



# Westminster Witness

August 2, 2009

Have you ever been sitting in church and thought: "Boy, if only we had (fill in the blank) here at Westminster, wouldn't that be perfect?"

During the summer quite a few of us are gone on the weekends for family vacations, the lake, and traveling. However, now is the perfect time to start thinking about what YOU would like to see here during those "other" three seasons we have here in Spokane!

We have new leadership and direction in the Manna Concert (October 4<sup>th</sup>), the Christmas Market (November 7<sup>th</sup>), and the Tree of Sharing (November 20<sup>th</sup>-December 13<sup>th</sup>). Those three projects have been happening for some time now and have been a big part of our church life. You can be a part of them too! We always need volunteers for those projects plus Sunday School teachers, Event Hosts and Sunday greeters.

There are also several small groups meeting now that you might wish to join, including knitting and craft groups, Spirit and Service, Book and Poetry groups, game nights, Questioning Believers and Bible study groups. Many of these will restart with new vigor in the fall, so look for more informa-

tion in the next Witness.

As we head into our stewardship season, now is a great time to be thinking about the committees and boards of the church. They are a great way to get your voice heard plus help the church to move forward in a positive way! Would you consider taking a leadership role on one or more of these groups? To find out more, you can talk to existing members of the group, our pastors, the moderator or look on the church website.

What else would you like to see? What might you be willing to help make happen? In the past there have been talks about fellowship dinners, talent shows, even movies that could be shown in the social hall. Want to help make that happen? Have something different you think the church family might enjoy? Let's have a conversation about that! You may also be seeing news via email about an online survey about these and other options. If you're not receiving updates by email, now is a great time to start. Send a message asking to be included in email updates to [wcunited@qwestoffice.net](mailto:wcunited@qwestoffice.net).



**Have you seen our pastor?**  
We look forward to her return from sabbatical.  
Pastor Andy will be preaching **August 23.**

We look forward to a vibrant and exciting fall, and we hope you will be a part of Westminster's life!

Ministers, All of God's People	<b>Church Staff</b>	Nursery Attendant Teresa Benedict
Office Manager/Financial Secretary Robin McLain	Senior Pastor The Rev. Andrea CastroLang	Publications Editor Sarah Hopkins
Interim Choir Director Verne Windham	Assistant Pastor The Rev. Marj Johnston	Children's Activity Director Jessie Vignali
Caretaker John Koons III	Organist Scot Stout	

**God is Still Speaking,**

## News from Council and Committees

### A word from your Trustees...

#### 2010 Budget Process

Last year the Trustees and Church Council adopted a new budget process and time line. By completing the budget before going into the Stewardship Campaign, we were better able to illustrate our needs and expectations prior to asking for pledges. As a result, the response of 2009 pledges were significantly higher than in 2008. Summer is now winding down, and it is time once again to begin the budgeting process. Each board will submit their 2010 budget request at the August 25 Church Council meeting. The Trustees will begin drafting a budget during their September 9 meeting. The Trustees will present the budget plan to the Church Council meeting on October 27. The congregation will have a chance to examine and discuss the Budget at a Town Hall Meeting in early November before a Congregational Meeting to adopt the working budget. Watch for specific dates of the Town Hall and Congregational Meetings. Remember, Boards, Committees, and Church Council meetings are open to everyone.

#### The Gamble Society

Maybe you have heard a pastor, a trustee or other church leader speak of it. Maybe you have seen it mentioned in the Annual Report or the Westminster Witness. Maybe you have wondered "What is it?", "What's going on with it?" or "How do I become a member?" Great news, all those questions will be answered this fall. The Gamble Society is made up of those people who commit a gift to Westminster in the form of planned giving. Planned gifts are those made through your will or designations of life insurance or retirement benefits to be distributed from your estate. There are many ways to set up and create such gifts. This fall you will be receiving a letter inviting you to become a member of the Gamble Society. Your giving plan will be confidential, only your membership in the Gamble Society will be known. Elsa Distelhorst will be working with those friends and members interest in joining

the Gamble Society and she looks forward to meeting you and answering all your questions.

