

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

August 26, 2011 • Vol. 45, No. 13

Part II Fall Preview Issue

This fall at Westminster, there are many opportunities for learning, spiritual growth, and being in community with others. Read on to learn more about what is coming up in Fellowship, Women's & Men's Ministries, new member classes, special worship services and the new season of the Westminster Town Hall Forum.

Fellowship: Mens & Women's Ministries; TGOF; WestConnection; Dinner for Eight

By Melanie McCall, Coordinator of Fellowship & Events

Fellowship includes several groups, as well as the areas of Women's and Men's Ministries.

The Great Over Fifties (TGOF). The Great Over Fifties is a monthly fellowship group for Westminster members and friends, age 50 and above. We meet, greet, eat a delicious Sunday lunch, and enjoy a variety of programs. TGOF kicks off the program year on Sunday, September 18 at Noon, when our high school youth will share experiences from their recent summer mission trips to Detroit and to Cuba. \$14 covers the cost of lunch. Register online or in the Heller Commons on September 4 & 11. And save the dates for upcoming TGOF gatherings on October 16 and November 20.

Dinner For Eight Enjoy a meal and good conversation and meet new people! The concept is simple: groups of six to eight are formed and meet for dinner on a prearranged night. The host provides the entree and asks participants to bring a dish to share. The goal is that new friendships will emerge over a meal and our community will grow stronger as we learn more about one another. The first Dinner for Eight of the season will be on Saturday, October 8. Sign up in the Heller Commons in September.

WestConnection This group of Westminster members and friends in their 20s & 30s gathers

Fellowship, New Member Series, Worship, continue on pg. 5

Town Hall Forum Explores American Values

By Susan McKenna, Director, Town Hall Forum

In 1936, Franklin Roosevelt reminded a nation in distress that "we are waging a great war. It is not alone a war against want and destitution and economic demoralization. It is more than that; it is a war for the survival of democracy." At a time when our country is facing similar challenges, the Town Hall Forum welcomes four speakers who will offer their perspective on the state of the American nation—as it was, as it is today, and as it might become. All events are free and open to the public. Music precedes the forum a half hour in advance, and a public reception follows. For further information, contact Susan McKenna at 612.332.3421, or smckenna@wpc-mpls.org.

NORM ORNSTEIN

Thursday, September 15, Noon

Broken Government: Where Do We Go from Here?

Norm Ornstein is a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C. He is an election analyst for CBS



Norm Ornstein

photo: Wade Martzell

Jeffrey Sachs



Tom Brokaw



photo: MSNBC

Chris Matthews

Town Hall Forum, continues on pg. 4

Welcome Shekela Wanyama, Youth Music Director

By Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts

On behalf of the Music Advisory Committee, I am delighted to introduce you to Shekela Wanyama, Westminster's new Youth Music Director. Kela is very eager to meet families and begin her work with our junior and senior high youth. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Temple University in Philadelphia. Kela has had international experiences which include student teaching in West Sussex, England, and teaching at the Berlin Kids International School. She has also taught at-risk students at the Augsburg Fairview Academy in Minneapolis, designed a music appreciation course for the local Arizona Bridge Project, and was program assistant for Education and Community Partnerships at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in D.C. She currently teaches middle school music at Columbia Heights Academy.

Kela has been attending Westminster as a visitor since last spring. In her words, "Westminster's services speak to me because they are both spiritually renewing and intellectually engaging. I have never been welcomed so genuinely and openly as I have been by members of the congregation at Westminster." (Thank you, dear members, for being who you are and unknowingly encouraging this

young woman in her choice to apply for the Youth Music Director position!)

When asked about music's role in enriching a faith community, Kela replied, "I firmly believe in music as an important component of spiritual growth. Music helps us to understand and reflect on theology and is a sonic reminder in our busy lives that worship space and worship mind are different than the hustle and bustle we are accustomed to. Just this morning, Stephen Paulus' *Pilgrim Hymn* came on the radio as I prepared for the day. In the midst of creating a mental to-do list while keeping an eye on the clock, I was forced, by this music, to stop, reflect, and express gratitude for the richness of this moment, and the promise of the day ahead. This is one of the most important functions of music in a faith community."

