



# THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## A New Associate Pastor

"If the way be clear," as they say at Presbytery, Westminster will welcome a new associate pastor on Sunday, June 11. The Rev. Louise Rogers will preach for all three services on that day, and there will be a congregational meeting following the 11:00 service for members to vote on whether to call Louise to the associate pastor for congregational care position that became open with Tammy Yeager's departure last August.

Louise actually comes from Westminster, and was ordained here about a decade ago when she was called to serve as the associate pastor at John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park. She has extensive experience as a pastor and Christian educator in churches in Western Pennsylvania and California, and prior to her ministry was a vice president of sales for Automatic Data Processing. Louise brings gifts in pastoral care, teaching, preaching, and organizational leadership – the kind of combination that would help Westminster continue to grow as a vital and effective community of faith.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation last fall and conducted a nationwide search. More than 60 resumes (personal information forms, as they're called) were reviewed, from which six candidates participated in telephone conversations with the APNC and then video interviews on Skype. Three of those six came to in-person interviews,

and the committee felt blessed to have three very strong candidates in the end. Reference checks and the testimony of those who know Louise and have benefited from her teaching and care brought the APNC to a unanimous decision to nominate her to serve as our newest associate pastor.

I was not a voting member of the APNC, but participated in the interviews, and I can attest that the congregation chose an excellent committee of diverse members, who carried out their responsibility in a spirit of dedication and friendly cooperation. I'd like to thank the APNC for their exemplary faithfulness: Rick Ralston (chair), Maureen Ludwig (vice chair), Deborah Lee (secretary), Maya Debski, Sam Duncan, Lois Franks, Elise Sutter, and Ian Thomas.

The final decision about whether or not to call a pastor rests, of course, with the congregation in Presbyterian polity. Everyone who attends worship on June 11 will be able to hear Louise, and those members who attend the 11:00 service, or come back for the congregational meeting a little before noon, will be able to vote. If the vote is strongly supportive, as the



*The Rev. Louise Rogers*

APNC believes it will be, everyone can greet Louise at a reception in Fellowship Hall following the congregational meeting. Louise would then begin her ministry at Westminster on Sunday, August 6, allowing time for transition from her current position and a family vacation that was already planned.

We'll await the congregation's decision concerning a call on June 11. In the meantime, I'll just express once again my deep appreciation for the APNC, and say that Louise Rogers is a gifted pastor and leader, and a very fine colleague in ministry.

**CHURCH STAFF**

412-835-6630

**PASTORS**

DR. JIM GILCHRIST, *Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*  
REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR**

PEG KINSEY

**BUSINESS STAFF**

DAVE REITER, *Church Business Administrator*

**CARE ASSOCIATE**

JOAN WATSON

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

REV. DAVID FETTERMAN, *Director of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation*

ROBIN PYLES, *Director of Children's and Family Ministry*

DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and Family Ministry*

ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry & Family Counseling*

CASSANDRA MILLIS, *Assistant Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

TRACEY MATTES, *Administrative Assistant*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

ANNA HINER, *Communications & Database Manager*

JEANNIE SCHOTT, *Graphic Design & Print/Web Coordinator*

LAURA WHITCOMB, *Print Room Assistant*

**MUSIC & ARTS**

CHRISTINE HESTWOOD, *Director*

LORRAINE MILOVAC, *Assistant Director*

JIM BURNS, *Organist*

LISA HOFFMANN, *Junior Choir Director*

AMY SANDERS, *Administrative Assistant*

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

WILL HIGNETT, *Consultant*

**PROPERTY**

BILL SINGLETON, *Property Contract Consultant*

CHARLEY RICHARDSON, *Property Manager*

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY**

JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*

CARRIE KUSHNER, *Kitchen Manager*

**WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)**

KATHY LONG, *Director*

**NURSERY SCHOOL**

412-835-2906

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

412-835-9450

Staff email addresses and phone extensions are available on our website, [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org).

Read the *Spire* online at: [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

*The Spire* is published monthly by the church staff from September through June. Contributions can be made by emailing a Word document to *Spire* editor Sara Kyle at [sara@ruhlekyle.org](mailto:sara@ruhlekyle.org). The deadline for submitting an article is the fifth day of every month for the following month's issue. Please include the author's name, telephone number, email address, and a title. All articles are subject to editing.

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**Traditional  
Worship**

📅	Sundays
🕒	8:30* & 11:00 a.m.
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**The Bridge  
Contemporary Worship**

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

\* 8:30 a.m. worship moves to the courtyard for the summer beginning Sunday, June 11.

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



**PENTECOST  
SUNDAY**

**JUNE 4**

**Upcoming Events**

**4 JUN** Pentecost  
Stephen Biddle Luncheon  
Concert  
*Galbreath Chapel*

**15 JUN** Organ Summer begins

WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

SUMMER 2017

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

*June Series with Jim Gilchrist*

**Other Faiths: Ecumenical and Interfaith Perspectives**

**June 4 – Catholic and Presbyterian**

A large number of Westminster folk come from the Roman Catholic tradition. Join us for this conversation about what's the same and what's different.

**June 11 – Protestants and Catholics**

In this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, we'll look at how the Catholic and Protestant traditions are coming together, and what to make of the differences that remain.

**June 18 – Christians and Jews in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Westminster hosts a vibrant Jewish-Christian dialogue, and several of our members went to Israel last year. In this session we'll share some of what we've learned.