David Vestal, Co-Chair of Trustees

### Outreach

#### Meals on Wheels

During August, Westminster is responsible for delivery with Meals on Wheels from August 10 through 14. If you can help drive and/or deliver, please contact Shelby Rothstrom at [meridth@comcast.net](mailto:meridth@comcast.net) or 747-3486. And mark these dates for fall as you make plans to serve Spokane's vulnerable and hungry folks: September 14-18, October 19-23, November 23-25 (Thanksgiving week), and December 28-31.

### Open & Affirming

#### Living OUT our claim as ONA

We're taking our show "on the road!" In June a number of members and friends of Westminster participated in Spokane's Pride events. Now we're planning a road trip to Moscow, Idaho for Palouse Pride. Join in the fun of supporting the LGBTQ and ally community in Moscow/Pullman. We'll leave Westminster at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 15. Eat breakfast before you come or choose your favorite downtown fast food. It's a two-hour drive from Spokane to Moscow, and the parade starts at 11:30am. We'll carry our Westminster banner and provide an Open & Affirming witness there as a faith community where all are welcome. We'll likely connect with our friends at Pullman's Community Congregational UCC, also an ONA congregation in the Pacific Northwest Conference. Bring your brown bag lunch or money to spend on lunch and incidentals. Questions? Or would you like to be the contact for planning? Contact Pastor Marj at 624-1366, ext. 312 or via [pastormarj@qwestoffice.net](mailto:pastormarj@qwestoffice.net). This what it's all about, living into who we are as children created in the image of the still-creating God!

## Pastors and Staff

### Marj's Musings

*If* I were a student returning to school at the end of August, and *If* I were asked to write about something significant and extraordinary from this summer, it would be this: Westminster believes in feeding people in body, soul and spirit.

It has been my honor and my privilege to serve at Westminster and *through* Westminster fulltime now for two and a half years and as “solo” pastor during Pastor Andy’s sabbatical since mid-May. You have been generous with your time and support in seeing that the necessary things of worship were done. Boards and committees carried on efforts and tasks at hand as well as taking necessary steps in anticipation of fall and our next months together. Of course we’ve seen empty spots as some of you have traveled and vacationed. And we’ve shared experiences with visitors and guests who looked for opportunity to share worship with us on their own travels to or through Spokane.

Our fellowship times after both worship services became one common coffee hour between the two worship services, and we’ve had delightful refreshments provided by families and friends. During that same time we’ve shared conversations about spiritual things in our lives through experiences, books read, movies watched, and news stories of the day.

Vital ministries have continued: Meals on Wheels STILL needs you for driving and delivering meals from August 10 through 14. Outreach will lead us in providing evening meals for families who are staying with Interfaith Hospitality Network from August 23-29. The next Life Feed is scheduled for Saturday, August 29. Throughout the spring and summer we’ve donated four (yes, four!) barrels of food items to our local food bank. Planning is well underway for our 2009 Manna concert (October 4!), a benefit for Meals on Wheels and Second Harvest Food Bank. Do you see the theme? Food for those who are hungry—body, soul *and* spirit.

The words of Jesus to “feed the hungry” have come

alive in new ways through our opportunities to serve together. Thank you for modeling your faith and life journeys by doing the work and the words Jesus calls us to do in this place! Thank you for allowing me to serve you and to serve with you in sharing what I read, hear and experience of the sacred texts in our life and faith journey together.

