

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

April 29, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 7

Staff Transitions at Westminster

By Timothy Hart-Andersen, Pastor

Steve Robertson Elected Associate Pastor



On Sunday, April 10, Westminster elected the Rev. Steve Robertson as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. The congregation welcomed Steve and Susan Peacock, his wife, at a reception following the meeting.

Steve is currently an Associate Pastor at Chevy Chase Presbyterian

Church, near Washington, D.C. He has been an ordained minister for 15 years, and has served as both an associate pastor and head of staff. This June he will receive a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, where his thesis work has been supervised by the Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence, former Associate Pastor at Westminster.

Steve will begin his work among us on July 15. He will work with the Pastoral Care Council of the Session and its various programs (member-to-member care, older persons, health and healing, among them). Steve will manage the lay volunteers as well as the staff team—all who participate in bringing the love of Christ to church members in need.

David Liddle Farewell



As Steve Robertson prepares to assume the lead role on our ministerial staff for pastoral care, Westminster will bid farewell to David Liddle. His last Sunday with us will be June 12; we will thank him in worship and at a reception afterwards. David will have served Westminster ably for two years as our

Interim Associate Pastor.

David and his wife Lorene, a Westminster member, will continue to worship with us after a brief hiatus for some travel. They will be back in our pews mid-fall.

This leave-taking will mark David's retirement from ministry (second try!). He has had a long, distinguished period of service to the Presbyterian Church (USA), hav-

ing served pastorates in Iowa, Indiana, and Minnesota. We are grateful for David's work as our Interim Associate Pastor and look forward to his eventual continued presence among us, even though he'll no longer be serving as a pastor on our staff.

Chris Laumann Leaving Music Staff



As of mid-May Chris Laumann will no longer be our Director of the Choristers, Youth, and Senior High Choirs. As a full-time public school teacher, Chris has felt the need to "lighten his load" in other areas of his life.

Chris worked with our young people in making music for four years. Not only has he helped our choirs make wonderful music for worship, he has also led several musicals. A time of celebration of his leadership among us will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30PM. All are invited to come and thank Chris.

Erin Swenson



As part of a planned restructuring of Westminster's ministry with youth and young adults, the position that Erin Swenson has held for three years, Director of High School and College-Age ministries was recently closed. A gathering to thank Erin for her work was held after worship on Palm Sunday,

April 17.

The youth will remember Erin's launching house groups and her leadership on mission trips and retreats. The church staff is grateful for her helping teach them how to use the Internet more effectively for communication. We wish her well in her continued ministry.

The new position, Director of Middle School and High School Ministries will likely be filled within a few weeks. Stay tuned!

New Member Class Series

By Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

The next new member class series begins May 1.

Sunday, May 1 & Wednesday, May 4 *I Am the Church, You Are the Church, We Are the Church Together*. This two-part class is about the Presbyterian tradition. Childcare (infant through 3 years) is available in the nursery.

Sunday, May 8 The Westminster in Action class features church leaders and staff describing WPC's ministries and mission and how you can participate. Nursery and Church School are available for children of all ages. (No reservation required).

Sunday, May 15 Enjoy a potluck dinner at the home of the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope & Jeremy West where you can get to know other new members; children and spouses/partners welcome.

Thursday, May 19 New members meet with the church's Session for dinner, and a worship service in the Chapel. Childcare is available and must be reserved two weeks prior to the class.

Sunday, May 22 New members are presented to the congregation during 10:30AM worship.

To learn more about becoming a member of Westminster, contact Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, 612.332.3421, or astroope@wpc-mpls.org. More information also available online, ewestminster.org/membership.

MidWest Walking Tour

By Marcy Rinek, MidWest Co-Coordinator

Please join us for our final event before summer. MidWest is made up of Westminster members and friends in their 40s and 50s who gather to socialize, learn, and have fun together. We will meet at church on **Saturday, May 7 at 9:00AM** for juice, bagels and coffee and to share ideas for upcoming MidWest gatherings. We will then head out on a walking tour of downtown Minneapolis. The walk will include appreciating architectural gems found throughout the area surrounding Westminster. (As the weather is unpredictable in May, make sure to bring comfortable shoes and umbrellas).