My deepest thanks go to the members of the Music Advisory Committee for their wise counsel and commitment to the youth of Westminster. Their role in the selection process was invaluable. Thank-you, Mike Christianson, Sandy Cochran, Janice Ditzler, Marian Hoffman, Joe King, and Anna Kruskop! You helped open the door for a wonderful new association and for growth in youth music at Westminster through Kela's leadership.



Shekela Wanyama

Social Justice Forums: Building and Sustaining Justice Amid Uncertainty

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Join us to learn more about *Building and Sustaining Justice Amid Uncertainty* during this year's Social Justice Forums on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM.

September 11 *Creating Hope and Futures for Victims of War, Violence and Human Trafficking: A Personal Journey.*



Patrick Atkinson

Our speaker, Patrick Atkinson, is founder and international executive director of The GOD'S CHILD Project and the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, & Missing Persons.

Travel with Atkinson as he shares his journey of combating inequalities that keep people in poverty. His personal story of courage and desire for others' freedom tracks Atkinson's travels around the world. He will provide insights into ways each of us can transform the lives of people living in poverty.

September 18 *Justice Delayed is Justice Denied*

Nekima Levy-Pounds will lead this Forum in which participants will gain fresh insights and information pertaining to the challenges that members of some of our poorest communities face in the Twin Cities as well as the opportunities that exist to effect change. Come prepared

to be informed, engaged, and challenged to use your God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to make a difference in the lives of others. Levy-Pounds is very familiar with the disparities that exist among communities in Minneapolis and the broader Twin Cities area and is passionate about helping people address this issue.

Ms. Levy-Pounds is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and the founder and director of the Community Justice Project, an award-winning civil rights legal clinic. Levy-Pounds teaches and trains law students to use the law as a tool to advance the cause of justice in society, especially on behalf of the most vulnerable. Levy-Pounds is a frequent commentator in the media on civil rights issues, a lecturer, public speaker, and scholar-activist. One of Levy-Pounds' main areas of focus lies at the intersection of race, poverty, and the criminal justice system, as well as in challenging laws and policies that produce disparate outcomes for poor communities of color. Levy-Pounds was recently appointed as chairperson of the Minnesota State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.



Nekima Levy-Pounds

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Coming Together Sunday this year falls on September 11. Churches across the land will mark the assault on America ten years ago that day. "Rally Sunday" will be a bit different this year, as communities of faith remember that awful day and reflect on our life as a nation a decade later.

At Westminster on September 11 we will sing a hymn we first sang in worship back in 2001: "This is my song, O God of all the nations..." The words, set to the familiar tune *Finlandia*, remind us that all lands have beauty and meaning for those who live in them. The hymn encourages us not to close in on ourselves and think our place and people better than any other.

The sermon on September 11 will launch us into this year's series, *Bare-Bones Christianity: More Questions about Faith*. We begin on Coming Together Sunday by asking: *Who Needs Religion?*

In the course of the Good Questions sermon series last year, someone said that each week we were thinking together about "bare-bones" faith—Christianity in simpler form, unadorned with complicated theological language and arcane doctrinal formulations. A friend who preaches in another city heard about the sermon series on good questions and described it as "apologetics"—an old term meaning *an argument for the faith*.

In our worship this year we will explore Christianity in a way that encourages us to grow and deepen our commitment in faith—but we will do so not by avoiding the questions that naturally arise in our 21st-century minds. Rather, let us ask those questions. Let us push into the mystery, not because we can find hard and fast answers and solve every vexing issue, but because we come to know God more deeply by facing the unknown honestly and by living up-front with our doubts.

