

WESTMINSTER 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God."

1 Cor. 2:9

It is a new year at Westminster... where are we going and what needs to change. I am first and foremost grateful for so many things. The leadership of the church is strong and courageous as they move forward with hope in anticipation of calling a pastor in the near future. In preparation for that time, many decisions are before the session in order to present an honest and humble mission design. This will assist the call committee to search for the head of staff God is preparing to serve Westminster. Part of this process is to make sure the church is "right sized" as they consider membership, worship attendance and number of worship services we can support. The session moved over 500 people to the inactive status this year. This will reflect what the staffing plan and budget can support at this time.

Much of this information came out of a number of Focus Groups where members expressed where the church has been and where they would like to see the church going forward as well as what they consider important in the search for a new pastor.

This past year there was a budget deficit of approximately \$82,000. In an attempt to approve a balanced budget for 2019, several changes will be made in the operations and staffing plan for the coming year. This creates opportunities for members to be involved as volunteers in many areas of the church. When volunteers commit to picking up task that the staff formerly included in their job description, it takes tremendous pressure off of the annual budget. Thank you to many who have already extended the hands of the staff in this way.

I want to express thanks to all elders and deacons as well as the newly elected officers who are ready to step up and lead the church going forward. You have served with creativity, energy, imagination and love for the people and your passion makes Westminster what it is known for – a church who cares for all people and who are spiritually alive, inclusive and involved in mission.

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn served as Parish Associate and then willingly stepped up to serve as Head of Staff from April through June due to the retirement of Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald. Jimmy gives twice the number of hours contracted and does so with a true heart for ministry. We are truly blessed to have his expertise, his wisdom and his joyful service. Thank you Jimmy.



PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The staff has remained strong in providing ministry and mission for the committees and for the people. The music ministry is vital to our congregation and reaches members of our community, young and old, through various genres of music under the direction of John and Laura Ross. You bless us weekly with a music and bell choirs that lead the people in worship. Cheryl Rennick, the business admin retired last October. Cheryl served Westminster for over 15 years and her departure left a void in the area of finance and building & grounds. In January we welcomed Julie Mack as our new business admin. We are excited to have her expertise in the office. We also welcomed MaKayla Bartels who joined our staff to lead children family ministry in August. She has the oversight of Faith Village, Parents Night Out and special family events for the church. Makayla's enthusiasm in providing for our children's education is felt throughout the church.

Tracy Murray has enabled us to communicate more efficiently with better graphic design and she has reached out to more people in the congregation and community as our website & FaceBook content manager.

Marge Tomlinson continues her steady support of staff, committees and all members. Her position continues to evolve following the retirement of Cheryl Rennick. Marge works tirelessly to stay on top of all functions of the church life. Thank you Marge.

There continues to be a strong connection between the preschool and the church at large beginning with chapel chat, a Christmas program, Parents Night Out, and Preschool Art Show, etc. Consequently, we have preschool families attending worship and choosing to join the church. It is great to have the preschool as part of the church and a close working relationship with Director Suzanne Schneider and her team, who are well known throughout Lincoln for their outstanding preschool program. We are blessed to have this connection to the community in which we serve.

2019 will continue to see many changes in the life and ministry of Westminster. It is a very exciting time to see where God is leading and I pray we are all open to the many adventures ahead. I feel very blessed to be your pastor at this time and trust God has a plan for Westminster that we cannot even imagine.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Val Putnam, Interim Head of Staff



BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE 2018 REPORT

The two members on the Committee are Bill Walstad and Mitch Schainost. The Committee had three main responsibilities in 2019. The first was to check the Westminster financial accounts on a monthly basis and provide a financial report to the Session. The second was to serve as a liaison between the Session and the Westminster Foundation and present selective requests for Foundation funding of Westminster expenses. The third was to report to the Session on the final status of the 2018 budget and help the Session set the 2019 budget. Five proposals were developed and presented to Session to clarify or augment budget work in 2019.



The proposals called for separating the pre-school budget from the Westminster operating budget, reducing pre-school charges for building use, improving the reporting of designated funds, allocating a percentage of income to a saving or emergency fund, and establishing a grants committee.

Final approval of the 2019 budget and adoption of the proposals were placed on the agenda for the 2019 Session retreat.