May you continue to be blessed and be blessings!  
Pastor Marj

### Outreach Opportunity

Last year I had the honor of serving as chaplain for a weeklong spiritual retreat called ***Strength for the Journey***. The retreat is sponsored by the Pacific NW District of the United Methodist Church, held at our own N-Sid-Sen Camp & Conference Center, which provides us with a unique ecumenical partnership. It is one of the safe places for those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and it’s an amazing time of activities and relaxation. ***The invitation to us is this:*** Donations of home-baked cookies, snack foods, fruit and vegetables are needed for the five day event. And simple notes of encouragement are written to the participants and placed in “mail boxes” each day of the retreat. There will be 40 participants this year, along with 15 staff members. ***Join Pastor Marj on Thursday, August 20, from 10am to noon in the Conference Room at the church to write notes.*** Cookies and donated snacks may be delivered to Pastor Marj at that time as well—the retreat begins on Monday, August 24.

### Choir Director Position now Open

Westminster is accepting resumes for a 1/4 time choir director. The position begins in September, and pay is depending on experience. A job description is available on the church website or by calling the church office. Resumes should be sent to: [wcunited@qwestoffice.net](mailto:wcunited@qwestoffice.net)

# Westminster Family and Friends

## Happy Birthday to....

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Scot Stout  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - Judy Griffin  
 6<sup>th</sup> - Edward Thew  
       Hal French  
       Janine Alden  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Judy Grollmus  
       Andy CastroLang  
 12<sup>th</sup> - Betty Graham  
 13<sup>th</sup> - Peggy Burt  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Gordon Ruehl  
 15<sup>th</sup> - Donald Norton  
 16<sup>th</sup> - Steve Olson  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Mary Seaton  
       Floye Barland  
       Jill Royston  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - Betty McCormick  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Betty Brooks  
 26<sup>th</sup> - Karen Mobley  
 28<sup>th</sup> - Sally Bredeweg  
 29<sup>th</sup> - Robin Campbell  
 30<sup>th</sup> - Crystal Chain  
 31<sup>st</sup> - Phyllis Bailey

## Happy Anniversary to....

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Adam Yoder & Jenni Holsinger  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Joan Dellar & Susan Smith  
 8<sup>th</sup> - David Verwolf & Lou McKee  
       Rick Normington & Tim Morse  
 14<sup>th</sup> - John & Carol Vrolson  
 16<sup>th</sup> - David Vestal & Jeff Royer  
       Sally Wurts & Kathy Cleveland  
       David Custer & Ray Fields

## Social Networking

Are you into Social Networking? If you are on Facebook, look for Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ and become a member of the group!

Through August the church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Pastor Marj will be out of the office August 24 through September 1. If you call and no one answers the phone, please leave a message for either Robin (ext. 310) or Pastor Marj (ext. 312), and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

## Manna—Save the Date!

This year's Manna Concert, a benefit for Meals on Wheels and the 2nd Harvest Food Bank Inland Northwest, will be on **Sunday, October 4**. Tickets will be on sale soon!

We will again have Raffle Gift Baskets for the Manna Concert. You can help by donating items for the baskets. The following are some of the theme ideas for baskets: "Women's Basket" - this year's theme is "Lady in Red" - so anything Red for a lady. "Library Basket" - we are looking for new books and/or anything associated with reading. "Night on the Town" - anything for a night out such gift certificates or movie tickets.

Or use your imagination to provide a creative item for any basket. Get your group or committee to put together a basket or make a monetary donations to pay for supplies and other items for the baskets. If you have a donation or questions, call Barb Borgens at 535-2257.

## Job Transition Program

The Church Council-endorsed *Job Transition Program* is temporarily suspended as some new outreach efforts are made to get the information into the hands of those who could most benefit. With thanks and gratitude from coordinator Jon Louis to the many folks who have been a part of it so far, the next few weeks will allow time for further work with other area congregations and agencies in getting the word out about this vital support network. Be watchful in early September for more information when the program resumes. Continue to pray for Jon, the myriad of church volunteers, and for those who are struggling with unemployment, the possibilities of unemployment or those who are fearful of the "what-ifs" regarding employment during these trying economic times. Contact Jon Louis for more information or to participate in this exciting opportunity (474-0063 or [jblouis1@comcast.net](mailto:jblouis1@comcast.net)).

