

Reception for Pastor Val

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**



**FINANCIAL PEACE
UNIVERSITY
BEGINS APRIL 1**



**WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM**



**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

THE MESSENGER



The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness.

See page 8
for info on
“A Lenten Study:
The Heidelberg
Catechism” led by
Rev. Jimmy
Shelbourn.

Farewell Reception for Pastor Val & Wes

The WPC Personnel committee is planning a reception and program honoring Interim Pastor Val for a job extremely well done. The reception and a program will follow worship service on Sunday, March 29.



Presbyterian Women

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Presbyterian Women Planning Team: The PW Planning team is comprised of a member of each PW Bible Circle. Members are Glenna Haller, Susie Hughes (co-moderators), Pat Hackley (treasurer of Circle Giving), Linda Burchard, Jane Hines, Linda Miller, and Rev Ellen Davis.

In February of 2019, a group of women from Westminster gathered together to discuss how to bring focus to the women of our church. From that gathering the Presbyterian Women (PW) planning team was born. In March 2019, Session was asked to vote on Rev. Ellen Davis as the Parish Associate for Women's Ministry.

The worship service on May 12, celebrated the Gifts of Women with guest Mary Cook Jorgeis giving the sermon. Women of our congregation led the opening prayer, gave the prayer of confession, did the ushering and a pick up women's choir sang the offertory anthem.

Members of the PW planning team assisted Member Care in successfully putting on a Women's Retreat at Arbor Lodge on June 28 and 29. The Retreat was titled Reflect Restore and Rejoice. There were 28 participants that spend Friday night in worship and fellowship and Saturday listening and participating

in a seminar by our Marijane England entitled Restore by Discerning your Gifts. The Retreat ended with a Hymn fest. Everyone had a good time and many new friends were created.

August 24, all the Bible Study Circles gathered to get a preview of the new season's lessons. From Sept 2019 through May of 2020 the study is focused on the Ten Commandments.

In 2019 the Bible Circles gave monetary offerings for Birthday, Thanks and Mission to support causes of Presbyterian Women world-wide. Women of Westminster also generously donated items in ongoing mission projects of providing Layette clothing and school supplies.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Hughes, co-moderator

Mission and Outreach

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

First, I want to thank the committee members that served with me this year: Gary and Glenna Haller, Carolyn Harp, Jennifer Smith, Marilyn Smith, Tom Welstead, David and Alice Szabat, and staff representative Jimmy Shelborn.

We have a number of ongoing mission projects. The African Water Well project is going strong, and money has been collected for several wells. We serve at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, and at Gathering place on a regular basis. We provide a lunch for Habitat for Humanity crew on a quarterly basis. There are too many volunteers for these projects to name individually, but deserve a big thank you.

The Westminster Food Pantry continues to serve those in need in our community. Thank you to Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinricks for coordinating all that it takes to keep this humming along smoothly.

The Christmas Giving Tree was a tremendous success with many people receiving gifts due to the generosity of the members of Westminster.

In 2019 Westminster was certified by PC(USA) as an Earth Care Congregation for the sixth consecutive year. Thanks are due to the Green@Heart planning team, a faithful crew of dishwashers, supportive staff, and a congregation that takes seriously God's call to care for the earth and all living things. Among the year's activities were the recycling of a trailer load of Styrofoam, a guest speaker and creation of a nature mandala on Earth Sunday, participation in Lincoln's Climate March, and a panel presentation accompanied by cheese tasting!

These are just a few of the things that the Mission and Outreach committee is responsible for. There are many others as well. Thank you to the members of Westminster for the support that you provide to the many outreach opportunities that we bring to you.

Steve Hughes, moderator

Where's Your Nametag???

Our Hospitality Team is on a mission to get all Westminster nametags returned to the racks near the east entrance. Is yours at home, in your car, in your purse, in your backpack, or somewhere else? Please return it to church next Sunday! Wearing a nametag each Sunday helps new members with names of long time members and also helps us all to welcome visitors! Nametags help us connect to each other.



March Family of Faith

Written by Patty Beutler

Remembering being dragged to Sunday School is a trait three generations of Sewards have in common, they joked, but there are no regrets about the decision nowadays. They willingly attend church services and are happy to be there.

