

# WESTMINSTER NEWS



Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2419 • 612.332.3421 • [www.eWestminster.org](http://www.eWestminster.org)

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## The Facts on the Ground

By *Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts*

Mitri Raheb, pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, is fond of saying, “the wise-men came to Bethlehem to check out the facts on the ground.” While in Bethlehem last January, Westminster travelers discovered a compelling piece of art portraying bewildered wisemen on their camels outside contemporary Bethlehem’s 30-foot walls seeking a way into the city. You can view this painting in the Westminster Gallery’s Advent exhibition, “Follow the Star.” Its presence here is part of fulfilling Mitri’s charge to “come see, go tell” the facts on the ground in his troubled city.

The wisemen’s journey, taken literally, dovetails with our season of Advent. As individuals and as a congregation, we are about to enter the spiritual journey of Advent. We will check out the facts of God’s love on the ground in worship.

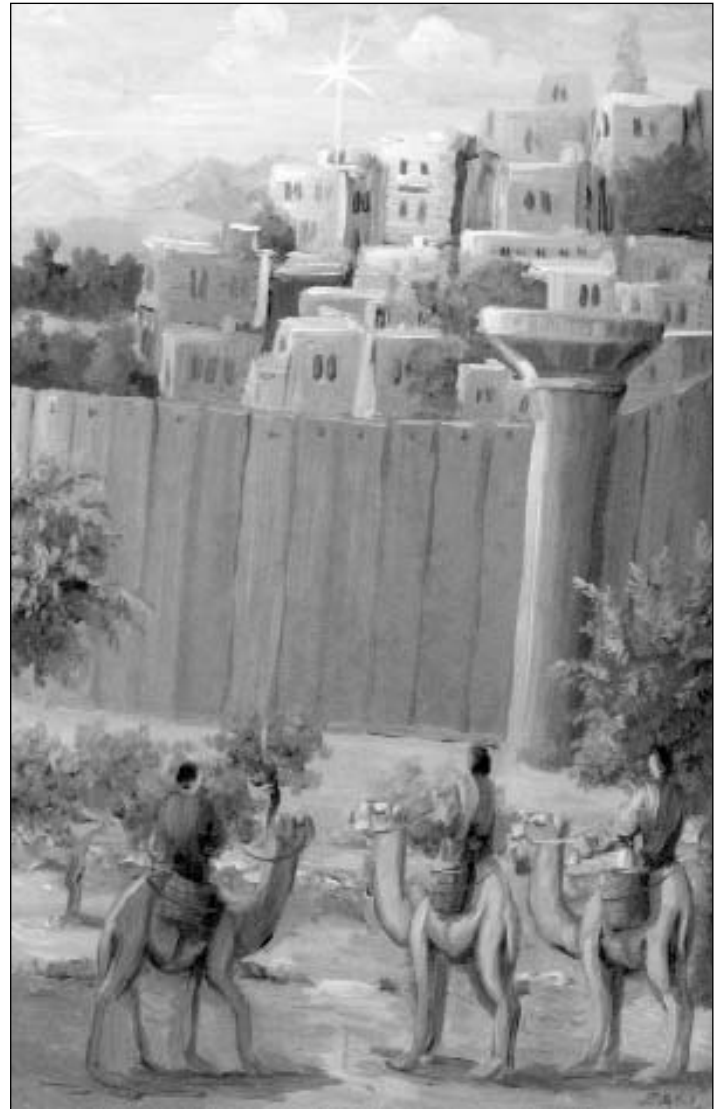
On **Advent I, Sunday, November 27**, we will look to the prophets of old and remember the covenant that exists between God and the people of God. The prophecies help us see Jesus emerging from a story that unfolded through his ancestors. The prophecies plant the seed of hope that God has never and will never abandon us.

On **Advent II, Sunday, December 4**, we will turn to the person of Joseph, “father of Jesus.” We will pay attention to the fact that Joseph was willing to buck the dominant culture in order that Jesus might be known, a challenge each of us faces with Joseph. Also on December 4, Westminster youth will re-enact *Las Posadas*, a Mexican tradition recalling the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph through the streets of Bethlehem seeking lodging.