Bare-Bones Christianity. The first half of the year we will look at *affirmations* we make about God and about Jesus; then we will consider *practices of the faith* that help us live out those affirmations. Jesus did not expect his followers to demonstrate religiosity, but, rather, merely to love God and to love others. Christian faith is as simple—and as challenging—as that.

Join us on Coming Together Sunday, September 11 - and make a commitment to attend worship as often as you can this year.

See you in church!

Grace and peace,



Timothy Hart-Andersen

WESTMINSTER CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Kathy Fisher, Executive Assistant

Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving

ADULT ED. & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Rev. Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Kathy Fisher, Leadership Development Admin. Asst.

Claudia Kapitan, Adult Ed Admin. Assistant

Barbara Mauk, Librarian

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Rev. Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Associate Pastor

Mary Alette Davis, Dir. of Children's Ministries

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

Shekela Wanyama, Youth Music

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Robertson, 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

Town Hall Forum, continued from pg. 1

News and writes a weekly column for *Roll Call*, the Capitol Hill newspaper. He serves as co-director of the Transition to Governing Project which is committed to creating a better climate for governing in the era of the permanent campaign. The author of numerous books on politics and public policy, he earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan.

JEFFREY SACHS

Thursday, October 20, Noon

Reawakening American Virtue and Prosperity

Jeffrey Sachs is Director of The Earth Institute and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Considered one of the leading economists in the world today, he advocates combining economic development with environ-

mental sustainability and mitigating human-induced climate change. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard University where he served on the faculty for nearly twenty years. His latest book, *The Price of Civilization*, is a blueprint for America's economic recovery.

TOM BROKAW

Tuesday, November 8, 7:00PM

The Time of Our Lives: Past, Present, Promise

Tom Brokaw is a Peabody and Emmy Award-winning journalist who served as anchor and managing editor of the NBC Nightly News from 1983 to 2005. Before that, he served as a White House correspondent and anchor of the Today Show for NBC News. Currently, he is a special correspondent for the network. He is the

author of five bestsellers, including *The Greatest Generation*. In his newest book, *The Time of Our Lives: Past, Present, Promise*, he examines changes in American life since the Great Depression, and, reflects on our nation's future.

CHRIS MATTHEWS

Thursday, December 8, Noon

Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero

Chris Matthews is a writer, political commentator, and the host of the nightly news show *Hardball* with Chris Matthews and the weekly panel discussion, *The Chris Matthews Show*. Before entering journalism, he was on the staff of four members of Congress, he served as a top aide to former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, and he worked as a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter.



Eagle Scout Pao Her speaks about his experiences in Troop 100 to the Distinguished Citizens' Dinner, sponsored by the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Events Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of September 11

Free Commemorative Concert at The Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, Saturday, September 10, 8:00PM

A chorus of 100+ comprised of singers from many area religious and other singing groups plus orchestra will perform Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, two Stephen Paulus compositions, and Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* and other selections. There will also be readings from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Universalist traditions

Minnesotans Standing Together Sunday, September 11, 2:00-4:00PM

The Minnesota Council of Churches is encouraging congregations of faith to come together for a respectful community observance of the tenth anniversary 9/11. The public ceremony on Sunday, September 11, will take place on the Capitol Mall in St. Paul and feature a coalition of religious, civic and public officials from across Minnesota. Additional details available online, MinnesotansStandingTogether.com

Daily Phone Devotions

Phone 612.332.7087

for the daily lectionary

August 26	.....Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
27	.....Rom. 12:9-21
28	.....Matt. 16:21-28
29	.....Exod. 4:10-31
30	.....Exod. 5:1-6:13
31	.....Exod. 7:14-25
September 1	.....Exod. 12:1-14
2	.....PS. 149
3	.....Rom. 13:8-14
4	.....Matt. 18:15-20
5	.....1 Pet. 2:11-17
6	.....Rom. 13:1-7
7	.....Matt. 21:18-22
8	.....Exod. 14:19-31
9	.....Ps. 114
10	.....Rom. 14:1-12
11	.....Matt. 18:21-35
12	.....Heb. 11:23-29

