



2016 Westminster Annual Report



SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



The first thing Presbyterians do in worship is praise God. Sunday mornings, weddings, funerals – always, first we praise God for the gift of life and for watching over us. So I want to praise God for the gift of Westminster, and the wonderful gifts given to us this past year. Next I want to thank the congregation for its faithfulness in moving Christ's church forward in this past year.

To the Session, in the midst of all their work, we need to thank them for taking the time to thoughtfully ask, "What comes next?" Through a series of fruitful discussions, we will see some new directions and some re-energized priorities in 2017.

Generous members of the church have begun to increase the Westminster Foundation. With over \$600,000 in additional gifts and pledges, the Foundation stands at over \$3,000,000. In turn, the Foundation supported the church with over \$80,000. which enhances our ministries in a multitude of ways.

In addition, when the furnace broke in the administration building, the Foundation paid the bulk of that cost – \$160,000. We did not have an emergency financial campaign because the church had prepared in advance through the Westminster Foundation. We are grateful for people who have given to the Foundation by putting it in their estate plans. We hope other people will put the Westminster Foundation in their will and estate plans to take care of future generations, as those who came before us have taken care of us.

It is wonderful to see all the love generated by Member Care and by the Deacons. Westminster has so many friends who may not be able to get out to church often. But Member Care and the Deacons do their best to make sure our love is passed on and shared.

The New Member Ministry helps to reach out to people who are looking for a new church home. They helped to welcome in 44 new members into our church family in 2016. We are blessed to have all these new friends!

Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me food, ...thirsty, and yet gave me drink..." (Matt. 25). We are blessed to have the love and resources to share with those in need, and grateful to the Mission and Outreach Committee for leading us in this effort.

This report just touches a few highlights of all that has been accomplished in the past year. For every act of faith, hope and love, we are grateful. Together, we are the church, sharing in the good news of Jesus Christ. Together, we say, "Thanks be to God."

In great gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Andrew L. McDonald

Senior Pastor

ADULT EDUCATION



The Adult Education Ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church seeks to foster the spiritual growth of our members. This goal is accomplished through three venues. The first venue is the Westminster Bible Class, which is directed by Rev. Ellen Davis. This class meets on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible, using *The Present Word* as its curriculum.

The second venue is comprised of the Adult Education lecture series. These classes are held on Sunday mornings and cover a wide range of topics. The 2016 programming began with a series on character matters with guest speakers Donde Plowman, Hank Bounds, Shawn Eichorst, Tom

Osborne, Kim Russel, and Christie Hinrichs. Other topics for the year included same-sex marriage, Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, water issues, tough theological questions, the Inquisition, the faith of our presidents and presidential candidates, the early church, emotions and the Bible, human trafficking, and images of Christmas. The 2017 programming will begin with "The Influencers", a series focusing on those who are shaping our community. Featured speakers include Sen. Kathy Campbell, Dr. Steve Joel, Pastor Tom Barber, and Pat Leach.

The third venue consists of classes held on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with WOW. Highlights of the 2016 WOW programming were classes led by Dr. McDonald on Biblical ethics and same-sex marriage and a Bible study on the Gospel of John. Other classes included a book study of Borg and Crossan's *The Last Week*, documentaries on water issues and evidence for the Exodus, and a series on storytelling. The 2017 WOW programming will begin with classes on Gallup's Strengthfinders.

In closing, the Adult Education Ministry would like to express sincere gratitude to the ministers, staff, and members who have shared their time and talents with us this past year. It has been a joy to work with you. We look forward to 2017 and are grateful for the guidance of Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Larson, moderator

Committee Members:

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn
Ernie Hines, vice-moderator
Tom Pappas
Sandi Larson
Adam Luedtke
Marijane Hancock
Dale Minter



ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING

The A&P Committee's focus this year was on assessing the members of the Westminster congregation on a variety of church related themes. The survey process was led by Emily Killham and her firm, Evolve Performance Group. We are sincerely grateful to Emily and Evolve Performance Group for donating their time and efforts to this important endeavor.

The survey process started in the Spring and involved three main audiences: the congregation, session/deacons, and staff. Once the responses were compiled by Evolve Performance Group, the results were presented to session by Emily. Session subsequently devoted two additional monthly meetings to the survey results with thoughtful and constructive discussions. Moving in parallel to this process was a research project led by Alan Wachter and a vision task force subcommittee of session to measure Westminster against similar sized congregations using a host of metrics including membership trends, annual giving, and volunteer organization. The survey results and baseline metrics will now be used in developing the short-term and long-term planning processes.

At the December session meeting, a motion was approved to hire Emily as a consultant in 2017 to work with Dr. McDonald, the A&P Committee and session to develop the strategies, with this baseline data in mind, to grow Westminster.

