

WESTMINSTER NEWS



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

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Bethlehem Partnership Update and Palestinian Arts Festival

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Join us after church on September 25 in the Great Hall to hear from travelers who went to Bethlehem this summer.

Four Westminster representatives began their trip with a visit to the Galilee region around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus carried out much of his ministry. Most of the trip centered in Bethlehem visiting the people and ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church, our congregational partner. Three people taught courses at Dar Al-Kalima which is a part of the outreach ministries of Christmas Church. All their ministries are under the umbrella of the Diyar Consortium. We experienced some of the daily life as it is lived under Israeli occupation.

On the 25th, we will show pictures of our time in Palestine and Israel and bring everyone up to date on our partnership with our Palestinian friends. Light snacks will also be provided.

This event will be the kick-off of our preparation as a congregation to host an important **Palestinian Arts Festival, May 3-6, 2012**. During the Festival, the Diyar Dance Theater which is a part of the Diyar Consortium will perform along with other Palestinian artists and

musicians. Two pieces of music that have been commissioned for this event will be premiered by the artists who created them. Artwork from a juried contest conducted in Bethlehem by Christmas Church will be displayed. There will be a Town Hall Forum focusing on the Middle East, and Mitri Raheb will preach at Westminster on Sunday.

For a preview of the Dance Theater, go to <http://diyar.ps> and click on Programs in the Main Menu.



Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church nestled into the city of Bethlehem

Social Justice Forum Action Sunday: Northside Achievement Zone

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

On Sunday, September 25, Sondra Samuels, the Executive Director of the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), will lead the final Social Justice Forum on local disparities. Action Sundays focus on how Westminster members can help resolve problems that have been discussed in previous weeks. NAZ offers many opportunities for people to get involved in addressing the disparities that harm the quality of life in North Minneapolis.

NAZ is an 18-block area that was picked for intense organizing of resources in 2008 on the basis of its community challenges shown in records of police calls, murders, probation, school achievement, and economic statistics.

In a state with the fifth largest 4th grade public education achievement gap in the nation, where only 12% of African American students are reading at grade level, the educational achievement statistics in the Zone are the

worst in the city and the second worst in the country. In the Jordon neighborhood for example, which is at the center of the NAZ, 13% of 8th graders passed the basic skills test in 2006. African Americans across Minneapolis, and especially children on the Northside, face significant disparities in health care and poorer health than the general population, based on statistics related to childhood asthma, teen pregnancy and infant mortality rates, child maltreatment and malnutrition.

The mission of NAZ is to build a culture of achievement in a geographic Zone in North Minneapolis to ensure all youth graduate from high school college-ready.



Sondra Samuels

NAZ, continues on pg. 6

Feed My Starving Children

By Susan Gilmore, Hunger Ministry Team

If you have been wondering how to help the starving people in Somalia, Westminster has just the answer for you! Please join us on **Saturday October 1** to help assemble food packets at the Feed My Starving Children Coon Rapids location. I promise you it will be the most fun you, your family, and friends can have while helping so many others get the food they desperately need.

All ages are encouraged and welcome! It is the perfect activity for families and groups of all sizes such as the Boy Scouts and Confirmation classes.

We have two time slots: 11:30AM to 1:30PM and 2:00PM to 4:00PM. The Hunger Ministry Team will have a sign up table in the Heller Commons before and after church on September 18 & 25. You may also contact Dan Franklin, 612.332.3421 or dfranklin@wpc-mpls.org to sign up.

There will be car pools from the church. If you can help car pool let us know when you sign up. We will have directions available to the Coon Rapids facility as well.

Come join us!

21st Century Parenting

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

Psychologist and bestselling author Dr. David Walsh will speak at Westminster on **Sunday, October 9, at 9:15AM** in the Sanctuary.

Walsh's many books have identified ways contemporary culture and media shape our children's development and his books *NO and Ways Parents Can Say It*, *Why Do They Act That Way?*, (adolescent parenting) and *Selling Out America's Children* are thoughtful and practical guides for parents, educators and professionals as resources for raising children and youth today.

