



Gratitude Upon the Retirement of Rev. Ellen Davis

The Rev. Ellen Davis came to Westminster over ten years ago. She was retired, Ellen and her husband, the Rev. Lynn Davis, had moved to Lincoln to join their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Vicki. Little did they know, the Lord had plans for Ellen, other than just relaxing.

Ellen agreed when I asked if she would be willing to help us with our pastoral care needs. Ever since, as our Parish Associate, she has been a wonderful blessing to the congregation. She has taken communion to those who have difficulty coming to church. She has been a friend to a great many of our members, checking in with them regularly. For many years, Ellen partnered with the Deacons in their care-giving ministries. She helped with hospital calling and funerals. She has been a reminder of God's love among the brothers and sisters in our church family.

All along the way, Ellen has brought a sense of warmth and friendliness. You hardly ever see her without a smile on her face. She is optimistic and has an easy laugh. She has been a trusted colleague who knows the complexities of working in a large church. I have been able to rely on her judgment and professionalism in challenging situations. We have so much to be thankful for in her ministry. She has been a blessing to the whole church.

Now, Ellen has alerted us, she has decided to retire at the end of May. To actually retire, as she tried over a decade ago. This time, we have to let her. But it is hard to let her go. By the way, Homestead Presbytery elected Ellen as Moderator this year, so she is going out leading the way among 50 other Presbyterian (USA) churches in Nebraska. It is a fitting honor for her.

What any Christian hopes to hear on the great judgment day is the Creator saying, in the words of Scripture: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter the joy of your master." I can so easily see that for Ellen. I know how grateful I am, and how grateful so many of our members have been for her wonderful pastoral care and leadership. She has inspired love among us.

We will recognize her in worship on May 8th. We want to say: For all you have done, Ellen, our sister in Christ, well done, servant of the Lord. We are grateful. God bless you, always.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor

Reasons to Give

Called to serve? This month, we have plenty of opportunities for you to do God's work near and far, from home or in our church, so many ways to give back.

Here: Food Pantry

The WPC Food Pantry has been feeding the hungry for more than 25 years, and currently provides food for six families each week. Our congregation responds well during the annual food drive, but the needs are greater as we enter summer.

The next time you buy groceries consider purchasing 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.

There: Faith Build

All faiths are coming together to put God's love into action by building a safe, decent, affordable home for a family. Volunteer days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Address: 331 NW 15th St. Sign up in the Garden Room on Sundays.

Special: Pathways to Compassion Hospice

Looking for a unique way to give, Pathways to Compassion Hospice is seeking caring individuals who desire to make a difference in the lives of hospice patients and their families. Volunteer opportunities include: being a friendly visitor to patients, baking cookies for the patients, and providing administrative support. If interested please contact Sarah at sarah.baltensperger@pathwayshospice.net.

There: Prescott Elementary School

Prescott would like volunteers for 1 hour time slots throughout Friday, May 6th. This years fundraiser will go towards an Outdoor MakerSpace, where kids gather to dream, create, invent, and learn. For more information contact Karen Hoffman at 402-314-1374 .

There: Gathering Place

Located at 1443 E Street, the Gathering Place, is a south-central Lincoln family support center. Westminster members help serve a hot meal on the second Friday of the month. For more information contact the church at 402-475-6702.

At Home:



Have you heard about the Westminster Prayer Chain? Or maybe you have heard about it but you do not really know just what is expected of you. How does the prayer chain work anyway?

The Westminster Prayer Chain wants you to pray in secret, on your own, however you want to pray. No phone prayers and a prayer may be just saying the person's name and "please help them, Lord." Participants receive an email message asking for prayers of care, joy, concern, etc. If you do not have email we will then call you with the information. If this sounds like something you want to become a part of contact Marge at 402-475-6702.