On **Advent III, Sunday, December 11** the youth choirs will lead us through a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. (Let’s hope we don’t have a mega snowstorm like last year the night before this special service!) The sermon will focus on the humility of God, and the choice of God to dwell among the lowly. “Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?”

On **Advent IV, Sunday, December 18** we will celebrate Christmas Festival Sunday with services at 9:00 & 11:00AM. Through music the Westminster Choir and congregation express the joy of the season and hear proclamation of Zephaniah: When I am in your midst, I will bring you home. Those of you who feel far from a place to rest in safety, a place where there is feasting and love, a place you call home, I will bring you there when I take on flesh.

**May we each find our way to Bethlehem...to come see, go tell.**



*The Wise Men and the Wall*, by Zaki Baboun, oil on paper, 2011

# Stewardship 2012: Counting Our Blessings

By Bruce Jones & Dee Marks, Westminster members



In a significant way, Westminster is our Mother's church. (Bruce can actually claim this as his mother's and grandparents' church.)

- Embracing the central city in the 1950s while corporations and families moved out;
- Living the faith by giving the youngest Ajawah camper the committed leaders who deliberately seek out and nurture the lonely kid;
- Counseling to follow one's conscience and provide non-military as well as military service during the Vietnam War;
- Giving twenty-five percent of church budget to community outreach in the 1980s while the national culture bragged, "greed is good;"

•Prodding each listener with sermons to make us uncomfortable and wrestle with our assumptions.

Westminster is our church because it's constantly evolving and striving to be open to God's leading. Together we found a home here in 1983 when we began to raise our family. We were seeking a new spiritual home where people tried to live by their beliefs and serve locally and globally. In Westminster we found a larger community that would stimulate and support while offering a welcoming portion of life not bounded by school, work, neighborhood or media norms. We appreciate not only the comfort that the community offers, but also the probing questions that shake us up or that urge us to more

closely follow God's leading. Westminster is a questioning and searching church, where we seek and pursue questions such as these raised in sermons in the past year:

- What is the Purpose of Life?
- How Shall We Live?
- How Are We Tempted?
- Must We Always Forgive?
- Are Science and Religion Compatible?
- What do Christians Believe About War?
- Where Do We Find Hope?



Dee Marks & Bruce Jones

At Westminster we are challenged to think about issues and to wrestle personally (and communally) with questions. Are we following Jesus' example of love in action? Do we look for the goodness in others even when it is hard to discern? Do we try to learn about the effects of our style of living on the world's economy and the environment? How do we use our gifts in the service of God and the community? How do we get involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

For this worshipping, loving, and questioning community we are blessed.

## Children, Youth & Families Intern

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn and Jeanne Goodman

The Children, Youth & Families Council is happy to announce that we will have an intern with us from November until early December.

Jeanne Goodman graduated last spring from high school in Switzerland where she was born and raised. She is taking a gap-year before beginning university here in the States next fall. Jeanne spent the past month with family and friends in Michigan. At Westminster she would like to engage in volunteer and work experience.

She will spend the remainder of her gap year working with the TearFund Project, a non-profit Christian organization providing food, education, and healthcare to those in need in developing nations. Jeanne will be helping primarily with CYF-related ministries, but she is sure to be involved in other areas as well.

On a personal note, Jeanne comes to Westminster because she was one of the youth I worked with during my year as youth ministry intern in Switzerland during seminary. We are very excited to have Jeanne with us and thank you for welcoming her to the life and ministry of Westminster!



Jeanne Goodman

### Quiet Worship Giving Thanks

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9:00AM, Bushnell Room

Jim Carter, worship leader

Giving thanks is central to Christian life. In the words of Meister Eckhart, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'Thank You,'...that will be enough."

In the words of a simple prayer in Dag Hammarskjold's journal, "For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes!"

And in the words of the Taizé sung prayer with which the service begins, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good."