Births & Adoptions

JACKSON MICHAEL TATE

Birthdate: May 16, 2011
Family: Sarah & Andrew Tate

JOSHUA WALTER SPAETH

Birthdate: July 8, 2011
Family: Anne & Jason Spaeth and Jonah, Samuel

Fellowship, continued from pg. 1

regularly for study, socializing and service. WestConnection is an informal way to meet others and find your place in the life of the church. Bible study, service work, and outings are being planned now. Join our Facebook group at "Westminster WestConnection" to learn more, or contact Melanie McCall at the church.

Women's Ministries

- **Sunday/Monday Connections** Would you be willing to trade career, family, and volunteer obligations for a few hours of connection, reflection, and fun? Sunday/Monday Connections, celebrating its 10th anniversary, gives women the opportunity to connect with each other and to reflect on the connection between their Sunday faith lives and their Monday-Saturday everyday lives. The evening includes social hour and dinner at The Woman's Club, followed by the evening's speaker and group discussion. You're invited to the first gathering on Tuesday, October 4, when our speaker will be Nancy Slaughter, one of the originators of Sunday/Monday Connections. *See page 7 for more information.*

- **Westminster on Wednesdays (WOW)** meets each Wednesday for a morning of fellowship, Bible study, and programs on a wide variety of topics. The WOW year kicks off on October 5 with the annual Birthday Luncheon. Nicolas Carter, harpist, will share stories and perform music on the Paraguayan harp. The Birthday Offering will be received during a Chapel worship service, and Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Memberships will be awarded in recognition of substantial contributions to the church. For more info, call Beverly Harness, 952.929.0819. Register on Sept. 18 & 25 in the Heller Commons. Regular WOW gatherings begin on October 12 at 9:00AM.

Men's Ministries

- **Men' Fall Retreat** Plan on a beautiful autumn weekend at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest near Deerwood, MN, starting Friday evening, September 30. (For those who want to beat the traffic there'll be a golf outing earlier that day!) The main program will be Saturday, October 1. Leaning Tree Lodge is available a second night on Saturday for anyone who wants to enjoy the 1000 acres and three miles of beautiful lakeshore. Sign up in the Heller Commons beginning September 11 or contact Bill Kruskop for more info, bkruskop@earthlink.net.

- **Men's Breakfasts and Men's Bible Study** All Westminster men are invited to participate in programs throughout the year. Men's Ministries continues a faithful Wednesday morning Bible Study, beginning October 12 at 9:00am. Or, come to breakfast! On the second and third Thursday of each month, men start the day together at 7:00AM for breakfast and a special time of fellowship. No need to register ahead of time, just join us!

Second Thursdays: Men's Breakfast East, Byerly's Rosedale, 1601 West County Road C, Roseville

Third Thursdays: Men's Breakfast West, Milda's Café, 1720 Glenwood Ave, Minneapolis. For more information on Men's Ministries, contact the Rev. Steve Robertson.

Membership at Westminster

By Annika Lister Stroope, Associate Pastor

"How do I become a member of Westminster?" "What does it mean to be part of this church & its mission?" "I'd like to further explore my faith....how do I do that?"

We warmly invite all who feel God's call to be fully in community to explore membership at Westminster. **New member classes begin Sunday, October 16** and are led by the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope.

The Membership Course includes several gatherings to learn more about the Presbyterian tradition, WPC's ministries and mission, and how you may participate, learn and grow. We also will have dinner together and with the Westminster Session, leading up to presentation of new members to the congregation during the 10:30AM Worship Service on Sunday, November 20. Details are online, ewestminster.org/membership, or contact Annika Lister Stroope, astroope@wpc-mpls.org or her assistant, Claudia Kapitan, ckapitan@wpc-mpls.org. Both may also be reached by calling the church office, 612.332.3421.

Worship at Westminster

By Alan Youel, Spiritual Growth Community

Beginning on Coming Together Sunday, September 11, we move into the rhythm of the fall season.

