

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

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Krista Tippett Brings Lessons for Living to the Town Hall Forum

By Susan McKenna, Director, Westminster Town Hall Forum

The Town Hall Forum welcomes American Public Media's Krista Tippett to Westminster's sanctuary on **Friday evening, June 24, 7:00PM**, for her presentation *Spiritual Genius: Lessons for Living*. Music precedes the forum at 6:30PM, and a public reception and book-signing follow at 8:00PM. This event is free and open to all.

In her role as creator and host of the public radio program *On Being* (formerly *Speaking of Faith*), Tippett has conversed with hundreds of distinguished guests, drawing on their expertise and experience to explore the "animating questions" at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human? How are we to live with one another? What really matters in life?

Tippett describes her program as "tracing the intersection between great religious ideas and human experience, between theology and real life." From the new science of the human brain to the ancient practices of religious traditions, she has explored such topics as quantum physics with John Polkinghorne; the nurturing of children with Sylvia Boorstein; spirituality and depression with Parker Palmer; digital technology and human purpose with Sherry Turkle; mind-body healing with Esther Sternberg; the biology of the spirit with Sherwin Nuland; and the ecology of the American West with Terry Tempest Williams.

Tippett grew up in Oklahoma, the granddaughter of a Southern Baptist preacher. She graduated from Brown University with a degree in history, then moved to Bonn, West Germany, on a Fulbright Scholarship to study politics in Cold War Europe. She remained in Berlin for five years, working as a stringer for *The New York Times* and as a freelance correspondent for *Newsweek*, *The International Herald Tribune*, the BBC, and *Die Zeit*.

She left Berlin in 1988, living for a time in Spain, England, and Scotland, and then pursued a Masters of Divinity degree from Yale University. Following graduation in 1994, she conducted an oral-history project for the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. It was there that she began to envision a radio program exploring religious ideas and ethical issues and using the "first person" approach that characterizes her radio conversations today. She shared her concept with Bill Buzenberg at Minnesota Public Radio, and in 1999, her program was launched as

an occasional series on MPR, then expanded to a monthly national program, and finally aired as a weekly show in 2003. Today, Tippett's program is broadcast on more than 240 national public radio stations. In 2008, it was awarded both a Peabody Award and Webby Award, the only public radio program in the country to achieve this distinction.

Tippett is the author of two books. Her first, *Speaking of Faith*, is a memoir of religion in our time, and her second, *Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit*, explores the emerging "interface of inquiry" between the fields of science, medicine, theology, and philosophy.

This special summer forum with Krista Tippett is made possible through the generosity of our donors and by a collaboration with the Hennepin County Library with funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. We welcome your support for the Forum's upcoming Fall 2011 season. To add your name to our list of supporters, pick up a donor envelope from the information tables at Westminster, or mail your check to the Westminster Town Hall Forum, 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403. If you would like to be involved in the Forum, consider helping with ushering or hospitality during our fall season. For information, contact Susan McKenna, 612-332-3421, or smckenna@wpc-mpls.org.



Krista Tippett

Tornado Relief Efforts

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

This information was current when this issue of the News went to press. Please check ewestminster.org, as well as the other sites noted below, for up-to-date information on damage reports and how you can help.



We all share great concern for our sisters and brothers, especially in north Minneapolis, who are affected by Sunday's storms. Many people are asking about the welfare of Westminster's sister church, Kwanzaa Community Church, and its members and buildings. We are also receiving requests about how to help all those affected.

We are thankful to hear from Kwanzaa co-pastor Alika Galloway that she knows of no injuries at this point. Unfortunately, both Kwanzaa church buildings did suffer roof damage and associated water damage. We also know that many in the Kwanzaa community have suffered great damage to personal property. They are assessing the help they will need. We will communicate that information as soon as we know it. The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has current info on their website, <http://presbyterytwincities.org> for current information.

