

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

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North Minneapolis Tornado Recovery

By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

As you can imagine, the needs in North Minneapolis in the aftermath of the tornado are constantly changing. The most up to date information is on Westminster's website, ewestminster.org. If you do not have internet access, call the church office and speak with Melanie McCall or Dan Franklin. Here are a few examples of WPC's ongoing response:

- We are collecting non-perishable food as well as hygiene items at Westminster. Look for collection boxes near the Reception Desk. If needs change and our North Side neighbors do not need what has been collected, we will give the food to Groveland Food Shelf and distribute the hygiene items at FEAST.
- Because the situation is in so much flux, monetary donations are often preferred to donations of goods. There are many ways to contribute:

The Minneapolis Foundation has established the *Minnesota Helps – North Minneapolis Recovery Fund* to assist with short and long-term needs. You can give online at GiveMn.org or mail a check to the Minneapolis Foundation, 80 South 8th St., Minneapolis, MN 55402.

Hope in the Midst of the Storm

By Tara L. Parrish, Seminarian, Deacon at Kwanzaa Community Church

We all remember where we were when important or tragic events happened in our lives...when President Kennedy was shot, when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, or when we heard about the World Trade Towers going down. May 22, 2011 is now a day that is permanently etched in my mind. It was the day a funnel cloud filled with rage and destruction slammed through my North Minneapolis neighborhood, leaving behind estimated damages of \$166 million.

I have lived in my home in North Minneapolis for 18 years and, for me and my family, it is home. It is where we see children running and playing, laughing and riding their bikes. Where neighbors help each other shovel driveways and help you if the snow has gotten the best of your car. Where you can sit on your front porch and be in relationship with one another and wave to those passing by. These are my people, this is my neighborhood. It's not

Checks or Cub Foods gift cards can be sent directly to Kwanzaa Community Church, 2100 Emerson Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411. See article below by a Northside resident Kwanzaa member.

In addition to damage to the Kwanzaa church buildings and the homes of members, the community garden was also hit pretty hard and volunteers are needed to help with planting and other chores. If you would like to help, please contact Dan Franklin, dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org, or call the church office, 612.332.3421.

Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Ave. N., has organized a "Healing Hub" in response to rising tension and stress levels among residents. They are looking for licensed professionals to provide informal counseling – from 5:00-8:00PM weekdays. To help with this important – often overlooked – need, contact Mel Reeves, 651.403.0338.

As we pray for all who have been affected by these events, we remember that "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 124:8) and call on the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom "even the winds and sea obey" (Matthew 8:27).

perfect – there is poverty and there are lots of social issues – but I love it just the same.

In this area of the country, we hear about tornadoes touching down a lot during this time of year. But hearing about them and experiencing them firsthand are two very different things.

After the storm cleared around 6:00PM, I wanted to witness its aftermath with my own eyes. Outside of my home, there wasn't so much as a stick or a leaf out of place, but as I kept walking, I couldn't believe my eyes. The most prominent display of destruction featured the trees. Enormous trees, perhaps a century old, were everywhere except standing vertically – on the streets, on the houses, in the houses and angry, snarled roots rose up above ground from their deep places of burial. Power lines were down, windows broken, debris and glass littered everywhere. It was destruction like I'd never experienced; the winds of the storm were powerful beyond words.

Hope in the Midst of the Storm, continues on page 8

Cooper/Sutton Fund Announced

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Alvan Cooper served as Westminster's facilities manager for thirty-six years and unofficially as friend, counselor, practical helper, and Good Samaritan to members, visitors, and people who came into the building off the street alike. Together with his wife Sharon, who was office manager at Westminster for nearly as long, he conducted a great ministry of pastoral care. His boiler room office dispensed coffee, advice, and the occasional jackets, gloves, and shoes to those in need. Many homeless downtown people knew him by name. Treating others with respect brought respect to him. A man who returned to thank him for a drive to detox remarked that Al cast a big shadow. His boiler room ministry didn't diminish the quality of his work. Cooper's care of the building kept the boiler running and the sidewalks shoveled and much more. His respectful, intimate knowledge of the building was essential to the 1998 sanctuary renovation and 2002 Marquette addition. (A framed memorial to Al has been installed in the lower level hallway near the boiler room.)

