



THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 11

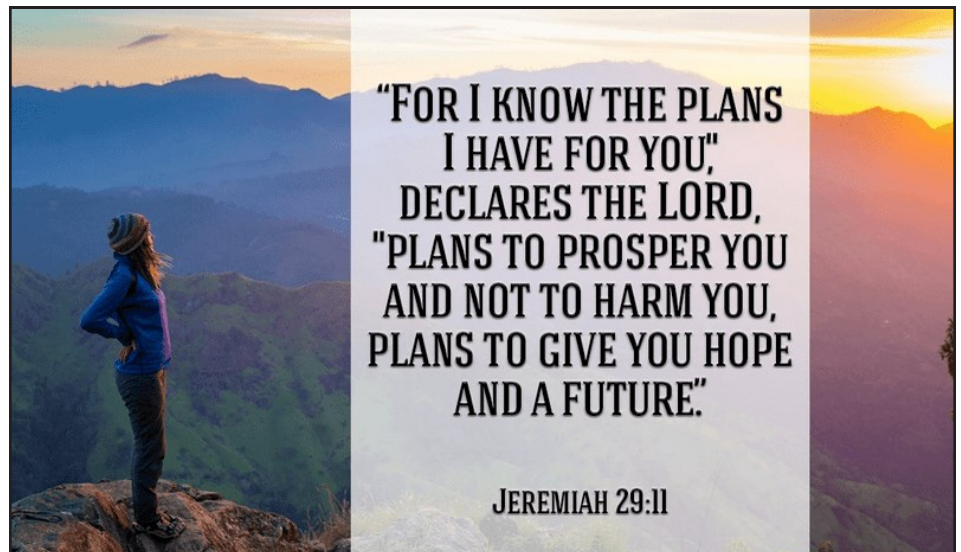
NOVEMBER 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation and the Congregation will be held jointly on Sunday, November 17, 2019, immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for 2020 and to hear the report of the corporation.

An Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

By Joyce Douglas



The first meeting of the Westminster PNC was held on Monday, August 12, 2019. Attendees were: Andrew Finkner, Michael Gregg, Steve Hughes, Jim Kinkennon, Sandi Larson, Deb Schorr, Alisha Stokes, Allen Wachter, Joyce Douglas, Sue Collar, COM Liaison, and Stephen Earl, Homestead Interim Presbyterian.

Except for that first meeting, the PNC has met every Thursday except one for a total of 11 meetings by the end of October. Most meetings last between 2 and 2 ½ hours. Several members had trips scheduled but they called in to continue to be part of the discussions. To date, the PNC has dedicated approximately 198 committee hours for this search which doesn't count the many "at home" hours to prepare for the committee discussions. Although the discussions are confidential, the Committee has:

- Written and received Session and Presbytery approval for the Ministry Information Form (MIF) that was then posted on the Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection (CLC).
- reviewed 58 Pastor Information Forms (PIF).
- provided progress articles for the September and October Messengers.
- provided "Minute for Mission" comments during church services in September and October.
- prepared an advertisement for the magazine, *Presbyterian Outlook*, which will begin in December.

To date, we have received a variety of match candidates. Based on those matches, we believe with a few tweaks to our MIF, as well as paid and unpaid advertising of the position, will result in a broader list of candidates. For that reason, we have initiated our second "prong" to look for the Pastor that isn't looking to change. The ad in *Presbyterian Outlook* will enlarge the pool of possible candidates. Steve Hughes has also prepared a similar ad which can be posted on Facebook pages. Steve will be glad to share this ad if anyone is willing to post it and help spread our information.

Since most of the CLC candidates are from the East or West coasts, we are just starting to look at churches in the Midwest to research if there might be someone who is ready to move.

THANK YOU to the Nominating Committee. The individuals on the PNC are smart, energetic and dedicated to finding an excellent Pastor for our next chapter at Westminster.



An early childhood education initiative.