**June 25 – Christians and Muslims**

No religious tradition today is more controversial than Islam. We'll explore some of the challenges and opportunities for relating to Muslims at home and abroad.

**July 9, 16, 23**

**Many Faiths Doing Justice**

*Summer Discussions Sponsored by Westminster's Peace and Justice Group*



Over the years Westminster Presbyterian Church and other churches throughout the nation have been engaged in issues of peace and justice. Concerns range from the environment to economic justice, and include racism, mass incarceration, hunger, immigration, and other issues of fairness in how we shape society for our brothers and sisters. Our actions in these areas are formed by our faith.

Many times when we are working on these questions, we find people with different faith perspectives who share our passion for justice. What calls them to work for justice? What lessons do their sacred scriptures teach? What traditions pave the way for their engagement? Join us as we learn from three people of faith doing justice.

**July 9 – Catholicism**

A Special Option for the Poor: Catholic Social Teachings

*Edward Brett, Professor Emeritus of History, La Roche College*

*Dr. Brett's areas of interest and research are U.S. foreign policy and U.S. and Latin American religious history. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Merton Center for Peace and Justice.*

**July 16 – Judaism**

The Prophetic Voice of Reform Judaism in Social Justice

*Karen Hochberg*

*Karen Hochberg was Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee (PAJC), where she expanded interfaith and social justice programs and helped to establish the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition. As chief-of-staff for an Allegheny County official, she led the project team that transformed the old Allegheny County Jail into the new Juvenile and Family Court. She served on the executive boards of Rodef Shalom Congregation and the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL).*

**July 23 – Islam**

Social Justice: The Backbone of Islam

*Alaa Mohamed, Islamic Center of Pittsburgh*

*Alaa Mohamed is a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate in sociology and global studies. She works with PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership & Service Experience) and is program coordinator for Pittsburgh's Global Switchboard.*

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."*

Psalm 139:14

I just spent the last 30 or 40 minutes reading through my old *Spire* articles on our website. Narcissism? Perhaps, but I learned something about myself. So much of what I write boils down to one message:

Figure out what makes you *you*.

I've written about family, tradition, skill, passion, belief, and opinion – all things that make us into who we are. I'm not sure if or how my message will change over time, but if it doesn't, I think I'd be okay with that. I'm pretty well assured of the notion that people who can best answer questions about their identity and direction in life are better off than those who can't. It is a matter of great importance to seek these answers. The term is "self-awareness."

My definition of self-awareness is both holistic and dynamic. Holistic because I believe that we must seek to understand ourselves emotionally, spiritually, cognitively, socially, and physically. Our knowledge and grasp of these personal realms will inform and guide each of the others as they work (ideally) in chorus with one another. Often, the neglect of one will lead to the failure of others as well. I believe self-awareness is dynamic due to our developmental nature; we change as we move through life. Development occurs both naturally and consciously. In our lives, some moments of change are predictable, yet beyond

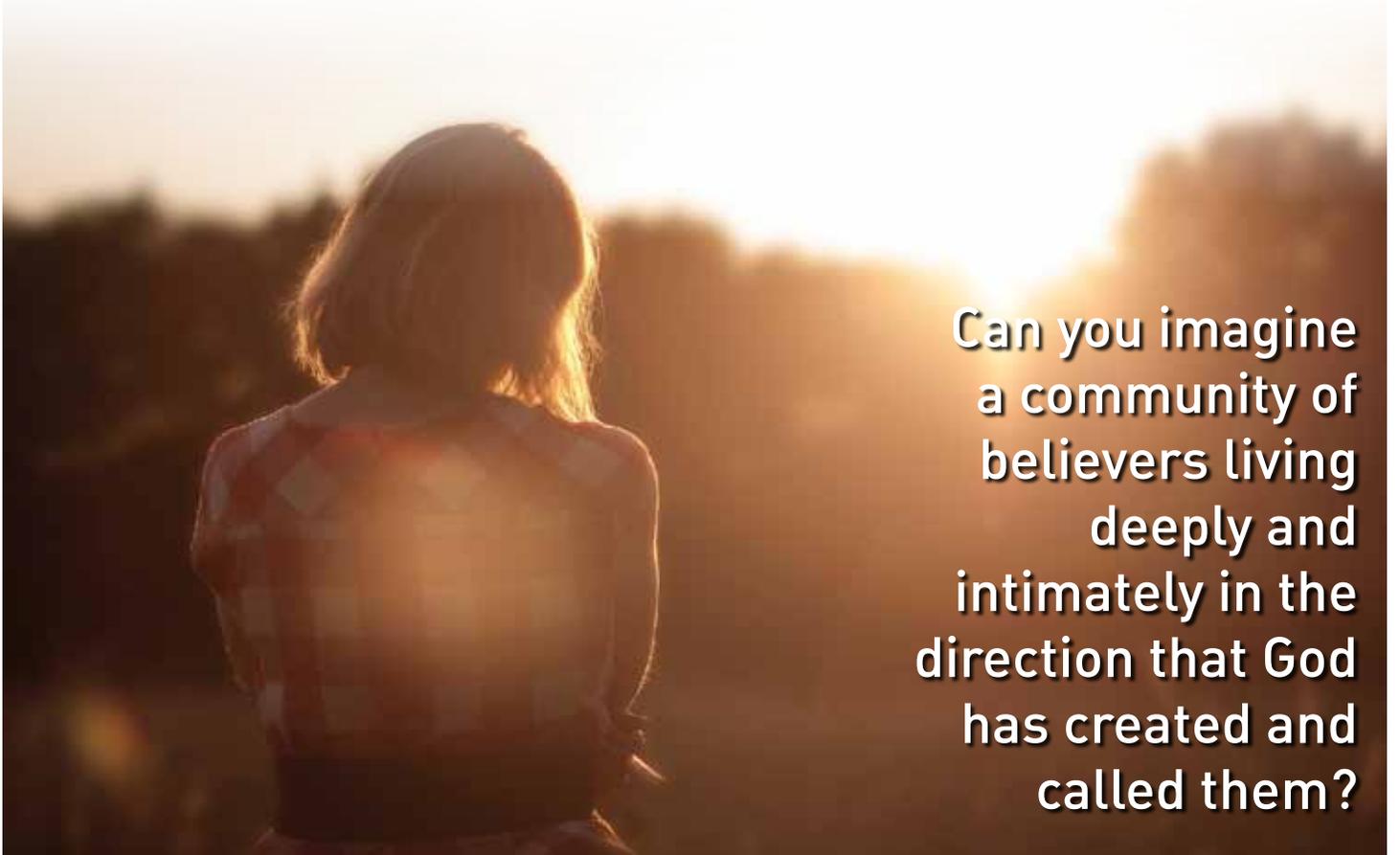
our control (physical growth, puberty, etc.). Other changes are unpredictable (disease, life-circumstance, etc.) or well within our control (increased skill, active involvement, etc.). This list isn't all encompassing, but the point remains that each of these changes will cause ripples in our lives, altering both the surface and the depths of who we are. We must seek to understand what makes us from *all* of these perspectives.

