

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

The Feather, the Film, the Finale

March 25, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 5

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

A few weeks ago I re-watched *Forrest Gump*. If you don't know the 1994 film, it is a cultural overview of the 60s seen through the life of the simple, simply wonderful Tom Hanks character, Forrest Gump. The first image you see is a feather floating through the air. Toward the end of the movie, Forrest muses about the nature of life. He considers the view of his army friend, Lieutenant Dan, who believes that each person has a destiny that irresistibly draws him along. Forrest's momma thinks that we all drift through life like a feather on a breeze. Forrest says, "I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floating around accidental-like on a breeze, but I think maybe it's both. Maybe both is happening at the same time." Forrest may have it just right. It is a hard question.

As Holy Week approaches, other hard questions face us. Did Jesus have to die? Was it his destiny to ride humbly into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing his death was imminent? Or did Jesus float through life, studying, working, making decisions, moving about in perfect obedience to God? Were both happening at the same time? Some things we cannot know, but thankfully each year we have the liturgical opportunity to grapple with the anguish and immeasurable love of Jesus' last days living on earth. That opportunity comes most visibly in the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

This year at Westminster we will earnestly turn to the arts to lead us through the events and rituals of Holy Week. Marion Tucker, child of Westminster and senior at the Perpich Center for the Arts, is creating a short film for Maundy Thursday worship. She will recreate the Upper Room where Jesus broke bread and poured wine with his disciples. Marion will help us find new relevancy in the ancient ritual of foot washing through the modern medium of film. In this service, we hear the great command-

ment to love one another as God has loved us. Holy Communion is the central act of Maundy Thursday. We receive it in gratitude for God's love and then go quietly forth into the night.

The Good Friday Noon service will begin with the organ transcription of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. The music will accompany projected images of the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane and other events leading up to Good Friday. This aural/visual meditation will be followed by a Tripartite service. Part I focuses on the trial of Jesus told through scripture, hymns and anthems. Part II uses scripture and projected images to portray the Crucifixion. In Part III, dancer Justin Leaf interprets the death of Jesus to the music of Bach's *Komm Susor Tod*. The service concludes with images of the Pieta accompanied by the choir singing the haunting, wordless *Fabodpsalm* of Swedish composer Anders Ohrwall.

The Finale, of course, is Easter...the surprise ending that is both culmination and new beginning. Who but God??

LENT & EASTER
Wednesdays in Lent
Noon, March 30, April 6, 13
followed by lunch (\$8.00)
6:15PM, Children's Service
6:30PM, Taizé Service

Palm Sunday, April 17
Worship, 8:30 & 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday, April 21
Worship, Noon & 7:00PM

Good Friday, April 22
Worship at Noon

Easter Quiet Worship, April 23
Worship, 9:00AM

Easter, April 24
7:00, 9:00 & 11:00AM

Call to Congregational Meeting, April 10, 2011

The congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota will meet in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 10, 2011 immediately after the 10:30 AM worship service. The congregation will meet for the purposes of hearing the report of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, acting upon the Committee's nomination of a minister for election as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care acting, upon the Committee's proposed Terms of Call for the new Associate Pastor, and electing representatives to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area who will report the Congregation's actions.

Signed, Vincent A. Thomas, Clerk of Session

Music Most Serene

By Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

No one knows just why Gabriel Fauré decided to write a requiem. The mass of the dead had long been a familiar vehicle for composers, usually engendered by a specific funeral or the death of a loved one. In Fauré's case there was no immediate need and no recent death, though his father had died two years before and his mother, ironically, would pass only months after he had begun work on his requiem. Fauré, recently turned 42, had just assumed a new post: choirmaster for Paris' celebrated church of the Madeleine, where he replaced his teacher, Camille Saint-Saëns. Throughout 1887 Fauré worked steadily to shape his requiem, bringing it to fruition for the first time in January 1888 for the funeral of a parishioner.