In preparation for the meeting, please come with ideas for future events. We will be taking signups for event planning, as well as volunteers to bring dessert and munchies for each event. All ideas are welcome!

Questions? Please contact Marcy Rinek, 952.929.6972 or Sarah Hall, 952.928.9980. For the May meeting and walk, RSVP online at ewestminster.org, click on Calendar & Event Registration and go to May 7, or call Dan Franklin, 612.332.3421. See you on May 7!

Memorial Wall Inscriptions to be Dedicated June 12

By Jim Carter, Trustee

June 12 is Heritage Sunday, the day when Westminster honors longtime members. After worship that day, a new group of names will be dedicated on the Memorial Wall in a brief special event that recognizes those names as part of the Communion of Saints.

The person being honored does not need to be a Westminster member. If you would like to honor a loved one with an engraving, contact Sam Cooke or Sandy Wilson, 612.332.3421.

For more info, visit ewestminster.org/memorial_garden, or pick up a brochure on the tables around the church. If you act by May 20, the name will be part of this year's dedication.

Final Spring Town Hall Forum

By Katherine Youngblood, Advisory Board Chair



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.

Thank U Berry Much!

By Marie Kruskop, Girl Scout Mom

Thank U Berry Much is one of the varieties of Girl Scout cookies provided to our FEAST guests on March 27, thanks to the generosity of Westminster members and friends. About 180 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were handed out with enough left over to provide a number of cases to the Groveland Food Shelf as well.

From our FEAST guests and visitors to the Food Shelf and from the Girl Scouts who took part in this outreach effort—THANK U BERRY MUCH for supporting our "Girl Scout Cookies for FEAST" efforts again this year.

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Each year around Holy Week the ministers of Westminster pair up with elders and visit homebound church members. We hold brief worship services in their homes or at their bedsides. We share the sacrament of communion with them. We reminisce. We pray with them.

As the ministers return from those visits, we invariably bring back wonderful stories—memories of baptisms, weddings, confirmation classes, former pastors and musicians, church school experiences, and more. Some want to hear about changes to the building. Some want to hear about our mission work in the city and beyond. They love talking about the “good old days” at Westminster. Many of them keep current with goings-on at the church through the *News*.

It's a delight to make the visits. It reminds us why we're pastors: we're called, first and foremost, to care for the flock. Please let us know if there is someone we should visit.

The Holy Week sojourns to see long-time members also call to mind the great legacy of this church. Westminster is deeply blessed by people who have made this their church home for many years. Along the way they have served in a variety of capacities; now many have entered “the season of gratitude,” when life often consists primarily of remembering gratefully all that has happened over the years.

May 15 is Legacy Sunday at Westminster, when we celebrate and give thanks for those church members who have chosen to make their legacy into a perpetual gift to the church they love. We currently know of 102 planned gifts to the Westminster endowment—a tremendous legacy, indeed!

The Westminster endowment reached a milestone last month: we topped \$20 million in invested funds. The majority of the financial resources generated by the endowment go to securing our half-city block. Because of that support, we do not drain our annual budget to pay for maintenance of the property.

The Legacy commitments range from small to large; people young and old plan their giving according to their circumstances. Every gift is important; it represents that particular Westminster member's ongoing commitment to the vitality of the congregation they love, after they're gone.

Mary Hess is Westminster's Director of Legacy giving. I encourage you to contact her as you consider what legacy you will leave as part of the life of our church.

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, 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 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

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

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.

TGOF The Great Over Fifties

Join in the final TGOF lunch gathering of the program year. After a long Minnesota winter, we look forward to the beauty of summer time. But is summer *A Bane or a Blessing?* Westminster member Tom Swedien will share his story of how he came to be in a wheelchair and how a certain summer changed the course of his life. Come hear his story and enjoy lunch with TGOF on **Sunday, May 15**

at Noon. \$14 covers the cost of lunch. Sign up May 1 & 8 in the Heller Commons, online at ewestminster.org or call Dan Franklin at 612.332.3421.

