

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

December 16, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 20

10th Anniversary MLK Celebration, January 14-15, 2012

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

This coming January, Kwanzaa and Westminster will gather for the tenth time to celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to focus on how we can continue to work to bring about the justice he spent his life pursuing. Our speaker will be Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington DC. Rev. Nelson preached at Westminster after the 2010 General Assembly and we will be glad to welcome him back in 2012. He will give a presentation Saturday morning the 14th and will preach at both Westminster and Kwanzaa on Sunday morning the 15th. Details of these public presentations will be in the next *News*.

As the Director of the Office on Public Witness, J. Herbert is the most public voice representing the decisions of the PC(USA) to the executive and legislative

branches of government. The "Washington Office" is the heart of the process of advocating for public policy positions taken by the Presbyterian Church through its General Assembly actions. It also prepares and distributes educational materials and arranges briefings and conferences. Nelson believes that grassroots organizing within the denomination is a major key to impacting the prophetic witness to the political sphere in today's globalized culture.

Dr. Nelson is married to the Reverend Gail Porter



J. Herbert Nelson, II

MLK Sunday, continues on page 2

January All-Church Book Read

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor



Room, by Emma Donoghue is a powerful story of love and survival, captivity and freedom, openness and limitation.

Emma Donoghue tells her story through the voice of 5-year-old Jack, whose imagination and curiosity defy the limits of his world—an 11 x 11 Room—which is actually a soundproof garden shed where Jack's mother, Ma, has been held captive for seven years. Jack's microscopic world view challenges readers to examine their own world views. His appreciation of the minute challenges the reader to notice those bits of life that are taken for granted. His capacity to find abundance in scarcity chal-

lenges the reader to consider what is essential in life.

The routine Jack's mother has created for him creates a semblance of normalcy in an existence that is anything but normal. Ma's experience and her circumstances of imprisonment by a kidnapper and rapist stand in sharp contrast to Jack's sense of wonder and delight.

The bond between mother and child is profound, even at times unsettling. But it is this bond which gives Jack his sense of identity in isolation

Book Read, continues on page 2



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00PM

Family Worship Service & Pageant

8PM & 10PM

Candlelight Worship Services

Prelude begins 30 minutes
before each service.

Free parking in Orchestra Hall
Ramp on Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS

December 25, 10:30AM

Stephen Robertson preaching;
Ross Sutter, Marya Hart, Cheryl
Paschke, Scandinavian instruments

9:30AM Communion Service

SEMINARIAN SUNDAY

January 1, 10:30AM

Daniel Franklin preaching

Progress Report on Stewardship 2012

By Jim Carter and Katherine Youngblood, Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee.

We would like to give you a brief recap on progress to date on Stewardship 2012. You'll recall the joyous gathering on Festival Sunday November 13. The Great Hall, Meisel Room, Heller Commons, and the chapel were all used to celebrate Westminster's life – its



Jim Carter



Katherine Youngblood

wide range of groups supporting education, children, mission and outreach, and support for those among us. You may have enjoyed food, the music, and even tried to stump the professor. We hope you'll agree that Festival Sunday was a great success.

Perhaps you've followed the Stewardship program at our focused website, CountingOurBlessings.org. What a wonderful way to read the personal stories, see slide shows and videos provided by so many of you, speaking to the ways we've all been blessed. The website has been seen by more than 900 separate visitors since its inception. In fact, about 25% of our pledges are being received from the website.

Based on the strength of new pledges and increases on repeat pledges, our current projections suggest a net increase from last year of between 4 and 5%. We are cautiously optimistic, but cannot rest. We need each and every member to do their part.

Although Pledge Sunday was November 20, we will continue to record pledges until mid-January, at which point the 2012 Westminster budget must be finalized. Of course, our strongest desire is to meet the preliminary budget, so that Westminster's pastors and staff may complete plans for programs, mission, and outreach in 2012 and beyond.

If you've already submitted your pledge either online or with a pledge card – thank you! If there's been some kind of administrative oversight in your household (such as filling out the pledge card but forgetting to mail it), do know that there's still a bit of time to get your pledge in and be counted.

