



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Christ Is Risen

Every year at Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with the words “He is risen!” But what do we mean when we say that?

There are people who believe the Easter story is just a kind of theological metaphor. They think any sensible person who understands science simply knows better than to accept an ancient tale of an empty tomb and resurrection appearances. What they’re left with is a “demythologized” revision of the story, where the real meaning is that the “spirit” of Jesus lives on as some sort of moral or spiritual example.

I’ve had a lifelong interest in science, but I’ve never been persuaded by that line of argument – or at least not since high school, when I thought I knew more than I really did. For one thing, we don’t need science to tell us that bodies laid to rest in their graves tend to stay there. Common sense and everyday experience tell us that’s true, as the people of Palestine knew quite well a long time ago.

St. Paul understands the objection, precisely because it was so common in his day. “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,” he says. He believes this, not only from eye-witness accounts of others, but also because he himself met the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. And Paul believes that the resurrection is the central claim of the Christian faith. As he tells the Corinthians, “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.”

Is it really so hard to believe that the God who brought all of life into being, and throughout nature exhibits new life springing up where death has been, could also raise Jesus up from the dead? Who are we to say what the Almighty can and cannot do?

There were witnesses, after all, and they understood the outlandishness of their claim. But they said it was true because they saw it themselves; and when people accused them of spreading fake news, they said “We did not follow cleverly devised myths...but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.” Some of them were put to death on account of what they claimed, but even death did not intimidate them, because they had already caught a glimpse of what lies on the other side.



If Christ is risen, because he turns out to be the Son of God, then we ought to live for him as our Lord and Savior. That means, as Paul says again, our citizenship is in heaven, and we need to live as ambassadors of Christ, so that, whatever we do, a little bit of God’s kingdom comes, and God’s will is done, on earth as it is in heaven.

To live that way is to lose our fear of death and find joy instead, because we really mean it when we say “Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

Jim Gilchrist

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 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

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Staff email addresses and phone extensions are available on our website, www.westminster-church.org.

Read the *Spire* online at: www.westminster-church.org

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Traditional Worship

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🕒	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
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📅	Sundays
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📍	WROC

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.
Gluten-free wafers are available at all services.*