# Faith and Family Enrichment

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

A special fundraiser for Interfaith Hospitality Network -Spokane takes place in August. On each Sunday (and only Sundays!) in August (the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup>, the 16<sup>th</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>) 10% of your bill from a meal at your neighborhood Applebee's will be donated to Interfaith Hospitality Network-Spokane. Applebee's in Spokane are located at Northpointe, 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue on South Hill, the Spokane Valley on Pines, and in Coeur d'Alene. In order to participate, you must have a flyer, which is available at Westminster.

Westminster is serving as a support church to The Friends Church, a commitment to ministry and outreach together serving homeless families staying in the Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter. Folks are needed for teams to prepare and serve dinner from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our next opportunity will be August 23-29. **Are YOU available to cook or serve a meal one of those evenings?** Contact Pastor Marj or Shelby Rothstrom at [meridth@comcast.net](mailto:meridth@comcast.net)

## Friends and Family Church Camp

Everyone is invited to attend Westminster's all church camp at N-Sid-Sen. The weekend begins on Friday, September 11 with dinner around 7 PM, and concludes with an all-church worship service and Sunday lunch in the lodge. Discover together what it means to be the family of God in the setting of God's wonderful landscape at N-Sid-Sen. It is a beautiful place to relax, swim, hike, and commune with God and friends. If you are not available to participate in the whole weekend, please come for Sunday worship service and the lunch afterwards. Reservations are necessary for all events.

**Please help us to coordinate this event by registering early.** Please note, Seniors are 62+, Youth is 8-12, and Children 3-7. There are some additional options for meal/room packages, but must be at least one night and three meals. Please call Pastor Marj if you have questions, or need to make alternate arrangements.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 30.**

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### Registration form - 2009 Westminster Family Camp September 11-13

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I have food allergies/restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

I need ground floor or other \_\_\_\_\_ accommodations for disability

Costs: please mark number attending in the box in the appropriate column

	Adult	Senior	Youth	Child	Under 3	
2 night/6 meals	78.00	73.50	67.50	56.00	free	(dinner on Friday through lunch on Sunday)
1 night/4 meals	47.50	44.75	42.50	35.00	free	(lunch on Saturday through lunch on Sunday)
Sun. lunch only	7.50	7.00	6.75	6.00	free	

Other combination?

Indicate preference here, and call for pricing:

## In the Neighborhood

### Book & Salad Club

The group meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Parlor—you are not required to read the book, but please bring a salad to share. In August we will meet on the West side of Comstock Park. September meeting will be at Marilynne Wilson's home.

- August 4** "Run" by Ann Patchett  
facilitated by Joan Weekes
- September 1** "The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows  
facilitated by Sara Weaver
- October 6** "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout  
facilitated by Marilynne Wilson

### Save the Date

#### for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Second Chance Extravaganza!

An event to benefit  
the **Faith & Environment Network**  
Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>  
St. John's Cathedral Great Hall  
Doors open at 4:30pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm  
Silent & live auction of quality reused items, art,  
trips, services, and outdoor gear  
Catered dinner with fresh, local and organic ingredi-  
ents

**Please help by donating new or gently used items or services for our benefit auction!**  
Antiques, furniture & collectibles, & art, Sporting goods/outdoor equipment, Home & garden items, Flower bulbs or perennials, Tools & Musical instruments, Garden produce, Services of any kind such as baking, massage, teaching a skill

To donate an item, please contact Becky Weiland  
[r.s.weiland@hotmail.com](mailto:r.s.weiland@hotmail.com) or (724) 991-7752

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### Liability Release - 2009 Westminster Family Camp September 11-13

(Please complete registration on opposite side—return form with your payment to Westminster CUCC, 411 S. Washington St. Spokane, WA 99204)

As a participant in the 2009 Westminster Family Camp at N-Sid-Sen, I hereby release and discharge the Westminster Church, The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC, Camp N-Sid-Sen, and any agents, directors, and volunteers who participate in or conduct activities, from all claims, demands or actions which I or my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns may have for all personal injuries, known or unknown, to me or my minor children, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising directly or indirectly out of any activities conducted by Westminster Church during Family Camp during the period of September 11-13, 2009.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## July Financials