Please join us at the corner of 12th and Marquette – or if you prefer – 12th and Heritage, 12th and Hope, 12th and Heart, or 12th and Horizon. Count your blessings...and make your blessings count. Thank you!

MLK Sunday
continued from page 1

Nelson and the father of an 18-year-old daughter, Alycia Yvette Nelson. He is a third generation Presbyterian pastor, who, before coming to Washington, served as Founder/Pastor of Liberation Community Presbyterian Church (LCC) in Memphis, Tennessee. Liberation Community is an African-centered congregation and the first African-American Church developed in the Presbytery of Memphis in forty-six years

Before going to Liberation Community Church, Dr. Nelson served as Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, a redeveloping congregation located in a thriving, middle-class area in Greensboro, North Carolina, ultimately leaving there to go to Memphis to be more actively involved in social justice work. Nelson has earned a Doctor of Ministry at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. His dissertation, "A Community Based Model of An African American New Church Development In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" focused on the educational needs of poor African-American children.

Plan on joining him on Saturday and Sunday, January 14th and 15th and watch for more details in the January 6, 2012 issue of the *News*.

Book Read continued from page 1

and gives Ma sanity in abusive, claustrophobic conditions.

Room challenges us to rethink the way we see the world around us in both its limitations and its possibilities.

The All-Church Book Read includes small group discussions on **Sundays, January 8 & 15, 9:15AM** in the Great Hall, Bates Room, and the Refectory. No need to sign up, just show up.

On **January 22**, Dr. Rob Brault, Associate Professor of English at Winona State University, will speak about *Room*, reflect on its themes, and engage readers in conversation (Great Hall).

Purchase your copy (\$11) on Sundays in the Heller Commons, and join the conversations about this remarkable story. It will stay with you for a long time.

Stewardship 2012



Our giving is first and foremost an expression of gratitude to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Have you made your 2012 pledge? Do so today at **CountingOurBlessings.org**

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

“All earth is hopeful...”

Ever since Sunday, December 4, when the youth of the church presented Las Posadas—the Mexican folk tradition of Mary and Joseph going from inn to inn to find a place to stay—the refrain we sang as they moved around the sanctuary has been ringing in my ear and resounding in my heart...
All earth is hopeful...

This is the season when hope is born anew. The birth in Bethlehem signals that a new era has dawned. God has chosen to come among us to fulfill the longing of all the earth. The desert will bloom, the lion will dwell with the lamb, the rough places will be made plain.

All earth is hopeful...

As Westminster moves toward the close of 2011, I am filled with hope for what lies ahead. We are ending the year in strength. Our stewardship program is showing the best results we've seen in years. (If you haven't done so already, please turn in your pledge at CountingOurBlessings.org or through the mail.) Worship attendance has shown a slight upswing. Membership continues to grow incrementally. Our mission outreach is as deep and wide as it's ever been.

The search for a leader for the new Uptown ministry in partnership with Grace-Trinity Church is moving along well. We have interviewed several candidates and should reach a decision soon. There is growing excitement about this new start-up in one of the most vibrant neighborhoods of the city.

All earth is hopeful...

A year ago at this time, the downtown interfaith congregations joined with the business community in an innovative program to help residents in the Currie Avenue shelters move into supportive housing. With a state-funded program, over 150 individuals have now moved from being homeless to living in apartments. The downtown clergy have just been invited again to join the business community, this time to focus on helping homeless youth and young adults living at the Currie Avenue shelters. We will respond in early 2012.

Westminster finds itself at a unique confluence in its life as a congregation. We are an historic community, yet we find ourselves with many new opportunities to serve and reach out in the name of the one whose birth we celebrate.

And so we sing... *All earth is hopeful...*

See you in church,
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

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 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, LICSW

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

Christmas Eve Potluck

ALL are invited to a Christmas Eve potluck supper in the Refectory after the 4:00PM service. The potluck is sponsored by the Children, Youth, and Families Council. Last names A-L, please bring a salad to share; M-Z a main dish. Desserts and drinks provided. RSVP to Barbara Prince, bprince@wpc-mpls.org.