Creating equal opportunities for all children to learn and grow in their early years – regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic background – is vital to Lincoln’s prosperity. Access to high quality early childhood experiences enables children to be kindergarten-ready and to develop into successful community citizens.

In Lincoln, 78% of children live in households where all parents are in the workforce. Children are in nonparental care, so access to high-quality child care has come to play a critical role in the development of children. High-quality child care helps children to develop the range of skills necessary for future life success. Conversely, low-quality early environments can lead to deficits in children’s development.

What is the cost of child care?

Child care is very expensive. In fact, Nebraska is one of the least affordable states in the U.S. for child care. The annual cost of \$12,480 for family child care for an infant would take up almost 15% of income for a median income two-parent family. Nebraska ranks least affordable in the nation for a range of child care types.

How can Lincoln parents access affordable quality child care?

The Lincoln Community Foundation has approved a grant of \$49,000 from the Lincoln Littles Early Learning Fund to Westminster Preschool for the 2019-2020 school year for the purpose of expanding access to low-income children. Due to this generous grant, Westminster Preschool was able to assist **17** children with the cost of Preschool!



What Parents Have to Say

“To Whom it May Concern,

Our daughter was able to receive the Lincoln Littles Scholarship and attend Westminster Preschool. **Since being able to go to preschool, her whole personality has brightened up.**

With daycare, it was a battle to get her to go; she wanted to stay home with mommy or daddy. I do not believe she got the attention she needed from the caregiver, as she had too many kids to attend to. And with having all those kids, the caregiver was unable to give our daughter any education.

With attending Westminster, our daughter has come home excited to tell us all about her day, the activities she did, the songs she sang, and her friends she played with. The teachers have shown great care for our daughter as well, being very prompt with answering our questions and showing concern when she acts out of her normal. She wakes up on the week-ends and asks us if she gets to go to preschool today.

The Lincoln Littles Scholarship has really allowed our daughter to grow and have amazing experiences and create many memories and she is only just starting school.”

“I was so relieved at the mention of scholarship.

I was just praying silently that this scholarship would cover the fees for us. We are so grateful that your school granted us this scholarship opportunity because we would not be able to pay the fees. And if we could not and you did not have this funding, our child would just stay at home. There would be no school for him. This is really an opportunity for me to express all my gratefulness to the donators and all those who are working to offer hope to families like mine. You wiped my tears by granting a schooling opportunity to my child.”

In addition to the Lincoln Littles Scholarship, Westminster Preschool has an additional scholarship program where all monies donated go directly to Westminster Preschool families.

The Westminster Foundation has an endowment program, and donations can be made at any time.

“You can do that?! For us, really? This was my reaction when I was told that my son would be able to attend Westminster at no charge due to the Lincoln Littles Scholarship. I am currently a graduate student raising my son on my own, and to have such a special gift means the world to me. My son and I are beyond grateful to be able to use Westminster as our care provider. He adores his teachers, friends, and school life. When previous care providers did not meet my expectations, I was so thankful to have found Westminster. On top of offering a wonderful preschool curriculum, Westminster staff gives my son opportunities to learn and grow in a nurturing and supportive manner. This scholarship allows my son to receive a high-quality education, and that is so important to me, being in the field of education myself. My son comes home daily with stories, songs, and learning experiences to share with me. Thank you for giving to this organization and helping my family and me get through graduate school. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel knowing that I am able to leave my son each day in the loving hands of Westminster, where kindness truly is the foundation of each and every day.”

“To say ‘thank you’ wouldn’t even begin to describe our gratitude towards the Lincoln Littles Scholarship Program & Westminster and what they have done to go above and beyond for our family. We are a family of four and my husband lost his job recently. His income was the primary source of income for our mortgage, the cars, preschool, all of the big things. When he lost his job my first thought was - what about our kids? How do we take care of them, how do we keep their lives as normal as possible while we try to figure out how to get through this? That’s where this amazing, God-gifted, life-changing program came in. This program helped us in more ways than words could express. Our children were able to keep attending Preschool and Pre K. They were able to keep their routine, their normalcy, while Mom and Dad were on the other side figuring things out for them. To know they were taken care of is the biggest blessing during this whole process. I will forever be beyond thankful, grateful and blessed to Westminster and the Lincoln Littles Scholarship Program for saving my family.”

