Westminster Town Hall Forum: 40th Anniversary Year

by Bill Linder-Scholer, Advisory Board Chair

The Town Hall Forum begins its 40th year of engaging the public in reflection and dialogue on the key issues of our day from an ethical perspective. This spring, three speakers will explore critical issues challenging our community and nation during this election year. Forums are held in Westminster’s sanctuary and are free and open to all. Music precedes the presentation 30 minutes; a reception and book-signing with the speaker follow. We depend on your donations to make the Forum possible. Please donate at westminsterforum.org.

Bill McKibben
Tuesday, March 17, Noon
Building a Movement to Stop Climate Change

Bill McKibben is an environmentalist, educator, and author, and one of the leading voices on climate change in America. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A prolific and award-winning author, his 1989 book, The End of Nature, is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He lives in Vermont in the mountains above Lake Champlain.

Victoria Sweet
Tuesday, April 21, Noon
Slow Medicine: The Way to Healing

Victoria Sweet is associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of California in San Francisco and a prize-winning historian with a Ph.D. in history and social medicine. For more than 20 years, she worked in San Francisco’s Laguna Honda Hospital, a rehabilitation center providing skilled nursing and therapeutic services to underserved populations. Her interactions with patients taught her that health care works best when

Earth Day, Climate Change, and Bill McKibben
by Doug Van Valkenburg, Eco-Justice committee member

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, and this year marks its 50th anniversary. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate change, the major challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

In recognition of this important anniversary, Westminster’s Eco-Justice Committee is proud to co-sponsor the Westminster Town Hall Forum’s with Bill McKibben, one of the leading environmental authors of our time, on March 17.

To learn more about the impact that global climate change is having on our planet, visit the newly expanded eco-justice collection of books in the Westminster library, and join us for the upcoming Town Hall Forum.
Pick Up Your Lenten Devotional Booklet

by Kathleen Campbell and Heather Heefner, Westminster members

The 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter commemorates Jesus’ time of withdrawal to and reflection in the desert while he fasted. Many members of the Christian faith use the period of Lent as a time for quiet contemplation, reflection, and prayer.

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, a Lenten Booklet of day-by-day devotional material will be available on the information table in the Westminster reception area and on the website. The booklet will include written reflections contributed by Westminster members, poetry selections, scripture quotes, and reproductions of art from Westminster’s collection.

Coordinating with Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen’s sermon theme for Lent 2020, the Lenten Booklet is intended to help readers explore their own Christian faith in the context of the environmental crisis. How does our Christian faith call us to participate in caring for God’s creation? In the face of vast environmental changes, how and why does our faith call us to hope? How have our personal experiences with nature helped us to encounter God?

Please look for your copy of the Lenten Booklet on or after Sunday, February 23, at church or on the Westminster website.

Souper Bowl of Caring

As many of us prepare for Super Bowl celebrations with tables full of food, more than 500,000 fellow Minnesotans will struggle with hunger; more than 160,000 of whom are children. In fact, according to Feeding America, 1 in 8 children struggles with hunger in our state. For many years, the youth of Westminster have helped us reorient ourselves on Super Bowl Sunday, uniting our congregation and community around issues of hunger and food justice. During morning worship, students will offer a moment for mission and receive an offering (in soup pots) at the doors of the Chapel and Sanctuary following worship as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. This national movement encourages young people to raise funds and resources to combat hunger on the day of the Big Game. A full 100% of the offering stays local and will be given to the Groveland Food Shelf to help those who are hungry in our own neighborhood. Please remember to bring your spare change, paper money, and checks to worship on February 2. And thank you for your generosity!
Dear Friends,

It has been a joy and a privilege to support Families, Youth, and Children ministries in this time of transition these last six months, and I am grateful for our staff and council leaders who guide with energy and imagination! I am also appreciative of my clergy colleagues who have helped balance the load a bit, allowing me to offer more pastoral presence with FYC. In many ways, my intentional time with FYC has allowed me to see focused, programmatic details in new ways, informing my Executive Associate Pastor role for the future.

We celebrate the hard work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for Faith Formation (APNC for FF), who concluded their search in November with the difficult decision that the best candidate for the position did not emerge from the process. We are grateful for their year of diligent and prayerful work together. In recent months, we have engaged in listening and discernment to determine the next steps to staff for growth in our educational ministries. I am energized for the way ahead!