His talk will address "21st Century Parenting," recognizing both the challenges and opportunities parents face today. He will address new research in brain science and how this helps us better understand child and adolescent development, as well how changes in technology and media impact families. In his own words, Dr. Walsh says, "Digital technology opens up worlds of possibilities for [children and adolescents]. On the other hand, there are new issues that previous generations never imagined, let alone had to navigate."

Dr. Walsh will explore both the opportunities and the threats as well as strategies for navigating through the tricky waters and fostering faith and spirituality in 21st century children. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parents, grandparents and those who care about our children and youth and ways our faith can support and sustain them into maturity.

A Gift of Life Insurance? It's Easy!

By Mary C. Hess, Director of Legacy Giving

Did you know that there are different ways you can use a life insurance policy to make a Legacy Gift to Westminster?



1) You can name Westminster as the full or partial beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy which is no longer important to the financial stability of your family. This can be an easy way to support the church and make good use of a policy that has outlived its original purpose. For example, insurance policies that were originally purchased to cover a mortgage or provide for a spouse or dependent children may no longer be needed for that purpose and could now be designated to help Westminster, and continue your support beyond your lifetime. Simply contact your life insurance agent and complete a beneficiary change form.

2) You can purchase a new insurance policy in which Westminster is irrevocably named as the beneficiary. Again this extends your generosity beyond your lifetime, and the premium payments qualify for a charitable income tax deduction.

For more information on using a policy to benefit Westminster, please contact Mary Hess, Director of Legacy Giving, or see this and other ideas on the Legacy pages of the website, ewestminster.org/legacyprogram. As always, check with your advisors to ensure this fits in with your overall plans.

Contact information: 612.332.3421 or mhess@wpc-mpls.org or www.ewestminster.org/Legacy. If you already have made arrangements for a gift, please let Mary know.

Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson

The Rev. Steve Robertson will be installed as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care of Westminster Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, October 23**, during the 10:30am worship service.

Although within the Presbyterian tradition, the act of "installing" a pastor to a new call of service is an act of the Presbytery, this worship service and the reception that follows will also be Westminster's opportunity to formally welcome Steve into ministry among us and to liturgically celebrate our journey together in service.

The preacher for the morning will be the Rev. C. William Hull, the now-retired pastor of the church Steve attended before he went to seminary, and a mentor to Steve in ministry. Plan now to be in worship on this special morning.

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

In August, 2,000 Presbyterians met in Bloomington, MN. They were called together by seven men, pastors of large churches who have formed the Fellowship of Presbyterians.

The precipitating event for the Fellowship Gathering was the passage last May of Amendment 10-A by a majority of the denomination's presbyteries. The constitutional change, put in motion by the July 2010 PC (USA) General Assembly in Minneapolis, allows for but does not mandate the ordination of gay and lesbian Presbyterians.

I have long argued that the best way forward out of the controversy over ordination is to allow local sessions and presbyteries to determine on a case-by-case basis if candidates for elder, deacon, and minister, meet the standards for ordained service, without pre-excluding gay and lesbian church members.

Many in the church find the constitutional change—even with its allowance for different conclusions ordaining bodies might reach on individual candidates—difficult, if not impossible, to accept. Thus, the Gathering of Presbyterians in Bloomington a few weeks ago.

I attended the event and was grateful for the tone set by the leaders. I found myself agreeing with much of what they said about the issues facing our church today. I join their anguish over the decline of the Presbyterian Church (USA). With them, I, too, want to serve a church that offers a thriving, vital witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ. I, too, am eager to build faithful, missional congregations that move boldly into the future. I share the Fellowship's hope for a renewed church—but not at the expense of its active, faithful members who are be gay and lesbian.

Among the possible next steps presented at the Gathering was the proposal to create a new denomination. The leaders announced a “constitutional convention” to be held in January in Orlando.

