



Westminster Witness

July 5, 2009

If you have been to N-Sid-Sen, you're aware of the sacredness of the space. And if you haven't yet been to N-Sid-Sen, please make plans to join us! Come to this place along the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene and experience "camping," camaraderie and competition in the midst of our faith community. For the past several years, family and friends at Westminster have gathered for a weekend retreat. For some it is needed space and time to plan individual and communal advances into spiritual journeys in new ways. For others it provides a buffer between summer and the activities of fall as we move into a new church season together.

You're invited to join us for all or part of the weekend that begins with dinner on Friday, September 11. Managing Director Randy Crowe and his "executive chef" Mary will prepare and serve dinner 7:00 p.m., a great way to settle into the mood of retreat. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners offer a substantial fare, and those who gather are asked to bring a snack to add to the collective "snack table" in Spirit Lodge.

Then the fun really begins!

There are games of Five Crowns, Rummikub and dominoes along with opportunities for sailing, rowing

and floating. The swim area will be available. There are basketballs and hoops and a volleyball court. There's a labyrinth into which you can wander and wonder. Oh, and the rocking chairs! There are rocking chairs nearly everywhere!

Housing at N-Sid-Sen is available in Spirit Lodge where there are bunks in shared rooms and common bathrooms both upstairs and downstairs. Spirit Lodge is the most accessible housing and is used first for any with mobility concerns. We'll also have access to Syringa Lodge and the cabins too.



While N-Sid-Sen can hardly be considered rustic, it *is* a church camp ... one you'll fall in love with if you haven't already!

Inside this issue of the *Witness* is the registration form with options certain to meet your needs. Please complete it and return it to the office with your check, money order or cash **no later than Sunday, August 30**. And if you're unable to come for the entire weekend, we hope you'll make plans **and reservations** to join us for worship on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Again, reservations

for any and all events are necessary for our hosts at N-Sid-Sen to plan accordingly.

Ministers, All of God's People	Church Staff	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...

Our caretaker and custodian John Koons does a terrific job of upkeep of the church facilities, but sometimes a task is too large for one person and he could use an extra helping hand. Often 15 to 30 minutes of extra help is all it takes for John to complete these once-in-awhile projects. If you are willing to occasionally be one of the helping hands, please contact the church office and let us know the best way to contact you. The list will be kept on file in the office for reference and requests. Thanks!

~David Vestal, Co-Chair of Trustees

Outreach

Meals on Wheels Keep Rolling

Westminster's team of drivers and deliverers need your help to carry on this important outreach effort throughout the year. With the loss from our 'team' of Deena Stalcup, and Chuck Fisk's summer absence, people are urgently needed to support coordinator Shelby Rothstrom (meridth@comcast.net or 747-3486) Drivers and delivery folks are needed for July 6 through 10, August 10 through 14, and September 14-18. We welcome Linda Stephens to the team!

PLEASE volunteer!

Crop Walk

The 2009 CropWalk was a success. Once again members of Westminster opened their hearts and pocketbooks to support Crop Walk, and a few got in some good exercise as well. Walkers were Margaret Ennis, Katie and Jan Gilbert, Karen Wilson-Bell, Chuck Fisk, Barbara Safranek, Suzy Bronson, Adriana Diaz with Takina Bordner and James Spencer, and Keith and Marian Thackray. Jim Jones and Dan and Elsa Distelhorst also helped to secure pledges. Together they gathered \$835, with an addition \$170 from on-line pledges. A donation from the Robert Rutherford Memorial Fund of \$218 completed the total. This effort contributes greatly to overcoming poverty world-wide and locally. One-fourth of the proceeds remain here in Spokane. Many thanks to all who participated.

Interfaith Hospitality

Westminster is serving as a support church to The Friends Church, a commitment to ministry and out-

reach 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

The Food Bank Needs Us!

