



THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Being Church

Most people talk about church as something we *go to*. We might ask a friend, "Where do you go to church?" Or we say to ourselves, "I haven't been to church for a while. I need to get back."

Some people think of church mainly as things we *do*. People who care about policies and procedures may focus on continuing quality improvement, as in any other organization, while others think of church as a place where useful things get done.

There's nothing wrong with those perspectives as far as they go. We do, of course, go to a place we call "church," and at Westminster we actually have a "process for excellence" that's all about improving the way things are done. Still, church is not principally a place we go or something we do. Church is fundamentally something we *are*.

When I started my ministry in the 1970s, a peppy song by Avery and Marsh was popular in Sunday schools, complete with hand motions to illustrate:

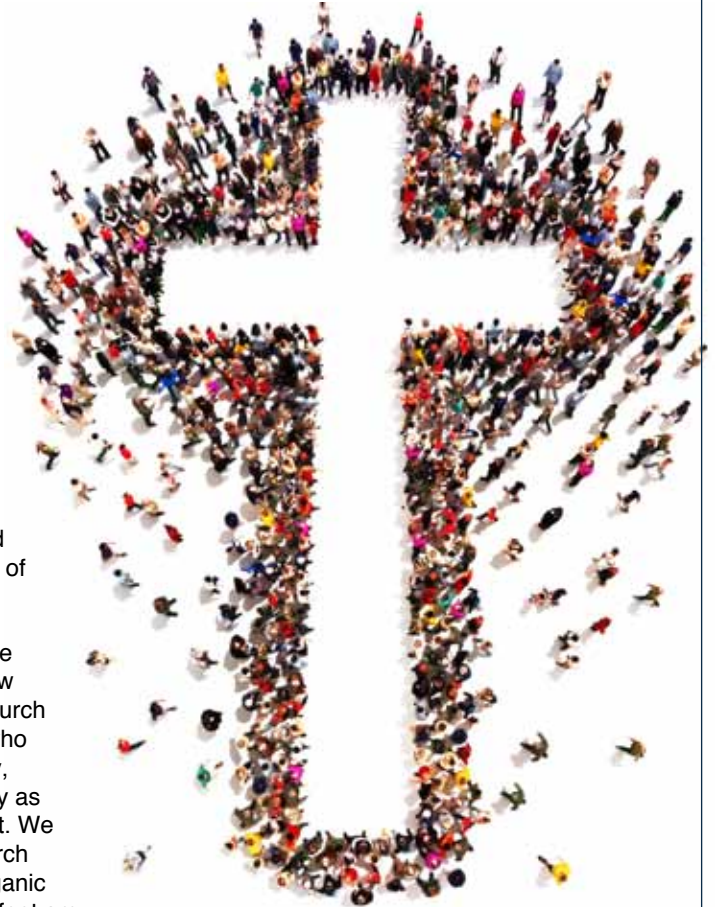
The church is not a building;
The church is not a steeple;
The church is not a resting place;
The church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

This fall, Westminster celebrates our 70-year history, and next fall marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, if you reckon from Martin Luther's posting of his 95 theses on the chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany. All of this history evokes a sense of being a *people*, a part of the people of God, stretched out over great expanses of space and time.

If that's true, then anyone who really wants to follow Christ should see the church as an essential part of who we are – and conversely, see ourselves essentially as part of the body of Christ. We are members of the church in something like the organic way that our hands and feet are members of our bodies, which is very different from being a member of some kind of club. Clubs are places we can visit, coming and going as we please. Church is a place we inhabit wherever we are.

That matters enormously, since it means that wherever we go and whatever we do, we are the church for all the world to see. And the world is watching. The world watches to see whether we are



welcoming, gracious, generous, loving, and engaged in service, or the opposite of all those things, and the world responds to what it sees. And God is watching, too, wanting us to be a faithful witness to God's own love for the world.

CHURCH STAFF

412-835-6630

PASTOR

DR. JIM GILCHRIST, *Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

PEG KINSEY

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PROPERTY

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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.

