Thanksgiving
for the heart and soul of Westminster
Thanksgiving

In the middle of the darkest days of the Civil War, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln named the fourth Thursday of November a National Day of Thanksgiving and called the nation to an annual, national, conscious practice of thanksgiving. It was the year of the battle of Gettysburg and the issuance of the polarizing Proclamation of Emancipation—and the Union's preservation was anything but certain. All the presidents before him had made a proclamation, but Lincoln formalized it and it became an ordinary activity, regardless of the context.

And so our national, cultural consciousness thinks “thanksgiving” when the calendar says “November.” We have developed rituals and advertising schedules and work and sports routines around the day. For the Puritans Thanksgiving was a religious practice, formed deep in their history. For us, it is much more a civil practice to which we sometimes—maybe even often—bring our religious traditions.

The challenge for us this month, as we try to manage our lives and schedules, may be to remember that “thanksgiving” is also a gift and an expression of our faith which we are called to “apply” to the rest of our experience. So it is with our annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, this year hosted here by us, in the Westminster sanctuary, on Monday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m.

And, for this issue of Chimes, the authors of the articles have been asked to use the “lens” of thanksgiving as they report and announce and reflect. Westminster is many wonderful people and shared experiences—for which we give thanks with great joy—on both special and ordinary days.
Thankful for the heart and soul of Westminster

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you and peace. As we hover on the brink of Thanksgiving Day, I want to look back at a part of Westminster’s story that leaves me particularly thankful for the heart and soul of Westminster. It has gifted me greatly.

In 2010 two streams of our mission and planning began to come together: A strategic planning process and the ministry task force. The coalescence of those two efforts has led us to emphasize a thoughtful and prudent purpose: Participation and our core missions.

“Participation and not mere patronage” is one of the key elements that emerged during our strategic planning. We became convinced that, as important as our financial contributions, are our investments of human capital in addressing the needs of our community. We learned that building transformational relationships is as important as our supporting service organizations financially. We have heard a clarion call to find ways for as many of us as possible to participate in hands-on, face-to-face ministry in our city.

And the focus on our Core Missions emerged at about the same time. The Ministry Task Force was established in 2007 to put our arms around the Westminster Child Development Center, Camp Henry, and the Downtown Food Pantry to evaluate their viability and appropriate relationship to Westminster. Session determined that all three missions were not only viable, but critical missions in keeping with Westminster’s vision. Since then, each has a new and highly skilled executive director. Each has achieved great financial stability. Each is far more tightly integrated with Westminster. And each is now considered one of our core missions.

In a personal result of this vision, I began mentoring at Guiding Light Mission—that work continues to deepen my sense of God’s participation in our human lives. And I have had the privilege of working far more closely with Amber Marz-Momany, Jake Jacobs, and Angie Kelley, the three executive directors of our core missions. More dedicated, serious, and hard-working people you will not find. I am deeply grateful for the integrity of Westminster’s vision, and I am thankful to God that I have been drawn into the mission of this church. It is an amazing gift to me. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Chandler Stokes

PS - Friends, shortly before Katie Baker’s farewell celebration on September 28, we learned that she had received a new call to Central Reformed Church here in Grand Rapids as Minister for Lifelong Learning. Congratulations to Katie and thanks be to God!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2014 - 8:30 AND 11:00

CONFIRMATION AND FALL PREACHING SERIES

NOVEMBER 2: WHY DO WE PASS IT?
Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching on Communion
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2-9-10
Music: John Schlafley, tenor at 8:30a
Joe Ivy, soloist, Cherub and Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a.

NOVEMBER 9: WHY IS THERE SO MUCH HURT?
The Sacrament of Baptism
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching on Suffering
Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30
Music: Cheri Reid, soprano at 8:30a
Cantus, Carol, and Sanctuary Choirs at 11:00a.

