

WESTMINSTER NEWS



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2419 • 612.332.3421 • www.eWestminster.org

October 14, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 16

Stephen Robertson to be Installed on Sunday, October 23

By Timothy Hart-Andersen, Pastor

On Sunday, October 23, at the 10:30 worship service, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area will install Steve Robertson to be Westminster's Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. It will be a wonderful, celebratory worship experience!



Stephen Robertson

Last summer Steve left a congregation in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he had served for many years, to make the move to Westminster. He began work among us in mid-July, but he will be "officially" installed in the service on October 23.

An installation of a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is an act of the local presbytery. The Moderator of the Presbytery participates, as well as elders and ministers from other local churches. Westminster members are invited to welcome Steve and his wife, Susan Peacock, in a silver service reception in the Great Hall following the 10:30 service.

The Rev. C. William Hull will preach at Steve's instal-

lation service. Bill retired as organizing pastor from the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, FL, where he served for 28 years. Steve was a member and Elder at Kirkwood before attending seminary, and it was the Kirkwood congregation and Rev. Hull that were helpful in identifying Steve's call to ministry. In retirement, Bill is serving as the pastor at Central Christian Church in Bradenton, is active as Board President of Family Promise of Manatee County, a ministry to homeless families, and is the President and Chairman of the Board of Westminster Communities of Florida, a retirement living ministry.



C. William Hull

In speaking about Rev. Hull, Steve said "Bill was supportive of my initial call to ministry and throughout my journey to seminary, he has been a model for my own understanding of pastoral ministry, and he continues to be inspirational as a friend and colleague. I look forward to him being a part of this next step in my own calling to serve Christ's church here at Westminster."



COUNTING
OUR
BLESSINGS

SENIORSHIP 2012

Come to the All-Church Festival Sunday, November 13, 9:00am A Morning of Fellowship, Food & Fun

All Westminster members and friends are invited to an All-Church open house and celebration of our life as a community of faith! The entire main floor of the church will be filled with music, art, displays, videos. There will even be a scavenger hunt! Light refreshments served. Come see how God is at work at Westminster and what's in store for 2012. At the close of the festival, bagpipes will lead us all in a procession to the Sanctuary for worship at 10:30AM. No RSVP required, just come for the fun!

No 8:30 worship service, 9:30 communion, or education classes on the 13th, so that everyone can join in the fun.

Stewardship 2012: Counting Our Blessings

By Nancy & Andy Peterson, Westminster members



Nancy and I have been members of Westminster for 34 years. This church has been part of the fabric of our lives and the lives of our two children—baptisms, Sunday school, confirmations, and a wedding.

Westminster has a “home” feel and has provided a safe harbor on many occasions. Opportunities to teach Sunday school, to serve on various boards, and to participate in other volunteer activities have always presented themselves as a privilege rather than an obligation. Look around the next time you are involved with something at Westminster...I guarantee that you will be absolutely impressed by the caring and committed people who surround you.

Oddly enough, all this gets me to maps. Nancy and I really enjoy hiking. We’ve had the opportunity to do so in some pretty remote areas. It quickly becomes obvious that a good map is critical, especially when you’re not sure exactly where you are and not sure at all of how to get where you want to go.

It strikes me as a fitting analogy for our faith journeys. In that journey it is equally important for us to discern, “Where am I now?,” “Where do I choose to go?,” and “How do I get there?” Every day we venture into unknown terrain which contains the entire range of human experience...excitement, boredom, love, fear, happiness, frustration, hope, loneliness, and on and on. Being lost is a terrifying state of being. A very unique map is required.

Westminster church is that map place. The maps come in many forms including the written and spoken word. Directions are available from fellow travelers who are familiar with the path you are on. One of my favorite and most useful maps was left by someone named Paul quite a while ago and consists of a single sentence, a group of words really, “Go into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast onto that which is good.”

We support Westminster because we cannot imagine what our lives would have been without it. This is the day the Lord has made...It’s a beautiful day! Remember to check your map before you head out.



