



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## This Far by Grace ...

Seventy years ago this month, a Navy chaplain named John Galbreath, back from World War II, rounded up a hundred people or so and held the first worship service of what would become Westminster Presbyterian Church. They met in a school, and the story of what happened next begins to unfold in this month's *Spire*, with more to follow throughout the coming anniversary year.

Having run some relay races on my junior high track team, I still have vivid memories of passing the baton. In what was then called the 880 Relay I would occasionally be the fourth runner, which is not a bad metaphor here for senior pastors, since John Galbreath passed the baton to Laird Stuart, who passed it on to Bob Norris, who handed it off to me. Relay runners depend on those who went before to give them a good start, but they still need to run hard in order to finish well and keep from letting down the team.

I never met John, because he died early in 2006, a few months before I was called to Westminster. I read his memoir, though, which had just been published, and I've felt a certain affinity ever since. The connection began on page 1 of his book, where he writes,



"...the first Galbreath chief, 'Gilchrist Breatnach terrorized the country for miles around.'" I've smiled more than once at the thought that eight hundred years ago Galbreaths and Gilchrists were rustling sheep together in the vicinity of Loch Lomond, Scotland, only to have their descendants work off the families' darker deeds centuries later in a pulpit in Pittsburgh. The title of John's first chapter is, appropriately enough, "The Galbreath Connection."

All that to say, we who are here today carry on the church's legacy, and we're connected in all sorts of ways to those who have gone before and those who will come after us. That's part of what the church means by "the communion of saints." We belong to a marvelous connection that stretches across vast expanses of space and time, and the story of any particular congregation is a microcosm of the Great Story that binds us all together in the gracious providence of God.

As our little banner for the anniversary suggests, we've come this far by grace. Christians who know our story well know that every good thing that happens reflects the grace of God. Worldly people tend to trumpet what they think are their own successes; people of faith tend to be grounded in deep gratitude, knowing that even when we work hard and appear to succeed, it's all by the grace of a loving God.

We human beings are inclined to mythologize the past, fret about the present, and fantasize about the future. But we never actually live anywhere except in the present, where people have always lived. To see how far we've come by grace is to learn to trust God and move forward in faith through the opportunities that come with every passing day.

THIS FAR BY GRACE **70** YEARS FORWARD IN FAITH

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

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 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.*

# Taste & See Weekend

September 10 & 11

Stop Hunger Now | Taste & See Open House | Organ Concert

Connect with one another...

- Participate in hands-on mission; package 40,000 meals.
- Eat together and explore the exciting things that we are doing here, in our community, and in the world.
- Enjoy the beautiful sounds of our new chapel organ played by Gwendolyn Toth.

You can begin the Taste & See Weekend by inviting friends, co-workers, or family to join you in our Westminster gym to help package meals for hungry children around the world. We will be assembling small meal packets containing rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals for Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief agency. It is a fun, hands-on international mission project for everyone that encourages team building and provides the opportunity to have an exponential and sustainable international impact without leaving our area. Shifts are Friday setup from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday packaging from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. or from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Sign up under events on the church website.

On Sunday morning, come to worship and Fellowship Hall before or after worship, or both, for food and fellowship from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We hope you will come and discover what inspiration, help, peace, and enjoyment Westminster has to offer.

On Sunday afternoon you have an opportunity to invite fellow music lovers to join you at 4:00 p.m. in our Galbreath Chapel, where Gwendolyn Toth from New York will play Westminster's Taylor and Boody organ in a program illustrating the first four centuries of organ music. A reception in the church gallery will follow the concert. See the Music & Arts Series article for additional information on Ms. Toth.



**Upcoming Events**

**10 SEP** Stop Hunger Now

**11 SEP** Taste and See Open House; Organ Concert in Galbreath Chapel

**18 SEP** Blood Drive

**24 SEP** Deacons' fundraiser: SHIMmering Soirée

**25 SEP** Seraphic Singers Concert in the sanctuary

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. – Psalm 34:8*

WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

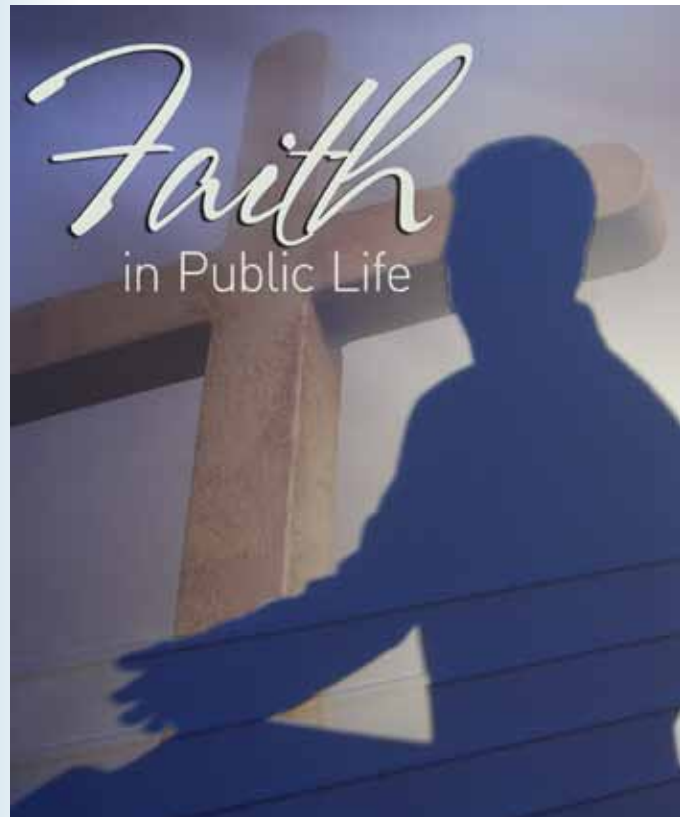
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