Bill Walstad, Moderator

Westminster Presbyterian Church Revenues & Expenses

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Budgeted and Spent for 2018 | | | | |
| Budget Approved for 2019 on 01/26/19 | 2018 | 2018 | 2018 | 2019 |
| WPC Account | Annual Budget | Year to Date Actual | % budget met or used | Annual Budget Approved |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Pledges-Current Year | \$671,200.00 | \$564,050.55 | 84.04% | \$565,000.00 |
| Pledges - Prior Year | \$1,500.00 | \$350.00 | 23.33% | \$1,000.00 |
| Special Giving Income | \$11,000.00 | \$19,125.00 | 173.86% | \$20,000.00 |
| Non-Pledge Member Contrib. | \$71,000.00 | \$106,294.78 | 149.71% | \$110,000.00 |
| Loose Offering | \$21,500.00 | \$11,261.84 | 52.38% | \$12,000.00 |
| Sunday School | \$0.00 | \$2.00 | | \$2.00 |
| Building Use or Services | \$34,000.00 | \$25,456.44 | 74.87% | \$12,500.00 |
| Memorials & Other Gifts | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$0.00 |
| Interest-Ckg & Invsmt Acct | \$139.00 | \$111.79 | 80.42% | \$110.00 |
| Misc - Other/Weddings/Etc. | \$6,000.00 | \$3,326.72 | 55.45% | \$3,500.00 |
| Foundation Income | \$119,942.00 | \$125,000.00 | 104.22% | \$183,000.00 |
| Total INCOME | \$938,281.00 | \$854,979.12 | 91.12% | \$907,112.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Per capita | \$50,600.00 | \$37,950.00 | 75.00% | \$57,025.00 |
| Outreach-Mission | \$9,875.00 | \$3,549.18 | 35.94% | \$3,600.00 |
| Personnel | \$602,542.00 | \$534,868.55 | 88.77% | \$450,777.00 |
| Adult Education | \$803.00 | \$39.18 | 4.88% | \$40.00 |
| Children & Families | \$2,158.00 | \$2,796.78 | 129.60% | \$2,800.00 |
| YAYA | \$1,988.00 | \$2,352.28 | 118.32% | \$2,350.00 |
| Worship & Music | \$14,080.00 | \$14,739.85 | 104.69% | \$14,500.00 |
| Communications | \$17,500.00 | \$10,353.27 | 59.16% | \$10,350.00 |
| Member Care | \$187.00 | \$500.00 | 267.38% | \$500.00 |
| New Member Ministry | \$335.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$0.00 |
| Life Group Ministry | \$305.00 | \$171.98 | 56.39% | \$170.00 |
| Stewardship | \$800.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% | \$0.00 |
| Building & Grounds | \$172,800.00 | \$212,964.99 | 123.24% | \$248,000.00 |
| Office Exp (Supplies & Equip) | \$56,100.00 | \$86,574.07 | 154.32% | \$58,000.00 |
| General Expenses | \$8,900.00 | \$30,579.11 | 343.59% | \$19,000.00 |
| Administration & Planning | \$100.00 | \$65.40 | 65.40% | \$40,000.00 |
| (A&P is for savings fund) | | | | |
| Total EXPENSES | \$939,073.00 | \$937,504.64 | 99.83% | \$907,112.00 |
| WPC Net Total | (\$792.00) | (\$82,525.52) | | \$0.00 |
| Preschool Account | | | | |
| Preschool Income | \$304,300.00 | \$307,489.12 | 94.86% | |
| Preschool Expenses | \$300,259.00 | \$300,980.84 | 100.24% | |
| Preschool net total | \$4,041.00 | \$6,508.18 | | |



COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Administration and Planning (A & P) Committee 2018 Annual Report

Committee Members: Marybell Avery (moderator), Karen Janovy (vice moderator), Joyce Douglas, Dan Hoffman, Emily Killham, Allen Wachter, Rev. Val Putnam.

The Administration and Planning Committee had a very busy and successful year. A & P represents the Session in areas not assigned to specific ministries or committees of the Session. It is the resource unit of the Session, providing information which contributes to thoughtful decision-making and implementation/follow-through for actions of the Session as a whole. A & P oversees policies and procedures of the Session and church bylaws. It provides leadership for long-range planning and implementation.

Three major goals achieved by A & P this year were the review and revision of the WPC Bylaws, leading the church wide focus group process to solicit feedback about the future of the church, and planning the 2019 Session retreat agenda with a new format.

In preparation for hiring the interim pastor, A & P updated the WPC Administrative Flow Chart which illustrates the staff relationships. We also formed the Westminster Preschool Advisory Committee to improve communication between the preschool and the church. When Interim Pastor Val Putnam came onboard, we shared with her the congregational survey results and Westminster statistics compiled in 2016.

A & P facilitated the work of the Session committees and ministries by supporting the development and achievement of their goals. Regular status reports were given to the Session. In order to clarify their responsibilities, we initiated the review of committee and ministry operating procedures. Many thanks go to the hard-working, conscientious, and talented group of A & P committee members listed above. Special thanks to Pastor Jimmy for his valuable direction during our transition and to Pastor Val for her outstanding leadership for the past six months.