At the January Session meeting, the Elders approved a position description to begin the process of calling an Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children. The Congregational Nominating Committee is at work to nominate a slate of individuals who will form an APNC to be elected at the February 23 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The APNC for FYC will have good and exciting work before them, and they will have the benefit of building on the strong foundation created by the APNC for FF. Also at the January meeting, the Session reviewed a proposal for a new position: Director of Congregational and Community Engagement. This full-time, non-ordained position will collaborate with Matt Skinner, Westmin-ster’s new Scholar for Adult Education, working to bring energy and direction to Westminster’s ministries with adults across generations, particularly seniors, within the congregation and in the broader community. This new position will also connect with the Faith in Action Council and staff team to increase the number of adults engaging in service opportunities together.

These searches will commence in the coming months and we look forward to welcoming new staff members later this year. In the meantime, I remain committed to offering pastoral leadership for our FYC ministries as we learn and grow in faith together!

Meghan Gage-Finn
Executive Associate Pastor

P.S. Westminster’s bells have arrived in Minneapolis, after making their trip across the Atlantic! The two smallest bells will be “revealed” after the 10:30 service on February 9, with a special gathering in the Corner Gallery. Watch for more information about the bells this spring, including plans for the first ringing of the bells on Palm Sunday!

From Our Pastor

Clergy & Staff

Staff Leadership
Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Andersen, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Meghan K. Gage-Finn, Executive Associate Pastor
Janice Telczan, Executive Assistant

Congregational Care
Rev. David Shinn, Associate Pastor
Deb Wagner, Administrative Assistant
Angelique Kingsbury, Coordinator of Volunteers & Senior Center

Congregational Life
Rev. Sarah Brouwer, Associate Pastor
Deb Wagner, Administrative Assistant
Kristin Kieft, Communications Coordinator
Vanessa Uzong, Wedding Coordinator & Receptionist

Educational Ministries
Matt Skinner, Scholar for Adult Education
Mahin Hamilton, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Mauk, Librarian

Faith in Action
Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler, Associate Pastor for Justice and Mission
Vanessa Uzong, Administrative Assistant

Families, Youth, and Children
Sonja Dzieckowiak, Director of Children’s Ministries
Matt Lewellyn-Otten, Director of Youth Ministries
Marie Kruuskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood & Family Ministries
Kasey Collier, Nursery Coordinator

Music and the Arts
Dr. Amanda Weber, Minister of Music & the Arts
Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, Gallery & Archive
Barbara Prince, Program Facilitator, Director Global Choir
David Ostenson Moore, Director, Gathered at Five
Jeffrey Gram, Artist-in-Residence
Kenny Vigne, Interim Organist
Brad Ollmann, Dr. Early/Middle Childhood Music
Haskel Black, Interim Director, Youth Music
Mark Kieffer, Director, Handbell Choir

Finance & Administration
Julie Champ, Director of Finance
Kienan Mick, Accounting Manager
Déborah Majune, Accounting Clerk
Lacey Jung, Events Coordinator

Stewardship
Mary Hess, Director of Stewardship
Anna Gram, Stewardship Associate

Operations
P. Eichten, Director of Facilities
Mike Anderson, Facilities Team Lead
Chris Brown, Todd Bushy, John Seagard, Richard Wildev, Facilities Staff

Emeriti
Rev. Byron Thompson
Rev. Katherine S. Michael
Rev. Douglas Mitchell
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad
Samuel G. Cooke

Parish Associates (Volunteer Clergy)
Rev. Dr. James Brasel, Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins, Rev. Judy Allen Kim, Rev. Judy Landt, Rev. David Liddle, Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray

Westminster Camp Ajawah
Sofa-Bella Vitale-Gill, Registrar

Westminster Counseling Center
Rev. Dr. Margaret McCray, LMFT, Director
Peter Bruhn, MA, LADC
Sherri Dunham, MA, LPC
Carol Hombeck, LMFT
Rev. Susan Thornton, M.A., M.Div., LP
Jennifer Eden, Office Manager

Westminster Town Hall Forum
Susan McKenna, Director

February 2020 | westminstermpls.org
Gathered @ Five Super Bowl Party
February 2 | 5 pm | Westminster Hall
Gather for worship, fun food (potluck style!), and the first half of the game on the big screen. Remember to bring your spare change for the Souper Bowl. All ages welcome!