TGOF: The Great Over Fifties

TGOF is a group for members and friends, age 50 and older, who enjoy getting together for good food, fellowship, and interesting programs. We are kicking off the new year on **Sunday, January 16** with lunch after worship. Our speaker will be the Rev. Steve Robertson, Westminster's newest pastor. Join us at Noon in the Meisel Room. \$14 registration covers the cost of lunch. Register at tables in the Heller Commons on January 1 & 8, or through the online calendar at ewestminster.org. Questions? Call Kathy Miller, 612.308.1882.

Help Re-Stock the Pew Pockets

Can you help out a couple hours a month to restock Friendship Folders and the pew pockets with pencils, envelopes, etc. Contact Marlyne Quiel for more info and to volunteer, mquiell@comcast.net.

Greeters Needed

Several people from the most recent new member class commented that one of the reasons they chose Westminster was because of how welcome they felt by everyone they encountered. That starts with the greeters at the doors to the church. It's easy: offer a welcoming smile and friendly greting for a few minutes once a month—or as often as you can! Sign up now for Sundays in January through March. Contact Dan Franklin if you would like to help with this important mission of hospitality, dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org or 612.332.3421.

Women's Ministries: Faith Nixon Symposium and Spring Retreat

Mark your calendars now for the **Faith Nixon Symposium on Saturday, February 18**, when our speaker will be the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, Executive Director of the MN Council of Churches and outgoing President of the National Council of Churches. Also save the weekend of **April 27-29, 2012 and the Women's Spring Retreat**. Watch for more info.

Save the Date: JRLC Day on the Hill, March 20

"And What Does God Require?" Deut 10: 12-13, 17-18

Come to this event at the RiverCentre and the State Capitol for briefings, a keynote speech, and to speak to your legislators. Watch for more info in the *News* and in worship bulletins.

Over 70½?

Charitable IRA Rollover

If you are over age 70 ½, federal legislation allows you to make tax-free distributions from your IRA directly to a charity, such as Westminster. This distribution means no increased income or payment of additional tax. This gift opportunity is valid through Dec. 31, 2011, and could be used for either annual contributions or Legacy Gifts funded with an IRA.

For more info, see ewestminster.org/Legacy, or contact Sam Cooke, Director of Administration or Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving at 612.332.3421. *Please consult your qualified professional advisers on how this gift would fit into your overall plans and tax benefits.*

Daily Phone Devotions

Phone 612.332.7087

for the daily lectionary

December 16	Luke 1:46b-55
17	Rom. 16:25-27
18	Luke 1:26-38
19	1 Sam. 1:1-18
20	1 Sam 1:19-28
21	Mark 11:1-11
22	Isa. 9:2-7
23	Ps. 96
24	Titus 2:11-14
25	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
26	Isa. 62:6-12
27	Ps. 97
28	Titus 3:4-7
29	Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
30	John 1:1-14
31	Ps. 148
January 1	Luke 2:22-40
2	Gen. 28:10-22
3	Exod. 3:1-6
4	Gen. 1:1-5
5	Ps. 29
6	Matt. 2:1-12
7	Acts 19:1-7
8	Mark 1:4-11

New Member Class Series begins January 22

How do I become a member of Westminster? What does it mean to be part of this church & its mission? I'd like to explore my faith further...how do I do that?

For information on joining Westminster, please contact the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope or her assistant, Claudia Kapitan, 612.332.3421.

Births & Adoptions

ELOWEN ANN SMITH

Birthdate: November 29, 2011
Family: Jennifer & Kyle Smith and Kate, Olivia

IN MEMORY OF

Kathryn Anonsen
died December 12, 2011

I am the Resurrection and the Life



Meisel Scholar Reception

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

Please join us on January 8 to celebrate Meisel Grant recipients from the summer of 2011 with a reception in the Meisel Room following the 10:30 worship service.

Come hear more about the Meisel Grant program and the incredible projects and mission endeavors our college students commit themselves to. The Meisel program offers students the opportunity to share their talents, follow their convictions, and expand their education outside of the traditional college classroom by participating in volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of Westminster's Mission Statement.

