

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

Music of the Spheres

By Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts

I still have the little yellow fold-up chair with my name painted in black letters on its back. I sat in it every Sunday at church school with the other dozen Presbyterian children of Sharon, North Dakota. It was there I learned the song, "This Is My Father's World," set to the tune *Terra Beata*, blessed earth.

*This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's
world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies, and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;*

Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.

It is the Easter message...God is creator, the world is troubled but God is indeed Sovereign, Jesus' teachings of justice, humility and love ultimately prevail. I sang the words as a child, "seeing in a mirror but dimly." I didn't hear about the mysterious '*music of the spheres*' again until college courses in musicology when we studied the theories about music devised by Greek philosophers centuries ago. Plato believed that music was central to the creation and ordering of the universe. Bodies moving through space produced the music of the spheres. All things were arranged by number, weight and measure and were related by mathematical proportion. The same ratios that governed the universe created musical intervals: 2:1 = octave, 3:2 = perfect fifth, 4:3 = perfect fourth. Divine truth and harmony could therefore be transferred to humans through music. Music had the ability to calm unruly spirits and mold human character. Plato's thinking, in part, defines why music plays such an important role in worship. It unites us with one another, it feeds the soul, and uplifts our spirits.

On Easter Day at Westminster we seek in music to honor and celebrate the ongoing history of God's continual love for *terra beata* and all its creatures. We turn to centuries of resources to glorify God and Jesus' life and resurrection. Through a Handel aria, we will bring to life the ancient words of Job, "I know that my redeemer liveth." Through the traditional processional hymn, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," we will bring to life words of a 14th century hymn, published in 1708 in *Lyra Davidica*, and expanded by Charles Wesley. In "Hallelujah" from "Messiah" the congregation will bring to life an old Hebrew word that boasts of God in a 'praise of Yahweh.' Through Libby Larsen's setting of "He Arose," organ and brass will bring new life to a familiar Gospel hymn. Our music is a response to Easter, and we pray that divine truth and harmony may be transferred through it. May Easter bring its joy and renewal into the spheres of our being.

April 8, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 6

Good Friday Worship

On April 22, 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 Tri-partite 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 Good Friday service is sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

Holy Week worship
schedule on page 8.

Youth to Lead Worship at WPC

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

I love the Lord because the Lord has heard my voice and my supplications. Because the Lord inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.

This passage from Psalm 116 is just one of the texts our senior high youth have chosen to reflect upon this year for **Youth Sunday, May 8**. While senior sermons are still coming together, the seniors have been working with me since January studying texts and hymn choices for worship that morning.

One senior will talk about her journey in faith with God, how sometimes the road is winding and filled with obstacles, but it is the ending that matters. Another senior will talk about how to recognize God and how she's seen God in her life. Our seniors also feel strongly that they would like to talk about baptism and how that beginning in the Body of Christ has shaped their understanding of God and community.

Our senior preachers for the morning will be Kathryn Wrobel, Becca Tuohy, Annie Wright, Ethan Schuld, Parrish Essell, and Marion Tucker. Marion will present a self-created video as her sermon at the 10:30 service. Youth choirs will sing and our young people will lead prayers, usher, and read Scripture.

An additional part of Youth Sunday this year will be celebrating with 3rd graders and their teachers and families as students receive their 3rd grade Bibles. It wasn't that long ago when our 12th graders reached that milestone, and it seems fitting to include recognition of the hard work of our 3rd grade Sunday school class in the midst of Youth Sunday worship. Mark your calendars for May 8 as our youth lead us in worship, as we listen and see how God is at work in their lives.

Another worship tradition of this time of year is the **2nd grade worship service**. This spring 2nd graders and their teachers are studying elements of our Reformed worship and are working on creating their own fifteen minute service, complete with prayers, music, and a meditation message. Please join us on **Sunday, May 15** at 10:00am in the Chapel as 2nd graders lead us in worship and praise.

Dinner for Graduating Seniors

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

The high school class of 2011 is invited to a dinner in their honor on Wednesday, May 18, 6:30PM at the Loring Pasta Bar. We look forward to celebrating your years together here at Westminster as you prepare for all that is ahead!

Please RSVP to Meghan at mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org by Friday, April 29.

