



“Loving the Stranger”

We had some tremendous good news at Westminster in 2015. You will see that in detail next month in the Annual Report. We have so many things for which we give thanks to God and celebrate. Let me name one that we need to highlight.

A group of leaders from the Sudanese community came to the Westminster Session and asked to start a worship service in their native language.

Southern Sudan in Africa has experienced a prolonged time of war. The stories of what has happened to so many people is both horrifying and heartbreaking. And now, these refugees and their families are rebuilding their lives in Lincoln, Nebraska — the other side of the world. Some of their leaders want to help their friends and families transition to this new life.

The biblical background is so clear and compelling as to how to treat refugees.

Deuteronomy 10:19 You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:34 The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

These are amazing passages. They don't say, “like the stranger.” They say “love the stranger.” The image is breathtakingly different than the cultural voices around us.

It is such an honor that these leaders would see Westminster as a people of welcome and hospitality.

The Session has invited them to hold worship in their native language on Sundays at 12 noon in the Chapel. Many of their community have joined as members of Westminster as they want to be part of our church and be in partnership with us in the full life of faith.

This is a very new mission for us. Mission is now not just outside, but inside our walls and community also. I wonder what our members will do to help share the love? It will be exciting to see.

God keeps on surprising us with opportunities. In this case, it is an opportunity to show and to share the love God gives to us all.

Happy New Year to such a wonderful church community—that is Growing in Mission!

Sincerely,

Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor

SINGING CHURCH LEGACY

Westminster has been known as a “singing church” for many years. It was named that by Donald Kettring, Music Director . Westminster has always been blessed with dedicated music talents. Many of the music talents. Many of the music directors left their legacy by starting a new program and taking the existing program to a much higher level.

But Westminster’s rich music history was created by many talents among the congregation. Westminster Choir has been known for their strong leadership in worship services. Even in this busy world where “people ride a bike with cell phone in one hand and a sandwich for supper in the other hand”, Westminster has been blessed with the choir and carillon who dedicate their time and musical gifts every Wednesday and Sunday to glorify God.

Four generation of the Adamson family have been involved in the music ministry. Eleanor Adamson joined the church in 1959 and started singing in the choir after being invited by the director of the children’s choir. She has sung in the Westminster Choir and played in a Handbell Choir. Her daughters, Cathy has played handbells, Nancy Leavitt sang in the choir and has played handbells and Susan sang in a choir growing up. Their children (Jeff-children’s choirs and now involved in AV ministry, Cory-children’s choirs, handbell choir, liturgical movement, Brian-children’s choirs) and the fourth generation Kaylee and Connor (children’s choirs)



Many of members grew singing and ringing in church, but it is rather special to have all four generations still actively participating in their home church.

There were many congregation driven musical events performed inside and outside of Westminster, such as the Boar’s Head Dinner at Christmas time, Round Table Sing with young voices, performance of Amal and the Night Visitors, original musicals and more. One musical to celebrate the 75th anniversary, “Lost and Found” was organized and created by Jean Patoka. For this occasion Jean created lyrics to celebrate a wonderful life at Westminster.

Another remarkable element of the history was publishing their own hymnal supplement “Westminster Sings” in 1988. Melvin West was the director at that time. Barbara Dinsdale and Ginny Rohrbaugh were members of the committee. They spent four years to compile the hymns and introduced the hymns, many were later included in the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal. This supplement also involved some hymns which are included in the new Glory to God hymnal.

Westminster continues to sing to the glory of god. As we conclude the 110th year and give thanks for God’s abundant blessings, we pray god’s guidance to gather us to serve the Lord with joyful voices and hearts.

"Gloves for Prescott"

Thanks to the kind generosity of Westminster members, 72 pairs of gloves have been delivered to Prescott School.

We'd love to round it up to an even 100 pair (or more!), so

please keep an eye out for simple, unisex gloves to purchase and put on the tree just inside the east entrance. They will help keep hands warm at recess when students have outside time.

Questions, call Karen Hoffman 402.475.3060.