I am saddened by the possible split in the church. At the same time, I am keen to strengthen our congregation's commitment to building an inclusive, diverse Christian community in the midst of this city. Westminster's worship of God is now more important than ever—as are our programs for children and youth, our welcome of newcomers, our work for justice, our care for all, our critical thinking about issues of the day.

Westminster offers an important—and unique—witness. Let's work together to strengthen and grow our “telling presence.”

See you—and a friend whom you invite—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

WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings • • • WPC Happenings

Handbells

It's not too late! The **Westminster Handbell Choir** rehearses on Tuesdays at 5:50PM in Rm. 206. There are openings for new ringers. The **Youth Bell Choir** will register on Wednesday, September 14. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 21 in Rm. 206, 6:00PM. For more info contact: Nancy Carter, ndscart@aol.com.

Men's 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.

WOW

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.

January Trip to Cameroon with Tim Hart-Andersen

Plans are underway for a trip, **January 9-20, 2012**, to visit Cameroon and Westminster's local congregational partner there, the Kumba Town Presbyterian Church. The trip will be led by Tim Hart-Andersen. Joining him will be two Westminster members from Cameroon, Joseph Mukete and Ida Njee. Cost is approximately \$3,000, all inclusive. Some scholarship assistance available.

The trip will include home visits, meals, and worship with Kumba Town Church members, as well as an experience of Cameroon's natural beauty both in and beyond the Kumba region. The trip will be unlike a commercial tour to this West African nation, as we will be hosted by local friends. We will encounter the vibrant religious life and diverse cultural reality of the people of Cameroon. This will be a unique and rare opportunity!



Space is limited; we expect a group of about a dozen people. To express interest or for more information please contact Doug Mitchell at dmitchell@wpc-mpls.org or Tim Hart-Andersen at 612.332.3421. Watch for details about an informational gathering soon.

Births & Adoptions

LOUISE MAE ATKINSON

Birthdate: August 22, 2011
Family: Liza & Robert Atkinson and Elliot

IN MEMORY OF
Dorothy Schlichting Reif
died August 24, 2011
Dorothy M. Larson
died August 25, 2011
Gertrude (Fritzi) Sierck
died August 25, 2011



I am the Resurrection and the Life

Daily Phone Devotions Phone 612.332.7087 for the daily lectionary

September 9	Ps. 114
10.....	Rom. 14:1-12
11.....	Matt. 18:21-35
12	Heb. 11:23-29
13	Rom. 14:13-15:2
14	Mark 11:20-25
15	Exod. 16:2-15
16	Ps. 105:1-6, 37-45
17	Phil. 1:21-30
18.....	Matt. 20:1-16
19.....	Rom. 16:1-16
20.....	Ps. 119:97-104
21.....	Matt. 18:1-5
22	Exod. 17:1-7
23	Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16
24	Phil. 2:1-13
25.....	Matt. 21:23-32
26	Exod. 18:1-12

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Celebrating a Decade of Sunday/Monday

By Barbara Scott, *Sunday/Monday Connections*

Sunday/Monday Connections is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this fall, and we welcome you to be a part of it. Our speaker will be Nancy Slaughter, one of the founders and the first chair of this wonderful group for Westminster women. A member of Westminster since 1978, Nancy realized in 2001 that, although she had served on both Trustees and Session for six years each, she didn't know many new women members. After gathering a few new members, suggested by Kathy Michael, and spending a few brainstorming evenings at Nancy's condominium, a plan was formed and Sunday/Monday began.

This core group of six women (Mary Andersen, Marcia Garton, Diane Gray, Laura Lazar, Lynne Thompson, and Nancy Slaughter) knew immediately that what they wanted from this social gathering was to "pay their money and show up." A search began for a venue that would provide a fellowship area and a place for dinner. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis was found to be the most reasonable, providing the entire evening for \$25 per person (scholarships are still available), plus easy and free parking. The format is so easy it practically runs itself, and that is the beauty in our very busy lives. After hearing about us, House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul began the same program, so remember to ask

Confirmation, Middle and High School Retreats

By Meghan K. Gage-Finn, *Associate Pastor*

Confirmation Sunday 2011

We look forward to celebrating with students, their families, and mentors on Sunday, September 25 when the current class of Confirmation students will be received by the congregation in worship as new members. It has been a wonderful year of exploring the meaning of our individual faith and our faith life together, learning about other religions and traditions, serving alongside one another in the community, and growing together in fellowship. By mid-September students' Statements of Faith will be posted in the Heller Commons and I invite you to stop and read the powerful and insightful reflections from our Westminster young people.