Fauré's *Requiem* is heard most often in concert, usually in the third version created in 1900 for a large choir and orchestra at the suggestion of Fauré's publisher, who thought a large-scale rendering would sell better than the original intimate version. (The advice was right: it made a great deal of money for both composer and publisher.) But in the original 1887 version, there were five movements (not the later seven) with organ accompaniment, reinforced at times by a small group of strings. The scale and nature of the original suggested contemplation, subtlety, repose, peace.

In composing his *Requiem*, Fauré decided on a most idiosyncratic approach. Seeking to emphasize comfort and peace, he omitted the traditional texts about the Day of

Judgment and the consigning of sinners to hell. He dropped the dramatic *Dies irae* (Day of Wrath) text entirely, except for its final phrase, "*Pie Jesu, dona eis requiem*" (Kind Jesus, grant them rest), in which he offers perhaps the most beautiful soprano solo ever created for a requiem.

In place of wrath and punishment, Fauré offers the peace of paradise. His final movement (*In Paradisum*) describes the soul's arrival in heaven: "May the angels lead you to Paradise..." That message is not part of the traditional requiem. Fauré borrowed it from the burial service to replace the violent judgment he had eliminated. And he offers it with music of utmost serenity.

For the Lenten communion service on **Sunday, April 3**, Westminster's choir will offer the five movements Fauré created for the original presentation of his *Requiem*, not as a choral performance but integrated into our communion liturgy. The accompaniment will be the simple, straightforward organ part as played by our Minister of Music and the Arts/Organist Melanie Ohnstad.

At last Wednesday's choir rehearsal, as Melanie played the introduction to Fauré's *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) section, we realized that we know no more beautiful introduction in any choral work. In fact we can't imagine any choral work more serenely lovely than Fauré's *Requiem*. And we still don't know just why he wrote it. When asked, he replied, "For the pleasure of it." Perhaps, along with its comforting message in our turbulent times, we should listen to it in the same way.

Upcoming High School Events: Night on the Street, Detroit Mission Trip

By Erin Swenson, Dir. High School/College-Age Ministries

A Night on the Street, Friday April 15 Westminster youth will join nearly 400 teens from more than 30 other congregations who will be sleeping in cardboard boxes to raise money for and awareness about teen homelessness. We will gather in the Plymouth Church parking lot with only a blanket or a sleeping bag for warmth and a cardboard box as shelter. Prior to the event we will collect donations for the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, a faith-based nonprofit affordable housing organization. We will meet at WPC at 6:00PM and go to Plymouth together. Registration forms online on the Sr. High/College-Age page of ewestminster.org or in the youth room. Feel free to invite your friends! **Please register by April 1!**

Detroit Mission Trip, June 19-26, the senior high will travel to Detroit, MI for the annual summer domestic mission trip. In recent years, Detroit has seen 33.8% of its residents below the poverty level, the highest among large U.S. cities. In December 2010, the Department of Labor reported metropolitan Detroit's unemployment rate at 11.1%, with the city's unemployment rate for December 2010 at 19.1%.

Our focus this year will be how we can respond to those living in poverty and the Presbytery of Detroit will connect us with service organizations in the area.

Our team will stay at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington, MI, and will serve in both the Ann Arbor and Detroit communities. There are many wonderful opportunities to serve, build relationships, and have a great time in this area of the country. Madison, WI will be our half-way point on the way to Detroit and we will stay at Pres House; a ministry for college students. On our way home, Chicago will be our half-way point and we will stay at First Presbyterian in Lake Forest. We will also have the opportunity to serve and enjoy the Chicago area as a group.

This trip is open to all youth who have completed grades 9-12. The cost of the trip is \$360 and covers all expenses except for food on the road and any extras that youth may want for the week.

More info & registrations on the Sr.High & College-Age page of ewestminster.org. Questions? Contact Erin Swenson, 612.332.3421 or eswenson@wpc-mpls.org.

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

The news from our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is good! The brochure published with this issue of the *News* introduces the Rev. Steve Robertson, the candidate Westminster members will be asked to elect as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

Electing the ministers who serve them is one of the most important things done by the members of a Presbyterian congregation. It's a privilege to receive and act on the recommendation of the search committee chosen to discern God's call to a new minister. I look forward to the meeting of the congregation on Sunday, April 10, immediately following the 10:30 service. Steve will participate in both worship services that morning, offering the pastoral prayer.

