Westminster Bells to Be Dedicated
by Tim Hart-Andersen, Senior Pastor

In March 2020 the Westminster bells arrived in Minneapolis from the Paccard Foundry in Annecy, France. We gathered as a community on Sunday, March 8, 2020, to see the bells up close and to celebrate together the many people who came together to make this vision a reality. They were installed that week and then Covid shut everything down before we could hold a bell dedication service. With Covid vaccinations working and infection rates stabilizing, we have scheduled the bell dedication for Coming Together Sunday on September 11.

Philippe Paccard from the foundry will join us during worship and for a special dedication event afterwards. Philippe will speak during worship and the event along with Westminster leaders who were instrumental in getting the bells installed at Westminster. Each bell includes an inscription representing part of Westminster’s history. During the dedication, community members will read each inscription as we hear the tones from the corresponding bell. This dedication will also celebrate the legacy of the late Jim Dayton, Westminster member and the architect for Westminster’s building addition. Early in his work on Westminster’s new wing, Jim felt the tower he envisioned called for bells. He felt the bells were integral to the design and would provide an audible way for Westminster to be a telling presence in downtown Minneapolis. Jim’s mother, Joan Dayton, will remember Jim during the dedication and share more of his vision, that is now a reality.

Finally, we will end by playing the Westminster chime on the bells—something we have now waited two and a half years to hear. Save the date for this special event on September 11!
New Accountant and Office Manager Started in July
by Nicole Cueno, Senior Director of Operations and Administration

We are excited to announce that Truly Tidwell has been named the new Accountant and Office Manager for Westminster and her first official day was July 1. The Accountant and Office Manager position replaces the former Accounting Clerk position filled previously by Déborah Majune. The new position offers an updated title and includes an additional Realm focus. Truly brings a variety of professional experience from her previous seven years at YWCA Minneapolis. Her most recent position at the YWCA, as a Membership Accountant, focused on daily revenue reconciliation and responding to billing and account issues, among a variety of other accounting and administrative duties. Prior to that position, Truly worked in a float position wherein she regularly filled building supervisor/manager and customer service roles while also supporting site General Managers on special projects and events. In addition to working at the YWCA, Truly has also worked at the Science Museum of Minnesota and other businesses that have allowed her to support and work with youth.

“That sums up my work history, but I wanted to briefly introduce myself a little bit more,” says Truly. “I’m a mom of two who loves to cook, paint and take walks with my German Shepard. Westminster is a beautiful space! I can’t wait to learn more about the history and contribute to the overall awesomeness!”

Using Realm to Manage Giving
Realm is Westminster’s record keeping solution and it makes managing your giving even easier. With Realm, you can update your contact information, manage your giving, register for events, and much more! Below are some helpful links to access your giving to Westminster:

- Log into Realm
- View your giving history
- Make an annual stewardship pledge
- Set up automated giving by following the instructions listed online
- Make a one-time gift
- Download the app to your smartphone; find the links online

Learn more about Realm on the Westminster website.

Westminster Welcomes Two New Receptionists
by Nicole Cueno, Senior Director of Operations and Administration

In June Westminster welcomed two new receptionists: Jaime Kramer and Faith Einerson. They both came to Westminster with great customer service experience. You will see them at the main receptionist desk during weekends, especially on Sunday mornings, and some weeknights.

In addition to working at Westminster part-time, Jaime is in school full-time working toward an associate degree in human resources. She also is a parent to three children and her hobbies include reading, spending time with her kids and “fur-kids,” and relaxing at home.

Before coming to Westminster, Faith worked in various positions from a computer system manager to an English as a second language teacher. “I’m enjoying being at Westminster and meeting the people here. Although I’m not a Minnesota native, I like the climate here — meteorological and social,” Faith shared.
Dear friends,

Summer at Westminster has been wonderful. For the first time since 2019 we have been able to return to more typical activities. It has been good to witness it all...

