



WESTMINSTER ANNUAL REPORT 2017





SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

What's new?



Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

2017 Saw Progress in a Number of Areas

The Session, Pastor and our consultant, Emily Killham, worked on the first phase of a long range plan. This plan is an on-going process, but it was helpful to identify a number of initiatives, including a renewed focus on mission. Funding came from the support of the Westminster Foundation.

Our Website is the front door for visitors. People find out about Westminster through www.westminsterlincoln.org. The Session made this one of the priorities, and the final steps are being put in place. Please, take a look. It shows what an exciting church Westminster is.

E-giving is in place. Anyone who would like to give through their computer, text or through our Westminster app, is able to pay electronically. This is in addition to credit card and automatic payments. It has made a big difference in freeing up Preschool staff from financial work. Thanks for Cheryl Rennick for the extra effort to put this in place.

Our new Music Directors, John and Laura Ross, were hired this year. After an international search process, the committee was unanimous that our top candidates were a married couple who live just six blocks from the church! They follow a long, distinguished list of musicians – and they are keeping the tradition while bringing a new fresh energy to Westminster's worship.

In that regard, the Children's choir is now singing once a month, and they are working toward a new beginning for the Westminster Brass. Thanks again to the Search Committee!

The Westminster Foundation has hit a new high. Its assets are almost double compared to a decade ago. Our last campaign for the Foundation came at just the right time for our sails to catch the breeze of the current stock market increase. And we have had outstanding management from Loy and Matt Olson. The income from these funds provide about 1/10 of the church's extra-budget needs, as well as special projects. We can do far more because of the Westminster Foundation. The Foundation has hired a consultant for 2018 to help us keep growing in the coming years. There will be a separate report to the congregation about this soon.

The Deacons spent time re-visioning and reorganizing their role. We have a new system in place for watching over those under the Deacon's care, and a good system in place to bring home communion. Thank you to the Deacons for all of your love and care.



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Life Groups did a large multi-group study written by the Senior Pastor. The Men's Breakfast was reignited at a new time and place, under the name Sausage, Eggs and Scripture. The number of groups continues to expand, with three new groups in process as of the writing of this report.

A new roof was put on the Administrative wing. Financially, we had to wait until this was at a "must do now" stage. You can't see much from the outside. But the inside no longer has waste baskets in staff offices underneath the drips during rain storms. This was paid for by both the regular budget and the Westminster Foundation. It is a reminder that the Westminster endowment for buildings and grounds needs to keep growing.

Another quiet move forward is the new phone system. We finally had to give up the old system when the phone company would not service it anymore. This was an expensive item, we were able to significantly expand the number of phones for emergency situations near the sanctuary and children's areas. The building is safer and better served with the new system.



A new electronic door was installed by the handicap entrance on South Street. A broadly inclusive church got a little more accessible. This came through anonymous gifts – thank you!

A plan to revitalize the lounge was drawn up and funding was begun. Look for great things to happen to that space in early 2018.

The Westminster Preschool can credibly make the claim as being the best in the state. We are the only Preschool to earn Level 5 in the Step-Up-to-Quality rating. We had TV and newspaper coverage about this. Congratulations to the Preschool and to Westminster!

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry, after helping to Welcome our friends from Lohmen, Germany, have started to organize a trip for our youth to Lohmen in 2018. It is exciting to see this long term relationship pass on to a new generation.



Our friends from Lohmen, Germany. Bicycle ride from the church out to Pioneers Park for ice cream.



SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

We identified two new mission projects. We set a goal of building 10 wells in drought-ridden South Sudan. Also we set a goal, inspired by two of our Sudanese members, of sending a truckload of clothing to a refugee camp. As we continue to support the Sudanese worship service, we are inspired by ideas from some of our newest members.

We as a congregation were able to give partial scholarship assistance to Christy Dempsey for her seminary studies. Christy is the 20th Seminarian in Westminster's long history of inspiring new candidates for ministry. Christy is amazing as she is a full time student yet continues to teach a very vibrant confirmation class.

For the front desk, we looked for an outstanding Communications Coordinator, and found her in the person of Tracy Murray. Tracy has enabled us to communicate with more and better graphic design. She and Marge have worked to take the website forward. We recognize that it is not enough to do important things – we have to communicate well the things that are happening!

The year had its challenges. We said goodbye to Boyd and Masako Bacon after almost 19 years of wonderful service. We did not have a full time associate pastor. With the extra building projects, it was a challenging financial year. Nevertheless, with the incredible generosity of the congregation as a whole, including a few special gifts to help us at the end of the year, Westminster saw a balanced budget. It is no easy feat to keep bottom line in mind while making all this progress.

The Rising went on a journey. They started out in Fellowship Hall. Then they tried out worship in the Chapel. Now they found a new home in Cole Hall. People agree that this feels like a warm and comfortable place to worship.

We are grateful for the Rising Band, who continue to share the gift of contemporary worship music. We have seen some new faces coming to this service!

Managing a huge building as well as keeping up with the financial life of a large church is a daunting task. I am incredibly grateful for the work of our Business Administrator, Cheryl Rennick.

For example, this year, a big pipe broke in an underground tunnel that surrounds the church; it flooded the children's area. Cheryl managed that situation like a true pro, and the staff worked like a team to keep everything going as if there were no problem at all. Cheryl is the one who makes sure the building is cared for, and that the church financially ends up with a balanced budget by the end of the year. It is a difficult and often thankless job. We would not be where we are without Cheryl's constant care for Westminster. Thank you Cheryl.



Westminster Staff Members, photo by Jim Kinkennon



SENIOR PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I am incredibly grateful for a wonderful staff. I am grateful for the very gifted and enthusiastic ministry of our part-time Parish Associate, the Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn. He is a tremendous team player, an experienced and wise pastor and a person who makes everything more enjoyable. Barbara Hipple discovered just how broad our children and youth programs are – not an easy task! We are grateful for her presence and the dedicated professionalism she brings to her staff position. And finally, I can never adequately express how grateful I am, and we all are, for the outstanding work of Marge Tomlinson. Things go better whenever Marge helps to guide and support us. So I want to give a tremendous show of gratitude to her.

I was encouraged by the Personnel Committee to take the opportunity to use part of my Sabbatical time this year. I spent a month deep in the wilds of the world of ethics. It was an exciting and exhausting experience.