# From Our Pastor

## Dear Friends,

I cannot think of a stewardship theme that strikes home more deeply for me than this year's: *Counting Our Blessings*.

As many of you know, we had a fire at our home on Friday morning, November 4. It started in the kitchen. The toaster—plugged in but not in use—seems to have been the origin of the blaze. We've learned the hard way: *keep small appliances unplugged!*

Our alarms performed well. The three family members asleep in the house were able to get outside; they had to crawl through the house under heavy smoke. Another few minutes and it could have been devastating. I was not home at the time; I am profoundly grateful they all made it to safety.

Talk about *Counting Our Blessings!* This experience has reminded me of what a profound blessing my family is to me. I cannot imagine life without them. I give thanks for them every day—but doubly so after the fire.

The kitchen is destroyed and will have to be completely gutted and rebuilt. The rest of the house suffered severe smoke damage. We are living in a hotel for the time being. Our insurance company is working to find temporary housing in the neighborhood that can accommodate us for several months. As of this writing the prospect of locating a suitable home to rent nearby looks positive.

The outpouring of support and love from the congregation has been overwhelming—*more blessings to count!* We have received expressions of concern and offers of assistance from so many of you. Thank you! It is a little hard to keep up with it all, so please be patient with us.

The circle of care for us has extended to friends across the church and around the country. Through the Internet, people have found out what has happened and are responding with prayers and words of encouragement. Still *more blessings to count!*

For decades I have preached on the theme of gratitude during stewardship season. I feel my own gratitude like never before this year. In the aftermath of the fire and the response we have received there is little left to say other than, *thanks be to God.*

Pledge Sunday in November 20. All of us have blessings to count—and from there it's a short step to a response in gratitude.

Thank you!

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

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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

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Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

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Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenberg, 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 • • • 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. The final program for fall is on **Nov. 16** with Therese Gales, of the American Refugee Committee. For info, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117. After Nov. 16, WOW is in recess until Jan. 4, 2012.

## Collection for Plymouth Christian Youth Center Gift Sale

Children, Youth & Families is supporting a church-wide drive to donate gifts for families in need for the Children's Christmas Gift Sale sponsored by our partner Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC). Thanks to this collection, children in the PCYC's neighborhood can buy gifts that they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. We are collecting items for this sale from **Nov. 16 – Dec. 4**. A list of needed items is online ([ewestminster.org/childreneyouthandfamilies](http://ewestminster.org/childreneyouthandfamilies)) and on bulletin boards near the Refectory and Education Wing on the 2nd floor. Because of the north Minneapolis tornado last summer, PCYC anticipates greater need than ever. Please bring your items, (unwrapped with price tag cut or marked out) to The Stable near the Reception Desk.

## Circle of Names

On **November 17, 4:00 to 6:00PM**, the Rev. Alika Galloway, co-pastor of Westminster's partner congregation, Kwanzaa Community Church, and Elder Elona Street-Stewart, Racial Ethnic Ministries Coordinator of our Synod, will be honored along with other distinguished women of faith. This celebration at the Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church parsonage supports the National Council of Churches' Women's Ministries and their work promoting inclusive and expansive language and combating human trafficking, domestic violence and the poverty of women and girls. To attend this celebration, or to contribute to this cause by raising up the name of a woman important to your live and faith, visit [circleofnames.org](http://circleofnames.org). For more info contact Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, [astroope@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:astroope@wpc-mpls.org).

## WestConnect Planning Meeting & Christmas Party

**Wednesday, November 16, 6:30-7:30PM** at Westminster. Do you want to shape the next few months of WestConnect, a fellowship group for those in their 20s & 30s? Do you have a great idea you have been dying to share and put into action? Then join the WestConnect planning team as we plot out the next few months of programming and events. All are welcome! Come early and get a great dinner in the WPC Refectory for just a few bucks.

Plus, save the date for the **WestConnect White Elephant Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10** at the home of the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope.