Westminster Food Pantry: Be Thankful — Show Others You Care!



Ways to Support Westminster Food Pantry

Monetary donations

Bring non-perishable food from our list

Adopt a day for \$50.00 or a week for \$350.00

Garage Sale designating proceeds to Westminster Pantry

Community service project at your work or organization

Surprise someone with a donation in their honor – Cards in the church office.

We always need canned fruit, potato flakes, & any item on the list. We always appreciate monetary gifts. Monetary contributions can be placed in a designated envelope on the front office counter and placed in the slot of the door of the business office, or in the offertory. Please write “food pantry” on your monetary contribution.



Recently, Southview Church had a food drive. They gave 800 items. **Thanks** for your support!

Stacy Graham suggested that her coworkers at Applied Systems donate money to buy all the food items we pack for 1 week as their office community service project. Here Stacy and Erin Watson show the boxes they packed.

Girl Scout Troop #20783 donated \$150 from their Cookie Sales. They purchased the food items, stocked the shelves, and packed food. They learned how to shop wisely and manage money while having fun.

A 4th grader with a big heart, Maddie Hoyle, wanted to help. Last summer, she had a Lemonade stand and raised \$50 for our pantry.

Photos—Top: Girl Scouts; Middle: Stacy and Erin; Bottom: Maddie and Marilyn Smith



THE POWER OF TEN

As we move ahead on the exciting new future for Westminster, I encourage each of us to consider the Power of Ten. Yes...the **Power of Ten**.

In addition to being the percent of the tithe... giving 10% of your household income to God through the ministry and mission of Westminster... TEN serves as an inspirational number in so many ways. The number appears 242 times in the Bible. In just a snapshot, you see that ten is already a big part of the congregational life at Westminster we enjoy today:

- *Ten Offerings for Education*
- *Ten Ways to Serve One Another*
- *Ten Committees to Serve the Church*
- *Ten Ways we Serve in Mission and Outreach to those in Need*
- *Ten Ways we Care for the Environment*
- *Ten Endowments that provide legacy giving for decades to come*

Now we are asking everyone to embrace the **Power of Ten** in their giving commitment plans for the coming year. As you give generously we ask you to consider increasing your 2020 giving in one of the following ways:

Increase your Giving by 10% for the Year

Increase your Giving by \$10 a Week

Increase your Giving by \$10 a Month

Generosity inspires generosity. If we each increase our giving for 2020, we unleash the true potential of Westminster... the call of our next pastor, the call of our next education leader for our children, the expansion of our ministry programs and our ability to provide disaster relief assistance to our neighbors near and far, and the ability to grow in new ways not yet realized.

In scripture, 2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds us *"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly."*

That's the essence. God has already blessed us and now calls us to give back generously for the blessings we have already received. How will you respond? How will you step up your giving commitment and embrace the **Power of Ten** in your giving plans?

Please return the enclosed 2020 Giving Commitment card to the church office or submit it online by *November 10th*. And then join us that day as well, our Commitment Sunday, to celebrate the joy of giving on November 10th during the 9:30 worship service. I hope to see you then!

Allen Wachter, Stewardship Moderator

PS – Please consider moving to online giving for 2020. Not familiar? Ask us how!

FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

The Wachter Family



*From left to right:
Allen, Ron, Valery,
and Eric Wachter*

Valery and Ron Wachter met in Waterloo, Iowa, in the kitchen at a singles gathering at a Presbyterian church; she was cutting up the cheese for snacks, and he was eating the pieces as fast as she could cut them. A propitious start to a courtship that is now a marriage of 56 years and counting.