September 11, 18, 25; October 2

# Faith Traditions and Denominations in Public Life

Public life and religion in America have intersected throughout our history, from colonial times to the present. Churches and clergy have played significant roles in higher education and other forms of public service, yet the many branches of Christianity have approached public life in different ways. How have Presbyterians worked in the public sphere compared to other denominations and religious groups in our country? What issues have prompted greater activity? What areas have been off limits? In this election year, what topics are important to churches?

“For God so loved the world...” Who is included in “the world” that God loves so much? One of the basic building blocks of the Christian faith is God’s love, especially God’s love for the world and for humankind. We teach our children the truth of John 3:16 and the fundamental understanding that all people are made in the image and likeness of God. Many politicians in this election season seem to be calling us to fear, and they do so by calling us to be afraid of the other, not only politicians on the other side, but also people perceived as other because of their faith, language, location, or race. Can our basic belief in God’s love and the goodness of God’s creation provide a foundation on which we can build a hopeful response to the many messages this year about insiders and outsiders?



Two pastors and two journalists will help us answer these questions. David Esterline, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will begin the series on September 11. The following week Peter Smith of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* will discuss his perspective as a religion reporter. Next, Jim Gilchrist will offer his thoughts as the pastor of a large mainline church. *Post-Gazette* columnist Tony Norman will conclude the series on October 2.

The seminar hour is a convenient way to learn and grow in faith before or after worship on Sunday mornings. Plan to join the discussion as your schedule permits. No preparation is necessary. Simply come with a curious mind.

September 11  
**David Esterline**



September 18  
**Peter Smith**



September 25  
**Jim Gilchrist**



October 2  
**Tony Norman**



## UNFETTERED

In 1980 I was serving as an associate pastor of a church in Uniontown. One of our members was a gentle, sweet, soft-spoken woman named Dorothy. Dorothy was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and her health began a nearly yearlong decline. Eventually she was admitted to the hospital as she approached death. One Sunday morning I was going through my typical ritual of getting dressed, eating breakfast, and preparing to go to the church for morning worship. Thoughts of Dorothy came to me over and over again. I decided that I would visit her after worship was concluded. That didn't seem to be enough, though, because I also kept feeling urgings to go to the hospital right then. I resisted those promptings until I was nearly at the church, when I succumbed to their persistence and headed my car for Uniontown Hospital. I entered Dorothy's room and found her family keeping vigil. The family and I had a meaningful visit after which we joined hands around Dorothy's bed and prayed. Moments after the prayer concluded, Dorothy died. Had I not succumbed to the persistent urgings to go to the hospital, I would have missed the privilege of sharing with Dorothy's family in escorting her home to God.

The Gospel of John says:

God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8, CEB)

The Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of taking us down paths that we don't expect to travel at times that aren't always convenient. I, like many of you, often resist those leadings. After all, I have a task list to work through and appointments to keep. It appears that God cares very little about task lists and appointments. When a need arises or an opportunity presents itself, God's simple call through the promptings of the Holy Spirit is "Go where I am leading." Too often we prefer God to follow along where we lead, where we prefer to go. In his book *Wild Goose Chase*, Mark Batterson calls this "inverted Christianity":

Instead of following the Spirit, we invite the Spirit to follow us. Instead of serving God's purposes, we want Him to serve our purposes. (p. 4)

Batterson calls us to take John's words to heart: "God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes."

There are times when we feel that happiness and peace are to be found in our ability to control our lives and their directions. Even if we could exercise such control in our dangerous and ever-changing world, the truth remains that God insists on being the one in control, the one who is leading. "God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes." Our task is to say, "Here I am Lord, I will follow."

I invite you to join me in an experiment. For the next month or two let's ask "Where is God leading me in this situation?" before we ask "What do I want to do in this situation?" As we do, I pray that Paul's blessing will fill our lives:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13, CEB)

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman



The Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of taking us down paths that we don't expect to travel at times that aren't always convenient.

# Prayer Groups at Westminster



## Men's Prayer

1st Tuesday  
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.  
Room 231

## Tuesday Prayer

1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Friendship Village

## Centering Prayer

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

For more information, contact Dave Fetterman at 412-835-6630 or [dfetterman@westminster-church.org](mailto:dfetterman@westminster-church.org).

# Sunday School News

Sunday school begins September 11 at both the 9:45 and 11:00 hours. To our returning children and families, welcome back! And to children and families who are joining us for the first time, welcome! Below is a brief description of the curriculums that we will be using in Sunday school this year:

## 9:45 a.m.

We are again using the Tru curriculum for children PreK through fourth grade. Tru is a dynamic curriculum that meets the needs of today's children. Tru uses the small group-large group concept to tell God's big story through use of a Bible story (large group) and relationship building and activities that reinforce the Bible story (small group). Tru is written with the goal of engaging children so they are able to remember and understand God's word.