Lastly, the A&P Committee has started the process to review the organizational structure of session including the committees and their respective procedures. It has been over fifteen years since many of these procedures were approved and now is the time to update the church's volunteer infrastructure to reflect our current membership levels and vision. By revising these procedures, Westminster will be in a much better organizational position to focus on committee goals in the coming year.

Submitted by Dan Hoffman, Moderator

Committee Members:

Dan Hoffman, Moderator

Marybell Avery

Emily Killham

Dr. Andrew McDonald

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Spring 2016

Crane removing old heating and air conditioning system



In 2016, The Building and Grounds committee completed:

- Heating and air conditioning system replacement. All of the installation and inspections are now complete.
- The Lincoln Library replaced its parking lot which included portions of the lower church lot.
- Replaced one ash tree. There are a total of 9 that need replacing.
- Prepared a room to room long range plan.
- Processed an insurance claim on roof from May hail storm.
- Temporary patch repairs to the parking lot.
- Thank you to Jon Jackson for his faithfulness in designing and engineering our new HVAC system.

Future projects the committee are working on:

- Changing paint colors and carpet color to the same throughout the church.
- Permanent repairs to the parking lot.
- Replacing the remaining eight ash trees and adding a portable coffee stand.



Building and Grounds Committee Members:

Dale Burrage, Moderator
Jeremy Gegg
Cheryl Rennick, Staff
Jana Voracek

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

The Children & Families Ministry had a very busy 2016!

The Missoula Children's Theatre returned in March for our Spring Break Drama Camp featuring "Rumpelstiltskin" with students K-8th grade putting on a complete production following a week full of rehearsals, fun and new friends. Drama Camp is a community service project that provides a safe & fun environment for kids over the school break.

Our "Eggstravaganza" continues to be a huge draw in the community, including crafts, music and the Easter story, followed by the ever-popular Easter egg hunt.



June's Vacation Bible School brought 67 children to our "Surf Shack" to catch the wave of God's amazing love. Throughout the week, the children collected \$364.58 through their offerings that was sent to Water for Life to help build a well in a community which needed a source of clean water. Mission giving such as this helps the children grow in their understanding of showing God's love through service to others.



In July, we welcomed our new Director of Children's Ministries, Barbara Hipple! We are thankful for the leadership and enthusiasm she has brought to our children's program.

Genesis Sunday kicked off the school year and our Sunday School programming. By year-end, our weekly children's offering was enough to purchase two baby goats for a village, providing milk and cheese for nutrition, and eventually for breeding more goats. Our kids are amazing!

In October our parking lot was the site of our "Spooktacular" trunk-or-treat event. We had 23 trunks decorated by congregational volunteers and over 550 kids received candy. This ministry to the community provides children a safe alternative to Trick-or-Treating.

Advent season started with "C is for Christmas". CFM's contribution to this Westminster staff-coordinated event was to organize the theme activities for "A Night in Bethlehem". Families were able to wander through the Bethlehem marketplace (Faith Village) and see what life was like when Jesus was born. In the Stable, they met Mary & Joseph and heard the story of Christ's birth. They visited the Scribe's Tent, Pottery Shed, Rooftop, and other stations.

CFM would like to thank the Westminster Foundation for supporting our ministry. Because of their support, we were able to purchase new biblical computer software to allow our children to learn God's word through technology. We are also thankful for our Westminster volunteers that continually help make all of our events successful and fun for our small friends!



Committee Members: Stacy Graham, Moderator; Amy Fricke; Karen Hoffman; Barbara Hipple, DCM

MEMBER CARE

The three Ministry Goals are listed below with activities accomplished under each goal.

To Care for the Congregation:

Cook “N” Carry is administered by Dorrie Gage and assisted by 44 volunteers. The goal is to prepare and deliver meals during times of stress. During 2016, thirty-seven meals were provided. Additional cooks are always welcome.

Our Ministry provides the leadership for the Prayer Chain. When the church is notified of an illness or time of crisis and prayers are requested, the 71 members of the Prayer Chain are notified by an email. During the year, 64 individual requests for prayers were received. Volunteers also received a listing of members every week who need on-going prayers. Prayers are powerful and everyone is encouraged to join the Prayer Chain as a way to assist those who were going through difficult times.

Older Adult Sunday was held on May 8th. Approximately 75 cards were sent to members age 75 and over, inviting them to attend so we could recognize and honor them. We also coordinated an information resource table for Older Adults in the Garden Room on that Sunday.

“C” is for Christmas included sending approximately 100 Christmas cards to members who are not able to attend church. Gwen Hlava prepared the cards using a picture taken by Allen Wachter at a church service. The cards were available on two consecutive Sundays for members to sign. Our Ministry also placed third in the Chili Contest against some fierce competition.

To Encourage Participation in the Worshipping Community:

Presbyterians in the Park was held on June 26th. The Ministry organized and served fried chicken to approximately 110 individuals.