Fortunately, there are several ways to stay up-to-date on how you can help with donations of money, supplies, as well as your time and energy. Here are two:

North Minneapolis Post-Tornado Relief Efforts Info Sheet, <https://sites.google.com/site/mplstornado>

Information on where to go to receive help and shelter, as well as where to make donations, and where and when to go to help with clean-up efforts. Real-time updates may be found at their Facebook page, facebook.com/mplstornado

Urban Homeworks, urbanhomeworks.org

Urban Homeworks is organizing volunteer groups and individuals and also has directions on where to direct your donations. Real-time updates may be found at their Facebook page facebook.com/urbanhomeworks

As we wait and watch, please keep the people of Kwanzaa Church, the entire north Minneapolis community, and all those affected by the storm in your prayers.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

To help those devastated by the tornado in Joplin, Missouri, and other areas, please contact Presbyterian

Disaster Assistance www.pcusa.org/pda.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering received on Palm Sunday is a primary funding source for PDA.

These are your mission dollars at work.

Welcome New CYF Staff

Introducing CYF's Director of Middle & High School Ministries: Dan Commerford

My name is Dan Commerford and I was born in Minnesota and grew up in Edina. I became Presbyterian while attending Bethel University, where I received a degree in Biblical Studies and Theology. Since college, I have spent the last three years in Richmond, VA attending Union Presbyterian Seminary and will graduate this May with a Master of Divinity degree. I am moving back to Minneapolis in late May with my fiancée Rachel, and will be married this summer.



In my free time, I love to hang out with friends and family, play sports and be outdoors, and play with Jabba, my 5 lb. Pomeranian.

Besides youth ministry, I am also passionate about family and reconciliation ministries. I am looking forward to participating with Westminster's mission to positively impact the Twin Cities.

Above all, I am very excited to get to know the youth of Westminster and their families. I love to help others connect their gifts and passions with their faith, and hope to equip the youth to go out and advance God's Kingdom!

CYF Welcome Macalester Student Summer Intern: Madeleine Benishek

I'm Madeleine Benishek and I'll be working with the youth at Westminster for the summer. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in person. I'm a junior at Macalester College where I am double majoring in Linguistics and International Studies. I grew up near Grand Rapids, MI and my family now lives in Fond du Lac, WI. I have a 14-year-old brother and an 18-year-old sister. Growing up, my family attended Trinity Reformed Church in downtown Grand Rapids. I had a very strong and supportive community there which encouraged me on my journey through faith and life.



I believe that strong, supportive, and challenging communities are vitally important at all points in our lives, and especially as we grow up and begin to wrestle with "the big questions" of faith and vocation. I'm looking forward to a summer at Westminster that is filled with joy and laughter, as well as quiet times of reflection and discussion. Thank you all for inviting me to walk with your community and your youth this summer; I'm very excited to get to know all of you and share in your common life and work.

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Wednesday summer worship begins on June 1. Give it a try! Every Wednesday evening in June and July, from 6:15-7:00PM, we will gather for an alternative-style service. On our first night together (June 1) we will also enjoy a barbeque after the service.

We're calling it *Summer on the Mount*; the mid-week summer worship will center on Matthew 5, where Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount. Many consider this text—the Beatitudes—to be the heart of the gospel and the core of the teaching of Jesus. “Blessed are the ...”

Summer Wednesday worship will be in the Great Hall, in a much less formal style than Westminster's Sunday tradition. The music, prayers, and preaching will be more interactive and personal. No robes. No pipe organ. No choir. No formal preaching. Instead, from-the-heart homilies. Kid-friendly worship. Lively, joyful singing. Communion each week.

We initiated the mid-week summer worship last year, hoping to attract those who are “at the lake” on the weekend and who might want to worship at Westminster before they go. We also wanted the service to be accessible to families with children. As with most experiments, we learned a few things!

Those who attended last summer's Wednesday evening worship covered a wide range of ages, from the 90s to infants. We welcomed visitors for whom this was their first experience of Westminster. We saw very few weekend-cabin people. For those who participate, it became an every-week opportunity to worship God in a more casual, yet moving and powerful, setting.

We laughed together. We cried. We sang and shared our faith with one another. Give it a try!