### IN MEMORY OF

**James de Jong**  
died October 31, 2011  
**Donabeth Jones**  
died November 2, 2011  
**Eva Bly**  
died November 3, 2011



*I am the Resurrection and the Life*

### Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

November 11	.....Ps. 123
12	.....1 Thess. 5:1-11
13	.....Matt. 25:14-30
14	.....Rom. 2:1-11
15	.....Exod. 2:1-10
16	.....Esth. 7:1-10
17	.....Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24
18	.....Ps. 100
19	.....Eph. 1:15-23
20	.....Matt. 25:31-46
21	.....Num. 27:15-23
22	.....Zech. 11:4-17
23	.....Jer. 31:10-14
24	.....Luke 17:11-19
25	.....Isa 64:1-9
26	.....1 Cor. 1:3-9
27	.....Mark 13:24-37
28	.....Mic. 4:1-5
29	.....Rev. 18:1-10
30	.....Luke 21:34-38
December 1	.....Isa. 40:1-11
2	.....Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13
3	.....2 Pet. 3:8-15a
4	.....Mark 1:1-8
5	.....Acts 2:37-42
6	.....Acts 11:1-18
7	.....Mal. 2:10-3:1



## WOW Birthday Lunch and Awards

On October 5, Women's Ministries awarded Presbyterian Women Life Memberships to three Westminster members, (from left) Betty Deane, Bill McCabe, Lois Johnson. (Bill is the first-ever Westminster man to receive this award!)

An Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women is conferred upon a woman or man in recognition of faithful service in some area of the church's work. Moderators, teachers, leaders, officers, pastors and missionaries have been among the recipients of this honor.

**Congratulations, and thank you for all you do for  
and with your church!**

## Coming Up in Adult Ed.

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

### January All-Church Book-Read *Room*, by Emma Donoghue

*Room* is an amazing story. It tells of the bond between mother and child. It is a story of imagination and wonder, a story of hope and courage and salvation. Told from the perspective of a 5-year-old boy, innocence overshadows the negative circumstances of a young woman kidnapped and held captive for years. Her boy, Jack, helps us to see mundane things like a cobweb, a rug, an eggshell, as objects of immense curiosity, comfort, and delight. His world view is limited to 11 square feet of Room. He notices everything. His mother sacrifices her own anxiety to make life for her son as normal as possible in the only world he knows.

*Room* is available for purchase on Sundays for \$11. Small groups will discuss the book on Sundays, Jan. 8 & 15, 9:15AM. Dr. Rob Brault, English professor at Winona State University, will discuss the book with us on Sunday, Jan. 22, 9:15AM, in the Great Hall.

### *Little Letters with Big Ideas: Galatians, Philippians, and Colossians*

**Wed., Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, 6:30PM, Meisel Room**

Dr. Eric Barreto, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, sets up the study of these rich letters of the New Testament and provides discussion questions for small group study. Barreto says, "My goal isn't to tell students what the text is, or to tell them what Paul's message is...My goal is to ask the right questions, show them the right paths in order that together we can come up with answers to the questions."

### *Acts of the Apostles: How Reliable is Luke's Second Volume?*

**Sundays, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 9:15AM, Great Hall**

Dr. Sarah Henrich, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will lead this study of Acts, exploring Luke's intention in writing and how we should read this late 1st Century document.

We will see how Luke connects Jesus to his earliest followers and beyond. How does Luke portray the inclusion of the Gentiles among God's people? How does Luke's version of Paul line up with Paul's letters? Dr. Henrich is an outstanding teacher who helps us ask questions that illuminate our understanding of biblical text.

### Movie of the Month, *An Unfinished Life*

**Sunday, November 27, 11:45AM, Meisel Room**

A powerful story of risk and redemption. Stoic and heartbroken, Einar Gilkyson (Robert Redford) quietly lives in the rugged Wyoming ranchlands alongside his

## Wreathmaking and Holidazzle!

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time of preparation and waiting. To remind us of this time and to bring a tradition of quiet celebration into our homes, Westminster holds a wreathmaking workshop on the first Sunday of Advent. All are invited to join us and create wreaths of pine and cedar that surround the four candles and can be used for meditation and celebration during this season. The wreathmaking and other activities begin following lunch in the Great Hall. Greens, candles, ribbons, wire rings with holders, and round bread loaves (as an alternative wreath) are supplied – as well as other simple seasonal crafts. The cost per wreath is \$10, lunch is \$5/adults, \$3/children. RSVP to Barbara Prince [bprince@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:bprince@wpc-mpls.org) or 612.332.3421.

