

Spreading God's Word at Westminster



Pictured top left, Ken Govaerts shares the good news with Vacation Bible School children including (top right) Bennett Bacon and Oslo Gegg. Above, Oasis members Bruce Haley, Mike O'Donnell, Rochelle Dahlquist, Don Dahlquist and Jon Jackson share their bluegrass music at Presbyterians in the Park.

Presbyterian Pride... Rain or Shine!



Despite the rain, Westminster members, family and friends kept high spirits during our combined Heritage Sunday and Presbyterians in the Park celebration. The day was filled with music from guest musicians and Vacation Bible School participants, worship, a delicious potluck picnic and fellowship at Antelope Park's Auld Recreation Center. Thanks to everyone who came! Pictured clockwise beginning top left, Rev. Ellen Davis and Lynn Davis fill their plates at the potluck; Dorothy Smiley reads Psalm 23 in broad Scot's tongue; and Edwin Mukusha shares his gift of music on the bagpipe.



WPC Commissioners Return from General Assembly

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15:13

On June 13-21, Westminster's Rev. Jen Strickland and Cheryl Rennick participated as commissioners in the 221st General Assembly in Detroit, Michigan. The theme was "Abound in Hope," and both Pastor Jen and Cheryl will tell you they left the conference full of hope that the PCUSA is alive and moving with the Holy Spirit, living out its mission as ordained by Jesus Christ. Listed below are a few noteworthy outcomes from their week in Detroit.

DIVESTMENT: The GA voted to affirm support of a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, to divest from 3 companies that provide equipment specifically used by the Israeli military in the occupation of Palestine (Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions), and to affirm continued investment in companies doing business of peaceful pursuit in Israel. The assembly specified that its action was "not to be constructed" as support of the global Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: The GA approved two measures to permit ministers to perform same-gender marriages in jurisdictions where legal (at present, 19 states plus the District of Columbia). Sixty-one percent voted to adjust the definition of Christian marriage, modifying the phrase "a man and a woman" to "two people, traditionally a man and a woman." To be effective, two-thirds of the presbyteries must approve the change. Both actions support freedom of conscience.

BELHAR CONFESSION: The GA approved the addition of the Belhar Confession, written in South Africa and focused on justice and reconciliation, to the PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions. A two-thirds vote in presbyteries is needed to ratify this.

GUN VIOLENCE: The GA appealed to fellow Presbyterians to reduce gun violence by advocating for stricter background checks and a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles.

FOSSIL FUELS: The GA voted not to divest from fossil fuel companies, choosing instead to explore related issues that might lead to action by a future assembly.

DRONES: The GA voted to criticize secrecy in the U.S. military's use of drones for surveillance and targeted attacks, calling for legislation governing the use of military drones.

MID COUNCILS: The GA voted to consolidate the number of synods from 16 to 10-12 reconfigured synods.

Want to learn more? Pastor Jen and Cheryl will give an Adult Ed. presentation on their experiences August 17 at 9:00 a.m. Save the date!



Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald
Senior Pastor

Reverend Jennifer Strickland
Associate Pastor

Reverend Ellen Davis
Parish Associate

Cheryl Rennick
Business Administrator

Boyd Bacon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts

Suzanne Schneider
Preschool Director

Betsy Guyer
Director of Children's Ministries

Kalee Olson
Communications Coordinator

Marge Tomlinson
Administrative Secretary

Rachel Pickard
Youth Communications Coordinator

Claire Eckstrom
High School Youth Director

Devon Nelson
Middle School Youth Director

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Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Join Westminster for a great lineup of programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first-timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. with an hour-long program beginning at 7:00 a.m.

July 1

How Many Presidents Were Presbyterian?