Social Justice Forums Focus on the Middle East

By Cynthia Arnold, Social Justice Ministry Team

Navigating through the Middle East can be challenging! To help us better understand the changing face of the Middle East, politically as well as culturally, the Social Justice Committee will focus on the region in several forums. We begin the series with *Islamophobia and Muslim Civil Rights* on **Sunday, Oct. 23**. Kashif Saroya works with the Council on American Islamic Relations and will share perspectives on being Muslim in America.

On **October 30**, we will highlight *Kairos Palestine – A Moment of Truth*. On the first anniversary of the launching of *Kairos Palestine*, we will highlight key points by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA) from a recently released book.

The Series concludes on **Nov. 6** with a panel discussion on topics such as updates on the Palestinian quest for U.N. statehood, the Arab Spring and the Middle East. On the panel will be Josh Ruebner, National Advocacy Director of the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation, and Jordan Ash, founding director of Jewish Voice for Peace—Minnesota.



On Sunday, September 25 twenty new members were received by the congregation as the latest class of Confirmation students united in membership with Westminster. It is an honor and a privilege to work with our young people and their families through the Confirmation journey and to hear their perspectives on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. Again and again students expressed how loved and supported they feel by their church and what a home they have here at Westminster. Text and photo by Meghan K. Gage-Finn

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago the pastor of a large Presbyterian church in Texas spent a day at Westminster meeting with several of our staff members. He knew of the vitality of our congregation and wanted to learn about it firsthand. He was especially interested in our educational ministry with adults, officer training curriculum, faith-in-action programs, and endowment.

Last week the pastor of a large church in New York City emailed asking about doing the same thing – only he wants to bring several staff members to visit Westminster with him. They are particularly interested in our programs with children, youth, and families in the middle of a city, our engagement in mission in Minneapolis, and our financial strategies.

This week one of our lay leaders and I have been asked to travel to Louisville to speak with a group of large church ministers about Westminster's mission with brothers and sisters in other lands. We'll tell them about our global congregational partnerships, clean water ministry, and support of denominational work abroad.

The new ministry in Uptown at Grace-Trinity Community Church is attracting attention, as well. Candidates for the open position there (a new associate pastor of Westminster assigned to work in Uptown) have been sending eager cover letters with their resumes. Colleagues of mine in other cities are asking about the plan to help a declining congregation either reinvent itself or dissolve to make room for a completely new church.

Sometimes we're too close to a good thing to be able to see it. After encountering this spate of "outsiders" wanting to learn about Westminster's life as a thriving, 21st-century urban congregation, I am reminded of how blessed we are at this church. That is particularly true when it comes to our staff team.

I count my colleagues on Westminster's staff as chief among the blessings in my life. They are hard-working, bright, committed, faithful, creative, positive, and fun to work with. Let me count the ways I love them...

Add to our strong staff team the lineup of outstanding lay leaders we have at Westminster – and we have much for which to be grateful. I'm glad our church can be helpful to others around the country.

As we head into stewardship season, let us count our blessings and give thanks to God!

See you in church – and on the web at CountingOurBlessings.org.

Grace and peace,



Timothy Hart-Andersen

WESTMINSTER CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Kathy Fisher, Executive Assistant

Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving

ADULT ED. & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Rev. Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Kathy Fisher, Leadership Development Admin. Asst.

Claudia Kapitan, Adult Ed Admin. Assistant

Barbara Mauk, Librarian

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Rev. Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Dan Commerford, Dir. of Middle & H.S. Ministries

Marie Kruskop, Coord., Early Childhood Ministries

Barbara Prince, Program Assistant

EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

Melanie McCall, Coord. of Fellowship/Spec. Events

Claudia Kapitan, Evangelism Admin. Assistant

Dan Franklin, Fellowship Admin. Assistant

Kristin Kieft, Publications Coordinator

FAITH IN ACTION

The Rev. Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Dan Franklin, Coord. of Discipleship Ministries