...Camp Ajawah, our rustic camp near Wyoming, Minnesota, has been in full swing, with children enjoying the beauty of God’s creation in the water and the woods.

...Day Camp for children involved dozens of kids, youth, and adults having fun and singing as they experienced God’s love together. (read more, page 7)

...Westminster’s junior and senior high youth took mission trips to greater Minnesota and Appalachia, respectively, learning, serving, and worshipping together.

...Westminster Clean Water Team journeyed to Cuba to assess existing installations, plan a trip later this year, and visit our partner congregation in Matanzas. (read more, page 6)

...Wednesday Evening Bluegrass Worship brought music and praise of God outside, where hundreds of people joined us over two months to focus on hope for our city.

In addition, throughout the summer, leaders of Westminster’s upcoming capital campaign have been hard at work inviting early generous commitments to this effort to pay down our church’s debt and free the congregation to move into an exciting future – more to come in the fall!

As we turn into this month, we anticipate the arrival of the Rev. Margaret Fox, whom the congregation elected earlier this summer to serve as Westminster’s Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries. She will start her work among us on August 15 – and the Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn will return from sabbatical a week later.

Our attention now begins to shift toward the fall at Westminster. We will have, for the first time in several years, a full pastoral and program staff team, including a new Director of Youth Ministries, Olivia King (read more, page 6), who will join us just in time for the end of summer staff retreat. I am excited about this gifted, energetic, eager group of leaders. Working with Westminster’s outstanding lay leaders, we can expect a dynamic fall!

Finally, this summer the young children of Westminster families have started their long-awaited Covid vaccinations. Considering this, Westminster’s Responsible Building Use Team has selected September 11, Coming Together Sunday – assuming the risk level for Hennepin and Ramsey counties is at the low level – as the first mask-optional worship service at our church since March 2020.

I give thanks to God for the resilience and vitality of Westminster. See you in church!

Grace and peace,

Tim
FYC Families Fellowship - Streetcar Trolley Ride & Ice Cream!
Wednesday, August 10 | 16:30-8 pm | Como-Harriet Street Car
Join us on the Como-Harriet Streetcar! All families are invited to take a trolley ride on the Como-Harriet Streetcar Trolley near the west side of Lake Harriet. Tickets may be purchased the day of for $3 per rider; children 3 and under ride free. After our Trolley ride, we’ll visit Bread & Pickle (near the Bandshell) for ice cream! RSVP to Marie Kruskop by Monday, August 8 at noon.

Pre-School Church School Welcome and Orientation
Sunday, August 28 | Following Worship | Westminster
Families with pre-school aged children (at least 3 years old on or before September 10, 2022, and not yet entering Kindergarten) are invited to join us for a Pre-School Church School Welcome and Orientation. Children will have a chance to explore the Church School classroom and families will learn details about the Church School experience for our youngest before the start of the new program year on September 11. Look for information about this event in the weekly Families, Youth, and Children (FYC) email. RSVP to attend by Thursday, August 25, and get more information from Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries.

Beyond Sunday Connections
For the next program year, Beyond Sunday Connections (BSC) returns to in-person events. BSC invites women of all ages to gather four times a year to enjoy relaxed conversation during an informal social hour followed by a catered dinner. After dinner, a speaker – always a Westminster member or staff person – shares personal reflections about her faith. Read next month’s newsletter to see the dates and speakers for the coming year!

The Third Age Fall Forums: Save the Dates!
by Sue Kolar, Third Age Committee Chair
Third Age monthly forums return this fall. Mark your calendars now, to avoid missing any. The Third Age Committee has been busy putting together programs covering a wide variety of interests for the upcoming church year. Save these fall program dates:

- September 14 – Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen
- October 12 – A surprise (details are still under way)
- November 9 – Music of the 50s, 60s, and 70s