Read the *Spire* online at: 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. 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.
📍	Sanctuary

**The Bridge
Contemporary Worship**

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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

World Communion Sunday

Come to the Table of Peace

Westminster has received the Peacemaking Offering, now *Peace and Global Witness*, since 2006. Each year the PCUSA provides an image embodying the spirit of the offering, and this year's image is just breathtaking. Against the background of a bombed city stands the communion table. Amid all the death and destruction it still stands. The background could be Ramallah or Birmingham or Dachau or Orlando, any of the far-too-many places where hatred appears to have won. But the table stands. That table, where we not only are fed but feed each other, strengthens us for the work of peacemaking, of reconciliation across many lines.



In our service we say to one another "This is Christ's Body, broken for you." But *we are the Body of Christ* and so we are broken for one another. This is not easy, even where we all have similar life experiences. But the table in the photo calls us to something more challenging. It calls us, as part of the Body, to risk crossing lines of color and nationality and ideology to challenge the rhetoric of hatred and separation at the root of the destruction. At Westminster we have begun this through our February seminar *Faith, Race, Justice, and Mass Incarceration*, the May focus on refugees, our summer *Thirsting for Justice* series, all supported by your generous gifts to the Peacemaking Offering in 2015. We are asking again for your support in 2016 for new efforts. Envelopes are in your offering boxes and will be in the pews throughout October.

– Bobbie Hartman

Upcoming Events

1
OCT Inquirers' Class

2
OCT World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering, Blessing of the Pets

7
OCT Chatham Baroque Concert
Galbreath Chapel
7:30 p.m.

30
OCT Reformation Sunday

WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel



October 9, 16, 23, 30

J.S. Bach: Soli Deo Gloria

Sara Ruhle Kyle

The beloved composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) has become an almost mythical figure whose music transcends labels to reach people of many cultures and musical tastes. Bach's music moves us in powerful ways, bringing delight in our joy and comfort in our sadness. Even the simplest harmonization of a hymn can express deep emotion. We feel the presence of God when we hear Bach's church music, and we sense that this is truly music for God. And so it is no surprise that Bach dedicated all his music to the glory of God alone, inscribing his manuscripts with the words *Soli Deo Gloria*. But what is the story behind Bach, his faith, and his music?

This series of seminars will look at Bach's life and work, both grounded in the Lutheran faith. Bach's world was defined by the church, and while Bach composed music for secular occasions, he kept God at the center of all he did.

October 9 – Bach's Life, Luther, and the Organ

October 16 – Bach at Weimar: Growth as a Composer

October 23 – Bach's Cantatas: Sermons in Music

October 30 – Bach's Legacy

Sara Ruhle Kyle (PhD in musicology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) specializes in organ and sacred vocal music of the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Reformation Sunday 2016

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

1 Peter 1:24-25

Reformation Sunday, October 30, marks the beginning of a yearlong commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther, who posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. The motto of the Lutheran Reformation was *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever), a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God's word. Protestants from many denominations will take time in the coming year to revisit the history that resulted in Luther's movement to reform church theology and practice. Luther's work influenced many later reformers, including John Calvin of our Reformed tradition. For Protestant Christians, the centrality of scripture and the strength of God's grace and mercy in salvation have remained vital for five centuries.

Westminster will remember Martin Luther during worship on October 30 with stirring music. Luther's iconic hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” will be sung by the congregation and heard in J.S. Bach's cantata based on the hymn, performed by the Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra. This cantata (BWV 80) is one of Bach's most celebrated works for the church liturgy, and it epitomizes Bach's creative genius and faithfulness to God in the Lutheran tradition of his time. The music and text beautifully express both the majesty of God and the gentleness of Christ living in our hearts. To God alone be the glory.