Second Harvest Food Bank recently exchanged our two full barrels for two empty barrels for collecting more food donations. A hearty congratulations to the folks who gather at the 8:30 service for filling one to the brim, and a huge THANKS! to all who contributed. Second Harvest and neighborhood food banks continue to see increased requests as folks experience challenges during these lean economic times. Important donations to the food barrels include: canned tuna, chicken or fish; peanut butter; jams and jellies; soups, chili, stews; rice and pasta dishes; oatmeal packets; cereals; canned vegetables, fruit juice boxes; box mixes of macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper or other easy meals; and shelf-stable milk products. Thanks again for continuing our tradition of generosity!

West CAT

As part of our faith journey, we practice an active faith, a faith that is not just talk, but one that takes action. Through our work with the Spokane Alliance, Westminster has shown leadership by trying to make God's world a more efficient and effective place to live. Recently, the Spokane Alliance successfully lobbied the Washington State Legislature to pass a bill which created funding that SustainableWorks will be applying for. Currently SustainableWorks is conducting a test project of 10 homes in the South Perry Neighborhood. Already completed retrofit projects have demonstrated dramatic results – not only did businesses, non-profits and churches save money on energy, but they also reduced their energy consumption.

~Nick CastroLang (West CAT Co-Chair) and Ryan Palmer (Communication Director Spokane Alliance)
To find out more about the Spokane Alliance visit their webpage at www.spokanealliance.org or call the office at (509) 532-1688.

Pastors and Staff

Marj's Musings

The important questions never stop. Not really. It's summer and assumed to be a "lighter" time of year, yet in reality most of us are still asking "important" questions. While recently scanning some detailed notes, I was reminded of how we tend to get so busy with the daily activities of any given day that we perhaps miss paying attention to or lessen the relevance of the quality moments along the way.

While these days are full, I find it both necessary and helpful to take moments for reflection, **being** instead of always **doing**. Some reminders from my notes include questions like: What is most meaningful in a day? What is it that gets me out of bed in the morning? What brings me joy? When is the last time I really felt joyful? Where do I find hope? What is it that reminds me I am a spiritual being? What things most feed my soul?

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared Mary Oliver's poem *The Summer Day*. While I'd never heard the whole poem or read it for myself from start to finish, I have used the last line as a quote for several things. The poem is actually a prayer, and she begins it by asking:

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?*

The next several lines are Oliver's observations of a grasshopper perched in her hand, a creature simply doing what it does:

*This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of
up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.*

What a reminder to be in the moment! Oliver writes
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

And yet in her remaining words it seems she reminds us exactly what prayer can be:

*I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the
fields,*

*which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?*

Yes, this IS summer, and there might be times for you to reflect a bit differently on some of the same questions I'm asking, questions about my faith and life journeys—here ... with you. In the words of the poet, as you consider your own *being and doing* in these summer days,
*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

Be blessed and be a blessing! Pastor Marj

("The Summer Day" can be found in a collection of Mary Oliver's work called *New and Selected Poems*, published by Beacon Press, Boston, MA in 1992.)

Prayers for Our Conference

The spiritual directors of the Pacific Northwest Conference (PNC) invite you to join in intentional prayer for our conference. Each month, we will choose different churches and groups to hold in prayer. *For the month of July, please pray for the wonderful staff and volunteers leading camp at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs and for the following churches: Samoan Cong Christian Church (#3), Samoan UCC (#4), St. Paul's UCC, Taiwanese Christian Church UCC, University Congregational UCC, Richmond Beach Congregational UCC, Shalom UCC, Westminster Congregational UCC, and Veradale UCC.* Thank you for joining us in prayer. Have a blessed month!

AND if you would like to keep up-to-date on the happenings and occasions within the PNC, you can sign-up to receive the monthly leadership packet too! Send an email to pncucc@gmail.com with "Monthly Leadership Packet" in the subject line and your correct email address to which it can be sent. It's a great way to read about what's happening in our 81 sister churches in the Pacific Northwest!