Third Age forums are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm, in the Meisel Room and on Livestream. Refreshments or a light lunch will be served at noon. Covid-19 levels in the Twin Cities will decide whether lunch can be offered, per the Responsible Building Use Task Force policies. The Third Age Ministry provides a place of belonging for Westminster Adults 60+ to thrive spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually. For more information contact me, Sue Kolar or Rev. David Shinn. If you haven’t attended any of our forums in the past, I hope you will join us this year!
Voices of Hope Summer Jam
by Amanda Weber, Director of Worship and the Arts

Voices of Hope is a choral organization led by me that provides singing opportunities in Minnesota Correctional Facilities. This summer, the organization is engaged in a 6-week choral project hosted by Westminster, which has drawn together 50 singers of varying backgrounds, including Voices of Hope alumni, to learn from one another and sing together. We are gathering on Sunday afternoons and singing favorite repertoire from Voices of Hope across the years. Additionally, each week’s rehearsal is being videorecorded and sent as virtual programming to the correctional facilities in Shakopee and Stillwater. To wrap up this brief but powerful project, this Summer Jam choir will offer an informal performance on Saturday, August 20, at 6:30 pm in Westminster Hall (free, no tickets needed). Please consider attending this special event to learn more about incarceration and the healing power of singing. For more information, contact me at aweber@wpc-mpls.org.

The Joy of Being
by Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, Westminster Gallery and Archive

This summer’s exhibition of art made by Westminster members is centered on the theme The Joy of Being. We are brought into the experience of several members’ lives as they share their past and current everyday life experiences. Some of these involve travel, or time at the lake, such as the photographs by Barbara La Valleur and David Hastings. Betty Kinsey gives us a glimpse of her family’s history with a photograph of three generations – but they are seen from the back as they view a church – the story is less about people and more about place.

Pam Beggs transforms the landscape and trees in her ceramic tile, and James Nutt demonstrates his expertise with watercolor painting. Several group projects made by Westminster’s youth during the recent Arts Month demonstrate their enthusiasm in incorporating color and design. The submissions of other members join these in proclaiming The Joy of Being.

In addition to members’ art, there is also a selection of recent acquisitions to the Westminster Collection on view, including a bronze sculpture newly acquired in Paris. The exhibition continues through September 11.

The Joy of Being, by Barbara La Valleur, photograph, 2020

Health and Healing Ministry Update
by Michelle Lavelle-Henry, Westminster member

Upcoming events for the Health and Healing Ministry are around the corner as we near the end of summer and fall into the next season this September. Blood pressure screening will resume on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Bates Room. The screenings will begin October 16 and will be held each month from 9-10:15 am and 11:30 am-noon. Did you know most people with high blood pressure do not know they have it? Poorly managed hypertension is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke. If you do home monitoring, bring your equipment in, and we can compare your readings to make sure your home monitoring is accurate. During each session there is usually ample time to address your health questions or concerns with privacy, to protect your health information.

This fall the Health and Healing Ministry will host a Health Fair. We are in the planning process and are looking for volunteers. Education or experience in health care is desired but not required. I am looking for people experienced in nutrition, exercise, physical therapy (balance and falls prevention), and mental health. An intergenerational presence is desired, so all ages are welcome to participate. If you are a youth looking for service hours with an interest in health, I am happy to assist you further. Contact me through Realm if you are interested in participating.
Summer Mission Trips
by Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children

This summer, 17 junior high youth, 20 senior high youth, and 12 adult leaders participated in our summer mission trips! Thank you for praying for us while we were away, and for receiving the stories and wisdom of our young people upon their return.

In June, our junior high students traveled to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and Fargo, North Dakota, where we participated in a variety of service projects across the region. Our favorite activities included removing invasive species with the Prairie Wetlands Center and collaborating with the YWCA emergency shelter in Fargo, where we helped to clean out vans and U-Hauls.

In July, our senior high students journeyed all the way to Breathitt County, Kentucky, where we partnered with Appalachia Service Project for a week of home repair work in rural Appalachia. We survived the southern heat and even enjoyed a trip to a local Waffle House!