The couple, along with their two sons, Allen, 52, and Eric, 48, have been Westminster members since the early 1970s. They moved to Lincoln for Ron's job; he started at Bryan Memorial Hospital in 1966 and retired in 2007. "I was one of the suits at that time," Ron said, modestly. Actually, he was Vice President for almost 40 years.



Above: Allen with his ever-present camera

This is a family that perseveres, and commitment is a common denominator. They stick to what they start, and there's longevity in their careers.

Allen began working for Valentino's and followed two of his bosses to the Amazing Pizza Machine in the Millard area of Omaha; he counts 35 years with the same guys who sign his paycheck.

Eric is in year 21 as a third-grade teacher at Arnold Elementary School, where his students write him poems, and his joy comes in keeping contact with them long after they leave his classroom.



The Wachter parents on the day they joined the church in 1973. Ron and Valery are in the back row, fourth and fifth from the left.



Above: Val and Ron celebrating their 56th anniversary.

Left: Cheering on the Huskers, from left to right: Allen, Ron, Valery, and Eric

Valery is the artistic one in the family, applying acrylics and pastel to canvases in her studio at the Burkholder Project in Lincoln's Haymarket district. She directs an art gallery at Bryan East, rotating exhibitions of artists every month. She also organized a show of creative offerings of church members at the Burkholder, encouraging folks to display all forms of art, not just paint on canvas.

The four hold degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and are avid Husker fans, with season tickets to football, basketball and volleyball games. Eric hasn't missed a home football game since 1977.

But Westminster maintains a central place in their lives. Valery taught Sunday School way back when, and the boys did several mission trips in high school. Ron has taken several turns as an usher and a Deacon, and has served on the Foundation Board; Eric has had two stints as an usher, and Allen, the unofficial church photographer lurking around with his camera -- a past Deacon and current Elder on his second go-around -- also serves as moderator of the stewardship committee and as a member of the pastor nominating committee. His plate, he says, is pretty full at the moment, but he's not complaining.

(Continued, next page)



Left: Ron and Eric, who can always be found sipping coffee in the garden room before and after worship.

Right: Valery with one of her paintings from her marble series currently on display in the Church lounge.

(Wachter family continued)

The church provides an extended family, says Valery. She looks for her friends when she's there, and worries about them if they are not.

At first glance, the stately building may seem to signal pretension and rigidity, Allen says, but the beauty of Westminster is in its welcoming ways and its effort to balance worship tradition with a contemporary twist to make longtime members comfortable, but new members not feel like outsiders.

The inclusion of children in the worship service and changing times of the service to accommodate young families reflect the church's flexibility, which they say is necessary to attract new members.

Back to some little-known facts about the Wachters. Ron played trombone in the Shrine Band for 28 years, and Valery would go along as a groupie. He is handy with tools and has plied his carpentry skills in repairing the deck of his house. Allen enjoys playing golf and has gone to the Masters twice. Eric recently won a Windstream award for excellence in teaching and works at preparing Power Points as a foundation for his classroom lessons.

Amidst all this serious talk, Ron diverts to tell a story on himself as a young Methodist growing up in Broken Bow. Passing around the collection plate in a church with a very slanted floor, he accidentally tipped the plate and, to his horror, the coins clattered down the aisle. All these years later, he vividly recalls that day, and his family chuckles. No such embarrassment as a Presbyterian, however.

*Article by Patty Beutler
Photos courtesy of the family and Jim Kinkinnon*

Mondays at noon: deadline for E-Vine * Wednesdays at noon: deadline for Vine * 20th of each month: deadline for Messenger

Thank you!

Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Being Received during November

*"Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart ... "*
Jeremiah 29:12-13

Each November, Presbyterian Women across the country participate in the Thank Offering which provides grants for ministry projects around the world, including such projects as summer lunch programs, medical clinics and services, food banks, immigrant services and interfaith ministries. This year's grants total \$382,812. The 2019 Thank Offering scripture text is Jeremiah 29:12-13 which teaches that we must serve and care now while holding on to our faith in God who listens to our prayers for a future of hope and healing. While we understand that our individual gifts to the Thank Offering cannot begin to cover all the needs of a hurting world, we have faith that God uses us to accomplish significant ministry to people in need. Hunger, homelessness, fear and pain will not be eradicated in our lifetimes, but we must work together to provide God's care to people now.