Sharon Cooper has generously agreed to donate the memorial gifts that were received at the time of Al's death to a newly named memorial fund that will provide emergency assistance to those in need. The fund will provide direct financial assistance to people who are experiencing crises in their life and who are in need of help. A fund like this has been in place for several years and was begun with the memorial gifts given at the time of Phyllis Sutton's death and expanded by gifts from Westminster members. Phyllis Sutton was Westminster's longtime Director of Outreach who committed a lot of her ministry working to assist people who were homeless and poor and to leading local coalitions and councils whose programs served these same people. The new Cooper/Sutton Fund is named for Al and for Phyllis, and members and friends of Westminster are now invited to contribute to this fund that will serve the growing number of people who are experiencing financial hardships during this period of economic recession. The funds would also be used to provide additional support for F.E.A.S.T. if that becomes needed.

Please make a donation by making out a check to Westminster Presbyterian and putting Cooper/Sutton Fund in the Memo line. Mail your donation or bring it to church in the envelope that is included with this *News*. Thank you.

2011 Paint-A-Thon

By Duncan King, Social Justice Ministry Team

Westminster will once again participate in the annual Metro Paint-A-Thon. Paint-A-Thon, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) is a volunteer effort designed to serve low-income senior or permanently disabled homeowners who do not have the financial resources to paint the exterior of their own homes. House painting is costly for those living on fixed incomes and often very difficult for people with limited physical capabilities.



The paint workday will be **Saturday, August 6**. The preparation workday will be the previous **Saturday, July 30**. The preparation work will involve primarily scraping and washing the surfaces to be painted during the following weekend. Prep Day is especially important because the more we can accomplish then, the smoother Paint Day will be.

Paint-A-Thon demonstrates to our senior and disabled homeowners — who often feel isolated — that there still is a community of people who care about them. As a result of having their homes painted by Paint-A-Thon volunteers, homeowners feel pride in their homes and relief that a major maintenance task has been resolved. This also helps them to remain living independently for as long as it is safe and healthy to do so.

Come join your fellow Westminster volunteers and make a difference! In addition to volunteering time, we will need 4', 6', and 8' stepladders and several 24' and 32' extension ladders. This is a perfect opportunity to put faith into action!

There will be information and sign-up tables in the Heller Commons on Sundays during July. You can also contact Duncan King (dking@ecoisp.com) about the preparation workday or Dan Franklin (dfranklin@wpcmpls.org) about the paint workday.



**WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL FORUM
PRESENTS KRISTA TIPPETT
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 7:00PM**

Join American Public Media's Krista Tippet in Westminster's sanctuary for her presentation *Spiritual Genius: Lessons for Living*. Music by the

Southside Aces Brass Band precedes the forum at 6:30PM, and a public reception and book-signing follow at 8:00PM. Free and open to all!

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

At our initial Wednesday summer worship service I met a young man who had come with a friend to Westminster for the first time that evening. We had a great conversation; he's a student at the University. He had never been to our church—in fact, he had never been to any church.

When I asked how he had “found” Westminster's Wednesday evening summer service (6:15 in the Great Hall; try it!), he told me that he and his friend—who had, in fact, been looking for a church in the city—had wanted to do something that day in downtown Minneapolis. As almost any young person these days would do, they turned to the Internet. They did a Google search, and Westminster popped up as the second item.

I was glad to see that our small financial investment in Google advertising had “paid off,” but I was even more pleased to see that our broad effort to use web-based communication is helping introduce people to Westminster. The two University students, having found us on Google, went to our website and took a look. They liked what they saw, and—voilà!—showed up at church.

In recent years we've been paying more attention to social media and the Internet as tools to grow the church. I used to think these methods would reach mostly younger adults; I've discovered that almost everyone now uses the Internet in one way or another, in relation to their involvement at Westminster. Last week an 85-year-old church member told me how much she liked the weekly “email blast” I send every Friday morning about worship on Sunday. Who knew!