## 11:00 a.m.

We are again using Orange. It's a strange name for a curriculum, but it synchronizes the light of the church (yellow) with the love of the family (red) to make orange: the church and the family working together to teach the children.

## First Look

*(Two years old through preschool)*

Instills wonder in the preschoolers to help them embrace a God who is bigger than their imagination. They will learn three basic truths: God created me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

## 252

*(Kindergarten through fourth grade)*

Sparks discovery in elementary children and helps them gain a new understanding of how to grow their relationship with God. They learn three basic truths: I need to make wise choices (wonder), I can trust God no matter what (faith), and I should treat others the way I want to be treated (friendship).

## TruStory

*(Fifth and sixth grade)*

TruStory reveals God's incredible plan to middle school children and invites them to be part of his plan. It connects our middle school children to God, finds their place in his big story, and helps them respond to him.

Children and Family Ministry is very excited about Sunday school! We hope you will become part of Sunday school and be with us as we join the children on their journey of faith. Informational letters were sent the first week of September. If you did not receive one or have any questions, please contact Debb Egli at [egli@westminster-church.org](mailto:egli@westminster-church.org).



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

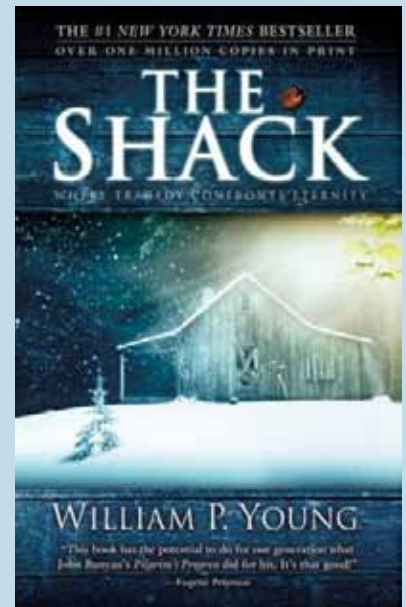
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# New Book Group to Meet

Wednesday, September 28  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Memorial Parlor

Would you like to read a good book related to your faith development and gather together to discuss the content and meaning? Our newly formed book group will be discussing *The Shack* by William P. Young, a book that poses many questions – and not a few challenging ones – as it spins a story that seeks to provide answers to the always timely question: “Where is God in a world so filled with pain?”



You can register by emailing Sandy Conaway at [sjconaway@hotmail.com](mailto:sjconaway@hotmail.com) or Nana Wilson at [nanadirect@yahoo.com](mailto:nanadirect@yahoo.com). If you're not able to register, we'd love to have you join us anyway. Then all you need to do is read the book, bring a brown bag lunch, and meet us in Memorial Parlor on Wednesday, September 28, at noon.

If this gathering sounds interesting and important to you, but you don't have time to read – don't worry. Your life experience is all you need to participate and contribute to the discussion, so join us.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact either Sandy Conaway at 724-745-8276 or Nana Wilson at 412-418-0234.

## MUSIC &amp; ARTS SERIES

Taste and See in the Afternoon:

# The Galbreath Chapel Organ

Sunday, September 11

4:00 p.m.

Galbreath Chapel

Please join us on Sunday, September 11, at 4:00 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel for the opening concert of the fall season of the Music & Arts Series. Gwendolyn Toth from New York will play Westminster's Taylor and Boody organ, Opus 67, in a program of music from four centuries. A reception in the church gallery follows the concert. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted to support future programming.

The program's four centuries encompass the Renaissance and early Baroque eras, from the 15th century, with pieces from the earliest collections of organ music, to music of Georg Böhm, who influenced the young J.S. Bach around 1700. The appealing variety of styles will illustrate the development of organ music in Europe and display the beautiful sounds of the Taylor and Boody instrument, which would have been completely at home in the early 18th century.

Gwendolyn Toth is recognized as one of America's leading performers on early keyboard instruments. She performs with equal ease on the harpsichord, lautenwerk, organ, fortepiano, and clavichord. Her interpretations have been acclaimed for their spirit and intelligence, and her technique is founded on historical performance principles of fingering, articulation, and phrasing. She has been heard in concert throughout North America, Europe, and the Far East, and on radio networks in Holland, Germany, France, and America's National Public Radio. She has performed in festivals in Boston, Berkeley, and Indianapolis, USA; Utrecht, Holland; Regensburg, Germany; Edinburgh, Scotland; Trevi nel Lazio, Italy; and at the Morzin Castle in the Czech Republic.



As a soloist on historical organs, Ms. Toth has performed on the 1434 organ in Sion, Switzerland; the 1509 organ in Trevi, Italy; the 1531 organ in Krewerd, the Netherlands; the 1649 organ in Zeerijp, the Netherlands; the 1696 Arp Schnitger organ in Noordbroek, the Netherlands; and the 1714 organ in St. Michael's Church, Vienna, among many others. On the Zefiro Recordings label she has five CDs of organ works on historical organs in Europe.

Ms. Toth is also a respected conductor and music director of historical performance ensembles and orchestras. Currently, she is the director and founder of New York City's virtuoso period instrument ensemble, ARTEK, which presents historically-informed concerts of music with compelling passion and precision – "Deeply considered, beautifully sung...consistently polished, finely balanced performances" (*New York Times*). ARTEK's music resonates with audiences and illustrates the vitality, depth of feeling, and sheer beauty of music before 1800.