I am grateful to the congregation for making this in-depth continuing education as part of my call to ministry at Westminster. And I am grateful for the work of the Session. I want to give a special thank-you to the outgoing elders for their leadership work: Rob Baltensperger, Michael Gregg, Dan Hoffman, Susie Hughes, Sandi Larson, Bob Rediger, Roberts, Erika Schafer, Gwen Thorpe and Katie Whitehead. Our church is based on the faithful service of our elders in leading the church.

And thank you to the congregation. This is an absolutely wonderful church.

You constantly amaze me with your faith, hope and love.

God bless you. God bless Westminster. May 2018 be filled with wonderful steps forward for this amazing congregation.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Andrew L. McDonald, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

2017 Administration & Planning Report

After the January Session retreat, the A&P Committee began the year by developing a strategic plan for Westminster which was previously approved in December, 2016 by Session. The A&P Committee contracted with Evolve Performance Group to begin the process of aggregating existing data, formulating a theme, identifying strategic objectives, and developing related goals.

Through the first half of the year, the contractor worked with Dr. McDonald to develop the theme and identify strategic objectives. The process slowed down in late Spring and stalled through the summer.

Subsequently, it was decided by the A&P Committee to stop the strategic planning process since internal deadlines were not being met. Due to Allen Wachter's hard work, the A&P Committee updated the 2016 metrics for the congregation. This data is important for the church's future growth as we evaluate the past and contrast our metrics with those of similar sized Presbyterian congregations in the Midwest. It is our hope that the strategic planning process will re-start in the near future.

Submitted by Dan Hoffman, Moderator

Committee Members: Dan Hoffman, Moderator
Marybell Avery, Allen Wachter, Joyce Douglas, Emily Killham and Dr. Andrew McDonald.



ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY REPORT

The Adult Education Ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church seeks to advance the spiritual growth of our members. We strive to accomplish this goal through four venues.

The first venue is the Westminster Bible Class, 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 2017 programming began with our January Community Conversations. Featured speakers were Senator Kathy Campbell, Dr. Steve Joel, Pastor Tom Barber, and Pat Leach. Other lecture series for the year included Native Americans' Journey toward Justice, the Book of Glory, Restoring Eden, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, the Protestant Reformation, the Importance of Early Childhood Education and Well-being, Building Bridges of Understanding Across the Abrahamic Faith Traditions, End of Life Issues, and Imagine the First Christmas. The 2018 programming began with the series "Building Unity in an Era of Polarization". Featured speakers will be Dr. Marilyn Moore, Senator Patty Pansing Brooks, Director Tom Casady, and Dr. Elizabeth Theiss-Morse.

The third venue consists of classes held on Wednesday evening in conjunction with WOW. Highlights of the year included presentations on Gallup's Strengthfinders, Back Pew Farmer, the Hebrew prophets, and storytelling. Additionally, movies viewed were "*Before the Flood*" and "*A Christmas Carol*". The 2018 WOW programming began with a series on Paul's Letters led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn.

The fourth venue was a new addition this year. We launched Coffee & Co. under the direction of Adam Luedtke, Devon Nelson, and Andrew Finkner. This class was developed for the 15 to 30-year-old members of our church. Discussion of the weekly sermon and Bible passages is the focus of these gatherings.

In closing, the Adult Education Ministry would like to express sincere gratitude to the ministers, staff, and members of Westminster Presbyterian Church who have shared their time and talents with us this past year. It has been a joy to work with all of you! We are most grateful for the guidance of Dr. Shelbourn and the assistance of Tracy Murray in promoting our classes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Larson, moderator

Committee Members: Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn, Bruce Sheffield, Tom Pappas, Marijane Hancock, Dale Minter, Adam Luedtke and Sandi Larson.



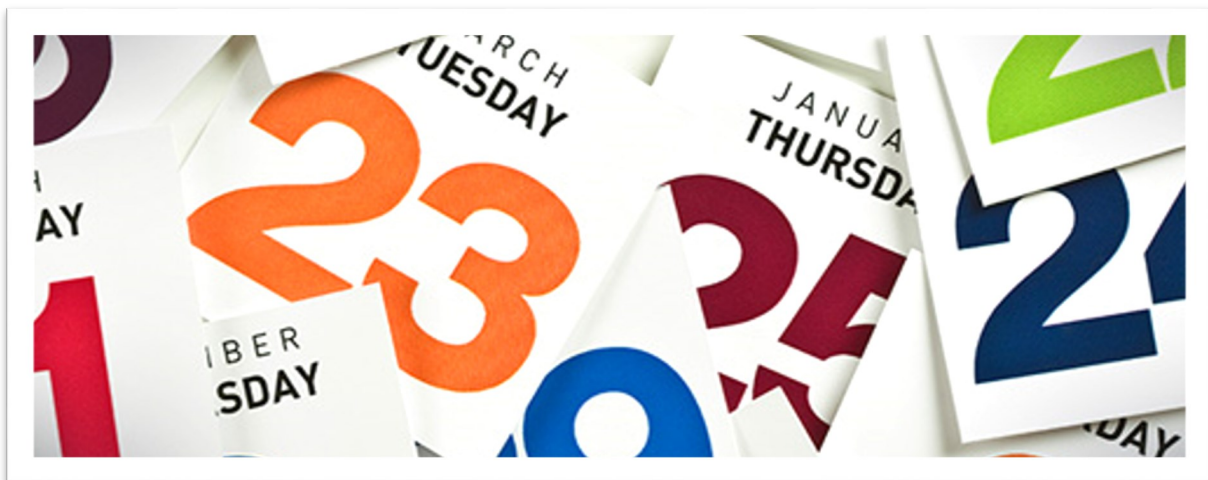


BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

2017 BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Budget and Finance Committee consists of Bill Walstad, Mitch Schainost, and Cheryl Rennick, staff. After the budget was approved by the Session at the January 2017 retreat, one responsibility for the committee was to check the WPC accounts on a monthly basis and provide a financial report of the status of WPC finances to the Session. The good news is that WPC was *"in the black"* for 2017, with revenues exceeding expenditures. Another responsibility of the committee was to double check WPC's bank account balance to ensure that credits were given for deposits and debits showed for checks to withdraw funds from the account. The WPC bank account was in balance each month in 2017. Going forward, we will be helping the Session set the church budget for 2018. We also plan to collect budget data from the past three years and use it to create charts to more easily understand the monthly budget status of WPC and its progress toward matching yearly revenues with expenditures.