WOW Women’s Bible Study
February 5 | 9:30 am | Meisel Room
We will be reading about the Gospel of John from a book by New Testament Scholar Frances Taylor Gench. Pick up your copy at the reception desk. Questions? Contact Sarah sbrouwer@wpc-mpls.org.

Stewardship Beloved Community Reception
February 9 | 11:30 am | Corner Gallery
See ideas from the Stewardship Wall and hear how Building the Beloved Community will play out in 2020 at Westminster, thanks to your good stewardship.

2020 Downtown Choral Festival
February 9 | 2 pm | Westminster Sanctuary | FREE
Westminster hosts this biennial festival, a service of choral music offered by the choirs of several downtown congregations, including the Basilica of St. Mary, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Central Lutheran Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, and St. Mark’s Cathedral. The choirs will join in a commissioned work titled “Evensong” by Paul Rudoi.

Ajawah Bake Sale on Camping Sunday
February 9 | 9 am - 1 pm | Westminster Commons
Help support the Camp Ajawah Scholarship Fund by buying yummy treats. Your support provides scholarships to Camp Ajawah.

Quiet Worship
Saturday, February 15 | 9 am | Bushnell Room
One of Henri Nouwen’s favorite passages in the Bible was Luke 6:12-19, which Nouwen says offers us the vision that Jesus sets through his own example the three things we are to do if we are to follow him: One, prayer or being in solitude with God...secondly, creating community...and thirdly, doing ministry. Nell Biel leads worship.

FEAST
Sunday, February 23 | 4-7 pm
Help serve a meal to our neighbors in the downtown area. Sign up at the reception desk or contact Angelique akingsbury@wpc-mpls.org.

IN MEMORY
William McCubrey
December 6, 2019
Bryce Barnes
December 18, 2019
William McCabe
December 23, 2019
Sally Ann Mathieu
December 24, 2019
Notes from the Lowe Library
by Barbara Mauk, Librarian

Many of you have recently read the 16th All-Church Book Read book, *Virgil Wander* by Minnesota author, Leif Enger. Bookmarks on the library desk list the selections from 2005 to 2020. We have multiple copies of most of these books on our shelves. This winter is a good time to read any that you missed. You may check out a set for your book group.

We also have multiple copies of *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving, a non-fiction book about the subject of white privilege (there is also a reading guide). The Faith in Action Council read it together last year and encourages you to do so, too. Consider gathering a group from home or church. We could arrange for you to meet after church over coffee and cookies in front of the library fireplace. Now that’s hygge! *

If you are an armchair traveler or always have your bag packed, check out the “Free Little Library” travel shelf just inside the library door. Take a book, leave a book. We are gathering travel books in good condition to share with one another.

At this time, donations of recent travel books are welcomed. Leave them on the library desk. Please do not drop off other books anonymously. We are unable to accept donations without first consulting with the librarian. Questions? Contact Barbara Mauk, bmauk@wpc-mpls.org.

*Hygge is a Danish word conveying a mood of coziness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment.*

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Youth Cabaret
by Matt Lewellyn-Otten, Director of Youth Ministries

The Westminster 26th Annual Cabaret is just around the corner. Mark your calendars, set your alarms, and write sticky note reminders to be in Westminster Hall on February 23 at noon, immediately following the annual meeting, for this spectacular show. As usual, it promises to be a time of laughter – sometimes uncomfortable and other times inevitably hilarious. Just as important as the laughter is the money raised during this performance. Every dime raised from your donations will go straight to the youth mission trip fund. This will help our middle school youth group serve those in western Minnesota and our high school youth group serve those in Bozeman, Montana, this summer. Come to Cabaret ready to laugh and ready to give!

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Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?™
by Jeffrey Gram, New Old Adventure Committee

Few families escape navigating the “passing on” of personal possessions in later life and the unique challenges and potential conflicts personal possessions present for families and inheritance planning.