*I am the resurrection
and the life.*

Upcoming Events

1
APR Easter
Sunday

13
APR Chatham
Baroque
7:30 p.m.
Galbreath Chapel

15
APR Volunteer
Thank-you
Lunch

28
APR Rummage-
Recycling Sale

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

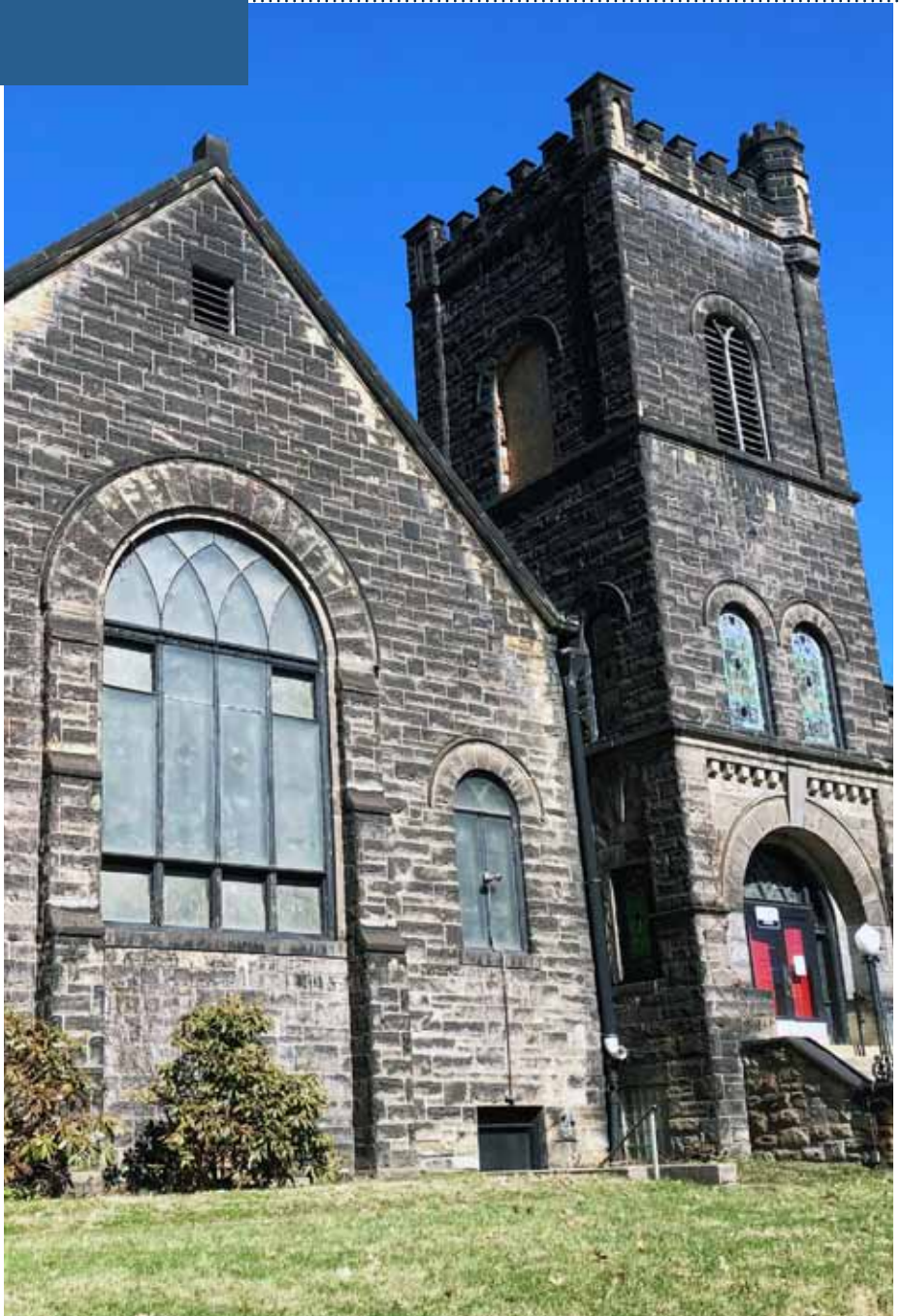
April 8

Silent Sanctuaries

Peter Smith

“In Pittsburgh, these houses of God stand mute, often crumbling.” Based on his award-winning series of articles in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, religion editor Peter Smith will address the precarious futures of some of Pittsburgh’s historic sanctuaries, documented in vivid photographs.

Peter Smith is the religion editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He has more than 30 years of journalistic experience and has covered religion for more than 20 years. He previously worked as the religion writer for the Courier-Journal in Louisville, KY, from 2000 to 2013 and before that was a correspondent for Religion News Service, the Boston Globe, and other outlets. He has received awards from the Religion Newswriters Association, the American Academy of Religion, and the Pennsylvania News Media Association. The Post-Gazette’s “Silent Sanctuaries” series received two Wilbur Awards from the Religion Communicators Council. Smith received a bachelor of arts degree from Oral Roberts University in 1985 and a master of arts in religion from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2008.



Albright Community United Methodist Church in Bloomfield

April 15, 22, 29

Neighbors Near and Far

John P. Burgess, Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

This series will examine from a Christian perspective the social identities – such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, or national heritage – that define people today. We will then ask: What can Christians affirm about these specific identities, and where are we called to rise above these identities and perhaps even challenge them? The series will offer theological and practical resources for seeing others as our neighbors, even when their identity is very different from our own. Dr. John Burgess will lead the series, drawing on his own experience in reaching across social boundaries both locally and internationally.

The Starting Line

A few months back, I walked into Ed Sutter's office with a crazy idea. Ed had just finished his first Iron Man, an athletic feat that I stood in total awe of. Two miles of swimming? One hundred and twelve miles of biking? Twenty-six miles of running? I can't do any of that, let alone doing all of it together. So standing in awe of his amazing accomplishment, I wanted one of my own. I wanted to push myself to do something that I otherwise wouldn't think possible. Finding that goal was a challenge: something that I couldn't do now, but that I could with time and practice. It was a fine line, but I had made my decision.

I walked into the office and told Ed I wanted to run the Pittsburgh Half Marathon.