Rev. Ken Moore

July 8

2014 General Assembly

Rev. Jennifer Strickland and Cheryl Rennick

July 15

It's Your Foundation

Allen Moore, president, WPC Foundation

July 22

Bible Study

Rev. Andrew McDonald

July 29

Nebraska Wildlife Foundation

John Atkeison and Duane Hovorka

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

July 6

Glorify God with Your Body

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Led by Bud Tenney

July 13

Love Builds Up

1 Corinthians 8

Led by Bill North

July 20

Overcoming Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12-22

Led by Rev. Ellen Davis

July 27

Seek the Good of Others

1 Corinthians 14:13-26

Led by Bud Tenney

ADULT EDUCATION

Rachel Held Evans

Bestselling author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*

FAITH

UNRAVELED

HOW a GIRL WHO KNEW ALL the ANSWERS
LEARNED to ASK QUESTIONS



Previously titled *Evolving in Monkey Town*

Sundays 9:00 a.m. Lounge

“Rachel Held Evans is brilliant, gutsy, real, and hilarious, and *Faith Unraveled* impacted my spiritual journey in ways I never imagined. I can't remember a book that I enjoyed reading more, partly because Rachel is a great writer, and partly because she so fearlessly examines the conflict between her inherited beliefs about God and the truth of her own spiritual experience. There's a certain weight to this book that distinguishes it from other spiritual memoir books out there.” - Jim Palmer, author of *Divine Nobodies* and *Wide Open Spaces*

Join Pastor Jen the first three Sundays in July for this book study and

discussion! Books are available for \$12 from the Adult Education committee. Reading along is recommended, but not required, and a weekly reading schedule will be posted on the Garden Room TV. Join us!

genesis Sunday

Save the date for our Genesis Sunday celebration on Sunday, August 17. Genesis is a time of new beginnings and we want you to help us kick-off an exciting lineup of new programming for 2014-15! Attend worship at 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. for a preview of our Fall theme (TBA), and plenty of fun activities to follow! Stay tuned for more information as our details progress!

Upcoming Fall Activities Brochure

As members know, Westminster is a hub of activity in the Fall as we kick-off all kinds of programming from children's activities and adult education to music rehearsals and special events. Let's spread the news! Next month's August Messenger will feature our Autumn 2014 Activities Brochure. If you have any programs, events or ideas you'd like to share, email kalee@westminsterlincoln.org.

Reasons to *Give*

Called to serve? This month, we have plenty of opportunities for you to do God's work near and far.

Here: Food Pantry

The WPC Food Pantry has been helping to feed the hungry in Lincoln for more than 25 years, and currently provides food for six families each week. Although our congregation responds well during the annual food drive, donations of food items dip as we enter summer, leaving the Food Pantry's monthly bill at roughly \$1,500 each month.

The next time you buy groceries consider swapping potato chips or ice cream for some canned soup and dry goods for our Food Pantry. It's also fun to recruit family and friends to donate a shopping cart full at one time.

With our Mission Statement saying that we are "Growing in Mission," it is our hope that we will not have to reduce the number of items, or the number of families we serve each week. Sincerest thanks for your help!

There: Sleepyhead Beds

Did you know that in the city of Kansas City alone, one out of every 42 children will not be sleeping in their own beds and are likely sleeping on couches and floors? Join our youth in gathering new or gently used bedding for our mission trip to Sleepyhead Beds in Kansas City July 11-12. We can use all sizes of bedding (if you buy new—full is best) to help provide clean and comfortable places for children to sleep. Drop-off in the Garden Room anytime through July 6.



Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Looking for a mission opportunity within our congregation? Every Sunday morning there are WPC members in need of a ride to worship. Volunteer to be a driver for Over the Road! To sign-up or for more information, contact Dan King by email at dannythek@gmail.com.

Meals on Wheels

Are you driven to serve? Want to make a difference in a person's life? Have one hour to give? Tabitha Health Care is looking for individuals, couples and families that would be willing to cover a Meals on Wheels route on Sunday afternoons. The meals will be delivered to Westminster, and the individuals receiving meals live in the surrounding neighborhoods. This is a great way to volunteer as a family or with friends. If you are interested in signing up or have questions, please contact Deb Van Dyke-Ries at (402) 486-8564 or email deb.vandyke-ries@tabitha.org.



WPC member Candy Hemmer, left center, and Rev. Jen Strickland, right center, recently attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a Habitat for Humanity home.

Foundation Birthday Club

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

Dale Burrage
Steve Carveth
Lynn & Ellen Davis (anniversary)
Bob Dawson (in memory)
Lyudmila Fomina
Carol Jean Glenn
Michael Gregg
Pat Hackley
Marcia Hollestelle
Stu & Sandy Howerter
Jean Jeffrey
Ginger Nissen
Bill Roberts
Herb Schliesser
Jerry Solomon
Jane Voorhies
Orlin Webert

Presbyterian Women Circles

Save-the-date for our PW Circle Fall Kick-off on August 9 at Westminster! All circles will resume regular meeting times beginning in September.