DIARY OF A LUNATIC

How I Spent My Summer Sabbatical

I knew I was in trouble almost as soon as my sabbatical started. The events that transpired in that first week would be completely unrivaled, making certain that every week to follow would be a disappointment. In that first week, here's what happened:

- I graduated after ten long years at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- I celebrated that graduation with nearly every friend I've ever had.
- I won two awards from the seminary that I wasn't at all expecting.
- I delighted in watching my boys be baptized at the Bridge.
- I purchased a new bike.
- I used said bike to complete the MS 150 in record time.
- I watched the Penguins win the Stanley Cup.

How do you top all of that?

It turns out you top all of that by hanging out with family. The boys were born in the dead middle of finals, and my busy schedule didn't let up from there. It seemed as though the only time I ever got to spend with them while I was in seminary was our late night feedings, where all of us were clinging to consciousness for dear life. Sabbatical allowed me to spend more time with them when the sun was up, and for that I am forever grateful. It allowed me to spend more time with my wife, for which I am forever grateful. It allowed me to make a big dent in the book I'm working on, for which I am forever grateful. Most of all, sabbatical allowed me to come back rested, relaxed, recharged, and ready for this next season of life and ministry. And you guessed it, I am forever grateful.


I really, truly mean that. I don't know that I'll ever be able to say thank you enough to this congregation for your overwhelming and inspiring generosity. When I talk to my friends in ministry, they absolutely can't believe the sweet gig that I have here, and frankly sometimes neither can I. So from the very bottom of my heart, thank you thank you thank you.

That said, I'd like to ask a favor. You see, I learned a lot on sabbatical. I learned what it feels like to be so un-busy you don't remember what day it is. I learned how to enjoy time with my boys, taking them on long walks through the park and teaching them how to wrestle (you can never learn too early). I learned that vacations are going to look very different in these next few years, family in tow. I learned a bit more about how God was moving in my life and found more and more clarity about what this next season at Westminster was going to look like and how I was going to tackle it. When I set nearly everything aside, I learned a lot. So that favor? You should do that.

Now I know not everyone is going to have the possibility of a ten-week vacation. Again, this congregation's generosity toward me and my family is borderline ludicrous, and I'd be surprised if your employer was cool with you taking nearly three months off. But there is time for rest. There is time for relaxation. There is time for family. There is time for hobbies. You just have to make it. Such time will not happen by accident; it needs to be an intentional move on our part. Sabbath is one of the big ten in God's law, so why is it that we have such a hard time holding that up today?

Even now, this week, take a few hours out of a day to just enjoy your friends and family. Go on a trip to the zoo, or a walk in the park, or a bike ride through the woods. Spend some time alone, reflecting on God's word and God's goodness. Trust me. You'll be glad you did.

– Jason Freyer



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There is time
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There is time
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There is time
for hobbies.
You just have
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BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Fall is my favorite season of the year. Fall has amazing days with cool evenings. Fall has changing leaves. Fall has Thanksgiving. Fall has football and hunting season. In my book, you can't beat fall. I'm so appreciative that we live in a climate that truly has four distinct seasons. It adds a rhythm to the year that I think would otherwise be lost, and, as I find to be so often the case, I believe that the rhythms of nature have much to tell us about the rhythms of our lives.

Imagine for a moment that you have lived your entire life in a world of only summer. What would fall feel like? At first the cool weather might be a nice change of pace, but what would you feel as it became even cooler? What would run through your mind as the days got shorter? How would you feel as you watched plants beginning to die? How would you manage as fall turned to winter? This would be a scary time.

We know that fall turns to winter, and winter again turns to spring. There are seasons of death, and seasons of life, seasons of growth and seasons of retreat. We understand these rhythms in the world, but so often struggle to understand them in our lives. I frequently meet with people who are entering falls and winters of life – seasons in which life isn't working like it used to, when things need to change. Often, these seasons are scary, hard to understand, and worrisome. Of course, this makes sense; any change can be scary. We have to realize, however, that seasons change, and through every bitter, dark night of winter, we find ourselves closer to the warmth and growth of spring.