“Genesis Sunday” on August 14th included preparing a three panel board to explain our Ministry and recruit new members. We were successful in adding new volunteers to both Cook “N” Carry and the Prayer Chain. We also served cake following the 10:30 service.

Spooktacular- Member Care members each donated candy for this event.

To watch over and shepherd the Congregation, including regular oversight of Membership Rolls:

Member Care is responsible for a new Church Directory every four years with updates in-between. Pictures for a new directory will be taken the last week of March and first week of April, 2017.

Ministry Members: Joyce Douglas (Moderator), Gwen Hlava (Recorder); Ellen Davis/Jimmy Shelbourn (Staff Representative) Judy Buss, Dorrie Gage, Kathy Rohwedder and Kay Ballard

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY



New Members Spring 2016

The New Member Ministry set ambitious goals for 2016 and made progress in a number of key areas. We hosted six of the Journeying Together new member information classes and welcomed 44 new members into our church family this year. Membership stands at 1265 as of December 31st.

Our committee developed a “one sheet” new member profile that summarizes key information about members after they join; so this can be quickly distributed to all session members. This developed and implemented new reports that helped us understand the visitor counts at each worship service throughout the year. We continue to refine moni-

toring reports to hopefully help watch over the engagement of new members into the congregational life at Westminster.

The coordinated evangelism outreach to the greater community in a number of traditional ways including door hangers in the neighborhood and abroad as well as sending cards and letters to visitors in 2016. Also we began using social media more to promote Westminster in the broader Lincoln community. Campaigns ran for both Easter and Christmas Eve. Feedback has been positive, and hope to do more in the future. Our committee was grateful to see that our grant application to Homestead Presbytery was approved, allowing Westminster to continue its radio broadcast on KFOR radio on Sunday mornings; promoting Westminster and all the Presbyterian churches in the Homestead area.

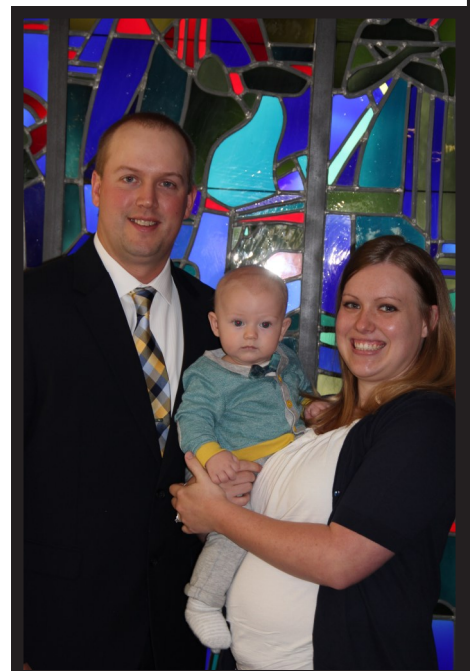
Our committee is looking ahead to implement technology more to help gather more detailed information and interest intentions from those who join. A move that we hope will make the new member classes more about learning and a little less about information gathering.

Members include: Allen Wachter (Moderator), Rob Baltensperger (Vice Moderator), and Donna Wyatt served on the committee. Pastor McDonald is our staff representative to this committee.

Be inspired by the Bible verse “*Go and make disciples of all nations*” (Matthew 28:19). I hope you will consider joining the work of our ministry in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Wachter, Moderator



New Members Fall 2016

NOMINATING

The 2016 Nominating Committee presented the following slate at the annual congregational meeting, held Sun Nov 20, 2016. The slate was unanimously elected.

ELDERS (3 year term)

Margo Gamet
Gary Haller
Brian Lammers
Doug Karsting
Jim Kinkennon
Mitch Schainost
Bill Walstad
Jim White
Jason Woita

DEACONS (3 year term)

Dorrie Gage
Kathy Karsting
Mike McLearn
Megan Woita

USHERS (3 year term)

Steve Larson
Sammi Lowrey
Tracy Sanford
Carol Shelbourn
Ray Stevens
Ron Wachter
John Paul Wirrick
Matt Wood

ELDER (1 year term)

Susie Hughes

DEACON (2 year term)

Carolyn Harp

USHERS (1 year term)

Ken Koop
Kiann Ridgeway
Carolyn Schainost
Josh Whitfield

ELDER (1 yr youth term)

Katie Whitehead

NOMINATING

COMMITTEE (1 year term)

Ken Govaerts
Barb Wright-Chollet

FOUNDATION TRUSTEES (6 year term)

Joyce Douglas
Mark Whitehead

FOUNDATION TRUSTEE (5 year term)

Marijane Hancock

2016 Nominating Committee:

Darin Anderson
Ken Govaerts
Pam Oliver
Gwen Thorpe, Moderator
Dan Wherry

MISSION & OUTREACH



Donations given to Peoples City Mission by Knit & Sit

- Continued to support the Food Pantry which supplies weekly meals for 6 families.
- Held Neighbor Helping Neighbor involving church families to help and support the following organizations: * The Bridge * Cedars Home Day Care Center * Clinic with a Heart * Center for People in Need * Friendship Home (Safe Quarters)
- Organized and assembled over 50 hygiene kits delivered to help people in natural disasters.
- Organized volunteers to provide transportation to Sudanese children to attend church and Sunday school.
- Participated in Earth Day clean up of stream in Lincoln.
- Participated with New Member class greetings and information about Outreach.