Summer Office Hours

During July and August the church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The normal work schedule for Pastor Marj Johnston is Tuesday through Friday. Pastor Marj is handling all the pastoral responsibilities during Pastor Andy CastroLang's sabbatical, so she's been "on the go" a lot. Office Manager Robin McLain's normal work schedule is during office hours (9:00am to 2:00pm) Tuesday through Friday. 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.

Westminster Family and Friends

Happy Birthday to....

- 2nd - John Geary
 4th - Joseph Klice
 5th - Marj Johnston
 Deena Stalcup
 6th - Adrian Kropp
 Cassi McLain
 9th - Phyllis Northrop
 Rowan Jeske
 11th - Eric Carlon
 12th - Nick CastroLang
 Lynn Lockridge
 Clem Crowston
 William Plucker
 Scott Ruehl
 Belle Vawter
 13th - Mark Safranek
 15th - Margaret Navarro
 17th - Verne Windham
 Nickolas Jeske
 18th - Margie May Ott
 Ken Beckstead
 Sally Wurts
 21st - Robin McLain
 23rd - Gordon Graham
 25th - Diane Joss
 Betsy Thew
 Naomi Murphy
 28th - Rae McCain
 29th - Myrba Court
 30th - Chris Johnson

Happy Anniversary to

- 1st - Heather & Mark Vilardo
 10th - Larry & Sandy Kissler
 16th - Stacy & Barb Whitman
 17th - Gilbert & Mimi Escandon
 Tim Henkel & Sherry Barrett
 20th - Orin & Betty Johnson
 Alan & Barbara Borgens
 23rd - Jon Louis & Kathy Surette
 25th - John & Joan Weekes
 27th - John & Julie Koons
 29th - Paul & Kathy Lin

Thank You

To all my friends at WCUCC,

I have now arrived in California. It is so wonderful to be here! The weather here is nice. I go for walks, and Starbucks is only six blocks away. I have met some nice people at Starbucks. All the animals were glad to see me; Rocky stays close to me all the time. I have been busy transferring everything to California.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful cards, cake, the \$2 bills, the money and gift cards to McDonald's. Thanks for thinking of me on my move to be nearer my daughter and son.

I have a new cell phone number: 949-616-5371, and my address is 224 N Parker Street, Orange, CA 92828. Please keep in touch!

Thanks again! Love you all, Deena Rae Stalcup

Technology Update

A gentle reminder to change all the email addresses you have for Westminster staff to the extension of qwestoffice.net. Qwest has forwarded our email for a year, so things may "bounce back" if you use just "qwest.net." Email addresses are as follows:

general church email and Robin McLain:

wcunited@qwestoffice.net;

publications: publications@qwestoffice.net;

Pastor Marj at pastormarj@qwestoffice.net; and Pastor

Andy at pastorandy@qwestoffice.net.

Our new phone system is great, and we seem to have figured out most of the functions. What we didn't share is that our phone extensions have changed by adding a 3 to our former extensions. Office Manager Robin McLain can be reached at 310. Pastor Marj can be reached at 312. Sarah Hopkins can be reached at 314. John Koons can be reached at 316. And when Pastor Andy returns, she can be reached at 311.

Please remember: If you have moved or changed your own email address or phone number recently, share that information with us so we can keep you current with our communications and information.



Faith and Family Enrichment

Worship in the Park!

On **Sunday, July 19**, we'll gather for ONE worship service at 10:30am in Cowley Park, the homestead site of our congregation's founding pastor. Bring a picnic lunch with you, along with a blanket or favorite picnic chair, and stay for fellowship and fun in this delightful green spot in our community. The park is located on 6th Avenue between Division and Browne. There's on-street parking and a parking lot directly across the street.