It is for these reasons that I love the language and metaphor of seasons in our lives. On a personal note, in the midst of writing this I've realized that my life is in something of a fall. I find myself introspective, looking at the places that God has carried me over the last few seasons and in deep awe and wonder of the works that God has done in my life. I also find myself retrospective, thankful for the harvest that God has granted. As for the present, however, I find that much fruit of the past few seasons has been picked. There is more growth to be done, certainly, but I'm finding truth in the notion that the fruit is changing. The tools I use to approach this season of life must change, and the methods of harvesting will need to change as well. And, perhaps most important, I need to learn to recognize the new fruit.

Maybe that's a good lesson for each of us. Every season bears *some* sort of fruit, some sort of benefit, but we must train ourselves to recognize it when we see it.

I'd suggest you spend a few minutes to take stock of the season you are in right now. What fruit are you finding, and how is it different from that of other seasons of your life? I'd love to work through this conversation with you! Feel free to get in touch.

– Ed Sutter



Every season
bears *some* sort
of fruit, some
sort of benefit,
but we must
train ourselves
to recognize it
when we see it.

Who Am I? Who Is God?

The Gospel of Luke tells a wonderful story about a prophet who encountered the child Jesus in the temple. Jesus' parents had brought him to the temple as the Law required. Soon after arriving, Jesus and his parents had a profound encounter with the prophet Simeon. Then Luke tells us:

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshiped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38, CEB)

Can you imagine that? "She never left the temple area but worshiped God with fasting and prayer night and day." I have wondered what she could possibly have to say 24-7 to God. But I was assuming that prayer is just about Anna or you or me talking to God. Actually prayer is also about listening for God and resting in God's presence.

Philip Yancey reflected, "Sometimes I wonder if the words I use are the least important part of prayer."

Who am I? And who is God? If I can answer those two questions, the words I pray recede. Prayer invites me to lower defenses and present the self that no other person fully knows to a God who already knows. (Philip Yancey, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*)

Prayer isn't about an endless stream of human words – yours, mine, or Anna's. It is about being in God's presence with confident hope. It is about listening for God's often whispered voice of comfort and love and challenge. It is about coming to know who I am as a child of God and who God is as my ever-loving parent. That seems to be the sense of what was happening in Anna's story. She fasted and prayed daily to worship God. Anna's focus was on learning who God is and, in the process, learning who she was.

Of course there are times when we take our needs to God. The gospels tell about that, too. Even then, though, the focus is God, not me. We take our needs to God because we have first learned who God is – one full of love, mercy, compassion, and powerful hope. We take our needs to God because we have first learned who we are: God's children who are utterly dependent on God for care, strength, and the meeting of our needs.

Who am I? Who is God? Simple, yet profound questions. Questions that need to be at the root of our every prayer and of our reason for praying itself. Pondering those questions long enough can lead us to the same answer that Dietrich Bonhoeffer claimed in a Nazi prison: "Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine." That answer, discovered in prayer, can transform our lives in amazing ways.

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman

Opportunities for Prayer at Westminster



Tuesday Prayer

First and Third Tuesdays
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Friendship Village
Meditation Room

Centering Prayer

Every Tuesday
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Room 231

Wednesday Prayer

First Wednesday
6:10-6:30 p.m.
Galbreath Chapel

"Sometimes I wonder if the words I use are the least important part of prayer."

– Philip Yancey

Wednesday Prayer

Seeking God's blessing and direction in the search for our new Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

October 5
6:10 – 6:30 p.m.
Galbreath Chapel

You are invited to Wednesday Prayer on the first Wednesday of each month at the same time and in the same place. Prominent in our prayers will be the search for Westminster's new Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. Join us for this brief time of prayer as we lift up the church and its ministry.



Thursday AM Bible Study

October 6 – November 10
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Room 238

You are invited to a six-week Bible study exploring the book of Isaiah, led by Dave Fetterman. **RSVPs are a must if you need childcare.** RSVP to Tracey Mattes at 412-835-6630 or mattes@westminster-church.org. Bring your favorite Bible and join us for fellowship and learning.