On another matter: as this issue of the *Westminster News* goes to press we're awaiting word on how we can help those displaced by the tornado that struck north Minneapolis on May 22. Our partner church there, Kwanzaa, did sustain damage to both of its buildings. Their community garden will need to be replanted. We will keep you updated via our website and email. (See article on page 2 of this issue of the *News*.)

To help those devastated by the tornado in Joplin, Missouri, please contact Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). The One Great Hour of Sharing offering received on Palm Sunday is a primary funding source for PDA. These are your mission dollars at work. See ewestminster.org for a link to PDA.

Don't miss worship this summer. See you Sunday—and Wednesday evening.

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

Bike Donation Drive

Saturday, June 4, 9:00AM-Noon, Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church parking lot, 511 Groveland Ave. Donate your bike(s) to the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness Bike Program and make a real difference in the lives of those who struggle with their transportation needs to get to work, school, or medical appointments. *Especially needed are bikes for tall men*, but all types of adult bikes are needed. *No children's bikes, please.* Contact Dan Franklin, 612.332.3431 or dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org.


Nursery Families Picnic

To celebrate the start of summer and to build community among Nursery families, join us for the 3rd annual Kick-Off to Summer Potluck-Picnic on **Sunday, June 5** following worship until 1:00. We'll gather for our potluck-picnic in the Refectory and then head outside to the Courtyard to enjoy the warmth and sunshine. Please bring a dish to share – along with a favorite kid-friendly summer-time recipe (they may be different dishes or one in the same!). We'll provide beverages and dessert as well as dishes and utensils. And... if you have a favorite outside activity to share with the rest of us, bring that as well! RSVP by Wednesday, June 1 to Marie Kruskop at 763.535.8973 or mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org. Hope to see you there!



Find us on Facebook!
facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterian

IN MEMORY OF
Joe Jansen
died May 12, 2011



I am the Resurrection and the Life

WOW Summer Day Trips

Wednesday, July 6 Come along for an interesting and informative bus tour of the City of Anoka, with a guide from the Anoka Historical Society. Enjoy lunch following the tour. From Anoka, we'll head to Open Arms in south Mpls. for a tour of their new building, its state-of-the-art kitchen, and cinnamon-scented bakery. Cost is \$15.00. Make reservations in the Heller Commons on June 19 & 26. Call Virginia Ochsendorf for more info 612.370.0439. Additional trips are being planned for August 3 (St. John's University); and Sept. 7 (TBA) so mark the dates and watch for more details in the *News*.

A WestConnection Summer

Save the date for beautiful music 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 a fellowship group for members and friends in their 20s & 30s.*

Births & Adoptions

GENEVIEVE STEVENS WINTON
Birthdate: November 6, 2010
Family: Emily Pryor Winton & Cam Winton

ELEANOR ALISE WICKLUND
Birthdate: May 14, 2011
Family: Julie & David Wicklund

SILJE BIRGITTE WICKER
Birthdate: May 15, 2011
Family: Greta & Colin Wicker and Soren, Berit

Summer Movie Camp

Back by popular demand, it's Movie Camp! A week-long class for kids (junior high and thereabouts), learning to make movies from the Parables of Jesus. Kirsten Lind Seal and Dean J. Seal, Theater artists, will run classes from 9:00AM to Noon, **Monday-Friday, Aug. 29-Sept. 2**. Students will learn warm-ups, tongue-twisters, improv skills, how to write a shooting script, location-scouting, collaborative script writing, costuming, art direction – all based on making the parables updated and re-cast for your own neighborhood. Each student gets a DVD of their movie at the end of the class. Cost is \$100.00 per student. Registrations available online or contact Mary Alette Davis, mdavis@wpc-mpls.org.

Summer Nursery Helpers

Please consider volunteering **one summer Sunday** – though feel free to sign-up more than once if you wish! – and spend some time with Westminster's wee ones! Contact Marie Kruskop mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org, 763.535.8973.