We are beginning to look into how we might increase our usage of the web to grow Westminster's ministry. For instance, when can we start to run our worship services on the web in live, simultaneous broadcast? Should we do that in audio format only, or should we consider video, as well? Or, how do we build usage of our Westminster Facebook page as a way for members to stay connected and participate in the programs of the church?

I'm glad we're expanding our use of web-based communication. The young man who was here for the first time at that summer Wednesday worship service, and had a great time, is pleased, as well!

See you in cyberspace—and at church!



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

Dan Commerford, Dir. of Middle & H.S. Ministries

Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood

Barbara Prince, Administrative Assistant

Madeleine Benishek, Summer Intern

EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

Melanie McCall, Coord. of Fellowship/Spec. Events

Claudia Kapitan, Evangelism Admin. Assistant

Dan Franklin, Fellowship Admin. Assistant

Kristin Kieft, Publications Coordinator

FAITH IN ACTION

The Rev. Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Dan Franklin, Coord. of Discipleship Ministries

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts/Organist

Dr. Jere Lantz, Westminster Choir Director

Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director,

Westminster Gallery and Archive

Barbara Prince, Program Assistant,

Worship, Music and the Arts

Nancy Carter, Handbell Choir Director

Brad Ollmann, Early Childhood Music

Christopher Laumann, Youth Music Director

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. David Liddle, Interim Associate Pastor

Claudia Kapitan, Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION

Samuel G. Cooke, Director of Administration

Sandy Wilson, Office Manager

Jennifer Zenanko, Accountant

Mary Dolan; J D. Shaffer, Accounting Assistants

Debbie Anderson; Sarah Kantrud, Receptionists

Amy Riesenber, Wedding Coordinator

FACILITIES

Neale Holleschau, Facilities Manager

Todd Bushy, Brian Coyoc, Christopher Glenn,

Richard Wilder, Facilities Staff

EMERITA

The Rev. Elizabeth D. Heller, Assoc. Pastor Emerita

WESTMINSTER CAMP AJAWAH

Dave Moore, Director

Sarah Kantrud, 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 Tour

The next guided tour of Nicollet Square will be on **Tuesday, June 21, 4:00PM**. The address is 3700 Nicollet Ave. South, in Minneapolis. See this beautiful new facility where homeless and vulnerable youth are provided permanent supportive housing along with employment training and placement. To make a reservation for the tour, contact Takara Henegar at thenegar@plymouthfoundation.org or 612.871.0890.

Summer at Camp Ajawah

Summer is here and Camp Ajawah is in session. Once again kids will head north to the loon-haunted lake for two weeks of adventure in a unique rustic environment. This summer the tradition of campfires, swimming, canoeing, singing in the Mess Hall and much more will continue. Girl's Camp opens the season on Sunday June 19 with a full camp. There are still spaces in second session girl's beginning July 3; first session boy's beginning July 17; and second session boy's beginning July 31. If you are interested in having your child attend Ajawah, please visit ajawah.org.

WOW Summer Day Trips

On **Wed., 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 info 612.370.0439. On **Wed., August 3**, join us for a trip to St. John's University to hear about the beautiful and inspirational work of the St. John's Bible. Participate in noon prayer and enjoy a deli buffet lunch. Make reservations on July 24 & 31 in the Heller Commons or call Ruth Hass, 612.866.3871.

A WestConnection Summer

WestConnection goes to the Pops! *WestConnection is a fellowship group for members and friends in their 20s & 30s.* Join us on Sunday, July 10, 5:00PM, (concert starts at 5:30) at the free Minneapolis Pops Orchestra concert at the Lake Harriet Bandshell. **BYOP** (that's Bring Your Own Picnic!). For more info: join WestConnection's Facebook group or contact Sonja Mortenson at sonjamort611@msn.com

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.

