

The Power of the Parables



The most recent movie about Steve Jobs reminds me of a Job's quote to his biographer. He said, The most powerful words in the world are, *"Let me tell you a story."*

We live by our stories. But sometimes we get off track. We follow the plot that the culture gives us, and find ourselves a long way off the story of God's love and grace. So, Jesus gives us this powerful set of stories called the parables.

Contrast them to Aesop's fables: those ancient stories have a clear, easy moral point. All the subtlety of a hammer on the head. Not that sometimes we don't need the simple, easy and direct! But there are times when, given the pit we have fallen into, or the direction we are headed, we need a dramatic and different power to move us.

Parables start with everyday situations. Then the dramatic happens. An unprecedented act. It turns the hearer upside down. Parables do not seek to change a behavior: they want to change consciousness! They rattle your being. The cataclysm of a new perspective. The story itself changes our experience.

Classic preacher Ernest Campbell termed faith as "act of commitment by which one inserts one's self into a new story". Instead of being lost in the minor subplots which eat up our days, the parables thrust us into the new through which we experience Christ's new creation.

What is a parable?

A Parable is an old, old story that leads us to the unprecedented newness in Christ.

In them we can hear Christ say:

Change your story.

Change your mind, your heart, your perception of the world.

Be with God, then be the change.

This month, as Jen and I walk through some of Jesus' parables, we are looking for the new story Christ is giving to us.

Expectantly

Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor

RIGHT OR WRONG? ETHICS IN THE 21ST CENTUR

ADULT EDUCATION FALL SERIES

9:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL

September 8 “Ethics of Presidential Power”

John Gruhl, Professor of Political Science, UNL, teaches courses American government and politics including the presidency, the Supreme Court, constitutional law and criminal law. He is a co-author of an introductory American government textbook for college students that’s now in its 14th edition. He has won University of Nebraska campus and system-wide distinguished teaching awards and was a charter member of the University’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

September 15 “Ethics in Sports”

Dr. Osborne, head coach of the Nebraska football team for 25 years from 1973 to 1997, was one of the most successful and highly regarded coaches in college football history. He also served

September 22 “Ethics in Medicine”

J D . Wyvill is currently with the Department of Veterans Affairs and serves on the Adjunct Faculty of Bryan College of Health Sciences. Wyvill served as the director of the Nebraska Health and Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities and taught ethics courses at Kaplan University. He was also appointed to the U.S. Access Board under President Bush and served as Vice Chair of the Board. Previously, he was a legal counsel to Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

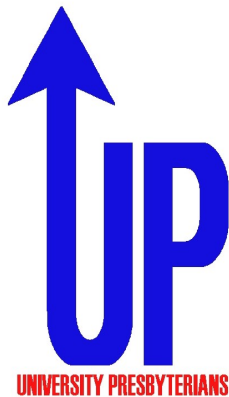
September 29 “Ethics in the Bedroom”

Dr. Thompson is a graduate of the University of Nebraska where she continues to work as a psychologist, as well as conducting a private practice

Westminster Bible Class

September 8	Genesis 1-2; 5:1-2	“God’s Image: Male and Female”	led by Ellen Davis
September 15	Genesis 3	“Knowledge of Good and Evil”	led by Arlen Beam
September 22	Genesis 6:9-9:28	“An Everlasting Covenant”	led by Bill North
September 29	Genesis 11:1-9	“God Scatters the People”	led by Steve Carveth

UP: A NEW COLLEGE MINISTRY OF WESTMINSTER



“Therefore encourage one another and build each other UP, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

College is a time for exploration, growth, learning and questioning. Westminster has witnessed the need for the presence of a faith community on UNL’s campus and is responding with the launch of University Presbyterians, known as UP. UP meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm for fellowship and devotionals with the intention of building a faith community that shares and celebrates Reformed theology and beliefs. UP also provides rides for students from campus to Sunday morning worship at Westminster through a carpool program. If you would like to get involved in this special and valuable ministry, please contact Pastor Jen at jen@westminsterlincoln.org.

WOW XL HAS NEW LEADERSHIP!

It is with great excitement that we welcome Devon Nelson to the staff of Westminster. Devon will be the new Middle School Youth Director, focusing on WOW XL (Middle School Youth Group) and other special Middle School activities. Devon is a freshman at UNL, majoring in Computer Science, having graduated from Lincoln Southwest High School in 2013. Devon and his family have been Westminster members since 2000. Devon likes to Long Board, hang out with friends, workout, play basketball and football. “I’m REALLY excited about WOW XL because I believe I can be a positive influence on the kids”. Devon has experience helping with VBS and Creative Arts Camp and the kids love his fun attitude and easy manner. Middle schoolers are encouraged to come meet Devon in Sunday School at 9:00 am and sit with him in worship. Join us on Wednesday nights for WOW XL!