Bill Walstad





BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

Building and Grounds 2017 Report

The Building and Grounds committee would like to thank staff member, Cheryl Rennick for her insights and knowledge of the current needs of the church building and surrounding grounds. Job well done, Cheryl. Thanks to Elder, Jason Woita, and co-opted members Karen Janovy, Nancy Dawson and Dale Burrage.

2017 has been a busy productive year for this committee.

Building and Grounds oversaw these projects in 2017:

- Replaced the roof on the administrative wing of the church
- Developed plans and got approval from session for remodeling of the lounge
- Initiated a security assessment by Lincoln Police Department of the church building and grounds
- Raised funds and installed a handicap electric door opener on the South St. entrance
- Asked for bids on replacing or repairing roofs on the west portion of the church
- Repaired a severe leak in the daycare area of the church
- Reframed some of the church's art to be used in the redecorating of the lounge
- Asked for bids to tuckpoint the brick on the outside wall of the choir loft
- Received bids on the tv and electronic equipment for the remodeling of the lounge
- Received bids and designs of cabinetry for the lounge

Future projects the committee is working on for 2018:

- Complete the remodeling of the lounge
- Finish assessment of roofs needing repair or replacement
- Finalize the security procedures for the building and grounds
- Survey the building for future repair needs

Jim White, Moderator

Committee members:

- Jason Woita, Elder
- Nancy Dawson
- Karen Janovy
- Cheryl Rennick, Staff
- Dale Burrage





CHILDREN & FAMILY REPORT

2017 was a Busy & Wonderful Year for the Children's and Family's Ministry

Here are some of 2017's Event's:

February kept us inside with our pajama's and pizza as we watched a movie with 56 other church members for Family Fun Night. March took us into another world with Drama camp and Missoula Children's Theatre presentation of Gulliver's Travels. April had us running around Faith Village as we searched for over 200 Easter eggs and listened to the Easter story at Eggstravaganza. We flew into June with our Hero Central VBS and learned about how we are God's superhero's with 100 church and area children. We jumped into the boat in August to kick off Genesis Sunday and the Sunday School year with games and prizes for Faith Village and KOE parents/children. October brought us over 700 spooky ghouls and goblins for Spooktacular. And to wrap up the year with a big bow we celebrated Jesus' birth with "C" is for Christmas with A night in Bethlehem which included the Deacons chili cook-off, bounce house fun, Christmas crafts, carol singing and a live baby Jesus.

As always, our committee couldn't do all these amazing events and Faith village/KOE Sunday school without our amazing church volunteers. We want to say a big Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to anyone and everyone who helped make any and every event possible this year. In 2018, our committee would like to grow in membership as a group as well as welcoming more children/families into the church as members.

Sincerely,

Amy Fricke, Karen Hoffman, Stacy Graham, Margo Gamet, Megan Woita
and Barbara Hipple, Director of Children's Ministry.





DEACONS REPORT

Westminster Deacons Report for 2017

This has been a year of defining the mission and goals for the Deacons. We decided to focus on our homebound members and made visitation and over the road as the priorities for this year. The Deacons met every second Wednesday evening of the year except for July. Every member of this year's Deacons made efforts to assist with each committee they were involved in. We even had Deacons that were done serving continue visitation for homebound members they have seen for numerous years.

We have a new committee chair for bereavement and will be assisting with funerals that are held at Westminster. A Deacon was also able to accompany Pastor Jimmy for communion to our homebound members. 2018 will continue to be a year of focus on the changes we made in 2017. Visitation and driving our homebound residents to services will continue to be our first priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill McCarty, Deacons Moderator

**Thank you to all the Deacons
who served in 2017:**

Class of 2017

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





LIFE GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

food, men, women, ecology, camping, history, bicycling, cancer, parenting, world views, books, coffee and even Guinness beer. If you are looking for a place to connect we think we can get you plugged in to a place for you to grow in faith and friends. We had several goals and focus projects this year and hope that you were able to participate in some way. Some of our efforts this year included:

Inventory: We started the year with taking of an inventory of the known life groups at the church, the leadership and contact information. This was not a small task given the ever-changing member interests and leadership over time. We sent emails to all Session committee chairpersons and all known life group leaders with a questionnaire about small group membership and leadership. Ultimately, we were able to quantify the Life groups in the church and have those highlighted on the website.

Project creation: In an effort to plug new members into activities we have coordinated with the Building and Grounds committee to establish projects and activities that both benefit the church but create opportunity for member to member interaction. For example, we coordinated a group to help Habitat for Humanity with a project they were interested in completing. We intend to renew this focus in 2018.

Lent Study: Our 40 days of Focus saw almost 10 individual groups meet for 6 weeks during Lent to study materials written by Dr. McDonald. The groups met in homes, at the church and even at the Hop Cat restaurant for fellowship and discussion. We are planning a Lent Study in 2018 using new materials that have been vetted by the committee. Please look for our signup sheets in 2018.

Pancake breakfast: We focused on having new member men help with a pancake breakfast in the Garden Room. We had a great time serving hot cakes, sausage, fruit and drinks. We rented the rotating griddle and the pancakes, syrup, and conversation were indeed flowing. We had the opportunity to get to know a couple of our new members and give them a chance to interact with members they might not have known. The smells were enticing, and the fun were palpable. A good will offering defrayed the costs. The event was a success and we are planning the same in 2018. Special thanks to the custodial staff for helping with the setup and takedown. That effort was really appreciated.

Easter breakfast: We have agreed to assume Easter Breakfast responsibilities in 2018 and plan to serve a light breakfast Easter morning 2018.

Member groups: Westminster is blessed in so many ways. Those blessings include the number, diversity and strength of our life groups. We are always looking for new groups to start, groups to support and members to plug in. We literally have groups that run the gamut... from "soup to nuts" my mother used to say. There really are groups for everyone. If you are looking please feel free to contact a member of the Life Groups committee we will do everything we can to get you plugged in.

Website: As mentioned above, we looked at the website, made comments and worked on the update of the life groups connected to the church.

Special thanks to: Tracy Murray, our wonderful church communications coordinator, who helped with many of our needs this year and developed the really neat logo above and Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn for good leadership.