Steve brings 15+ years of experience in ordained ministry, having served as the pastor of a church in Michigan and as an associate pastor in two other congregations, most recently in Chevy Chase, MD. He evidences deep faith in God. His experience in offering pastoral care and the love of Christ in a variety of settings will be put to good use at Westminster. Steve understands the importance of drawing on lay leaders in providing care for the congregation. He is well-organized; he was a banker before going to seminary. He has a warm, gentle way about him.

Steve will fit nicely into Westminster's staff team. The ordained ministers and I work hard to maintain close, collegial relationships. In a large church like ours it's easy for the staff to fall into a "silo" approach to ministry, where each minister develops an independently-functioning "department" only loosely related to the ministry of the entire church. Steve will work well within our highly relational-model of staff teamwork.

The conclusion of this search initiates a transition time for the church. On July 15 Steve will succeed Byron Thompson as the pastor leading us in congregational care. David Liddle will step down from his role as Interim Associate Pastor on June 15, having provided outstanding ministry among us for two years. We will celebrate his leadership and thank David on Sunday, June 12. Following a brief absence we will see David back in the pews at Westminster.

As Presbyterians we hold fast to the notion that God works through the church to call ordained pastors into the life of particular congregations. That is about to happen at Westminster. Thanks be to God.

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

Erin Swenson, Dir. High School and College-Age Ministries

Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood

Barbara Prince, Administrative 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, Early Childhood Music

Christopher Laumann, Youth Music Director

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. David Liddle, Interim 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

Emma Watson, 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

Men and women of all ages meet on Wednesdays in Rm. 209/210 for 9:00AM coffee, 9:30AM men's & women's Bible studies, and a program at 10:45AM. On **March 30** VA Services for Returning Vets with Diane Peterson. On **April 6** Barbara Mauk, *From Both Sides of the Wall*. For more info, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117.

Couples Enrichment Wkshp.

It's not too late to sign up! Married or partnered couples in their 20s & 30s are invited to *Creating Connection: A Marriage Enrichment Workshop*, led by the Rev. Mary Keen, Westminster Counseling Center. The workshop will explore communication styles that strengthen relationships; core values; creative ideas to address conflict; and family of origin influences and assumptions. **Two Saturdays: April 2 & 9; 9:00am-2:00pm.** \$40/couple (sliding scale available), includes lunch. Please let us know if you have childcare needs, and we will assist as best we can. Call Mary Keen with questions: 612.332.7743 ext 220.

Dinner for Eight

Does there never seem to be enough time on Sunday to get to know the interesting people you meet at Westminster? Sign up today for a great meal and great fellowship in a small group of Westminster members and friends. The next Dinner for Eight is **Saturday, April 9 at 6:00PM** and is a great way to meet and reconnect with others over good food. Learn more and sign up in the Heller Commons on March 27 or April 3, on the online calendar, or by contacting Co-chairs Kent Cassidy (612.220.3798; kecasidy@aol.com) or Debby Woodard (952.250.6655; dwoodard@scisoc.org); or Dan Franklin at the church by April 4.

Sunday/Monday Connections

Mark **Tuesday, April 12, 6:00-8:30PM** on your calendar for the next Sunday/Monday Connections, when WPC member Mary Beth Koehler will be the speaker. Women of all ages are welcome for social hour and dinner at the Woman's Club. \$25, reduced rates available. For info, contact Connie Scott 952.933.4285 or conniescottmtka@msn.com. Register March 27 or April 3 in the Heller Commons or send a check to the church (Attn: Dan Franklin) by April 7. Hope to see you there!

Nicollet Square

The Grand Opening Ceremony for Nicollet Square, 3700 Nicollet Ave. S. will take place on **Thursday, May 5** from 3:00-6:00PM, with a program at 4:00pm. Come and celebrate this new supportive housing facility for homeless and vulnerable young people.