On February 12, the New Old Adventure will present University of Minnesota Professor Dr. Marlene Stum and her internationally recognized program, *Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?™.*

In this session you will:

- Learn six key factors critical to helping family members optimize inheritance planning and improve family relationships across the generations;
- Gain insight into the meaning and experience of fair inheritances; and
- Learn about research-informed and proven educational tools to make more informed decisions.

A workbook accompanies the presentation and will be available for sale at a reduced cost on Sunday mornings in the Commons prior to the date of this program, as well as at the session itself. Join us February 12 at 11 am for two hours of learning, lunch, and discussion. Questions? Contact Deb Wagner, dwagner@wpc-mpls.org.
Artist-In-Residence Update
by Jeffrey Gram, WPC Artist-In-Residence 2019-2020

The beat goes on! In deep gratitude I continue to serve our Westminster community as 2019-2020 artist-in-residence, a residency focused on performance, leadership, and community building through music. I’m pleased to share some fruits borne of this exciting collaboration as well as seeds currently being planted.

Performance: I’m privileged to regularly offer percussion accompaniment and solo performances on marimba, hand drums, drum set, and more in worship services with the adult choir, chapel choir, handbell choir, children’s choirs, and the Gathered at Five ensemble. More musical collaborations are in the works. Other highlights this year include joining South African choir 29:11 in a memorable Westminster Performing Arts Series concert and arranging an energetic body percussion piece for the Christmas Dinner production.

Leadership: Creating percussion music for worship is a passion, and I’m fortunate for the opportunity to assist Dr. Amanda Weber and Kenny Vigne in planning Wednesday evening worship music, a rewarding collaboration that enriches this contemplative service with marimba, percussion, and, occasionally, original compositions.

Community Building: We are launching a pilot series of drum ensemble workshops beginning February 16. And mark your calendars for Sunday, February 23, when I will present an Adult Education class on the topic of “Building Community Through Music.” We explored a similar topic at the fall men’s retreat last October.

Blessings to this wonderfully creative congregation for the opportunity to serve our community in these new ways.

Visiting Mission Groups
On January 5, we welcomed a group of students from the University of South Dakota connected with the on-campus service organization Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning (AWOL). The group was here to support agencies serving vulnerable youth populations. While volunteering, they made a point of learning about the community to better understand their issue of focus. They slept in the youth room, parked their van securely underground, cooked in the main kitchen, and enjoyed the on-site showers!

AWOL is entirely led by students. They organize all the logistics of the week. We expect to welcome another AWOL group in March for an alternative spring break experience; these students will focus on disability allyship. The hospitality and support we offer these visiting groups is just one way we are becoming an open doors congregation.

Faith Nixon Symposium
This year’s Faith Nixon Symposium, on March 1 (the first Sunday in Lent), will be a joint effort with Tim Hart-Andersen and a guest speaker and will focus on the stewardship of creation.

This lunch will kick off a series of after-worship lunches in Lent where we will explore our responsibility to the environment as Christians.

Faith Nixon, the member of Westminster who gave the endowment for women’s educational opportunities, will be honored and remembered.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.
Have you noticed a change to the communion cups in worship? Ideally, you have not, but in January, we switched to a corn-based, compostable communion cup. We were disheartened to find out recently that the cups we had been using, which we thought were recyclable, were too small to go through the recycling machinery and had to be thrown away.

With nine communion Sundays, Westminster uses nearly 12,000 communion cups per year. Now, all of those cups will go into our compostable waste system rather than into the landfill.

While we tested for size and shape, we did not check to see if the new cups make the same satisfying smack against the wood floor in the Sanctuary when dropped. We trust it will not be too long until we find out!

Wednesday Worship “Silence and Song”
by Marilyn and Alan Youel, Westminster members

These Wednesday evening services (6-6:30 pm) have become high points of our week. For us there is a wholeness to the words from Scripture, the spoken prayer, and the music. And the singing, especially—as we blend our voices with Amanda Weber’s, in songs and sung prayers—seems to draw us together...taking us a little bit out of ourselves and our daily lives...forming a worshipping community, here in the heart of the city.

The time for silence can be good, sitting quietly, but it often seems to become a time of true silence. “Foundational silence,” Richard Rohr says, “is liberating and calming...is a deep, interior openness to Presence.” Rev. Matthew Johnson, after the Sunday morning formal Prayer of Confession, sometimes invited us into “the roominess of silence.” And Anthony de Mello says that “Silence is not the absence of sound, but the absence of self.” This deeper, peace-giving silence is not always experienced. But the Scripture and the spoken prayers and the song—and the ambiance and setting—seem to nurture its coming.