NOVEMBER 16: NOW WHAT?
Confirmation Sunday
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching on Faith
Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3
Music: Lee Copenhaver, cello and Helen Hofmeister, harpsichord at 8:30a & 11:00a
Kirk Singers and Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a.

NOVEMBER 23: THY KINGDOM COME
Reign of Christ Sunday
Rev. Jen Porter preaching
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46
Music: Westminster Winds at 8:30a & 11:00a
Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a.

NOVEMBER 30: THE LUMINOUS DARK
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Chandler Stokes preaching
Scripture: Psalm 139:1-12
Music: Sarah Faasse, soprano at 8:30a
Chapel Ringers and Sanctuary Choir at 11:00a.
The week of November 2

Comparison is the thief of joy. (Teddy Roosevelt)

Dr. Jacobs up at Camp Henry reminds us that something that’s fungible is something that can be replaced by something else. One Werthers’ candy is the same as every other. But no person is fungible. There is no comparing people. Anne Lamott recently wrote: “We offer what we can: an apricot tree can offer apricots.” That’s the point. I’ve learned an adage that says much the same thing: Be yourself; everybody else is taken.

I pray to give thanks for what I have and who I am without comparison.

The week of November 9

“One does not become grateful by an act of will, nor does one seem able to create the quality in others. Persistent and repeated instructions by parents have not guaranteed grateful children. Preachers exhort gratitude and all agree, we ought to be grateful, but… one of the traditional mealtime prayers asks, “Lord, make us grateful.” Perhaps that is the heart of the matter; God provides not only the food, but also the grateful heart. …gratitude is a grace in the true sense of the word.” (Fred Craddock)

I pray, “Lord make me grateful.”

The week of November 16

I knew a man in California. He and his wife struggled many years, trying to have children. It was awful, hard, and lonely. They then adopted two girls. The gift of those daughters was completely sustaining—or rather it was the gratitude he felt. He told me once through his tears, “Chandler, I only have one prayer, but I pray it all the time: ‘Thank you.’” Those daughters were not easy! They were very challenging pre-teens and then teenagers while I was there, but I still only ever heard this man thank God for them.

I pray to know gratitude and remember to be thankful.

The week of November 23

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice. (Old saw of a joke)

No one can make you grateful, but you can practice it and hope that it will change you. It’s a practice: we say it, the word comes out. It’s there; it’s real. As always, we act ourselves into new ways of thinking far better than we think ourselves into new ways of acting. Practice thanksgiving and see where it leads.

I pray that to have the grace simply to practice thanksgiving and let it change me.

The week of November 30

The day of your greatest triumph is empty unless you have an altar to place it on. (Fred Craddock)

Gratitude builds an altar, so that the good things, the blessings, the wonders have a place to be offered. I would ask him, “How are you doing today?” Even with the terrible things he had been through in his life, all he ever said to me was, “Oh, I’m blessed.” He had an altar in his heart. And to that altar he trod a well-worn path.

I pray that God would build such an altar in my heart.
Not long ago I had a chance to read an essay by author Rebecca Solnit that, for me, perfectly grasped something about the essence of despair, and thus also about the essence of hope. She wrote:

> Despair is a form of certainty, certainty that the future will be a lot like the present or will decline from it; despair is a confident memory of the future…. Optimism is similarly confident about what will happen. Both are grounds for not acting. Hope can be the knowledge that we don’t have that memory and that reality doesn’t necessarily match our plans...

Later in her essay, she quotes Virginia Woolf, who once wrote: "The future is dark, which is the best thing the future can be, I think." Doesn’t that tell us something about the gift of the darkness: Keeping us from confining the liberating power of God? That essay gave me a lens for reading Time magazine’s article about Barbara Brown Taylor, whose most recent book is called Learning to Walk in the Dark. These sources then thrust me back into an exploration of Psalm 139—especially the passage quoted above.