Introduction to the Enneagram

October 22 – November 5 – December 10
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Room 231

The Enneagram is an ancient tool which can help us find a deeper and more authentic relationship with God. It reveals the ways we hide from ourselves and, therefore, hide from God – the ways we get stuck on the spiritual path. We awaken to the patterns that have the power to control us and the games we find ourselves tangled in.

More than anything, the Enneagram can make us more capable of loving other people, loving ourselves – and loving God.

Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof, who has deep experience with the Enneagram, will lead us into the wisdom of the Enneagram on three Saturdays, with each session building on the prior one. Fr. Tickerhoof is a friar of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and is the Director of Ongoing Formation for his religious community.

At each session we welcome you with a continental breakfast, and a light lunch will be served. When you register you will receive *The Essential Enneagram* by David Daniels & Virginia Price. This book includes an Enneagram Type Indicator and will prepare you to better understand how the Enneagram speaks to you. You can pick up the book at the church reception desk.

For more information contact Nana Wilson 412-418-0234 or nanadirect@yahoo.com.



Introduction to the Enneagram **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail form to:
Tracy Mattes, Westminster Presbyterian Church
2040 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15241

Rummage-Recycling Sales Benefit Mission

If you are reading this, it is highly likely that you are one of the hundreds of individuals in the Westminster congregation and the South Hills communities who participated in one or both of Westminster's Rummage-Recycling Sales this past year, to volunteer, donate items, or shop. As a result, thousands of people, locally and worldwide, have benefited from your collective efforts and are thanking you. Yes, this summer we were able to distribute \$22,000, proceeds from our last two sales, to a total of 27 mission projects, including local and international groups and organizations.

We want to again thank the 160-plus church members who volunteered their time to help, as well as those who donated food for the volunteers' lunches. We also thank the many people from Westminster and surrounding communities who donated items they no longer wanted or needed. And thank you, also, to the hundreds of shoppers, some traveling considerable distances, who came to hunt for treasures during our sales.

The distribution was as follows:

Angel's Place	\$500
Barefoot School	\$500
Global Links	\$500
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	\$1,000
New Testament Mission, Haiti	\$1,000
Jubilee Soup Kitchen	\$500
Meals on Wheels, Bethel-St. Clair	\$1,000
Meals on Wheels, Peters Township	\$1000
The Open Door Youth Outreach, Crafton Heights	\$500
Garfield Community Farm	\$1,000
Open Hand Ministries, Pittsburgh	\$500
Off the Floor	\$1,000
Presbyterian Senior Care, Washington, PA	\$500
PRISM	\$250
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh	\$1,000
SHIM	\$1,000
Sponsorship of two Haitian children	\$480
Stop Hunger Now	\$3,500
Valley View Presbyterian Church	\$1,000
City Mission, Washington, PA	\$1,000
City Mission Avis Arbor Women's Shelter	\$500
Westminster Child Development Center	\$500
Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank	\$250
Westminster Nursery School (scholarships)	\$500
WEST Fund (scholarships)	\$500
Women's Shelter, Pittsburgh	\$500
Presbyterian World Mission Fund	\$900



Our ability to provide such substantial help to so many people and organizations is a tribute to the willingness and dedication of members of the WPC congregation. If you have volunteered, you know how much satisfaction and enjoyment you get from your efforts. If you have not shared in this amazing opportunity, please consider joining us in the fun and fellowship this coming November 11 and 12.

Volunteering to help in the Rummage-Recycling Sales is the single regularly scheduled opportunity at Westminster where people of all ages, from children to folks in their nineties, join together to support an amazing cause.

Mark your calendar for our next sale. Friday, November 11, is collection day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sale day is Saturday, November 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can volunteer for several hours on either or both days. To sign up, please call Marilyn Hayes (412-831-5704) or Jan Baumann (412-835-6630).