Daily Phone Devotions
Phone 612.332.7087
for the daily lectionary

May 27	.....Ps. 66:8-20
28	.....1 Pet. 3:13-22
29	.....John 14:15-21
30	.....Gen. 9:8-17
31	.....1 Pet. 3:8-17
June 1	.....Deut. 31:1-13
2	.....Luke 24:44-53
3	.....Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35
4	.....1 Pet. 4:12-14;5:6-11
5	.....John 17:1-11
6	.....1 Pet. 4:1-6
7	.....Num. 16:41-50
8	.....John 3:31-36
9	.....Acts 2:1-21
10	.....Ps. 104:24-34, 35b
11	.....1 Cor. 12:3b-13
12	.....John 20:19-23

Education for Faith & Life

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.

Summer Reading to Prepare for Adult Ed. in the Fall

Next Fall we will begin Newer Testament studies in adult education. Ideas for summer reading include books in the Bible, Acts of the Apostles, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians. Other books on Paul would be good as well. A recent favorite of mine is *Paul of Tarsus, A Visionary Life*, by British journalist Edward Stourton. Check the Lowe Library for other selections. Watch for more ideas in the next *News*.

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 3, 2012**. 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. Contact Kathy Michael for more info, kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

A Sabbatical Note

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Westminster's personnel policy allows ministers to take a 2-month sabbatical for every seven years of service. Study leave and/or vacation can be added to that time. In 2004 I had a wonderful sabbatical, visiting Presbyterian seminaries around the country as we developed our Church Vocations Team ministry to encourage young people to consider ministry as a vocation.

This year I will be taking my second sabbatical from Westminster June 1-August 13. My focus this year will be reading to deepen my ministry in adult education. Some of my selected books are about the science and process of adult learning and disciple-making. Most of the books will better prepare me to contribute to our learning experiences next year as we look at the New Testament, particularly the writings of Paul. I have selected other books to help me design our curriculum for 2012-2013, addressing issues of theology.

I will also be reading about development of small group ministry, and will consult with a local pastor who is nationally known in this area.

Finally, I will teach a workshop on Officer Training at Synod School, July 25-29. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our program with churches in the upper mid-west.

Sabbatical, of course, means rest, and I'll do lots of that as well. I will visit my family in Arkansas. My husband, David, and I will spend time in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I will play with my grandchildren and make home-cooked meals! I'll take the Apostle Paul and a host of theologians to lunch at my favorite restaurant, or perhaps to the local pool where serious reading was meant to be done.

While I am gone—if you are interested in our 2012 Traveling Seminar to Turkey, please contact Lori Moline at CrossingBorders: info@crossingborders.com. For more general information, contact Claudia Kapitan at the church, ckapitan@wpc-mpls.org.

Thank you for this gift. I pray it will bring returns to all of us in learning and growth in faith.

CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning its work seeking leaders to serve as officers of Westminster. We are looking for people with 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. 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.

Reflections on Retiring

By David Liddle, Interim Associate Pastor

As I wind down my interim ministry at Westminster, it's hard to believe I'll soon be completing forty-one years of ordained ministry. In some ways the time has passed quickly, but in other respects it seems as if I've been at it forever! Even so, I'm excited about the prospects for this new chapter in my life now that I'm ready to take retirement seriously!

Our immediate plans include a June trip to Iowa for a reunion of my wife, Lorene's, side of the family, followed by a stop in Des Moines to connect with my two sisters. In July we plan to take a leisurely road trip around Lake Superior, something we've wanted to do since discovering the beauty and mystery of the North Shore after moving here eight years ago. The first week in August we've rented a cabin on a lake in northern Wisconsin with our daughter and her family. Mid-month we'll travel to Aspen, Colorado for a long weekend with friends. Then in late August we fly to Bali, Indonesia to spend ten days with our son and his family. From there we travel to Australia for a couple of weeks, and perhaps to other exotic locations on our bucket list!

Long term we plan to stay in the Twin Cities. I look forward to spending time with family, being free to travel occasionally, doing some community volunteering, working in my yard and reading—just for the fun of it! Down

the road I may consider some pulpit supply work and/or engage in some form of part-time ministry.

As I prepare to conclude my work at Westminster, I'm grateful for God's call to serve this vital city congregation during this "in between time" alongside a cadre of committed lay leaders, a team of incredibly gifted clergy colleagues, and a support staff that is second to none. Lorene and I look forward to being a part of the WPC community as worshippers and volunteers when we return in the fall, but in the meantime I thank you all for your support, prayers, and affirmations, and for the many warm relationships that have developed along the way.