Since I started letting it leak out that I was planning to do this, people have asked how much running I have done. I ran only once, when SHIM used to do an event called the SHIM shuffle. And by run I mean mostly walk. There may have also been some crawling. Basically, I had never run purely for the sake of running in my life. This was going to be a whole new experience, a whole new endeavor, one that in September when I had this crazy idea I was nowhere ready for.

As luck would have it, right around then the new YMCA in Bethel Park was opening up, and it made unlimited sense for our family. It's got amazing gym equipment, a tremendous pool area, and (most important) free childcare for members. This presented me with an incredible situation: I could have an hour and a half of peace and quiet while my two-year-old sons played safely. But in exchange I would have to run.

And run I have. Coach Ed set me up with a training schedule, telling me how many miles and at what speeds to run each day. This was great for me because it gave me step by step instructions, and if I followed them I would be ready to go. At times during this training things got out of hand. I got sick and had to miss a day or two here and there. But by and large I've been able to stick to the plan, and now I'm running eight to ten miles

in a session, whereas before I couldn't even get through a whole mile without weeping uncontrollably.

In a whole bunch of motivational movies and advertisements and writing, coaches and motivators will tell athletes to imagine getting to the finish line, how great you'll feel when you've crossed the line, finished the effort. I am quite certain I will celebrate that milestone on May 6; I'll feel that joy, that sense of accomplishment. But as I'm sitting here drumming up the motivation to get to the gym this afternoon, I'm thinking less about the finish line than I am the starting line. In September, there was no way that I would line up on the starting line of a marathon, unless I had somehow gotten lost downtown. But this training, this hard work, this sweat and tears (I haven't bled yet, but who knows...there're still months of training to go) has brought me to a place where I think on May 6 I'll feel like I belong at the starting line.

Now that's a whole lot of talking about me and my story, but I think it's also kind of our story. I've had this deep sense lately that Westminster has been laying down some groundwork, doing some heavy lifting. Essentially we've been training. For what, I'm not quite sure yet. We've been doing some really interesting work in the area of racial reconciliation. We've been working on hunger related issues for as long as I can remember. We have some awesome stuff going on in places like Haiti and Malawi and India. But for sure I know this: we're way closer to the starting line than we are the finish.

The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). It's a verse that I whisper to myself every time I lace up my running shoes, and every time I set about the work we're called to here at Westminster. We've been doing a lot of training lately. It'll be really, really fun to see what the starting line looks like!

– Jason Freyer



BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

There's a lot running through my mind right now, and unfortunately one of those many things is *not* what to write about in a *Spire* article. There's a lot on my mind because I'm getting ready to take a group of middle school students to Splash Lagoon for a weekend retreat, so let me tell you about what I hope for in this coming weekend.

By the time you read this article, the retreat will be a month in the rearview mirror, but it occurs to me that it may be interesting to share with each of you how and why we shape our Veritas events like these retreats. Enjoy!

The theme for this weekend is "Clean Slate." We'll be taking a look at what it means to be forgiven and at the freedoms that come in the wake of that redemption. This is an important message for all of us to hear, but maybe particularly so for young teenagers. So much of that stage of life is specifically about trying out new things, discovering who you want to be and learning what works (as well as what doesn't). It follows logically that at least a portion of a young teenager's life would be comprised of moments of wondering, "Did I make the right decision?" or "How can I make up for that mistake?" (This certainly rings true for my teenage years!) I want the young people in our community to know that they are loved and lovable no matter their current situation – and more important, that they are loved by a Savior who wishes to work redemption in their lives and see them thrive.

Retreats are a beautiful thing for lots of reasons, but the big one for me is the amount of dedicated time we get with the students. Whether it's a one or two night retreat, we are granted an enormous gift of time. On most of our retreats we ask that students set aside their cell phones for the duration of the event. Let me make two notes about this point. The first is that this goes over *far* better than anyone imagines it would when they first hear the idea. We have a culture of intention and awareness at Veritas that seems to have caught on, and students are almost always more than willing to set aside their phones for the weekend. Second, it's not at all uncommon for students to look forward to this time of separation from their phones once they've experienced it a few times. When you add all of these things up, retreats become a place and time that is unlike any other in the busy lives of today's teenagers.