H – that’s Harry III on his birth certificate – has been a lifelong member thanks to his parents who joined around 1951. He and his wife, Judy, whose parents also belonged, were married at the church in 1970, and the funerals of both sets of parents took place at Westminster. Their daughter, Laurie Lofquist, 41, with her husband, Kraig, is back at the church after a 20-year absence in Omaha and Hastings, and feels welcomed since her family moved to Lincoln this past summer. Daughters Lexi, 10, and Brooke, 8, may not always be enthusiastic about Sunday School but happily attend some



Wednesdays for Parents’ Night Out. That Sunday School takes place at the same time as Sunday services is a real plus, says Laurie, because she actually gets to listen to the sermon instead of keeping an eye on squirming kids.

Judy met H up in Minnesota, where the Sewards have a cabin, when she was just 15. They were both class of ’66 at Lincoln Southeast, and they both attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. H went on to get a law degree at UNL’s College of Law and spent his career as a bank in-house counsel and trust administrator, most recently at Wells Fargo before he retired. Judy got her degree in social work, was associate director of Youth Services System before she “retired” in 1975 to stay home with son Andy. She later went to Wesleyan for massage therapy school, studied astrology for 10 years and had various part-time jobs at Athlete’s Foot, Barnes & Noble and St. Monica’s.

But there’s no inactivity for this on-the-go family. They have all run marathons, including son Andy and his wife, who live in Elk River, Minnesota. Kraig, 56 and the executive director for Nebraska Educational Service Units, takes the prize with 46 marathons under his belt, with the next coming up in early February in New Orleans, and two more in Asia in May – along the Great Wall in Beijing and another in Bhutan.

March Family of Faith Continued...

He's run marathons on all seven continents, including Antarctica, but icy winter streets find him training 10 to 20 miles on his treadmill.

While H and Judy no longer take scuba diving excursions to foreign waters, they have managed some European travel to Spain and Normandy. Judy's latest passion has been caring for the horse she bought in 2008, when she learned to muck stalls and ride. The quarter horse mare, registered as Flying Sugar Kitty, is affectionately called Belle and gets a daily visit when Judy's not doing yoga, TRX, cycling or playing pickleball.

And then there are OLLI classes that H and Judy attend to keep their minds equally exercised.

In the background of all this activity church remains a constant.

"It's always been an anchor for me," says H, 71, who attended services as his father did more regularly than the women in the family. He's currently a trustee for the church foundation and serves on the personnel committee, as well as having had several stints as an Elder.



Judy, 72, used to attend only on Christmas and Easter holidays, but now goes pretty much every week. "It's not a big production as it used to be. There's a lot of community there, a real freshness there."

And Laurie remembers her early church years when she was encouraged to be a critical thinker and didn't feel a lot of judgment. "It allows me to explore my faith more. I appreciate the ability to question why I ended up here."

Besides, she remembers making many good friends at church when she was young and finds it heart-warming to feel so welcomed now that she's back.

Judy knows why that happens. That feeling of inclusivity and caring for others never goes away, even after official duties, such as those of an Elder, are over. "Once an Elder, always an Elder."

Church News

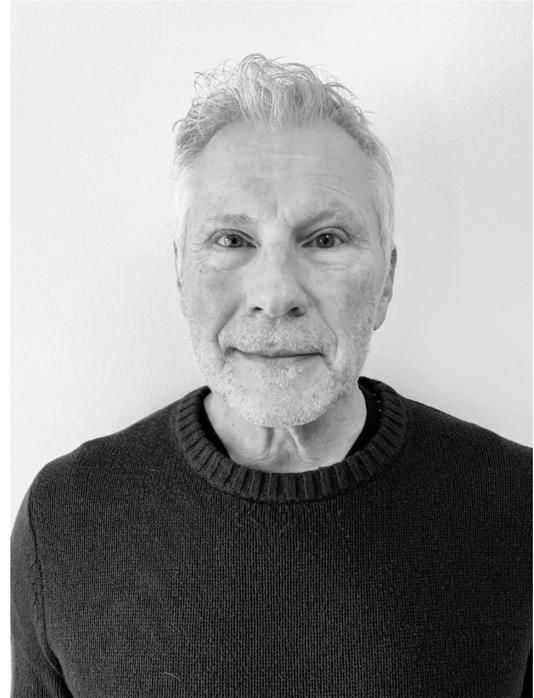
Please find an Opportunity to Meet Dennis and Welcome him to Westminster

Westminster has hired a new bookkeeper, Dennis Rohren. Dennis began training on January 13 and has now taken over the bookkeeping functions in the financial office.