2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee met August through November 2018. A slate was presented at the Congregational meeting. We now have 29 Session Members, 27 deacons and a full slate of ushers. The Committee will meet again, starting in June 2019. Submitted by Donna Wyatt/Gwen Thorpe, Moderator.

Nominating Committee--2018

Sarah Baltensperger
Theresa Burrage
Pam Oliver
Jim Kinkennon
Donna Wyatt, Chair

Nominating Committee--2019

Sarah Baltensperger
Theresa Burrage
Pam Oliver
Jim Kinkennon
Tony Chapp
Donna Wyatt, Chair



ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY REPORT

Presbyterians Have Always Valued Broad And Deep Education

Oft retired Rev. Ellen Davis continues to serve as organizer of the Sunday Bible Class. This group focuses on Biblical truth guided by scriptures provided in the common lectionary.

Academy of the Laity is the name that the Adult Ed forum began to use this year. Theological, doctrinal and cultural aspects of the Christian life are explored through topics like: "Creeds and Confessions" (March), "Faith and Athletics" (July/August), "Religious Clashes: What Religious and Cultural Conflicts of the Past Can Teach Us Today" (September), "Notable Presbyterians" (November).

At 9 AM each Sunday the Bible Class meets in the Parlor and the Academy of the Laity convenes in the Lounge. During this calendar year the Lounge underwent a major transformation. Thanks to Jim White and Sandi Larson's direction and Jason Wiota and Cheryl Rennick's expertise a utilitarian 1970s room became a 21st Century venue warmly decorated and equipped with state of the art multimedia capability and hospitality facilities. It is perfect setting for many meetings for groups and committees during the week.

For a good many years, Adult Ed has provided programming on Wednesday evenings for the WOW experience. In the Fall Parents' Night Out replaced the WOW schedule and it became apparent that very few adults would be disappointed if programs were dropped. So we did.

While we are pleased with strong attendance it remains the goal of Adult Education to engage more and all members in the project of deepening our faith experience.

Adult Ed ministry members for 2018 have been Dale Minter, Bruce Sheffield, Dennis Pentz, Sandi Larson, Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn, and Moderator Tom Pappas. Dale and Bruce have served with passion and energy and are stepping off. Many thanks.

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, 2019.



MEMBER CARE MINISTRY REPORT

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THE MEMBER CARE MINISTRY INCLUDES: Judy Buss, Joyce Douglas, Dorrie Gage, Gwen Hlava, Doug Karsting, and Jimmy Shelbourn (staff representative).

TO CARE FOR THE CONGREGATION:

- Cook “N” Carry is a service provided by the Member Care Ministry. Meals are prepared and delivered to members of the congregation during difficult times (sickness, death in family). Dorrie Gage spearheads this project with the assistance of several volunteers. During 2018, more than 70 meals were provided.
- “C” is for Christmas included sending about 85 Christmas cards to members who are not able to attend church. The cards featured a photo by Jim Hlava.
- The Prayer Chain continues to be a reliable way to notify volunteers via email, when a member of the congregation asks for support during an illness or crisis. All members are encouraged to join the Prayer Chain.
- Updating member rolls was an important project that the Member Care Ministry undertook. In addition to deaths and notifications to the church of member transfers, 445 names were removed as inactive. Having an accurate active member roll will help with planning and budgeting going forward.

TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORSHIPING COMMUNITY:

All Member Care Ministry members were encouraged to participate in, and assisted with, several church events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Presbyterians in the Park, Spooktacular, and “Our Place in the Sun” art auction.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

The goals of the Member Care Ministry were reviewed and updated. Measurement tools were added to help determine if the goals are being met.

On topic of Ministry Operating Procedures: Time was spent on review. Updates were discussed. The topic was tabled until Session determines committee assignments for 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Karsting



MISSION & OUTREACH 2018 REPORT

Our committee members are Dal Ronnau, Carolyn Harp, Jennifer Smith, David & Alice Szabat, Marilyn Smith, Gary & Glenna Haller.

Promoted four special offerings:

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

Continue to support the following:

FOOD PANTRY by collecting food for six families in our community by annual food drives, and continuing congregation support through food giving.

THE GATHERING PLACE by serving food every second Friday of the month, along with monetary support.

MATT TALBOT KITCHEN & OUTREACH by cooking & serving food on the first Friday of every other month, along with monetary support.

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR by doing what needs to be done for various businesses in October.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY by preparing lunch once a quarter for their build, along monetary support.



SUDANESE CLOTHING DRIVE for Sudan people who have had to flee their homes for safety reasons. Working to make this a yearly program.

SUDAN WELL PROJECT by raising funds to build shallow wells in South Sudan and Niger. Currently enough money has been raised to build 2 wells. February was the month the Well Project was kicked off with a dinner and sharing event on February 24. Debbie Braaksma from PCUSA Mission gave a talk. A phone call was made to Jim McGill. He gave us an update as to what was happening there.