My hope for each of the middle school retreats is that students are granted two opportunities. First, they are given a specific and devoted time to take a look at their faith. I never ask that students



**Take some time away,
devote some space to your
relationship with the Creator.
Make a decision to move
one step closer to Jesus.
Have some fun!**

walk home with a perfect faith (as if it would be possible). I only ask that they take a look at it and see if there's anything that needs to change. Second, I hope that teenagers will make that decision to change, that they'll shift their lives to look more like the life Jesus offers us and calls us to. And, if you'll grant me a third hope, it's that these students would have an awesome time. Our life was never meant to be boring, and our faith in Jesus shouldn't be either.

The more I write about this, the more I wonder whether a retreat might be a good idea in *your* life. Take some time away, devote some space to your relationship with the Creator. Make a decision to move one step closer to Jesus. Have some fun! Doesn't sound too bad, does it?

– Ed Sutter

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

– Matthew 7:3

Like many of us, Westminster’s fifth and sixth graders find it relatively easy to see faults in those around them. Somehow, it’s just so much easier to spot when someone else is being selfish, or petty, or just downright mean. So, the students weren’t sure what to make of this statement from Jesus, this idea that judging others isn’t our job.

They struggled with some tough questions: Is it “judging” if what you think also happens to be true? Isn’t it just being helpful to point out someone’s faults? After all, then they know what they should change or improve, right?

The lesson we were studying proposed that Jesus thinks that the better choice – in fact, the only right choice – is to focus instead on our own faults and needs to improve, rather than on our neighbor’s shortcomings (obvious though they may be to our crystal clear sight). Our vision, Jesus suggests, perhaps isn’t really all that clear, what with that plank in the way.

The kids immediately agreed that, of course, we all have things we could do a bit better, that Jesus is the only human who has ever gotten it all right. They struggled with how to stay focused on our own “planks.” Although they proposed the usual answers (Bible reading, prayer, coming to church), they also came up with some useful, day-to-day sorts of ideas. One student suggested writing goals, and keeping them somewhere they could easily see them, like writing them on the back of your hand – in Sharpie. Someone else offered the idea of working with a partner, a good friend who could help keep you on track and accountable, while you do the same for them.

And then another student shared this thought: “I bet that getting that log out of our own eye really isn’t something we can do ourselves,” he said. “It would be too hard to do alone. I bet we really have to have God do it for us – or at least he would have to help.” After a few minutes of silence, the student added quietly, “And I bet it doesn’t always feel very good either.”

And isn’t that the truth. Left to our own devices and efforts, we inevitably slide right back into paying attention to someone else’s speck of sawdust. We think it will hurt less to draw attention to a friend’s flaws, rather than undergo the major surgery that might be required to cure our own. Yet it is only when we allow God to be the surgeon that we can really be rid of that plank. And inevitably we experience pain in that process. Letting go of control of our own lives, letting God guide us can be scary, and might even hurt. Even if it’s only our own ego that suffers the damage.

“Hey,” added another student after we had talked about this idea for a bit. “Do you think that maybe, just maybe, if we let God take the log out of our eyes, we could see other people a little bit more like God sees them?”

And really, wouldn’t the world be a sight better off, if we could see other people the way God sees them?

So, here’s our prayer for the next weeks:

With our hands held open, palms up, we are asking God to take away the planks in our own eyes. Not so we can see our friends’ sawdust specks better, but so that we might see others through God’s eyes. Even though it might hurt a little. After all, even getting a splinter out sometimes hurts a bit. A plank, yeah – that’s probably gonna hurt. But we think it will be worth it, to get even a peek of the world through God’s eyes. Will you join us?

– Robin Pyles

The Lord’s Prayer Workshop

Third and Fourth graders met in February for another workshop just for them: The Lord’s Prayer Workshop.

The children learned about prayer, what it is, what they should pray for, and that they can pray anytime and anywhere.

They found the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13 and read how the disciples asked Jesus how to pray and how Jesus gave them the Lord’s Prayer. They learned step by step what this prayer means and when the congregation prays it in worship. Through activities, games, and crafts, the children learned to say the Lord’s Prayer and understand what they are praying.