The bookkeeper position has been re-defined as a part-time position, 20 hours per week. This means Dennis's duties will be limited to depositing offerings; processing payroll; posting financial gifts to Realm; handling accounts payable; serving as the point person for our accounting firm, HBE; and answering member inquiries related to their giving. During the year, he will generate quarterly giving statements and manage the pledge campaign.

Due to time constraints, this position will be unable to provide the personal support to which some committees and members were accustomed, or to handle the administrative duties previously controlled by the business office.

Although his hours could vary depending on demands week-to-week, Dennis plans to be in the office: Mondays & Wednesdays: 9:00 AM -3:00 PM and Tuesdays & Fridays: 9:00 AM -1:00 PM



Carol will be in and out for a brief time yet, but communications should now be directed to Dennis at dennis@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-475-6702 x105. Please feel free to leave a message or send an email, and Dennis will respond when he is in the office.

SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP

Application Deadline is March 31, 2020

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org. Requests will be forwarded to the Prayer Ministry Group on a weekly basis, or more often if needed. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Ministry Group, please email your name, phone number and your email address to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org.

Westminster Music Ministry Invitation to Sing

Invitation for Spring Cantata Singers

Westminster Choir invites interested singers to join us for our spring cantata rehearsals beginning Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. We will be learning Bronze Triptych by Dan Forrest to be sung at the conclusion of our Creation Celebration on Sunday, May 10 during worship.

peace makes the piece suitable for patriotic occasions, Earth Day, World Peace Day, and others.

I hope you will join us for this meaningful experience! This cantata is a wonderful opportunity for singers to join in spreading Christ's message of joy and peace.



Below is an excerpt from the composer's website:

The text by Charles Anthony Silvestri traces the formation of a bell: bronze, mined from earth, first formed into weapons of war, then melted down and recast as a bell to toll for vespers, and eventually pealing out in victory and joy. The accompaniment of four-hand piano with optional handbells and percussion vividly paints the metallic sounds and bell imagery of the text. The metaphor for turning from war to

Please feel free to reach out to Laura (laura@westminsterlincoln.org) if you have any questions!

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

As we journey through Lent, we journey with Jesus as he first is tempted in the Wilderness and then begins his ministry of teaching, healing and bringing renewal and hope. On the second Sunday, the Bible class will join the Forum class with our guest preacher, Elder Elona Street Stewart, Executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

March 1 | First Sunday in Lent: Genesis 2:15-17; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 8 | Second Sunday in Lent: No Class; Join the Forum discussion

March 15 | Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 22 | Fourth Sunday in Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1-15; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 29 | Fifth Sunday in Lent: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

"A Lenten Study: The Heidelberg Catechism" led by Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn.

March 1 | Pastor Jimmy begins a Lenten series on the Heidelberg Catechism. It is based on the book *Body & Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism* by M. Craig Barnes, a pastor, a professor, and president of Princeton Theological Seminary. The Catechism is a deeply personal statement of faith and a surprisingly contemporary guide for everyday life.

March 8 | Guest Elona Street-Stewart (the first Native American to serve as a synod executive in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) will preach in worship that morning and will engage the Forum regarding denominational issues. She has been invited by PW to celebrate the gifts of women. The Sunday Bible Class will join together with the forum for this presentation.

March 15 | Heidelberg Catechism continues | Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

March 22 | Heidelberg Catechism continues | Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

March 29 | No Forum Class | Farewell reception for Pastor Val following worship

The Banner pictured represents the Heidelberg Catechism of 1563.

LIFE GROUPS

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Wednesdays throughout the year | 5 - 7 PM

This is an opportunity for children to enjoy one another as they learn about Jesus. Parents are encouraged to drop off their children for two hours and go on a date, go to the grocery store or have time alone. Children will have a meal, music, Bible lesson, games and a bedtime story.

KNIT & SIT

Church Library | Wednesdays | 6:30 PM

We warmly welcome you to come to knit, crochet or 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. Come when you can.

LUNCH BUNCH

Toast Bar & Grill | March 3 |

Meet at 11:30 AM

Toast Bar & Grill Location: 570 Fallbrook Blvd #105, Lincoln, NE 68521.

Contact Ed Plander at plandere@prodigy.net if you can attend.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Mi Tierra | Tuesday, March 10 | 5-7 PM.