ANGEL TREE was started in October to help people with needs have a better Christmas. 231 gifts were received.



WESTMINSTER GREEN @ HEART From the "Suns Celebration" project we were able to purchase 6 virtual solar panels. Also purchased energy saving light switches for several places in the church. Laurel Van Ham has entered Westminster in the Inter-faith Power and Light "Cool Congregation" challenge for these achievements.



BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

Building and Grounds 2018 Report

The Building and Grounds committee would like to thank retired staff member, Cheryl Rennick, for her many years of service to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Thanks to Elders, Jim White, Jason Woita, and co-opted members : Sandi Larson, Ken Govaerts, and Kevin Bryson. Also, a special Thank to Pastor Val for helping Building and Grounds Committee in solving some of the major problems occurring during 2018.

2018 has been another busy productive year for this committee. Building and Grounds oversaw these projects in 2018:

1. Replaced the 3 flat roofs on garden room, 210 and west entry roof.
2. Finished the remodeling of the lounge. Thanks to the donors of funds and volunteers for decorating and demolition.
4. Approved the installation of a security door on the preschool entry.
5. Completed tuck pointing on the east wall of the sanctuary and repaired and painted plaster over the choir loft.
6. Replaced light bulbs in sanctuary light fixtures with LED bulbs. Thanks to the Fred Zander family for volunteering the labor.
7. Reviewed the church's comprehensive insurance policy with the Unico agent.
8. Asked recommendations from Cornhusker Electric for converting lights in the Church Building to energy saving LED lights. Will continue evaluating in 2019.
9. Finished replacing control valve for the heating and air conditioning system.
10. Placed an order to replace 12 windows in the lounge and reception area.
11. Replaced a heat pump in the Faith Village area.
12. Developed a five-year plan for evaluating and planning for future projects and necessities.

13. Evaluated the windows in the preschool area.
14. Obtained quotes for replacing concrete sidewalks and parking lot damaged areas.
15. Discussed ideas for redecorating the garden room.
16. Completed the repair of the major natural gas line into the building.
17. Received a request from Nebraska Environmental Control Agency to evaluate two buried tanks on the Church property that were deactivated and filled with sand in 1995.
18. Paid Olsson Associate to develop a plan to monitor the soil and water table in accordance to State guidelines on Westminster's property.
19. Met with Olsson Associates to review the plan and obtain ideas to develop a plan to go forward for approval by the session.
20. Received a delay for buried tanks from Nebraska Environmental Control Agency until March 1, 2019.

Future projects the committee is working on for 2019:

Complete plans for the remodeling of the garden room
 Finish assessment of two roofs needing repair or replacement
 Finalize the security procedures for the building and grounds
 Survey the building for future repair needs
 Finalize plan for the buried tanks with NECA
 Jim White, Moderator

Committee Members

Jason Woita, Elder
 Kevin Bryson
 Cheryl Rennick, Staff
 Sandi Larson
 Ken Govaerts, Secretary





NEW MEMBER MINISTRY REPORT

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members: Matt Kirkland, Moderator, Emily Shelstad. Co-opted Members: Chris Stokes, Sean Mulvaney. Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn and Pastor Val Putnam

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.

New Member Committee Accomplishments in 2018:

- Launched our "Grow with Us!" campaign to encourage our congregation to help the new member committee grow the church both in numbers, but spiritually as well.
- Conceptualized, Designed and Printed and Distributed our "Grow with Us" pew brochures designed as a way to connect with visitors and spread info about our church offerings and schedule of events and services.
- Hosted two Bring a Friend Sunday events, September 9, 2018 and December 2, 2018.
- Hosted multiple Journeying Together classes and welcomed many new members and their families
- Provided colorful coffee cups in an attempt to encourage visitors who would like to connect with our church to grab a colored cup so the congregation knows who is visiting and who would like to connect with Westminster.
- Set up two Grow with Us Sundays, where New Member Committee members spoke from the pulpit to spread the work regarding our Grow with Us mission and to promote Westminster's social media outlets.
- Designed and bulk mailed an invitation to neighbors to join us at our Christmas Eve services.
- Wonderful idea from Pastor Val to connect with our pre-school families we had "The Blessing of the Backpacks."
- In October we reviewed our New Member Ministry Bylaws and considered adding language to welcome the "protected classes": Race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, physical or mental, familial status and sexual orientation. To make sure our church truly embraces being "Broadly Inclusive".

Looking Ahead: New Member Ministry continues to be excited about its mission to grow our church both spiritually, but also in numbers of members. Our church faces many challenges, but most of us are very excited for the future of our beautiful and historic church. Westminster Presbyterian Church's outlook is bright! New Member Committee will continue to help attract and connect New Members with the love and spirit of Jesus Christ our Savior.



STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2018

The theme for the 2018 Stewardship campaign was from Micah 6:8. A mailing was delivered to all homes and parishioners spoke from the heart during Sunday Worship about what stewardship meant to them. We must remember that all people have time, talent, and resources to give to the work of God in the world, in our country, in the community, and within our congregations.

Our financial resources may change over time, but our generous gifts are always needed to help carry out the mission and work of Westminster to spread the Gospel and love of God.

This is a time of change. Our membership has declined, but our hearts are still generous. We estimate pledges for 2019 to be \$565,000.

With gratitude,
Marijane Hancock and Brian Lammers



Personnel Committee 2018 Report:

This year the Personnel Committee accomplished several HUGE tasks. We started the year needing to hire an Interim Pastor and we hired a GREAT one, Pastor Val Putnam. We also hired a new Business Administrator, Julie Mack, Audio Visual Tech, Minda Piontek, and Children and Family Ministry Director, MaKayla Bartels. We also updated the Employee Handbook adding some critical new benefits and removing any difference between Church Staff and Preschool Staff. Finally we gave some long past due raises to the Sunday Preschool and Daycare Staff.

Many thanks go to the members of the Personnel Committee for the time and effort spent on our work in 2018. Personnel Committee Members: Nancy Delgado, Harry Seward, Cyndy Maddux, Dale Burrage, Moderator.

For an added convenience you can pledge on-line at

westminsterlincoln.org

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



PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Preschool Advisory Committee was formed in June 2018. The purpose of this committee was established to help support the Preschool Director and the interests of the preschool, and to ensure there is a two-way flow of communication to the Session. Originating members of this committee include: Emily Shelstad, Karen Janovy, Susan Mulvaney, Dan Hoffman, and Suzanne Schneider.

During 2018 many exciting things happened in preschool.

In the spring there was a \$25,000 donation made to enhance our scholarship program. This allows the preschool more opportunity to provide access to quality care and education for middle and lower income families.

The preschool maintained NAEYC Accreditation as well as Step Up to Quality Level 5 Rating, continuing as the only program in the state of Nebraska to hold these dual highest quality ratings.

Changes were made to the Staff Handbook to be more inclusive of the Preschool staff, specifically in regards to benefits.

The installation of a keyed entry security system was added to the main entrance to Preschool. This enhancement provides a sense of security for all the parents and staff.

37 children graduated to a variety of kindergarten programs in Lincoln and the surrounding area. We have 82 children enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year.





WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION REPORT

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

The WPC Foundation was organized in 1955 to support this church. Its Vision is:

*"To solicit gifts, grants, bequests, real or personal property,
and to hold and administer these gifts for the benefit of Westminster
Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE."*

The Foundation Board is governed by 12 Westminster members (past elders) who are elected by the Congregation. It was established as a separate corporation with decisions made solely by the Board. It oversees the wise stewardship of the funds entrusted to its care and to encourage further giving. These funds function as the endowment arm of Westminster Church.

An Endowment is a permanent fund made up of financial gifts & bequests and designed to maintain the original principal intact. The funds are invested, with the principal maintained in perpetuity, as a source of funding.

Endowment Fund Disbursement: The wishes and instructions of the donors of the Endowed Funds shall be followed as provided by instrument or law with Board oversight. Any disbursement of these funds is based on a 5% payout rate, calculated using the average net asset value for the last three years.

General Fund Disbursement: The above payout policy also applies to the General Fund based on the average net asset value for the last three years. Distributions may be for a purpose deemed proper by the Board; most often for capital repairs or long-term projects.

Due to financial market conditions, total value of the Foundation declined slightly in 2018 to \$2,915,275.00.

WPC Foundation contributed \$100,000 to Westminster Presbyterian Church in 2018 for capital repairs including such items as gas line repairs and new sections of exterior roofing.

The total of withdrawals for the past seven-year period was \$1,081,910 to benefit the Church. Most of these funds were for capital repairs to the building or for system upgrades such as the phone and HVAC system.

WPC Foundation Board members at the end of 2018 included: Marilyn Maude, H Seward, Nancy Dawson, Ross McCown, Mark Whitehead, John Hoppe, Scott Nelson, Bill Roper, Mark Schorr, Joyce Douglas, Pastor Val Putman and Mitch Schainhost (Session representative).