Ms. Toth holds a DMA in performance from Yale University. She has taught at Yale University, Mount Holyoke College, Barnard College, Rutgers University, Montclair State University, Mount Saint Vincent College, and Hunter College of CUNY. Currently, in addition to her work with ARTEK, she is orchestra director at Manhattan College and music director of Immanuel Lutheran Church in New York City.





## MUSIC &amp; ARTS SERIES

# Seraphic Singers

Sunday, September 25

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

On Sunday, September 25, the Westminster sanctuary will ring with the soaring voices of the 12 women who make up Seraphic Singers. This ensemble of professional singers includes many of Pittsburgh's finest soloists, who work together to blend their voices in music that is challenging to sing and delightful to hear.

The founder and director of Seraphic Singers is Dr. Gretchen Franz, Director of Music at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. The ensemble was born out of a flash of inspiration and a meeting with Chris Hestwood, Nancy Klimcheck (guest soloist at Westminster), and Kathy Whittaker (soprano soloist at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist) in June 2014. The singers are paid a stipend to learn the music, to attend three to four rehearsals, and to perform once in the spring at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. Westminster worshipers will recognize a number of the singers, including Sara Botkin and Chris Hestwood.



"The response by the audience is overwhelming," says Ms. Franz. "It's the sound of 12 wonderful voices that moves people." The music they sing spans a wide variety of genres from early madrigals to pop tunes to a thrilling composition by contemporary composer Gwyneth Walker which ends with the sopranos sustaining a high C.

The September 25th concert includes the well-loved folk tune "Shenandoah" and Manhattan Transfer's version of "Tuxedo Junction" and "Route 66." Also on the program are a French folk song, "J'entends le Moulin," with percussion instruments played by Jennie Dorris; "In the Lavender Stillness" by Jocelyn Hagen with Ashley Freeburn, violin, and Katya Janpoladyan, cello; the amusing "Eve's Confession" by Paul Carey; and Paul Carey's "Alley Cat Love Song."

This is a concert not to be missed. Admission is free; a freewill offering will support future programming.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Music & Arts Series

"It's the *sound*  
of 12 wonderful  
*voices* that  
*moves* people."

- Gretchen Franz

# Introducing the Permanent Collection

The day has arrived for the unveiling of artwork selected for the Permanent Collection to be displayed in the south entry gallery area. From over 100 pieces submitted, 12 emerged as the final selection – portals of spiritual meaning. Among these are Pam Valone’s fiber art tribute to Nelson Mandela (to be included when the national tour ends) and a biblical print of Sadao Watanabe, both tied to Westminster Church.

You will find additional works just as inspiring. Recognizing that no one form of art will appeal to all, the committee selected some images that are realistic and others that are conceptual, but all of the work is joined by a common thread that gives meaning to life.

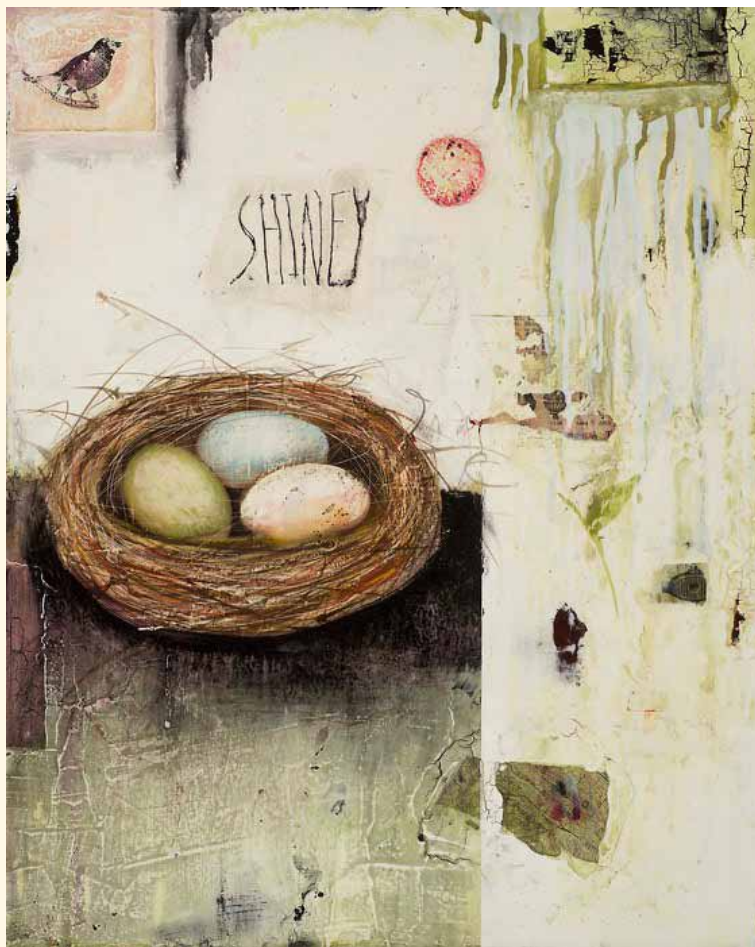
Come view the work of honored artists from our region: Rochelle Blumenfeld, Ron Donoughe, Shari Finney, Justin George and the New Academy Press, Peggi Habets, Maura Kohler-Keeney, Nancy Koch, Ron Thurston, Bill Vrscak, and Alexandra Eldridge.