This past summer Sarah Rasmussen, Katie Tuohy, Isabel Hart-Andersen, and Maria Janasz committed themselves to learning and growth by serving in Cuba, on the streets of Minneapolis, and with such agencies as The St. Paul Area Council of Churches and Planned Parenthood.

On January 8 they will share their reflections on how their summer projects have informed their academic pursuits, their sense of community, and how they see themselves as people of faith in the world.

If you are interested in applying for a Meisel Grant for 2012, this is a great opportunity to connect and get more information. We look forward to having you join us for refreshments and conversation!

Christmas Dinners, 2011

Photos by Ian Futterer



Wednesday Bible Studies and Programs Return

By Melanie McCall, Coordinator of Fellowship

Regular Wednesday morning (9:30-10:30) Women's Bible Study returns on January 4. We continue with *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. We are led in our study by five outstanding women. Come early for coffee, and stay for the great WOW programs, detailed below.

WOW: Westminster on Wednesday is back starting January 4, with many interesting programs.

Men and women of all ages meet on Wednesdays at 9:00AM in the Meisel Room 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. For info, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117.

We kick off the season on January 4 by learning about stained glass and restoration with David Cummings of Gaytee Stained Glass Windows. Gaytee conducted repairs to Westminster's stained glass windows and was involved in the new stained glass installation at the Marquette entrance. Other programs include:

January 11 Ann Carlson, from The Dignity Center

January 18 Artist Julia Anderson Mann, speaking on "Mixed Reality." Mann uses text, movement and voice to tell her personal story of a child in a multi-racial family.

January 25 Karen Gasche will speak on Celtic Christianity.

On December 2 and 3, 400 guests gathered for Westminster's annual Christmas Dinners. All enjoyed a wonderful meal, gracious and artful décor, carol singing, and merriment.

The highlight of the evening was *The Night Before Christmas, 1944*, a dramatic portrayal of the moving wartime story of Hank Andersen, told as a 1940s radio drama through the pen of his son, our pastor, Tim Hart-Andersen.

See more Christmas Dinner photos at
CountingOurBlessings.org



Remembering with Sorrow and with Hope

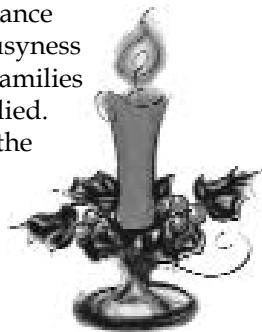
By Stephen Robertson, Associate Pastor

One of the significant worship services Westminster offers to our community each year is the Service of Remembrance during the Advent season. This time is set aside in the busyness and festivities of the holiday season for individuals and families to gather in remembrance of their loved ones who have died. In this sacred time of quiet and reflection, we remember the contributions and connections we have with those gone from among us this holiday season. One of the special moments of the service is the lighting of candles by family members in memory of their loved ones.

This year, nearly 70 people attended the Service of Remembrance in Westminster's chapel on Tuesday, December 6. Many of them also stayed for dinner, hosted by Westminster's Grief Support Ministry committee. This year, following dinner, the Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray, LMFT and Executive Director of the Westminster Counseling Center led a brief thoughtful conversation on the approach to family holiday traditions and plans in the light of the death of a loved one.

In the words of one participant in the worship service and dinner, "Having a special service to embrace both sorrow and hope that was separate from other holiday services, yet deeply connected, was a true blessing. Thank you!"

Thank you to the members of the Westminster Grief Support Ministry for their planning of the service and the dinner; to Melanie Ohnstad, Kathy Criston, and J D. Shaffer for their music in the service; to Betty Deane for assisting as liturgist; to Margaret McCray for leading our discussion, and to Claudia Kapitan for her administrative support.



Coming Up in Adult Education

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Paul and His Letter to the Romans

Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25

6:30PM, Meisel Room

Dr. Arland Hultgren, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will lead this study of Paul's seminal theological conversation in the most influential letter in the New Testament. Paul's understanding of the Law is encased in his deep conviction about God's love and grace. This letter is good news for the 21st Century. Mark your calendar to be at Westminster on Wednesday evenings in January for a rare look at this important document.