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts/Organist

Dr. Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director,

Westminster Gallery and Archive

Barbara Prince, Program Assistant,

Worship, Music and the Arts

Nancy Carter, Handbell Choir Director

Brad Ollmann, Dir. Early/Middle Childhood Music

Shekela Wanyama, Dir. Youth Music

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Robertson, Associate Pastor

Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION

Samuel G. Cooke, Director of Administration

Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenber, Wedding Coordinator

FACILITIES

Neale Holleschau, Facilities Manager

Todd Bushy, Brian Coyoc, Christopher Glenn,

Richard Wilder, Facilities Staff

EMERITA

The Rev. Elizabeth D. Heller, Assoc. Pastor Emerita

WESTMINSTER CAMP AJAWAH

Dave Moore, Director

Sarah Kantrud, Registrar

WESTMINSTER COUNSELING CENTER

612.332.7743

The Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray, LMFT,

Executive Director

The Rev. Ross A. Aalgaard, MSW, LGSW

The Rev. Dr. Leta J. Herrington, LPC

The Rev. Mary Keen, LMFT

Lori Churchill, Business Manager

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL FORUM

Susan McKenna, Director

PARISH ASSOCIATES (Volunteer Clergy)

The Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins

The Rev. Margaret McCray

The Rev. Dean J. Seal

WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings

WOW Westminster on Wednesdays

Men and women of all ages meet on Wednesdays at 9:00AM in the Meisel Rm. for coffee; 9:30 men's & women's Bible studies; program at 10:45. Bring a bag lunch and continue fellowship time together after the program. Upcoming programs include: **Oct. 19** Francis Bulbulian, architect of WPC's Marquette addition; **Oct. 26** Kristen Kern from the Animal Humane Society; **Nov. 2** Rodney Allen Schwartz on the Westminster Gallery exhibition, *I Am*. For info, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117.

Women's Bible Study

Regular **Wednesday Morning (9:30—10:30)** Women's Bible Study is just getting underway. Please join us as we take on *Confessing the Beatitudes*, authored by the Rev. Margaret Aymer. This study focuses on connecting faith with daily life, and addresses some of the most difficult issues facing the world today: the economy, hunger, poverty, Christian community, water issues, a woman's role in society, faith and public life, and justice and peace. We are led in our study by five outstanding women. Come early for coffee, and stay for the great programs (listed above).

Quiet Worship: The Lord's Prayer

As part of our Gospel reading, we will hear The Lord's Prayer spoken in the language that Jesus used: 1st century Aramaic. At the end of the service we will also hear it chanted as a Sung Prayer, using the music from a traditional Middle Eastern chant. Our Worship Leader will be the Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray who, on this day, marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of her discerning a call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. **Saturday, October 22, Chapel, 9:00AM**

Sunday/Monday Connections

a dinner gathering for women of all ages, meets **Tuesday, Nov. 1** at the Woman's Club. We begin at 6:00PM and finish at 8:30. Our speaker is Westminster Deacon Cindy McCreary. Make reservations in the Heller Commons Oct. 16 & 23 or send a check (\$25, payable to WPC), to the church office (Attn: Dan Franklin) by Oct. 23. You can also register online at ewestminster.org. For more info, contact Linda Touhy, lm2e@comcast.net or 651.450.6394.

Partner Visit to Cuba in January 2012

The Westminster Cuba Team is planning a visit to our partner church in Matanzas, Cuba, **January 16-25, 2012**. We also plan to install a clean water system at Luyano Church in Havana. Look for sign-up tables in the Heller Commons or contact Ed Cunnington (edkarc@aol.com) or Barbara Randolph-Anderson (smablr@comcast.net) for further details.

Turkey Adventure: Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul

Join Rev. Kathy Michael and Dr. Sarah Henrich from Luther Seminary for this wonderful adventure, **April 20-May 2, 2012**. Brochures are on the literature tables, or you can contact Kathy or Claudia in the church office, 612.332.3421 or kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday, November 13, 2011 during 10:30 worship in the sanctuary of the church, 1200 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota for the purpose of electing Elders, Trustees, Deacons, and Congregational Nominating Committee members at large.

By Order of the Session, Vincent A. Thomas, Clerk of Session

All-Church Festival Volunteers Needed

Help make the All Church Festival a success! Volunteers are needed on **Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12 & 13**.

Sit at a Welcome Table, help with food, or assist with setup or cleanup. We promise you'll also have time to enjoy the Festival!

To sign up, contact Dan Franklin, 612.332.3421 or dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org.

Thank you!

Counseling Center Parking

Please do not park in the three spaces in the surface lot reserved for the Westminster Counseling Center.

Clients who have a counseling appointment need to know they can park in our lot.

Thank You!

