



Westminster Witness

September 6, 2009

Come one, come all to this year's Manna Concert! On Sunday, October 4 join the members and friends of Westminster to enjoy a variety of wonderful performers while you support the good work of Meals on Wheels and the 2nd Harvest Food Bank Inland Northwest.

Performers this year include *An Dochas*, playing traditional Irish music; the *Kosher Red Hots*; *Scot Stout* playing the organ; members of the *Spokane Area Children's Chorus*, and the *Rhythm Envy* Bucket Band. Another highlight of the event is an intermission with refreshments and opportunities to purchase raffle tickets for a number of interesting gift baskets!

Tickets for Manna are only \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, or \$25 for a family. Tickets will be available at the Westminster and Meals on Wheels offices during regular business hours (after September 8), on September 20 and 27 at Westminster after both services, and at the door on the day of the event. Donations of canned and non-perishable food are welcomed. Ticket sale pro-

ceeds will go to Meals on Wheels, and all food donations will be given to the 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, and YOUR help is needed!

Advance publicity and ticket sales: Take tickets to sell to friends and family, publicize with posters at local colleges or community bulletin boards, link the event information on your MySpace or Facebook page, mention us in your Twitter posts.

Raffle Baskets: Barb Borgens is coordinating raffle basket donations. See page 4 for details.

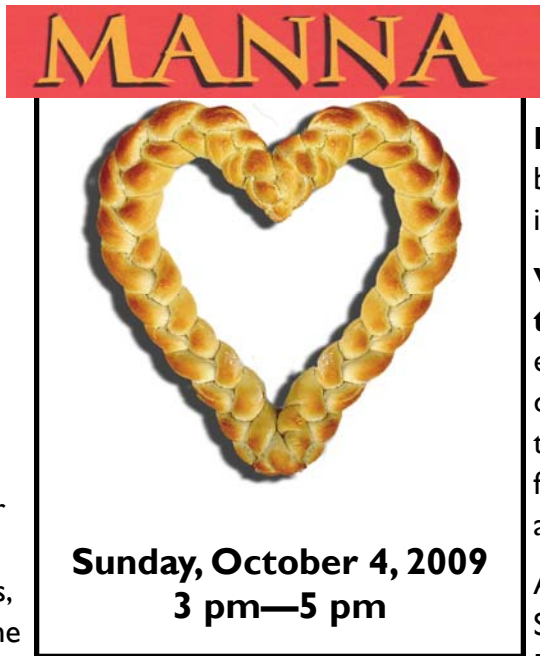
Refreshments: Help is needed to bake brownies and cookies for the intermission.

Volunteer staff for the day of the event: Alan Borgens leads the effort to recruit volunteers for the day of the event, and he needs a total of 10 people for ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, ushers, ticket takers and greeters.

Any questions, please contact Sherry Barrett at 768-9966.

For artist information, contact

Carlos Alden at calden3@msn.com.



**Sunday, October 4, 2009
3 pm—5 pm**

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...

2010 Budget Process

Summer is now winding down, and it is time once again to begin the budgeting process. The Trustees will begin drafting a budget during their September 9 meeting. The Trustees will present a draft of the budget plan to the Church Council meeting on September 22. The congregation will have a chance to examine and discuss the preliminary budget at a potluck on September 27. There will be a Town Hall Meeting for further budget discussion on November 1, before a Congregational Meeting to adopt the working budget on November 15. Remember, Boards, Committees, and Church Council meetings are open to everyone, and you may call the office for specific dates and times.

Will You Say "Yes!"?

Members who serve on boards and committees at Westminster are vital to the on-going work we share together. Currently one person is needed for each of these Boards: Outreach, Deacons, and Trustees. Music & Arts Committee needs three new people to serve, and the Open & Affirming Committee will welcome new folks to begin planning more "and affirming" work. Contact Pastor Andy or Pastor Marj if you're interested in more information about any of these opportunities to serve God, the Westminster faith community, and our neighbors.

Organist

It is with great sadness that we announce acceptance of the resignation of Scot Stout as Church Organist, effective the end of October. Scot has enjoyed providing Westminster with Sunday morning music but is ready to take a break and explore some new adventures. We thank Scot for his magnificent playing and for his good humor and friendship. Since Scot and Mark will continue to stay in Spokane, we will hope to see them on Sundays and around town.

Outreach

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

The Outreach Board is providing an opportunity for you to put your faith into action. We partner with the Inland Hospitality Network and the Friends Church to provide dinner meals for homeless families housed in area churches. Would you consider preparing a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert for approximately 15 people? Or would you consider serving and cleaning up after the meal? Meals are needed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 1-3. Please let Shelby Rothstrom (meridth@comcast.net, 747-3486) or Pastor Marj know if you can help with this ministry.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Meals on Wheels Rolls into Fall

And your help is needed in keeping up with Westminster's commitment to drive and deliver meals to some of Spokane's more vulnerable neighbors! If you can help September 14 through 18 or October 19 through 23, please sign-up on the wall-hanging in the church Narthex or contact Chuck Fisk at 327-8328.