Births & Adoptions

FRANCIS THOMAS MCCHESENEY
 Birthdate: May 12, 2011
 Family: Emily & Brian McChesney

KAIGHIN HARRIS STENSRUD
 Birthdate: May 12, 2011
 Family: Krista & Will Stensrud

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

June 10	.....Ps. 104:24-34, 35b
11	.....1 Cor. 12:3b-13
12	.....John 20:19-23
13	.....Joel 2:18-29
14	.....Rom. 8:26-27
15	.....Num. 11:24-30
16	.....Gen. 1:1-2:4a
17	.....Ps. 8
18	.....2 Cor. 13:11-13
19	.....Matt. 28:16-20
20	.....Job 38:38-39:12
21	.....1 Cor. 12:4-13
22	.....John 14:25-26
23	.....Gen. 22:1-14
24	.....Ps. 13
25	.....Rom. 6:12-23
26	.....Matt. 10:40-42
27	.....Gen. 22:1-14
28	.....1 John 4:1-6
29	.....Isa. 51:1-3
30	.....Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
July 1	.....Ps. 45:10-17
2	.....Rom. 7:15-25a
3	.....Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30
4	.....Rom. 1:18-25
5	.....Rom. 3:1-8
6	.....John 13:1-17
7	.....Gen. 25:19-34
8	.....Ps. 119:105-112
9	.....Rom. 8:1-11
10	.....Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23
11	.....Mic. 1:1-5
12	.....Eph. 4:17-5:2
13	.....Matt. 13:10-17
14	.....Gen. 28:10-19a
15	.....Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24
16	.....Rom. 8:12-25
17	.....Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
18	.....Rev. 14:12-20
19	.....Gal. 4:21-5:1
20	.....Matt. 12:15-21



Find us on Facebook!
facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterian

Nursery Families Plan Summer Activities

By Marie Kruskop, Coordinator, Early Childhood Ministries

Westminster summers, like Minnesota summers, take on a different pace. Here's what's happening with early childhood programming this summer.

Nursery Families Fellowship, which usually meets on Sundays in the Bushnell Room during Education Hour, is on summer vacation. We'll resume meeting in the fall.

A number of Nursery families have expressed interest in informal **bring-your-own-and-come-when-you-can picnics** after worship on summer Sundays beginning June 12. The plan is to head over to the Loring Greenway play area (located about a block-and-a-half west of Nicollet

Mall between 12th and 13th Streets) after worship whenever your schedule allows. The beauty of this plan is you will enjoy some great family time outdoors whether other families are able to join you or not! If you have questions, feel free to give me a call. And...please let me know when you go (763.535.8973 or mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org) — I'll be curious! Thank you!

Mark your calendars! Our next Nursery families fellowship event is scheduled for **Saturday, August 20, 4:00-7:00PM at Como Park Zoo**. As the date gets closer, look for more details in the Westminster Nursery News and the CYF email update or contact me, mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org. Happy summer!



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.

Wednesday Worship & Courtyard Cookout

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn; Photos by Eugene Fotso and Tom Northenscold

On Wednesday, June 1, approximately 150 Westminster members, friends, and visitors gathered in the Great Hall for our first "Summer on the Mount" midweek worship service. Following worship we moved out to the tent in the courtyard for a kick-off barbecue and fellowship. We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Laura Lee and Patrick Moffett, with special thanks to Priscilla Northenscold for her organization and leadership. We lingered, met new friends, little ones played, and we enjoyed the beauty of an early summer evening in downtown Minneapolis.



The first "Cookout on the Courtyard" was such a success that we will offer a simple outdoor meal and opportunity for fellowship each week following Wednesday worship in June and July. Grab a bite to from the grill before heading to adult education or middle and high school fellowship, or sit and enjoy conversation and the sights and sounds of our neighborhood. (\$5/adults; \$3/child/ \$20/family max.) We see many new faces joining us for worship and dinner, and you are invited to reach out and welcome those who are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to celebrating our community as the Body of Christ each week with you in worship and in fellowship this summer!



Our Family's Legacy of Gratitude

By Brent Hall, Trustee, Westminster member

Well, if you're drafting your wills be sure to remember your alma maters and your church. Those institutions have had a big impact on your lives, and part of the reason that they have is because people who came before you thought of them in their wills, too." This insightful comment came from my wife Sarah's mother several years ago when Sarah told her that we were drafting our wills.