Children & Families Ministry

Each week our Kindergarten of Eden preschool friends meet in Room 210 at 10:45. They will explore stories from the Bible, learning about God's world and their place in it using the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. We believe this foundation of faith and love will shepherd them as they learn and grow.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m., K-5th grade are invited to learn through teachings involving art, music, storytelling and games. We will learn how to spread the good news and talk about what it means to be called a follower of Jesus.

In Faith Village, the K-5th grade is engaged in a rotating workshop model each Sunday beginning at 10:45 a.m. During the month of January, our kids will explore the many ways we are called to be witnesses of the good news. Reflecting on the disciples, our children will learn about sharing Jesus' story with others. They will focus on the Bible story of fishermen called to be followers revealed in the book of Mark.

We invite you to bring your children to Sunday School to grow in the light of our Creator!

Westminster on Wednesday (WOW)

Join us weekly for great food, education, music and more!

Dinner is served from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in Cole Hall. \$4/children, \$6/adults, \$17 max per family.

WOWXL (6:30) Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities and to grow in faith together.

Knit N Sit (6:30) Come knit, crochet, learn either craft, or do other projects for the church. Women, and men of all ages are welcome to attend this fluid group.

Adult Education: Biblical Ethics and Homosexual Marriage—What are the most important biblical texts for modern Christians to read in order to arrive at responsible decisions regarding the ethics of human sexual behavior? How should the Bible be used in thinking about this as an issue of faith and morality? This important topic relates to a variety of ethical issues and merits consideration of the Bible can guide us today. The lead teacher will be Dr. McDonald.

Music Rehearsals (6:30)

Westminster Carillon (Adult Handbell Choir, Sanctuary)

Cherub Choir (age 3-Kindergarten, Room 210E)

Alleluia! Amen! Choir (Grade 1-5, Room 210)

Westminster Choir (Adult Choir, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary)

January WOW Dinners

Jan 6: Baked Chicken and Rice

Jan 13: Chili and Cinnamon rolls

Jan 20: Lasagna with garlic bread

Jan 27: Chicken strips and fries

Westminster preschool open house registration!



Thursday, January 21 from 6:00-7:00

Westminster Preschool offers part-day or full-day options for children ages 3 through 6 (Preschool and Pre-K). Our registration open house is the first opportunity for families to get registered with us! We fill up quickly, but families who register this night are given first priority. Children are welcome to attend. Tell your friends and family!

Find us Online: www.wpslincoln.org

Facebook: Westminster Preschool

For more information, contact Suzanne Schneider
suzanne@westminsterlincoln.org or (402) 475-6702



GET READY FOR DRAMA CAMP

March 7-14, 2016

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Missoula Children's Theatre is returning to Westminster! Over spring break, children K-6th grade are welcome to join WPC's 5th annual Drama Camp! This year's production, *Rumplestiltskin*, is produced in partnership with Missoula Children's Theatre, the nation's largest touring children's theater group. Children will enjoy education in theatre topics such as: characterization, music, staging, movement, and more!

Register online at www.westminsterlincoln.org.



YOGA ON MONDAYS

The first time I was invited to do yoga I declined the offer saying I wasn't strong enough, I wasn't flexible, and I couldn't really balance. The great-grandma aged woman who'd extended the invitation smiled as she reminded me of two things: 1. if you can breathe, you can do yoga, and 2. we do yoga to BECOME strong, flexible, and balanced — not because we already are. I often share this story as a prelude to rattling off all the physical benefits of yoga; what sometimes comes as a surprise is when I continue by cataloging yoga's cognitive, emotional, and spiritual benefits.



Through practicing yoga I learned how to fully breathe which subsequently helped me center my thoughts and come to a deeper awareness of the present moment. Specifically, when I do yoga I attempt to let go of all my lists and just be — I attempt this again and again and again. So when I get lost in a list, I gently pull myself back to the breath. The result is contemplation and contentment in “the now” which open me up to wholly notice and fully receive the blessings I know are perpetually around and within me. In essence, I feel I can authentically connect with the Spirit — the connection is calm, sustained, healing, and quite powerful.