Open & Affirming

**Come one and all to the Gay/Straight Dance
Saturday, October 3rd at 8 PM
in Westminster's Social Hall**

You are cordially invited to a Dance for Everyone:
Young, Old, Gay, Straight, Tall, Short, etc.
With Fun Eclectic Music for All

Featuring the Band "Too Many Men"

A gay/straight band for a gay/straight dance!

Tickets \$8 at the Door

This is a no-alcohol event,
please bring your own munchies

For more information call Mary Rupert at 838-7449

Pastors and Staff

Pastor's Pen

As I shared with some of you on my first Sunday back in the pulpit, August 23rd, I have had many folk ask me "what have you learned?"

Some things I have "re-learned". I have re-learned that I need not be a slave to time. I took off my wrist watch for three months and enjoyed it! I learned that I still love detective novels, still enjoy bike riding, and still can be shocked silent by beauty, and by grief. I have re-learned the importance of relationships. I was given the opportunity to re-focus on the intricate web of relationships within which I live during my sabbatical. I had considered that the time of my sabbatical would be "pilgrim" time, traveling and exploring with the eyes and the heart of a pilgrim, someone who is seeking the Holy One wherever she goes.

I found awareness of God in so many places! Yes, of course, at Kamiak Butte, and along the edge of the Grand Canyon. Certainly, on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene on a star studded summer night. But in my pilgrim journey I also felt the touch of the Holy One in the embrace of a long ago elementary school friend and in the stories told of my great-grandfather and great-grandmother while sitting around a table in Germany that was covered in old sepia photographs. I visited with friends and with relations whom I had not seen since I was a little girl and was amazed and grateful at the openness of each person's heart.

My awareness of the Holy Presence came in and through the vividness of stories and laughter, and yes, tears too. I lavished time on my family and on my friends, and I gloried in hours and days spent among the flowers, the bugs, the camping sites, the songs of strange birds, the silence of time alone.

Since I was given the gift of being a pilgrim in this sabbatical time, I found I was a pilgrim of the seemingly small and insignificant revelations of God's presence, found everywhere and among everyone I met. In relationships that were in crisis, in old old friendships, among the elders of my clan, and with my own children; I realized how the web of my life was woven together with others. The treasure of "family ties" became more precious to me. Remembering the life that I share with you, I felt the web of our relationships more strongly, more keenly. Your friendship, your care and concern are also gifts of relationship that I treasure. Your love and labors here at Westminster are a bulwark against the aching loneliness of our cul-

ture and our age. Though we may disagree, and argue, and find frustration in our time together, we also have love and community, patience and compassion with one another. In relationship with all of you, I come to know God better on my pilgrim journey. I thank you for giving me the time to re-learn this important truth.

Pastor Andy

Marj's Musings

It's been five years since I completed my "formal" education, and as we approach the beginning of a new school year I'm just as excited to shop for new pencils and pens as if I were myself a returning student! As an office supply "junkie" from a young age, now I can donate my purchases to any number of programs which will then reallocate them to children and youth returning to school whose families may have less than adequate means to send each one off fully armed for that first day of school with items required on published lists. If you have a penchant for shopping for school supplies, join me! Most any Shopko, Target, K-Mart, Office Depot, Staples and a number of our local grocery stores will accept your donations of pens and pencils, paper, notebooks, glue sticks, tissue boxes, etc. And **join us** for our own new beginnings at Westminster when we resume our full slate of opportunities for worship, learning, witnessing and serving on September 20! Be blessed and be a blessing!

Pastor Marj

Choir Director Position now Open

Westminster is accepting resumes for a 1/4 time choir director. There will be a search for this position beginning in September, and pay is depending on experience. Duties include planning, scheduling and directing music for the 10:30 Sunday worship service and other special services throughout the year. Other duties are contained in the job description that is available on the church website or by calling the church office. Resumes should be sent to: wcunited@qwestoffice.net Thanks to Verne Windham for continuing as Interim Choir Director through the fall. The Chancel Choir resumes on September 20, with rehearsal at 9:00 AM, and worship participation at 10:30. If you would like to get involved, please contact Verne. Bring your smiling face and joyous sound to lift up the congregation this fall!

Westminster Family and Friends

Happy Birthday to....