It would make for a good summer project. Alongside items on your to-do list like "refinish the deck" and "clean out the gutters," perhaps you could put "figure out who I really am." I can say with a high degree of certainty that the more you figure out who you are, the more change and fulfillment you'll see in your life. Yes, part of this has to do with the fact that you'll be more likely to align your life with your truest needs and desires, but it also has to do with becoming the person God created you to be. So many of us have wandered far from the identities to which we've been called. Can you imagine a community of believers living deeply and intimately in the direction that God has created and called them? Sounds a lot like the Kingdom of God to me.

Start here: You have been *made*. Not an accident, not a coincidence – made – on purpose and with intent. Your Creator is good and his image is within you.

Let me know how the project goes. I love getting to know people as they get to know themselves.

– Ed Sutter



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a community of  
believers living  
deeply and  
intimately in the  
direction that God  
has created and  
called them?

# Holding Hands with God

One of the best things about my job is that it is, often, straight and simple fun. Plus, I regularly get to hang out with the kids. Here is what that looked like a few weeks ago.

On Sunday morning, I was subbing for a volunteer with our two through four year olds. I always have a great time with these little ones – we laugh and sing and share stories. There’s usually a mess of some sort, and always plenty of noise. Occasionally a few tears. Kind of like life. But this is not typically the group I think of when I’m looking for deep profound truth.

For the music part of our lesson that day, we were introducing a new song – so none of us knew it very well (including me – remember, I was subbing at the last minute). Instead of fussing very much about the words and singing along, we turned up the volume a bit more than usual and dubbed it a “Praise God Dance Party.”

In the midst of the jumping and spinning, I noticed one little girl, about three years old, who kept swinging one of her arms forward and back the way you would if you were holding hands with someone, swinging your joined hands. Finally, I asked her, “What are you doing?”

“Holding hands with God,” she said, before spinning off into the dance once more.

I’m pretty sure I just stood there, sort of stunned into silence for a few minutes. I’m not sure what response I expected, but

it certainly wasn’t that one. Until I remembered this story that is recorded in three out of the four Gospels:

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Luke 18:15-17, NIV

Sometimes I think our faith gets bogged down in all the heavy details of life: all the stuff we have to do, our jobs and homes and families, the political situation, financial worries, and a thousand other details. Sometimes I think we forget that the kingdom of God isn’t about knowing more facts, or having the right answer on the test. Sometimes we lose sight of that open-hearted sense of God’s presence that some of our children carry with them. Sometimes we lose the knowledge that we can hold hands with God. His hand is right there – open – just waiting for us to reach out. Just waiting for us to receive the kingdom, just like a little child.

Sometimes the best thing about my job is that the children make me remember how close God really is. And how much fun it is to just hold hands.

– Robin Pyles





# Restless Hearts Transformed by Prayer

Dear Friends,

Several months ago, I shared the following on our church blog. As we enter summer, a time for rest and reflection, I want to share it in this venue. May the summer months be a time of refreshment and transformation for you as you continue your spiritual journeys and encounter God in prayer.

Consider something that Frederick Buechner wrote:

We all pray whether we think of it as praying or not. The odd silence we fall into when something very beautiful is happening, or something very good or very bad. The ah-h-h-h! that sometimes floats up out of us as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the skyrocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else's joy. Whatever words or sounds we use for sighing with over our own lives. These are all prayers in their way. (*Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, 85-86)

Buechner reminds us that prayer isn't about saying the right words at the right time. Prayer isn't about eloquent language. Prayer is, instead, about our attitude toward God and our relationship with God. It is about trust, wonder, awe, compassion. Prayer can be the silence that occurs or "the ah-h-h-h!" that echoes forth when we are struck by the beauty and glory of God's creation or the gentle love shown in a newborn infant. Prayer can be the inarticulate mutterings that issue forth when we are humbled and feeling inadequate in the face of someone's pain.