Children's News

An Easter Surprise for Jeremiah's Children

On **April 10 and 17** fourth graders are collecting small items for Easter baskets for the Jeremiah Program, a ministry to single mothers and their children. They are neighbors to Westminster, with a site right across Hennepin Ave, near the Basilica of St. Mary's. Fourth graders are collecting candy, healthy snacks, small toys and games, and small toiletry articles (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps) that will fit in an Easter basket. There will be a collection table in the Heller Commons, or you may bring items to Rm. 208 in the education wing. The surprise baskets will be delivered during Holy Week to these young children whose mothers are in transition as they go back to school and seek employment for financial independence.

By Florence Johnson, 4th Grade Church School Teacher

Passion Re-enactment, Palm Sunday April 17, 9:15AM

Children welcome Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem (the Great Hall) with hosannas and a journey through Christ's passion until they discover the empty tomb (the downstairs tunnel area).

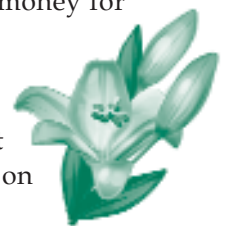
Each year Westminster children have the opportunity to hear the dramatic telling of Christ's Passion in the days leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Pre-kindergarten through 5th grade children journey to various stations throughout the church and experience the texts of Passion Week as they are read, told, and acted out by members of the congregation and Westminster middle school and high school youth. This tradition provides a meaningful and memorable experience to our young children as they see the sequence of events of Holy Week and hear the promise for all of us from God in Christ's death and resurrection. All are welcome to join us on this journey on Palm Sunday.

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

Senior High Students Decorate, Raise Funds for Mission Trips

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

Are you a senior high student planning on going on the summer mission trip? Students planning on going on the summer mission trip should mark their calendars for **Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 – 11:00AM**. To raise money for their mission trip, youth will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter. If you are planning on going on the mission trip, contact Erin Swenson and mark April 23 on your calendar!



From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

“‘Tis the spring of souls today
Christ hath burst his prison.
And from three days’ sleep in death
As a sun hath risen.”

The spring of souls. That phrase captures for me the joy of Easter. John of Damascus, who lived in the early 8th century, wrote those words, which we know today as the hymn, “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain.”

I’ve already begun humming the tune in anticipation of Sunday, April 24.

For Christians, Holy Week is the culmination of a journey that begins at the manger in Bethlehem and winds its way across Galilee and through our lives and into our hearts and ends in Jerusalem at the cross. Holy Week at Westminster this year will be memorable, indeed. In our worship on Palm Sunday, April 17, we re-create the triumph of the parade into the city and the pathos of the passion that lurks in the shadows along the way. The children of the church will assemble in the Great Hall at 9:15AM for the annual re-enactment of Holy Week that takes place throughout our building.

Westminster member Walter Mondale will speak in the sanctuary that morning at 9:15, in a special Forum on Japan. The former Vice President also served as Ambassador to that nation. He will offer comments about the current crises facing the Japanese. The Carter-Mondale administration dealt with our nation’s only major nuclear incident at Three Mile Island; Mr. Mondale will share reflections on that time in our history. I will moderate the Forum; questions will be welcome from those in attendance. Come early!

If I had one deep desire for every member of Westminster at this time of year it would be that you would attend at least one of the special services during Holy Week. To prepare for Easter, I urge you to participate in one of the Maundy Thursday services on April 21, at noon or 7:00PM, or on Good Friday, April 22, at noon, or for Quiet Worship on Holy Saturday, at 9:00AM.

Westminster high school senior Marion Tucker has created a film which we will view as part of the Maundy Thursday evening service. Good Friday’s service will include dance and slides of art depicting the passion of Jesus. These services are all designed to help us prepare for that “spring of souls” on Easter.

See you in church – and bring a friend.

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

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Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

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Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenber, Wedding Coordinator

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Todd Bushy, Brian Coyoc, Christopher Glenn,

Richard Wilder, Facilities Staff

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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 **April 13** Mary Jo Thorsheim discusses *2615 Park, Mpls.* First Co-op; On **April 20** Rodney Allen Schwartz leads a tour of the Westminster Gallery; On **April 27** Hani Hussein discusses *Somali Women in America* For more info, call Sharon Achor, 952.847.9117.

New Member Class Series

The next new member class series begins **May 1**. Classes include: *I Am the Church, You Are the Church, We Are the Church Together* on **Sun., May 1 & Wed., May 4**. This two-part class is about the Presbyterian tradition. *Childcare (Infant to 3 years) is available in the nursery*. On **Sun., May 8**, the Westminster in Action class features church leaders and staff who share with you about WPC's ministries and mission and how you can participate. *Nursery and Church School are available for children of all ages. (No reservation required)*. On **Sun., May 15**, enjoy a Potluck Dinner at the home of the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope & Jeremy West where can get to know other new members; children and spouses/

partners welcome. On **Thurs., 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*. Finally, on **Sun., May 22**, new members are presented to the congregation during 10:30AM worship. To learn more about becoming a member of WPC, contact Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, astroope@wpc-mpls.org, 612.332.3421, or visit, ewestminster.org/membership.