Submitted by Jim Smith



MEET YOUR DEACONS

Sarah Baltensperger

Sarah is from Holdrege, NE. She works as a Senior Project Manager at Perceptyx, and volunteers for TeamMates and Make A Wish. She came to Westminster when Rob and her started dating and has been a member since September 2005. For fun, she likes to spend time with their family, go to Husker sporting events, read, and listen to podcasts. Her favorite food is pizza. Something you might not know about Sara is that she did a commercial when she was 3 years old, showing people how easy it is to use an ATM. :)



As a Deacon serving in 2019, Sarah is looking forward to serving in a different capacity and gaining new connections with members of our congregation! Sarah said, “I feel very blessed to be a part of this special group of deacons!”

DEACONS REPORT 2018

During 2018, the Deacon body made an emphasis of outreach to members who were not able to attend services. We implemented programs to distribute Communion to the homebound, provide regular visitation and correspondence with our older members and bereavement support. For example, during the late summer, 33 homebound members received Communion with the help of Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn. More than 40 members received monthly visits from Deacons at Nursing Homes, Assisted Living facilities, Retirement communities or their homes.

Our Mission Statement: *“To be the family of God to all people in Christ’s community, ministering with compassion and serving with joy.”*

As we continue to work for God and God’s people, we look forward to a new year as Deacons of Westminster. We are excited about 2019 as a year of continued focus on service to the Congregation.

Vice Moderator, Pam Oliver



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

9 AM Sunday School | Preschool-5th grade | ROOM 210

Children will explore Bible teachings & celebrate in God's love! The focus for this month is "Peace". Through storytelling & role play we will learn about the Beatitudes.

10:45 AM Kindergarten Of Eden | Preschoolers | ROOM 210

As we read about baby Jesus' coming, we remind our preschoolers that God loves so dearly. Each story describes new found joy having God in our lives to take care of us.

10:45 AM Sunday School in Faith Village | K-5th grade | Lower Level

"Blessed are the Peacemakers!" K-5th grade children will hear stories about making peace. Review of the Beatitudes from the book of Matthew will uncover ways we all can keep God's peace & improve our relationships with others.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Families & friends, Parents' Night Out is on! Bring your newborns- middle school aged youth to Westminster. While you enjoy time to feed your soul, let us feed your kiddos dinner & fun! During the 5-5:30 PM drop-off time, children play in the gym. A free meal is served in Cole Hall until it is time for music, where your children will learn how to use instruments & sing new songs. We end the evening of fun with a lesson & a bedtime storytelling to get everyone settled for the night. All are welcome & are encouraged to invite friends & family to join in!

Parents' Night Out has a regular attendance of 40-60 children/youth & is currently taking food donations. With your help, we can continue to grow the outreach & mission we offer to families! Below is a list of regularly used items for dinner.)

Food Donation Items: Milk, 50-70 small bags of Fritos in bulk, bags of shredded cheese, hamburger meat (tubes), macaroni noodles, bread/peanut butter/jelly, and cookies or small dessert. Fruit: apples, clementine's, grapes, or easily cut-up fruit,

DRAMA CAMP! "The Snow Queen"

Monday-Friday, March 11-15 | 8 AM - 5 PM. Performance: Saturday, March 16



Missoula Children's Theatre is returning to Westminster! Children K-8th grade are welcome to join us for Westminster's 8th Annual Drama Camp! Snacks are included, but lunches should accompany your child(ren) each day. Register online:

www.westminsterlincoln.org or pick up a registration form.

Payment must be made when submitting the registration form.

Contact MaKayla 402-475-6702

or makayla@westminsterlincoln.org.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Youth and Young Adults Annual Report

2018 has been a wonderful year of learning and fellowship for the youth of Westminster who are involved in mission, education, worship and fellowship. We have three age ranges that fall under YAYA. They include the Middle school (grades 6-8), high school youth (grades 9-12) and a young adult ministry (men and women in their 20's).

MISSION – Lohmen Mission Trip – During July, 12 youth and young adults from [Westminster](#) shared in fellowship and mission with our sister church in Lohmen Germany. This life- changing experience included months of preparation including a cake auction, baby-sitting, and dine-out events. Other mission projects included Souper Bowl of Caring, Gathering Place, Matt Talbot's Kitchen, Special Olympics, Trunk of Treat, Angel tree Christmas Shopping and assisting with the food drive.

EDUCATION – Education opportunities include Sunday School for grades 6-7 confirmation, high school, Theology on Tap for young adults. The YAYA committee changed the time of the middle school and high school class to 10:00-10:30 on Sunday mornings. Confirmation is held for 8-9 grade from 9:00-10:00, and includes two retreats. This year, Westminster confirmed 8 youth.

WORSHIP – Youth participation in worship has included sharing faith statements, leading the children's sermon, lighting the advent candle and assisting as youth liturgists.