IN MEMORY OF Lois Lund

died September 22, 2011



I am the Resurrection and the Life

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

October 14	Ps. 99
15	1 Thess. 1:1-10
16.....	Matt. 22:15-22
17.....	Rev. 18:1-10, 19-20
18	Rev. 18:21-24
19.....	Matt. 17:22-27
20	Deut. 34:1-12
21	Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17
22	1 Thess. 2:1-8
23.....	Matt. 22:34-46
24	Num. 33:38-39
25	Jas. 2:14-26
26	Deut. 26:16-27:7
27	Josh 3:7-17
28	Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37
29	1 Thess. 2:9-13
30.....	Matt. 23:1-12
31	Josh. 4:1-24

The 2011 Minneapolis Interfaith Forums: Four Steps to Healing a Decade of 9/11 Strife

By Timothy Hart-Andersen, Pastor

The Minneapolis Interfaith Forum is an annual fall tradition. It grew out of public conversations many years ago between Rabbi Joseph Edelheit of Temple Israel and Father Michael O'Connell of the Basilica of Saint Mary. Today it has expanded to include many downtown congregations.

On four consecutive Thursday evenings, 200-300 individuals from the various downtown houses of worship come together to hear from senior clergy and join in "table talk" with each other about matters of concern to each of the faith traditions represented.

For the first time ever Westminster will host the Interfaith Forum this year on **Thursday, November 3, from 6:45-9:00PM**. Let's show up that night to welcome guests from other religious communities. And why not participate in the other evenings, as well!

Thursday, October 27

The Healing Role of the Arts in our Traditions

Temple Israel, Emerson Ave S at 24th St.
www.templeisrael.com or 612.377.8680

Thursday, November 3

The Healing Role of Activism in our Traditions

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Ave
www.ewestminster.org 612.332.3421.

Visit ewestminster.org for the complete schedule.



WestConnect for Fun and Fellowship

By Melanie McCall, Coordinator of Fellowship

WestConnect, Westminster's fellowship group for members and friends in their 20s and 30s, has been very busy lately, and you're invited to join in any time! WestConnect gathers every Sunday following 10:30 worship in the Bushnell Room for good coffee and conversation. Other upcoming events include:

Celebrate Fall! Sunday, Oct. 16 Lunch and afternoon at Pine Tree Apple Orchard in White Bear Lake.

Trivia Night, October 19, 7:30pm Be a part of the "Holy Rollers" trivia team for Trailer Park Trivia night at Grumpy's Bar.

Monday Night Bible Study This four-week series, **starting October 24**, will examine relevant, current topics within a Biblical context. Enjoy lively and challenging discussions with your peers about how Christianity relates to our lives today and to the more contemporary world. Meets at Beth Gillaspay's house. Contact Beth for more info at bethgillaspay@gmail.com.

Plus a wine & beer tasting, Advent Bible Study, and the return of the WestConnect Christmas Party. To RSVP for any of the above events, or just to get the latest information, join our Facebook group at "Westminster WestConnect" or contact Melanie McCall, mmccall@wpc-mpls.org.

Adult Ed Movie of the Month, *Walk the Line*, Oct. 30, 11:45AM, Meisel Rm.

Singer. Rebel. Outlaw. Hero. With his driving freight-train chords, steel-eyed intensity, and a voice as dark as the night, Johnny Cash revolutionized music—and forged his legacy as a genuine American icon. In this true story of success, addiction, redemption, and transformation, Oscar nominee Joaquin Phoenix, and Oscar winner Reese Witherspoon star—and sing—as Johnny Cash and June Carter.

Christmas Dinners, Dec. 2 & 3

By Melanie Ohnstad,
Minister of Music and the Arts

Some stories live forever in the Shuman spirit. Some stories live forever in the conscience of a nation. Some stories are kept in the hearts of a family creating identity and shaping values. The story we will hear at this year's Christmas Dinners is called *The Night Before Christmas, 1944*.

It is the transformational wartime story of Hank Andersen, told through the pen of his son, our pastor, Tim Hart-Andersen. It takes place as American troops prepare for the Battle of the Bulge. The drama is set on both sides of the English Channel as well as the stormy waters between. The whole world was involved in that night, and so were hundreds of individuals.