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.

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

IN MEMORY OF
Jenevieve Lindberg
 died March 22, 2011
Gordon Paske
 died March 27, 2011
Marilyn Griffith
 died March 28, 2011



I am the Resurrection and the Life

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.

Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee will begin its work very soon. Please start thinking about people who have gifts for leadership who could serve as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. Recommendation forms are on the literature tables.

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

April 8	Ps. 130
9.....	Rom. 8:6-11
10	John 11:1-45
11	Acts 20:7-12
12.....	2 Kgs. 4:18-37
13.....	Matt. 22:23-33
14	Isa. 50:4-9a
15.....	Ps. 31:9-16
16	Phil. 2:5-11
17	Matt. 26:14-27:66
18	John 12:1-11
19	John 12:20-36
20	John 13:21-32
21	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
22.....	John 18:1-19:42
23.....	Matt. 27:57-66
24	John 20:1-18
25.....	Col. 3:5-11
26	Exod. 15:1-18
27.....	Matt. 28:1-10
28	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
29	Ps. 16
30	1 Pet. 1:3-9



Walter Mondale to Speak at Special Sanctuary Forum Sunday April 17, 9:15AM

Westminster member and former Vice President Walter Mondale will speak on the earthquake and tsunami devastation in Japan and the resulting nuclear crisis in that country.

Mondale is uniquely prepared to address this topic, having been Vice President of the United States during the Three Mile Island

nuclear incident, and having served as U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

As a result of these experiences, Mondale offers unique insight into this urgent situation. Following his presentation, he will respond to audience questions. All are invited!

WestConnection at the Jungle

By Melanie McCall, Fellowship Coordinator

"An intellectual stealth bomb...An artful, thoughtful and very moving story..."
New York Times

Join us for an outing to the Jungle Theater to see *Next Fall*, a hilarious and provocative award-winning play about love between a Christian and an atheist and what it means to "believe." *The New York Times* says "Even as you're being entertained by the witty talk of ingratiatingly imperfect people, big and uneasy questions—really big ones—are forming in the back of your mind." Sounds a bit like sermons at Westminster lately! Learn more about the play at jungletheater.com. **Tuesday, May 3, 7:30PM**, plus optional dinner together before.

The Jungle Theater is in the Lyn-Lake area of Minneapolis. A limited number of discounted \$10 tickets are available only through WestConnection until April 18, so sign up now on the online calendar at ewestminster.org, or call Dan Franklin, 612.332.3421.

WestConnection is a fellowship group for members and friends in their 20s and 30s. Hope to see you in May!

Making the Difference at the Door

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

When people enter Westminster those first few times, this large space can either be friendly and welcoming OR it can be intimidating and off-putting. What makes the difference? Whether or not there is a smiling face at the entry. Someone to give welcome and directions to worship and meeting space can make all the difference in the world.

In April and May, Westminster has many opportunities to offer welcome to visitors, and we need your help! Dates from which to choose include

- **Easter Sunday, April 24** Greeters are needed prior to worship services at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00am. (Hint: Greeters at the 7:00am service get the best treats after the service!)
- Other **Sunday mornings** this Spring. Tell us when you can serve!
- **Tuesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 19** The Homiletics Festival is returning to Minneapolis, and Westminster greeters and other volunteers may attend for free! These are daytime greeting shifts.

- **Open Door.** Westminster will once again open wide its doors on summer weekdays to welcome visitors from all over the world.

Your smiling face is needed to help make the difference at the door! Please contact Dan Franklin with days that you can help:
dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org or 612.332.3421.



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 17!

Men's Spring Retreat, April 30

By Bill Kruskop, Men's Ministries

What do Boston, Pittsburgh, and Birmingham have in common? They are all stops on Associate Pastor Doug Mitchell's faith journey, and now you can hear about it yourself.

Join us for the Men's Spring Retreat on Saturday, April 30 at Westminster, as Doug shares his story. It's a great opportunity for fellowship with other men of Westminster, without the time commitment of the fall retreat.

We'll gather at 8:30AM in the Meisel Room for a great breakfast and time with Doug, followed by time for small group discussions about Social Justice, a brief worship service, and we'll wrap up by noon.