MEMBER CARE MINISTRY REPORT

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

THE MEMBER CARE MINISTRY INCLUDES: Judy Buss, Joyce Douglas, Gwen Hlava (Moderator/Recorder), Doug Karsting, and Jimmy Shelbourn, Staff Representative. The four 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 43 volunteers. The goal is to prepare and deliver meals during times of stress. This could be in response to a health issue or the death of a family member. During 2017, 61 meals were delivered. Additional cooks are always welcome. All requests this year were fulfilled.
- Member Care provides the leadership for the Prayer Chain. When the church is notified of an illness or time of crisis and prayers are requested, the members of the Prayer Chain are notified by email. Volunteers also receive a listing of members every week who needed on-going prayers. Prayers are powerful and everyone is encouraged to join the Prayer Chain as a way to assist those who are going through difficult times.
- “C” is for Christmas included sending approximately 100 Christmas cards to members who are not able to attend Church. Member Care and Marge prepared the cards using a picture taken by Tracy. The cards were available on two consecutive Sundays for members to sign. Member Care, thanks to Jimmy Shelbourn won the silver ladle at the Chili Cook-Off Contest with his Gringo Texas Steak and Black Bean Chili.

TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORSHIPING COMMUNITY:

- Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th ministry members were encouraged to each fill bags of plastic eggs for the hunt. Presbyterians in the Park was held on June 25th. The Ministry organized and served fried chicken to approximately 175 individuals. “Genesis Sunday” on August 20th included preparing a three-panel board to explain Member Care Ministry and recruit new members. Spooktacular on October 29th ministry members were encouraged to each donate bags of candy for the event. Jimmy Shelbourn sponsored a trunk.
- Member Care coordinated with Marge, Jim Kinkennon and Life Touch the photographing of WPC members. Dale Minter designed the layout of the “life of the church” section and it turned out perfectly; collecting e-mail addresses for the first time and distribution of the new Church Directory. This project required a major time commitment from Member Care and from the church staff and members. Thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Hlava, Recorder



MISSION & OUTREACH REPORT

Mission & Outreach 2017 Report:

Promoted four special offerings:

Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing,
Peace & Global Witness & Christmas Joy Offering.

Continued to support the Food Pantry which supplies weekly meals for six families. The annual fall Thanksgiving food drive gained over **1600** items of food for the Food Pantry!

Held Neighbor Helping Neighbor involving church families to help and support the following community organizations:

The Bridge, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach,
Center for People in Need, Friendship Home &
Safe Quarters walk for Friendship Home

We gave money to support Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. Gary Haller headed up a crew of workers to help at the Faith Build.

Prepared and served meals every other month at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach.

Served meals every month at Gathering Place.

Supported new program Turning Pages which members read books with inmates at Lancaster County Jail.

Participated with new Member class greetings and information about Outreach.

Sponsored Presbyterian missionary, Jim McGill, who visited not only our church but others in Nebraska and told of his mission in Africa. McGill told of his work at World on a Plate and gave the sermon at each of the services.

Supporting the Sudanese congregation in their quest to collect clothes to send to the Sudan for the people who have fled from their homes for their safety. This project will go into 2018 before the shipping of the clothes is completed.

We were honored to give to Christy Dempsey two 'scholarships' to help with her education.



Food Pantry Volunteers



Neighbors Helping Neighbors 2017



Neighbors Helping Neighbors 2017

Our committee members are Gary Haller, David & Alice Szabat, Dal Ronnau, Carolyn Harp, Jennifer Smith, Vicki Jurgens, Chip & Marilyn Smith and Joan Roberts.



NEW MEMBER MINISTRY REPORT

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members: Rob Baltensperger, Matt Kirkland, Donna Wyatt and Andrew McDonald, staff

Guiding Scripture:

Our committee continues to draw upon the Bible verse “Go and make disciples of all nations”, Matthew 28:19, for inspiration as our guiding scripture passage.

Initiatives & Celebrations:

The 2017 year was filled with new opportunities to welcome visitors to experience the congregational life at Westminster.

- Hosted six Journeying Together new member welcome classes
- Adjusted the format and content of the Journeying Together classes
- Promoted Special events through the use of social media marketing
- Connected new members into the life of the church and in particular by working more closely with both the life groups and member care committees.
- Contacted New Members from the previous three years to see how we can better serve them.

Looking Ahead:

This ministry is excited about the coming year and the chance to set new goals and vision new ways to inspire the community to visit, to welcome visitors and share the joyful spirit of Christ with them as they do, to invite visitors to join the church, and to help new members get connected and engaged in a lifestyle shaped by the love of Christ and the energy and passion of the Westminster members. If you have a cheerful and welcoming spirit and would like to participate with helping us support and grow new membership at Westminster, we would love to have you join our group.

**Our next Journeying Together New Membership Class
will be held on February 11 | 9-10 AM.**



NOMINATING REPORT

2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Each year the Nominating Committee seeks to fill 3-year terms for Elder, Deacon, Foundation and Usher. Additionally, there are always some unfilled terms left open when members become unable to complete their 3-year term, and the Committee seeks to fill those terms as well. For 2017, the Nominating Committee worked to fill 69 positions.

The Committee extends thanks to those members who accepted nominations. We also want to thank members who, after consideration, felt this was not the right time for them to accept nomination and will consider nomination at a later date.. We fell short of filling all of the open slots. However, we appreciate the Deacons efforts to reorganize and right-size themselves and that Session is considering how to reorganize the Ushers.

Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee spent many hours in meetings, calling, texting, writing, and talking with Westminster members about positions of service to the church. The Nominating Committee is to be 11 members, and this year had only 6 members.

As Moderator, I want to thank Pam Oliver, Ken Govaerts, Ron Coniglio, Susie Hughes, and Barb Wright-Chollet, along with Dr. McDonald, for their diligence in order to present a slate of nominees.





PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Personnel Committee Report:

The Personnel Committee welcomed new staff in 2017. Tracy Murray was hired as our Communications Coordinator/front desk reception. John and Laura Ross were hired as the Director and Associate Director of Fine Arts. Westminster is blessed by the talent and experience these three people bring to their respective positions. We said good-bye and a heart-felt thank you to Boyd and Dr. Masako Bacon who left in June after many years of service to Westminster's music and fine arts programs.