THIRD ANNUAL DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Join us again this year on Saturday, October 20, from 8:00 am to noon, as we once again make a compelling witness for love of God and neighbor in this special one-day outreach opportunity.

Groups will head out to their respective volunteer sites and complete a variety of projects.

Watch the Vine for more information on how to sign up and the volunteer opportunities that will be available this year.

Contact Deb Van Dyke-Ries with questions or for more information: 402.613.3297 or deb.vandyke-ries@tabitha.org

All In The Family:

Baptisms: Carter Louis son of Kylie and Jay Fallick on July 14; and Olivia Ann, daughter of Lindsay and Jeremy Stanley on August 11.

Marriages: Best wishes to Cassandra Smith and Alexander Munger, married on July 20; Kristen Schultz and David Lorimor, married on July 27; Cindy Priester and Justin Goranson on August 17.

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of Gerald Eberly who died on July 24 and Helen Johnson who died on August 14.

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2110 Sheridan Blvd. • Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 402-475-6702 • Fax: 402-475-3148

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald.....	x 110
Associate Pastor: Reverend Jen Strickland.....	x 116
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
Preschool Director: Suzanne Schneider.....	x 103
Director of Children's Ministries: Betsy Guyer.....	x 107
Administrative Secretary: Marge Tomlinson.....	x 102
Custodians/Maintenance: Richard Gruenemeyer, Lyudmila Fomina, Ryan McClain Mehmedalija Plicanic,	

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“LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE!”

“Once Upon a Parable”

October 20, 10:30 am worship service

Singers and actors (ages 3– 5th grade) will tell the stories of Jesus in this children’s musical. Jesus taught us the stories to seek God’s kingdom. The children “Gotta Lotta Stories to Tell.” If you are interested in helping with costumes, sets, props, etc., contact Masako at 402.475.6702 or masako@westminsterlincoln.org

Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir

October 27, 10:30 am worship service

Dr. William A. Wyman will return with the 55 member touring choir. The choir has performed at regional and national conventions and has toured throughout the United States, Europe, Korea, Japan and Brazil.

Wednesday Night Music Groups

Cherub Choir

6:30-7:25 p.m.

Room 210E

Ages 3-5

Alleluia! Amen!

6:30-7:25 p.m.

Room 210

Kindergarten-5th Grade

WOW XL Choir

6:30 –7:30p.m.(during WOWXL)

Youth Room

Middle School

Youth Bells (hand bell group)

5:00 –5:45 p.m.

Sanctuary

4th - 8th Grade

Westminster Carillon (hand bell group)

6:20-7:20 p.m.

Sanctuary

High school and up

Westminster Choir (singing)

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

High school and up

Junior Strings

Sundays

3rd - 8th Grade

Youth Ensemble (arranged)

High school and up

Westminster Brass (arranged dates)

Adult

Westminster Band (To be arranged)

High school and up

INTRODUCING POPs!

Parents of Preschoolers Fellowship Group

Believing that parents are the foundation of the family and that children are the future hope of the world suddenly makes parenting seem a little daunting. Sharing our joys and concerns, our triumphs and our missteps can help us all become stronger on this parenting journey. We will rally together to feel more equipped for this amazing adventure.

POPs will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at Westminster Presbyterian Church from 9:30-11:00 a.m. On the first Wednesday, we will have a parent-tot playtime. This casual playgroup time will help children and parents get to know one another and develop friendships, and will foster social skills in small children. A variety of activity centers are available including crafts, dramatic play, blocks, reading and more. The third Wednesday, we will have a special group time for adults and quality childcare for the children. This will be a special time of conversation and support for the parents while the children are nurtured in a preschool-like environment.

POPs is specifically designed for parents of children ages birth—5 years old although parents of older children are welcome to come and join the fun. POPs embraces parents in all circumstances hoping to equip parents to become all God hopes for them to be.

For more information, please contact betsy@westminsterlincoln.org or call 402.475.6702.

FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

How do we help our children build a strong foundation for their faith? By giving them strong block to build with and helping them build on a ROCK like the wise man in the Bible. Westminster has adopted the Faith Build Blocks program for children and families. These 12 blocks begin with **baptism** and culminate in **confirmation**. Through such foundational blocks as Kindergarten Bibles, The Sacraments, The Lord's Prayer and The Ten Commandments families will grow together in faith. Throughout the program year each grade will have the opportunity to participate in a Faith Building Block experience. Most of the blocks are one session and are an interactive opportunity for children with their parents to promote strong and faithful families.

Calling All Kindergartners!

Part of the Faith Building Blocks program!