Fall 2016 Rummage-Recycling Sale

Saturday, November 12
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 2
2:00 p.m. in the North Parking Lot*

All people-friendly pets and their owners are invited to a designated celebration that both acknowledges and pays tribute to the loyal animal companions that love us unconditionally. Join a pastor as he gives thanks for these special family members, and as they bless the people who love and care for them deeply.

Please be sure your pets are on non-retractable leashes or in carriers, and have proof of up-to-date vaccinations.

**If weather is inclement, please meet in the WROC (gymnasium).*

Pupalooza

Doggone Fun for Everyone
Saturday, October 8
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
South Parking Lot

Pupalooza is a FREE event for pet lovers and a special day for your four-legged family members. The event features scheduled presentations, rescue groups with adoptable pets, games and contests, and other activities to keep both humans and pets entertained, informed, and fed!



Music & Arts

Chatham Baroque Returns to Galbreath Chapel

Westminster is pleased to host the early music ensemble Chatham Baroque for four concerts of their Pittsburgh series. The concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. on October 7 and November 18, 2016, and February 3 and April 7, 2017. For more information and ticket prices, visit www.chathambaroque.org or call 412-687-1788.



Chatham Baroque offers audiences the opportunity to hear *baroque* music that is *accessible* and thrillingly *vivid*.

Li'l WROCers Fall Happenings

Stroller Strides

Stroller Strides is a stroller-based fitness program designed for moms with little ones. Each 60-minute, total body workout incorporates power walking/running, strength, toning, and fun for the littles. Certified fitness instructors offer a variety of fun class formats catered to every fitness level.



All fitness levels welcome. Modifications for specific needs provided. Pre- and post-natal friendly with an emphasis on pelvic floor rehab and awareness.

Instructor: Lauren Kail – NAFC group fitness instructor; Stroller Strides and Fit4Baby instructor, CPR certified.

October 25 – December 22

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

First class is FREE; cost and registration details available on the WROC website.

Coach Al is back for another session of Basketball Skills and Drills Basic Course

The course will cover the following skills and fundamentals with your child:

- Ball-handling skills w/o dribbling
- Dribbling skills
- Shooting skills from different areas of the court
- Foul shooting
- Layups from left side and right side
- Passes: chest, bounce, and outlet
- Offense and defense principles and fast-break fundamentals
- Scrimmage games



Instructor: Al Mallah, a member of Westminster, whose long career in basketball includes playing basketball for 13 years in Europe and coaching college and professional level teams.

October 13 – November 17

Thursdays: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$65

Creative Expression

Basic Public Speaking Skills – You Speak, They Listen

Have you experienced your knees knocking, breath catching, and voice quivering when you were trying to address the public? Have you felt your stomach tightening as you approach the podium? Would you like to learn how to deliver your message in front of a group of people from three to 500 in a comfortable, entertaining, and effective way? Learn what pitfalls to avoid, and the simple steps that you can do to effectively deliver your message.

Join instructor Ken Rapko* as he leads you through the skills and tricks of public speaking in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

Mondays, October 17 and 24

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Free; registration required

*Ken Rapko has been in sales and sales management for over 35 years in both a corporate and entrepreneurial environment. He has delivered talks to groups as large as 1,200 people. While working for Midland Ross and Thomas & Betts, Ken benefited from professional training in sales and public speaking.



Westminster at 70

Who Was Emily Goodrich?

That’s a question many Westminster members might ask – if they know to. That’s because a second question might be why does it matter? If you visit our library, you begin to understand the answer to both questions as you see the Emily Goodrich Library plaque that memorializes a much loved member and volunteer. But first a little background from the February 1977 issue of the *Spire* written by Westminster’s director of visitation, Margaret Hood.

“[The Library] began from a dream of a few people who wanted their little new church to have a library. In 1953, Dr. Galbreath lent 75 of his own personal books as ‘seed books.’ The library was housed in the Pullman kitchen off the family room and Mrs. R.L. Hutchison was in charge. The books were cataloged, and in the next few years as interest grew, special books were bought for the library which would be needed in the Church School and Women’s Association.” In fact, back in those days Upper St. Clair didn’t have a community library so the Westminster library became the first library to serve the township.