## Members’ Showcase

During the selection process, the committee was mindful of artists within our congregation whose works are worthy of display. The hallway leading to the sanctuary has been designated as a space for changing exhibits by members who are motivated to present their creations for long-term loan or to gift them to the church. The work of these member artists will be introduced in future issues of the *Spire*.

Periodically, opportunities will be given for exhibiting member artists to change their work, and for other interested members to become part of this venture. In addition, in keeping with the intent of the visual-arts ministry, this space will be available for short-term exhibits that highlight special projects or the outreach mission of the church.

– Betty Digby



*Portions of Eternity*  
by Alexandra Eldridge

Art enables us to find  
ourselves and lose ourselves  
at the same time.

– Thomas Merton

# Fall Happenings at the WROC

## WROC Talk

### Climbing Your Family Tree: Beginning Genealogy

An introduction to the process involved in searching for family roots: how to find the who, when, and where of your family! Beginning with information gathering from family tradition and oral history interviews, the methodology of recording, organizing, and storing your family history is reviewed. Resources discussed will include census schedules, vital records and courthouse resources, church and cemetery records, military records, and immigration and naturalization.

**Monday, October 3**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Cost: Free; registration required**

**Location: Fellowship Hall**

**Instructor: Marilyn Cocchiola Hold, MLS**



*Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS, is Library Services Manager of the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and currently serves as President-Elect and Program Chair of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. She is also an Honorary Vice-President of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Raised in Baldwin Borough, her undergraduate and graduate degrees are from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Holt has worked with genealogical patrons for 32 years and has presented numerous programs on local and family history topics, as well as teaching courses on genealogy since 1988.*

## Women's Bible Study

### Parables – The Greatest Stories Ever Told

We all love a good story. But the parables of Jesus are even better than that. They sneak up on us, catching us off guard and toppling our easy assumptions. This fall a women's Bible study will be offered that introduces several of these unique teachings of Jesus. Come join us and see how the parables still challenge and delight readers today. Pastor Louise Rogers will lead this lively discussion that is applicable to our daily walk with Christ.

**Wednesdays, October 5 – November 9 (6 weeks)**

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Cost: \$15 for purchase of materials**

**Location: Room 231**

**Facilitator: Rev. Louise Rogers**

**Childcare available**



*Louise Rogers was raised in Upper St. Clair and Westminster Church and later attended Grove City College. After a career in business she began studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She has served at John McMillan Presbyterian Church for the past 12 years as associate pastor. Louise is married to Bill, whom she met at Grove City College. They have two daughters, Carolyn and Kelsey. Louise finds great joy in serving the Lord in the church.*

**Enroll now for WROC Fall Fitness Classes! The WROC continues to offer a variety of fitness classes for all age and fitness levels. Visit our website for a complete listing of classes being offered at the WROC this fall.**

# Deacons Fundraiser September 24 to Benefit South Hills Interfaith Movement

Your Westminster Deacons have been busy for the last year planning and organizing their annual fundraiser. This year's big event will benefit SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement), an organization committed to providing our neighbors in need with life's necessities: food, clothing, utility assistance, and community resources. Right now in the South Hills, hidden in plain sight among our community's beauty, 2,300 people are hungry and struggling with poverty as they try to build better lives for their families.

To benefit this vital ministry, a special SHIMmering Soirée will take place at St. Clair Country Club the evening of September 24. Plan to join your friends for a fun celebration with good food, fellowship, entertainment, and opportunities to support SHIM. A live auction and beautiful baskets await your bids. If you are interested in supporting SHIM in a special way through sponsorship, there is still time. Please contact Randy Langlois (724-941-9860) for more information.

This is a churchwide fundraising event and the Deacons are asking for your generous support. Registration is open through September 18. See you at the Soirée!

## Saturday, September 24

St. Clair Country Club  
5:30-7:00 p.m. – Cocktails  
7:00 p.m. – Dinner & Entertainment

*all proceeds to benefit*  **shim**  
SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand, to the poor and the needy neighbor in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11



## REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES. I would like to attend.**

No. of dinners at \$75 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions? Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**I'm sorry, I cannot attend.**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation.

### PAYMENT:

**Credit Card**

Visa  Mastercard  Discover

CC Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check** (Please make payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with SHIM in memo)

**Complete this form and mail it along with your payment to:**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Attn: Steve Daniele  
2040 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

**Registration and payment due by Sunday, September 18.**

# Westminster at 70

*Often, as important anniversaries roll around, people and organizations look back and celebrate the past. And there is value in that. This fall, as Westminster celebrates our latest milestone, the Spire is taking a slightly different approach. We will be sharing a series of articles that look at the accomplishments and milestones of the past as the foundation on which we provide spiritual growth and service today and as the beacon that will continue to drive us to grow*

*in our relationship with God while serving his children both near and far. Some articles will reflect on the history of our church. These will cover areas such as individual spiritual growth, local mission contributions, international mission, and fellowship with other congregations. Other articles will be reprints from archived copies of the Spire. Together, they will help us to focus on the future as we celebrate the past.*

## A Young Adult Tells His Story

**The Spire, June 1959**

### I don't go to church! I don't feel like going to church so why should I?

This statement is made all too frequently by young adults. I now disagree, but I can understand the feelings of such a person, for it was I who said this not too long ago.