This year, Personnel Committee reviewed and evaluated the staffing needs of Westminster. We looked not only in the short term, but forward into the future. Our discussions were growth-focused, yet centered on how best to use limited funds. Many staffing options were discussed but in the end, Personnel proposed to Session the hiring of an additional part-time Parish Associate position and Session approved setting aside funds for this position in the 2018 budget.

Many thanks go to the members of the Personnel Committee for the time and effort spent on our work in 2017. Personnel Committee Members: Robert Rediger, Nancy Dawson-Delgado (Secretary), Cyndy Maddux, H. Seward, and Dr. Andrew McDonald, Head of Staff.

Erika Schafer
Moderator

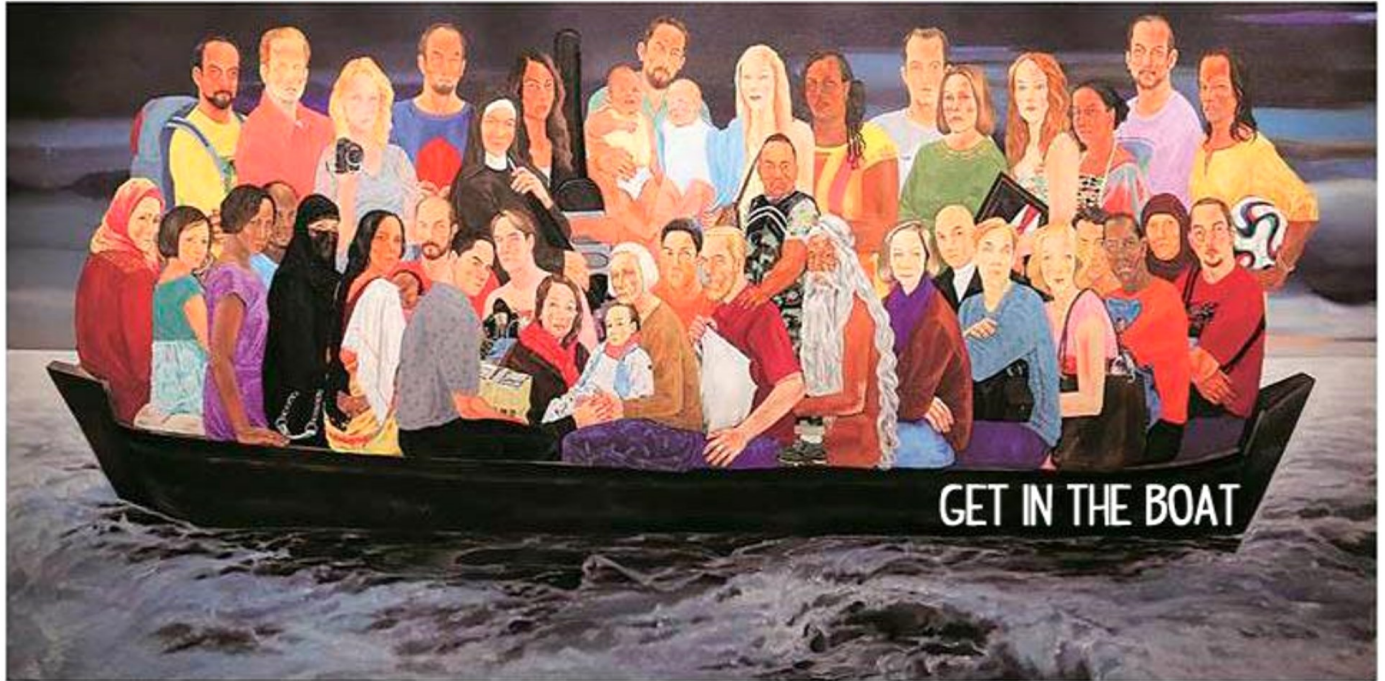
SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP

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.

Scholarship Application Deadline is March 31, 2018.



STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT



The stewardship committee theme for 2017 was based on Rev McDonald's "Get in the Boat."

For the pledge campaign, we decided that a postcard mailer would be more effective than two letters to the congregation. Our thought was that the congregation would be more responsive to have a postcard in sight for the preparation of receiving the pledge card letter. We also identified areas in which the use of pledges helped with individual and family support.

The pledge letter identified all of the programs and activities at Westminster that are supported by the pledges from the congregation. We also identified that Consecration Sunday would be on November 12th for everyone to bring their pledge cards for the 2018 year.

For the upcoming year, we would like to announce that the E-system is up and running for those wishing to use as a means for their pledges. With the help of all of our pledges, it not only reaches our congregation but reaches out to our community and beyond. We are thankful that God has called us to this journey to help Westminster grow in the future!

Brian Lammers
Andrew McDonald

For an added convenience you can pledge on-line at

westminsterlincoln.org

Just click on the **eGiving** section on the front page.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

YAYA. Youth and Young Adults continued to support the youth programming at Westminster Presbyterian Church. This includes Confirmation, two youth retreats, Sunday evening high school youth group and Wednesday night Middle School Youth group. This year, the retreats were held at Calvin Crest Retreat Center and the theme of the retreat corresponded with the church “Get in the Boat.” The Middle school and High school youth groups continue to grow in numbers. In addition to the weekly meetings, they participate in both mission work such as Safe Quarters and fun activities including the Escape Room and Paintball. They continue to be run by Devon Nelson and Andrew Finker. Christine Dempsey continues to teach confirmation. Much of the year has been devoted to launching a youth trip to Lohmen for the summer of 2018. These plans include not only activities for the traveling youth but also a host of fundraisers.

Highlights:

1. 8 Confirmed youth 2017
2. Youth created a “bee habitat” for loaner bees thus contributing to our role as an Earth Care Congregation
3. “Safe Quarters”
4. Average 16 youth in Youth Groups every week/ Average 10 youth in Confirmation

Upcoming:

- Shift from a Baccalaureate Sunday to a Senior Sunday reflecting the change in LPS graduation practices
- Lohmen youth trip July 2018
- Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit Matt Talbot’s Kitchen

Members of YAYA:

Moderator: Mike Dempsey

Staff: Barbara Hipple

Edison McDonald, Chris Whitehead, Andrew Finkner, Christine Dempsey, and Jaime Hemmerling

Submitted,

Mike Dempsey



WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION REPORT

Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation is the conduit for charitable giving and projects for the benefit of the church and our members. We celebrate this year as funds under Foundation management now value more than **\$3.3 million**. This growth has come through the hard work of all our members, your financial contributions, and a positive financial market.