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*, send an email to Dan Franklin, dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org.

A WestConnection Summer

Save the date for beautiful music al fresco this summer with WestConnection, WPC's young adult group. On **Sunday, July 10**, we'll gather at Lake Harriet for a free concert of the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. BYOP – that's Bring Your Own Picnic – and dine with friends as we enjoy "one of the very best parts of a Minneapolis summer," conducted by Westminster's own Jere Lantz. Learn more about the Pops at mplspops.org. More info soon! and... **WestConnection is on Facebook!** Want to keep up with *WestConnection* activities? If you're on Facebook, become part of our Group. The name is "Westminster WestConnection." Or send an email to Dan Franklin at dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org, and we'll add you to our email list.

WestConnection is a fellowship group for members and friends in their 20s & 30s.

Sign Up for Weekly Email from WPC

by Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

If you would like one convenient place where you can quickly and easily find out what is coming up each Sunday at Westminster, please sign up for our weekly email. While we all have too many email messages coming at us, a weekly email like this one from your church can actually help you to be more informed before Sunday morning about all of the wonderful happenings at Westminster.

The email will generally arrive in your inbox on Friday mornings, so that you have time to plan your Sunday activities. The email includes a brief note from Tim – sometimes there are even hints about what the sermon topic will be! The email also includes worship times, other Sunday activities, and information about special events in the coming week. This is also a great way to get information you can easily and quickly forward to friends and family who are visiting Westminster.

To start receiving the email, follow these simple steps:

- Go to Westminster's website, www.ewestminster.org
- In the bottom right hand corner, click on the "Join our Email List" box
- Provide your email address and click "Submit"

Your email address will only be used for this weekly email and will never be shared with any entity outside of Westminster. So, sign up today, and we will see you in church!



**IN MEMORY OF
Kathleen Williams**
died April 14, 2011



I am the Resurrection and the Life

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

April 29	Ps. 16
30	1 Pet. 1:3-9
May 1	John 20:19-31
2	Judg. 6:36-40
3	Jonah 1:1-17
4	Matt. 12:38-42
5	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
6	Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19
7	1 Pet. 1:17-23
8	Luke 24:13-35
9	1 Pet. 1:23-25
10	Prov. 8:32-9:6
11	John 21:1-14
12	Acts 2:42-47
13	Ps. 23
14	1 Pet. 2:19-25
15	John 10:1-10

Education for Faith & Life Summer and Travel Opportunities

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Summer Adult Education:

In-Between Times: Stories from the Apocrypha

Dr. Corinne Carvalho, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at the University of St. Thomas, will teach classes on the mysterious books of the Apocrypha for our Summer Education for Faith & Life.

This class will meet in the Meisel Room on Wednesdays, June 1, 8, 15, at 7:15-8:15PM, following the 6:15PM summer worship service.

The books of the Apocrypha are included in the Roman Catholic Bible, but not in the Hebrew Bible or in the Protestant Bible. Nevertheless, these are important documents for understanding Judaism in the years at the turn of the Era, from 200 Before the Common Era to the 1st Century of the Common Era. This class will explore these texts and their exciting stories to set the stage for Newer Testament studies which begin September 11 and 14, 2011.

Dr. Sarah Henrich of Luther Seminary says that Dr. Carvalho is "funny and bright, and a thoroughly engaging teacher." Be sure to mark your calendar for Summer Worship and Summer Adult Education beginning June 1.

Spring Fiesta, May 11

By Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Cinco de Mayo will be over, but on **Wednesday, May 11, 5:15-6:30PM**, Latino food will be in abundance at our Spring Fiesta. All are invited to this supper party that celebrates the end of the program year and anticipates the coming of summer activities!

Cooks from our congregational partner, *Familia de Fe*, will join our great Wednesday night chefs Laura Lee Moffett and Sue Dierks to produce an evening of memorable food. They will create a not-to-be-missed meal of gently spiced chicken with many delectable dishes and drinks from south of the border, reminding us we are not so far from the warm balmy days of summer! Musical entertainment from *Familia de Fe* and Westminster will also contribute to the ambience during this buffet meal, served in a festively decorated Caribbean *Refectory*—*Refectoria*?! (Vegetarian menu and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches available as well.)