Matt Talbot Kitchen

- Supported Presbyterian missionary with funds from budget and hoping that this missionary can visit our church in 2017.
- Green @ Heart offered several events during April for children and adults with the theme of "Living Water".

- Prepared and served meals every other month at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach.
- Promoted four special offerings: * One Great Hour of Sharing * Peace & Global Witness * Christmas Joy Offering * Pentecost (provided calming baskets for Prescott school children)
- Researched and supported church member with immigration costs.
- Provided meals for Habitat for Humanity build.
- Served meals every month at Gathering Place.
- Supported Turning Pages where members read books with inmates at Lancaster County Jail.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee welcomed new staff in 2016. Westminster hired Kim Effle as our Communications Coordinator and front desk staff. Barbara Hipple joined our staff as our Director of Children and Family Ministries. We also hired a new Parrish Associate, Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shellbourn, who began his duties in September of this past year. All three fill important needs in our church and have been welcomed by staff and members of the congregation. Westminster is blessed by the talent and experience each bring to his or her position.

Personnel Committee continues to review policies for the Westminster Employee Handbook and will update the policies as needed. We have also been partnering with Evolve Performance Group to implement recommendations from a staff survey conducted this past year. That important work will continue into 2017.

Many thanks go to the members of the Personnel Committee for the time and effort spent on these important issues in 2016. Personnel Committee Members: Robert Rediger, Nancy Dawson-Delgado (Secretary), Gail McNair, Kathryn Govaerts, and Dr. Andrew McDonald, Head of Staff.

Many thanks also go to the Search Committee for the Director of Children and Family Ministries for the important work on that search: Rob Baltensperger, Rob Bennetts, Geoff Cline, Sonia Harford, Karen Hoffman, and Dr. Andrew McDonald.

Erika Schafer, Moderator

CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS:

Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn, Parish Associate

Cheryl Rennick, Business Administrator

Boyd Bacon, Director of Fine Arts

Dr. Masako Bacon, Associate Director of Fine Arts

Barbara Hipple, Director of Children & Families

Suzanne Schneider, Preschool Director

Preschool Teachers: Rachel Hinze, Meslissa Killingsworth, Christy Brugh, Ashley Drysdale, Allie Heins, Jen Burkey and Kiera Bengston

Devon Nelson, High School Youth Director

Andrew Finkner, Middle School Director

Tracy Murray, Communications Coordinator

Marge Tomlinson, Administrative Secretary

Custodians/Maintenance: Richard Gruenemeyer, Lyudmila Fomina, Ryan McClain and Mehmedalija Plicanic

SMALL GROUP

World on a Plate 2016



Small Groups provide an excellent environment to deepen friendships, develop new relationships and grow in faith in our church community. A “small group” can be defined as any group of 3 or more people who have a specific interest or focus. Individual groups set their own agenda and schedule, and may invite friends and other members with similar interests to join. While some of our groups have been gathering for years, others will meet for a shorter period of time. Groups can choose to meet weekly or monthly; some meet just a few times per year.

The Small Group Committee serves as a resource to connect members of the Westminster church family by providing guidance and useful tools. In fulfilling our mission, the committee fosters community, growth and service.

In the past year, our efforts were reflected in a variety of groups:

Bible and Book Study Groups- Small groups that focus on study and discussion continued to meet this past year in a variety of settings and dynamics. The Small Group Committee coordinates many small groups in the church-wide Lenten study each year. Presbyterian Women of Westminster Circles engage in monthly Bible study, mission, prayer and nurturing of one another. Parrish Associate Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn started a new men’s group this year called *Sausage, Eggs and Scripture*. It meets on Saturday mornings for breakfast and a dynamic Bible study – most recently on the letter to the Ephesians.

Friendship and Fellowship Groups- *World on a Plate* members continued to explore international cuisine and Presbyterian Church (USA) missions every month in homes and at church. While deepening international awareness over homemade cuisine, a Bread Basket mission was collected every month to support PCUSA missions. Book lovers continue to gather for *Prairie Readers’* monthly book discussion group. Many other fellowship groups continued to meet, including *Lunch Bunch*, *History Buffs*, *Westminster Club*, *Faith & Cancer*, *Ladies Night Out* and *Barky Parkey* dog group.