Since 2012, the Foundation has provided financial support to the church for operating funds and major projects through a portion of annual earnings. Over the past five years, major grants and scholarship include over \$890,000 in revenue to the church:

Year	Total
2012	\$110,743.25
2013	\$119,836.70
2014	\$115,042.44
2015	\$131,143.00
2016	\$246,892.40
2017	\$168,254.92

Other highlights from the Foundation:

Engaged Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc for fund development in 2018

Funds for upgrade of the HVAC & phone system as well as general operating budget.

Adult Education focus on Senior Life issues during November 2017

There are many ways to leave a legacy of your faith. Here are a few:

An outright gift or bequest directly to the Foundation...the simplest & most common gift.

Designate the Foundation to receive stocks, bonds, mutual fund and retirement accounts.

Establish a charitable remainder trust that provides lifetime payment to you or a loved one.

Designate the Foundation as beneficiary of life insurance – existing or new insurance policy.

401K Plans and IRAs – donated Retirement/IRA provide important tax savings to the donor.

A bequest to an endowment fund will provide lasting income to the Church or its missions.

Tithe your estate – a percentage of your estate to go the Foundation upon your death.

Endow your pledge – Create an endowment which, after your death, will produce income to perpetuate your annual pledge.

Name the Foundation as the recipient of memorial gifts upon your death.

Make an annual gift to the Foundation Birthday Club.

[The Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation is the union of many gifts – small and large – held in trust and managed by the Foundation Board of Trustees for the benefit of Westminster, its programs and properties.](#)

The Foundation is administered by a Board of Trustees consisting of members of the church who are elected by the congregation to six-year terms. Trustees in 2017 included Jim Nissen, Lillie Larsen, Marilyn Maude, William Roper, Nancy Dawson, Ross McCown, John Hoppe Jr., Harry Seward III, Jim Smith, Joyce Douglas, Mark Whitehead. We want to thank them for their dedicated service. Submitted by Jim Smith



WORSHIP MUSIC & FINE ARTS REPORT

Music & Worship Committee Yearly Report for 2017

This year has been journey of making new friends, good work, and sadness in saying goodbye to old and wonderful friends and colleagues.

Early in the year, with much discussion, study and revisions, the new ritual of friendship pads were ordered, received and distributed to the pews in the sanctuary and chapel. Many thanks to Mike and Mary Tomlinson who spearheaded this effort. The Easter season was a busy time for our ministry. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with the Cross of Lilies which has been a Westminster tradition for many years. Closely following this wonderful time was the sad news of our Ministers of Music leaving our church. Much work was done to make the transition as smooth and painless as possible. A beautiful goodbye reception was held on June 11th. This event was a wonderful celebration of Boyd and Masako Bacon's invaluable contributions to the Ministry of Music at Westminster. I would like to say a special thanks to Linda Burchard, Diana Wild, Michael and Freda Gregg, Jim and Rita Kinkennon and Mike and Mary Tomlinson for their hard work in making this reception a success.

The month of August saw Westminster's welcome to our new Ministers of Music. John and Laura Ross will be invaluable to our music program with new ideas and methods. We are very fortunate to have them and look forward to working and worshipping with them. October saw the dedication of the Hamann piano in the chapel. A recital was performed featuring Chip Hamann on the oboe. Michael and Freda Gregg along with Linda Burchard, Diana Wild, Kathy Anderson, and Jim and Rita Kinkennon spearheaded the reception at intermission.

In November there was a special meeting of the committee to discuss the future of the Rising Services at Westminster. Members of the congregation, the Rising band, and the clergy were present. After much discussion, it was decided to move the services to Cole Hall and form a special committee to entertain ideas to increase attendance and interest in this service. Work on this project is ongoing.

Finally, in December the sanctuary was decorated for Christmas. The committee had a wonderful time working on this project. Many thanks to Campbells Nursery for poinsettias and some beautiful final touches to the sanctuary.

I would be remiss in closing without thanking some very special members of our Worship and Music Committee, Diana Wild served faithfully as secretary and Wedding facilitator.

Mike and Mary Tomlinson worked long hours heading up our chancel guild. Caroline Schainost was our representative to the Rising services. Jim Kinkennon was the Session representative for Baptisms. Scott Colborn led the communion services each month, and Sydne Wirrick-Knox was in charge of training and coordinating the ushering staff. Thank You all!

In closing, I would like to make a special thanks to Michael Gregg and Marge Tomlinson who answered a million questions that I had as the new moderator. They were instrumental in making this sometimes-challenging year the success that it was.

Faithfully Yours,

David B. Anderson

Moderator of the Worship and Music Ministry

Music & Worship Committee Members: David Anderson-Moderator, Kathy Anderson, Linda Burchard, Scott Colborn, Michael Gregg, Freda Gregg, Jim Kinkennon-Moderator 2018, Rita Kinkennon, John Ross-Staff, Laura Ross-Staff, Carolyn Schainost, Mike Tomlinson, Mary Tomlinson, Diana Wild, and Sydne Wirrick-Knox.



CHURCH NEWS

What's New For 2018

From The Building and Grounds Committee

During 2017, the Building and Grounds Committee studied the use of the Lounge. Our study revealed daily use of this room included Adult Ed, Circle Meetings, History Buﬀs, Wednesday night Bible study, lunch room for staff, overflow use of the small kitchen, several church committees and Presbytery committee meetings, outside groups, and 12 Step program meetings.

Building and Grounds has found that the Lounge has never been updated. Other than the carpet, there have not been any changes since it was built. We have designed a plan to remodel this room, and the plan has been approved by the Session. One problem is that in 2018 budget funds will have to be spent on other items, like replacing additional roofs. We need the congregation's help to finalize the financing of this project.

We received a sizable amount from some very generous Westminster members, but we are still short of our goal. We predict that the remodeling will cost approximately \$35,000 for a total redo. The redo includes new kitchen, wall mount tv, cabinets, sheet rock to replace old paneling, flooring, blinds for the east windows, coffee bar, plumbing and new electronic hookups to handle today's and future technology.