Wednesday evening “Silence and Song” is a high point for us. We just come, and a deep experience of worship opens to us. Deep thanks to all those who make it happen.

Lenten Covenant Groups

Lenten Covenant Groups begin Sunday, March 1. This year’s theme is Losing Paradise: Faith and the Ecological Crisis. Groups meet Sundays at 9:15 am and Wednesdays at 7:10 pm. Sign up at the Adult Education table in Westminster Commons starting January 26, or email mhamilton@wpc-mpls.org. There will also be an online sign-up form later in February.

The Magnet Senior Center and Hyatt’s THRIVE community engagement team partnered to bring winter care packages to isolated seniors in the Loring Neighborhood. (above) Janet Leick, Margaret McVay, Pat Hammink, and Doris Wong (who was in Cuba at the time of the lunch) were given the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award to Presbyterian Women for a lifetime of service to the Church of Jesus Christ. (below)
Arts Month
by Sonja Dziekciowski, Director, Children’s Ministries

This month students are pushing up their sleeves to use a variety of mediums that show their understanding of our theme for Arts Month: An Invitation to Create Community.

To help further our understanding of community, we’ll focus on the text of Psalm 133:1: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity” and use a quote from Dr. Maya Angelou: “We are not our brother’s keeper we are our brother and we are our sister. We must look past complexion to see community.”

As a way to focus on building unity, students in our three-year-old classrooms through first grade are working on a collaborative piece with children in the St. David’s program. Westminster children are painting individual canvases on Sundays, while children in the St. David’s program are painting their canvases during their program midweek. Each week, new layers of paint will be added to the canvases to create a unique texture and depth. The individual canvases will be combined to create one piece of artwork that will be displayed in our shared space hallway on the second floor.

Westminster staff have been invited to attend a private art reception for the St. David’s children.

Other classrooms will be showing their understanding of the theme through puppetry, stained glass, water color, photography, and videography. Megan MacFarlane, our coordinator for Arts Month, has recruited talented members of Westminster to share their expertise and instructional knowledge with our children and youth.

Mark your calendars for the Arts Month Showcase during 9:15 am education hour on Sunday, February 23, in the Recreation Room. There will be a third-grade puppet show and a viewing of the fifth-grade film, along with student art on display. Members of the congregation are also encouraged to view the artwork in the Recreation Room after the second service that Sunday.

Arts Month in Adult Education
by Sue Foster, Co-Chair, Adult Education Council

Join us in Westminster Hall during Education Hour on Sunday morning as we explore the many ways art informs and inspires our faith and sense of community.

- **Feb 2** Explore literature with Leif Enger, author of this year’s All-Church Book Read selection, *Virgil Wander*.
- **Feb 9** Pat McManus will introduce us to the power of dance.
- **Feb 16** Dr. Rodney Allen Schwartz and Elizabeth Winga will discuss how visual arts can define and bring communities together.
- **Feb 23** Artist-in-residence Jeffrey Gram invites us to explore the ways music can help create community.

Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm in the Meisel Room, we will explore the Beloved Community as Dr. Sarah Henrich shares her New Testament expertise with us:

- **Feb 5** How Does a Community Protect Itself?
- **Feb 12** Why Can’t We All Just Get Along?
- **Feb 19** How am I Free in Community?
Calling All Girl Scouts!
We are looking for Girl Scouts interested in helping with the Girl Scout cookies sales for FEAST. Cookies will be sold during 9:15 am Education Hour (parents help with this time slot) and after the 10:30 am worship service in late February/early March. Distribution of cookies will take place at FEAST on Sunday, April 26. For more information or to get involved, email Gina Gustafson at ginamccgus@juno.com by February 10.

Chinese New Year Celebration
Get out of the house and celebrate the Chinese New Year – the year of the rat – on February 1, from 4:30-6 pm. Join us – and invite your friends to join us, too – at the Midtown Global Market. Meet us in the commons area where we’ll gather over dinner and spend some time with friends, both old and new. RSVP to Marie by Thursday, January 30, at mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org.