### Bring Your Holidazzle Potluck, December 18

Join us on December 18 for the Holidazzle Potluck and Parade!

All are invited to this party where guests bring main dishes, side dishes, or salads and Westminster provides beverages and desserts. The informal (dress for the weather) supper begins at 5:00PM in the Refectory. We'll sing carols and enjoy some of the talents of our younger friends. Then at 6:15PM, we'll head out to Nicollet Mall to watch the Holidazzle parade.

RSVP to Barbara Prince, and tell her what dish you'll bring to share, [bprince@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:bprince@wpc-mpls.org).

## Middle School Book Group

By Elsa Kendig, Church School Teacher, Youth Leader

Last year the Middle School launched its first book group, complete with good books, great discussions, and fun times together!

We meet to discuss great books and how they can intersect with our faith. Join us on **Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:50AM to 1:30PM in the Youth Room**. When we meet to discuss our first book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.

Students who are interested are encouraged to read (or re-read) the book and to bring \$5.00 for a delicious pizza lunch. 6th through 8th graders are invited. RSVP to Dan Commerford, [dcommerford@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:dcommerford@wpc-mpls.org).

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only trusted friend, Mitch Bradley (Morgan Freeman). Then, suddenly, the woman Gilkyson blames for the death of his only son arrives at his door, broke, desperate, and with a granddaughter he's never known. But even as buried anger and accusations resurface, the way is opened for unexpected connection, adventure, forgiveness, and freedom. Light lunch available, suggested donation: \$7.

## Message from a Meisel Scholar

By Allison Winter, Westminster Meisel Scholar

*Note from Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor:* For the past 23 years The Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholar Grant has encouraged young people from Westminster to share their talents, follow their convictions, and expand their education outside the college classroom by participating in volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of the church's Mission Statement.

Students typically explore their projects during the summer months, but the Meisel Scholar Committee is happy to support student Allison Winter's January service and learning project through her campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**H**ello Westminster! My name is Allison Winter and I am a fifth year senior majoring in Elementary Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Growing up at Westminster, I was always very active in the church: as a member of the choir, hand bell choir, youth group, youth orchestra, and in many musicals. Along with making many great friends that I still keep in touch with, Westminster played a very important role in my faith journey and where I am at today.

Now, as a Badger, I have found my new church home at a place called Pres House. Pres House ([preshouse.org](http://preshouse.org)) is a diverse campus ministry and student church that is affiliated with the PC(USA). It has become another place

where I am able to express my gifts by being the lead singer on the music team and a member of the Pres House Council (a student leadership group that influences the campus ministry). Last year, I attended my first mission trip with Pres House to Washington D.C. and I would like to tell you about an exciting opportunity that I get to take part in over winter break!



Allison Winter

From January 7-20, I will be a part of a group of thirteen college students traveling to Nairobi, Kenya for the annual Break with a Purpose trip. Nairobi is home to the largest slum in Sub-Saharan Africa, Kibera, where millions live in horrendous conditions and dire poverty. Those who live in the slum have been affected by droughts, deforestation, and the high rates of HIV/AIDS. Our team will be working with various individuals and organizations to assist and learn about the difficulties that shape the lives of people in Kenya. Over the course of the trip, we will deliver school stationery for children in urban slums, work with children in schools, volunteer with HIV/AIDS support organizations, plant trees, and visit hospitals and orphanages. At the end of this trip, we will also go on safari at the Kenyan National Park!

I can't wait to go on this trip and represent the Pres House community in Kenya. I am excited for the opportunity to meet many leaders in the educational sector and the children in the Kenyan schools. I can only imagine how seeing a different educational system and culture will help me grow as a future educator. I also believe that going to Kibera will challenge both my group members and me to face conditions that we have never seen before.