Confirmation 2011-2012

We begin our year together with an orientation meeting in the Great Hall at 6:45PM on Wednesday, October 5. This meeting is for current 9th grade students and parents and anyone else interested in learning more about our Westminster Confirmation curriculum and process.

We begin regular classes from 6:45-8:00PM in the Founders Room on Wednesday, October 12. We'll meet weekly on Wednesdays through February 15 when we take our Lenten break. We do not meet the Wednesdays

Nancy how that's going.

This is a perfect evening for all women, and especially new members, as it provides the opportunity to meet a whole group of church women. We share a delicious meal with other Westminster women of different ages and varied backgrounds. From each event's speaker, we learn more about how our faith connects with our weekday life. As of last year, the Woman's Club needed to close on Mondays and we have had to move our evening to Tuesday – but the name was too good to give up!. Nancy attends as often as possible and is always cheered by so many new faces.

This fall, the 10th anniversary season kickoff is Tuesday, October 4, 6:00 - 8:30PM, and remember, all you have to do is "pay your money and show up!" You will be embraced by a welcoming spirit and treated to an evening of lovely food, a glass of wine (extra) if you choose, and an extraordinary speaker. Watch for the sign-up table in the Heller Commons on September 18 & 25, and please join us. Make reservations online on the calendar at ewestminster.org; send your check to the church, attention Dan Franklin (or call him at 612.332.3421).



Nancy Slaughter

of MEA week, Thanksgiving week, or the week between Christmas and New Year's. Following Easter, we meet on Sunday mornings from 8:45-10:15AM through the end of the program year in May. If you have any questions, please contact me at mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org. I am looking forward to beginning this journey with you this year!

Middle and High School Fall Retreats

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Middle and High School Fall Retreats at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. Middle School youth and leaders will head up to camp October 14-16, and the High School group will follow October 28-30. Each retreat provides opportunity for fellowship, a chance to meet with other youth from churches all over the state, and plenty of time for games, worship, study, and enjoying a beautiful Minnesota fall on Clearwater's grounds. For each retreat we meet at Westminster on Friday at 6:00PM, stop for dinner along the way, and return to church by noon on Sunday. The cost for each retreat is \$90, scholarships are available. Registration forms are on the Children, Youth & Families section of Westminster's website or contact Dan Commerford, dcommerford@wpc-mpls.org.

Peacemaking Offering Received October 2

By Douglas Mitchell, Associate Pastor

The theme for this year's Peacemaking Offering is "A Harvest of justice is sown in peace." (James 3:18)

The theme reminds me of the quote from Pope Paul VI in 1972, "If you want peace, work for justice." Justice and peace are always closely linked.

The Peacemaking Offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians through their congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly to work for peace by tearing down walls that divide. We will receive the offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2, with Presbyterian Churches across the world.

Half of the offering supports the national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Peacemaking Program; one quarter goes to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area's peacemaking programs, and one quarter stays with Westminster to support our work in promoting peace in the Twin Cities and beyond. The local



portion will go to the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) which used to be called the PEACE Foundation. See cover article.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the PC(USA) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. The national portion of the offering will go to support the ministries of the Presbyterian

Peacemaking Program. Currently, some of these programs facilitate the

International Peacemakers Program which brings people of faith from other countries to the United States to share stories about their ministry and peacemaking concerns. Others

provide resources and workshops to help Presbyterians address the study and practice of nonviolence, provide support for returning veterans and their families and provide skills for conversations on difficult issues.