Our Young Adult program is meaningful to many of us who are single and in the 18 to 30 year old category. For some it has brought about a change in our lives and our places in the church at a time when there is a tendency for us to drift away from the faith we need.

The person telling the following story now belongs to Westminster's Young Adults. It isn't just his personal story but a composite of the experiences of several of our group.

"Until I graduated from high school I attended church regularly. I was on the Youth Budget Committee and always active in Westminster Fellowship. I practically lived in the church. After graduation most of my friends went away to college and I to a local college. I was now very busy with my studies and other college activities. My summers were filled with working and having fun with my old high school chums home for the summer. I was content without the church. Anyway, there was nothing there in which I could participate. I was either too old or too young.

"But this wasn't to last. College graduation came and took all this away from me. I now had to earn my living. I found a position in a firm which offered an excellent future and became immersed in my work. But something was missing. Oh, I went bowling with the other fellows and girls in the office and visited former friends who had married and settled down. But somehow life seemed to have lost most of its meaning. Something definitely was missing. I attended church a few times, but it no longer was the same. I really did not feel a part of it. I felt more like an observer at some pagan ritual.

"One of my former Fellowship friends told me about Young Adults at our church and invited me to one of its meetings. I wasn't going to go, mostly I suppose, because I didn't know any of the others

and I wasn't sure I would be interested. But he talked me into attending a few meetings to at least become acquainted with them and their activities.

"Well, I found that they were interested in much the same thing as I, had experienced the same feelings toward the church and life as I had. I became engrossed in the activities of Young Adults. We discussed, debated, read, heard talks, and saw movies on past and present world problems as they were affecting the church and learned what the church was doing about them. We acted as summer camp counselors, taught in the church school, and in general served in whatever way we could.

"Lest you think we are all work and no play, let me tell a little about the recreational side of our program. We've had a day at Deep Creek, Maryland, water skiing, swimming and boating, an Easter Sunrise breakfast, picnics, parties, etc.

**"What can be gained from participation in the Young Adults Program? I have found a sturdier faith, regained a feeling of belonging and true usefulness, gained many new friends, and found a new expanded meaning to life. I, who for about five years didn't go to church, now participate more fully than ever before."**



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIS FAR BY GRACE **70** FORWARD IN FAITH

years

## Sunday Church School Stresses “Churchmanship”

*The Spire, November 1959*

In all departments, the Sunday Church School is encouraging faithful and responsible churchmanship. Emphasis is being placed on “being” the church and not merely talking about it. This is the purpose of the year’s study on “The Church.” The aim is intensely practical in that it will create genuine participation in church life.

Obviously, how the church is studied must in large part be determined by the capacities of people at various age levels. For instance, in the Kindergarten Department, children begin to learn to associate God with goodness and care, but understand that both grownups and children can work with God in many ways. This is done through activities, teaching pictures, and a reading book. With the availability of more space, music will be a more meaningful aspect of the Kindergarten learning processes.

As another example of the difference in the “how” of studying the church, the Junior High Department study will be based more on helping these young people to understand their position as members of the church today and the call to God, to faith, obedience, and witness.

We are very fortunate to have a teaching staff that is accepting the challenges that a study of “The Church” brings. One hundred thirty-five teachers and staff members are providing activities that will produce lasting results in the lives of the pupils. Two workshops, one on music in worship and the second on general curriculum, were completed in September. In October, audio-visual teaching aids were emphasized during the teachers’ conference.

November is parent month in the Sunday Church School with parents attending classes with their children and becoming better acquainted with the Faith and Life curriculum, a program for Church and Home. Parents will be offered an important role in the Christian nurture of their children.

**Emphasis is being placed on “being” the church and not merely talking about it.**

## Westminster Presbyterian Church: A Brief History

August 15, 1946, was John Galbreath's first day as a civilian following his service as a Marine Chaplain in the Second World War. His mission that day brought him half way around the world from his tour of duty on Iwo Jima. On that day, he began to face the challenges of bringing God's love and fellowship to the then sparsely populated area of Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania.

With the blessing and support of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Dr. Galbreath began knocking on doors and introducing himself to the people who, with God's grace, would choose to form his new congregation. In the month that followed, he knocked on hundreds of doors, surveying 800 families to discover their spiritual needs and inviting them to the first church service, which was held just weeks later on September 22. That Sunday morning, John Galbreath stood before 118 members of the community in the auditorium of Clifton School, near the site of the current high school. From that day forward, he had their help and guidance as they began to form their new congregation, one which continues in vitality and service today.

The physical growth of the church reflected its spiritual growth and increase in membership. The organization service was held on February 2, 1947, with plans in place the next month to erect a permanent church building. The initial plans called for a small church to meet its needs as economically as possible while allowing for later expansions as the congregation, community, and needs of others continued to grow. That first building housed a sanctuary, pastor's office, Friendship Hall, classrooms, and a kitchen. Ground was broken on August 1, 1948, for the building with the dedication on October 2, 1949.

Soon, Westminster was active in the community, hosting Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, a choir, the women's federation, and other groups. The first Vacation Bible School was held in 1947 with 80 children attending. In those early years, Westminster was already actively contributing to national and foreign missions as well as other causes desperately in need of help. And, because Upper St. Clair did not yet have a community library, the Westminster library served that purpose as well.