So, this Advent we will be exploring the gifts in the darkness, as well as in the light. We will begin with darkness, which is never far from us when we are paying attention to the hurt of the world or the hurt within our own souls. And we will also explore the glimmering gifts of light as the season progresses. The two quotations above, from Psalm 139 and from Barbara Brown Taylor, will serve as points of departure for our Advent journey. We will begin by remembering that God is Lord of all, that even the darkness is not dark to God—and that when we find ourselves in oppressive darkness, we are not alone; God has habitually met God’s people in their darkness: Pointing to the stars at night for Abraham to count his descendants to come, starting their exodus on Passover night, meeting Moses in the darkness on Mt. Sinai, converting Saul in his blindness, and raising Jesus in the dark of the tomb. All these liberating gifts, all given in the darkness.

Please join us for the Advent Journey as we explore the gifts in the darkness and in the light.

**November 30 - First Sunday of Advent**  
*The Luminous Dark - Scripture: Psalm 139:1-12*

**December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent**  
*Moving in Darkness - Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11*

**December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent**  
*The Light of Hope - Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

**December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
*The Light of Love - Scripture: Romans 16:25-27*

**December 24 - The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve**  
*Sitting in Darkness - Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, and Matthew 4:12-23*
CONVERSATIONS FOR ADULTS ABOUT LIFE AND FAITH – MEETS SUNDAYS 9:40 – 10:40A
JOIN US IN THE CHAPEL FOR MOST SESSIONS

November 2
Order Out of Chaos—Week 2
When someone you love dies, so much of what was ordered becomes chaotic. As hard as it is, there is truly a community of support to help you bring new order through a disruptive and holy time. Together we will explore subjects from the theology of funerals to the details of working with a funeral home, and we will explain what happens here at Westminster in response to a death. We will draw on the experiences of Steve Baron as a funeral home director and Chandler Stokes as a pastor, but we’ll also look to the collaborative wisdom of Tom Long and Thomas Lynch, authors of *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*. New participants welcome this second week!
*Leaders:* Rev. Chandler Stokes and Steve Baron

November 9
The Community of Christ: The Early Years
It has been said that the first disciples didn’t set out to create the church but rather they discovered they were the church. What did the early church “borrow” from Jewish and Roman culture and what was unique about this gathering? We’ll focus this week on what Christian community might have been like in that early time.
*Leader:* Nancy Janisch, MDiv, ministry coordinator for True North Campus Ministry

November 16
The Community of Christ: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities
From the days of Constantine through the Great Schism and the Reformation, the church endures! Yet the church of the 21st century looks and functions quite differently than the early church, facing new tensions and pressures. What roots do we need to nourish and what new growth might we hope to encourage? What is church supposed to be??
*Leader:* Sherrill Vore, Minister for Christian Education

November 23
The Community of Christ at Westminster
What binds us together? How are we experiencing our daily lives as people of faith? In what ways we offer and find support, caring for one another and for those around us? What nurtures our own sense of community? We’ll begin with some specific stories, but this will be an opportunity to share experiences, to be resources for one another.
*Facilitators:* Nancy Janisch and Sherrill Vore

WANT TO BE REMINDED OF THE ADULT CLASSES EACH WEEK? Sign up on Sunday morning for the e-mail reminder or call Becky Wells, 717-5532, to put your e-mail on the list.

CHILDREN’S EDUCATION AND CHOIR
meets 9:30-10:45a each Sunday

“Downstairs” Groups
Our Preschool and Kindergarten classes are exploring the stories of those first gathered to become a People of God. This month they’ll work with Joseph and his brothers.

3 and 4-year olds: Jeanne Early, Durelle Evans
Kindergarten: Katie VanHaven, Carrie Moskol
Choir: Cara Hyink (Director) and Lisa Duitman (accompanist).