Mission and Discipleship- Many of our Small Groups incorporate mission as an element or even the main focus of their existence. “I was in prison and you came to me.” (Matthew 25:36). *Turning Pages* is a small group that meets with inmates at the County Jail on Monday nights for “book club”. *Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach* small group and *Green @ Heart* were just a few of the groups that reached out in mission this past year.

Sports and Recreation Groups- With an active congregation, sports and recreation groups continue to grow. As an example, the *Tour de Friends* cycling group explored a variety of Lincoln bike trails while getting to know one another better and enjoyed God’s creation.

More information on small group opportunities can be found on the Westminster church website at westminsterlincoln.org under *Connect*.

Committee Members-Geoff Cline, Moderator, Rob Otte, Chirs Stokes and Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

DEACONS

Being a Deacon is a unique role. Alongside of Member Care, the Deacons are the “Love Committee.” We spent time in 2016 talking about how we can better share in Christ’s love.

Visiting our members with special needs is part of the love the Deacons share. The Deacons helped watch over 42 special friends. Time and again, our experience is that we get more than we receive when we visit these wonderful members.

The Deacons hosted 9 Receptions for Family and Friends of those who passed away in 2016. There were 1,245 people who were served. In these times of loss and sadness, it is a special privilege to help families spend some special time with family and friends.

Share-A-Ride offers transportation to those who wish to continue coming to church. The Deacons who are able to drive are glad to help in this way. However, we have a challenge in that there are more requests for rides than the Deacons have drivers. We need to ask other members of the congregation if they would be willing to drive even one day a month, to help us with this important ministry.

Dr. McDonald spent four months with the Deacons talking about the future. The Deacons ended up with a list of possibilities for answering our call more effectively. and having more focus on the core activities of the Deacons. We deleted some work that we felt took more energy than it gave, and have begun focusing on core activities that are central to the life of the Westminster Deacons.

2017 will begin with a retreat on Feb. 11, facilitated by Kathy Karsting and Ron Coniglio.

Thank you to all the Deacons who served in 2016:

Class of 2016

Josie Ford
Pat Hackley
Margo Gamet
C J Jurgens
Doug Karsting
Kathy Karsting
Dan King
Pam Martin
Rex Martin
Jill McCarty
Janice Rohwedder
Kathy Rohwedder
Larry Wieskamp

Class of 2017

Beth Anderzhon
Kris Anderzhon
Harold Bowen
Ron Coniglio
Candy Hemmer
Shelley Kuzma
Faye Moulton
Gary Moulton
Pam Oliver
Sarah Parker
Chip Smith
Marilyn Smith

Class of 2018

Jeanne Atkinson
April Douglas
Trevan Fricke
Mary Beth Johnson
Karen McManus
Amanda Mason
Marcie Ryan
Chris Stokes

WORSHIP MUSIC & FINE ARTS



This last year has been an active one for our ministry. Following are some highlights for the year.

New hymnals were purchased and dedicated. We were able to purchase enough for both sanctuary and chapel along with sufficient spares. Thanks to the generosity of members of the congregation the purchase was fully funded.

There were several musical highlights during the year, the Mozart Requiem on Palm Sunday, Hastings Choir this fall and recently the Wesleyan Jazz Choir and a special composition by Boyd.

The Rising service is continuing and attracting a growing group of worshipers who prefer a less formal form of worship. Our Sudanese members continue to have their own service in the chapel.

For our children, the Creative Arts Camp in July was very well attended and Masako did a superb job of putting it together. This year's Christmas Pageant was also a great success.

Special services for Easter, Worship in the Park and the advent season have also been successful.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who run our audio-visual equipment from the gallery. They have to improvise when things go wrong and do an invaluable job by preparing our services for broadcasting on radio and TV. Mike and Mary Tomlinson head up the Chancel Guild ensuring the pews are in order every Sunday.

I would like to thank all the choir members, bell choir members and musicians who do so much to enhance our worship services. A special thanks to Boyd and Masako Bacon for their hard work in facilitating worship which goes above and beyond what could be expected.

Committee Members

Boyd Bacon (Staff)	Scott Colborn
David Anderson	Caroline Schainost
Diana Wild (Secretary)	Freda Gregg
Mike Tomlinson	Mary Tomlinson
Linda Burchard	Sydne Wirrick-Knox
Michael Gregg (Moderator)	



WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION

The Westminster Foundation had an outstanding year in our efforts to grow the assets of the Foundation. We reduced the General fund by \$58,829 due to giving the church \$160,000 for the new HVAC system in the Administration/Garden Room wing. We were able to increase the Endowment Fund by \$258,474.

At year end 2016 the balance of the General Funds within the Foundation were \$1,076,010. The year end balance in the Endowment Funds stood at \$1,950,921. This gives up a total Foundation balance of \$3,026,931.