The workshop ended with a candlelight service with the children praying parts of the Lord’s Prayer as each candle was lit.

– Debb Egli



Library News

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Fear and Division

by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

The title of this book, *The Third Reconstruction*, gives away the *what* but not the *how*. In U.S. history, Reconstruction refers to the period following the Civil War that attempted to redress the inequities of slavery and its political, social, and economic legacy. In like manner, the Second Reconstruction encompassed what we know as the Civil Rights Movement and included legislation such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, which moved us toward equal opportunity of education, and the Voting Rights Act which removed literacy tests and other impediments to ballot access. The thesis of this book is twofold: many of the advances are being systematically undone by policy makers, and it is time for a movement to restore those advances.

The book outlines the development of a “fusion coalition” of people with a variety of concerns, all related to how we treat one another. The beauty of Barber’s movement is that instead of people using up energy squabbling over whether gay rights are more important than environmental concerns, or whether we should be addressing the inequities in educational opportunities instead of calling for an increase in the minimum wage, the response should be “yes” to all of these concerns. They should all be on the table. And while this might look like a recipe for diluting to ineffectiveness the energy around any one issue, Barber keeps a careful eye on what is coming before the state legislature. The concerned citizens rally around the issue for the day (or week), knowing that the time will come for their particular concern to rise to the top and be supported publicly by the rest of their brothers and sisters in the fight.

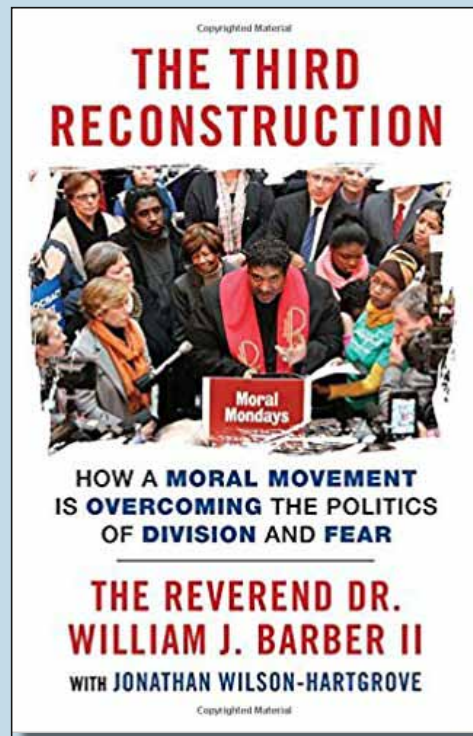
Barber’s inspiration comes from the Christian and Hebrew scriptures, such as the call of Amos to “let justice roll down like waters,” and of Jesus to “bring good news to the poor and let the oppressed go free.” He is unabashedly a man of faith and he speaks with that great cadence of the Black Church. But there is no religious test for inclusion in this movement. The only “dues” are concern for one’s brothers and sisters, particularly those marginalized by our current laws, and a willingness to go public with that concern.

The current incarnation of this effort has become known as Moral Mondays, which as Dr. Barber puts it, are “an opportunity to educate the legislature on their responsibilities to the people of North Carolina and the nation.” These public demonstrations have gotten national attention and have provided a model for giving public voice to social concerns. Barber’s book outlines both successes and failures and ends with a 14-point appendix for organizers, “Fourteen Steps Forward Together.”

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II is president of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP, pastor at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, NC, and founder of *Repairers of the Breach*, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working for social justice: www.breachrepairers.org.

– Bobbie Hartman

The Third Reconstruction was used by Jim Gilchrist’s Perspectives’ class this past fall, and has been chosen by the Grace Book Club as the next book for their ongoing study of racial justice.



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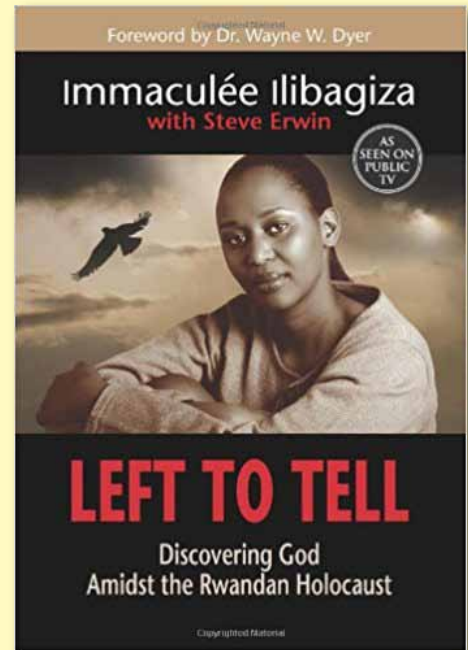
Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, April 25
noon – 1:15 p.m.