Hank's story will be portrayed as a 1940s radio drama under Vern Sutton's creative direction. The Westminster Chamber Ensemble, Barbara Prince, director, will render songs of the times. We all will join in the carols sung that fateful night. Through Tim's script, we will come to understand a family that found hope and light in the darkness of war. It is a light and hope that seeks to fill our lives, too.

The Christmas Dinners traditionally open the holiday season for us at Westminster. Members and friends enjoy a meal, conversation, and so much more in the candlelight of the Great Hall. We invite you to be there. Tickets go on sale in the Heller Commons on Sunday, October 30.

Groveland Food Shelf Benefit

By Randy Greene, Westminster member

We're off to see the Wizard... Everyone is invited to a special screening of the family classic "The Wizard of Oz" to benefit the Groveland Food Shelf.

This event will be on **Sunday, November 6 at 1:15PM** at the Historic Heights Theatre in Columbia Heights. This is the classic 1939 MGM film musical starring Judy Garland. It's even more magical on the big screen.

This is Westminster's 11th annual benefit for the food shelf, and the need is great. Groveland serves about 2000 adults and youth every month. Dave Enghusen, director of the food shelf, will be on hand to give a short presentation before the feature. There will also be an organ concert before the event on the Mighty Wurlitzer along with door prizes and trivia.

Tickets will go on sale Sundays beginning October 16 with adults \$10 and children \$5 or they can be purchased at the Heights box office the day of the event. If you cannot attend, you might like to make a donation. This is a great way to have a fun afternoon with the family and friends and help others who are in need. This event is sponsored by the Children, Youth & Families Council of Westminster. Contact Mary Alette Davis for more info, 612.332.3421 or mdavis@wpc-mpls.org. See you at the movies!

WEFABFOFIFAM and Christmas Eve Family Service

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

Westminster **F**Abulous **F**ourth and **F**ifth Grade **F**amilies (aka WEFABFOFIFAM) will find their way through a maze, go on a hayride, and pick apples at Minnetonka Orchards (minnetonkaorchards.com) on **Sunday, Oct. 30**. We'll eat lunch at Westminster and drive out to Minnetrista for an afternoon of autumn fun. For more info or to sign up, contact Mary Alette Davis, *contact info above*. Learn more about the Orchard online, minnetonkaorchards.com.

Storytellers, Readers, Actors needed for Christmas Eve Pageant!

Camels and Kings, Shepherds and Sheep, Angels and the Holy Family...there are parts for all children ages 3 and up in this traditional pageant of the birth of Christ. We hope all children and youth will take this opportunity to help tell the Christmas story and be part of our worship that day. Several rehearsals are scheduled prior to the December 24 service. If your child or teenager would like to participate in the 4:00PM Family Christmas Eve worship service, and pageant, or if you would like more information, please contact Mary Alette Davis, 612.332.3421 or mdavis@wpc-mpls.org by November 15.

A Parent's Reflection on Confirmation Sunday

By Marie Kruskop, Westminster member

Sunday, September 25 was Confirmation Sunday at Westminster—a day when we witnessed 20 new members, all children of this church, confirm the promise made to them at their baptisms. The essence of that promise was this: that we would promise to love, encourage, and support them along their journeys of faith. And while their journeys are far from over (we must continue to love, encourage, and support them!), the journey began for these children, now young adults, when they were little ones. And it is where we begin with your little ones. Westminster has been a place where my daughters have indeed been loved, encouraged, and supported.

One of those confirmed on Sunday was my older daughter Anna. It was an amazing bit of grace to remember her baptism oh so many years ago and then to witness her confirming her baptism and becoming a member of this church. My younger daughter Jane begins her confirmation journey just over a year from now and I look forward to seeing where her path leads. I am so grateful this is our church home—a place where my daughters can explore their faith, doubts and all, surrounded by so many who love them just as they are.

As I was telling a new, young family who joined us on Sunday, Westminster is a large, urban church with much to offer including a uniquely small-town feel in its programming for children, youth, and families. It's the best of both worlds! I invite you to join us, come into community with us, make this your family's church home just as my family has.

NURSERY FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP IS NOW... EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Early Childhood Family Fellowship (ECFF) is an informal time for parents of children ages birth to age 5 to meet and talk about topics of interest to parents of young children.