Thanks to the Meisel scholarship and many other donors from Westminster and my community, I have this opportunity to go on this trip and grow in my faith journey. If you would like to follow my team's journey, visit [kenyabwap2012.wordpress.com](http://kenyabwap2012.wordpress.com). I am looking forward to the day that I will be able to come back and share this eye-opening experience with you all.

## High School Fall Retreat

By Dan Commerford, Director, Middle/High School Ministries



**O**n October 28, twelve high school students and five leaders made their way up to Presbyterian Clearwater Forest to participate in the High School Fall Retreat. The Westminster group joined three other youth groups from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area for a weekend full of fun, games, worship, and fellowship with each other.

The theme for the weekend was "Let it Shine," which gave the students an opportunity to explore the book of 1 John and discuss different ways that they could be a light to their community. The students enjoyed the chance to get away for a weekend and bond with each other and also explore how their faith intersects with the world around them.

## A Subtle Ministry

By Bruce Jones, *Older Persons Ministry*

We are all getting older. Yes, even our youngest members are getting older each year, and Baby Boomers are approaching retirement age. The Ministry with Older Persons Committee is focused on the needs that are more common to (but not restricted to) those of us who have spent more time getting older. Often this means that we advocate for improved accessibility in the church building. We also help with education for aging and advocate for continuing involvement in the Church community. Much of our work is behind-the-scenes. Have you noticed these subtle changes?

- This summer some pews in the rear center of the Sanctuary were shortened to provide more wheelchair accessible seating.
- New wheelchairs have been purchased for temporary use and are stored near the garage entrance and parking lot entrance.

- Every few years we help the Pastoral Care Council in planning a three-Sunday seminar series that brings speakers to present on topics such as health care directives, wills, funeral planning and other issues that people should discuss with their loved ones.

- Each year we plan Heritage Sunday celebrations to honor the members who have been part of the Westminster community for at least fifty years.

- We work with pastors and volunteers to ensure that Westminster provides a worship service at two Presbyterian Homes in Roseville every other month.

- To help wheelchair users safely exit the building in the event of emergency, evacuation chairs were purchased and strategically mounted on walls. If you or a family member uses a wheelchair, it would be helpful for you and an attendant to learn how the chairs are used. This can be done in a 20-minute training session after Church.

For more information on the Older Persons Ministry or to arrange training on the evacuation chairs, please contact Bruce Jones at 612.926.6276.

## An Invitation to a Collaborative Exhibition

By Rodney Allen Schwartz, *Director, The Westminster Gallery and Archive*  
and Joanna Reiling Lindell, *Curator, the Thrivent Financial Collection of Religious Art*

One of the great joys of working with art comes with the opportunity to collaborate with other institutions and audiences. This Advent, the Westminster Gallery is thrilled by the invitation to share two dozen crèches with the Thrivent Financial Collection of Religious Art, in the exhibition *The Nativity*. The exhibition opens in the Thrivent Financial Gallery on Thursday, November 17, with a reception from 5:00-7:00pm.

*The Nativity* features Old Master prints and drawings from the Renaissance and Baroque periods to the nineteenth century, including works by Albrecht Dürer, Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione, and Rembrandt van Rijn. Narrative and devotional themes from the Nativity story are explored, from the Annunciation, and the Adoration of the Magi, to images of the Holy Family.

*The Nativity* exhibition further incorporates crèches spanning many countries, demonstrating the scope and range of artistic media which different cultures have employed to articulate and celebrate Jesus' birth. These crèches represent a small part of the Martha Spencer Rogers Crèche Collection and may be viewed in the first and second floor lobby spaces of Thrivent Financial, 625 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, on the skyway level.

For additional information, or to arrange a group tour, contact: Joanna Reiling Lindell, [joanna.lindell@thrivent.com](mailto:joanna.lindell@thrivent.com) or 612.844.8072. Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-4:30PM.