“Upstairs” Groups – Witnesses to God’s Presence
As we continue our study of Exodus we’ll focus on the time at Sinai—the giving of the 10 Commandments and building the Tabernacle.
Choirs: Luanne Barnes, Director
News from our sister church- Benton Harbor

November is a time to be thankful, and we have much to be grateful for here at First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor. Our hearts are overflowing with God's amazing blessings poured out on our small humble church we call family. Here are just a few snapshots of some of these blessings:

- Individuals with different stories from all walks of life come together each week in a sacred space and worship together. Here, we come together as broken individuals, yet each week we leave with the reminder that we are brothers and sisters, united in Christ.
- Laughter is heard, stories are told, hugs and handshakes are exchanged each and every week during our Thursday Night Suppers. Dedicated volunteers purchase and prepare the food, and together we have the opportunity to sit down, put our technology away, talk with one another, and get to know our brothers and sisters by name.
- Hope is restored to individuals who visit our food pantry. In return, their smiles and grateful hearts are a gift within itself.
- The beginning of our very first youth group is really starting to bloom. The youth chose the acronym ICE, which stands for “In Christ Eternally,” as a group name. They are hungry for the word of God and now have a safe and fun atmosphere to come to each month to deepen their understanding and love for God.

The list could go on and on. Even though Benton Harbor is seen as an economically deprived area, there is so much to be grateful for. God is alive and well in our little community and church. Praise be to God!

Julie Brien, Resident in Mission

Beginnings and first impressions - Rev. Jen Porter

Officially two weeks into this new role and Westminster has made a big impression, not just on myself but on my family as well. Day one in Sunday school, Max robed up and was singing in the choir. Graham came home that morning asking if we could go to the bonfire and potluck on the 18th. What a joy for a kindergartener to be asking! Beyond my boys, I've been delighted to see a congregation where so many have found their place. My first impressions here have been filled with warm introductions, of people who don't hang back, but step out to introduce themselves with a genuineness and unique love for this congregation, whether they've been part for 40 years or just a few years. The youth followed suit coming over to introduce themselves at the deli. That says to me, these patterns run deeply here. I see a wonderful energy and excitement about what is happening and what we can do together. I've been struck over and over by just how reflective and intentional this community is...from people sharing parts of the sermon, to the questions I've heard around many different tables, to the holy practices that mark the gathering of the session!

Thank you for the welcome Westminster, I’m excited to see what God has in store for all the incredible gifts that dwell here.

— Rev. Jen Porter
Westminster Art Gallery

“Connected - art from a spiritual perspective”

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Art Gallery will be exhibiting work from “Connected - art from a spiritual perspective: for November and December. This project was the inspiration of Tammy Tappan, artist and founder of “Connected.”

As a new member of a church congregation, Tammy was approached by a church member who described a vision he had experienced and the scripture which he felt motivated the vision. He asked Tammy if she could paint this experience. Through this partnership and others that followed, what became obvious to Tammy was that art created a bridge...painting was a way for her to communicate with people. Art took away many obstacles to communication and created opportunities to understand another person’s perspective. Tammy wanted to share this experience with as many people as possible and the “Connected” project helps her to realize this goal.

In June of 2013, 66 people; storytellers and artists, gathered at Tammy’s studio. Each storyteller received an envelope containing an artist’s name. Pairs of artists/storytellers were each given a “big” word for discussion: Love, compassion, harmony, strength.... Participants were encouraged to share thoughts, stories and visions. The result of that initial gathering, was “Connected - art from a spiritual perspective,” an exhibition of 33 paired works which were created by each artist/storyteller.

The “Connected” exhibition was displayed in the Harris Building for Artprize 2013. It has since grown to include 80 pairs of artists/storytellers. During Artprize 2014, the exhibition was shown at Bar Diviani on Ionia Street. The artwork now travels around the country. Selections from the exhibit will be displayed in Kentucky this fall. We are pleased to display 24 of the artist/storyteller works in the WPC Gallery. After hanging at WPC, these pieces will be exhibited in Pensacola, Florida.

If you are interested in becoming part of this project, contact Tammy at tammy@connectedartbook.com.