Summer Choir Update

There will be no Summer Choir for the month of July. Summer Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, August 3, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Book Sale Is Fast Approaching!

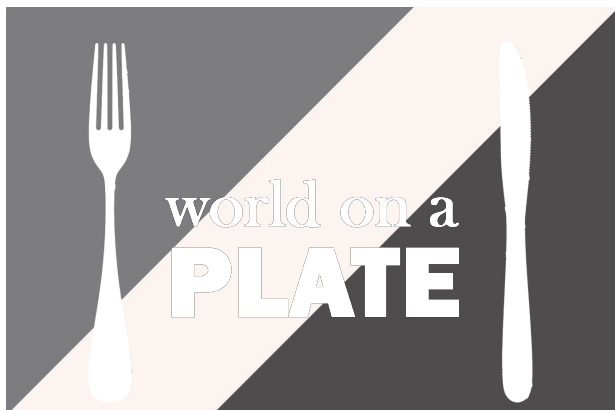
Love to read, but running out of storage space? Donate to our Annual Book Sale! We accept a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as CDs, DVDs, puzzles and games. Box up your donated items and leave them in the church Library no later than Thursday, August 14. Proceeds from the sale support the Library and items will be available for purchase beginning Genesis Sunday (August 17-24).

Lohmen Group Trip to Germany

Our trip to Lohmen's Stonebroker Festival is only three months away (September 12-19), but there is still time to check out airfare if you're interested in going. The group will enjoy fellowship and mission with members of our sister church, who are celebrating 225 years in their church building! For more information, contact Tom Pappas at (402) 484-8467.



Director of Children's Ministries Betsy Guyer recently completed a 50-mile ride as part of the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure! Thanks to all of our congregants for supporting Betsy's ride and an amazing cause!



In four months, 30-plus people in three groups (Dinnernational, Tasteful Tapas and Food for Thought) have come together to feast and learn about PCUSA ministries from Northern Ireland and China to Brazil and Russia.

Each group has prepared spectacular foreign cuisine, experiencing flavors

from savory to sweet. Examples include Irish stew and soda bread, China tea eggs and fortune cookies, as well as cheese balls and Feijoada from Brazil.

But World on a Plate is more than food, it's also about missions. Each group takes time to learn about the mission work currently going on in each country. Here's a glimpse of what's been learned so far:

- Doug and Elaine Baker provided a better understanding of what's going on in Northern Ireland.
- The Dinnernational group was honored to hear from Ken and Susan Moore on missionary work in China.
- Brazil may be deep in the World Cup this year, but there is also a renewal retreat filling the missionaries there with the Holy Spirit.
- With everything going on in Russia, it's important that we continue to support and pray for mission work there.

If you enjoy food, fellowship and missions...

Join us **Friday, July 18, from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m.** in Cole Hall for an evening in the Republic of Congo. We will be organizing new groups for the next round of dinners and hope to create four groups total. To sign-up contact Kathy Rohwedder at (402) 202-9889 or email kathrohw@yahoo.com.

What's with the BUBBLE?

As you may have noticed, our Garden Room bulletin board is covered with a giant bubble posing the statement, "I'd like to see _____ at

the blank!

What are your ideas and thoughts to enrich your life and the lives of others at Westminster? How do you envision connecting with members new and old? We are looking for your suggestions for new Small Groups, mission opportunities, book studies, adult education topics and more! Stop by the Garden Room and write down your ideas. Let's brainstorm!

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, July 1

Green Gateau (330 S 10th St.)

Lunch Bunch meets the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and conversation.

August 5: Famous Dave's

September 2: Lazlo's South

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, July 16

Judy White will facilitate discussion on "The River of Doubt," by Candice Millard. Group meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Westminster Parlor.

Tour de Friends

Thursday, July 17

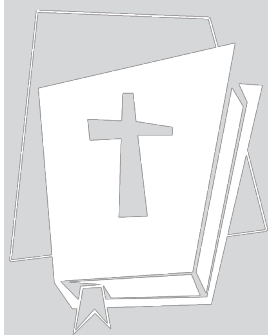
Meet at the Shopko parking lot (27th and Hwy 2). We'll bike north on Rock Island trail to the Devaney Center, then head to Longwell's in the Haymarket (350 Canopy St.) Round trip is approximately 15 miles.