Sarah's family has always had a tremendous sense of stewardship. They pass stories and family heirlooms from one generation to another in a way that is quite at odds with our society's tendency to acquire goods, use them up and quickly throw them away. Sarah's family has a unique way of keeping long since departed relatives alive in their minds and hearts by re-telling their stories and seeing, whenever her family gets together, the family heirlooms that have passed from one generation to the next. They see themselves not as consumers of the family's history and resources but as stewards of them.

In response to Sarah's mother's charge, we did, in fact, put Westminster as a bequest in our wills. That was approximately ten years ago and, to be honest, the amount we set aside was not very much. Our children were, and still are, relatively young. We have college educations, a mortgage, and retirement to pay for but we still

WPC Youth Kick Off Summer

By Dan Commerford, Dir. Middle & High School Ministries

Summer is finally here! Books are packed away, and papers and pens are replaced with tennis racquets and fishing poles as the youth of Westminster enter their summer break. Although school may be out for the summer, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to gather for fellowship and service. Many of the students are excited to participate in the mission trips this summer. In June, our High School students will go to Detroit to work with the Presbytery of Detroit to battle poverty. July is also a busy month for missions as the Middle School students travel to St. Cloud to work with Kids Against Hunger and several high school and college students will also journey to Mantanzas, Cuba to help lead a Vacation Bible School.

Other than summer mission trips, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to gather right here in the Twin Cities! Please check the Middle and High School page on the Westminster website for the latest official summer calendar. If you have any questions, contact Dan Commerford by email at dcommerford@wpc-mpls.org or by phone 612.332.3421. It's going to be a great season!

wanted to carve out a little space in our wills for the church that has been such an important part of our lives. Over the coming years, we hope to increase the amount of money we have set aside in our will for Westminster as our assets grow and our liabilities diminish.

Westminster is a very special place that has been a true blessing to our family. We hope that by remembering Westminster in our wills we can help it to be a blessing to families like ours in future generations. We may never meet those families and we may never know just what good comes from our donations, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that we give to future generations to say thank you for the gift that previous generations have given to all of us. It isn't instant gratification, but it is what Westminster's Legacy Program is all about.

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.



Sarah & Brent Hall

Year Two of Doctoral Work

By Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

No one is more surprised than I am that the first year of my doctoral program at McCormick Seminary has concluded! I received word in late April from my advisor in Chicago that I had completed all of the first year requirements, and by then I had already received the syllabi for my second year courses. During the months of April, May, and June, the program requires us to complete reading and writing assignments in order to prepare for the second residency in Chicago. I will leave for Chicago after worship on Sunday, June 19th, and return the evening of July 8th. I am so grateful to the Westminster staff for their continuing graciousness while I am away for the residencies, and to the Ministerial Relations and Personnel Committee and the Session for their support. I also want to acknowledge the members of my Parish Project group, who gave feedback on my sermons during the 2010-11 program year, and sent in evaluations to the doctoral program: Paul Daniels, Geoff Francis, Susan Francis, Shaun Jennings, Heather Lane Gallenbeck, Brent Hall, Ruth Lane, Bill Mattox, Beth Patten, Vince Thomas, and Marjorie Watson.

Education for Faith & Life

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

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.

Welcome New Members Spring 2011!



The Gift of Art: Croc's Ark

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

Swedish artist and cartoonist Jesper Löfvenborg was artist in residence at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis this past spring. As he painted in the center of a gallery, visitors to the exhibition of his art wandered around him to enjoy his work and engage him in conversation. He is known for painting exaggerated miniature worlds of creatures and pop culture characters which draw from Swedish traditions, comic books, children's literature, and more.

Westminster member Ron Hovda discovered Löfvenborg at work and was captivated by his style. The various representations of crocodiles found throughout his images are a visual treat. Hovda was inspired to acquire the painting *Croc's Ark* for the Westminster Collection. He wrote: "I'd like to present *Croc's Art* in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Meisel. The humor expressed in his book *Seeing Through the Cross* is certainly reflected in this work of art."

In describing the diversity of God's creation and the inclusive nature of God's love as represented in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic art, I often tease that Jesus wasn't Swedish. Well, I now must admit that while Jesus may not be Swedish, it appears that Noah may have been! Thank you, Ron Hovda, for your delightful addition to the Westminster Collection. Watch for the installation of *Croc's Ark* along with other recent accessions later this year.