Lenten Worship & Lunch

What are doing for lunch? What could you be doing? Noontime Wednesday worship and lunches are ongoing through the Lenten season. As Melanie Ohnstad wrote in a recent newsletter story, "Lent may be a time when we open ourselves to change." Perhaps a change for you is to skip your normal lunch routine and wander to Westminster for worship on Wednesdays, then be in fellowship with other worshippers at a simple and delicious soup and salad lunch. Join us next Wednesday! Wednesday lunches run through April 13.

| Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary | |
|---|----------------|
| March 25 | Ps. 95 |
| 26..... | Rom. 5:1-11 |
| 27 | John 4:5-42 |
| 28 | Gen. 24:1-27 |
| 29 | Gen. 29:1-14 |
| 30 | Jer. 2:4-13 |
| 31 | 1 Sam. 16:1-13 |
| April 1 | Ps. 23 |
| 2 | Eph. 5:8-14 |
| 3 | John 9:1-41 |
| 4 | Isa. 59:9-19 |
| 5 | Isa. 42:14-21 |
| 6..... | Matt. 9:27-34 |
| 7 | Ezek. 37:1-14 |
| 8 | Ps. 130 |
| 9..... | Rom. 8:6-11 |
| 10 | John 11:1-45 |
| 11 | Acts 20:7-12 |

In-Fellowship Email

There's so much going on at Westminster it can be hard to answer the question, "What's going on here for me?" One way to learn more is to sign up for the *In Fellowship* email. Every other week we will send you an email with upcoming events for all kinds of groups: women, men, younger adults, older adults... or the whole church! We give you easy ways to learn more and to sign up, plus you can opt out at any time. If you'd like to receive *In Fellowship*, contact Dan Franklin, dfranklin@wpcmpls.org.

Births & Adoptions

ELLE MARIE SCOTT

Birthdate: January 6, 2011
Family: Erica & Eric Scott and Easton



Find us on Facebook!
facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterian

Luther and Calvin Colloquium

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Westminster members have a unique opportunity to hear outstanding Calvin scholars address theological issues at a joint colloquium of the Calvin Studies Society and the North American Luther Forum, **April 7-9**, at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

Westminster and the Adult Education Council are co-sponsoring this event, and so our members can attend for the significantly reduced rate of \$10.

Consider these highlights:

Thursday, April 7, 1:30-2:45PM

Professor G. Sujin Pak, Duke University,
Luther and Calvin on The Nature and Function of Old Testament Prophecy: The Case of the Minor Prophets

Thursday, April 7, 4:30-5:45PM

Professor Jeffrey Watt, University of Mississippi,
Reconciliation and the Confession of Sins: The Evidence from the Consistory in Calvin's Geneva

Friday, April 8, 1:30-2:30PM

Professor Bruce Gordon, Yale University,
Writing the Life of John Calvin

The whole schedule and registration information can be found at calvinstudiessociety.org/colloquium.htm. Information and directions to Luther Seminary can be found at luthersem.edu. When you register, note that you are from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis. Please contact me if you want more info, 612.332.3421 or kmichael@wpc-mpls.org. I hope to see you there!

Bebe and Rollie Baldwin Receive PHEWA Award

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

From April 24-29, the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) will return to New Orleans for a building project and the PHEWA Biennial Gathering called *Repairing the Breach*. PHEWA is made up of 10 networks that develop resources and provide consultation to congregations and organizations across the United States. All are invited to New Orleans to attend and participate!

During the event, in addition to the Biennial Business Meeting, awards will be presented, including a very special award for two Westminster members. The Rodney T. Martin Award will be given to Bebe and Rollie Baldwin for their long service to social justice ministries through PHEWA. This award recognizes a significant long-term contribution made to the ministry of PHEWA. Bebe and Rollie will be recognized for helping the church respond more fully and with a more hospitable welcome to persons with disabilities of all kinds.

Attendees can participate in the New Orleans event in a variety of ways. People can sign up to help rebuild

Women's Spring Retreat

By Melanie McCall, Fellowship Coordinator

Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest

Join other Westminster women for a weekend of rest, relaxation, and worship together. Our retreat at beautiful Presbyterian Clearwater Forest will give our bodies and minds time to be thoughtful and to rest, to be social and worship, and space for individual enjoyment of the woods and lake. Study for this Retreat will explore what the Bible says about disability.