Thanks to all that have supported the Foundation in the past and we hope others will feel inclined to help grow the Foundation in the future. The Foundation has helped to serve the financial needs of Westminster in many ways for many years. We look forward to doing the same for generations to come.

Thank you for your support!

Foundation Trustees:

2016

Ken Koop
Allen Moore

2017

Lillie Larsen
Jim Nissen

2018

Marilyn Maude
Bill Roper

2019

Nancy Dawson
Ross McCown

2020

John Hoppe, Jr.
Mark Whitehead

2021

Harry Seward, Jr.
Jim Smith

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Spring Youth Retreat 2016



Mission:

The Youth & Young Adults (YAYA) committee is focused on the nurture of our congregational body from the 6th grade through college. We strive to provide programming in the transitional years between childhood and adulthood, with coordination between professional and volunteer youth leaders, that will:

- Foster Christianity as a lifelong journey

- Teach the principle tenants of our Presbyterian denomination

- Encourage the youth to grow into their own understanding of faith

- Help them understand the joy of sharing their gifts through mission

- Social: Middle Schools Youth Group (6th – 8th Grade) and High School Youth Group (9th – 12th Grade)

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Understanding the need to first capture the attention of our intended audience, before we can hope to extol our further virtues, we have two primary venues:

Educational: Middle School Sunday School (6th & 7th Grade), Confirmation Class (8th & 9th Grade), and High School Sunday School (10th Grade and up)

We plan extra-curricular activities at least once a month to further build relationships between the youth, the youth and their church, and the youth and their community. Some of the activities are segregated by age and others are combined. We also try to make sure that we are providing opportunities for fellowship, service, and education in our activities.

Throughout 2016 we saw a steady increase in attendance at our youth events from 3-5 attendees at some of the events earlier in the year – to almost 20 attendees at the New Years Lock-In event. The youth seem excited with the event programming, and the committee is very optimistic about the direction of our program headed into 2017. We hope to capitalize on the excitement and continue to build involvement through our 2017 programming. We plan to host several youth from our sister church in Lohmen Germany this July – and have begun talks of developing an overseas trip for our youth in the summer of 2018.

The confirmation class curriculum continues to be developed and taught by Dr. Christine Dempsey.

2017 will mark her 7th year of service in this capacity and the positive impact on our youth has been considerable. The committee is eternally grateful for her service and commitment to our youth as they take their first steps into full membership in our congregation.

Youth leaders Devon Nelson and Andrew Finkner have been invaluable in the recent successes our youth programs and education. Their ability to connect with, communicate with, and relate to the youth is far beyond what we could hope to accomplish as through solely intellectual machinations of a committee. They are literally the “boots on the ground” that carryout the collective vision of the committee and provide the feedback that allows us to focus and improve our efforts with each new event. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the mid-2016 addition of Barbara Hipple. Barbara contributes a standardization of our educational pedagogy and a tremendous institutional-knowledge to coordinate our committee efforts with the church business office.

I am grateful for the contributions of all the committee members, the staff, the youth, the parents, and the congregation that have helped make this program a success. God bless you all for your service in 2016 and looking forward to a great 2017!

--Michael Dempsey, Moderator YAYA

2016 Committee Members:

David Chapp, Youth Elder
Christy Dempsey, Confirmation Leader
Sarah Gergen, Elder
Edison McDonald, Committee Member
Abbey Peterson, Youth Elder
Chris Whitehead, Committee Member
Barbara Hipple, Director of Children's Ministry
Devon Nelson, Senior High Youth Leader
Andrew Finkner, Middle School Youth Leader



Confirmation Kids Spring 2016

SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP

Full-time undergraduate students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Westminster's Swanson Scholarship. Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient per academic school year. Applications are available on the church website or picked up in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Deadline is March 31, 2017.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR FEBRUARY

Westminster Bible Class

Bible study is a perfect way to begin 2017. Westminster Bible Class is an open class, drop in as you wish or stay for the whole year. During the month of Feb we will study Galatians. Lessons from the Galatians will focus on the Birthing of a New Community. Please join the group meeting in the parlor at 9 am each Sunday.

Unit 3 (FEB) The Birthing of a New Community

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME	LEADER
Feb 5th	Galatians 3:26-4:7	Re-Created to Live in Harmony	Bud Tenney
Feb 12th	Galatians 4	New Birth Brings Freedom	Bud Tenney
Feb 19th	Galatians 5:1-17	Freedom in Christ	Gary Haller
Feb 26th	Galatians 5:18-6:10	Christ Creates Holy Living	Bill North

. . . And Justice for All (?)

Compelling Stories of Native Americans' Journey toward Justice

Join us in February as we explore issues of Native American rights, religious freedom, and intercultural understanding. We will discuss issues of justice, freedom and peacemaking.

