Hill (1 year youth term)  
Steve Hughes  
Emily Killham  
Cyndy Maddux  
Harry Seward  
Jim Smith  
Liz Uebele (1 year youth term)  
Robyn Uebele

## **Deacons (3 year term)**

Nancy Delgado  
Michelle Delgado  
(1 year youth term)  
Jud Douglas  
Julie Fowler  
Bailey Jex (1 year youth term)  
Pam Martin  
Rex Martin  
Larry Peach (1 year term)  
Mary Peach (1 year term)  
Diane Robie  
Jackie Storm  
Steve Titus (1 year term)  
Larry Wieskamp

## **Ushers (3 year term)**

Kendal Agee (1 year term)  
Skyler Berringer  
(1 year youth term)  
Geoff Cline  
Van Duling  
Deb Eastman (1 year term)  
Sandy Gallentine (1 year term)  
Pat Hackley  
Ginny Hand  
Lyle Hamilton  
Ross McCown  
Barbara Moss  
Sean Mulvaney (2 year term)  
Tom Pappas  
Laurel Van Ham Pappas  
Chip Smith  
Marilyn Smith  
Cory Stone (1 year youth term)  
Barb Wright Chollet

### **The 2012 Nominating Committee:**

Arlen Beam	Beth Hamilton	Gail McNair
Andrew McDonald (staff)		Sue Shamblin
Nancy Stuckey (moderator)		Dan Wherry
Brian Willnerd	Grace Willnerd	



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## ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY



**Above:** Dr. James Calvin Davis, author of *In Defense of Civility*, visited Westminster this year as part of the “Civic Visions & Civil Discourse” Adult Education seminar series. Davis served as keynote by teaching and preaching on Jan. 28-29.

Adult Ed kicked off the new year with another exciting round of the ever-popular Community Conversations series, **“Civic Visions & Civil Discourse.”** The series included talks from a number of esteemed presenters, including Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, and Dr. James Calvin Davis. All were asked to address the impact of “uncivil” public discourse.

Davis, a professor at Middlebury College and a Presbyterian minister, served as series keynote by teaching and preaching on Jan. 28-29. As author of *In Defense of Civility*, he stressed that the church can and should “participate - perhaps even lead - in the rejuvenation of healthier public conversation.” *In Defense of Civility* was the topic of a separate book study seminar for Wednesday nights in January and February, as well as the study focus for Crossroads toward the end of 2012.

The Sunday morning Bible study class centered around topics from *The Present Word* celebrated its 20-year anniversary this year. Marge Young prepared a detailed report recounting the rich history of the class, which was organized and originally led by Roger Ghormley.

Programming resumed in the fall after the summer slowdown with an especially timely five-week seminar series, **“Bullying: Transforming an Old Problem With New Tactics.”** The series highlight came from Dr. Susan Swearer’s keynote kickoff, “How to Develop Resilient, Bully-Free Children.” Swearer is a professor

of psychology at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an expert consultant on bullying to such esteemed organizations as the White House and Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation.

Throughout the year, **Rev. Robert Snell**, who retired at the end of 2012, led a great number of well-attended classes on a variety of topics, including “Faith Seeking Understanding,” the long-running “Matthew on Mondays,” several parts of “Faith at the Movies,” and “What is Traditional Marriage?”

### The 2012 Adult Education Ministry:

Ernie Hines (moderator)

Emily Killham

Tom Pappas

Robert Snell (staff)

Jackie Storm

Robyn Uebele

Judy White

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# 2012 MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES

## Children & Families

Rob Bennetts  
Kelly Braswell  
Betsy Guyer (staff)  
Sonia Harford (moderator)  
Emily Killham  
Pat Leach  
Carrie Lee  
Amy Neemann

## Member Care

Kay Ballard  
Ellen Davis (staff)  
Joyce Douglas  
Dorrie Gage (moderator)  
Susie Hughes  
Faye Moulton  
Teri Van Cleave

## Outreach

Sarah Baltensperger  
Ken Govaerts  
Bob Michaud  
Judy Roper  
Robert Snell (staff)  
Deb Van Dyke-Ries  
(moderator)  
Carol Walbrecht