Annika Lister Stroope will lead our study of three Bible texts. What can we learn about how Christians think and talk about disability? We will study the verses from Paul's letter to the Corinthians that make up part of what we say in our Communion liturgy, and talk about what it means that Jesus' body was "broken." We will look at both Older and Newer Testament scriptures that identify people with a variety of disabilities who were set as examples of faithfulness and spiritual leadership. Acknowledging that none of our bodies is "perfect," and so no matter our level of physical and/or mental abilities, how can we help ourselves, our homes, our churches, and our world to embrace all people as whole creations of God?

Sign up in the Heller Commons beginning March 27. \$95 covers two nights lodging, linens, and all meals. The last two Women's Retreats sold out, so please register now! Questions? Contact Melanie McCall at the church, or email mmccall@wpc-mpls.org.

homes that were destroyed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These participants can stay at Olive Tree Village, the volunteer camp established by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, or at a nearby hotel. This work will be done in cooperation with Project Homecoming, a faith-based community development organization that is building resilient neighborhoods in the greater New Orleans area.

Attendees can also engage in a series of consultations with New Orleans groups involved in social justice work that is in line with PHEWA's networks. There will be major presentations by three key leaders: Dr. Margaret Flowers on *Reassessing Health Care in New Orleans*; Bible study and worship will be led by Rev. Margaret P. Aymer, Assoc. Professor at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and Davida Finget, JD, Asst. Clinical Professor at Loyola University School of Law will present *Voices from New Orleans*.

If you would like more info contact Doug Mitchell, dmitchell@wpc-mpls.org or 612.332.3421. or pick up a brochure at the church.

Don't Miss Unique Art in the Youth Room

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

We all know that, as Garrison Keillor quips, our Westminster youth are well above-average. You may not have noticed one particular way our senior high youth are, quite literally, reaching for new heights. Over the past few years the ceiling in the Youth Room has been slowly transforming into a unique mural, one ceiling tile at a time.

In talking with the youth about the artwork's inception, there seems to be a bit of lore about who started it and when, but regardless of its beginnings, the ceiling of the Youth Room is a reflection of the creativity, passion, and faith of our young people. Most students agree the painting began either during a lock-in, after a summer mission trip or on a Wednesday night in the fall, and from there it has become a regular Wednesday night activity. Mary Thomas explains that now, "The actual painting seems to happen when we're bored during down time on Wednesday nights. I guess one could paint whatever they want, certainly the grand majority of them weren't pre-meditated and aren't anything deep. I think the tiles are cool because they kind of reflect us and personalize the room." Senior Marion Tucker agrees and she notes that people had already started painting the tiles by the time she entered the senior high youth group. "A group of us would paint tiles in the time between dinner and choir on Wednesday nights. It was partially a way to pass the time, but I think it also proved an interesting creative project."

As of the timing of this article, there are 56 painted tiles decorating the ceiling, representing everything from the 2008 South Dakota mission trip, sunsets, the Equal Rights Campaign, students' musical passions, and even one in honor of years spent in the Westminster Christmas

Eve pageant. Of the tile detailing the South Dakota mission trip, artist and college sophomore Katie Tuohy says, "My goal was to make a record—of sorts—of the events that when on during our trip. The images included on the tile may not make sense to all, but those who went on the trip will understand. Hopefully a trend starts that keeps the youth documenting future mission trips on a tile and then displaying them on the ceiling. I find that an eclectic style establishes a fun, casual, home-like atmosphere.

Some have taken a more fun approach to their creations; others have given more time to certain tiles, such as Marion. "My favorite tile I've done is the one of the Annunciation. With this tile, I was inspired by my art history class. I wanted to create something with a more "churchy" theme, but in a fun style. I decided to combine the Renaissance tradition of painting Biblical stories with the 1960s Pop art aesthetic of Roy Liechtenstein. I put a fair amount of thought into this tile, but mostly I just paint the tiles for fun." The intelligence, humor, and imagination of our young people never cease to amaze me and I invite you to poke your head in the youth room and look up, or take a seat and ponder for awhile the originality and faith reflections of incredible Westminster students!