When the full sanctuary was built, a larger space was created for an expanded library. As of the 1977 article the Westminster Library held some 4,000 books.

That’s just about the time Emily Goodrich and her family joined the church. “Emily Goodrich became interested in the library and immediately began to give of her experience. A staff of workers who had been ‘helping in the library’ immediately recognized Emily’s library training and she became their supervisor.”

As Margaret described Emily in her article, “She is amazing in her ability to remember what each child has read, to be eager to suggest the next choice, and to give the youngster just enough of a hint of what is in store for him so that it makes him eager to hurry home and begin to read. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her vast knowledge of books is shared with whomever asks for it. Not only children but many adults have consulted Mrs. Goodrich about a choice of books for reviewing, for gifts, and for personal pleasure reading. One or two sentences from Emily puts it all in a nutshell and it is then easy to choose a book.”

So, next time you walk down the hall, remember what the *Spire* announced back in 1977: “In recognition of the remarkable ministry that Mrs. Goodrich performs in the lives of so many of Westminster’s children and adults, the Session, on December 20, voted that it should carry her name, and as part of the anniversary celebration, one of the new room plaques will designate the “Emily Goodrich Library.” More than considering the plaque, though, consider checking out a book to honor Emily’s service and – perhaps – to find inspiration in finding your own way to serve.

– Carolyn Kerr



Consider checking out a book to honor Emily's service and—perhaps—to find inspiration in finding your own way to serve.

New Kitchen Manager

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself as the new kitchen manager at Westminster. My name is Carrie Kushner, and I am very excited to begin this new endeavor. I live in Upper St. Clair with my husband Drew and three children – Lilly, Nolan, and Ellie. We have been members at Westminster Church for years and during that time, I have had the opportunity to volunteer as a deacon, care calendar coordinator, and Sunday school teacher. I thoroughly enjoy being involved in the church, so I am delighted to take on this new role. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to become a volunteer. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Many Blessings,

Carrie Kushner
Cell: 724-809-7687
Email: kushner@westminster-church.org



Believing and Belonging Go Together

In writing about the early church, the author of Acts 2:46-47 tells us, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....They continued to meet together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily...”

These are the reasons we gather together at Westminster Presbyterian Church: to worship God, to hear and study God’s Word, to have fellowship with one another, to share in the Lord’s Supper and pray together, and to serve God in mission. And, yes, God continues to add to our numbers.

If you know of someone who is interested in membership, invite them to consider an Inquirers’ Class. This is a time of sharing and teaching as we explore what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. Classes take place on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Parlor, and the next one will be October 1. Please contact Peg Kinsey for reservations.

A Note of Thanks

Ten years ago you welcomed me with open arms and showered me, a brand new pastor, with your gentleness, patience, and kindness. You led me down the paths of your lives and opened the doors of your hearts where my faith grew stronger watching, worshipping, and walking with you. And now, you’ve so graciously sent me off on the wings of love with a banquet fit for royalty, cookies and cards and clocks, and an incredible scholarship fund that will help so many others learn and grow for years to come. Thank you for everything, Westminster. You are forever in my heart and prayers. Congratulations on your 70 years. I am so excited for all that God has in store for you in the years ahead.