Perhaps your child won't eat anything green or your toddler's favorite word is "No!" and you would like suggestions from parents who have handled similar challenges. Maybe your little one has slept through the night for three nights in a row (finally!) or your preschooler has been dry at night for three nights in a row (yay!) and you want to share your joy with other parents who can really appreciate the significance of these events!

The first Sunday of each month will focus on a specific parenting topic while the remaining Sundays will be a time to share the joys and concerns of parenting young children. We meet Sundays in the Bushnell Room during Education Hour. Please join us!

Economist Jeffrey Sachs at the Town Hall Forum on October 20

By Ann K. Ryan, Town Hall Forum volunteer

Every culture has moments of crisis, and by any measure, it is a moment of crisis in America. We live in fractious times, where civil discourse seems more like a phantom than a possibility. It seems we have lost our ability to respectfully consider disparate solutions to important problems, and it can be argued that this a significant block to finding a productive way forward.

An intriguing voice suggesting a way forward is Jeffrey Sachs, author of the groundbreaking book *The End of Poverty*. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, and one of the world's most brilliant economists. America is "dangerously out of balance," says Sachs, and it will return to prosperity only when we embrace the core values that made America a great nation: fairness, honesty, trust, compassion, and foresight, to name but a few. This is a position he sets forth in his newest book, *The Price of Civilization: Reawakening American Virtue and Prosperity*.

Kirkus Review calls Sachs "refreshingly direct" and says he "offers recommendations for serious reform." *Wall*

Street Journal takes the position that Sachs might ask the right questions, but he comes up with the wrong answers. At pundit tables, in columns, and on blogs, Sachs receives reactions as diverse as these.

Rather than letting pundits and reviewers tell us what to think, the Westminster Town Hall Forum provides an opportunity to hear first-hand his theories and proposals on the significant issues of our day—and then we can decide for ourselves.

Join Dr. Sachs on **Thursday, October 20, at Noon** in Westminster's sanctuary, to hear his diagnosis of our national condition and his ideas for a cure. As always, the Town Hall Forum is free and open to all. Music precedes the presentation at 11:30AM, and a public reception, small group discussion, and book signing follow at 1:00PM. For further info, contact Susan McKenna, 612.332.3421, or smckenna@wpc-mpls.org.



photo: Wade Martzell

Jeffrey Sachs

Three Artists Tell a Story

By Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, The Westminster Gallery and Archive

The Westminster Gallery's current exhibition *I Am: Discerning Christ's Identity through Proclamation, Parable, and Example* features original art created by a variety of artists who each present their visual interpretation of stories about Jesus' life. An encounter with these pieces of art whether individually or collectively allows us to catch a brief glimpse of this life as seen through the handiwork of each artist.

The variety of raw materials available to artists around the world and the advancement of technology over time have changed the way that art is made and how it looks to us. Each generation of artist learns technique and style from the past and then chooses their own process based on what they want to create.

John 10:11 is one biblical text illustrated in the exhibition and describes Jesus' identity as protector. *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.* (NRSV) Three unique works made by three artists from very different cultures and places give viewers food for thought.

Sadao Watanabe may be the most famous Japanese artist who depicted Christian stories. He was a printmaker who made both stencil and woodblock prints. This abstract woodblock print is hand-colored and Jesus is shown cradling the sheep in his arms.

Zaki Baboun is a painter who lives in Bethlehem, Palestine, and is well represented in the Westminster collection. His oil painted biblical scenes are often set in modern day Bethlehem and generally incorporate the separation wall as part of the story. He loads his brush with several carefully placed colors of paint and works in bold striated strokes. His Jesus is standing proudly among the flock painted in this instance on a slice of olive wood.

Sister Mary Ann Osborne hand-carves linden wood at the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato, Minnesota. Her bas-relief carving is whimsical with a younger Jesus embracing the lost sheep while the other sheep look down with satisfaction.

I invite you to have an encounter with the stories told in this exhibition, which runs through November 20, 2011.