There:

Located at 2121 N 27th St we provide meals on a regular basis on the first Friday of even numbered

months. The crew prepares dinner on site, dishes it up, and cleans up after. The Mission and Outreach Committee at Westminster is currently seeking both a "Team Captain" to provide overall leadership to the dinner effort as well as "Team Members." If you are so led please contact the church at 402-475-6702.



There: Turning Pages

God is "making all things new" (Rev 12:5). No where is this more visible than in Turning Pages, which provides the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with inmates about their lives. While the conversations often begin with opinions about the characters, plot, and themes of our books, it is not unusual for someone to open up and share personal stories of addiction, abuse, and exploitation. We have prayed for early releases, forgiving hearts, and healing injuries. For more information Rev. Jennifer Strickland at 402-475-6702.

Why I love Being a Deacon

Kathy Karsting

Serving as a Deacon has given me the opportunity to make monthly visits to homebound elderly members of the congregation. When I visit or send a card, I usually weave into my conversations the statement, "*your church family at Westminster remembers you and is thinking of you.*" Doing so always gives me a smile because it reminds me of my very first visit-ee (a very elderly lady who had been an active member for a very long time) who gave me the tart reply, "*Well I should think so.*"

I have perfected my methods for visiting: I go on the second Sunday of the month, and having a schedule takes a lot of the guesswork and wiggle room out of the equation. I take worship folders with me. I take some sign of God's beauty in creation, usually a flower stem or two in a bud vase. Going on Sunday afternoon allows me to share some good thoughts and images directly from the worship service and being in the church. It is easy to do, and it is a blessing to make these visits, for both parties involved.

I am in my third year of serving as a Deacon, along with my husband, Doug. Being a Deacon has been a great way for me get to know other members, being something of an introvert. And particularly fun has been getting to know other members as fellow kitchen hands, ride-sharers, visitors to shut-ins, planners, and problem-solvers, all on behalf of serving the members of the congregation.

It is the caring that drew me to serving as a Deacon. Doug and I are supporters in our church activities of mission and outreach. Yet for me, it is in helping the church behave like a family: getting grandma to church, checking in on Aunt Alice, making sure there is food for the fellowship after the funeral, that we work together to create what God means for us to have when we are living in a community of faith.

Thank You, MaKayla!

The end of the school year brought joy to many, but we face a moment of sadness as well. After 6 1/2 months of service to Westminster's children, MaKayla Kort has decided to re-focus on her art & continue growing her art portfolio for graduate studies in Art Therapy. She stated it takes all hands on deck, when it comes to growing in faith here at Westminster. The dedication of individuals who are fearless in the face of change & strong in compassion, for growth to occur. The Children's & Families Ministries operate with the help of people in the congregation who have been moved in their own faith development, or those who have a passion for seeing our young explore what it means to lead a life in appreciation of our Creator. New supportive forces in these ministries help it become energized & flow. She is going to miss being a part of this team & seeing the young grow! Thank you, MaKayla, for your contribution of time, energy, tenderness, and love, and for sharing God's word with all of us.

Older Adults Sunday

May 8th at 10:30 am Service

Are you a long time member of Westminster? Are you 75 or older? We would like to honor you on Sunday, May 8th during the 10:30 am worship service. Your wisdom and experience are important to who we are as a congregation. You are, in fact, that "Great Cloud of Witness's" scripture speaks about. Please join us so we can celebrate your gifts with the whole congregation.

Music Sunday

Sunday, May 15th at 10:30 am Worship Service

Celebrating Confirmation Sunday with all musicians. Westminster Carillon, Choir, Brass, Children's Choirs and Jr. String Ensemble gather their joyful noise unto the Lord!

Hostamania set for May 8th

Hostamania is a Mother's Day tradition where plants of all types show up outside the east doors and members beautify their landscapes with new treasures. What you donate for the items goes to further the 25+ year Lohmen partnership. If you have plants to contribute, bring them, or give a call to Tom Pappas at 402-484-8467 get some help digging and potting. Hours are 9am-12pm.