Minnie Behl Scholarship Opportunity

A new school year has begun and you have a lot to look forward to this year. Many great experiences await you, with many decisions to make, not the least of which is what school you will be attending next year. Perhaps you have been thinking about Alma College, a Presbyterian liberal arts school, located about 50 miles north of Lansing. If you visit their website, www.alma.edu, you will get a sense of the wonderful educational opportunities available there. As you are making your decision, cost is another factor to consider. Westminster offers a way to make attending this school more possible for you. The Minnie Behl Scholarship program, offers up to 10% of the yearly cost of tuition, books, and room and board to members of Westminster, and up to 5% of the costs to non-members/relatives of Westminster. We think it is important to let you know early so that you can more seriously consider this school given the scholarship opportunity available.

Applications for the scholarship are available in the WPC office by contacting Cindy Hardy, Financial Manager, at cindyh@wpcgr.org or 717-5583. Completed applications are due back to Cindy by the end of April, 2015. Senior High Youth Group members, expect to get some additional information via email in the next month. Any questions, please contact Mary Carrington at mwc545@sbcglobal.net.
Music at Westminster

“O give thanks to the Lord.” Psalm 105
We are thankful for...

- 93 volunteer choir members on the roster for the Sanctuary Choir.
- A great professional music staff, including Janlee Richter, Lee Copenhaver, Luanne K. Barnes, Cara Hyink, and Lisa Duitman.
- Volunteers who take care of the music library and the robes.
- The many youth and children who participate in our graded choir program. Cantus, Cherub, Carol Choirs and the Chapel and Kirk Singers.
- The parents who drive their youth and children to the rehearsals and service.
- Professional staff people who provide administrative and custodial staff.

“Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.” Psalm 105
— Helen Hofmeister

November Worship Music Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performance</th>
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<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>John Schlafl, tenor</td>
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<td>Joe Ivy, soloist</td>
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<td>Cherub Choir</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Choir</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Cantus Choir</td>
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<td>Carol Choir</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Choir</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
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<td>Lee Copenhaver, cello</td>
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<td>Helen Hofmeiser, harpsichord</td>
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<td>Kirk Singers</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
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<td>Westminster Winds</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Choir</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
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<td>Sarah Faasse, soprano</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Chapel Ringers</td>
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Youth ministry - giving thanks

The WPC Deli was a huge success! On Sunday, October 5 the Middle School youth and leaders raised over $1100 for the 2015 Middle School summer “Mystery Trip.” We improved on last year’s total of $800. Thank you to all who participated, donated and bought subs. It was wonderful to have you stop by the dining room to visit and support the middle school youth. Special thanks goes out to all the parents and leaders who volunteered their time to prepare and serve sandwiches. Our youth programs wouldn’t be able to operate without your dedication to the youth. Finally, a big thanks goes out to Jeff Tiggleman and Applause Catering, who once again donated all the food for the Deli. We at Westminster and especially those involved in the youth programs, want to express our deep gratitude for this gift!

Kyle Nolan, Minister to Youth and Families
Camp Henry -  *Honors long time camp supporter*

“Camp Henry Honors Don Taylor”

Camp Henry just completed construction of a beautiful new deck and boat house along the waterfront. This wonderful new addition was built in honor of long time Camp Henry supporter, volunteer, fund raiser, ambassador, and advocate – Don Taylor. The plaque on the Don Taylor Boat House reads:

**Built in honor of**
**Donald E. Taylor**
**Honoring his enduring passion, commitment, and dedication to**
**Camp Henry**

Over the past four decades there is no one who has been more consistent, tireless, and passionate in their support of Camp Henry than Don Taylor. It is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize and appreciate him and all that he has done for Camp Henry.

WCDC -thank you teachers!