The Westminster Book Group will meet on Wednesday, April 25, at noon in the Yahweh Café to discuss *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was 22 years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family, when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of nearly one million ethnic Tutsis in the country.... Ilibagiza's remarkable path to forgiving the perpetrators and releasing her anger is a beacon to others who have suffered injustice. She brings the battlefield between good and evil out of the genocide around her and into her own heart, mind and soul. This book is a precious addition to the literature that tries to make sense of humankind's seemingly bottomless depravity and counterbalancing hope in an all-powerful, loving God.

– Publishers Weekly



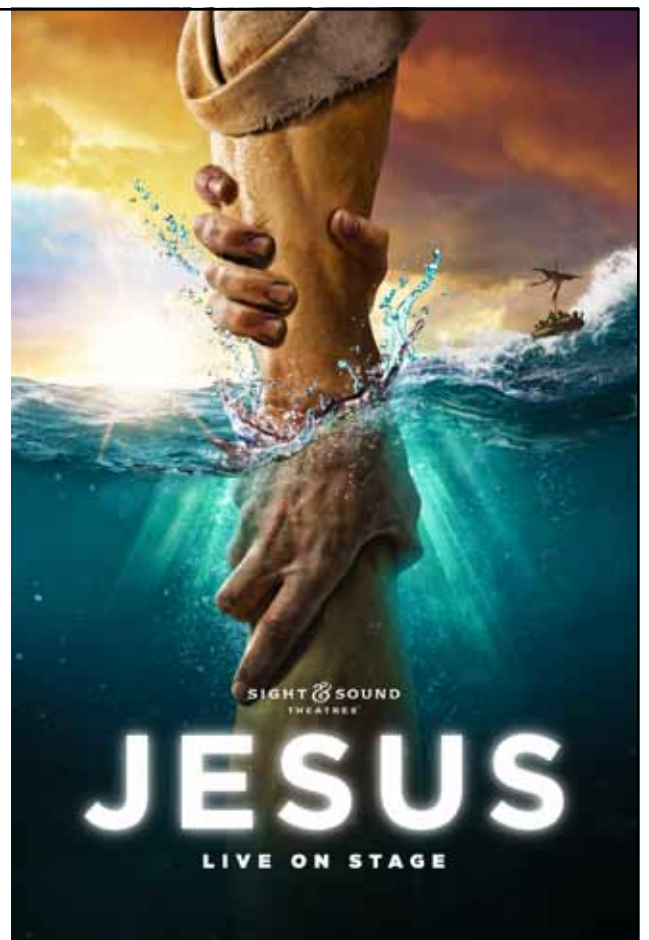
Save the Date

Trip to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre Performance of *Jesus*

The Adult Spiritual Development Commission is planning a bus trip to Lancaster, PA, to see a show at the Sight & Sound Theatre. Our target date for the trip is Wednesday, August 8, with a registration deadline of July 6. This will be a one-day trip (about 14 hours in total), and the approximate cost will be around \$200 per person. We believe this will be suitable for a wide range of ages, perhaps an opportunity for a (grand-)parent and child outing.

If you are interested, please hold the date and let Bob Dilly (bob.wpc@radilly.org) know of your interest. We'll need 30 participants to justify hiring a bus.

See www.sight-sound.com for information about the production.



Eighteen Suitcases: Haiti in 2018

Nine Westminster travelers are allowed 18 suitcases. Our clothes were in our “carry-ons.” So what was in those 18 suitcases?