You can help fund this project by monetary donation or by funding the following items: sink, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator or blinds for the east windows.

If you choose to help, contact Cheryl Rennick, Business Administrator; Jim White, Moderator of Building and Grounds; or other committee members Jason Woita, Sandi Larson and Ken Govaerts.

Let it shine! Families, groups, and individuals have been putting their imaginations to work in creating and naming their unique pieces of art to display during our annual spring Creation Celebration. After our celebratory exhibition, the suns will be auctioned. Suns are due back in March.

All proceeds will be applied to the purchase of one or more LES solar panels, giving Westminster a small break in our electric bill and establishing *"Our Place in the Sun"*. This investment in clean energy is one way that Westminster lives out our commitment, as an Earth Care Congregation, practicing respect and good stewardship of all creation.

SPRING STATED

MEETING

FEBRUARY 2018

The annual Spring Stated Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, at the close of the 10:30 am worship. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2017 annual reports, the presentation of the 2018 budget and the approval of the pastor's compensation for 2018. Please plan to join us.





MISSION & OUTREACH/Green@ Heart

WATER FOR THE THIRSTY

THE WORD: SIMPLY. REFRESHING.

For many in South Sudan, clean water can be a rarity; yet water is something most Americans take for granted, thinking that fresh water is a readily available resource.

Recognizing the scarcity of water in many African villages, Presbyterians and not-for-profit organizations are working to help villagers develop immediate, emergency water sources.

Join members of Westminster and our Presbytery in learning how we can assist the work already being done to help alleviate suffering and thirst.



Dr. Jim McGill, Diana Wild and Carolyn Harp. Cheers for making water available for those suffering in South Sudan.

You are invited

to come for a light meal and presentation by Reverend Debbie Braaksma, African Area Coordinator for the Presbyterian World Mission Department on:

Saturday, Feb. 24 | 5:30-7 PM.

Reverend Braaksma will update us about Jim McGill and projects in South Sudan by the PCUSA in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and others.

Kindly RSVP by February 16 to:

David Szabat at waskily@gmail.com, p. 402-475-2555 or Gary Haller at txhaller2@att.net, p. 877-757-2980.

What Does Your Heart Say?

In recognition of February being the month of Valentine's Day, Green@Heart suggests we each examine our own heart for the specific reasons we love the incredible gift of creation and life on this planet. In other words, "What is your passion?"

In the spirit of conservation, and the spirit of love, let's use this Valentine's month to treasure what God has given us to enjoy and protect. We are so blessed to have our this priceless inheritance to enjoy in our lifetimes.

What do you love about God's goodness and God's generosity?

In this month of hearts and roses, Green@Heart is calling for your stories. Some faith traditions call it bearing witness. It will be so good to give and so good to get the witness of our community. Please share what your heart says. You can do this by going to the **Lincoln Westminster Presbyterian Church** FB Group Page and posting them.



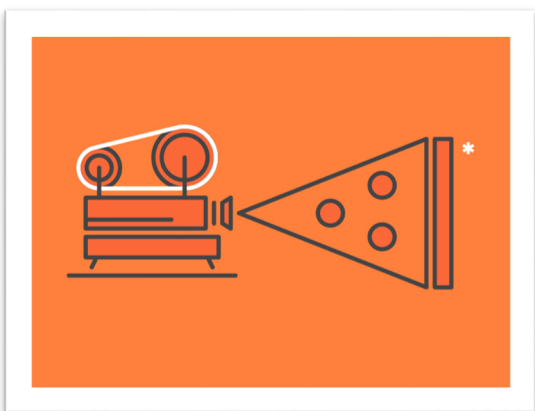
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH VILLAGE 9:00 & 10:45 am. Who is my neighbor? Children will have the opportunity to explore The Good Samaritan through several workshops.

FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

The Lord's Prayer: A Faith Building Block experience for 5th Graders and a parent, Wednesday, February 28 at 6:40 pm. Explore the Lord's Prayer--this central part of the life of the church that all Christians share. 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.

KINDERGARTEN OF EDEN 10:45 am in Rm. 210. Preschoolers experience God's love through play and learning about Jesus' life in interactive ways. 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 —at no cost!—for iBooks and Kindle at www.growinggracegratitude.org.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Friday, Feb. 16, 6-8:30 PM

Bring your family, friends, pillows, a blanket, and your favorite movie snack to join your WPC friends for pizza and fun! Wear your PJs and snuggle up to watch the new animated, family-oriented movie, "Despicable Me 3". Popcorn and a beverage provided. The cost to cover pizza: \$4/person or max. \$10/family You can pay at the door. RSVP by Wed. Feb 14, so we know how many pizzas to order!—sign up in the Garden Room or call 402-475-6702 or email barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

VBS ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

June 17 noon-2pm; June 18—20, 9 am- Noon

Children ages 4—Grade 5. Family kick-off on Sunday, June 17! Join us for 10:30 worship, followed by lunch, registration, and the beginning of an adventure down the river! Registration opens this month at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

This VBS experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, "the shoe that grows" mission, delicious snacks, great games, and more! Hope to see you for some RAPID fun, Rafters! Adult and youth are invited to guide the young rafters on the river. Team building begins now—plan to participate in this church-wide and community ministry by contacting Barbara Hipple, 402-475-6702., or barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.





UPCOMING EVENTS

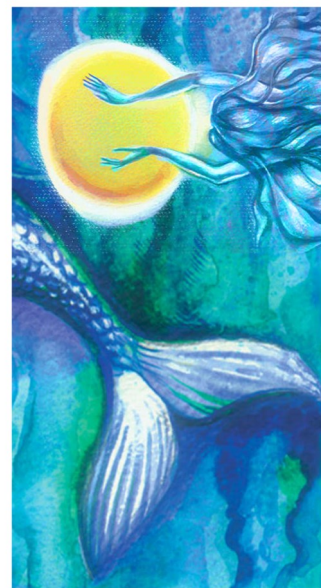
DRAMA CAMP!

"The Little Mermaid"

Camp Week: Monday-Friday, March 12-16 | 9 am - 3 pm.

Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018, 3 pm.