Worship Services are held at 8:30AM in the Chapel and at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary. There is a communion service Sundays, 9:30AM in the Chapel. In addition to these worship services, there are three regularly scheduled special worship services throughout the year.

Quiet Worship offers a time for quiet music, Scripture, silence and prayer, a time to be together, resting quietly in God's presence and love. Quiet Worship is scheduled on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:00AM in the Chapel. *The next Quiet Worship is on Saturday, September 24 with Tim Hart-Andersen as worship leader.*

Celtic Evening Prayers draw on the rich liturgy of the Celtic Christian tradition and the Iona Community in Scotland. Celtic Worship is held on the second Thursday of selected months in the Chapel at 7:00PM. *The next one will be on Thursday, October 13.*

Taizé Evening Prayers use the beautiful sung prayers from the Taizé Community in France, spoken prayers, and Scripture. Taizé Services are held on the Wednesdays of Lent in the Great Hall, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012.

Our Church as a Caring Christian Community

By Stephen Robertson, Associate Pastor

When I recently shared in a sermon the vision that our congregation be known for our caring Christian compassion with one another, I knew we were well on the way toward that goal. For example, Elder Karen Collier writes this about our **Member to Member (M2M)** care:

I have always thought of our church as a community, but the true meaning didn't really come through to me until this summer. I spent the past 13 weeks in a wheelchair due to a variety of foot problems. I could put no pressure on my foot and could not drive. All my life I have been independent relying on no one but myself. I have no close family nearby. How do I get to doctor appointments? Desperately needing help, I turned to Susan Tucker, Chair of the M2M Ministry Team. Her response was to let her know time and place. From then on, any time I needed transportation there was a WPC member and their car waiting on me. That relief for me was invaluable. I could not have gone through all these weeks without it. Thank you, "my community."

An essential part of being a caring Christian community is our Member to Member (M2M) care team. These individuals are called and trained to be present with members in times of special need, including a personal or family crisis, chronic illness, disability, lack of transportation, or rehabilitation following surgery. Our M2M team members are also partnered with many of our elderly and homebound members.

Through regular visitation and other appropriate actions, our M2M team members give expression to the church's commitment of support and compassion. Our M2M care team members do not replace the work of the pastors, but as Karen put so well in her note above, it is the M2M team that brings the Westminster community to the help and support of those in need.

If you like to meet new friends and you have a few hours each month to visit with other church members, please consider being a part of the M2M ministry team.

To join the M2M team or if you just want to learn more about our M2M ministry, contact Steve Robertson, 612.332.3421 or srobertson@wpc-mpls.org.

Mister Rogers on Kindness

By Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministries

We have a need for volunteers in the Nursery – no matter your age! Please consider signing up as a regular once-a-month volunteer in the Nursery as a way to demonstrate your kindness to our littlest ones, just as Mister Rogers suggests.

We need volunteers both during the 9:15AM Education Hour (adults only) and the 10:30AM worship service (students and adults).

Church School students will find sign-up sheets in their classrooms or at the Nursery. Adults are invited to sign up on the sheet outside the Nursery or may contact Marie Kruskop at 763.535.8973 or at mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org for more information or to sign up. Thank you!

"Being kind means responding to the needs of others – and people can be kind, no matter how old or how young they are."

Mister Rogers

Feed My Starving Children

By Duncan Leighton, Hunger Ministry Team

On **October 1** Westminster Presbyterian Church will sponsor two opportunities to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We will pack meals at the Coon Rapids location just 20 minutes north of the Church. You can be part of a group serving from 11:00AM-1:00PM or from 2:00PM-4:00PM.

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian organization committed to "Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit." Every day 18,000 children die from starvation. But you can make a difference for these children by volunteering.

In 2010, more than 515,000 volunteers joined Feed My Starving Children to package over 124 million meals for malnourished children in nearly 70 countries around the world!