Dinner for Eight

By Kent Cassidy and Debby Woodard, Dinner for Eight

Does there never seem to be enough time on Sunday to get to know the interesting people you meet at Westminster? Then please consider joining us for a dinner in the Dinner for Eight program this year.

We are starting a new season of dinners with the first dinner planned for Saturday, October 8 at 6:00PM. We are also planning other dinners this year with two in the fall (October 8 and November 12) and you are invited to join in every time or just once.

This is a great way to meet new people and get to know other members of our church better in a relaxed setting, sharing a dinner together. The concept is simple: each host opens their home to gather and prepares the entrée. The guests bring a dish to share. The goal is that by sharing a meal, new friendships will emerge, the sea of unfamiliar faces will diminish, and our community grows stronger as we learn more about one another. Each dinner is scheduled from 6:00-9:00pm and typically includes 6 to 10 people.

You can offer to host (we are always looking for new hosts!) or you can be a guest every time you participate. In order to participate in the October 8 dinner, please sign up in the Heller Commons on Sept. 18 or 25, or send an email to Kent Cassidy, kecassidy@aol.com or Debby Woodard, dwoodard@scisoc.org

Please consider joining us for a dinner or all of the dinners this year. The more the merrier!

NAZ, continued from pg. 1

There are now over 60 local organizations and school partners who have committed themselves to achieving this goal.

The Children's Defense Fund has identified low educational achievements as the key element of what they describe as a "cradle to prison pipeline" that propels far too many children into incarceration and lives on the margin. NAZ is working to redirect this "cradle to prison" pipeline into a "cradle to college" pipeline by creating a collaborative network of organizations and individuals to provide opportunities and support for all children, starting at birth, and their families in the Zone.

The work of the NAZ includes an unprecedented collaboration among public, charter and alternative K-12 schools. To coordinate efforts to meet family needs and goals, NAZ developed NAZ Connect, a web-based tool families use to seek and connect with the continuum of solutions. NAZ Connect allows families to create achievement plans and be connected to the resources they need to meet identified goals.

Come to the Social Justice Forum on September 25, 9:15AM in the Meisel Rm. and find out how you can get involved. Visit northsideachievement.org to learn more about the NAZ.

Children's Church & Church School: What's the Difference?

By Mary Alette Davis, Director of Children's Ministries

For parents of young children who are beginning church school, these two ministries might seem the same. In order to clarify their purposes here are the distinctions:

Church School takes place every Sunday, unless noted, during the program year from 9:15–10:15AM. Children ages 3 through high school have curriculum designed just for their age group and a team of volunteers teach the same grade throughout the year. The curriculum is designed to help children know the major themes of our faith from Biblical texts and stories.

Children in kindergarten through 3rd grade, begin Church School with **Gathering Time** at 9:15AM in the Youth Music Room. Here they enjoy music, prayers, offerings, and announcements before going to their classrooms where parents may pick up their children at 10:15AM.

Children's Church is designed for ages 4 to 6 years and takes place during 10:30AM service. Children begin worship in the Sanctuary with their families. Early in the

service, children are excused to be a part of children's church, which is led by staff and parent volunteers. Young children learn about worship on a simpler level designed for their age using stories, activities, and music. They also learn about the sacraments, and get to know each other and enjoy community in God's love. It is a wonderful chance for parents too, as they help tell stories and lead craft activities that help build faith for the 'age companions' of their own children at Westminster.

In addition, children are always welcome in worship and we encourage families to worship together! Each Thursday we send an email to all families with a copy of the upcoming Sunday bulletin so that you can anticipate what is to come and can talk about what you experienced after worship. Pew bags and special children's bibles are available in the sanctuary for children who remain in worship. Ask an usher! There are also laminated Order of Worship sheets in your pews with explanations to help children understand our worship service at Westminster.

The Gift of Palestinian Costume

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

Learning about and exposure to artifacts from Westminster's global partners informs us about their diverse cultural heritage. We may learn about the natural resources available to them, and how they use these materials in their everyday lives for shelter, clothing, and as an expression of their interaction with each other and the world around them.