We often yoga as a “practice” because, as with so many thing, we can never achieve perfection. Our lives are beautiful works in progress; yoga can help us slow down to perceive and be grateful for all that beauty. Slowing down has become a perpetual practice in my life. Those who regularly do yoga often recommend taking yogic principals “off the mat and into the world”. For me, this has been yoga's greatest gift. On the mat I've practiced concentration, balance, and most of all patience as I wobble in and out of poses. This translates off the mat to a deeper awareness of the world's wonders, greater flexibility in my thoughts, words, and actions and an increased ability for kindness and patience, both for others and myself.

I invite you to join us for “Yoga for the Soul” the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. We meet in the sanctuary. All levels are welcome — remember — if you can breathe, you can do yoga. Come connect with friends, with yourself, and with The Devine.

Karla Jensen

Westminster Bible Class

January's focus is: "Four Weddings and a Funeral". All are welcome to attend this Sunday morning class at 9 am in the Parlor.

January 3:	A Bride Worth Waiting For	Genesis 29:15-30
January 10:	The Most Beautiful Bride	Song of Solomon 6:4-12
January 17:	An Unfaithful Bride	Hosea 1
January 24	A Wedding in Cana	John 2:1-12
January 31	The Death of a Friend	John 11:38-44

Foundation Birthdays

December

Carol Bishop
Cliff Bomberger
Geoff Cline
Kristen Cline
Jane Grabenstein Chandler
Marijane Hancock
John Janovy, Jr.
Barbara Jones
Scott Nelson
Teri Nelson
Brian Wallace
Megan Woita
Donna Wyatt

All in the Family

Baptisms: McKinley Cole, daughter of Katie and David Dement; Keller Koepke, daughter of Mindy Cole and Christian Lindberg..

Birth: Congratulations to Alisha and Chris Stokes on the birth of Thomas Anders, born December 22 .

Bereavement: Comfort for the family and friends of Gladys Lehenbauer who died on December 9.

Upcoming Events & Small groups



Westminster

Lunch Bunch

January 5—11:30 a.m.

Stauffer's Restaurant—5600 S 48 St

All men and women are welcome

History Buffs

Saturday, January 9

9:00 am

Come be treated to the knowledge and expertise of John Richmond, Chairman of the Music Department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He will be exposing us to choral music and composers of the past century. All are welcome to this interesting and informal presentation.

Second Sunday Lunch

January 10—11:30 a.m.

Spaghetti

\$6/Adults; \$4/Children (10 and under)

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, January 20

1 pm in Westminster's Parlor

For a list of current Small Groups, contact
Robyn at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Meets at 7 am in the Parlor.

January 5: Jodi Freeman speaking on "Five Wishes"

January 12: Joey Huffman speaking on "Military Recruiting in Lincoln"

January 19:

Bible Study

Dr. Andrew McDonald

January 26: Tessa Warner speaking on Haymarket West and the new Haymarket South

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Circle 3

Wednesday, January 6

10:00 a.m.

Linda Miller

Circle 4

Monday, January 4

7 :00 p.m.

Linda Burchard

3160 S 72 St Apt 225

Circle 5

Tuesday, January 12

10 :00 a.m.

Pat Hackley

Circle 6

Tuesday, January 26

7:00 p.m.

Jane Hines



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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CHARACTER MATTERS

**Adult Education on Sundays
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM**

What does character mean? Why is character important in our society? How do we teach character? Inspired by our recent study of New York Times' best seller The Road to Character by David Brooks, join local leaders and thinkers as we explore "character" for our 2016 Community Conversations:

- January 3 Dean Donde Plowman UNLO CBA
- January 10 Dr. Tom Osborne, Teammates
- January 17 Shawn Eichorst, NU Athletic Director
- January 24 Dr. Hank Bounds, President, University of Nebraska
- January 31 Christie Hinrichs (Tabitha CEO) and Kim Russel (Bryan Health CEO)

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN CHOIR

January 17—10:30 a.m.

Dr. William Wyman, Director

The Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir is a select 54-voice ensemble, more than half of whom are music majors. The choir is recognized throughout this country and internationally for performing excellence and regularly presents a varied repertoire rich in global diversity.



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