Prayer can be words, too: words of hope, of aspiration, of thanksgiving, of intercession, of praise. Even then, especially then, we need to remind ourselves that prayer really isn't about the right words or eloquent expression of them. Prayer isn't about expertise

at grammar. Prayer is about honest, from the heart, sharing with God of our deepest longing and hope and praise and gratitude and concern. Prayer is about connecting with God as with a dear friend.

Verbalized or not, prayer can transform us as it provides a central means of fostering our relationship with God, verbalizing God's never ending love and care, and deepening our relationships with others as we lift their joys and concerns in prayer. This doesn't mean that God is a celestial genie who grants our wishes as we ask them. Sometimes, even after fervent prayer, one whom we love dies or has a crisis continue unabated. The relationship that we foster in prayer isn't about getting all that we want. It is about encountering God and God's love, and being transformed by the encounter as it assures us of a God who never leaves us even in the face of pain and need and death.

Augustine had it right, I think, when in his *Confessions* he wrote: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

Augustine knew that prayer is about relationship with a loving God. Prayer is about resting in God's love regardless of whether our hearts are troubled or rejoicing. Prayer is about knowing that our hearts, though full of either joy or sorrow, are unsettled until we know God as a place of love, care, hope, and rest. The spiritual discipline of prayer provides the gateway that leads to this gracious God. Join me in prayer that doesn't care about what, if any, words are used, but that cares, instead, about finding a God in whom our restless hearts can find joy and hope and rest so that our lives may be transformed in the encounter.

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Music*  
& Arts Series

# Music of the American Spirit: 1947-2017

Andrew Im, clarinet  
Scott Johnson Jr., bass clarinet  
Gavon E. Peck, viola

James Burns, organ and piano  
Patricia Donohue, mezzo-soprano

**Sunday, June 4**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Galbreath Chapel**



*Admission is free, and a reception in the gallery will follow the concert.*

On the evening of Pentecost, Galbreath Chapel will be filled with a different kind of spirit, but one that includes music of the church. The concert will celebrate sacred and secular music of the American spirit by composers Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, and Winfield B. Carson V.

Carson, known as Anthony to his friends and his Westminster church family, is the son of Scott and Kathy Carson and grandson of Skip and Julia Carson. Currently a rising senior composition major at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Anthony developed the concert program to highlight American music that draws on memories and melodies of earlier times. Performers include three students from Peabody and Westminster's Patty Donohue and Jim Burns.

Samuel Barber, famous for his "Adagio for Strings," composed a number of works on American themes. His *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, for soprano and piano, dates from 1947. With a text by James Agee – who grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, in the early 20th century – the piece

deftly evokes family on a summer evening from the eyes of a young child. The combination of story and music presents a memorable portrait of a time gone by. In 1958, Barber looked back to the 19th century with his set of variations for organ on the folk hymn *Wondrous Love*.

In the early 1950s Aaron Copland composed two sets of *Old American Songs* for voice and piano. Copland's charming arrangements of well-known songs and hymns such as "Simple Gifts" and "At the River" have enjoyed enduring popularity.

In the same American spirit so beautifully expressed by Barber and Copland, Carson's "Variations on a Sacred Piece" for clarinet, viola, and bass clarinet recalls traditional American church music in a composition that is very much of the present.

*On June 4, plan to enjoy American music spanning 70 years – and celebrate the work of Westminster's composer, Anthony Carson.*

# WESTMINSTER ORGAN summer

# 2017

**June 15 – July 20**

Thursdays at 5 p.m.

*Musical Refreshment on Thursdays*

Westminster Organ Summer returns for its seventh season beginning June 15. This series of six free organ concerts coincides with the Upper St. Clair Farmers' Market. On Thursday afternoons, nourish your spirit and your body with great music and fresh food.

At 5:00 p.m., come to the cool sanctuary and enjoy 30 minutes of exciting organ music played by outstanding performers with ties to Pittsburgh. Each in a distinctive way, the organists will showcase the Austin organ's almost boundless combinations of sound. The programs will feature an appealing variety of sacred and secular music. A highlight will be Nathan Carterette's rendition of Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries," back by popular demand.

These free, casual concerts are fun for all ages. The organ console will be placed in the middle of the chancel so that the audience can watch the organist's flying feet and hands. After the concert you are welcome to take a close look at the organ. The console and the pipes are fascinating to examine, especially for children. Plan to come and invite friends for refreshing entertainment.

*Organ Summer on Thursdays is a musical outreach to the community sponsored by the Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the generosity of the performers. All organists donate their time and talent; a freewill offering defrays their expenses.*

June 15

**Nick Capozzoli**

Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal

June 22

**Nathan Carterette**

Church of the Redeemer

June 29

**Bradley Fitch**

Christ United Methodist Church

July 6

**Nick Will**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

July 13

**Justin Wallace**

Shadyside Presbyterian Church

July 20

**Jeremy Jelinek**

Eastman School of Music

## Paul Jacobs

*Chair of the Organ  
Department  
The Julliard School*

**Friday, August 25  
7:30 p.m.**

Suggested donation: \$15  
Students free

Meet Paul Jacobs at a reception in the north entry following the concert.