“We must make it a priority to invest in early education for students and families, so we open the doors of opportunity to every child and help provide them the skills they need to get ahead and realize their dream.” — Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)

This quote exemplifies precisely what WCDC believes and strives to do. This goal of quality early childhood education wouldn’t be possible if it wasn’t for our dedicated staff of 18 teachers who are making our mission a reality for the children and families we serve each and every day. I once heard that finding a great teacher is not always the easiest task to accomplish, making me feel even more blessed to work alongside the wonderful teachers we have at WCDC. These teachers spend countless hours planning and preparing for their daily lessons to ensure that the children of WCDC will be well prepared for elementary school when they leave us. Many of the small extras that these teachers do go unnoticed because quality teaching has become second nature to them. It is with honor that I can thank each of these wonderful teachers for their dedication and commitment to the mission of Westminster.

Jessica Eisen, Tanya Gilbert, Michaela Martin, Linda McDiarmid, Sara Nichols, Kenna Paxson, Kate Phillips, Cheryl Plaska, Katie Prince, Jacqueline Sain, Sarah Shusta, Kristen Schuen, Kristen Sokol, Jennifer Taylor, Patti Walsh, and Veronica Washington

— Amber Marz-Momany, WCDC Director
It might be difficult to determine who receives the greatest benefits at our pantry – the volunteers or the clients.

Caring for our neighbors and feeding the hungry is the primary goal. Yet, each volunteer feels strongly that it is just as important to treat pantry clients with the respect and dignity they deserve; to know them, to listen to concerns, and to offer a warm smile and a compassionate word. Friendships have been built across racial, religious, and class lines that neither side might have envisioned. At the pantry, loving those whom we serve is automatic.

There is never a day at the pantry when volunteers don’t hear from clients: “I am so blessed”. How many of us express our gratitude so readily?

Sincere, heart-felt thank-yous are common from clients. Do we offer thanks enough?

Here is a factor to consider; each and every volunteer at the food pantry feels the abundance of God’s grace far more than the food our clients receive.

A volunteer recently stated that she was proud that the pantry practices Christian hospitality. Know this: Westminster’s welcome prevails in the basement! It is only food - important to our clients, but serving others is critical to our Christian faith.

Let thanks be given: To Westminster for the vision and drive to serve; to the downtown churches, over 200 boxes of food from the October Food Drive; and to our clients who remind us that life is not always easy, but is always gracious to all.

— Steve Pastoor, Treasurer, Food Pantry Board

“Where Would We be Without Our Deacons?”

Without Administrative Deacons we would not have communion, rides to church for those who need them, blood drives, flu shots, or the Deacon Fund, which meets the needs of members who are facing a crisis.

Without Caring Deacons we could not provide Pastoral Care Team directed short-term care to members who face physical, mental, emotional, or relational challenges. There would be no hospital visits, no notes of care following illness or bereavement, no follow-up calls from fellow members of the congregation.

Without Sustaining Deacons there would be no organized way of nurturing Westminster members with long term needs through monthly phone calls or visits, delivery of Easter lilies or Christmas poinsettias, and home communion from fellow members.

In short, these three different types of deacons bring the love of Christ and the spirit of Westminster to its members and the community. It’s impossible to imagine where we would be without them! Deacons are lay leaders who perform important work—work that is often behind the scenes, in one-on-one relationships, or in administrative functions of coordination, scheduling, and providing support.

The Nominations Committee is seeking members of the Deacon Ministry, a ministry of caring, love, compassion, and prayer. If you feel called to serve in this vital part of Westminster’s lay ministry or if you know someone who has these gifts, please contact Daryl Fischer, Elder for Nominating, at 616-502-3554 or musynergy@charter.net. Thank you.
Welcome New Members

On Sunday, October 19 we officially received 15 new members into the life of Westminster. They spent 2 evenings with staff, elders, and Membership Growth & Development committee members as a way to learn more about who we are as a congregation and how together, we can engage in ministry. As Chandler tells each group when they go through orientation - we are now a new church! And we look forward to how we will grow and learn with these 15 new members in our midst. Welcome!