Ladies' Night Out

Wednesday, July 30

Ladies are invited to bring a friend and stop by at their leisure! Join us at the Parthenon Grill (5500 S 56th St.) anytime from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. No RSVP required!





Are you
keeping up
on your
**Summer
Reading
Challenge?**

Want to share your progress? We'd love to hear how your coming along! To share your experiences exploring the Old Testament, leave a comment on our Facebook page!

2nd Sunday Lunch

Join your WPC family for a **second helping** of fellowship on July 13! All WPC friends and families are invited to enjoy a heaping plate of community and some delicious lunch too. Menu TBA. Join us!

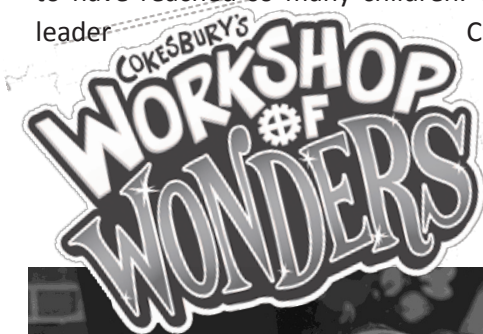
Summer Sunday School

Remember there is Summer Sunday School each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. for children ages 3 year to Pre-K in Kindergarten of Eden (Room 210) and for children grades K to 5th in Faith Village.

Kids Love Workshop of Wonders!

Special thanks to everyone who participated in and made Vacation Bible School possible! Workshop of Wonders was a huge success and we're happy to have reached so many children. We'd also like to recognize our fearless leader

Carrie Lee and her dedication to this event at VBS director! Until next year, continue growing and building with God!



Calling all Helpers for Creative Arts Camp!

This year's Creative Arts Camp is less than one month away, and **we need your help!** This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for children grades K-5 to explore their creativity under the guided expertise of area artists.

Volunteer opportunities for adults include:

- *Registration Table:* (8:30 to 9:15 a.m.) Welcome and check in children
- *Craft Room:* (8:45 to 10:00 a.m.) Help with crafts and reset room for snacks
- *Shepherds:* (8:30 a.m. to Noon) Lead children to and from activities
- *Make Snacks:* Provide daily snacks

If you're interested in volunteering or have any questions about donation items listed to the right, email masako@westminsterlincoln.org.

Donations Needed:

Recycle:

- Empty 8 oz water bottles
- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Brown grocery bags
- Coffee can lids (6 in)

From Nature:

- Short twigs (3-6 in)
- Medium twigs (approx. 12 in)

Share:

- Short pasta and beans
- Small blocks of wood (approx. 3 x 5 x 1 in. or 5 x 8 x 1 in.)
- Yarn



Please cut the portion below and return with a check to:
Westminster Presbyterian Church 2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502
You can also REGISTER ONLINE www.westminsterlincoln.org.

Yes! Sign me up for Mission Possible! July 14-18, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

____ \$45/child

____ \$100 max/family

Child's Name: _____ Grade (in fall): _____ Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone # (____) _____ Address (with ZIP code): _____

Special Needs/Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact Name/Relationship: _____

Permission to photograph for use in WPC publications and online: YES__ / NO __

OFFICE USE ONLY

Paid _____

Check# _____

Date _____

Initials _____



Upcoming Summer Events:

www.westminsterlincoln.org/youth

July 5 WPC Garden Room

Bedding Drive for Sleepy Head Beds
Mission Project in Kansas City



July 11-12
Kansas City

Sleepy Head Beds Mission Trip

July 13 WPC Kitchen

Confirmation Dishwashing for Green
Team

July 25 Prescott Park (5:30-8:30 pm)

Prescott Summer Festival

July 27 Haymarket Park (2-7 pm)

Faith & Family Night at Lincoln
Saltdogs Game

August 10 Youth Lounge (9:15 am)

Confirmation Meeting for Students
and Parents

August 15-17 Camp Calvin Crest

Confirmation Retreat

August 17 WPC (10:30 a.m.)