Organ Summer 2017 will conclude with the Grammy-Award winning concert organist Paul Jacobs performing in the sanctuary on August 25. Jacobs, a native of Washington County, will continue a summer tradition at Westminster. In 2000, the 23-year-old Jacobs made national news for playing the complete works of Bach over 18 hours on Westminster's Austin organ. In 2011 and 2014, Jacob's late summer concerts at Westminster drew large crowds of fans from all over the Pittsburgh area. Coming soon in 2017, we have another chance to hear this truly extraordinary organist – known for his imaginative interpretations and charismatic stage presence. Mark your calendars for a thrilling evening of music!

*"Paul Jacobs is one of the great living virtuosos." – The Washington Post, 2014*

# Summer Happenings at the WROC

## Bricks 4 Kidz Camp

*We learn, we build, we play with LEGO® bricks!*

Session 1: July 10 – July 14

MINING and CRAFTING

Minecraft is a game about placing blocks to build anything you can imagine. At night, monsters come out. Make sure to build a shelter before that happens. Experience the world of Minecraft with LEGO® Bricks in this fun, enrichment engineering class! Kids will start by crafting their shelters and some of the mobs, critters, and tools using LEGO® Bricks. Students will face new challenges each day, building models and crafting key elements from the popular Minecraft game.

Session 2: August 14 – 18

BAT LEAGUE: HEROES & VILLAINS

Enter the dark city where a dangerous joker and other evil villains wreak havoc. Thankfully there is a bat hero who comes out each night to fight against these evil-doers! The good guys will ride into action as campers build motorized models of the bat hero's speedy vehicle and bat girl's sleek motorcycle. But also keep the bat light searching for the evil joker's motorized low rider vehicle cruising through the city streets. Send the bat hero swinging on his grappling hook technic model from one skyscraper to the next as he fights crime with his trusty super sidekick. Campers will use their imaginations, building skills, and crime-fighting passion in this thrilling camp of bat heroes and villains!

**Monday – Friday**

**9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Cost: \$125 per session for first child in family**

**\$115 per session for each additional child in family**

*Includes a T-shirt and a visit from the Kona Ice truck on the last day of camp.*

## Summer Basketball Skills and Drills Workshop (For boys and girls ages 7 – 11)

Want to shoot some hoops and work on your skills this summer? The course will cover basic skills and fundamentals along with scrimmage games.

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**June 20, 21 & 22**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Cost: \$50**

**Instructor: Al Mallah, a Westminster church member with a long career in basketball**



## Introduction to Ballet: Incorporating Faith and Dance!

(For children ages 3 – 5)

Children will celebrate God's love for them while learning basic ballet technique. Kids will leap, jump, turn, and smile for God's love! Participants will receive an introduction to ballet, which consists of short ballet barre, stretching, and beginner ballet steps. At the end of each class children will hear and explore a short Bible verse that relates to class.



**Saturdays**

**June 3 – 24 or July 8 – 29**

**9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**

**Cost: \$50**

*Instructor Kiera Pyles has been a competitive dancer for 14 years at Janet Hays and Company. She also attended West Point Ballet and has participated in Point Park's six-week summer dance intensive for two summers. She has studied in New York at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, and New York City Ballet. A recent Upper St. Clair High School graduate, Kiera now attends Point Park University as a dance major with a concentration in jazz.*

## Cycling Group Ride

*As the weather gets nicer, it's time to enjoy the world from two wheels!*

If you are interested in doing a weekly road bike group ride, where no one gets dropped or left behind, sign up today! We'll have a little bit of something for everyone: some flat bits, some challenging climbs, and some awesome descents. To keep away from traffic, we'll stay in South Park with those awesome new bike lanes and back roads. Appropriate for all skill levels.



Participants must be 16 years of age or older.

**Wednesdays**

**June 14 – August 16**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Free; registration required**

**Facilitator: Rev. Jason Freyer, Associate Pastor at Westminster and bike enthusiast**

# Introducing Westminster's New Church Librarian, Sarah Fetterman-Freyer

I'm honored to introduce myself as the new volunteer church librarian. You may know me as Jason Freyer's wife, David Fetterman's daughter, or Joshua and Julian's mom. I'm also a librarian. I completed my Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and I've worked at the Upper St. Clair Township Library for seven years. You'll hear from me each month in the *Spire* as I review items that are new to the library. We have a wonderful library at Westminster. Thank you to Mary Kay Mitchell for all she's done as librarian, and I'm excited to continue promoting our wonderful church library!



## Volunteers among Us

Mary Kay Mitchell has been the librarian for Westminster Church's library for the past five years and has just retired as of April. Working with all the Sunday morning volunteers has been a wonderful experience for her, along with helping members of the congregation who come into the library to study or look for books. Finding appropriate books for memorials, purchasing new adult and children's materials, and keeping up with the library database are some of the tasks that Mary Kay has performed and enjoyed. Mary Kay's mother was a librarian and instilled in her the love of reading and libraries. Thank you, Mary Kay, for dedicating countless hours to keeping the library organized and flowing efficiently for our congregation!