Introducing Olivia King, Director of Youth
by Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children

I am excited to share that Westminster has hired a new Director of Youth Ministries! Olivia King will begin her work as part of our staff on September 1. For the fall semester, she will work remotely on a part-time basis as she finishes her Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education & Formation degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary. In January, she and her husband Taylor will move to Minneapolis, and Olivia will begin full-time work with us here in Minneapolis.

Olivia comes to us with experience in youth ministry and a passion for being in relationship with youth and their families. Throughout our discernment process, members of the search committee remarked that Olivia’s energy and enthusiasm will be wonderful assets to the Westminster community. I am eager for her to bring that energy to her part-time work in the fall, as she helps to launch a new confirmation class and begins to work on next summer’s mission trip planning. I give thanks that the Spirit has led Olivia to us, and us to her.

Coming Together Sunday
September 11
Join us for worship, food, fellowship, and games as well as a special service to dedicate the Westminster bells. Read more in the September newsletter!
Day Camp Recap
by Sonja Dziekciowski, Director of Children’s Ministries

For the first time in three years, Westminster youth welcomed elementary students back to the building with joy and enthusiasm. Westminster’s 25 youth counselors, counselors-in-training, and apprentices created a fun and inclusive experience for our 24 elementary school day campers, encouraging them to be in community around the theme “Love Your Neighbor.”

With the help of Westminster staff, members, and friends, campers learned about Westminster’s neighbors. Angelique Kingsbury shared about the Magnet Senior Center; friends from St. David’s Center for Child and Family Development offered a tour of their on-site facility; former staff member Patrick Bayle explained more about our unsheltered neighbors; and Westminster member Doug VanValkenberg taught about ways animal neighbors are a part of God’s community.

Each morning included devotions with interactive songs from Westminster’s talented music team. We also enjoyed crafts, games, and lunch prepared by apprentices with direction from our favorite grilled cheese master, Laura Lee Moffett. Afternoons included outings to a llama farm, Lake Minnewashta Beach, Elm Creek Park Reserve, Theodore Worth Beach, and Baker Park Reserve. Day Campers created cards for Magnet Center seniors and for those who visited Westminster’s table during Pride Festival.

I enjoyed witnessing the connections between youth and campers that were strengthened throughout the week by songs on bus rides and shared friendship bracelets. The comradery and God’s love was evident as our youth cared for and encouraged our elementary campers.

A Warm Welcome to our New Nursery Coordinator
by Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries & Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to Jessica Brooks who will serve as the part-time Nursery Coordinator. Jessica has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Child Development as well as 12 years of experience in childcare, having served both as a Lead Infant and a Lead Toddler Teacher.

Our Nursery Reopening Team (Eliza Conrad, Megan MacFarlane, Kari Krohmer, Anna McKay, Alexandra Jacob, and Marie Kruskop) served as the interview team. All were impressed by Jessica’s education and practical experience working with infants and toddlers, and her collaborative nature. She conveys a nurturing spirit of warmth and welcome, and approaches the care of children with great intention. She emphasized building relationships with the children and their caregivers as key to her role. Further, she has experience hiring, training, and supervising staff.

Jessica begins August 1 to assist preparing the nursery for little ones and their parents. We hope to re-open the nursery slowly at the end of August, leading up to a full complement of staff and volunteers ready to go for Coming Together Sunday on September 11. Please join us in welcoming Jessica to the Westminster community!

Through the Open Doors Open Futures campaign, Westminster invested $750,000 in Grace-Trinity, allowing them to call the Rev. Vigilante and “start over.” Our investment multiplied when Grace-Trinity recently held their own capital campaign, raising $1.8 million, allowing for the renovations and the rededication service in May. In addition, this past January the Session of Westminster approved an extraordinary draw from unrestricted funds and gave $200,000 in funding to Grace-Trinity to repair the church’s roof. We are grateful for the Westminster community’s commitment to Grace-Trinity in these tangible ways.

Grace-Trinity’s new gathering space