The first suitcase contained a pipe bender. Well, most of a pipe bender. The whole contraption was so heavy that we had to dismantle it and spread the components among several suitcases. Why a pipe bender? Pastor Pierre asked us to develop a replacement for the long benches in La Croix schools that are made entirely of wood, a precious commodity in largely deforested Haiti. The proposed replacements, inspired by desks in Malawi schools and originating with UNICEF, have a bent metal frame, with wood limited to seat and desktop. Tom Hartman, who “reverse engineered” the design from online photographs, worked with Brent Boreman, Dan Paul, Paul Conley, and Haitians Marfort and Jackie to fine-tune the design through two versions. Desk 1.0 had to carry the sign “pa chita,” Creole for “do not sit.” But Desk 2.0 easily bore the weight of two high school boys or three first-graders. The team took some verbal teasing for producing only one useable desk in a week, but to be fair, they had to work out the kinks (literally). Findings have been shared with another team going soon whose congregation has collected funds to purchase materials for more desks.



Most suitcases also contained toothpaste and toothbrushes. Sue Boreman, a nurse, proposed a program of dental hygiene, so we purchased 3,500 toothbrushes and paste, which took way more space than any of us predicted. In an assembly, Sue, a first-timer, demonstrated to several hundred Haitian kids the most effective way to brush their teeth. She used a stuffed dog with human-like teeth to demonstrate.

Other suitcases contained gifts for sponsored children. Under the direction of Sandy Conley, every child sponsored by Westminster folk received rice and beans, a personal note, and a gift of \$5. Other gifts were delivered as the children came for photo-ops and small treats. The child-sponsorship program is central to the Mission’s financial well-being, and is truly a loaves-and-fishes miracle because these small gifts of \$20 per month are stretched to cover children well beyond what any of us expect.



Two suitcases contained materials for the chemistry classes. Each year Westminster purchases laboratory equipment for some aspect of lab work. This year we brought equipment for thin layer chromatography, a method for separating chemical substances. Bobbie Hartman led this effort with Lois Franks, Sue Boreman, and Melanie Hallums assisting. Beginning with food coloring and M&Ms, students proudly advanced to successfully separating the colored compounds in spinach and purple lettuce.

The customs officials in Port-au-Prince were particularly interested in the four suitcases containing computer equipment. To encourage purchasing locally, a fee is collected for bringing new materials into Haiti. Paul Conley patiently showed all of the equipment to the officials while we all stood nervously waiting. In the end, nothing was confiscated. We paid the fee which we have come to expect, and continued on to La Croix. Led by Paul, updating technology has been an ongoing project for Westminster. This includes WiFi for the campus and computers in offices, the library, and some classrooms.

Of course, all these material goods are only a part of what we bring. We bring ourselves, and in some ways the entire Westminster congregation. Going home, our suitcases are mainly empty, but our hearts are full with the sense that we are getting to know our friends in La Croix, and that in many small ways we have been of use.

– Bobbie Hartman

Haiti 2019 Dates

Thinking about joining the Haiti team in 2019? We have scheduled two weeks for Westminster next year: February 9–16 and February 16–23. You can choose to go for either week or for both weeks. Contact Paul and Sandy Conley at conley1973@verizon.net or Tom and Bobbie Hartman at hartman1967@verizon.net for more information.

Westminster's Annual Spring Rummage-Recycling Sale

Saturday, April 28

Regular sale: 8:00 a.m. – noon
Closed for lunch: noon – 12:30 p.m.
Bag and half-price sale: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Collection Day

Friday, April 27
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Please donate only clean and usable items. Magazines, textbooks, large pieces of furniture, and broken or unusable items will not be accepted. Leftover goods will be donated to local mission and recycling efforts.

We need you!

Volunteers are needed both Friday and Saturday. Join the Friday Collection Day Crew any time between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. for great fellowship, food, and shopping. On Saturday we need at least 60 volunteers in the morning and a good-sized crew for cleanup at 2:00 p.m. Each person has a specific job on Saturday. We also need donations of salads and desserts for the volunteers' lunches both days.

For questions or to volunteer, please call Marilyn Hayes (412-831-5704) or Jan Baumann (412-835-6630).



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MUSIC & ARTS SERIES



Chatham Baroque: The Three Violins

Friday, April 13
7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

With virtuoso violinists in harmonious concert, Chatham Baroque explores the rarely-performed repertoire of music for three violins and continuo. Hear the music of Marini, Schmelzer, and Purcell, alongside one of the most famous Baroque pieces of all time: Johann Pachelbel's Canon in D. With guests Evan Few and Edwin Huizinga, violins, and David Walker, theorbo and Baroque guitar.

