

Being Transformed: Being Transformed by God

Good morning. I'm Heather Ferguson and I am here this morning to speak on behalf of Christian Education Committee on this fourth and final Sunday of our stewardship season. This year, our stewardship message has been about "transformation." Each week, the message has called our attention to the many ways that the church, and Westminster specifically, is at work connecting us in community and changing lives.

This week's focus is "Being Transformed by God" and it is a message about our own personal faith journey. The scripture for this year's campaign is from Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Here at Westminster, there are so many opportunities to learn and grow, indeed to be transformed, together...

- Godly Play is helping to draw our Kindergarteners and 1st graders deep into the stories of God and God's people.
- The we•form kids are gathering each Wednesday afternoon to learn and experience what it means to follow Jesus closely.
- Our 5th grade Church School class is engaging in an in-depth study of the Old Testament this year, with "hands-on" learning that will stick for life.
- Soon our 28 confirmands will be joined by 28 mentors, who will walk alongside them through this year of naming and claiming their faith.
- Folks in the Monday Morning Bible Study, exploring the Epistle of James, are being challenged and transformed as they grapple with what it means to be "not just hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word."
- When asked about the Sojourners class these days as they seek to understand the ways of Non-Violent Communication, facilitator Eileen McAvoy quoted Paul's letter to the Romans as translated in The Message:

Romans 12 ¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

This is just a glimpse into the many ways God is transforming us here at Westminster.

Giving to the church is part of our faith journey. It shapes the decisions we make about what we do with our time and with our money. We give to serve others, we give to strengthen the Church for doing work in our community, and we give to help us live into our faith in our daily living.