All members, in addition to choirs and families, are invited to enjoy this final Wednesday night supper (\$5 adults, \$3 for 12 year olds and under), proceeds of which will help provide scholarships for the Westminster Day Camp at Baker Park Near Wilderness Settlement this summer. Plan to join us for fun and food at the spring fiesta on May 11. ("Once de Mayo"!)

Turkey Adventure: Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul

The Education for Faith & Life Traveling Seminar will journey to the beautiful and exotic country of Turkey, **April 20-May 2, 2012**. An information meeting on Sunday, May 15 will provide all the exciting details of this pilgrimage. Gather in the Refectory at 11:45AM, for Middle Eastern treats and slides of this amazing country that tells the story of Paul's mission to the Gentiles and the spread of the early church.

Lori Moline from Crossing Borders will share travel information, and Rev. Kathy Michael will describe the wonders of Istanbul, Troy, Izmir, Ephesus, Pergamum, Ankara, and Cappadocia.

We will trace Paul's missionary journeys and visit sites of the churches of Revelation. We will meet with Christians to learn about the expression and challenges of their faith in a Muslim country. We will learn about the important role that Turkey plays in the politics of the Middle East.

This journey promises to be a powerful experience of learning, community, and growth in our understanding of our Christian identity. More than 20 people have already indicated interest in joining this pilgrimage. So plan to be with us on May 15, in the Refectory to learn more about it!

Congregational Nominating Committee Gets to Work

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

The Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning its work in tapping leaders to serve as officers of Westminster. We are looking for gifts and experience in health and senior care, architecture, worship and evangelism, stewardship of resources, human resources, youth leadership, and more. If you or someone you know has gifts to bring to the leadership of Westminster over the next several years, please submit the names to Kathy Fisher, either with the recommendation brochures on the literature tables or online at ewestminster.org/leadershipdevelopment or go to the Programs & Activities link, and click on Leadership Development. Requirements for officers and desired qualities are included in the recommendation forms. The offices of Elder, Deacon and Trustee are three-year terms. Elders and Deacons are required to complete 6 months of Officer Training before taking office, and Trustees are strongly encouraged to enter the training as well. Contact Elder Don Ristad or Elder Kathleen Janasz if you have questions.

Project Homeless Connect

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

Project Homeless Connect provides homeless men and women with assistance in a one-stop shopping model at the Minneapolis Convention Center Monday, May 23, 10:30AM-4:00PM. At the March 2010 event, Project Homeless Connect united 125 separate service agencies providing a continuum of services that included medical and chemical care, employment training and placement, comprehensive dental care, voicemail services and even haircuts.

There would be no way, however, to help more than 2,100 individuals without the service of over 850 volunteers. Guests at the event are paired with volunteers to identify and access necessary resources, explore previously unused benefits and eat lunch together.

Taking time away from work or other priorities and not using it to address family needs can be difficult given the pressure we all feel to reserve as much energy for our families as we can. Please consider being generous with your time Monday, May 23. You'll make connections with those in our community who need help obtaining services that can ease the burdens they face just trying to make it through another day. If interested, please visit homelessconnectminneapolis.org to volunteer.

The Story of the Open Door

By Peggy Tillitt, Open Door Coordinator

Several years ago, and after more than one hundred years of visible presence on the corner of Nicollet Mall and 12th Street, Westminster determined it was time to offer a new opportunity to bring the community into the church building during the week.

This program, called Open Door, began in 1988 and welcomes all who climb the Nicollet Mall steps into the church Sanctuary. Volunteers are available in the Narthex from 11:30AM-1:30PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the summer to give tours and provide information on the church's history and involvement in the community, both locally and all over the world.