Genesis Sunday, Confirmation Bible
Ceremony

New High School Youth Director

Claire Eckstrom has been hired as our new High School Youth Director. Claire, a member of Westminster who grew up in the church, brings a high level of enthusiasm to creating, organizing and leading our High School programs for the 2014-15 school year. She is in her fifth year of study at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she studies Textiles Merchandising and Fashion Design. In addition to her studies, she keeps busy with community service, leadership development and university organizations.

Her energy is boundless and her faith is infectious. Welcome Claire!



Volunteers Needed for Prescott Summer Festival

Volunteers are needed to help out at this year's Prescott Summer Festival on July 25 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Prescott Park. Coordinate games and activities, set up chairs and help with other tasks as needed. A sign-up sheet will be available online and in the Garden Room. This is a fun and easy way to give back to our community!



Westminster confirmands recently volunteered at Kids Against Hunger. Pictured from left to right are Shelby Lammers, Taryn Hoham, Tyler Hoham, Liz Uebele, Thea Kerns, Liam Dempsey and confirmation leader Christy Dempsey.

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln NE 68502

God has given to each of us certain talents and gifts that are to be utilized for the glory of Jesus Christ. Please consider the gifts and talents of our church community and recommend those who you feel are qualified for these offices. You may also recommend yourself. All active members are eligible.

Please talk to one of these committee members if you have questions: Nancy Delgado, Jane Hines, Gail McNair (moderator), Marcie Ryan, Jennifer Strand, Dallas Waggoner, Dan Wherry or Dr. Andrew McDonald (ex officio).

Nominee: _____

Office: (circle any that apply)

Foundation Session Deacon Usher Nominating Committee

Name of person submitting nomination: _____

Phone number where the Nominating Committee can reach you if they have questions: _____

What qualities make this nominee eligible for the office?

It would be helpful for you to tell us what specific gifts they have. All nominees should have qualifications which include: co-operativeness, openness, maturity of judgment, willingness to learn, regular attendance at worship and ability to follow through on assignments.

Those nominees should have unique characteristics:

Foundation: (6 year term) Record of financial support of Westminster and demonstrated marketing or financial expertise.

Session: (3 year term) Willingness to chair a Session committee/ministry during their term; ability to recruit members for a committee; demonstrated leadership abilities (whether at Westminster, in business or other civic involvement) and ability to “agree to disagree” and move on after airing a minority view.

Deacon: (3 year term) Deacons are ordained to serve those who are in need in a very direct and personal way. Also need a desire to share the sense of fellowship and camaraderie among the Deacons.

Usher: (3 year term) Ushers offer a genuine sense of welcome and help to create a place and attitude of meaningful worship.

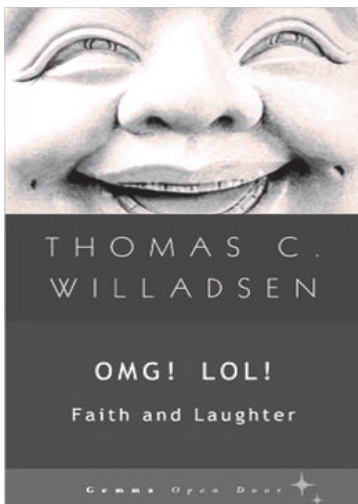
Nominating Committee: (1 year term) The mission of the Nominating Committee is to search for the future leaders of Westminster. The Nominating Committee is a committee of the congregation.



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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

“OMG! LOL! Faith and Laughter” Author at WPC July 27



Join us for worship on Sunday, July 27, for a special sermon by guest speaker Tom Willadsen, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Pastor Willadsen, the author of “OMG! LOL! Faith and Laughter,” will share his views on the topic at both our 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services, as well as Adult Education at 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Willadsen’s book is an 80-page gem that he calls “the breath mint of books; an impulse buy at the checkout.” It looks at laughter as a universal language among people of all faiths. The book offers funny stories, jokes and witty insights that he and his fellow clergy gathered while creating an open-mic Interfaith Laughter Night for the Oshkosh community, which debut in April 2011.

Pastor Willadsen is no stranger to studies in laughter. His thesis dealt with the distinction between laughter and humor, and he has written for numerous magazines and served the Oshkosh Northwestern as a community columnist since 2008. Join us to welcome him on July 27!