If you would like to share in this ministry of thanksgiving, mark your gift "Thank Offering" and place it in the offering plate or bring it to a Presbyterian Women's circle in November. The dates and times of those meetings are listed below.

- from Ellen Davis

Circle 3, Church lounge on Wednesday, November 6 at 10 a.m.

**Circle 4, Home of Faye Moulton. on Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m.
6345 Bo Creek Court**

Circle 5, Church lounge on Tuesday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

Circle 6, Church library on Tuesday November 26 at 7 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH— PW CIRCLES

Circle 3

2019: 11/6, 12/4

2020: 1/8 (note change), 2/5, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6

First Wednesday 10 a.m. Church Lounge

Leader: Linda Miller

Circle 4—First Mondays

at member's homes at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates: 11/4 Faye Moulton 12/2 Joyce Douglas

1/6 Kathy Anderson 2/3 Linda Burchard

3/2 Marijane Hancock 4/6 Carolyn Harp 5/4 Susie Hughes

Circle 5

Second Tuesday 10 a.m. Church Lounge

Leader: Pat Hackley

Meeting Dates:

2019: 11/12, 12/10

2020: 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12

Circle 6

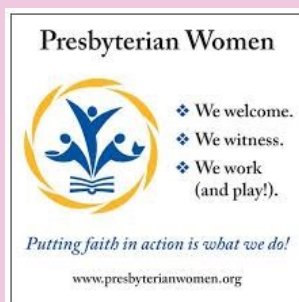
Fourth Tuesday 7p.m.

Church Library Leader: Jane Hines

Meeting Dates:

2019: 11/26, No December meeting,

2020: 1/28, 2/25, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26



The Giving (Angel) Tree is UP!

Everyone is welcome to donate!

This year the Giving Tree will contain tags for Home Instead and Salvation Army. These agencies have asked that we deliver the gifts to them no later than December 6th. (Your gift should come to the church. Outreach will deliver to the proper agency.)

This will give them time to sort, fill in needed items, and get them to the proper recipients.

What to do:

Pick a tag (or two) from the tree in the Garden Room.

Shop.

Deliver the unwrapped gift back to the church (with tag)
on or before December 2nd.

What NOT to do:

Please do not wrap the gift or provide wrapping paper to the church.

Please do not take a tag if you can not provide a gift.

Call or email Gary Haller with any questions: 817-757-2980 or

txhaller2@att.net

Thank you!!

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION INVITES YOU

Bible Class * Parlor 10:45 a.m.

Friends in Christ, as we move through November, we are reminded through scripture of the promises offered us in anticipation of the Incarnation. November 24 culminates our walk through Luke's Gospel as we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday in the liturgical year. Join us any Sunday following worship in the Parlor for animated discussion of the sermon and sermon text. Studies this month will include:

November 3 – Luke 19:1-10

November 10 – Luke 20:27-38

November 17 - Luke 21:5-19

November 24 – Luke 23:33-43

Adult Forum * Lounge 10:45 a.m.

November - A Month of Gratitude

Adult Education Forum will focus on good services in our community which we appreciate and support.

November 3- Westminster voices speak of gratitude.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, come to hear stories and share a brief story of gratitude.

November 10 - Sue Babovec, Gary Haller, Homestead Presbytery Disaster Response Team

November 17- Bill Michener, Lighthouse

November 24- Scott Young, Food Bank of Lincoln

47th ANNUAL HOLIDAY OF TREES

The Heritage League is holding their **47th annual Holiday of Trees** on **Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church**. The hours of the event are Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (On Friday at 6:30 the Raffle will be held and food service will close.) The admission price remains at \$1 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from The Heritage League members.