In 1972, Mary Kay and her husband, Doug, joined Westminster Church after having just moved to Pittsburgh from Indiana. Knowing no one in the area, Westminster's members and pastors were very welcoming and inviting. Encouraged by Pastor Hetz Marsh, the Mitchells immediately became involved and met many people. Over the years, Mary Kay became a small group leader for seventh and eighth graders, taught Sunday school, rang bells in the bell choir, and joined a couples' communication class and the Mariners fellowship group. Their two children were baptized in this church and grew up here.

Mary Kay has had many roles at Westminster Church, both as a volunteer and an employee. She has been a secretary for the nursery school, a substitute secretary for previous pastor Dave

Turner, and for ten years she was the WROC director and loved that position. As director of the WROC, she was staff liaison to the library before becoming the librarian. Also while the WROC director, Mary Kay was very involved with the Labyrinth and became a facilitator.

As her children were growing up, Mary Kay volunteered and always stayed involved at Westminster. At one point she was assistant superintendent for Sunday school. She ran Barefoot School for one year and volunteered for many. She has been an elder on Session twice and both times led the education commission. Mary Kay has participated in women's circles and Sunday seminars. Several summers in a row, the Mitchells, along with other church members, enthusiastically attended Synod School for a week-long ministry event of classes, speakers, and worship.

Currently, Mary Kay is involved in Knit in His Spirit and has been for 12 years. This group prayerfully knits shawls for those in need of comfort and solace. Mary Kay continues as a Labyrinth facilitator, finding this position challenging and fulfilling. All in all, volunteering has allowed Mary Kay to work with a lot of wonderful people and she has loved meeting them. About volunteering, Mary Kay advises, "Jump in; you never know who you'll meet and where it will take you!"

– Kris Overstreet

## Westminster at 70

# Westminster Counseling Center: A Mission of Love

In the early 1980s, Laird Stuart, the pastor at Westminster Church, wanted to develop a pastoral counseling center at the church. He consulted with my husband, Hetz Marsh, who, while on staff at Westminster, had seen members for pastoral counseling, helping those he saw to deal with the issues of life – loss, death, illness, relationships, career struggles, and the effects of depression and anxiety in response to those issues. His work had met a need in the church and community, and Laird wanted Westminster to develop a way for that need to continue to be met. Thus, in 1984, the Westminster Counseling Center was born.

The church created a center serving the needs of people who wanted a safe, private place to discuss the issues of their lives within the context of their faith in God. People who seek therapy should find in their therapist a person who can be trusted to care about them. Professional training and skill is, of course, a must. But surrounding and undergirding that training must be the desire to walk with the person through his or her struggles. It is, in my mind, one way to reflect the agape love that Jesus asks us to give to others. It is why the Westminster Counseling Center (WCC) was considered a mission of the church.

Throughout its 27-year history, the WCC hired professionals with varied backgrounds – ministers with specialized training, social workers, career counselors, psychologists, and child therapists – all of whom were committed to the support of their clients. Eugene Stevick, a licensed psychologist, worked for 17 years as a therapist at WCC. During that time, he provided a steady presence to his clients and he helped the WCC board build a center that could fulfill its mission of care. In return, the church embraced Eugene and his wife Emily (also a talented psychologist), welcoming their teaching of adult education and inviting Eugene to sing in the choir. Eugene said, “I felt like part of the Westminster family.”

That interaction between counselors and church board, staff, and members is what integrated the center with the church. Dee Flaherty brought specialized career counseling skills to WCC in addition to her warm and compassionate clinical skills. Dee had been a part of Westminster years earlier as a youth group leader. She returned to Westminster via WCC as a seasoned therapist and talented adult education teacher. In recalling her years at WCC, Dee said that she especially appreciated the monthly meetings with the other counselors and the ministers for pastoral care, Gail King and Tammy Yeager. Doing therapy is a private work. Meeting monthly with the other counselors and the pastoral care staff created a sense of community and joint purpose.

When I, as a licensed psychologist, joined the counseling center staff, I was one of three counselors. We each contracted with the board to work part time at the center, while maintaining our work in other locations. I learned from my clients their reasons for choosing WCC as a place for therapy. Some heard of the center



through their pastor. Some needed the sliding scale fee offered to clients. Many saw the center as place where their faith would be understood as foundational in helping them work through their particular life issues. I was inspired by their faith and their strength.