FELLOWSHIP- Fellowship is centered around youth group and retreat. The middle school youth group meet on Wednesday night and the senior high on Sunday night. Their activities have included Lincoln Escape Room, Paintball, Roca Scary Farm, Lock-in, and Frisbee golfing

The youth and young adult program enjoyed the leadership of Devon Nelson and Andrew Finkner as leaders, Christine and Mike Dempsey and Rob Baltensberger as confirmation leaders. Edison McDonald is leading the Theology on Tap. Also, a special thank you to Jaime Hemmerling who led the Lohmen planning committee, Edison McDonald who headed up the youth retreat aided by Bailey Jex, Liz Uebele, Sophia Baillie, and Kaitlin Beck.

SPRING STATED MEETING FEBRUARY 2019

The annual Spring Stated Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 17, at the close of the 10:30 AM worship. The agenda includes the presentation of the 2018 annual reports, the presentation of the 2019 budget and the approval of the pastor's compensation for 2019. Please plan to join us.



WORSHIP & MUSIC REPORT

Music & Worship Committee Yearly Report for 2018

A great joy of 2018 was the opportunity to assist Pastor Val Putnam as she brought new life to the celebration of the sacraments. Children were incorporated into both Baptism and Holy Communion, to the delight of the congregation and the education of children as they participated. David Anderson of our committee represented the session for most of the baptisms.

Much of our work is done behind-the-scenes. We prepare the communion elements and clean up after the service. We decorate and undecorate the sanctuary and other areas for Easter, Christmas and World Communion. Mike and Mary Tomlinson of the Chapel Guild work to straighten items in the pew racks and attendance pads.

In this year of transition, we missed celebrating our Scottish Heritage in May. We will have a special Sunday this year, on February 24, when we can all be Scots for a day. Expect bagpipes, kilts and tartans.

Looking ahead, we are challenged with the need to maintain the wonderful Casavant pipe organ. The immediate need is for replacement or rebuilding of the console to ensure that the instrument remains playable. Future years will require routine, but extensive, refurbishment of the entire organ as well as possible adjustments to accommodate the changed acoustics in our sanctuary. Michael Gregg heads the Church Organ Task Force.

Many thanks to the entire committee. Those not named above are Kathy Anderson, Linda Burchard, Freda Gregg, Carolyn Schainost and Diana Wild. Thanks to Scott Colborn for serving as Communion Facilitator for the past six years. Thanks to Sydne Wirrick Knox for training and coordinating the ushers. Thanks to our staff representatives, John and Laura Ross.

In His Service,
Jim Kinkennon, Moderator

Introducing the Psalm 98 Players

We're excited to introduce a new way to be involved in music for worship. All instrumental musicians (strings, winds, brass, percussion – everyone!) from middle school through adults, are invited to join the *Psalm 98 Players*. This new ensemble will play a few times a year with no regular rehearsals, no long-term commitments. Our debut will be on Heritage Sunday, February 24, where we'll join with the organ to lead the hymns and play prelude music. We'll hold two rehearsals before that Sunday to get used to playing together, but you'll otherwise learn your part ahead of time at home.



UPCOMING MUSIC & WORSHIP

Nebraska Brass – Brass Variations | Sunday, February 17 | 3 PM

\$15 adults/\$12 seniors/children & students free

The Nebraska Brass present a program of “theme & variations”. Pre-purchase tickets through Westminster, and a portion of those ticket sales stays with Westminster. Tickets will be available on Sundays in the Garden Room starting on Sunday, February 3, or from the front desk during the week.

Scottish Heritage Sunday | Sunday, February 24

Bagpipes and Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans! Join us for a celebration of our Presbyterian Scottish roots, and plan to stay for a meal of bangers and mash following 10:30 worship. RSVP to John by Sunday, February 10 if you’d like to play with us on Heritage Sunday. Music and play-along rehearsal tracks will be provided. Come play with us, and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

UNL Choirs | Tuesday, February 26 | 7:30 PM

UNL’s All-Collegiate Choir and flagship University Singers bring an evening of superb choral music to Westminster’s sanctuary. Free performance.

Hymn Festival at First-Plymouth Church | Sunday, March 3 | 4 PM

Westminster Choir has been invited to join several local choirs in a Hymn Festival at First-Plymouth Church, 2000 D Street. Come support our music department and enjoy an afternoon of spiritual renewal. Want to sing? Contact John or Laura for sheet music and rehearsal details.

Forté Handbell Quartet | Thursday, March 7 | 7 PM

Based in Colorado Springs, Forté is an advanced quartet marked by artistry, energy, and dedication to their craft. In pursuit of musical excellence, Forté strives to explore, innovate, inspire, and glorify God through the gift of music. Free-will offering. Please contact John Ross if you are interested in providing homestay accommodations for one or more of the Forté ringers during their time in Lincoln.

Nebraska Trombone Ensemble | Monday, April 8 | 7 PM

UNL’s trombone studio will be back for their Spring Concert. Music varies from Bach to Rock. Join us for a fun evening!