February 5– “Understanding Native American Spirituality”
presented by Dr. Andrew McDonald.

February 12 – “Legal Issues Underlying Little Bighorn”
presented by Charles Wright, author of *Law at Little Bighorn*.

February 19 – "*Current Challenges Facing Nebraska's Native Americans*"
presented by Judi gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the Nebraska
Commission on Indian Affairs.

February 26 – “The Story behind *Sitting Bull's Last Waltz*”
presented by playwright John Templin Schliesser.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY FOR FEBRUARY

Faith Village on Sundays

9:00 and 10:45 am

In February, Faith Village Children will have the opportunity to explore The Great Commission through several workshops and a Mission Fair! This unit includes special guests that your children won't want to miss. Jesus told his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them on the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age."
-Matthew 28:18-20.

Faith Village children have chosen a new offering project for this Spring. Offerings that they share will go to purchase chickens and kitchen kits to support those elsewhere in the world who need a steady source of nutrition or who are disaster survivors.

KINDERGARTEN OF EDEN at 10:45 am. Preschoolers experience God's love through play and learning about Jesus' life in interactive ways throughout February. The lessons include the following stories: the parable of the Sower, with a goal of learning to offer small gifts of faith trusting that God will make them powerful; Jesus feeds the multitude, helping the children name our gifts of service as gifts to God; Jesus walking on water, helping children to trust in Jesus when they are afraid; and listening to Jesus, so that the children might consider what it means to listen and to shine with Jesus' light. Let your child Grow in Grace and Gratitude! **GOOD NEWS!!** The same weekly Bible stories that your child hears in class, and activities to do at home, can be downloaded as an e-book –free!—for iBooks and Kindle at www.growinggracegratitude.org.

GET READY FOR DRAMA CAMP



Missoula Children's Theatre is returning to Westminster! Over spring break, children K-6th grade are welcome to join WPC's 6th annual Drama Camp! This year's production, *Gulliver's Travels*, 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.

Youth helpers needed!

Contact Barbara: 402-475-6702

or email barbara@westminsterlincoln.org

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY FOR FEBRUARY

FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 pm. The Lord's Prayer: A Faith Building Block experience for 5th Graders and a parent. Explore the Lord's Prayer—the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. This interactive workshop will open the way to deeper understanding of the words we say together as The Lord's Prayer. Contact Barbara at 402-475-6702 if you would like to participate.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT:

Pizza, Popcorn & Pajamas!

Friday, February 24, 6-8:30 pm.

Put on your favorite PJs and bring your family, pillows, a blanket, and your favorite movie snack to join your WPC friends for pizza and a movie. Popcorn and a beverage provided.

See the new animated, family-oriented movie, **“Storks”**.

Cost (to cover food): \$4/person or max. \$10/family.

RSVP by Wed. Feb 22

(or we won't know how many pizzas to order!)

—sign up in the Garden Room or call 402-475-6702

or email barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

VBS HERO CENTRAL: Discover Your Strength in God

All children longing to be superhero's are invited to soar at Westminster's VBS Hero Central, **June 19 – 23!**

This superhero adventure experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission hero work, delicious snacks, great games, and more!

Hope to see you there for some SUPER fun, Heroes! “Do good! Seek peace and go after it!” —Psalm 34:14b. (Registration opens this month at

www.westminsterlincoln.org.)

Adult and youth Heroes are invited to train the young superheroes in use of their powers. Hero Central has a need for YOUR super power, whatever it may be. We can help you discover your strength in God, too! Team building begins now—plan to participate in this church-wide ministry by contacting: Barbara Hipple, barbara@westminsterlincoln.org, 402-475-6702.



CONGREGATION NEWS & WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY (WOW)

Join us weekly for great food, education, music and more!
Dinner is served from 5:45 to 6:30 pm in Cole Hall.
\$4/children, \$6/adults, \$17 max per family.

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

The Gospel of John Continues . . .

The Gospel of John is one of the most vivid and dramatic books of the Bible. Join us as we continue our exploration of this gospel. **Come view the powerful movie *The Gospel of John* in the Westminster Theater on Wednesdays, February 8, 15 and 22 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.**

This film will bring to life the stories that we learned about last fall under the direction of Pastor McDonald. Starring Henry Ian Cusick as Jesus and narrated by Christopher Plummer, this movie re-creates the tumultuous time in which Jesus lived. Popcorn and M & M's will be provided for your enjoyment! **All are welcome!!!**

Music Rehearsals

(6:20) Westminster Carillon, Adult Handbell Choir,
Meet in the Sanctuary
(6:30) Cherub Choir, Age 3-Kindergarten, Room 210E
(6:30) Alleluia! Amen! Choir, Grade 1-5, Room 210
(7:30) Westminster Choir (Adult Choir, Sanctuary)

Foundation Birthdays

January 2017

*Thank you for your support of the
Westminster Foundation.*

Happy Birthday!