Marvin Bell

Tim & Kathy Born
Molly, Nancy & Patrick

Stephanie & Jason Doublestein
Anna & Jemma

Wayne & Alissa Enzenberger

Carla & Joel Fortuna

Shu & Betty Kuik

Jane McGookey

Jackson, Karen & James Snavely

Timothy Terlouw
WorldWide Ministries

Mission Participation Trips for 2015

Start Planning Now! The WorldWide Ministries Committee announces two sponsored trips for Westminster members’ participation in the next year.

We are recruiting about 15 persons to travel, April 24-May 1 or 2, with the organization First Hand Aid to Cuba (led by WPC member Marc Bohland) (www.firsthandaid.org), and members of the WorldWide committee. As nearly 80 other WPC members who have participated in this ministry will tell you, this is a unique combination of service (medical supplies), education, and tourism that is possible only because we travel to bring in medical supplies. Look for more information in coming weeks or contact Rev. David Baak, davidb@wpcgr.org

Volunteer to Help Change Lives

We are recruiting 10 persons to travel to Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, from September 19 to 26, 2015, with the organization Re Member. (www.re-member.org) This service trip promotes relationship building and solidarity with the Oglala Lakota people. When not on a worksite, volunteers are immersed in Lakota culture through tours and daily discussion, music, and Lakota speakers.

The poverty on Pine Ridge can be described in no other terms than third world. It is common to find homes overcrowded, as those with homes take in whoever needs a roof over their heads. Many homes are without running water, and without sewer. You can help make a difference.

For more information contact Brian Spangelo, brian.spangelo@gmail.com.
Small group news and events

WORKING WOMEN’S CLOTHING CLOSET
Attention: Resourceful Women! Do you have dress pants or suits that don’t fit, or blouses and sweaters that you don’t wear anymore? Are you overwhelmed with blazers, skirts, handbags, and shoes that won’t fit in your closet? New (unused) underwear and stockings, is also needed. Westminster will host a professional clothing drive for the Working Women’s Clothing Closet at the Women’s Resource Center of Grand Rapids on Sunday, November 9. Bins will be located in the Dining Room to receive your donations. (Tax receipts to itemize donations will also be available upon request.) If you have questions, contact Linda Bieze at 616-780-1217, or linda.bieze@gmail.com.

WESTMINSTER BLOOD DRIVE
The Westminster Blood Drive is November 16. For many years Westminster has participated in the blood drives for Michigan Community Blood Center. Unfortunately, the number of units collected at WPC has dropped significantly. We are on the edge of being “below average.” For all youth who step up and give six times at any site before graduation will receive a Donor for Life award, and a cord to wear at graduation, signifying their willingness to donate for this life saving gift. Please consider stepping up to give the gift of life. Join us in the south dining room on Sunday, November 16, 9:30a-12:30p. Walk-ins welcome! Contact Sandy Topliffe at stopliffe@comcast.net if you have questions.

EXPLORING FAITH
The Exploring Faith book club has begun it’s second season. On November 5, the Book Club will discuss The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World (2014 Harper Collins), by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Rev. Mpho Tutu. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month, September through May. This month we will meet at the home of Chuck Strikwerda, 2148 Buchard SE, East Grand Rapids, from 1:30-3:00p. Join us, new members are always welcome. Questions: Contact Chuck Strikwerda, 245-6929.

FASD (FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER)
One of our longstanding commitments at WPC has been supporting those with special needs, particularly those within the FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) community.

Raising awareness and creating a space of welcome, there are two groups that meet at Westminster: An FASD support group for those diagnosed with or passionate about the FASD community and an FASD parent(s’) support group for those who have children with FASD.

September’s meeting was a time of great discussion about individual fears as the group participated in a mutual empathy and peer support exercise. It was great to experience group members making deeper connections with each other as each person shared and also offered their understanding to others about their struggles. The group ended in a light-hearted manner as they selected words to fill in mad libs together. This was not only fun, but a great English grammar review!