Messiah with Westminster Choir | Sunday, May 5 | 10:30 AM Worship

Westminster Choir will present the Resurrection portion of Handel’s *Messiah* this Spring. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, February 26. The first part of choir rehearsal will be devoted to *Messiah*, so guest singers can plan to arrive at 6:30 PM and you will be dismissed halfway through. We hope you will consider joining us for this inspiring work!



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION Meets in the Lounge | 9 AM

“Hurrahing in Harvest”

For February, Academy of the Laity (Adult Education) will dive deep into Christianity and spirituality in poetry. WPC member, Roy Scheele, recently retired Poet in Residence at Doane College, will guide us through the works of Gerard Manley Hopkins (Jesuit priest), Emily Dickinson as well as a wealth of other known and little-known poets.

February 3: Gerard Manley Hopkins

February 10: Emily Dickinson

February 17: Selected Poets

February 24: Selected Poets

Sunday Adult Bible Class

Join us any Sunday in February | Parlor | 9 AM

During February as we finish our exploration of Job’s story, we will reflect on God’s response to Job’s friends and Job. With the completion of this Old Testament study, we will open the Gospel of Luke continuing its study throughout Lent concluding with the Passion Story on Palm Sunday, April 14.

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

February 3: A Voice for God: Elihu, the young prophet, Job 32-37.

February 10: The Voice of God, Job 38-41.

February 17: Job’s Response to God; Epilogue, Job 42:1-17.

February 24: The Infancy Prologue, Introduction to the Gospel of Luke, Luke 1-2:52.





Your Life Groups Committee is charged with helping members make and keep meaningful connections in the Church. There are groups that focus on faith, the Bible, 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 have been trying hard to find a place to get you plugged to grow your faith and circle of 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:

Project Creation: We continue to try and 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.

Lent Study: Over the last couple of years we have incubated the 40 days of Focus, Lent Study project. We have seen several individual groups meet for 6 weeks during Lent to study materials written for the season of Lent. The groups met in homes, at the church and even at Top Cat restaurant for fellowship and discussion. For 2019 the Education Committee has taken on the Lent Study project. Please look for their signup sheets in 2019. These have been popular – join in.

Website: The Westminster website <https://westminsterlincoln.org/> has a nice page on our Life Groups. We previously took 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 life group membership and leadership. Ultimately, we were able to quantify the Life Groups in the church and have those highlighted on the website.

Pancake Breakfast: This has been a bit beyond the capabilities of our small committee to handle so we have reached out and had great response from some of the small groups to put on the aprons and have the pancake breakfast in 2017 and 2018. We have had great turnout and the funds have benefited other groups in the church. (Special thanks to the custodial staff for helping with the setup and takedown. That effort was really appreciated.)

Easter Breakfast: We agreed to assume Easter Breakfast responsibilities in 2018 and plan to serve a light breakfast Easter morning 2019. Look for more on that yummy and Spirit filled event.

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. 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.

Special Thanks To... Our Westminster staff - they make what we do look seamless... Jimmy Shelbourn for good leadership... Pastor Val for bringing excellence and insight to Westminster... Marijane Hancock who will chair the Committee beginning in 2019.



Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Feb 5 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at Tico's this month, 317 S 17th Street. Come for fellowship & some really good food. Lunch Bunch meets at a different dining establishment on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture

Saturday, February 16 | 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.

Pastor Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 AM. For more info, call Pastor Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

LNO—Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, 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.

History Buffs

Sat. Feb. 9 | Lounge | 9 AM

John and Laura Ross will be presenting to us about "the life of George Friedrich Handel and "Messiah".

Faith & Cancer

Tuesday, February 19 | 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.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, February 20

Westminster Parlor | 1 PM

Prairie Readers extends a special invitation to all for a special presentation by Ted Genoways about his book, This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm.

Following a Nebraska farm family from harvest to harvest, Genoways explores the rapidly changing landscape of small, traditional farming operations as he describes the day-to-day work of this farm family.

The book has been selected as "One Book, One Nebraska." Don't miss an opportunity to hear Genoways talk about this subject so important to all Nebraskans.

Knit & Sit | Wednesdays

Church Library | 6:30 PM

We warmly welcome you to come to knit, crochet, do other hand work, or just sit and enjoy the fellowship. We can also help you learn to knit and we have some supplies to share. We meet year round, just come when you can.

Theology on Tap: Young Adults Gather to Discuss Faith!

We focus on fulfilling our day to day spiritual needs by providing a safe place to have fun & explore God's call in each of our own lives. Join us on Wednesdays @ 8pm! Contact Edison McDonald at 402-802-1109 for location information.



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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Annual Report 2018