Mi Tierra location: 5500 Old Cheney Rd #4, Lincoln, NE 68516

HISTORY BUFFS

Saturday, March 14 | Church Lounge | 9 AM

History Buffs will have Will and Andrea Powers, US NAVY, tell us about their recent military experiences. Andrea (Annapolis Grad.) is the niece of the Sheffield's and was the weapons operator in an F-14 over the Iraq No-Fly Zone. Will was a pilot of an F-18 with over 750 landings on various air craft carriers. Come join us for some recent military history.

FAITH & CANCER

Tuesday, March 17 | Church Parlor | 7 PM

No matter where you are in your journey, this group is where cancer survivors can come together for fellowship, prayer and study.

PRAIRIE READERS

Wednesday, March 18 | Westminster Parlor 1:00 PM

Book: The Last Girl by Nadia Murad. Facilitator Martha Van Sickle and guest speaker from the Yazidi community in Lincoln

Upcoming Selected Books:

April: This Tender Land, William Kent Krueger. Facilitator Weston Crawford.

May: Every Note Played, Lisa Genova. Facilitator Susie Hughes.

June: Educated, Tara Westover. Facilitator Jane Voorhies.

July: Virgil Wander, Leif Enger. Facilitator Linda Burchard.

August: The Silent Patient, Alex Michaelides. Facilitator Judy White.

September: The Dutch House, Ann Patchett.

SAUSAGE, EGGS & SCRIPTURE

Saturday, March 21 | Scooter's | 8 AM

Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible Study on the third Saturday of each month. We meet in a private dining room of Scooter's located at 2910 S. 84th Street. Pastor Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 AM.

2020 Easter Lily Order Form

Order a lily in memory or honor of a loved one to be displayed in the chancel on Easter morning, or donate money to one of the Westminster Endowment Funds.

Cost of each lily is \$16.

Endowments may be any amount.

Checks should be made payable to Westminster, memo "LILY".

Specify all information on the form below and return to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church Attn: Joanne, 2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502

I/We would like to purchase _____ lily/lilies.

I/We would like to make a gift of \$_____ for one of the following Westminster Endowment Funds.

Please check one: _____ Mission and Outreach Endowment _____ Music and Worship Endowment _____ General Purpose Endowment _____ The Great Commission Endowment _____ Facilities Endowment _____ Education Endowment

Given by _____

_____ in loving memory of _____ OR

_____ in honor of _____

What would you like to do with your lily after worship?

_____ I will take my lily home following the worship service.

_____ The Deacons may deliver my lily to the elderly and homebound.

Orders must be received by Friday, March 27 to be included in the order of worship.



PRESCHOOL HAS BEEN FILLED WITH FUN!

We began the month with our Registration Open House and welcomed new families to register their children and tour our school. Everyone ended the evening very excited for fall of 2020! We also opened registration for our summer program, Full S.T.E.A.M into Summer at Westminster! We will be exploring the worlds of science, technology, engineering, art and math with play based, hands on learning activities and gearing up for our new S.T.E.A.M small group class beginning in the 20/21 school year.

Friendship was at the HEART of the middle of our month, with the celebration of Valentine's Day. We made Friendship Fruit Salad and exchanged cards with one another and practiced lots of the skills we have been learning in Second Steps, our social emotional curriculum.

The Lincoln Children's Museum welcomed us for our Family Field Trip on President's Day. It was a wonderful opportunity for our teachers, students and families to all spend some time playing, exploring and visiting!

We are preparing to end this FANTASTIC month celebrating the blessing of grandparents and other special people in our lives. Our Grandparents and Muffins Event will be kicked off with our children and Dr. Jimmy singing some of our chapel chat songs and allow a wonderful time with some wonderful people.

It is a blessing to share the exciting world of Westminster Preschool! Please contact Rachel at rachelh@westminsterlincoln.org any time with questions!



Reminder: All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month. All announcements for The Vine are due to Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by 5 pm on Tuesday of each week.



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

Call the Church
Office at
402-475-6702
to get registered.
Program begins
April 1.

FINANCIAL PEACE



**Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace
University Seminar
Wednesdays 6-8 PM
9 Week Program**

**Cost: \$99 per membership
includes workbook,
online access and many other extras**

Classes will be held in the Lounge.
Childcare is available.

Lead Moderator
Evan Ellenwood
(402) 469-9506
e_ellenwood@hotmail.com

Assistant Moderator
Chris Stokes
(402) 770-6145
Cbstokes1@aol.com