Annunciation, by Marion Tucker, ceiling tile in Youth Room

Gift Bags for YWCA Daycare

By Randy Greene, Kindergarten Church School Teacher

For over 15 years, the three year olds, pre-K, kindergarten, first, and second grade Sunday School classes have made gift bags for the child care center at the YWCA. Many of the children at the YWCA do not have a lot, so the gift bags of toys mean a lot to them. Collecting and donating toys and books teaches our students that they can help make this world a better place.

Through April 3, we are collecting new and gently used items such as books, small stuffed animals, cars and trucks, dolls, action figures, sunglasses, play-dough, bottles of bubble liquid, chalk, markers, crayons, pads of paper, toothbrushes, and small games for children ages 3-5.. These items should be able to fit into a lunch bag. Please bring donations to the kindergarten Rm. 203.

Questions? Contact Randy Greene, 612.927.5473.

Day Camp is July 25-29!

Day Camp is a week of outdoor fun, arts and crafts, music, games and stories, and exploration of nature at beautiful Baker Park Near Wilderness Settlement.



Each day we'll depart by bus from Westminster at 8:30AM and return by 5:00PM. On Thursday night, older children have the opportunity to stay overnight. Parents pick up all children on Friday after a closing ceremony.

Forms available online (Children's Ministries page), at the Reception Desk and in the 2nd floor lounge area. \$20 discount for registration forms received by April 1!

Questions? Contact Mary Alette Davis, mdavis@wpc-mpls.org or 612.332.3421.

Suitcase Ministry

By Philip Friedman, Bethlehem Partnership Team

There are many opportunities to get involved and support our partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Dar al Kalima College in Bethlehem. Dar al Kalima is a two-year degree-granting college started by Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, with a focus in arts education.

One way is to help us deliver books to the college in Bethlehem. Due to restrictions imposed by the Israeli government, the only way we can be assured that any books we donate to the school are actually delivered is for travelers to deliver them directly to the school.

In June, Doug Mitchell will lead a partnership trip to Bethlehem. Our goal is to deliver five thousand dollars worth of books to the school as part of that visit. These books will become a part of their library and will be important to Dar al Kalima's application for future accreditation as a four-year college.

itation as a four-year college.

You can help us reach that goal in two ways:

- Visit www.amazon.com. Click on Gift & Wish Lists. Enter "Dar al Kalima" in the Find someone's list box. The College has books listed as Urgent Items. Purchase books from that list for delivery to Westminster.

- By contributing to Westminster (write Suitcase Ministry in the memo line of your check) and the church can purchase books on your behalf. We will pool funds to purchase some of the more expensive books on their list.

Travelers in June will carry the books in their luggage.

If you would like to know more about the Suitcase Ministry Project, or to assist in any way, contact Philip Friedman, 612.910.5556, or Friedmanmn@aol.com. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this worthy cause.

Looking at Faith: Art as Text

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

One of the affirmations of faith from The Iona Abbey Worship Book is the source for this year's Lent exhibition in the Westminster Gallery. Each of the affirmation's 23 lines is illuminated by an original piece of art from the Westminster Collection, providing the opportunity for individual reflection in this season of contemplation.

The line *To live in the freedom of forgiveness* is paired with a silkscreen print made by Sister Corita Kent ca. 1965, featuring the text: *to believe in god is to know that all the rules are fair and that there will be wonderful surprises*, quoted from the Italian playwright Ugo Betti (1892-1953) and found in the play *Gambler*.

Sister Kent (1918-1986) was an artist who was influenced by the pop art of Andy Warhol, using song lyrics and advertising slogans in her art, and was a forerunner in creating contemporary, sometimes rebellious activist art connecting God with social justice issues. Her use of bright, bold colors integrated with dramatically graphic text grabs the viewer's eye to draw us into a conversation with her. As a sister with the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, she taught art. As she became more dedicated to social causes, her work became more subversive, and she eventually left her vocation to be a fulltime artist.