Dave Arunski	Arlen Beam
June Blatt	Clifford Bomberger
Judy Buss	Stan Campbell
Cliff Hollestelle	Ernie Hines
Barbara Jones	Willie Shafer
Stan Wentz	Chris Whitehead
Bruce Wood	Donna Wyatt

WOW DINNER MENU'S

Feb 1st- Spaghetti

Feb 8th- Grilled cheese, French Fries, Soup

Feb 15th- Pork Loin, Mashed potatoes, gravy

Feb 22nd - Mac n cheese w/ham slices

All in the Family

Birth: Congratulations on the birth of Graham Llewellyn, born January 16, to Julia and Boomer Peterson; grandparents Sally and Bob Peterson

Baptism: Whitley Alan, son of Traci and Erik Nore on January 8.

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of Sally Roper who died on December 22; Lois Williams who died on December 31; and for Susan Powers-Alexander who died on January 6. Marjorie Walker who died on January 26.

A warm welcome to our NEW Communications Coordinator



The Personnel Committee welcomed Tracy Murray in January. Tracy is an avid cyclist, photographer, and a Nebraska Master Naturalist. She enjoys spending lots of time in nature, hiking, kayaking and traveling. Tracy is very gracious and happy to join us. She is looking forward to meeting you soon.

SMALL GROUPS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Turning Pages

Westminster members meet with inmates at the County Jail on Monday nights for a 4 week time period once every 3 months for "book club". The next session begins on March 6th and the group will be reading Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline.

You do not need to attend every week. A brief 1 hour training session with jail programming staff and background check is required before volunteering in the facility at SW 40th & O Streets. *"I was in prison and you came to me."* (Matthew 25:36).

For more information contact Deb Schorr at 402-421-1102.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tues, **Feb 7th** at 11:30 am at the Parthenon Restaurant (5500 South 56th Street)
Come for fellowship and good food. All are welcome. Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883 with any questions.

History Buffs

"Lincoln, from Structures to Parking Lots" by Jim McKee

Sat, **Feb 11th** at 9:00am
This is a before and after look at the Victorian mansions, hotels and Lincoln buildings that have been sacrificed to become parking lots in the past century.

Please come and enjoy the presentation by Jim McKee, one of Lincoln's prominent historians.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, **Feb 15th** at 1:00 pm in the Westminster Parlor. All are welcome!

Book: *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson

Facilitator: Diana Wild

Sausage, Eggs and Scripture

Sat, Feb 18th at 7:30am
Perkins 121 N 48th Street

Join the men that meet with Rev. Shelbourn for a dynamic Bible study on the letter to the Ephesians. For more information contact Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

Ladies Night Out (LNO)

Mon, Feb 20th from 5-7pm
Billy's Restaurant- 1301 H Street
Appetizers \$10 per person + tip and tax. Invite your friends for a fun evening of getting to know WPC ladies over appetizers and drinks. All ladies are welcome! No RSVP required- drop-in at your leisure and invite a friend.
Questions Contact Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Presbyterian Women's Circles are the small groups based on study, friendship, and action. All Westminster women are invited to visit any of the following circles:

Circle 3

Wed, **Feb 1st** at 10:00 am
Jo Daniels 402-423-1026
3500 Faulkner Dr Apt A111

Circle 4

Mon, **Feb 6th** at 7:00 pm
Faye Moulton 402-423-7608
2650 Calvert Street

Circle 5

Tue, **Feb 14th** at 10:00 am
Westminster Lounge
Pat Hackley 402-423-2909

Circle 6

Tue, **Feb 28th** at 7:00 pm
Jane Hines 402-488-8302

SMALL GROUPS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Organ Recital -- Monica Czausz

Sunday, February 19th at 3:00pm

Westminster Sanctuary

As a “Rising Star,” Czausz has appeared in many prestigious venues. Her program will include J.S. Bach, Dupre, and masters composers of the 20th century.

“Still a student at Rice University, and organist of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, Monica Czausz is already causing a stir in organ circles.” - Scott Cantrell, Dallas Morning News, October 23, 2016

“This young lady just blew us all away. Beginning with a grand orchestral transcription (Dvořák’s Carnival Overture), Miss Czausz conveyed skill, confidence, color, melody, and energy, and captured the audience with the very first notes. And, it was all uphill from there! “- William Czelusniak, The Tracker, Spring 2016.



Single tickets are available at the door:

Regular Admission \$20

Senior \$15

Youth 18 & under—FREE!

Students with current student ID—FREE

Spring Stated Meeting—February 19

The annual Spring Stated Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, at the close of the 10:30 a.m. worship. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2016 annual reports, the presentation of the 2017 budget and the approval of the pastor’s compensation for 2017. Plan to join us.



♦
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Lincoln, NE 68502
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