Three shepherds from
top: Palestine; Japan;
Minnesota

Counselor's Corner: Things Fall Apart

by Margaret McCray, D. Min, LMFT, Westminster Counseling Center

612.332.7743 ext. 222

mmccray@wpc-mpls.org

www.westminstercounseling.org

A young man in his mid-twenties came to the counseling center after he lost his job and his six-year relationship broke up. He said to me, "I don't know what to do. I'm scared and confused. My life seems so open-ended, now that it hasn't ended up where I thought it would." He had planned to finish a graduate degree, start a career, marry his girlfriend, and settle in to a happy life. In his grief and fear he felt profoundly lost.

Who has not been in such a place, staring into a future that has no shape? We like to believe that we have our finger on the pulse of things, that we are steering our course toward a chosen destination. The more resources we have in terms of health, education, and finances, the more we are inclined to believe that our desired future will rise up to meet us.

But we are living in uncertain times. Education and health care have become more costly. Jobs and financial stability are not easy to come by or maintain. Local, national and global communities are unsettled and even angry. The future for many of us is not sitting on some shining hill beckoning us to climb up and enter it.

Yet, the truth is: all times are uncertain. Our present and future security has never depended on our external resources, much as we want to believe it does. Yes, money, education, and health can bring a measure of

security and pleasure. Relationships are a harbor in the storm. But there are no guarantees. We can never predict or control the personal tsunamis, tornadoes, fires, and floods that can break into our lives and devastate the landscape we have come to know and accept as "my life."

Another truth is: in order to meet the open-endedness that sits forever in front of us, the resources we really need are community, flexibility, and faith.

Community provides a place to tell our story, a place to grieve our losses, to receive and give forgiveness, to be comforted, and to give and receive love and support. Flexibility is an attitude, a willingness that enables us to change directions, discern new insights, shift our focus, imagine, create, and move forward.

Faith is the ultimate foundation that survives whatever devastation we may endure. Faith assures us there is hope when we have no hope, there is love when we feel no love, there is a future when we can see no future. Faith is the conviction that the open-endedness is not a black hole but rather a new, unfolding landscape, a place we are always moving towards, a place where we can begin again to build and plant and live. Thanks be to God.



Margaret McCray

Mozart's Greatest Mass

By Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart secured his first job through his father Leopold, who was assistant Kappellmeister in the court of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Austria. (No separation of church and state here: the Prince-Archbishop was local head of both government and church.) Wolfgang was ranked as "third concertmaster," an unpaid player in the orchestra.

1772 brought a new Prince-Archbishop, Count Hieronymous von Colloredo, who wasted no time in changing court traditions. He put young Mozart on the payroll (at a paltry salary) and instituted reforms posited several years earlier by Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II. One of these prescribed shorter, less florid church services. As the Mozarts wrote to an Italian friend: "Our church music is very different from that of Italy because a mass...may not last longer than three-quarters of an hour." That meant that the mass music needed to clock in at less than half an hour—a restriction to the Mozarts but a boon to us at Westminster: we can enjoy a complete mass in our Sunday morning worship!

On **Sunday, November 6**, the Westminster Choir will present as part of our communion liturgy Mozart's *Mass in C Major*, which acquired the name "Coronation" when

it was performed at the coronation of Joseph II's successor. This mass represents a Mozartean miracle. Between Colloredo's arrival and the creation of this mass in 1779, Mozart underwent considerable growth, not only in age (from 16 to 23) but in musical maturity. None of his previous 14 masses show the melodic invention, formal mastery, subtle counterpoint or dramatic heft of the "Coronation," by far the best mass he had ever written or would ever complete.

What happened? Three thoughts spring to mind. First, he had simply lived longer and composed a lot. Second, he had just returned from Paris, where he had written in a grander style, inspired by the large orchestra there. Third, he had fallen in love, stopping by to see his beloved in Vienna on the way home. Yet none of these seems sufficient. Mozart simply leapt upward as a creative spirit in a way that defies explanation.

Mozart produced little church music after the "Coronation." He and Prince-Archbishop Colloredo had never gotten on. Colloredo was universally despised as a hypocrite and a martinet. Mozart, never a master of diplomacy, was perhaps the only one who stood up to him. For his impertinence, Mozart was fired in 1781, propelled from the court by a kick to his posterior. Colloredo was removed from office in 1803, never to realize what a gift Mozart had given him in the glorious "Coronation" Mass.