Saturday Seminar Coming in January

Mark your calendars for the Education for Faith and Life **Saturday Seminar, January 28, 8:30AM-2:30PM**. Dr. Richard L. Rohrbaugh, whose seminal work is *The New Testament in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, will present three lectures on reading the Gospels through the lens of 1st Century Mediterranean cultural and social construct. Emeritus Professor of Religion at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR, Dr. Rohrbaugh is an outstanding teacher and scholar. He will also teach on Sunday, January 29, 9:15AM. Watch for more details in upcoming editions of the *Westminster News*. But make plans NOW to attend this unique opportunity to learn more about the Gospels. Cost is \$25, includes lunch. Reservations due by January 23 to Claudia, ckapitan@wpc-mpls.org.

Living the Faith Class to Read *Paul*

By Chad Quaintance,

Group leader, *Living the Faith*

Paul: A Novel, by Walter Wangerin, is the new book to be read and discussed by the Living the Faith in the 21st Century class which meets on **Wednesdays, beginning January 4, 5:30-6:25PM, Bates Room.**

Wangerin, a preacher-teacher-writer, is best-known for *The Story of the Dun Cow*, for which he received the National Book Award in 1990. In *Paul*, Wangerin portrays the Apostle through a creative historical novel based on Paul's letters, the book of Acts, and the voices of six persons who lived in the first three decades of what came to be known as the Christian era.

Copies of the book will be available in class for \$12.75. All are welcome to join this stimulating exploration of the most influential Christian of the 1st Century.

Sunday Morning Communion Service to begin at 9:45AM

For several years, Westminster has offered a short liturgy of communion in the chapel every Sunday morning. That practice will continue, but as of **January 8, 2012, the service will begin at 9:45AM.**

This 15-minute service includes scripture, a short homily, and communion of the Lord's Supper around the table. Retired clergy or those who serve in other ministries and who call Westminster their church home provide leadership.

Westminster members who cannot be here for the longer services, families with small children, as well as visitors come for the comfort, hope, and joy of the Lord's table.

All are welcome!

Warming the Spirit with Art and Light

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

We See the Light Epiphany Party, January 4

January 6 marks the Coming of the Magi to see the Christ Child. It is also a celebration of light as we remember the star that guided the Wise Men and the Light that illumines the Darkness. On Wednesday, January 4 Children, Youth & Families welcome all to an Epiphany Party in the Refectory. After a LIGHT supper at 5:30PM (by candlelight) there will be activities for all ages and a procession with the Magi to find our way in Christ's Light and Love.

In keeping with the spirit of gift giving, which many countries celebrate this Three Kings Day, we ask that you bring gifts of food for the Groveland Food Shelf.

For more info on Arts Month or the Epiphany Party, contact Mary Alette Davis 612.332.3421, or mdavis@wpc-mpls.org.

Sustaining and Renewing God's Creation in Arts Month

Arts Month for Westminster Church School is in February this year. If you have ever thought about teaching, this is a great way to be engaged with our children and our education program. You can lead classes in art activities or be an assistant. We'll provide materials and teachers and volunteers will be present to help.

We are basing our creative journey this year on Psalm 24 "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" with plans to create *ofrendas* (offering boxes) to the earth, re-using fabrics and wool, as we explore new ways to see creation. Planning with the church's Eco-Justice team, our focus will be on ways to renew and reuse materials while we seek sustain the gift of this earth and all life! Your ideas, skills and love of creation and children are needed!

Textiles Tell the Nativity Story

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

Follow the Star, the Advent exhibition in the Westminster Gallery, highlights the Westminster Gallery's collection of textiles. You will find a Cudro from Peru; a cotton appliqué and embroidered Nativity image created with three-dimensional trupto figures. There are woven textiles made from unprocessed camel and other desert animals' hair from Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. Our Chinese friend, He Qi, has lent two hand-dyed hand-embroidered silk pictures of the Wise Men depicting them in a dream and also as bearing gifts. The Susan McKinley Collection of Magi, a 2006 gift to Westminster, includes a quilt, a needlework sampler, and several sets of Magi constructed from cloth and jewels.