	July	Budget	Jan-July	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Pledge	10,933.93	12,500.00	81,554.52	87,500.00	150,000.00
Non-pledge	1,263.70	1,458.33	11,498.10	10,208.34	17,500.00
Other	885.00	1,233.33	63,214.77	38,883.34	72,300.00
Total Income	13,082.63	15,191.66	156,267.39	136,591.68	239,800.00
<b>Expense</b>					
DUES	0.00	0.00	900.00	500.00	500.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT	2,054.24	4,829.67	39,184.00	39,193.67	69,316.00
CHRISTIAN NURTURE	0.00	132.50	557.37	872.50	1,480.00
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	0.00	0.00	4,611.00	4,225.00	4,225.00
DIACONATE	123.80	141.66	355.92	591.66	900.00
MUSIC AND ARTS	125.00	529.79	1,393.73	2,781.03	4,352.50
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,518.36	2,050.40	11,842.22	14,567.94	25,035.00
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	3,915.29	10,463.74	40,608.16	46,931.64	72,935.93
PAYROLL CLEARINGS	8,740.74	9,570.69	67,774.67	68,878.84	118,293.36
Total Expense	16,477.43	27,718.45	170,227.07	181,542.28	303,037.79
Net Income	-3,394.80	-12,526.79	-13,959.68	-44,950.60	-63,237.79

### Summer Schedule:

No Sunday School or Activity Time during 10:30 worship

Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:00-2:00 pm

Ongoing:

**Worship** Sunday at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

**Community Coffee Hour** 9:30 am for both services in the Social Hall

**TAGS discussion** at 9:30 am in the Parlor

### August Events

August 4 Book & Salad meets; Nurture Board meets 5:30 pm

August 12 Trustees meet at noon; Outreach meets 5:30 pm

August 25 Church Council

Many groups and committees do not meet in the summer. Please confirm with your group contact or committee chairperson if you have questions.

### Community Coffee Hours

Coffee hour for the summer is held between the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services and hosted by families.

Hosts for August are:

Aug. 2—Janice Packwood and Ann Marie Floch

Aug. 9—Karen Mobley

Aug. 16—Chris Aumack

Aug. 23—Puttin' on the Ritz (bring something to put on a Ritz cracker)

Aug. 30—David Vestal and Jeff Royer

Westminster Congregational  
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**WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*No matter who you are, or where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.*

**Our Covenant**

*I covenant with you, members and friends of  
Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ:*

- *To create and hold an open, trusting Christian Community where we can each discover our unique relationship with God:*
- *To accept you as we seek ways to resolve our differences, and to rejoice as a community of faith and trust:*
- *To seek opportunities for expression of faith by sharing talents and resources with our church, community and world;*
- *To celebrate with you the power of God's call & God's Love.*

*Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ  
embraces a spirit of hospitality founded in the gospels of  
Jesus Christ & a willingness to live out that  
welcome in meaningful ways.*

*As an Open and Affirming Church, our longstanding  
culture of welcome extends to all people regardless  
of sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, gender, physical ability,  
socioeconomic status or faith background.*

**This Month's Readings and Schedule For Worship**

**August 2 John 6:24-35**

Liturgist: Hal French

Deacons: Mary Seaton, Hal French, Margaret Ennis

**August 9 Eph 4:25-5:2**

Liturgist: Rae McCain

Deacons: Hal French, Alan Borgens

**August 16—Guest Preacher Rev. Hollis Bredeweg**

Liturgist: Alan Mackay

Deacons: Margaret Ennis, Nada Morse

**August 23 Psalm 84**

Liturgist: Karen Wilson-Bell

Deacons: Sherry Barrett, Gordon Gates

**August 30 James 1:17-27**

Liturgist: Alan Borgens

Deacons: Margaret Ennis, Gordon Gates

**Sunday Worship: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM**