



Westminster Witness

June 7, 2009

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC has two amazing spots where groups of all kinds gather throughout the year—Pilgrim Firs on the West Side and Camp N-Sid-Sen on the East. N-Sid-Sen is the camp and conference located on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, a beautiful hour-plus drive from Spokane. For more information about N-Sid-Sen, web-wanderers can visit www.n-sid-sen.org.

and exploring the new Stillwater Lodge. If you're interested, send an email to Randy at randy@n-sid-sen.org or call him at 208-689-3489.

SUMMER CAMPS!

Coming up at N-Sid-Sen this year:

Kids Camp June 28 - July 1

Intermediate Camp July 5-11

Sr. High Aqua Camp* July 12-18

Family Camp #1

July 26 - August 1

Jr. High Aqua Camp*

August 2-8

Family Camp #2

August 9-15

*Aqua Camp includes water skiing, wake boarding, and tubing with power boats, plus canoes, sailing, and other water activities!

We have "camperships" available to those who want to participate.

Mark your calendars!

Westminster's Family Camp Weekend at N-Sid-Sen will be Friday, September 11, through Sunday, September 13. Make plans now to join us for all or part of the weekend! More information will be coming in the July *Witness*.

Eat and stay at N-Sid-Sen for FREE!

June 7—13, 2009

Yes, that's right! In exchange for your time and energy during the upcoming "work camp" at N-Sid-Sen, managing director Randy Crowe will feed you and let you choose your room.

Some of the tasks involve cleaning up debris from winter storms, painting, carpentry, window washing, vacuuming, restocking the planters, and other sorts of household chores. And there's plenty of time allotted for breaks in the rockers on the deck, a wander along the lake-shore or in the labyrinth,



Ministers, All of God's People

Office Manager/Financial Secretary
Robin McLain

Interim Choir Director
Verne Windham

Caretaker John Koons III

Church Staff

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Andrea CastroLang

Assistant Pastor
The Rev. Marj Johnston

Organist Scot Stout

Nursery Attendant
Teresa Benedict

Publications Editor
Sarah Hopkins

Children's Activity Director
Jessie Vignali

God is Still Speaking,

News from Council and Committees

Pastoral Care

Pastor Marj will be a delegate at the UCC General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan this summer. From June 25 through July 1 she'll be available via her cell phone (509-869-0872). Pastor Linda Crowe at our sister church in Veradale has agreed to be available for pastoral emergencies. Pastor Linda can be reached at 926-7173 or 891-0916 Thursday through Sunday morning, and at N-Sid-Sen (1-800-448-3489) Sunday afternoon through Tuesday. In the event of an emergency, please call the church office (624-1366) during office hours or Alan Borgens, chair of our Diaconate (535-2257).

Outreach

Meals on Wheels Keep Rolling

Westminster's team of drivers and deliverers need you to help carry on this important outreach effort throughout the year. Drivers and delivery folks are needed for July 6 through 10, August 10 through 14, and September 14-18. If you are available, please contact Shelby Rothstrom regarding July and August dates (meridth@comcast.net or 747-3486) or Chuck Fisk for September dates (327-8328).

Life Feed is on for June 27

The important ministry of feeding people continues! Your help is needed to prepare and serve on Saturday, June 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information see Pastor Marj.

ONA @ Westminster

Spokane's GLBTQA Pride Week is being celebrated June 7-June 14 this year.

On Monday, June 8, the Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest will honor Gina Marie Young as THE Individual "whose efforts have had a positive effect on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community of the Inland Northwest" during the past year. Westminster Congregational UCC was a nominee for the group award ("given to an organization for service to the LGBTQ community of the Inland Northwest, particularly service rendered in

the past year").

The annual Rainbow Awards ceremony begins with a spaghetti dinner at 6:00pm (doors open at 5:30; suggested donation is \$8). The program starts at 7:00pm and is free and open to the public (with complimentary desserts and refreshments). The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church (4340 W. Fort Wright Drive, Spokane). Come cheer the amazing work of God in us and through us as we live fully into who we are as created in God's image!

Westminster will be showing our UCC pride for our Open and Affirming commitment in the following ways:

**Interdenominational Pride Service
Wednesday, June 10th at Westminster
7:00pm**

Clergy and lay leaders from the area will lead an interdenominational Pride Service.

**Family Game Night at Westminster
Thursday, June 11th
6:00pm-9:00pm**

Come join Westminster and the ONA Committee as we host this year's *Family Game Night* in celebration of Pride Week. There will be board games for all ages, with game tables hosted by the Westminster family. Great refreshments will be served and fun will be had by all!