- 1st - Sherry Barrett
 2nd - Jim CastroLang
 Tim Morse
 3rd - Susan Windham
 5th - Elsa Distelhorst
 Karen Wilson-Bell
 6th - Marcia Tulloss
 7th - Dorothy Rudolph
 Linda Kemnitz
 8th - John Weekes
 Melissa Joy
 Mary Pat Wakeley
 Mark Ryan
 9th - Orin Johnson
 Linda Kraft
 10th - Darrell Cederblom
 11th - Harry Pearson
 13th - Judy Marte
 14th - Madison Meuler
 16th - Adam Yoder
 17th - Amalie Marte
 18th - Mary Mackay
 21st - Jonathan Windham
 22th - Jazmin Koons
 23rd - Eugene Johnson
 Rebecca Weaver
 26th - Myrba Jimenez
 27th - Julie Koons
 Dennis Dobson
 James Hyvonen
 Art Seaton
 29th - Laurie Powers
 Lynette Rostollan

Happy Anniversary to....

- 4th - Rev. Edward & Emma Schmidt
 11th - Breean Beggs & Laurie Powers
 22nd - David & Arlene Sperry
 28th - Kris Jeske & Teresa Schock

Church office hours for the fall start September 15. The church offices will be open from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Tuesday through Friday**. The glass doors on Washington may be locked during regular business hours. The doorbell just to the left of the glass door marked 'office' will ring in both the church office and the Spokane Area Children's Chorus office, and someone will let you in. Caretaker John Koons works Tuesday—Thurs 2:30 PM—10:00 pm and Sundays 6:30 AM—2:00 PM.

“We are a welcoming faith community who seek to strengthen our relationships with God and each other by exploring, questioning, and nurturing our spirituality...”

So begins our statement of “who we are”, which was discerned through a church wide collaborative process this Winter and Spring. Our Self Identity and our Values have been explored and discussed, and the Vision for our future and Actions we feel called upon to take grow out of these identity statements. On **September 27th**, after 10:30 am worship, there will be an **All-Church Potluck Lunch** to take a first look at our **Draft Budget for 2010** alongside our refined lists of **Action** Items. Your Church Council, Staff, Volunteers, and Boards and Committees ask for your presence at this lunch meeting!

Manna—Raffle Baskets

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 as 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.

Christmas Market

This year's market and bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 7. Please save the date! There will be food, art and craft booths and more.

Faith and Family Enrichment

Friends and Family Church Camp

LAST CALL FOR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

All are welcome to join us at N-Sid-Sen for worship and lunch on Sunday, September 13. Worship will begin at 10:30am. Lunch will be at noon. **Reservations for lunch must be made by Sunday, September 6.**

Payment must be made no later than **September 13.**

New Member Potluck

Are you interested in learning more about Westminster CUCC? Have you considered joining the membership of this community of faith, but have some questions? Please join us for an **Inquirer's Potluck Supper** on **September 29th at 6:00 pm** in the Parlor where we will explore the story of Westminster, it's members and friends, and The United Church of Christ. Your faith story is a part of our communal story so we invite you to share your personal journey of faith as well. Please call the office, 624-1366, if you are in need of childcare. If you have questions or comments, please call Pastor Andy or Pastor Marj.

Serendipity Bible Study

The Serendipity Bible study class on the First Letter to Timothy will begin on Monday, September 14. The class will meet in the home of Karen Wilson-Bell and Justin Bell from 7 until 8:15 pm. You will find the scriptures come alive with this interactive style of study. The class will not meet on September 28. Call Karen at 327-7862 for directions and to sign up.

Bible Study

Join Sara Weaver for bible study on Wednesdays from 1-2:30 pm. Class begins on September 30, and will be held every two weeks. The first session is a review on Monotheism.

CAFÉ Hour

The Café Hour resumes on September 20. We hope you'll join us as the CAFÉ Hour at Westminster resumes full activities for all ages. The time from 9:30 to 10:20am Sunday mornings has been dubbed **CAFÉ Hour** – **C**hildren, **A**dult, and **F**amily **E**nrichment Hour!

- * Fellowship time is available from 9:30 to 10:20 in the Mayflower Room.
- * Children from birth to 5 years old are attended in the nursery/playroom.
- * Children from 5 to 11 years old participate in Sunday School in Room 204 with a great team of teachers using *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum.
- * Youth ages 11 to 14 are invited to join in the middle school class for a discussion about *The Giver* by Lois Lowry with Teresa Schock and Cindi Abbott.
- * Adults are invited to join in a new series called *Living the Questions*. Each week includes a 20-minute video starter by a contemporary, progressive and leading voice in the Christian faith. The Adult Discussion Group meets in the Parlor.