The FASD support group will meet regularly (on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00-8:30pm) in the youth space of the church. The FASD parent(s’) support group will meet at the same time in the conference room. Please contact Michele with any questions or interest in the FASD support group! Phone: (770) 329-9563, Email: seachele47@gmail.com.

ARTPRIZE 2014: A LOOK BACK
Another season of ArtPrize has come and gone – phew! ArtPrize continues to be a thriving part of the Grand Rapids Community, and we have enjoyed being a part of it the past four years. Westminster’s ArtPrize theme this year was Community. We wanted to acknowledge the importance of nurturing community both within the congregation and among its neighbors. Westminster’s community, especially during ArtPrize, is built from the hard work, selflessly donated time and energy, and creativity of all of the volunteers and staff.

ArtPrize is a big production, and we absolutely could not function without the wonderful volunteers and staff. To everyone involved in ArtPrize at Westminster that gave a suggestion, an afternoon, or a helping hand moving an item, THANK YOU.

— Erin VandenBroek
Small group news and events

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN ADULTS
Westminster Presbyterian Adults is a group of vibrant adults 55 and up. You are invited to join us for a luncheon in the Westminster dining room on Thursday, November 13. Punch bowl at 11:30a with lunch served at 12 noon. Our program will be “monument Men” presented by Betsie Ford Maine, whose father was a member of the project to reclaim works of art stolen by the Nazis during WW II. The story has recently been featured in the Smithsonian magazine and a movie of the same name. Betsie’s father returned from the war and became President of the Kendall School of Art and Design. Questions, contact Jan Dildine by phone at 866-9281 or janet.dildine@comcast.net.


WESTMINSTER WORKS
Westminster Works is in its third year as our career, re-employment, and vocational guidance ministry. The Westminster Works Earn Roundtable for persons in employment transition meets weekly on Thursday mornings at Westminster from 9:00 to 11:00a. Larry Bratschie, Westminster Works Ministry Coordinator, and Ken Soper, weekly Work Search Roundtable Facilitator, host the Roundtable. For more information on the Westminster Works program please contact, Larry Bratschie, at larbratch@msn.com or 616-229-6246.

WPC FICTION BOOK GROUP
The WPC Fiction Book Group meets on the third Sunday evening of the month at 7:00p in the Youth Lounge. We are reading "Still Life" by Louise Penny for our meeting November 16. With this award-winning first novel, Louise Penny introduces an engaging hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces with power, ingenuity, and charm. Come join us for an evening of sleuthing and lively discussion.

Any questions feel free to contact Marcie Beck at beckmarcella7@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK CHURCHMEN’S LUNCHEON
Weekly buffet luncheon Wednesdays at 11:30a, followed by fellowship and meditation, led by Rev. Don Gordon. Westminster Dining Room.

November 26: NO CHURCHMEN’S LUNCHEON Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

ELISABETH CIRCLE
The Elisabeth Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 1:00p in the Parlor. They will have a discussion of Chapter 10, "Annie Dillard" in Philip Yancey’s book, Soul Survivor. If you wish come and share fellowship, bringing your sack lunch, at noon prior to the 1:00p meeting. We are always eager to welcome visitors and new members. If you have questions, call Lois Waldecker at 784-0900.

EVERGREEN CIRCLE
The Evergreen Circle continues to study Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. You can still jump in, we always welcome new people. Wednesday evenings in the library; 7:00p to 8:30p. We meet weekly for nine weeks which will end around Thanksgiving time. Call Marilyn Lawrence, 454-1723, with your questions.

Daylight savings times ends on Sunday, November 2
Remember to turn your clocks back!

Westminster Presbyterian Church | Chimes 15
The deadline for December Chimes is November 10. Please submit any and all information for the Chimes to: chimes@wpcgr.org or to Becky Wells at beckyw@wpcgr.org. Thank you.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER ONLINE

Stay connected with us online for up-to-date news and information about our congregational life and ministry.

- www.westminstergr.org
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