As the congregation continued to grow, a second groundbreaking took place in June 1954, for the Christian Education wing. The much needed space was immediately used for the growing church school and other community groups. In fact, the church was growing so quickly that by the end of 1954 there were 1,051 members with 541 children attending church school. Just a year later, those numbers had grown to 1,384 and 651. The large crowds at all three Sunday services forced the congregation to begin thinking about expanding the church facilities yet again.

1957 marked the beginning of a Westminster tradition of outreach to refugees as the church sponsored a family from Hungary, later followed by families from Holland, Cuba, and Vietnam. The following year the needs of area young people were met with two new Westminster sponsorships: the South Hills Child Guidance Center and the Westminster Nursery School.



*Dr. John Galbreath began to face the challenges of bringing God's love and fellowship to Upper St. Clair.*



*The physical growth of the church reflected its spiritual growth and increase in membership.*



*Throughout its history, the church has looked outward to answer the question of its founding pastor: "Where do people hurt?"*

Then for the third time in just ten years, a building committee was formed to raise the funds for the new addition which was to include the nave and spire, an expanded education wing, and the chapel. The committee's efforts quickly led to another groundbreaking, this one on July 20, 1958. Less than 16 months later – on November 1, 1959 – the current sanctuary was dedicated. Designed with elements of Colonial and Gothic architecture, the new nave was decorated with white New England marble and walnut and could seat 750. Across the Cloister Garden from the nave, the new chapel could seat 120 in pews saved from the original church, which was converted to the office wing.

The activities of the church still included church school, the Builders Class, the *Spire*, the men's council, choir, and a women's association, which had grown to encompass 14 circles.

In the late 1980s it was time for Westminster to grow again, with the construction of the north wing and the Westminster Recreational and Outreach Center.

One of the most important things to know about Westminster is that throughout its rich history, the church has looked outward to answer the question of its founding pastor: "Where here do people hurt?" Westminster and its members have:

- Supported an exchange program with the Friendship Community Church of Oakland
- Supported a work camp for youth at the Buckhorn, Kentucky Child Welfare Agency
- Helped to sponsor Rev. Floyd Grady's work in Brazil
- Helped to sponsor the John McMillan United Presbyterian Church of Bethel Park
- Formed the Westminster Education and Service Trust Fund
- Supported a mission in Ocho Rios, Jamaica
- Supported the formation of the South Hills Interfaith Ministries
- Helped to found the Town Hall South lecture series
- Supported a three-year program of support for the Bidwell Cultural and Training Center
- Supported the start of a local Meals-on-Wheels program
- Supported training of farmers in a desert area of Peru
- Founded the Westminster Child Care Center and Westminster Counseling Center
- Supported refugees from Hungary, Cuba, and Vietnam
- Supported mission work at La Croix, Haiti
- Supported mission work at Zomba Church in Malawi
- Supported mission work in Miraj and Sangli, India
- Supported additional mission work in Pakistan and Cameroon

The list has continued to grow and grow with the passing years, and the congregation continues to change as a reflection of the changing community. What has never changed – and never will change – is Westminster's commitment to discovering, learning, and serving.

**Thank you to Carolyn Kerr of the Archive Committee for providing material for our reflections on Westminster's 70 years.**

# Welcome to MyWPC

MyWPC is a secure online tool that will help members stay connected with Westminster's activities and events, as well as manage personal information and giving.

- Manage individual and family information such as address, email address, phone, etc.
- Register and pay for events and manage registrations for yourself, family members, and guests.
- View giving history, scheduled gifts, and contribute online.
- View member directory to find address, phone, and email for Westminster members.
- View the church calendar.

Visit the church website at [www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org) and click on MyWPC in the upper, right-hand corner.

- If you've used our system for event registration, type in your email address and password.
- If you haven't, or if you're not sure, click where it says "Need a login?"
- If you get an error message, please contact Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org).
- Please be sure to remember your username and password for future use.

Once signed in, there will be three tabs: Home, Events, and Giving.

## Home

### Home > My Overview

The Home page is an overview of MyWPC. View your giving summary, your event registrations, and the church calendar.

The Search box is the online directory where you can look up the name, address, phone, and email address of church members

These boxes may be moved and arranged as you wish by clicking and dragging.

### Home > My Profile

Here you can add, edit, or delete addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for yourself or your family members. Editable items have a pencil icon beside them. Once you make changes, a change request is created and an administrator is notified. Before your changes display, an administrator must approve the change request.

### Home > My Account

You can change your password and manage your payment methods for event registration and online contributions.

## Events

The Events page is a calendar of the church's activities, including meetings, classes, and worship. To register for an event, select it and then select "More details." You will see a Register button in the upper, right-hand corner.

## Giving

Payments are accepted by credit card, debit card, check, or savings account. Several church funds are available. If you are giving toward your yearly pledge, please be sure to select the General Fund.

### Giving > Give Now

You may give a one-time or recurring gift. Your gift may be designated to one fund, or distributed to several funds.

### Giving > My Scheduled Giving

View your upcoming gifts. There are also links for managing your payment methods and reviewing your giving history.

### Giving > My Giving History

View your giving year-to-date. You also have the option to review all transactions.