Calling All "Questioning Believers"

Beginning Wednesday, September 23, we'll gather to share in conversation about the things we ponder, question and know. Each session will start at 7:00 and end by 8:30 in the Parlor. A light supper of soup and bread is available beginning at 6:00pm. We'll run seven sessions from a series called *Living the Questions*. (See the previous CAFÉ Hour article for more information) Questions? Contact Pastor Marj!



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. September meeting will be at Marilynne Wilson's home.

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

Yoga Retreat

Advance notice: November 14

Come spend some time connecting and exploring your physical and sacred self. Through the gentle practice of Svaroopaa yoga, reflection, discussion and journaling we'll explore the God within.

This will be an all day Saturday retreat, 9 am to 5 pm, lunch included. Cost \$25, scholarships are available. Space is limited. The retreat will be held at the home of Francie Light, 510 W. Gibbs Rd. For more information and to sign up, please contact Francie at 638-2273.

Thursday Svaroopaa yoga sessions resume on September 3 at 5:30 pm and continue weekly.

Picnic in the Park

Saturday, September 12

Shalom Ministries benefit at Manito United Methodist Church. For a \$5 donation, enjoy a meal of hotdogs and hamburgers, beans and coleslaw. Also, there will be a Top Picnic Chef Contest with two categories: Potato Salad and Pie (no cream pies please). For a \$5 donation you can register your salad or pie. Bring them to the church by 11 am, and judging will be at noon. Eating will begin by 12:30 pm. There will be games for the youngsters, and the Blue Grass Union Band will play. Call Kay with questions 747-6016

Second Chance Extravaganza!

An event to benefit
the **Faith & Environment Network**
Sunday, September 27th
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 w/ local and organic ingredients

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 or (724) 991-7752

Tree of Sharing

With the help of coordinator Jon Louis and the efforts of many community organizations, businesses and volunteers, the annual Tree of Sharing will take place this fall. This effort provides many opportunities for you to help the community. How it works: Local social service agencies send a list of ages and wished—for gifts. Volunteers assemble these onto colored tags, sorted by age group. Tags are distributed to three area mall locations, where they can be picked up by community members, who then purchase a gift and return it wrapped to the tree locations at the malls. Gifts are sorted by agency and distributed mid-December. This year, tags will be assembled during the week of November 2-6, the trees open November 20 and close on December 13.

August Financials

	August	Budget	Jan-Aug	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Pledge	8,989.87	12,500.00	91,240.32	100,000.00	150,000.00
Non-pledge	1,886.86	1,458.33	13,384.96	11,666.67	17,500.00
Other	1,063.33	1,233.33	64,158.70	40,116.67	72,300.00
Total Income	11,940.06	15,191.66	168,783.98	151,783.34	239,800.00
Expense					
DUES	0.00	0.00	900.00	500.00	500.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS & MAINT	5,648.49	7,601.66	45,319.78	46,795.33	69,316.00
CHRISTIAN NURTURE	0.00	118.50	564.61	991.00	1,480.00
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	0.00	0.00	4,611.00	4,225.00	4,225.00
DIACONATE	100.00	141.67	455.92	733.33	900.00
MUSIC AND ARTS	425.00	285.42	1,864.18	3,066.45	4,352.50
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,192.30	1,979.17	13,429.36	16,547.11	25,035.00
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
PASTORAL MINISTRIES	3,706.57	3,885.15	44,531.89	50,816.79	72,935.93
PAYROLL CLEARINGS	8,541.62	9,570.75	76,316.29	78,449.59	118,293.36
Total Expense	19,613.98	23,582.32	19,993.03	205,124.60	303,037.79
Net Income	-7,673.92	-8,390.66	-22,209.05	-53,341.26	-63,237.79

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Nurture 5:30 p	2	3 Yoga 5:30 p Diaconate 7 p	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 Music & Arts 7 p	9 Trustees noon Joanna @ Har- borcrest noon	10 Yoga 5:30 p	11	12 Family Camp at N-Sid-Sen
13 Worship at N-Sid-Sen	14 Serendipity 7 p/Wilson- Bell home	15	16	17 Sara Chapter 10:30 a Yoga 5:30 p	18	19
20	21 Serendipity Bible study	22 Church Coun- cil 7 p	23 ? Believers 7 p	24 Yoga 5:30 p	25 Knitting 7 p	26
27 Values and Vi- sion Potluck after worship	28 No Bible Study	29 New member potluck 6 p	30 Bible Study 1 p ? Believers 7 p WestCAT 7 p			

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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

September 6—Mark 7: 24-37, Prov. 22:1-2

Liturgist: Alan Mackay

**September 13—at Camp N-Sid-Sen
Psalm 19**

September 20—James 3:1-12, Mark 9: 33-37

Liturgist: Lorna Kropp

September 27—James 5: 13-20, Mark 9: 38-50

Liturgist: Sara Weaver

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