Annual Hunger Offering
On Sunday, February 23, Westminster will receive its annual Hunger Offering. Through this offering, Westminster offers much-needed support to food shelves, meal programs, and other local organizations involved in hunger relief. One in 11 Minnesota households is food insecure — meaning the household income is not sufficient to feed the family.

Hunger is a social illness that does not respect boundaries. Our neighbors living in rural, urban, and suburban areas struggle with hunger. The youngest among us and our elders struggle with hunger. An estimated 163,070 children are at risk of impeded learning and growth because of inadequate nutrition, and a growing number of older adults living on fixed incomes — especially those living with disabilities — experience the stress of not having enough money to buy food.

With these neighbors in mind, consider a generous contribution to the Hunger Offering. Our gifts to community organizations like Groveland Food Shelf, Liberty Church, and the Division of Indian Work make a big difference.

From the Congregational Nominating Committee
The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) for 2020 invites you to send us the names of people you believe should be called into ministry at Westminster. We also encourage you to select yourself if you feel called to serve Westminster in a particular role. The CNC discerns who among us should enter the role of Elder, Deacon, or Trustee at Westminster. While Trustees take on very distinct jobs on their board, particularly in the area of finance, they are commissioned instead of ordained. Elders, though, are the governing body of the church, which is why they are officially called Ruling Elders, as opposed to Teaching Elders (those are your pastors!), and they are ordained into this ministry. Deacons, as well, are ordained, and they are called to be the caring arm of the church, with ministries of compassion to those in need in our community.

The CNC will begin its work in the spring. They will work through the summer and into the fall to nominate, and their work will culminate with the congregational meeting in November. If you or someone you know would be a good candidate for the CNC to consider, please do not hesitate or wait to get ahold of us.

Sarah Brouwer is the staff support for the CNC and available at sbrouwer@wpc-mpls.org, and elder Brent Hall is our Elder Chair and available at bhall@wlhall.com.
Nurturing Your Child’s Independence
by Carol Hornbeck, LMFT, Westminster Counseling Center

One of the hardest parts of parenting is finding the balance between doing things for your child and helping them build self-reliance. Parents want to protect their child from disappointment and frustration, yet it is only through struggling with these emotions that we grow and become competent.

To improve parenting skills, it is always a good idea to start by reflecting on your own childhood experience. How did your parents help you become independent? Did you feel frustrated when you weren’t allowed to try new things? Or can you recall struggling to get your parent’s attention? Awareness of the emotions you bring from your own childhood will help you be more present to your child and more able to discern what your child might need from you.

If your preschooler is struggling to put pieces of a toy together or master a new skill, it can be tempting to rescue them by doing it for them. Instead try taking a deep breath and noticing what is going on. “Wow, you are trying really hard to get those pieces together…it can be frustrating when you’re learning something new.” When we give words to what a child might be feeling, we support their emotional competence.

Try moving into a coaching role. Instead of doing it for them, ask, “What would happen if you turned that piece the other way?” Our children learn most from us when we model traits like patience, perseverance, and determination.

Carol Hornbeck, LMFT, sees couples, families, adolescents, and children at the Westminster location and at the Minnetonka satellite.

What’s Happening in the Gallery?
by Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, Westminster Gallery and Archive

The newest exhibition in the Westminster Gallery is “Art That Speaks” and it features art from the Westminster Collection that incorporates text as part of the image. We are able to discern a message from visual art by recognizing familiar clues and formulating ideas based on what we see. Even abstracted images lend some hint as to their meaning. Will the addition of words to art influence how we see art and impact our understanding of the artist’s message? The exhibition runs through February 23.

The Rev. Liz Heller wrote a prayer for the funeral for Nancy Morin’s mother, and it became a signature piece for Liz, which she used throughout her life. Her text has been made into art by calligrapher Judy Dodds and makes its debut in this exhibition.

It is time to announce the theme and title for the summer members’ exhibition: Where Do We Find Hope? As we begin a new year filled with political conflict and social unrest, a divisive presidential campaign, concerns over global warming, and so much more, the question of hope seems timely. Where do you find hope? What is your hope for the world? Please consider creating original art to contribute to this annual exhibition that expresses your source of hope. Submissions will be due in late May.

Prayer, words by Liz Heller, calligraphy by Judy Dodds, 2019