**Annual Pride Parade in Downtown Spokane
Saturday, June 13th
12:00noon – 1:00pm**

Join the GLBTQA community as they walk through downtown with banners, floats, and marching bands in celebration of Pride. Westminster will be represented by all who choose to walk with our God is Still Speaking banner. You're invited too! (*Volunteers are needed walk with the team.*)

**Pride Festival in Riverfront Park
Saturday, June 13th
1:00pm-5:30pm**

Find your fellow church members at the Westminster Information Booth at the festival. We'll be handing out brochures and sharing our extravagant welcome, Westminster style! (*Volunteers are needed for 2 hr shifts!*)

Please feel free to join us for these events! For questions, or to volunteer, please call Cindi at 533-1964!

Pastors and Staff

Marj's Musings

When I used to sing in the choir “back in the day,” the choir director used to tell us, “Sunday is the day we take down the scaffolding to see if the song can stand on its own.” Keep in mind that Keith was a minister of music, not a building contractor, and most of the choir members were government or NGO “white collar” employees, but the analogy still sort of worked, and the anthem was often a rich blend of the 25-30 voices on any given Sunday.

This past Sunday we heard one of our members share a word of joy and testimony about another member’s young adult daughter. This young woman’s current vocation reflects some of the life and faith values her parents tried to teach and instill in her younger life. Working through a local program that aims to feed hungry people, Emily mirrors her hope for change in the community that her parents share with her through their own continued efforts. It is good to celebrate how our young folks reflect such lessons when they are given the opportunity!

As the academic year winds down, we’ll watch our young people of all ages try out their wings in choosing how they will spend their summers and take their next steps. May you know—parents and families, friends and teachers—that you have shared tools and resources within the framework of a “scaffolding” at home or school, in church or through clubs and activities in the community. I’ve no doubt that you have shared with them that they **do** have choices about to use their young lives to make change happen. So as our young people walk across stages or platforms in classrooms, halls or parks ... as they turn to see you watching from the sidelines or the stands for a thumbs-up of your pride in what they’ve accomplished so far, as you hear them shout ecstatically for having “made it,” may you come to trust that once the “scaffolding” is down, they will make choices appropriate for themselves as they seek to change the world in which they live, using the tools and resources you’ve offered along the way. Celebrate who they are and who they are becoming. Each one of us is, after all, on a journey to become all of

who it is the Holy One means for us to be. May we continue to offer the tools of patience, presence and persistence to one another along the way!

Blessings on your own becoming,
Pastor Marj

Apple Blossom Tea Pictures



Westminster Family and Friends

June Birthdays

- 1st - Mimi Escandon
 2nd - Jami Smith
 3rd - Gordon Leek
 Alijah Heser
 4th - Chandler Molenda
 Hannah Fleming
 6th - Nada Morse
 Bobbie Eddy
 Grace Leaf
 7th - Rose Dempsey
 8th - Alan Kiefer
 10th - Clarence Lenhart
 Benjamin Bartels
 13th - Leah Marie Olson
 Chuck Fisk
 14th - Samantha Lin
 Nicole Safranek
 17th - Keith Thackray
 20th - Wes Ackaret
 21st - John Koons III
 Bridget Powers-Beggs
 Fiona Powers-Beggs
 BeJay Simpson
 22nd - Elizabeth Thew
 24th - Pam Beckstead
 John Vrolson
 25th - Carter Powers-Beggs
 27th - Harriet Plucker
 Justin Holsinger-Yoder
 28th - Evan Bredeweg
 29th - Kathy Cleveland
 30th - Joan Weekes
 Alan Borgens

Happy Anniversary to

- 1st - Verne & Susan Windham
 Judy Grollmus & John Mendel
 Molly & Leslie Hilby
 10th - Mark & Barbara Safranek
 13th - Carroll & Betty McCormick
 14th - Alan & Mary Mackay
 Don & Doris Holdaway
 16th - Brian & Crystal Chain
 19th - Jack & Peggy Burt
 21st - Karen & Justin Wilson-Bell
 23rd - Stanley & Verna Troyer
 Keith & Marian Thackray
 Gordon & Betty Graham
 25th - David & Leslie Susan Miniken
 27th - Dan & Elsa Distelhorst
 28th - Gordon & Janet Ruehl
 29th - Mary Lively & Fritz Rosekrans
 Rick Noll & Judy Lungren

Happy Anniversary to

- 30th - Robin & Chris McLain
 Janine & Carlos Alden

Thank You

Dear Westminster friends,
 Thank you for the beautiful Easter lily that was delivered to me Easter Sunday. I put it on a table in the vestibule so everyone getting off or on the elevators could enjoy it, too.

Sincerely, Hannah Joss

Apple Blossom Tea: a Vintage Affair

Our annual Apple Blossom Tea, a tradition since the late 1800s, was held on the sunny afternoon of May 16th in Jim Simanton's lovely little park. Not only were there tea and sandwiches, cakes and scones, gorgeous table settings and lovely music, but there was a fabulous fashion show of vintage dresses and many people were able to wear a vintage hat from Linda Stephens' collection. Many thanks to the hosts who brought their



best table settings and delicious food: Barb Safranek, Sara Chapter, Elizabeth Roahl, Mary Pat Wakely, Donna Simanton, Phyllis Northrop, Margaret Ennis, to Mary MacKay and her trio who played beautiful music, to Mary Lively who sang a collection of Apple Blossom songs, to Linda Stephens for the amazing fashion show, to Alan MacKay and John Koons who brought tables and chairs from the church, Chris McLain who brought the sound system, and last but not least to Donna Simanton for the use of her charming community park and home. Ticket sales and donations raised \$765 to begin funding for the restoration of the north side stained glass window of our historic church. Organizers Lou McKee and Mary Rupert give their heartfelt gratitude to all.



Faith and Family Enrichment

TAGS Begins

TAGS (Talking About God Stuff) is coming this summer to a church (Westminster) near you. Starting on Sunday, June 21, TAGS will be making a return engagement to Westminster UCC during our summer CAFÉ hour between the early and later worship services.

Everybody is encouraged to participate and anyone can sponsor/facilitate a Sunday TAGS session. It's as easy as showing a movie clip and posing a question. Please contact Marcus Soper (SoperML@comcast.net) or anyone on the Nurture Board if you have an interest in sponsoring/facilitating a TAGS session or if you have any questions. TAGS, you're it!

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 beginning June 14. 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 13 or by email at jblouis1@comcast.net.

The Spokane Indians Need Us!

Well, maybe they don't really need us, but they invite us to 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 easy and 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.

Movies You Can Borrow

Three fairly new releases on DVD are worth watching and sharing conversations over.

"For the Bible Tells Me So" features five Christian families (including former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt with Jane and Chrissy; Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson and his parents, Imogene & Victor; Mary Lou Wallner; Phil, Randi and Jake Reitan; Brenda, David and Tonia Poteat) and Bishop Desmond Tutu; Rev. Peter Gomes; Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer; Rev. Dr. Laurence Keene; and Rev. Irene Monroe). This documentary shares and honest stories and glimpses into the lives of these families who have embraced loved ones who are gay or lesbian, answering questions like "Does God really condemn loving homosexual relationships? Is the chasm separating Christianity from gays and lesbians too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?" Runtime: 98 mins.

"Anyone & Everyone" portrays parents across the U.S. discussing their reactions to having a son or daughter reveal they are gay. Despite the diversity of the families' ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic and religious backgrounds, there is a thread connecting these stories. The heartfelt accounts of responses to children's revelations personalize issues that are often de-personalized in political rhetoric. Beyond questions of gay rights, parents wrestle with their faith, rejection by other relatives, the pain of their own lost dreams, and the fears born of their own and their community's prejudices and ignorance. Runtime: 57 mins.

"Through My Eyes" gives an unflinchingly honest look at the role of today's young Christians in the gay debate: what they really think, how they perceive the church, and what they wish other Christians knew. Over two dozen young Christians agreed to share their private feelings, struggles, and experiences on camera. All of them have a personal stake in the debate and hope their stories will make a difference. Runtime: 46 mins.

You are invited to borrow one of these, watch it by yourself or with family and friends and share conversations and discussions about the relevance of the work we share as an Open & Affirming congregation. Each DVD has a discussion guide or series of questions to move through conversations. Contact Pastor Marj if you're interested!

And did you know... We have a large screen TV in Room 207 with a DVD and VHS player that can be used for small group viewing and the like!

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 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.

June 2 "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak
facilitated by Margaret Ennis

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

The Pacific Northwest Conference

Do you feel like you don't know much about who else makes up the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ? Each month there's an informative "leadership packet" posted online at www.pncucc.org. Take a look at Conference Minister Mike Denton's monthly words to us, check out the calendar of meetings and events around the conference, read up on information that will help you celebrate your presence in ONE of the 81 congregations that make up our conference!