## Small Group

Carol Bishop  
Lee Nyberg  
Matt Nyberg  
Bruce Sheffield (moderator)  
Margaret Sheffield  
Robert Snell (staff)  
Chris Stokes  
Maggie Stuckey  
Jim White

## Stewardship

Stacy Graham  
Greg Hershberger  
Susan Jackson  
Scott Nelson (moderator)  
Robert Snell (staff)  
Allen Wachter

## Administration & Planning

Carol Bishop  
Andrew McDonald (staff)  
Gwen Thorpe  
Teri Van Cleave  
Shalla Young (moderator)

## Worship, Music & Fine Arts

Boyd Bacon (staff)  
Michael Gregg (moderator)  
Steve Hughes  
Martha Kingsbury  
Bob Leavitt  
Carolyn McCall  
Bob Schoettger  
Mary Kay Schoettger  
Gwen Thorpe  
Mary Tomlinson  
Mike Tomlinson  
Allen Wachter

## YAYA

James Berringer  
Christy Dempsey  
Allysa Diehl (moderator)

Daniel McCollough

Tiffany Pfeil (staff)

Maggie Stuckey

Hans Zander

## Building & Grounds

Dale Burrage  
Stan Campbell (moderator)  
Tim Gergen  
Cheryl Rennick (staff)  
Todd Yorges



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**Budget & Finance**

Chip DeBuse

Jud Douglas

Marijane Hancock (moderator)

Scott Howerter

Cheryl Rennick (staff)

Mike Minnick

**New Member**

Carol Campbell

Chris Campbell-Eells

Ross McCown

Andrew McDonald (Staff)

Dara Peters

Tiffany Pfeil (staff)

Dan Schafer (moderator)

Allen Wachter

Donna Wyatt

**Personnel**

Matt Bergmeyer

Martha Brown

Beth Hamilton

Kent Jagers (moderator)

Andrew McDonald (staff)

Ray Stevens

*If you served on a ministry or committee in 2012 and were not recognized in these pages,  
please call the church office at 402.475.6702 so we can correct this oversight!*

## WESTMINSTER ELDERS

**CLASS OF 2012**

Matt Bergmeyer

James Berringer

Dorrie Gage

Michael Gregg

Susie Hughes

Kent Jagers

Daniel McCollough

Mary Kay Schoettger

Chris Stokes

Kelly Tollefson

Hans Zander

**CLASS OF 2013**

Dave Arunski

Stan Campbell

Allysa Diehl

Marijane Hancock

Sonia Harford

Ernie Hines

Amy Neemann

Scott Nelson

Dan Schafer

Bruce Sheffield

Nancy Stuckey

Judy White

**CLASS OF 2014**

Carol Campbell

Jud Douglas

Greg Hershberger

Gail McNair

Ray Stevens

Deb Van Dyke-Ries

Carol Walbrecht

Shalla Young

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## 2013: ADULT ED FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sundays at 9 a.m.

### Community Conversations: Changes That Transform

Westminster's **Community Conversations** series returns on Sunday mornings in January, with featured public officials who are focused on **"Changes That Transform."** These four public figures will be asked to share their visions for changes they plan to promote in order to enhance the contributions of government from local to national levels.

**Jan. 6** Lincoln City Council  
Chairman Carl Eskridge

**Jan. 13** First District U.S.  
Congressman Jeff  
Fortenberry

**Jan. 20** Lancaster County  
Commissioner Deb  
Schorr

**Jan. 27** U.S. Senator (Nebraska)  
Mike Johanns

In February, the focus will shift to private community leaders who have been motivated to rally community support for causes they support, often in the face of widely divided public opinion.

This series is for everyone who has ever asked, "How can I make a difference?"