Liz Heller has recently gifted the Westminster Collection with a Palestinian embroidered dress that she purchased in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967. The dress demonstrates the skill of the embroiderer in producing and arranging a variety of symbolic cultural representations. Each of these graphic designs has an assigned meaning that connects the garment to the city or region of creation. The long sleeves and low hemline indicate the modesty of attire in a culture where showing arms or legs is inappropriate. Those of us who traveled to Bethlehem to be in community with our partners in July respectfully wore long, leg-covering clothing for our entire visit in spite of the hot weather.

The value of a collection of art or an artifact is enriched when the history of the item is known. Putting objects into context allows us to understand both the "what" and the "why" questions regarding material culture. In this case, the first consideration was to determine the place where the dress was made. A quick Google search provided some broad information about embroidery patterns. An email to a fair trade vendor who sells items made in Palestine provided additional information. More importantly, the vendor was able to identify the Old City source: the Melia Shop, located just inside of the New Gate, which sells traditional Palestinian embroidery. A quick exchange of emails resulted in confirmation from them and the identification of Hebron as the city of origin.

Watch for the exhibition of this beautiful and elaborately embroidered dress during the Palestinian Arts Festival in May of 2012.



Dress, hand-embroidered linen, made in Hebron, Palestine, 1967

Ancient Texts for New Times: Foundations of our Faith in the Newer Testament

By Katherine S. Michael, Associate Pastor

**Sundays, Sept. 11, 18, 25, 9:15AM, Great Hall,
*The World of the Newer Testament Writers***



Andy Overman

Dr. Andy Overman begins our Sunday Education for Faith and Life with *The World of the Newer Testament Writers*. This distinguished Macalester professor and archaeologist will introduce the cultural and political environment in which the Newer Testament writers lived and worked. The influence of Jewish, Greek, and Roman culture and ethos sheds light on how we interpret and understand the ancient texts of the Newer Testament.

- Sept. 11: *Book, Temple, Lord: A Jewish World*
- Sept. 18: *Wisdom, Law, and Polis: A Greek World*
- Sept. 26: *Power, Empire, and Church: The Roman World*

**Wednesdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, 6:30PM, Meisel Room,
*The Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, and the Reformation***



Paul Capetz

Dr. Paul Capetz, Professor of Historical Theology at United Theological Seminary, opens our Wednesday evening series with a look at Paul's influence on Luther and the Reformation. Protestant Reformation was not merely a reform of abusive practices in the church, but also — and fundamentally — a reform of doctrine.

Central to Luther's convictions as a Protestant was his interpretation of the letters of Paul. In this course we will examine Paul's influence upon Luther and Luther's influence on the way we read Paul.

As we grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible and of the world it reflects, we grow in our appreciation for the riches and challenges of our faith. These two brilliant scholars set us on a journey of discovery for this year as we study *Ancient Texts for New Times*.

Movie of the Month

Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches

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

Light lunch available. Suggested donation: \$7

This brilliant and illuminating documentary begins with Paul's conversion and reenacts his missionary journeys on Anatolian soil (modern Turkey.) The film contains an archaeological treasury: mosaics, frescoes, statues, amphitheatres, and more. The historical, religious, and archaeological background of each Anatolian region in which Paul preached the gospel is explained. Yet *Apostle Paul* is more than an archaeological or historical survey; this production's reenactment of the difficulties Paul encountered and the persecution he faced beckons the viewer to experience with the Apostle himself the birth of

the Christian Church.

Filmed on location, we will see Antioch, Ephesus, Tarsus, and other cities important to Paul's ministry. This film is a must for those traveling to Turkey in April, and an important follow up for those who have visited Israel and Palestine.

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. We will open registration to those outside Westminster on September 15, so call or email now to save your place! Kmichael@wpc-mpls.org.

Town Hall Forum

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 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. Music precedes the forum at 11:30 am, and a public reception follows. All events are free and open to the public. For further information, contact Susan McKenna, smckenna@wpc-mpls.org, 612.332.3421, or visit westminsterforum.org.