Spokane Indians Baseball

Join other congregations on Friday, July 31 for Church Family Night. It's also Yoke's \$1 Family Feast Night! To purchase your reserved bench seat tickets for this game --just \$5 each-- you have two choices: Use the secure web sign-up at www.spokaneindiansbaseball.com. Click on "Group Tickets" then select "Purchase tickets with your group." Find Westminster in the drop-down menu and click "Purchase." It's THAT easy! Or you can call the ticket office at 509-343-OTTO (6886) and be sure to mention our church's name.

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. (must RSVP)

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.

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

Job Transition Workshops

The unemployment in the Spokane Community has encouraged your church council to endorse a series of Jobs Transition Workshops. Scheduled to start in June, the workshops include training and support for individuals currently unemployed, facing unemployment or underemployed.

Meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings. The program will be divided into two segments. From 7:00 to 7:30 a speaker will cover issues such as resume writing, being a successful interviewee, various employment sources, and effective use of the Internet. From 7:30 to 8:00 participants will go to breakout groups where they can ask questions, provide mutual support and reinforce the job search process.

Volunteers are needed to facilitate discussion groups and assist with logistics. If you can volunteer to help for any or all sessions please contact Jon Louis at 509-474-0063 or at the church on extension 313 or by email at jblouis1@comcast.net.

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 July we will meet at Marian Thackray's home and in August we will meet on the West side of Comstock Park. September meeting will be at Marilynne Wilson's home.

July 7 "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See
facilitated by Nada Morse

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

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): _____

June Financials

	June	Budget	Jan-June	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Pledge	7,485.60	12,500.00	70,770.59	75,000.00	150,000.00
Non-pledge	1,324.75	1,458.34	10,084.40	8,750.01	17,500.00
Other	14,095.43	14,598.34	61,266.36	37,650.01	72,300.00
Total Income	22,905.78	28,566.68	142,121.35	121,400.02	239,800.00
Expense					
DUES	0.00	0.00	900.00	500.00	500.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT	3,705.78	4,601.67	37,129.76	34,364.00	69,316.00
CHRISTIAN NURTURE	60.76	117.50	549.87	740.00	1,480.00
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	7.50	0.00	4,618.50	4,225.00	4,225.00
DIACONATE	0.00	141.67	232.12	308.33	900.00
MUSIC AND ARTS	200.00	385.42	1,268.73	2,251.24	4,352.50
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,003.09	2,479.16	10,323.86	12,517.54	25,035.00
OUTREACH	3,000.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	10,314.29	3,885.13	36,778.34	36,467.90	72,935.93
PAYROLL CLEARINGS	9,622.73	9,705.29	59,033.93	59,308.15	118,293.36
Total Expense	27,914.15	22,815.84	153,835.11	153,823.83	303,037.79
Net Income	-5,008.37	5,750.84	-11,713.76	-32,423.81	-63,237.79

A special message for summer travelers

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? **Westminster UCC** offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. Contact the church office for more details.

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

July Events

July 7 Book & Salad meets at Marian Thackray's

July 8 Trustees meet at noon

July 12/26 Job Transitions Program meets 7-8 PM

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 July are:

July 5 Kathy and Jon Louis and Cindi Abbott and Pastor Marj

July 12 Doris Holdaway and family

July 19 Worship at Cowley Park—Bring Your Own Picnic Basket!

July 26 Schock-Jeske family (intergenerational activity!)

Westminster Congregational
United Church of Christ
411 South Washington St
Spokane WA 99204

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WESTMINSTER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phone: (509) 624-1366 Fax: (509) 838-0496 Email: wcunited@qwestoffice.net www.westminsterucc.org

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

July 5—Mark 6:1-13

Liturgist: Steve Paulson

Deacons: Mary Seaton, Hal French, Jonathan Windham,
Margaret Ennis

July 12—The Rev. Deborah Rose

Liturgist: Lorna Kropp

Deacons: Hal French, Nada Morse

July 19 at Cowley Park (one service only 10:30 AM)

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

Liturgist: Marcus Soper

Deacons: Margaret Ennis, Alan Borgens

July 26—John 6:1-21

Liturgist: Lori Vega

Deacons: Hal French

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