This will be a great opportunity for Westminster families to meet, work, have fun and make a difference.

Sign up at the table in the Heller Commons during September. Questions, call Duncan Leighton, 952.936.9318 (home) or 952.516.7331 (work).

Coming Together Sunday, September 11

8:30am Worship in the Chapel

9:15am Education for All Ages

9:30 Communion in the Chapel

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

Adult Education Launches 2011-2012 Season

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

Overman and Capetz Kick Off Adult Ed

Dr. Andy Overman from Macalester College and Dr. Paul Capetz from United Seminary will be the opening speakers on Sundays (Sept. 11, 18, 25) and Wednesdays (Sept. 14, 21, 28). They will lead us into old worlds in new ways as we begin our year with *Ancient Texts for New Times: Foundations of our Faith in the Newer Testament*.

The *Education for Faith & Life* catalog included in this *News* has all the details. A lineup of excellent scholars fills our year with learning and opportunities for growth in our faith as we focus on the Newer Testament writings, especially the world and ministry of the Apostle Paul.

Don't miss these great classes on Sundays, 9:15AM in the Great Hall, and Wednesdays, 6:30PM in the Meisel Room. There is more info on the Adult Ed pages of Westminster's website, ewestminster.org/adulteducation. Classes will also be recorded and posted on the adult ed web page in case you have to miss one.

Movie of the Month

Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches

Sunday, September 25, 11:45am, Meisel Room

This year's Movies of the Month will focus on Newer Testament themes of forgiveness, redemption, and hope. The first film in September is an excellent documentary which takes us into Asia Minor (modern Turkey), to experience the life and ministry of Paul. A light lunch is avail-

able with suggested donation of \$7. Mark your calendar for the last Sunday of each month to stay for lunch and a movie.

Turkey Adventure: A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Apostle Paul

Join me and Dr. Sarah Henrich from Luther Seminary for this wonderful adventure, April 20-May 2, 2012. We will fly to Istanbul where we will see the great Hagia Sophia church, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, and the Grand Bazaar.

We will visit many of the cities where Paul preached, including the amazing Ephesus, an archaeological wonder. We'll see the ancient sites of Troy and Alexandria Troas on our way to the cities of Revelation, Pergamum, Sardis, and Philadelphia. We'll stop at Antioch-of-Pisidia, a major Roman colony where Paul preached on our way to Cappadocia where early Christians built cave cities as they hid from persecution.

We'll worship together, eat together, shop together!, laugh together, and experience the power of community as we make this pilgrimage of faith.

Brochures are on the literature tables, or you can contact me or Claudia in the church office, 612.332.3421. This trip is 2/3 full. We will open registration to those outside Westminster on September 15, so call or email now to save your place! Kmicheel@wpc-mpls.org.

Taking Care of Art and Artifacts

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

The Westminster Archive is filled with papers, photographs, textiles and all sorts of historical documentation. The Westminster Collection is comprised of paintings, prints, and drawings, in and out of frames; flat and dimensional textiles; bronze, wood, and other sculpture; and greatly diverse cultural and ethnic artifacts. So, how do we take care of all of these disparate materials?

The first rule of an archive is to do no harm. Exposure to light and excessive humidity are the greatest threats to the integrity of most materials. Products used for storage or exhibition must be safe and neutral. All framing and storage materials are designed to keep dust and dirt out, and are made of acid free materials that protect against degradation from mold or mildew caused by humidity. Artwork that is framed is stored hanging and unframed art is stored in large flat drawers. Flat textiles are rolled to prevent creasing and costume pieces are hung on padded hangers and in dust proof cabinets. There are special plastic sleeves for photographs and other delicate artifacts.

In addition to the careful storage and exhibition of art and artifact, special care is taken to control the environment. Artwork is framed with UV filtering glass. The lighting system in the Westminster Gallery is designed with motion sensors to dim the lights when no one is in the room, and both the gallery and the archive lighting is filtered for UV light rays. The archive was built with a temperature and humidity controlled air system.