To All Musicians

The children's choirs last rehearsal of this school year is on Wednesday, May 11th. Westminster Choir and Carillon will meet until Wednesday, May 18th. But praising voices never cease! Come to Summer Choir starting Sunday, May 29th (rehearsal's 9:30-10am).

Do Not Forget to Pick Up New Directory Pages from Receptionist Area

All in the Family

Marriage: Best wishes to Audrea Zurbuchan and Anthony Williams who were married on April 9th.

Baptisms: Titchang, Nyawech and Nyaboth Yein, children of Libi Both; Sara, Taslaoch and Tapetha Bilew, children of Moses Bilew and Elizabeth Chual; Ajeal Thoy and Bukjiok Chuol, children of Nyaruot Majiok; Nyarial, Nyamal, Reik, Jekgouy, Elizebath and Mat Rik, children of Nyakoang Jony and Gatluak Gach; Julia and Bhan Kaileeh, Koang, Wang and Domma Koang, children of Lual Koanggach and Nyachiew Riek; Majack Tiap, child of Wal Tiap and Nyalam Gatkuk; Kitnyang Kuon, child of Siebit Deng and Nyabuoy Chan

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of Bob Morey who died on April 12, and Rex Messersmith who died on April 15.

Foundation Birthdays

April

Jody Batten	Betty Beam
Beth Carveth	Dan Cuda
Ellen Davis	Sandy Gallentine
Gary Haller	Ken Koop
Scott Lippstreu	Loy Olson
Jon Peterson	Margot Peterson
Jerry Solomon	Chick Thorne

Give to Lincoln Day Thursday, May 26th

Give To Lincoln Day is your chance to make a real impact on Lincoln's quality of life. Every donation you make on May 26th helps your favorite charities even more because they will also receive a proportional share of our \$300,000 challenge match pool! Westminster Preschool is a participant in G2LD for the first time this year!

As a nationally accredited early childhood education program (National Association for the Education of Young Children, NAEYC) our goal is to provide as many children as possible with high quality preschool experiences. Westminster Preschool has been nationally accredited since 2004.

By donating to Westminster Preschool, you will assist children that may not otherwise be able to afford a high quality nationally accredited program. Our scholarship fund allows children opportunities to start a lifelong love of learning. Because our scholarship fund is endowed your giving continues to grow year after year. We believe the children are our future and we must invest in them!

How It Works

On May 26th, the Lincoln community will come together for 24 hours of giving from 12:00am to 11:59pm. Gifts will be made online at http://givetolincoln.razoo.com/giving_events/g2l15/home Gifts will also be accepted in person during regular business hours at the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South. If you plan on participating in this city-wide event we ask that you please consider Westminster Preschool and the children of Lincoln.




**westminster
preschool**

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 (6:40 Youth Cafe) 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: (6:30-7:30) Join us on Wednesday evenings, **May 4th** and **May 11th**, as we explore the video "Patterns of Evidence: Exodus." We will journey to Egypt and the Holy Land to discover the evidence for and against the issue of Exodus occurring. Dr. Gary Moulton will guide us on our journey.

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)

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

April WOW Dinners

May 4th: Chicken and Noodles

May 11th: Hamburger/Hot dogs and Fries

Westminster Bible Class

The Bible class on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. the lessons will close out the study title "Gift of Faith." May's classes will explore the various aspects of faith as found in a study of Luke 17-19. In June we will begin a series under the theme "Toward a New Creation." Join us and Sunday in the Parlor for energized discussion and exploration of the day's text.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Leader</u>
May 1st	Luke 17:1-10	Increased Faith	Ellen Davis
May 8th	Luke 17:11-19	Grateful Faith	Bud Tenney
May 15th	Luke 18:9-14	Humble Faith	Greg Hershberger
May 22nd	Luke 18:15-17 & Mark 10:16	Childlike Faith	Bill North
May 29th	Luke 19:1-10	Joyous Faith	Gary Haller