### Westminster Bible Class

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

**Jan. 6** "Proclaiming Christ,"  
Philippians 1:15-26; led by  
**Rev. Lynn Davis**

**Jan. 13** "Jesus' Humility and  
Exaltation," Philippians  
2:5-11; **Rev. Ellen Davis**

**Jan. 20** "Gaining in Jesus Christ,"  
Philippians 3:7-11; led by  
**Bill North**

**Jan. 27** "Stand Firm," Philippians  
3:12-16; led by  
**Bud Tenney**

### Crossroads

Crossroads is an Adult Education class specifically designed for young adults. Meet in the **Library** for discussions focusing on relating the Scriptures to modern life!

Mondays at 11 a.m.

### Matthew on Mondays

Back by popular demand for a limited engagement! Join us on Mondays in the **Lounge** as we continue study of the Gospel according to Matthew. **Bob Snell** leads the hour of "listening for the word of God."

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

### Book study: *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*

Join us in the **Lounge** at **6:30 p.m.** on Wednesday evenings starting **Jan. 9** for study of J. Philip Newell's *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, led by retired Presbyterian pastor **Rev. Robert Jeambey**. This book compares early forms of spirituality with today's rising "spiritual but not religious" movement in America, as documented by Robert Putnam in his book, *American Grace*.





## Drama Camp

Monday-Friday March 11-15

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

Performances on Saturday, March 16



Walk the plank with

# Blackbeard the Pirate!

Looking for a fun, safe, affordable place for your K-8th grader to visit for spring break this year? Look no further than Westminster's 2nd annual full-week drama camp. This year's production, *Blackbeard the Pirate*, will be held in partnership with **Missoula Children's Theatre**, the nation's largest touring children's theater group. Children will enjoy theater education on characterization, music, stage movement, and more!

Register with the form below for **Walk the Plank Week**. Space is limited! Register by **Jan. 13** for the special early registration price of \$100; cost of registration between Jan. 14 and March 1 is \$125. Late registration (after March 1) will cost \$150 and depend on space available.

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

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# NEWS NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Consider joining Westminster! Be our dinner guest on **Wednesday, Feb. 6**. Come at **5:45 p.m.**, fill up your plate in **Cole Hall**, and head to the **Parlor** for dinner and dialogue with Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald and members of the New Member Ministry. On **Feb. 10 at 9 a.m.** in **Fellowship Hall A**, those interested in joining will meet with leaders of the congregation to hear more about what it's like to be a member, and will then be presented to the congregation for membership during 10:30 a.m. worship. Please RSVP to **Tiffany** or **Marge** at **402.475.6702** so we have your plate ready!

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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Circle 1**      Weds., Jan. 9; 9:30 a.m.; Lounge  
Ginny Welty; 402.464.7642
- Circle 3**      Weds., Jan. 9; 10 a.m.  
4400 S. 80th #224  
Jean Patoka; 402.488.1833
- Circle 4**      Mon., Jan. 7; 6 p.m.  
2811 Cable  
Linda Burchard; 402.477.5572
- Circle 5**      Tues., Jan. 8; 10 a.m.; Lounge  
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler;  
402.483.6533
- Circle 6**      Tues., Jan. 22; 7 p.m.; Library  
Jane Hines; 402.488.8302

**Mission Sewing** will next meet on Wednesday, **Jan. 23**, in the **Lounge**. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler at 402.483.6533 for more information.

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**Westminster Preschool: Now enrolling for 2013-2014!** Join us for an informative Open House on **Wednesday, Jan. 23**, from **6 to 7 p.m.** Visit us online at [wpslincoln.org](http://wpslincoln.org) for more information!

## WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

- Jan. 8**            6th annual "Getting to Know You Better," presented by Roger Ghormley
- Jan. 15**           Bible study, led by Rev. Ellen Davis
- Jan. 22**           "First Century Palestine, The Roman Empire and Bethlehem's Birth," presented by Rev. Dr. Jim Keyser, senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church
- Jan. 29**           Bible study, led by Rev. McDonald
- 

## WOW (Westminster on Wednesdays)

*"Put more Spirit in your week!"*

Join us on Wednesday evenings for a delicious full menu dinner! Following the meal, there are small group meetings on diverse topics, educational classes, and fellowship groups to choose from. Remember to pick up your Frequent WOWER card and get it punched each time you attend! Earn 10 punches and your next meal is free!