Missoula Children's Theatre is returning to Westminster! Children K-6th grade are welcome to join us under the sea for Westminster's 7th Annual Drama Camp! Register online: www.westminsterlincoln.org or pick up a registration form. Registration fees are \$185.00 and include a commemorative t-shirt. Payment must be made when submitting the registration form. Tickets for the performance are \$5; kids 12 & under free! Youth helpers needed. Contact Barbara: 402-475-6702 or barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

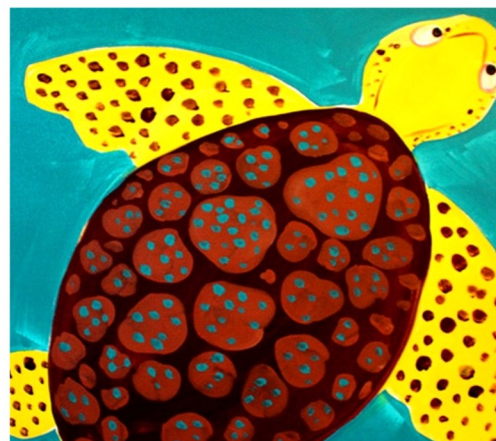


Creative Arts Camp

July 23-27

It will be this summer's July camp for your Kindergarteners through

5th graders. At Creative Arts Camp children will explore with crafts, art, music, drama, and movement in multicultural activities. All classes will be led by an expert in the area. More information to come.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31 | 10:00 AM

Easter is just around the corner, which means it's time to make plans and figure out where to go to hunt for your Easter eggs. Come to Westminster for the perfect chance to find Easter eggs filled with candy and surprises. Bring the whole family and enjoy searching together to find delicious treats. This year's EASTER EGG HUNT starts promptly at 10:10 AM.





WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY

We serve a home-cooked meal each week followed by adult education, WOWXL, and music!

Parenting Life Group:

Parlor | 6:30 PM

Parenting. Fellowship. Support. Prayer.

Growing your child's faith. And fun! Adults share and discuss while children are nurtured in supervised care. Parents of infants and young children through age 5. Bring the family for WOW dinner and Preschool grade 5 children are welcome to sing with the choir. If interested, contact: Barbara@westminsterlincoln.org,

WOWXL—6:30 PM | Youth Café

Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities to grow in faith together.

ADULT ED ON WEDNESDAYS

Lounge | 6:30 PM

Life Groups are organizing short-term small groups to study and pray together during Lent. Adult Education is hosting a Lenten study group on Wednesdays, please join us.



Participants will read and discuss a book by Marjorie Thompson entitled "Forgiveness: a Lenten Study." Dr. Thompson is a Presbyterian minister and author of a best-seller - Soul Feast: an Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life. We urge every member to join one of these groups for the season of Lent: Feb. 17- Mar 31. Sign up for one of the study groups in the Garden Room on Sundays, or by calling the church office 475-6702. Study Books are \$8.

MUSIC REHEARSALS

6:20 pm Westminster Carillon | Sanctuary

6:30 pm Alleluia! Amen! Grades K-5 | Room 210

6:30 pm Cherub Choir Pre-K | Room 210 — East

7:30 pm Westminster Choir | Sanctuary

FEBRUARY DINNER MENU

Cole Hall | 5:45–6:30 PM

All dinners include salad, fruit & dessert.
\$4/Children, \$6/Adults, \$17 Max/Family

FEB 7 Ham-n-bean soup & baked potatoes

FEB 14 Pancakes & fruit

FEB 21 Chili & Cinnamon Rolls

FEB 28 Chicken sandwiches & fries



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

ADULT EDUCATION Meets in the Lounge | 9 AM

EXPLORING THE APOSTLES' AND NICENE CREEDS

The Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds are statements of faith that have been professed in the Christian church since the fourth century. Join us as we learn how the issues faced by the early church led to their formation. Come explore the doctrines expressed in these foundational Christian creeds.

February 4: Issues Faced by the Early Church, led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

February 11: The Apostles' Creed, led by Dr. Lucas Schulte, UNL Lecturer in Classics and Religious Studies

February 18: The Nicene Creed, led by Ernie Hines

February 25: The Nature of Christ: Human and Divine, led by Ernie Hines

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Join us any Sunday in February | 9AM | Parlor

Self-controlled, Upright, and Godly Faith - The final unit of our winter study begins our walk through Lent and help us reflect on our lives of faith to see ways our faith can become more real and be appropriated more deeply.

Coffee and donut holes are waiting along with a friendly, spirit-filled group of friends.

February 4: Faith Without Works Is Dead. James 2:14-26, led by Kaye Wolfe.

February 11: A Disciplined Faith. James 3:1-12, led by Ellen Davis.

February 18: Faithful Disciples. Acts 9:36-43, led by Gary Haller.

February 25: The Good Fight of Faith. 1 Timothy 6:11-21, led by Bill North.





Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Feb 6 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at Tico's this month, 317 S 17th Street. Come for wonderful fellowship & good, good food. Lunch Bunch meets at a different dining establishment on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Questions? Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture

Saturday, Feb. 17 | 8 AM

Scooter's 2901 S 84th St.

Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible study on the third Saturday of each month. We meet in the private dining room of Scooter's, just south of 84th and Van Dorn.

We have recently begun a study in the Gospel of Mark. Dr. Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 a.m. For more info, call him at 402-475-6702.

LNO—Ladies Night Out

Monday, Feb 19 | 5-7pm

Billy's Restaurant—1301 H St.

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, and invite a friend! Please RSVP Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Faith & Cancer

Tues. Feb. 20 | 7 PM

No matter where you are in your journey, this group is where cancer survivors can come together for fellowship, prayer and study. This Life Group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-8 pm in the Parlor. Contact : Bruce Sheffield.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, Feb. 21 | 1 PM

Westminster Parlor

Book Selection: *"The Bones of Paradise"* by Joni Agee. Joni Agee is an award-winning writer and she will be our guest speaker.

History Buffs

Sat. Feb. 24 | 9 AM | Lounge

"On Ancient Wings" a fascination discussion about Sandhill Cranes. Michael Forsberg, an award winning American Conservation Photographer, will be here to speak to us about Sandhill Cranes. Take note that this month's meeting is on the 24th.

Turning Pages Book Club Are you called to join this ministry?

Would like to join Turning Pages book club for just one hour to determine if this is a good fit for you? Please call the church office. The next 4 week cycle begins in February.



Turning Pages

Book Club

Volunteers



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502
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westminsterlincoln.org



Annual Report 2017