Sign up on Sunday in the Heller Commons or contact Bill Kruskop, bkruskop@earthlink.net.

Can You Put a Price on Dignity?

By Judy Ericksen, Westminster member

As a member and neighbor of Westminster, I am acutely aware of the homeless persons on our streets. It is easy to walk by and avoid eye contact. I often feel uncomfortable. I have always believed that people deserve a second chance. Should I give a handout? Realistically, what can I do to make a positive difference?

I found the answers to my questions when I became a volunteer advocate at the Dignity Center, an outreach ministry of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church since 2002. The Dignity Center has opened my eyes, changed my views of people in need, and given me the chance to give back.

As an advocate I meet with my clients one-on-one. I make eye contact. I listen to their stories and offer real support and hope. It is a privilege—and a challenge—to help clients meet their goals with the aid of appropriate resources and to hold them accountable on their individual roads to self-sufficiency and stability. Whenever a client meets a goal, the Center proudly hangs a Certificate of Achievement on its walls for all to see and be inspired by.

I now know that I am making a difference. The rewards are many! What could be better than a smile or a thank-you or a look of sheer relief from a client who just

got a job interview or a clothing voucher, a housing or medical referral, a toiletry kit, emergency food items, or a monthly bus card and laptop computer for full-time students?

The Dignity Center offers a hand up, hope to the hopeless, and the restoration of dignity. Our client testimonials say it best.

“You have been a blessing in my recovery to my normal life.” “I now have hope when I had none.” “I was treated like a person...”

You can make a difference and offer a second chance to people in crisis. There are many ways to support the unique work of the Dignity Center. To donate your time or resources contact 612.872.7749 or dignity@haumc.org

We encourage you to visit the Dignity Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9:00-11:30AM at HAUMC, 511 Groveland, Minneapolis. Director Ann Carlson and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Martin are happy to answer your questions.

We lose dignity when we tolerate the intolerable.

—Human rights activist
Dominique de Menil
(1908-1997)

Doing “The Something” I Can Do

By Lloyd Peitzman, Westminster member; photo by Tom Northenscold



Our lives are filled with words. Most come and go, are used and tossed away. Others remain. Today I share three phrases which stay with me. The first two were

spoken at funerals.

At my grandfather’s service, the pastor told of a life committed to church and community and spoke of the “life void” now that John H. Rittgers was gone. The minister emphasized the need for filling that void, the need for someone to help replace that which would be missed and for someone to follow my grandfather’s example of giving as part of one’s faith and life. He spoke of more than finances; he was speaking of the living and giving for others. I always have remembered those words.

Years later, at my father’s service, I again heard words that have stayed with me. This time another minister said, “Earl L. Peitzman was a steward” and went on to describe how my father, a farmer, lived out his stewardship of caring and giving, whether for the soil, the livestock, or for his family. Those words also will not be forgotten.

Nor will the following words fade within me; they form one of my favorite phrases, written by Edward

Everett Hale: “I am only one. But I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do, interfere with what I can do.”

My family and I have been blessed by God and Westminster’s people in so many ways as members and, in my case, also as part of the staff. Not to respond in some way to these blessings would be unimaginable. Therefore, several years ago, I decided to make a Legacy Gift to Westminster as a bequest in my will. Why do I participate in Westminster’s Legacy Program? The foregoing paragraphs answer that question: to fulfill a need, to be a steward of my possessions, and to do the “something I can do.”

Lloyd J. Peitzman, a 50+ year member, served for 17 years as church educator on the ministerial staffs of Drs. Lowe, Bates, and Meisel.

To discuss how you can influence the future of Westminster with a Legacy Gift, contact Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving, at 612.332.3421 or mhess@wpc-mpls.org or visit ewestminster.org/Legacy.

If you already have made arrangements for a gift, please let Mary know.



Lloyd Peitzman

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received Palm Sunday

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

We know that God's will is for wholeness in the lives of God's people, and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is all about caring for the spiritual, physical and social needs of God's people. One example is the current response by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to the multiple needs of the people of Japan. When the earthquake and tsunami hit northern Japan on March 11, there were nine mission workers and their families living and working in Japan. It has been confirmed that they are all safe and are continuing their ministries while seeking ways to respond helpfully in the current crisis. PDA is working through our ecumenical partner Church World Service in cooperation with the two main independent protestant Japanese churches, the United Church of Christ in Japan and the Korean Christian Church in Japan. An initial grant of \$100,000 from PDA focused on providing basic needs of food and water to 250,000 people in 100 evacuation sites in northeastern Japan. Our mission personnel are working now with our partner churches to identify the best way to respond to the long-term needs of the Japanese people.