An opportunity to "pray always"

In the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica, he calls them to "pray always," and we've been given an opportunity to do that. Joe Chrastil and Jean Ingebritsen's younger daughter Kim has been hospitalized in Cartagena, Colombia for an infection. Treatment has been effective, and Kim is making great progress and off the ventilator! The family intends to return home (Seattle) soon. Emails can be sent to them at jjsk@comcast.net; cards and notes can be mailed to them at 6716 35th Place South, Seattle, WA 98118. The Spokane Alliance has established a "Benefit Account for Kim Ingebristen" to help with the unexpected needs. Checks can be made out to Spokane Alliance with "Kim Ingebristen" in the memo line and mailed to either the Spokane Alliance (1526 E 11th Avenue, Spokane, 99202) or dropped off at any Banner Bank branch. Pray on!

Interfaith Hospitality

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 in late August. **Are YOU available to cook or serve a meal one of those evenings?** Contact Shelby Rothstrom at meridith@comcast.net or Pastor Marj. Thanks to the ladies in Sara Chapter for supporting the Thursday dinner in June.

Potluck for ALL!

In partnership with the Inland NW LGBT Center, Westminster is the host site for a monthly potluck for the LGBTQ community **and** their allies and friends. On the first Saturday of each month, our Social Hall comes alive with good food, laughter and renewed and forming friendships as folks of all ages gather. Join us! From 6:00 to 8:00 pm, bring a dish to share and join in the informal gathering. The next potluck will be June 6. Questions? Contact Pastor Marj!

June Events

Come celebrate!

On Sunday, June 14, we will celebrate the graduation of Jordan Rothstrom and Zach Alden, both seniors at Lewis & Clark High School in Spokane. Join us for worship and coffee hour while we recognize the hard work of these two young men. And we'll also recognize and show appreciation for our Sunday school teachers during worship that same day. Celebrate the richness of both those who learn and those who facilitate learning experiences in this place!

Summer Schedule:

No Sunday School or Activity Time during 10:30 worship
Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:30-2:30 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

Last day of Choir in Worship for the summer:

June 14

May Financials

	May	Budget	Jan-May	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Pledge	12,660.00	12,500.00	62,935.35	62,500.00	150,000.00
Non-pledge	2,287.50	1,458.33	8,759.65	7,291.67	17,500.00
Other	624.00	1,233.33	47,179.65	23,041.67	72,300.00
Total Income	15,571.50	15,191.66	118,874.65	92,833.34	239,800.00
Expense					
DUES	400.00	0.00	900.00	500.00	500.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT.	6,109.36	7,901.65	33,423.98	29,762.33	69,316.00
CHRISTIAN NURTURE	278.94	118.50	489.11	622.50	1,480.00
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	0.00	0.00	4,611.00	4,225.00	4,225.00
DIACONATE	136.99	141.67	232.12	308.33	900.00
MUSIC AND ARTS	165.00	410.42	1,068.73	1,865.82	4,352.50
OFFICE EXPENSE	2,454.50	1,979.20	9,321.82	10,038.38	25,035.00
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	6,000.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	3,732.51	3,885.15	26,470.03	32,582.77	72,935.93
PAYROLL CLEARINGS	9,887.65	9,893.65	49,411.20	49,602.86	118,293.36
Total Expense	23,164.95	24,330.24	125,927.99	131,007.99	303,037.79
Net Income	-7,593.45	-9,138.58	-7,053.44	-38,174.65	-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.

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Nurture 5:30 p Book & Salad 6:30 p	3	4 Diaconate 7 p	5	6 INW LGBT potluck
7	8	9 Music & Arts 7 p	10 Joanna Chapter/Harborcrest noon Trustees noon Worship 7 p	11 Game Night 6 p	12	13 Pride Parade & Festival noon
14 Celebrate graduates, end of Sunday School Job Transitions 7 p	15	16	17 Outreach 5:30 p	18 Sara Chapter 10:30 a	19	20
21	22	23 Newsletter deadline at noon Church Council 7 p	24	25	26 Knitting Group 7 p	27
28 Job Transitions 7 p	29	30				

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

June 7—Romans 8:12-17

Liturgist: Chuck Fisk

Deacons: Margaret Ennis, Mary Seaton, Steve Paulson,
Gordon Gates

June 14—Mark 4: 26-34

Liturgist: Judy Grollmus

Deacons: Mike Ellsworth, Nada Morse, Hal French

June 21—Mark 4: 35-41

Liturgist: Jon Windham

Deacons: Sherry Barrett, Jon Windham, Mary Seaton

June 28

Guest Preacher: Beth Plumbo

Liturgist: Karen Mobley

Deacons: Alan Borgens, Sherry Barrett, Jon Windham

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