Proceeds from this year's ticket sales will go to the **Lincoln Music Teachers Association Music Outreach Program [LMTA-MOP]** which provides low-cost music lessons, instruments, repairs, sheet music, and community performance opportunities for up to 50 area students who could not afford the full price of lessons, but who would find great benefit from the study of music. The student must be nominated by a person in authority, such as a school music teacher, a homeroom teacher, guidance counselor or LMTA teacher as being interested in music, financially in need, and in a position where music would be beneficial. For more information contact 402-477-5647, MOP@LMTA.info, or www.LMTA.info [Music Outreach Program]. LMTA is a 501 (c)(3) corporation.

Holiday of Trees will display 20 beautiful trees decorated by community members and organizations, including LMTA. The Holiday of Trees also features music by local adult & student musicians, Santa Claus from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. each day, Mrs. Santa throughout the day, expanded Attic Treasures, Pantry of homemade food items, Raffle of several special items, and a Café. In September of 1973 our charter member, Cec Cather, presented the Holiday of Trees idea as a fundraiser for local charities. The first Holiday of Trees was held in November of the same year with 10 decorated trees and a bake sale. \$1000 was raised and donated to the newly opened Burn Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital. This tradition has continued for 47 years and over \$250,000 has been donated to local organizations.

The Heritage League Woman's Club was organized in 1966 and is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). The Heritage League was organized for charitable and educational purposes and is a 501(c)(3) organization. The club meets on Tuesdays for general meetings with featured programs and also has special interest groups that include Bridge, Books, and Home & Away. For more information about The Heritage League visit our website <http://sites.google.com/site/heritageleaguelincoln/>. For information on the Holiday of Trees, please call Janet Domeier at 402-429-9286 or domeier@inebraska.com or Joyce Genoways at 402-488-5467 or joycegenoways70@gmail.com.

It's "Save Your Styrofoam" Time!

Back by popular demand, we will be collecting your unwanted Styrofoam packaging once again—think holidays!

Here's what to do-

Save any EPS (Styrofoam) packing material or products marked #6.

Sorry, no disposable food containers or packing peanuts.

Remove any tape, loose parts, etc.

Break anything too large to manage.

Bring it to church starting right after Christmas.

We'll deliver it to a facility in Omaha where it can be recycled into new material.

Bonus!

We did such a good job recycling Styrofoam last year that we will also be collecting unwanted holiday lights and extension cords—for just two weeks—starting right after Christmas. Be ready!





STAFF DIRECTORY

All staff email is: [staff member's first name@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:staff_member's_first_name@westminsterlincoln.org)

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Val Putnam.....ext. 110
 Parish Assoc. Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn.....ext. 116
 Parish Associate for PW: Rev. Ellen Davis.....ext. 101
 Admin. Exec. Joanne Gabriel.....ext. 102
 Business Mgr. Joanne Gabriel/Carol Bishop.....ext. 105
 Vol. Coord., Andrea, front desk (mornings).....ext. 101
 Organist John, and Choir and Bells Dir. Laura Ross.....ext. 111
 Custodian John Paul Wirrick.....ext. 126
 Custodian Richard Gruenmeyer.....ext. 126
 Middle School Youth Dir., Andrew Finkner.....ext. 104
 High School Youth Dir., Devon Nelson.....ext. 104
 Sandi Larson, Interim Children's Ministry Director.....ext. 101
 Preschool Dir. Suzanne Schneider.....ext. 103

INTRODUCING WESTMINSTER'S NEW (WEST) FRONT STEPS!



Faith & Cancer—Nov. 19 at 7 PM in the Parlor

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 at the same time every **third Tuesday** of each month. Contact: Bruce Sheffield. Email is: bgsheffield@gmail.com.

PRAIRIE READERS

Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m.

Westminster Parlor, will be Creating the reading list for 2020.
 Contact: Faye Moulton at fgmoulton@gmail.com.