The Open Door guestbook reflects visitors not only from the Twin Cities, but also all 50 states and many countries all over the world! Some visitors desire simply to sit for a moment in the Sanctuary, while others have questions and want to know more about the architecture and the art. Open Door has also proven to be an opportunity for visitors and Westminster members to meet each other in a unique setting, as they share an appreciation of the beauty of the church and learn about its place in the life of this city. Many of our downtown neighbors comment that they have always wondered what it's like inside. Open Door is yet another opportunity to extend the church's mission of hospitality.

Do you enjoy meeting new people and have a few hours to spare on occasional summer weekday afternoons? Open Door needs you this summer! Volunteers receive simple training, and offer a welcome greeting or tours on Open Door afternoons during the summer. Plus, if your schedule changes, it's easy to switch with another volunteer. To learn more, contact Dan Franklin at 612.332.3421 by May 15.



WPC Is Earth Care Congregation

By Gary Beil, Co-Chair, Eco-Justice Committee

Katie Holmes, Associate for Environmental Ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council of the PC(USA), has advised us that Westminster has earned certification as an "Earth Care



Congregation" under a program administered by the

Environmental Ministries office.

Last July, the Eco-Justice Ministry team at Westminster formed an Earth Care Team to complete the Environmental Audit required for certification.

Over the following months, the

Earth Care Team met with members and

staff in all of the ministry areas of the church and the at its April meeting, the Westminster Session approved submitting the application for certification status as well as an Earth Care Pledge that the congregation will continue work to care for and commune with creation, and to continue to be dedicated to the greening of our congregation.

Earth Care Congregations have committed to the Earth Care Pledge and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Congregations earning 25 points in each of the four categories will be certified as Earth Care Congregations and receive various honors. During its audit the Eco-Justice Committee determined that Westminster had accumulated a total of 281 points in the four categories. Annual re-certification is achieved by earning a total of 50 points, some of which can be for ongoing programs. This achievement is a testament to the commitment of all the ministry areas to incorporate stewardship for God's creation into their programming.

Church School Updates

By Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children's Ministries

The second and third grade collection for Heifer International supported the purchase of more than two llamas and twelve beehives. These donations to Heifer improve the economic situations for individuals and families around the world. Llamas are useful and eco-friendly as livestock: they do little damage to the earth as they eat scrub vegetation and do not trample valuable pasture land. Even their droppings are important fertilizer! The bees and hives supply not only honey, but aid in pollination in the general vicinity of the village where hives are located, often doubling fruit and vegetable yields. In addition to these church projects. Additionally, first graders saved and collected money in ARK banks for the general animal fund for the Heifer Project.

Each year many of our elementary aged children take time during Lent to think about the needs of others, and actively help. Children in the pre-elementary and primary grades collect toys and books for our YWCA daycare partner across the mall and our fourth graders collect fun and useful items for Easter baskets for children in the downtown Jeremiah Program. Jeremiah supports single mothers who are with housing, childcare, education and training to become financially independent.

Thank you to teachers, parents and members in the congregation who support the enthusiastic efforts of our children to aid people in circumstances of need.



Children in the YWCA daycare program received gifts of toys and books as part of Westminster's Friendship Fair.

Building our Bethlehem Partnership

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

Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, our newest global partner, has created an art renaissance in the West Bank. As the political and economic situation continues to deteriorate for Palestinians, many of them are giving up and moving away. This exodus is especially evident in the dwindling Christian population. As people leave, one result is that the arts and culture suffer.

Christmas Lutheran has opened the International Cultural Center of Bethlehem which supports artists and dancers, and provides exhibition and performance venues.

Dar al-Kalima College has recently moved into its new building and provides a two-year education in art, music, film, culinary skills, and much more. These growing and thriving institutions are engaged with the community and are sustaining and enhancing Palestinian culture.

I have the honor of being invited to return to Bethlehem in June as one of three Westminster members and friends who will each teach a course at the college. Westminster has risen to the challenge of supporting their new summer program through sharing our expertise in the classroom. I will teach a course about museums, galleries, the business of art, and exhibition design and installation. This will be fun!

Books cannot be mailed or shipped into the occupied territories. This lack of access to books creates a difficulty for the current students, and slows the college in the accreditation process as they work to become a four-year college.