Croc's Ark (detail),
by Jesper Löfvenborg,
art markers & watercolor on paper, 2011

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.

Counselor's Corner: One Piece Missing

by Mary Keen, M.Div, LMFT, Westminster Counseling Center

612.332.7743 ext. 220

mkeen@wpc-mpls.org

www.westminstercounseling.org

Periodically “show and tell” is a part of counseling. A client recently brought her “show and tell” collage to a therapy session. The piece was complicated, intricate, colorful, and poignant. Carefully hand written Bible verses were interspersed amongst the cut-from-magazine faces smiling throughout the 14” x 14” collage. “This is the day the Lord has made” boldly spoke next to a faded purple cornflower. To give the piece depth and dimension, bright puzzle pieces were placed orderly and haphazardly across the artwork. She named the art piece “One Piece Missing; Found Won Peace.”

After a difficult week of making life work for this client, she sat down to relax and put a puzzle together. After the puzzle picture emerged and merged to completion, one piece was missing. Complete, but not quite. She went to bed that night unsettled by the metaphor of one piece missing. What was meant to be a relaxing time, became unsettling.

The next morning, still perplexed by the missing piece, she took the puzzle apart and began creating the collage. Using pictures from magazines, pieces of con-

struction paper tossed the day before, phrases and photos from church bulletins, and incomplete puzzle pieces, a new picture was born. The new creation was original, unique, and glued with depth and meaning. Far more engaging than the photograph puzzle could ever have been. With the new creation before her, she won her peace. The metaphor of a missing piece became a found peace, as she lives with the assurance of God’s presence and Christ’s peace and the Holy Spirit’s persistence.



Mary Keen

Brené Brown’s latest book *The Gifts of Imperfection* talks about the key to whole-hearted living as learning to accept our imperfections and our vulnerabilities. One piece or more can be missing but the whole is not lost. Transforming our imperfections into new creations sometimes just needs a bit of glue, paper, creativity and faith’s assurance.

Hope in the Midst of the Storm, continued from page 1

Ironically, the worst part of the destruction was yet for me to see. As we moved further north, we came upon the blocks that had been evacuated for safety. People were walking around slowly, dragging their belongings behind them in suitcases and garbage bags; their children also in tow. I will never forget their eyes. The sadness. The worried faces. The trauma. The storm just hit their homes, the authorities told them they had to leave, and they had no idea what to do or where to go.

It broke my heart.

Over the next few days, random and last-minute announcements came in about where to go for food and other services. My friend and I found such a place at a local park, where we waited in line with 1200 other impatient and traumatized people. Four hours later, we did get some food stamps to replace the groceries lost during the power outage, but the other services and free goods were depleted by the time we finally were served.

We were barely hanging on.

The food support helped, but the food stamps wouldn’t be available for two more days and while they would buy food, they couldn’t be used for necessities like toilet paper and toiletries.

We still had to hold on a little while longer. Others in line behind us weren’t as fortunate; leaving only with their continued frustration and sense of hopelessness.

After May 22, 2011, our lives will never be the same...but we still have hope. A rainbow appeared in the sky after the storm, framing what used to be our beautiful neighborhoods. We took it as a sign—to hold to God’s unchanging hand, to hold onto one another, and that the power of the Most High God is stronger than any funnel cloud. In spite of what we see with our own eyes, we choose to believe what God said to God’s people in Jeremiah 3:17, “There is hope for your future.”

CLEARWATER FOREST CHRYSLIS WOMEN’S RETREAT

Rev. Kathy Michael will be the keynote speaker at Clearwater Chrysalis Summer Retreat for women of all ages, August 18-21.

Presentations will explore the lives and experiences of biblical women as well as women in our own lives, and what their challenges, flaws, and imperfections can teach us about ourselves. Kathy will also lead a workshop on *Suffering and the Life of Faith*.

Registration and housing (double occupancy) is \$250. Registration & info available at clearwaterforest.org. Brochures and registration forms are also available on the literature tables at the church. For more information, contact Pat Daily, patdaily@comcast.net.

Registration deadline is August 1.