Tammy Yeager

Grief Recovery Group

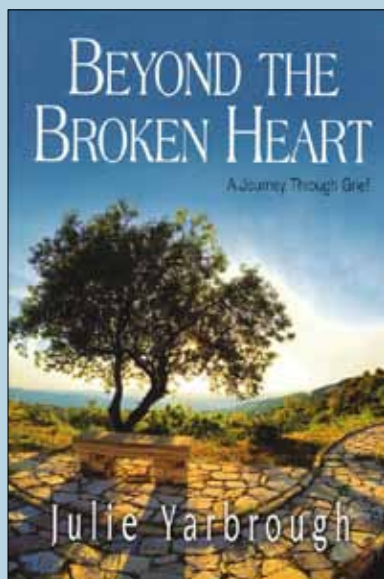
Wednesdays

October 19 – November 16

6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Memorial Parlor

If you have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you know it can be hard to feel optimistic about the future right now. You may have found that people don't always understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never before faced. Grief Recovery is a faith-based grief support group that can help you face the challenges of loss and move toward rebuilding your life. Plan to join us for our Grief Recovery sessions.



We will use the Grief Recovery book, *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey through Grief*, by Julie Yarbrough. To register and for more information, complete the online registration form on the church website or call Peg Kinsey at 412-835-6630. To help defray the cost of materials, a donation of \$10 is suggested.

Donations of Appreciated Assets

Contributors to Westminster Presbyterian Church may give appreciated assets to the church (such as stocks or mutual funds) without being required to pay tax on the capital gains. This can be accomplished either by delivering certificates to the church or by electronic transfer of these assets to Westminster Presbyterian Church as payment on your pledge. Please note that these gifts must be long-term investments. Short-term capital gains do not qualify for the tax benefits.

The procedure for each of these types of donations is quite simple.

CERTIFICATE DONATION

- Present the certificates to Dave Reiter, church business administrator, at the church office.
- The owner(s) must sign and date the certificates. If all of the shares of the certificate are being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- If a fraction of the total shares of the certificate is being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church and a request for reissue of the remaining fraction of certificate shares.
- An acknowledgement of the receipt of the stock shares will be given or sent to the donor(s), followed by a confirmation letter of the sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

- Notify your broker that you wish to donate shares to Westminster Presbyterian Church through **Morgan Stanley Smith Barney**.
- The transfer should go to:
DTC 0015
Account no. 827-105717-515
- It is important that you or your broker contact Dave Reiter at the church office, 412-835-6630x201, informing us that a transfer is being made. This will ensure that proper credit is given to you on your church giving statement.
- A letter of confirmation of the sale will be sent to the donor(s). This letter will state the date of sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

If you have further questions, please call Dave Reiter at 412-835-6630x201.

Financial Report *As of August 31, 2016*

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$1,306,230.68
Annual Budget	\$1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$679,769.32

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$1,518,494.56
Expenses	\$1,510,016.18
Net Position	\$8,478.38

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first eight months, and we are pleased to report that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments. However, as you can see above, we still have approximately 34% of our 2016 budgeted contributions yet to be fulfilled.

If you are current or ahead on your 2016 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2016 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.

Session Update

On September 19, Session voted to recommend the following slate of candidates for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, for the congregation's vote on October 2: Maya Debski (youth), Sam Duncan, Lois Franks, Deborah Lee, Maureen Ludwig, Rick Ralston, Elise Sutter, and Ian Thomas. Jim Gilchrist will serve ex officio without vote.

Session also approved a request from Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church to co-sponsor, with Shadyside Presbyterian, a plan to allow Gavin Walton to serve as pastor of Grace Memorial, if the way be clear. Westminster and Shadyside will each contribute \$25,000 for 2017, \$15,000 for 2018, and \$7,500 for 2019, while Grace Memorial continues to grow toward self-sufficiency, hopefully by 2020. Shadyside helped to plant Westminster in the South Hills 70 years ago, so it seems fitting for the two churches to support the revitalization of historic Grace Memorial in the Hill District of Pittsburgh.

In other action, Session elected these officers of the corporation for the coming year: Pat McClintock-Comeaux, president; Brian Peck, secretary; and John Null, treasurer.

Richard Rice

August 28

Roger Meyer

July 9





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC



World Communion Sunday October 2

You formed the universe in your wisdom,
and created all things by your power.
You set us in families on the earth
to live with you in faith.
We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine,
and for the table you spread in the world
as a sign of your love for all people in Christ.

– Book of Common Worship