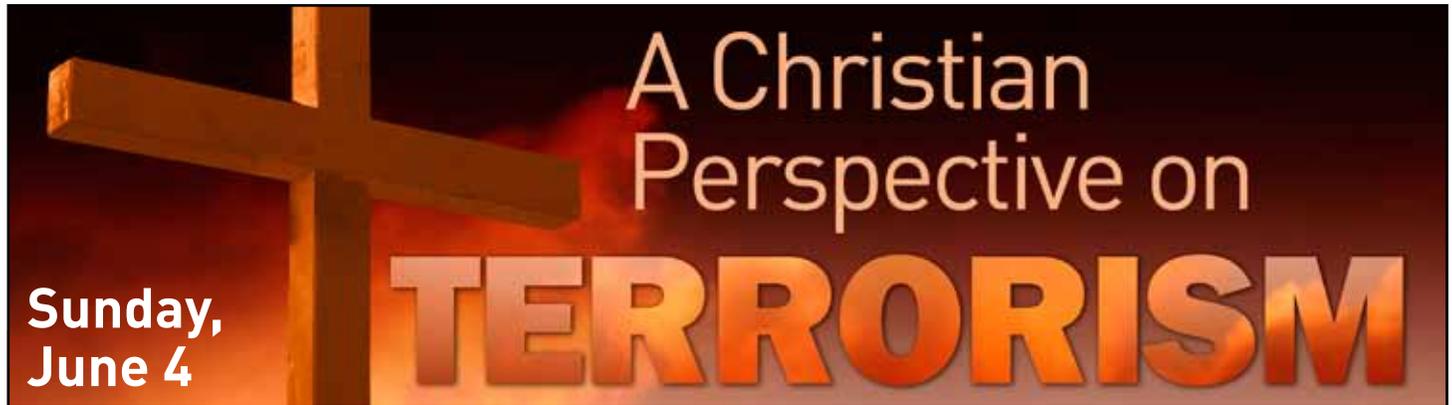
WCC’s Board of Directors expanded the counseling staff as need arose. All worked with the board to coordinate and further the purpose of the center. The board worked to provide support and guidance for the center and was the reason for its long-standing effectiveness. Because WCC was seen as a mission of the church, the Mission Committee of Session initially gave \$10,000 a year to support the function of the center. Professional services were offered on a sliding scale so that those who could not afford the full fee for therapy could seek help. For many years, Lois Singleton provided careful monitoring of the center’s funds, making sure that those funds supported the center’s ability to pay the professionals and yet subsidize the fees of those clients who needed the help.

Many of Westminster’s members gave time and energy to create a board which ensured that ethical, faithful, and efficient services were provided. The counselors took turns attending the board meetings. The board worked to publicize the center’s services and to communicate with the counselors regarding the requirements associated with maintaining licensure. Diane Paul was one of many dedicated presidents of WCC’s board. She reports that the privacy of the client was always primary, that the dedication of board members was “outstanding,” and that, “Mutual involvement and caring about our mission was central to the success of the counseling center.”

Eventually, the need for subsidized treatment was greater than the ability to sustain the center. Many of us, board members and counselors alike, were disappointed that the center was closed. In the words of Diane Paul, WCC’s “high caliber Christian Counseling on a sliding fee scale helped many who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to afford it.”

Westminster embarked on an expanded program for care at the church in ways other than counseling. To fill the hole created by the closing of a church-sponsored counseling center, the church contracted with Samaritan Counseling Center to rent the space in the north wing, and to provide faith-based counseling. It is good to know that those services continue to be offered in our church by an agency long associated with our faith.

– Barbara P. Marsh



# A Christian Perspective on **TERRORISM**

**Sunday,  
June 4**

**Noon  
Fellowship Hall**



**Dr. Stephen Biddle**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University and Adjunct Senior Fellow for Defense Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon at Westminster.

The luncheon is free, but registration is required for planning purposes. Stop by the reception desk during regular church hours, call the church office, or visit the church's website to register.

Dr. Biddle has been an advisor to Generals Petraeus and McChrystal, and has served on the Defense Department's Defense Policy Board and testified before committees of Congress on many issues pertaining to war and peace. His book *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* has won four major prizes, and his insights continue to appear in a wide variety of print and broadcast media. Dr. Biddle is also a member of Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, PA, where Jim Gilchrist served before coming to Westminster.

## Baptisms

**January 1**

**Lydia Jean**

*Parents: Sarah & Colin Peck*

**February 26**

**Roman Austin**

*Parents: Alysha & James Meier*

**Kellen Michael**

*Parents: Cyndi & Ben Miller*

**March 12**

**Crosby Brooks**

*Parents: Cara & Stephen Daniele*

**Adam Nicholai**

*Parents: Amelia Golia & Craig King*

**Elsie Rebecca**

*Parents: Lindsay & Sean McMillan*

**April 2**

**Ethan Lucas**

*Parents: Lauren & Richard Gasber*

**April 2**

**Russell Thomas**

*Parents: Katie & Brian Heitman*

**April 23**

**Harper Joy**

*Parents: Greta & Rob Healy*

**Zoey June**

*Parents: Katherine & Matthew Lenhart*

**Wyatt Duncan**

*Parents: Stephanie & Kirk Wojno*

**Cameron Gregory**

*Parents: Erin & Matthew Yeager*

**April 30**

**Claudia Leigh**

*Parents: Kara & Aaron Bowser*

**May 21**

**Isabella Jane**

*Parents: Amanda & Bob Mason*

## Save the Date:

*Saturday, October 21  
St. Clair Country Club*

Mark your calendars and save October 21 for the second annual Deacons' fundraiser. "The Giving Gala" benefitting City Mission will be held at St. Clair Country Club.

It's an exciting evening of good food, fellowship, and supporting a worthy charity. More information will follow.