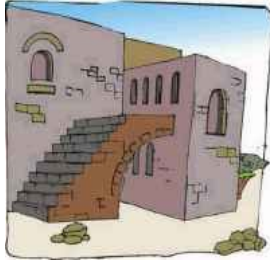
On September 22, during the 10:30 a.m. worship, Kindergartners and their parents will be asked to come forward to receive a gift of the "Read With Me Bible." Please contact Betsy if you would like a Bible for your Kindergartner. 402.475.6702 or betsy@westminsterlincoln.org

Learning to Use My Bible"

Part of the Faith Building Blocks Program!

Third Graders and a parent are invited to come to an interactive class, **Wednesday, October 16, 6:30-7:30** (You can join us for WOW dinner at 5:45-6:30). All 3rd graders who participate will receive Bibles in worship on Sunday, October 27th. RSVP to Betsy 402.475.6702 or betsy@westminsterlincoln.org.

The Good Samaritan



“You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

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

Faith Villagers begin each morning with a few songs and a chance to thank God for our blessings with an offering. Offering envelopes are available in Faith Village for kids to take home. Parents are encouraged to help their children make this a regular part of their Sunday morning routine. After large group time children are divided into age groups and head off to workshops which all center around a common theme.

Through the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to love God and other people. When we follow Jesus’ teachings we show God’s love to other people whether they live close to us or far away. During September, in Faith Village, children will explore this well known story and:

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

Welcome to WEE Believe!

Our theme for Fall 2013 is “We Belong to God.” Young children will learn about God’s love and that God loves them no matter what. Most of the Bible stories will be explored for 2 sessions. We do this so that young children have the opportunity to learn through repetition. Some stories we will cover this fall include Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Hannah and David.

Preschool Story Time (9:00)

Children will join Jennifer McCollough for a Bible story or two, an activity and lots of community building through play.

WOW XL

Youth Group on
the Wild Side!

Overnight at Henry Doorly Zoo

When: Friday-Saturday,

October 11/12, 2013

\$55/person

Money due to Marge by Sept 15

We need at least 25 people to make this trip possible!

Meet at church at 5:00 p.m. (**eat before you come**) Drive to Omaha

6:30-7:00

Meet camp out leaders

7:00-7:45

Orientation and activities

7:45-9:15

Night hike

9:15-10:00

Games and activities

10:00

Inside the Aquarium for the night

6:00 am

Wake up call

6:00-7:00

Light Breakfast, Load up gear

7:30-9:00

Morning hike

9:00

Head back to church

You have **free admission** to the Zoo for the entire day, so if you want to stay and you have an approved ride back to Lincoln, you may do that.

What to bring:

-Sleeping bag, pillow (air mattress or cot optional)

-Minimal personal gear, there are NO showers

-Bible

-Medical release form

We are looking for a few adults to drive and join us on this wildlife adventure. Please contact Betsy@westminsterlincoln.org if you are interested.



Young Westminster



Ski Granby Ranch, CO

Jan 1-4, 2014

-luxury coach with Driver

-2 full days skiing

-3 nights lodging at Silver Sage Lodge

-3 breakfasts and 3 dinners included

All you can eat buffet!

-Ski Rental and lift tickets

Lessons and snowboarding extra

-\$489 Active Westminster youth (8-12th grade) Adults \$509 Guests \$529

***\$150 non-refundable deposit due Sept. 22. ***

Balance due Nov. 10.

Check out all the details and register:

www.skidaddy.com/WestminsterPres

20 people minimum needed to make this trip possible

PRESCOTT PARTNERS

Westminster is beginning an exciting project with Prescott School in an effort to ‘grow in mission’ and to be good neighbors with the Prescott community. We will be collecting donations of new and gently used coats, tennis shoes, jeans, pants, shirts, backpacks, etc. throughout the year as well as other items. There will be a box in the office marked “Prescott”. We will also purposefully be involved at Prescott. What might that look like? If Westminster members are interested in becoming a Teammate, helping with the Backpack project, helping over 60 new families who are in the English Language Learning program, coaching an athletic team, sharing a skill such as gardening, cooking, knitting, computer, or other talent you may have well create community with our Partners. Westminster will also complete a project on the Day of Discipleship. The possibilities are many and diverse. If you are interested in becoming involved, or have an idea for this project, please contact, Maureen Hergert at mhergert752@gmail.com.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAY CLUB

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

Debbie Bennesch	Pat Martin
Ann Case Landfield	Faye Moulton
Don Chandler	Julie Olson
John Clinton	Harriet Peterson
Mary-Ann Clinton	Ramona Riley
Jo Daniels	Brookley Rivera
Barbara Dinsdale	Ginny Welty
Jeanne Giles	Dan Wherry
Freda Gregg	Grace Willnerd
Ginny Hand	Marge Wilnes
Judi Hansen	
Kevin Harford	
Gladys Lehenbauer	
Lynn & Ellen Davis—Anniversary	

PRAIRIE READERS

Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, will come to tell us about her choice picks from this year’s notable books. Pat is an informative and entertaining speaker and is a wonderful resource for Prairie Readers as we try to keep up with new books being published. All are welcome to be with us for this special program.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meets the first Tuesday of the month and offers rides to shut-ins. It’s an intergenerational small group offering Christian fellowship while dining. Members and new friends call Jeanne Giles, 402.484.6651, if you plan to attend or if you need a ride by Monday, September 30. We will meet at 11:30 on October 1 at Greenfield’s Café. 7900 S 87 St on Highway 2 east of Lincoln..