I encourage you to make plans to attend the Thrivent opening to see a sampling of their amazing and important collection of original works on paper, to meet and talk with other art lovers, and to enjoy a lovely reception. The Westminster Gallery Advent exhibition, *Follow the Star*, opens November 27 and features the Susan McKinley Magi Collection. Watch for more information in the next issue of the *News*.



*The Adoration of the Shepherds (detail),*  
by Hendrik Goltzius, engraving, 1594.

## Counselor's Corner: Give Sorrow Words

by Mary Keen, M.DIV, LMFT, Westminster Counseling Center

612.332.7743 ext. 220

mkeen@wpc-mpls.org

www.westminstercounseling.org

*Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak  
whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break.*

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

Upon hearing news of his wife and children's brutal death, Macduff is gripped with shock and grief that leaves him speechless. Malcolm in an act of solace and comfort, speaks these words..."Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break."

When one is first faced with the reality of someone's death, especially if it is sudden or unexpected, the unreality of the moment, all too real, leaves us speechless. Numb, perhaps frozen, as if time stopped and one is suspended in mid-air, unsupported by the solid ground so familiar under one's feet. Words are far from speech when the emotion of the news is first felt.

When someone dies, even someone who has been preparing for death in slow steps, inching away from life as if in labor for a new birth, the moment of death, even expected is still hollow, empty, breathless. For those who remain in this life and loved the person who just entered the next, words are inadequate to embrace the feeling of loss, of grief, of sorrow, of the holy moment just witnessed.

Yet as Shakespeare penned, "give sorrow words..." To keep the experience locked up in a broken heart brings deeper wounds.

Speaking about grief as an observer, is far different than living the grief that seems to weight each step and

movement. A grief that seems so encompassing one wonders if life will ever bring smiles rather than tears.

As a pastor and therapist, I have been with people in sorrow-filled moments, as the observer, the partner, the one who speaks as Malcolm did, inviting those caught in grief to share. The hope is to spark movement and healing. As daughter and sister, I have experienced loved ones' deaths too close to each other. In three years I have lost my mother, and my two brothers, one tragically, one to cancer. I have been the one invited by others to "give sorrow words..." to spark my own movement to mend my broken heart. Words do help, especially when one senses the person listening truly cares and wants to hear the stories, sometimes for the tenth time.

Yet, in my own experience, sorrow, even spoken, has now become a companion. The heavy weight of my loved ones' absence is less, yet the powerful grief of their deaths is present. As people have listened to my words, however, the tears have melded into smiles of gratitude. Deep gratitude for those I miss and for those willing to hear my words, again.

Jane Kenyon's poem *Let evening come*, ends with these words:

*Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.*



Mary Keen

## Turkey Adventure

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Dr. Sarah Henrich and I are excited about our journey to Turkey next spring (April 20-May 2) to discover the missionary churches of Paul and the amazing Turkish landscape. Sarah's Ph.D. in New Testament and her passion for art history will add a rich dimension to our travels.

Our tour guide is Dilek Yarkan, who received graduate degrees from Harvard, Indiana University, and Istanbul University in Classical Archaeology and Fine Arts. She is fluent in English and German, and her native Turkish.

Our times of worship and reading the biblical text will enrich our faith and our growth in community. We will learn, explore, discover, eat, and laugh together as we enter the amazing, exotic world of this ancient cradle of the early church.

We have a few places left on this trip, so contact me if you want to be part of this unforgettable pilgrimage of faith. kmichael@wpc-mpls.org, or 612.332.3421.

## Town Hall Forum

Chris Matthews

Thursday, December 8, Noon

Jack Kennedy: *Elusive Hero*

Chris Matthews is a writer, political commentator, and the host of the nightly news show *Hardball with Chris Matthews* and the weekly panel discussion, *The Chris Matthews Show*. Before

entering journalism, he was on the staff of four members of Congress, he served as a top aide to former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, and he worked as a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter. Free and open to all. For more information, contact Susan McKenna, 612.332.3421 or smckenna@wpc-mpls.org, and visit westminsterforum.org.