Occasionally it is necessary to repair or restore damage that has occurred to an object. We have access to specialists who can repair damage to paper, ceramics, paintings, and much more. Washing and waxing the indoor Granlund sculptures is an annual task that is rather fun to do. In several weeks I will be taking an all-day class on the specific challenges of caring for photographs. There is always something more to learn.

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

RESPONDING IN DISCIPLESHIP



By Dan Franklin, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

Communities are becoming more fragmented as people retreat deeper into their own interests, and “community” becomes more narrowly defined to exclude anyone unlike us. Republicans and Democrats refuse to accept the legitimacy of each other's policy positions simply because they originate from the other side.

The creation of an “other” is evident in attitudes toward Muslims. Multi-state efforts to legislate against the use of *Sharia* law in courts (even though there is no evidence that any effort to introduce *Sharia* law has been made) is just one example of creating enemies where none exist. It is a sad fact that many Americans do not believe Muslims worship the same God as Jews or Christians.

There is hope though. Earlier this month non-Muslims were invited to attend an Iftar (the meal held to break the daily fast during the month of Ramadan), hosted by local mosques. Closer to home, the homeless who visit our church are welcomed by Westminster members, and there is often lively conversation among people of disparate backgrounds. It seems clear that to rebuild our modern community each of us will need to

make the effort to get to know our neighbors.

Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) is offering a chance to do that on the afternoon of Sunday, September 17 when it will host a tour of three houses of worship on Hennepin Avenue: Temple Israel, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the event and may be purchased from either Doug Mitchell or Dan Franklin.

DCEH is forming an education committee to better inform its congregations of actions needed to end homelessness. One goal is to hold a faith summit of Hennepin County congregations to discuss, learn about, and further the efforts to move people into housing. If you would like to learn more or participate in this committee, please contact me.

We are called by God to love our neighbors wherever we find them. That can be easy to do in the abstract through a commitment of tolerance and acceptance—but communities are built through direct understanding of our neighbors' needs and the actions we take to address those needs.

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

Celebrating 15 Years with the Rev. Katherine S. Michael

By Trish Van Pilsum, Westminster member

The Reverend Kathy Michael joined Westminster in 1996 as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. In the past fifteen years she worn many hats, and has taken on many challenges. On Sunday, September 18, the Ministerial Relations and Personnel Committee would like to invite you to celebrate and honor Kathy's wonderful service to Westminster. Please join us in the Great Hall following the 10:30AM service for coffee, tea, cookies and a brief program.

It is no small thing to help a community grow in faith. Kathy Michael has done that at Westminster by teaching both church members and officers more about their denomination, their bible and their Lord. Kathy has flourished as the minister assigned to Adult Education and the Officer Training program, which was completely redesigned under her creative vision.

Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Westminster now sparkle with interesting lectures and lively discussions as the Adult eEducation program has steadily grown, both in the number of participants and in the scope of topics illuminated. That is Kathy's gift to us. Spend some time wandering through the rich class offerings listed in the *Education for Faith & Life* catalog and you

will come to understand just how many hours Kathy spends thinking about and preparing for our spiritual growth and the number of contacts in the theological community she is able to tap to keep our learning experiences rich and varied. It is common for seminary professors from across the country who teach at Westminster to look at these catalogs and marvel at the programs Kathy puts together each year. Kathy is a marvel, indeed.

And yet, it is the Officer Training program Kathy developed for new elders and deacons that has earned the most national attention. No more do new officers take on their roles unsure of their responsibilities or the foundations of the church's governance system. So many who have been through Kathy's officer training have been transformed, not just into more spiritual, discerning leaders, but into more spiritual, discerning people. Presbyterian churches all over the country have begun to model training programs after Westminster's.

At the foundation of the officer training program is the idea of “the call.” We are all called to discipleship in some way, Kathy teaches. We are blessed that Kathy has found her calling in teaching the rest of us to be better disciples. Please join us Sunday, September 18!