Adult Education on Sundays

Join us on Sunday mornings in May for a lively discussion of tough theological questions. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, a noted Old Testament scholar, an Episcopalian bishop and an Episcopalian priest gathered to address these questions prior to a conference in 2013. **May 8th and May 29th - No Adult Education classes**

Questions to be discussed are:

May 1st:	"Is there a difference between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament?" and "Was Moses real?"
May 15th:	"How are we saved?" and "What's a good life?"
May 22nd:	"What about the bad stuff?" and "What's underneath the science vs. creation debate?"

Upcoming Events & small



For more information
or a list of current
Small Groups, contact
Geoff Cline at
geoffcline@mac.com.

History Buffs

Saturday, May 14th

9:00 am

Topic: "Black and White"

Presented by: Ed Zimmer

Ed will be speaking on the photographs of John Johnson (1879 to 1953), a talented African-American photographer who gives a unique glimpse of Lincoln in the 1910-1925 period. We welcome all who have a passion for history.

Westminster Club Meeting

****Last Spring Meeting****

Tuesday, May 17th at 5:30 pm

Location: Cole Hall

Topic: Lincoln City Libraries Update

Presented by: Pat Leach

Pat will bring us up to date on what is happening with the Lincoln City Libraries. We hope to see you.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, May 3rd at 11:30 am

Location: Red Robin Restaurant (2707 Pine Lake Road)

Come for fellowship and good food. All are welcome. Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883 with any questions.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, May 18th

1 pm in Westminster's Parlor

Book: *The Rosie Project* By: Graeme Simison

Presented by: Susie Hughes

The art of love is never a science: Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially inept professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. To find out if Don is successful join us.

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Meets at 7 am in the Parlor

May 3rd Speaker: Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

May 10th Speaker: Greg Hershberger

Topic: Presbyterian Mission on the Border

May 17th Speaker: Jan Brockley

Topic: Mission to Kenya

May 24nd Speaker: Rev. Jennifer Strickland

May 31st Speaker: Brad Brown, CEO of
Christian Heritage

Topic: Mission Beyond Foster Care

Presbyterian Women

Circle Meetings

Circle 3

Wednesday, May 4th

10:00 a.m.

Stanley Rediger

Circle 4

Monday, May 2nd

7 :00 p.m.

Faye Moulton
2650 Calvert St
402-423-7608

Circle 5

Tuesday, May 10th

10 :00 a.m. in the Lounge

Pat Hackley

Circle 6

Tuesday, May 24th

7:00 p.m. in the Library

Jane Hines



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



GALAXY EXPRESS!



Memorial Day Remembrance

Join us in the Columbarium from 10-10:15am on Sunday, May 29th, for refreshments and music. Annemarie Schubert will be our violinist during this time of commemoration.



CALLING ALL SURFERS & ASTRONAUTS!

Be sure to sign up for Vacation Bible School: Surf Shack & Creative Arts Camp: Galaxy Express

VBS: June 20-24th - Encounter God's powerful water stories and explore how God sends us out to join the wave.
(VBS only: \$30 early registration; \$35 after May 15th)

CAC: July 11-15th - Discover God's marvelous works and learn how we use our creative gifts in Crafts, Arts, Music/Drama, and Movements. (CAC only: \$40 early registration; \$45 after June 18th)

Register online at www.westminsterlincoln.org

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Masako Bacon at Masako@westminsterlincoln.org or MaKayla Kort at MaKayla@westminsterlincoln.org.

Discounted Combined Cost:

\$65/child, \$130 for 2 children, \$180/family (3+ children) if paid by May 14th.

Cost Starting May 15th: \$70/child, \$140 for 2 children, \$190/family (3+ children).

**Please note that there is an added \$2 processing fee for credit cards.*

***Children must be at least in Kindergarten this Fall to register for the Combined camps.*