Tickets, with discounts for seniors and students, are available online and at the door. For more information and ticket prices, visit www.chathambaroque.org or call 412-687-1788.

Caring Notes

At Westminster Church we have many busy hands that extend care to others in a variety of ways. One meaningful care ministry is the prayer shawl ministry. Since this idea started at Westminster we have given out over 300 shawls, each one made with loving care.

Simply put, a Prayer Shawl is a soft, warm shawl knitted or crocheted, which is given to people who are celebrating a blessing or in need of special support. Before the shawl is delivered, it is prayed over by those who created the shawl. The person receiving the shawl can wrap themselves in the shawl as a visual and physical reminder of God's spirit in our lives. We are greatly indebted to the many women who have devoted themselves over the years to creating shawls for others. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

In Psalm 16 we read, "Remain ever before me, O Living God, for in You am I safe." The love of God is ever present in our life; what a blessing to have a tangible symbol of that love – made from our community of faith, reminding us that we are never left to face our fears alone.

If you would like a prayer shawl or you know of someone who would benefit from this symbol of God's love, please contact Louise Rogers at rogers@westminster-church.org.

– Louise Rogers



What the Deacons Do

Treats for Troops

Back in December, the Deacons took on a holiday project. We made homemade cookies for our troops stationed abroad. It was our goal to bring a bit of cheer to our soldiers who wouldn't be home for Christmas this year. As we had hoped, the cookies were well-received and enjoyed by all.

Treasures for Troops

In February, the Deacons took on a second project to benefit our troops. We enlisted the congregation's support in collecting toiletries and snacks for soldiers being deployed in the Middle East. Your response was absolutely overwhelming. Because of your generosity, we will be sending 25 care packages. Thank you to all for making this worthy project another Westminster success.

Welcome New Members

On February 25, Westminster welcomed the following new members:

Theresa Baker



Jon Conley, Danika Lagorio & CeCe Conley



Jill Haines



Jen and Clay Britton



Lana Kipp



David and Tracy Fitzsimmons



Susan Castelli



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2018 Graduates

If you are a graduating student or know of a student who is graduating this year, please share that information with us so we may recognize the achievement in the *Spire* and church bulletin.

Please email the following information to Heather Flitsch at flitsch@westminster-church.org by **Monday, May 7:**

- name of graduate
- high school/college/university
- degree received
- area of study

If you have any questions, please contact Heather at 412-835-6630x225 or flitsch@westminster-church.org.



Welcome New Members

(continued from Page 13)

Nancy Park



Samantha, Glenn & Reagan Stewart



Pat Schofield



Micah, Stefani, Amelia & Eleanor Wilkinson



Not pictured:

Kathy and Larry Marynak

Hunter and Riley
Fitzsimmons

Financial Report *As of February 28, 2018*

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$340,076.26
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,655,502.74

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$384,756.63
Expenses	\$383,664.31
Net Position	\$1,092.32

Session Update

On March 19, Session approved the recommendation of the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee to fund five proposals, three from the Property Commission and two from Outreach. They include: \$27,320 to upgrade lighting in the south parking lot; \$32,400 to renovate the north-facing sanctuary windows; \$9,265 to replace the gas range in the Fellowship Hall kitchen; \$25,681 for the Homewood Oasis commercial kitchen project; and \$2,714 for technology to enhance the youth ministry of The Open Door in Crafton Heights.

Session also met with Tom Norwood of Horizons Stewardship regarding details of the upcoming Forward in Faith capital campaign. Session voted that proceeds from the campaign, up to \$3.5 million, will be allocated 80% for capital projects, 10% for outreach, and 10% for Westminster's endowment fund. Any amount raised in excess of \$3.5 million will be divided evenly between outreach and the endowment. A brochure briefly describing the campaign will be mailed to the congregation early in April, and the campaign itself will be launched on April 22, with a congregational dinner to lift up the vision on Sunday evening, May 6.

Deaths

Warren Archer
February 18





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*“For now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.”*

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