The only way that books make their way to the library is in the suitcases of visitors. I will carry a suitcase full of books particularly chosen for my class, and then donate them to the library. Westminster also desires to enrich our relationship by acquiring several additional works of art from the students and faculty at the college and cultural center. Please let me know if you would like to participate in funding the purchase of books, or the acquisition of art.



*Shelves to fill at Dar al-Kalima College
Photo by Steve Warner*

For further information or to arrange a tour of the current exhibitions, the building, or the archive contact Rodney Allen Schwartz, rschwartz@wpc-mpls.org or 612.332.3421.

RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

"Let's see, measure once, cut twice. No, that can't be it. Measure 3 times, cut 4. No. Aha! Measure twice, cut once!"

I once owned a 100-year old home and my building and repairing skills, such as they are, received a regular workout, but now that I am back to apartment living I only get a chance to swing a hammer once a year during Westminster's Habitat for Humanity work week. Some people would say that's a good thing! But I don't participate in Habitat projects to improve my skills, although that's a wonderful bonus—I participate because when I'm working on a house, I'm not just helping build a structure, or even a home, I'm helping to build a community.

A typical Habitat build involves people from all walks of life. There are those who volunteer through a congregation, through an employer or just on their own initiative. There are those of deep faith, no faith or not sure what they believe. What is important are not the labels or descriptions each person carries but his or her commitment to making the Twin Cities a better place to live for all of us.

New or renovated owner-occupied housing is known to stabilize both the families who live in those houses and the neighborhoods in which those homes

are located. This is where the true reward in volunteering can be found. Habitat for Humanity International's 2011 Shelter Report quotes Dr. Steven K. Galston in a 2009 report when he was the U.S. Surgeon General, "A comprehensive, coordinated approach to healthy homes will result in the greatest public health impact. Directing resources toward a single disease or condition rather than working to improve the overall housing environment is inefficient and does not address residents' health and safety risks holistically." Dr. Galston went on to say, "a house does not exist in isolation...it is part of a larger community; the place from which people depart to work, play, study and interact with others; and the place to which they return."

Westminster members have been volunteering for Habitat for Humanity projects for over 20 years, and it's time once again to put faith into action. Our work week this year will be **May 16-20** and we will be working on new construction at 3035 Tyler Street NE in Minneapolis, one block off Central Avenue. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of skill level, so please consider being a part of this rewarding experience. You can sign up Sundays in the Heller Commons or by contacting me.

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

Pizza & Playtime for Nursery Families

By Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministries

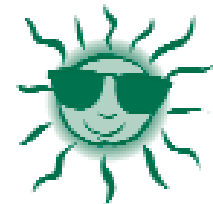
Join us for pizza and playtime at Edinborough Park in Edina on **Saturday, May 14 from 5:00-7:00PM.**



Edinborough Park's Playpark is almost one acre of indoor fun, highlighted by Adventure Peak. There are great areas for toddlers to explore in the Tot Area including opportunities for climbing, crawling, sliding and even bouncing in an inflatable air bounce geared just for them! Don't forget your socks! Adventure Peak is a shoeless environment though socks must be worn on the equipment (shoes in all other areas).

We'll gather at 5:00PM for pizza (\$5 per family) and then play until 7:00. Please bring your own beverages; we'll provide napkins and plates. Admission to the Playpark is \$6 /child; adults are admitted free with a paid child's admission. Children under 1 are free.

Edinborough Park is located at 7700 York Avenue South in Edina just north of 494 (take the France Avenue exit) at 76th Street & York Avenue. REMEMBER YOUR SOCKS!! RSVP to Marie by Wednesday, May 11 at mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org or 763.535.8973 so we know who to look for and how much pizza to order!



**Believe it or Not,
Summer's Almost Here!**

**The May 13 issue of the
Westminster News
will preview summer
worship and activities.
Learn more about worship
services on Sundays and on
Wednesday evenings, Day
Camp, Vacation Bible School,
Mission Trips...
and more!**