### WOW Dinner

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

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

- Jan. 9:**            chicken sandwiches & fries  
with rice pudding
- Jan. 16:**           macaroni & cheese with coffee cake
- Jan. 23:**           chili & baked potatoes  
with cinnamon rolls
- Jan. 30:**           baked chicken & broccoli rice  
casserole

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



## LIFETIME MINISTRY EVENTS

### Lunch Bunch: Jan. 8; 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch is switching to meeting on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. on a trial basis. Famous Dave's at 2750 Pine Lake Road has been selected as the locale for the January meeting. The welcome mat is out for visitors and additional members of all ages! Carpools are available; call Jeanne Giles at 402.484.6651 by Monday, Jan. 7 to request a ride.

### Prairie Readers: Jan. 16; 1 p.m.

Prairie Readers will meet for the first time in the new year on **Wednesday, Jan. 16**, at **1 p.m.** in the **Parlor**. This month's meeting will be a special Book Blurbs session; each member will come prepared to speak for two or three minutes about a book of his or her choosing. We will also select several books for the upcoming months at this meeting. Join us and add to your 2013 reading list!



## MUSIC NOTES

♪ There will be **no choir or bell choir rehearsals** on **Wednesday, Jan. 2**. See you on **Wednesday, Jan. 9** to kick off the new year!

♪ **Nebraska Brass** will once again grace Westminster with a performance on **Sunday, Jan. 27 at 3 p.m.** Westminster members will receive a \$2 discount off regular admission using this coupon:



**NEBRASKA BRASS & FRIENDS**

**Sunday, January 27, 2013 • 3 pm**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church • Lincoln

**\$2 OFF**  
Regular Admission

"Nebraska Brass & Friends" features percussionist Chris Varga and guitarist Peter Bouffard in an entertaining potpourri of traditional and contemporary selections.

Adults \$15 • Seniors \$12 • Students FREE

## All In The Family:

*Baptisms:* James Devin Davis IV and Jaden Davis on Dec. 9.

*Best wishes:* Peggy Remus and James Pohlman, married on Dec. 28.

*Bereavements:* Comfort for the family and friends of Eloise Agee, who died on Dec. 9; Eleanor Watts, who died on Dec. 13; Lyle Young, who died on Dec. 20; and Carolyn Brown, who died on Dec. 20.

**Calling all History Buffs!** This month's meeting will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 19**, at **9 a.m.** in the **Lounge**. We will be joined by Capt. Matt Quay, USAF Reserves, who will talk about the Tuskegee Airmen and his restored vintage airplane, The Spirit of Tuskegee. During WWII, African-American pilots who became known as the Tuskegee Airmen were trained to fly, and saved many American lives as they escorted bomber raids during the war. Matt and his wife Tina purchased and restored a damaged Stearman that had been built in 1944 and used by the original 332nd Fighter Group; they dedicated this plane to the Tuskegee Airmen to honor them. The plane will be a permanent exhibit in Washington, D.C., in the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

## FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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

Cori Amend	Carol Bishop
Jim Bishop	Marijane Hancock
Jane Grabenstein-Chandler	Tim Gergen
Irvine Linch	Jean Patoka
Roger Van Cleave	Richard Wood



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



## *Relax - Renew - Rejoice:* *Game Changers*

Saturday, January 12, 2013; 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Cynthia Milligan, "Doing Life With God"**  
keynote speech

Join us for Westminster's 3rd annual refreshing **Women's Retreat!** Women of all ages, interests, and faiths are invited to Cynthia Milligan's inspiring keynote speech, **"Doing Life With God,"** plus a dozen workshops on topics like fitness, nutrition, art, Bible study, finances, and more. Treat yourself! Treat your friends!

Space is limited, so don't wait - **register NOW!** Return this form with payment to secure your space. Early registration costs just \$20 per person, and includes breakfast, lunch, and coffee.

*Yes! I want to Relax - Renew - Register now!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

(with ZIP code) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return to: Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd.  
Lincoln, NE 68502*