# Congratulations 2017 Graduates

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Peters Township High School

Tanner Johnson  
Morgan Null  
Stephen D. Rex

### Mt. Lebanon High School

Will Sutherland

### South Park High School

Carson Paul

### Upper St. Clair High School

Jacob Bacik  
Lilly Drucis  
Vladislav (Vlad) Whitcomb Robinson  
Sarah Rubino

## COLLEGE

Meghan Allwes  
St. Vincent College  
*BA, Biology*

Christopher G. Conte  
Washington & Jefferson College  
*BA, Computing and Information Studies*

Dr. George Couch  
Medical College of South Carolina  
*Doctorate in Health Administration*

Maya Craig  
Grove City College  
*Bachelor's Degree in Marketing*

Lauren Dempsey  
University of Pittsburgh  
*BS, Health Medicine  
Minor in Marketing/Sales*

Elizabeth Faeth  
Carnegie Mellon University  
*International Relations  
Minor in Professional Writing*

Jessica Hapeman  
Waynesburg University  
*BA, Early Childhood Education with  
Special Education*

Leah Ketterman  
University of Pittsburgh  
*BS, Psychology*

Caroline Langella  
University of Southern California  
*BA, Communications*

Carolyn M. Painter  
The Pennsylvania State University  
*BS, Management from the  
Smeal College of Business  
Human Capital Management  
Concentration*

Bennett Richardson  
Slippery Rock University  
*Doctorate in Physical Therapy*

Luke Walker  
Ohio State University  
*BS, Business Administration  
Specialization in Operations Management  
Minor in Spanish for Business*

# Scholarship OPPORTUNITIES

## Seminary Students

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides financial scholarship support for church staff or members enrolled or planning to enroll in a Master of Divinity program. Applications are available in the church finance office (412-835-6630).

Please submit completed application by **Friday, June 16, 2017**. Questions may be directed to Carl Lindstrom at 412-833-8628 or 412-418-1003.

**Deliver application to:**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Finance Office  
2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

## Westminster Education and Service Trust (W.E.S.T.)

Do you need a helping hand with post high school educational costs? The W.E.S.T. Fund has a limited amount of resources available to distribute to Westminster Church students needing some financial assistance. Gifts are often used toward book purchases and similar expenses. Applications are available in the church finance office or receptionist area during normal working hours (412-835-6630).

Undergraduate and/or graduate students are limited to a total of four (4) annual gifts. When completing the application, please explain why you are requesting the gift and how you are planning to use it. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carl Lindstrom at 412-833-8628.

APPLICATION IS DUE IN THE FINANCE OFFICE **BY JUNE 16, 2017**.

# Financial Report

*As of April 30, 2017*

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2017	\$ 621,662.43
Annual Budget	\$ 1,995,623.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$ 1,373,960.57

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$ 743,928.30
Expenses	\$ 737,530.31
Net Position	\$ 6,397.99

# Session Update

On May 15, Session welcomed 17 adults as new members of Westminster, having previously welcomed, on April 30, the spring confirmation class of high school students. As always, our newest members bring a variety of gifts and interests to contribute to the life of the church.

Session also heard a report from Rick Ralston, chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, describing the process that led to the committee's recommending Louise Rogers to become our new associate pastor for congregational care. At the APNC's request, Session called a congregational meeting to follow the 11:00 service on June 11, and approved terms of call for Rev. Rogers, should the congregation vote to call her.

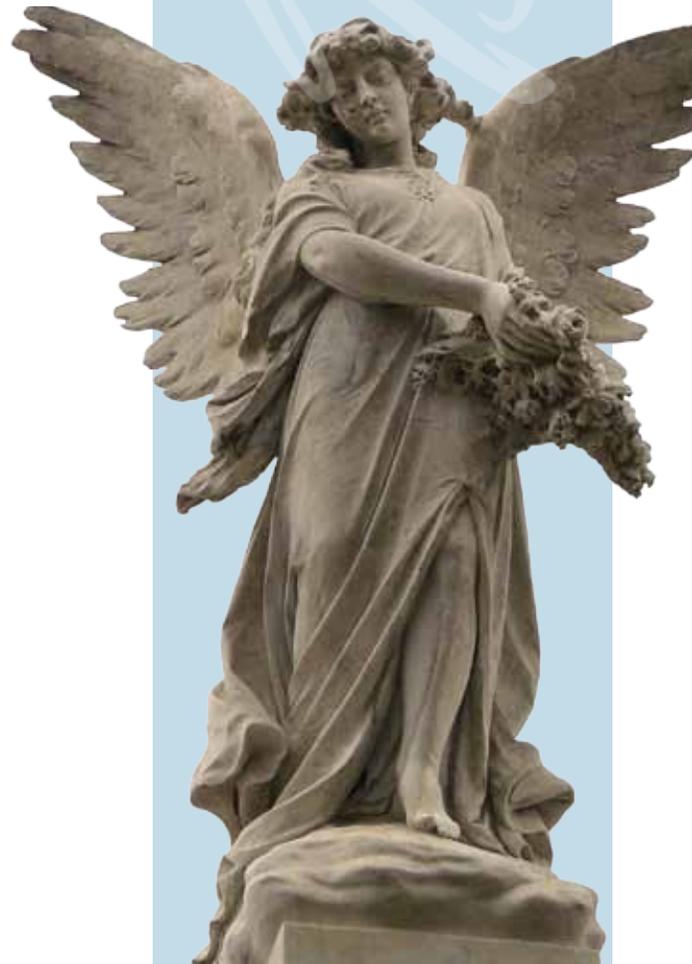
# Deaths

**Janet Carnahan**  
*April 9*

**Jane T. Hollman**  
*April 23*

**Donna Heilman**  
*April 25*

**James Myers**  
*May 7*





**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road  
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[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)  
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[www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC](http://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC)

BE *still*  
AND KNOW THAT  
I AM *God*

PSALM 46:10