This is what the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is all about! As Presbyterians, we have a long history of sharing what we have with others. OGHS supports three

major programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that help carry out this sharing. The Presbyterian Hunger Program,

pcusa.org/hunger, receives 36 percent of OGHS gifts, while the Self-Development of People, pcusa.org/sdop, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

(PDA) at pcusa.org/pda each receive 32 percent. All of these programs work closely with local grassroots partners who know the issues of each particular situation, and who can guide the programs as partnerships with the people in need, not as programs imposed from the outside. All three ministries help people address the results of past injustice or misfortune by looking to the future with hope and creativity. Together they witness to the love that Jesus Christ has shared with all and that we are asked to share with one another.

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday, April 17.



Call For Submissions of Members' Art

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

Won't You Be My Neighbor? opens on Sunday May 8 and runs through the summer. This exhibition of art created by Westminster members will feature a variety of art forms that might, in a light-hearted manner, reflect Mr. Rogers' neighborhood. (Did you know that Mr. Rogers was a Presbyterian minister and that he appears on page 127 of our history book, *Living Faith?*)

In this call for submissions of art, I suggest that you think about the neighborhood around Westminster, around your own home, and the places that you frequent. You might consider the text of Luke 10:25-37 where Jesus answers the lawyer's question: "Who is my neighbor?"

The absolutely, positively last day that your submissions can be accepted for this exhibition is Sunday, May 1 (Macalester Sunday). Original artwork in any format is accepted, and thinking outside the box is encouraged. Art created by adults should be framed and ready to hang; children's art does not need to be framed. I also ask that you write a short artist's statement describing your inspiration for your project and how it represents your concept of neighbor. This is your opportunity to share your creativity and imagination with Westminster's members and visitors. The annual exhibition of members' art is very popular and I encourage you to participate. Please contact me with any questions.



The Westminster neighborhood in 1910, photo, Minnesota Historical Society

Counselor's Corner: Back to the Garden

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

612.332.7743 ext. 222

mmccray@wpc-mpls.org

www.westminstercounseling.org

Perhaps it is my experience as a parent, or maybe my recent counseling session with a teenage client, but a few weeks ago, when I heard Westminster member Priscilla Northenscald read, so effectively, the story of Adam and Eve's encounter with God after they had eaten the apple, I heard and felt familiar emotions.

The story of the Garden of Eden is for me a myth—a story handed down through many generations that tells the Truth as powerfully as any factual history. The truth I heard that Sunday was the depth of God's desire to protect God's children from the realities of pain and suffering. Forbidding them the fruit of the tree of knowledge was an attempt to preserve their innocence. Knowledge is the beginning of consciousness whereby we feel our vulnerability and the stirrings of our power. Eating the apple awakened Adam and Eve's consciousness and they were overwhelmed with the awareness of themselves.

Did God know, like every parent knows, that innocence is fleeting? That the Garden gate would eventually have to swing open? I heard in Priscilla's reading both the sadness and anger in God's voice as Adam and Eve are confronted with their disobedience. It was the voice of parent love that knew it was losing its power to protect, and the voice of parent anger that wanted to hold onto the security of control.

We all eat the apple at some point in our develop-

ment, our teenage years being ripe for that experience. We discover we are naked and vulnerable at the same time we feel our power and possibility. And we try out making our own decisions, sometimes daring to be disobedient to what we have been told and taught.

God brought meaning out of chaos by creating the dualities of light and dark, sea and dry land, sun and moon, male and female, and finally innocence and knowledge, and the freedom of choice. In creating the human mind, God gave us the power to choose, the freedom to decide how we will act, who we will listen to, what we will value, follow and believe. We all begin in innocence and later come to know the burdens of knowledge. But with the burden comes the freedom of the open gate, opening into a world that holds the possibility of choosing to participate with God in the ongoing creation of peace and justice.

In this Lenten season we look to Christ, the new Adam (and Eve!) to show us how to use our power and our vulnerability to further the goodness God created. We may never get back to the Garden but we can grow our own gardens to feed the hungry, to protect the vulnerable and to remind us that with God's help our humanity can be the Very Good that God created it to be.



Margaret McCray

Town Hall Forum Continues Spring Season

By Katherine Youngblood, Advisory Board Chair



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.

LENT & EASTER

Wednesdays in Lent

Noon, April 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