I know you'll extend a warm Westminster welcome to Steve Robertson and as he joins this community of disciples that seeks faithfully to embody Jesus Christ to one another and boldly to proclaim the gospel's good news as a telling presence in the city and beyond.



Lorene & David Liddle

Reception for David Liddle, Sunday, June 12, following 10:00am worship

Join us as we thank David for his three years of thoughtful, compassionate service to Westminster! A special reception for David and his wife Lorene will be held Sunday, June 12, in the Great Hall, immediately following the 10:00AM worship service.

Please plan to attend as we express our gratitude and bid a (temporary) farewell!

A Summer for Singing

By Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Hearing choir tenor Phil Asgian speak on Legacy Sunday was a treat. (It always is when Phil speaks.) But I was particularly struck that Phil's introduction to Westminster was his participation in our summer choir. Summer choir was Phil's entrée to the life of Westminster and to the joy we share in singing to God.

From time to time I am asked when would be a good time to join the choir. No time is better than summer. Summer, as it should be in all walks of life, is a more relaxing time for the choir. We don't rehearse on Wednesday evenings. Instead, we join together on Sunday morning at 8:45 and sing through the music for the 10:00 service. Since we have but a short period to rehearse, I make sure our summer music is tuneful, accessible and fun. Could it be characterized as Choir Lite? Well, I guess

it could. And for those of us who are part of choir all year, it's a nice break from, dare I say it, "Choir Heavy"!

A full choir commitment just isn't possible for everyone. And I know there are wonderful singers around Westminster for whom that is true: I hear them every Sunday in the congregation. In the summer, we sing one Sunday at a time and enjoy the blend of whatever voices appear that day.

So if you've always wondered what singing in choir would be like; if you love singing but just don't have time for a full commitment all year; if you want to look from the front and see the faces of everyone at church; then join us any Sunday from Memorial Day through Labor Day (except June 26 and August 21). I promise we have a choir robe your size.

As Phil quoted from Mark Twain to close his Legacy Sunday talk, "The secret of making progress is to get started." It's time for summer choir. Let's get started!

Nurturing Vocation: The Meisel Scholar Grant Program

By Jacqui deVries, Chair, Meisel Scholarship Committee

Finding one's vocation can be tricky. But education, strong mentoring relationships, and self-awareness developed through experience can help young people identify where their "deep gladness meets the world's deep need," to quote the writer Frederick Buechner.

To help in the process, the Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholar Grant Program encourages young people from Westminster to share their talents, follow their convictions, and expand their education outside the traditional college classroom by providing them with funds to participate in summer volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of the Church's mission statement.

We are very pleased to introduce this summer's Meisel scholars who will be recognized and commissioned in worship on June 19.

Isabel Hart-Andersen, a Liberal Studies and Religious Studies major who will be transferring to Macalester College, will serve as an intern for the Twin-Cities based Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition (IYLC.) She hopes to involve youth from different religious backgrounds in Project Home, a homeless shelter run by the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches.

Maria Janasz, an English, Studio Art and/or Theatre major at The College of Wooster, sees a direct connection between Westminster's mission to work for "love, peace

and justice" and her work this summer doing educational outreach for Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, a well-established organization devoted to promoting women's reproductive health.

Sarah Rasmussen, an Anthropology major with a Community and Global Health concentration at Macalester College, will travel to Cuba this summer, first to visit health clinics in Havana and learn about the Cuban health care system, and then to work with Westminster's partner congregation in Matanzas to develop their summer VBS program.

Katie Tuohy, a Business-Marketing and MIS major at Creighton University, will be an "out-of-office" intern with the Omaha-based non-profit, inCommon, an organization devoted to strengthening vulnerable neighborhoods. Among her other activities, she will engage in a "Listening Project" with residents and workers in area nursing homes.

Please congratulate these young people on their articulate, passionate and ambitious proposals. Stay tuned for a forum this fall featuring pictures, stories, and other mementoes from their work this summer.