History Buffs Fall Schedule

9AM in the Lounge

Sat. Nov. 9 My Korean Adventure Dave Atkinson

Sat. Dec.14 Slavery in Washington D.C.

from 1820 -Civil War Dr. Will Thomas (UNL)

Questions? Contact: Bruce Sheffield at bgsheffield@gmail.com

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesdays of the month. Location varies. Gathering at 11:30a.m.

Tues., Nov. 5: Granite City 6150 O St., Lincoln

Tues., Dec. 3: location TBD.

Questions? Contact Ed Plander. Email is: plandere@prodigy.net.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Ladies of all ages join in fellowship and to experience new restaurants throughout Lincoln. Bring a friend, sister, mother, daughter and feel free to drop-in at your leisure. Contact Robyn Ubele at (937) 935-6858 or robynu2@hotmail.com if you would like to be added to our monthly E-vite, or, if you have questions. RSVPs are appreciated to insure ample seating. Join us between 5-7pm.

Tuesday, Nov 12th Venue; 4111 Pioneer Woods Dr, Suite 100 (Happy Hour prices until 6 PM).

Knit and Sit

6:30pm—8:30pm Every Wednesday
 Church Library, Year-Round

SAUSAGE, EGGS, AND SCRIPTURE

On Sat., **Nov. 16th**, Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible study. We meet on the third Sat. of each month in the private dining room of Scooter's, (2901 S. 84th) just south of 84th and Van Dorn, at **8a.m.** Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn leads the study, which concludes promptly at 9a.m. November's Scripture is: Mark 6: 45-56. For more info., call Parish Associate Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Homestead Presbytery Disaster Report

Following the floods of March, 2019, **86% of the counties in Nebraska were declared to be disaster areas** - including many within the borders of Homestead Presbytery. Schuyler, Columbus, North Bend, Fremont, Nebraska City, Walthill, Niobrara and Norfolk were especially hit hard.

Homestead Presbytery immediately applied for a \$7,500 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which was used in the above-named areas for immediate needs as well as to host three FEMA meetings for help groups in Fremont, Columbus and Nebraska City at the Presbyterian Church in each community. A team of PDA personnel came to each community and assessed the damage.

It has been hard for PDA to wrap their heads around the damage - it covers such a wide area and damage is not as visible as with a tornado or earthquake. Buildings are still standing - they are just ruined internally. Mold is "invisible" until you are in it - breathing it, smelling it, getting sick from it.

Flood waters eventually (but sometimes not for a long time) dry up, and it looks like all is well - you can't necessarily see the sand and silt (inches and inches of it) on the previously lush Nebraska topsoil until you stand on it! With no crop this year, it will be difficult (if not impossible) for farmers to have the funds (loans) to buy seed, fertilizer and sometimes equipment for next year. This has a "ripple effect." As farmers can't farm, they move; as they move, they take children from the schools which decreases the amount of state aid a school has. As families move, small, rural churches have even more decline in membership to meet even the basic budgets.

We Nebraskans will be dealing with and will be affected by the Flood of 2019 for many years! Homestead Presbytery was also able to apply for a \$5,000 grant from PDA to assist the North Bend pastor and his family in replacing some of the many items they had stored in their basement when nearly every basement in North Bend flooded - with sewage backup.

Representatives from Homestead Presbytery have spent many hours in Fremont, Columbus and Mead helping set up Long-Term Recovery Groups to oversee the reconstruction and rebuilding of many of the flooded areas. We will shortly be making grant applications to provide up to about \$40,000 to help these three groups with unmet needs. (Columbus serves five counties, plus Schuyler in Colfax County.)

There is much need beyond what PDA can provide and, thankfully, there are two other sources of funding for needs in these areas. Many other denominations have similar programs to PDA and will be bringing large grants to the table for use as needed. Homestead Presbytery has a fund for donations to be used within the boundaries of the Presbytery as needed. Some of you have contributed to this - and more will be doing so - and we thank you very much! Every single dollar helps! *Gal. 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens.* We do this by remembering those in need in our prayers and by sharing financial gifts that came to us from God as we are able.