WESTMINSTER CLUB

On Tuesday, September 24, at 5:30 p.m, gather in Cole Hall for punch, fellowship and dinner. Field McDonald will present “My Semester in Germany: The Best and the Worst.” Bring your own table service and \$10 to cover the cost of dinner. Please RSVP to Marge at 402.475.6702 by Friday, September 20.

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS

With September comes our second year of History Buffs. We are a group of people interested in history who meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Every one is welcome and you don’t have to be a member of the church to attend. It is informal and fun.

On September 7, at 9:00 am we will meet in the Lounge to hear Mike Rasmussen tell us the details about “The Lincoln Assassination”.

Put Some WOW In Your Wednesdays!

WOW Dinner

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

\$3/children; \$5/adults; \$15 max per family

Sept 4	Roast pork, mashed potatoes, green beans
Sept 11	Mac n cheese w/biscuit
Sept 18:	Baked chicken, rice, broccoli
Sept 25:	Hamburger-tater tot casserole with green beans and a roll

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

Disciples Making A Difference

Discover your story with *Disciples Making a Difference!* As disciples of Christ, we can touch and influence lives using the spiritual gifts God gave us. During this Small Group study led by Bruce Sheffield, we will explore those gifts, God's call and how to work as a team.

Jesus' words to his apostles are "Follow me." If we simply do that, we can truly make a difference in today's world! Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

GET READY TO TEE OFF


Mark your calendars. The fourth annual Westminster Golf Outing will be held at Wilderness Ridge Executive Course on Sunday, October 6. Tee times start at 2:00 pm. Green fees are \$12 for walking (\$10 for seniors) or \$20 with cart. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend. Sign up in the garden room or call Ken Govaerts, 402.483,1726. Need clubs, balls, tees or free golf lessons, call Ken.

WESTMINSTER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

Sept 3	Bible study, led by Rev. Ellen Davis
Sept 10	"Opportunities", Julie Smith, Executive Director of Volunteer Partners of Nebraska—
Sept 17	Bible study, led by Rev. McDonald
Sept 24	"My Life Growing Up in Pakistan", Ms Sylvana Ouran, Asst. Director of contacts/Student Services/UNL

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 1	Weds., Sept 4; 9:30 a.m.; Lounge Ginny Welty; 402.464.7642
Circle 3	Weds., Sept 4; 10 a.m. 2808 Woodsdale Blvd Freda Gregg; 402.423.3236
 Circle 4	Will not meet this month
Circle 5	Tues., Sept 5; 10 a.m.; Parlor Jane Grabenstein-Chandler; 402.483.6533
Circle 6	Tues., Sept 24; 7 p.m.; Library Jane Hines; 402.488.8302

Mission Sewing will meet on **Wednesday, September 25 at 1 p.m.** in the **Lounge**. Contact Jane Grabenstein-Chandler at 402.483.6533 for more information.

FOOD PANTRY

September is designated as canned fruit and vegetable month. Remember the Westminster Food Pantry when you shop. It is a terrific mission.



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

JB SPORTS AND WESTMINSTER ARE PARTNERING FOR

FALL SPORTS CAMP!



October 14 and 15, 2013

9:00 - 3:00*

Two days of active fun for kids

Kindergarten-5th grade

Day One will find us exploring sports from around the world including Cricket, Football and Volleyball. Our camp introduces rules and skills through hands-on exercises, so kids begin playing and improving right away. We keep it fun, but at these ages, children appreciate a bit of competition too. The goals are to help make every student comfortable trying new sports, to give them a basic understanding of popular sports and to help them appreciate the fun and rewards of regular physical activity.

Day Two will be a series of 60 Second Challenges in which teams work together to achieve goals. Kids work through 6-8 activities, usually in teams of two. Players earn points and compete to be the day's winning team. It's a little competitive, sometimes a little silly, but each activity is actually carefully crafted to sharpen fine and gross motor skills, encourage teamwork and problem-solving. Through cheers and laughs the 60-Second Challenge has proven to be a worthwhile program kids look forward to.

We will round out each day with crafts, devotions, snacks and time for learning about nutrition.

Early registration until September 27 is \$50. Late registration \$60. All snacks, equipment and supplies are included and athletes are asked to bring their own lunch.