Present and future college students interested in the program should talk with either Rev. Meghan Gage-Finn or Jacqui deVries, 651.310.0858.

Talking About Art

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

There are many fun activities that come along as I go about the business of being the Director of the Westminster Gallery. Perhaps the most pleasurable of all is that I have many opportunities to talk about art. I try to be available in the gallery each Sunday between and after worship services so that I might engage with members and visitors in conversation regarding the current exhibition. The hour after the sanctuary service is generally the busiest and most interesting hour of the week, as I am asked so many diverse questions.

When Westminster is host to special events like the recent Festival of Homiletics, there may be many hundreds of visitors coming through our doors. These guests are often amazed to discover the gallery and our collections of art. They want to take tours of the building to see the broad collections of paintings, prints, sculpture, and everything else. They are delighted to see more than 220 crèches that illustrate the diversity

of God's creation represented by so many ethnic and culturally different holy families. Often, I am asked questions about how we started our gallery and for advice regarding how they might start an arts program with their own congregations.

On June 21, I will travel to Bethlehem, Palestine, to teach a course at Dar al-Kalima College on the subjects of museums, galleries, the business of being an artist, the elements and principles of design, as well as the design and installation of exhibitions. This two-week summer course will give me many opportunities to talk about art with young Palestinian art students. Because of the political situation and the lack of access to travel for many of them, I have been advised that about half of my students have never been out of the West Bank, and consequently have never been in a museum. I anticipate wonderful conversations about art, and expect to return to Westminster with amazing stories about the students and their art.

RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

Think globally, act locally. That slogan is used primarily for issues related to environmental stewardship, but it can be applied to many other endeavors as well.

Here at Westminster we don't just think globally we also act—through our global partners and other mission work. This summer, Doug Mitchell will lead a trip to Bethlehem where some of the travelers will teach classes at schools operated by our partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church. Also this summer, Tim Hart-Andersen will lead the annual visit to our partner church in Cuba, when some of our high school and college-age youth will lead Vacation Bible School at Versalles Church in Matanzas. Tim will also lead a trip to Brazil and our partner in Salvador, Itapagipe United Presbyterian Church.

But Westminster members don't have to travel to engage in mission work with an international flavor. Westminster's newest Community Partner is the Lao Assistance Center (LACM), established in 1983 and located in north Minneapolis. The center works to enhance the quality of life of Minnesota Lao families by responding to urgent resettlement needs of Lao refugees. LACM serves the Lao community through

five interconnected programs: Cultural Exchange, providing leadership development, health, art and academic support activities for Lao youth aged 12-18; Elder Empowerment, helping Lao elders remain independent and involved with the community; Adult Stability, the largest program in LACM offers financial, employment and housing counseling and a number of other services; Health Outreach—Prevention, a program focusing on key issues in health awareness, access and prevention; Cultural Engagement, a program that facilitates community forums, listening sessions, arts performances and exhibits to advise federal, state and local agencies on Lao refugee perspectives.

LACM works to implement a community-wide volunteer campaign through public relations activities and active volunteer recruitment in order to fill the gaps to assist clients in after-hours emergency situations. This campaign helps community members to understand what volunteering is in the U.S., why volunteering is important, and what skills are needed in the community. If you would like more information, or wish to contribute your time and talent, please visit their website, www.laocenter.org.

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Children, Youth & Families Events

In order to better understand how we worship, second graders developed their own ten-minute service on May 15.

Third graders received their Bibles on Youth Sunday, May 8, after a year of studying the Bible's central importance to our faith.

Our Spring Fiesta! was a wonderful meal and celebration shared with members from Westminster partner church, *Familia de Fe*. *Familia de Fe* provided cooks, musicians, and a children's choir to help create an international atmosphere. Our Cherubim and Seraphim choirs also shared songs while members of the congregation dined on delicious food accented by flavors from South of the Border.



Fiesta with *Familia de Fe*, Photo by Tom Northenscold



Above:
2nd Grade
Worship,
Photo by
Jay Taylor



Left:
3rd Grade
Bibles
Photo by Tom
Northenscold