It may surprise you to discover how many textiles and costume pieces exist in the Westminster Collection. We collect tee-shirts that are printed for the church's summer camps and mission trips as a way of documenting the varied activities of our young people. We have choir robes going back to the early years, as well as the Rev. Dr. Meisel's academic robe and hood. Many of the gifts from our partners at Versailles Church in Matanzas, Cuba, are textile art, because fabric is among the limited materials available to them. The diversity of the collection is amazing.

Textiles may be as humble as tee-shirts, or as meaning-laden as vestments and paraments once used in worship. They tell history and are a connection to other times and other places. The richness of texture, color, and form set them apart from other art media and enrich our individual and shared experience.

I encourage you to view *Follow the Star* and look for the textiles. A walk throughout the rest of the building may bring you to discover a variety of textile art works that you may not have noticed earlier. Go exploring; have fun.



Shepherds and Sheep, by Sabtoota Radovan (age 14), hand-loomed wool tapestry, Ramses Wissa Wassef Art School, Giza, Egypt, 1986

Counselor's Corner, The Benefit of Waiting

by Ross A. Aalgaard, MSW, LICSW, Westminster Counseling Center

612.332.7743 ext. 285

raalgaard@wpc-mpls.org

www.westminstercounseling.org

...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)

Sometimes the child within me makes it very difficult for me to wait. When I was a boy, it was difficult for me to hear my mother say, "Wait." I often would beg my parents to start opening gifts weeks before Christmas arrived. "Oh, please? Just one." My mother would try her best to tell me that this was not a good idea. By opening a gift now, I would spoil the surprise she told me. That really didn't seem to bother me since I am not a big fan of surprises anyway. In addition, she would attempt to convince me that there was joy found in waiting. Now that I am older I am beginning to understand what she meant.

I remember asking an adult religious education class what people did when they were waiting in a doctor's office or waiting in line for their turn to occur. One man

stated he carried note cards in his pocket with Bible verses on them. He would pull out the cards and read the Bible verses, occasionally taking the time to memorize a verse or two. A woman mentioned that she carried a book everywhere she went. Whenever she got to a place where she needed to wait, she pulled out her book and read. Now I often see people on their cell phones, computers, or iPads passing time as they wait. We seem to have found ways to fill our wait times.

The fast-paced world we live in has taken away the ability for us to wait. Sometimes pastoral counseling can allow people to slow down. There can be a benefit to waiting. Time can bring healing, change, and renewal. When waiting occurs, become aware of it and intentional in it. Rather than ruminating or becoming anxious, take time to work on the person within you.



Ross A. Aalgaard

RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

Westminster has a large staff, but we're still not able to keep up with many of the less-noticed, but necessary tasks in the church. Two of those tasks are pew-pocket cleaners and packet stuffers. They don't sound very glamorous, but they're very important!

Pew-pocket cleaners go through the sanctuary and the chapel once a week straightening the pockets, restocking items, such as pew envelopes, and, when necessary, putting out envelopes for the special offerings the church receives during the year. As I write this they are putting out the envelopes for the annual Christmas Joy offering. At other times of the year they might put out bookmarks or other special communication pieces that provide basic information about the church (such as worship times) or advertise special services, like the Wednesday night services during the summer. Visitors in particular benefit from the information in the pew pockets and it's a vital part of our hospitality ministry. You can't really appreciate the size of the sanctuary until you sit in every pew in every section over the

course of a weekday morning!

Packet stuffers assist with the mailing of the church newsletter two Fridays a month. In addition to stuffing the envelopes with the newsletter itself, they insert extra items such as the adult education catalog or a flyer for the Sunday/Monday programs. And, like the pew-pocket cleaners, when it's time for a special offering they insert envelopes with the newsletter. 1,900 copies of the newsletter are mailed for each issue, so you can imagine how much work it takes to communicate the activities of the church to all of the members.

Neither one of these tasks is performed alone, however. Both pew-pocket cleaners and packet stuffers work in teams and it's a wonderful time of fellowship as well as work. If you have time during the day, please consider helping out with one of these tasks once a month. The church couldn't function as well it does without dedicated women and men doing this behind-the-scenes work. Please contact me if you're interested.



• Dan can be reached at 612.332.3421 or dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org •