John August Swanson is another artist from California; his work is well represented in the Westminster Collection. He started life as an underemployed wanderer, and was discovered (perhaps rescued) by Sister Kent. She introduced and encouraged his early art (which looked somewhat like her art) and launched him on his career. The exhibition *Looking at Faith* ends with one of Swanson's serigraphs, *The Procession*. Please take time to visit the Westminster Gallery to look at your own faith by engaging with these 23 lines of affirmation and their companion pieces of art.



to believe in god,
by Sister Corita Kent, silkscreen, ca. 1965

RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

Do not let the flood sweep o'er me, or the deep swallow me up. Psalm 69:15

There has been a lot of talk lately about the demise of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As with rumors about Mark Twain over a century ago, I hope that the gloom is greatly exaggerated. The challenges we face are significant and I have no more idea how to address them than many of you, but I remain hopeful about the future.

Westminster is blessed with an active, committed, caring, and generous congregation and we are able to do a great many things in our community and around the world. There might be some who think that is enough, but I value the connection we have with the larger church and count on the Presbytery, Synod, and national leadership for guidance and ideas about ways in which we stretch ourselves to serve God's people.

Of the many things the national church does very well, one of the more prominent is One Great Hour of Sharing. The annual offering is divided among 3 programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program (receives 36% of funds); the Self-Development of People Program (32%); and Presbyterian Disaster Relief (32%). It is through generous giving to this special offering that a grant from the Self-Development of People program could be made to the Central Detroit Community Development Corporation to utilize the city's vacant lots to cooperatively grow and produce food. Food items that are not consumed by the members are sold to locally-owned grocery stores and to community eateries.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program supports a vast network of community gardens, like one in Youngstown, Ohio. There the congregation of Common Ground Community Church purchased a nursery as part of its church property. They cultivate the land, teach people about sustainable agriculture, and feed those in need. They have also formed partnerships with organizations and businesses in Youngstown to help alleviate hunger and bring hope to a depressed city.

The work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) may be the most visible program of One Great Hour of Sharing. In response to the earthquake in Japan, they have released funds for relief and are working with Presbyterian mission workers already in Japan to assess the situation and decide on next steps. But PDA is not just a "crisis of the moment" organization. The women and men of PDA continue to work in New Zealand in the aftermath of the recent earthquake there, as well as Haiti and Pakistan. PDA is also watching the flood forecast here in Minnesota and elsewhere and stand ready to provide assistance as needed.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received in church on **Palm Sunday, April 17**. In the coming days please look for envelopes in the mail and in the pews and please give generously as a way to extend our *Telling Presence* to those in need around the country and the world.

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

Town Hall Forum

By Katherine Youngblood, Advisory Board Chair



David Brooks
The Social Animal
March 31, 7:00pm

David Brooks is a columnist for the New York Times and a regular contributor to *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS and *All Things Considered* on NPR. He has been a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and *The Atlantic*, a senior editor at *The Weekly Standard*, and the op-ed editor of the *Wall Street Journal*.



Marcus Borg
Putting Away Childish Things
April 14, Noon

Marcus Borg is professor emeritus in the philosophy department at Oregon State University where he held the Hundere Chair in Religion and Culture until his retirement in 2007. He was an active member of the Jesus Seminar and served as chair of the

historical Jesus section of the Society of Biblical Literature. In his newest book, *Putting Away Childish Things: A Tale of Modern Faith*, he explores the important issues challenging Christians today.



Frederic Luskin
The Power of Forgiveness
May 5, Noon

Frederic Luskin, Ph.D., is the Director of the Stanford University Forgiveness Project, a Senior Consultant in Health Promotion at Stanford, and a professor at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. Co-sponsored by the Westminster Counseling Center.

Forums are held in Westminster's sanctuary, and all events are free and open to the public. Music precedes each forum, and a public reception follows. For more info, visit westminsterforum.org or contact Susan McKenna, 612.332.3421, smckenna@wpc-mpls.org.