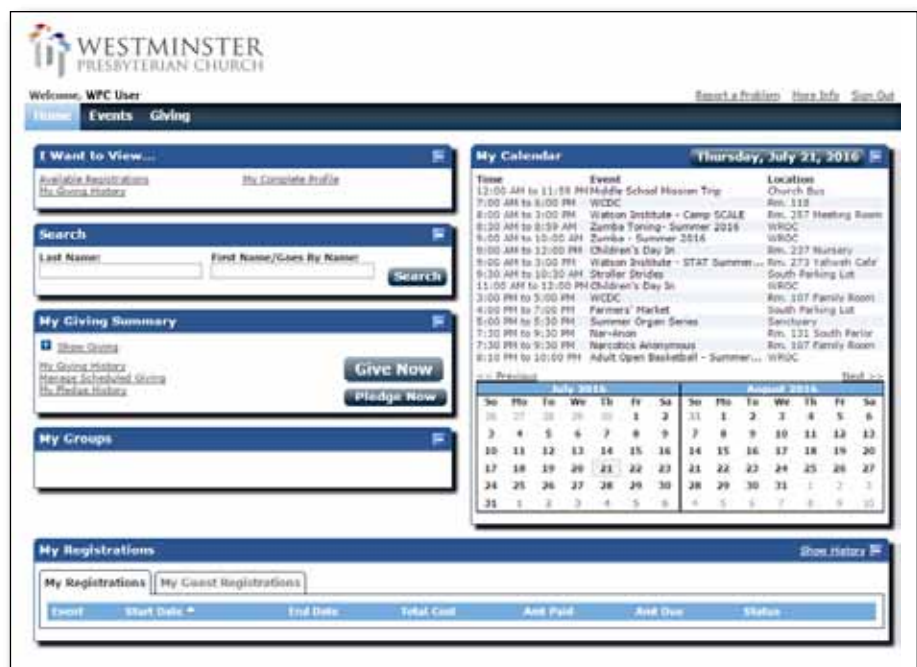
At any point, you may click the More Info link in the upper, right-hand corner of the screen and you will get information on your current task.

The Members section of the Westminster website will remain unchanged except for the removal of the Member Directory, which is now found in MyWPC. The login for Members is:

Username:  
Password:

For questions or assistance with MyWPC, please contact Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630 x207 or [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org).

– Anna Hiner  
Communications Coordinator





# Scheduling at WPC

## Attention All Group and Commission Leaders

The fall kickoff of meetings and events is just around the corner. All group and commission leaders are asked to review the following scheduling guidelines before planning meetings and/or events:

### Scheduling Guidelines

ALL requests for the use of church facilities must be directed to the office of Peg Kinsey (412-835-6630x211). Requests for a meeting room or use of the facility must be received no later than two weeks prior to the requested date of the meeting or event. Questions or special interpretations may be referred to Peg.

### Events Scheduling Expectations

- In order to ensure that all requests for a room or facility can be filled, requests must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the function.
- Requests for reserving a room for a meeting should be submitted to Peg. Events such as dinners, concerts, etc., should be channeled through and approved by the group's assigned staff person before contacting Peg to schedule. Example: Mission dinners should filter through the chair of the Outreach Commission.
- As a courtesy to others, only the rooms, equipment, and specified times on the request may be used by the group.
- In an effort to create a positive environment for all meeting or event participants, Peg Kinsey should be notified of any changes, including the following: equipment changes, meeting cancellations, the need to change rooms, changes in meeting start and/or end times.
- Participants should not change meeting rooms without contacting Peg to ensure no other group will be displaced.
- Audio visual equipment should not be taken from other rooms as it may be reserved for another group.
- At the conclusion of a meeting or event, audio and/or visual equipment should be left in the meeting room to ensure it is returned to the storage area so that the next group will have its requested equipment.

### Care of Facilities

- If it becomes necessary to change the position of furniture in the meeting room, a custodian must be contacted. Please do not rearrange the furniture. A walkie-talkie is located in the mailroom.
- Do not adjust thermostats. If it becomes necessary to adjust any thermostats, please contact one of the custodians or a staff member.
- The group using the space is responsible for closing windows following use and for disposing of trash and garbage in the trash container. Any beverage spills on the carpet must be reported to the custodians promptly.
- Groups must vacate the church by 10:00 p.m. unless special arrangements have been made.
- Posters, decorations, and any other displays are permitted only with permission and will be completely removed at the close of the event. Posting of anything on the walls is prohibited.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Blood Drive

September 18  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall



The Deacons thank you for your continuing support in the worthy mission of donating blood. In order to donate, you must:

- Be 17 years or older (16 with parental consent)
- Weigh at least 110 lbs.
- Not have donated within the last 56 days
- Be in good health

Medications such as insulin, aspirin, and high blood pressure treatments do not prevent you from donating. If you have any medical questions, please call Central Blood Bank's Medical Help Line at 412-209-7160.

For your convenience and to help the Central Blood Bank to plan for this drive, we ask all prospective donors to pre-register in one of the following ways:

- Online at [www.centralbloodbank.org](http://www.centralbloodbank.org), using sponsor code G0010171
- Sign-up tables before or after worship services on September 4 and September 11
- Contact the church office at 412-835-6630
- Walk-ins are always welcome

For those planning to donate, please remember to eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages. There will be plenty of snacks and goodies for all donors!

The Westminster Deacons thank you in advance for your support of this worthy mission.

# Westminster Columbarium

**Earl Bugaile**

*June 5*

**Nancy (Honey) Rice**

*June 5*

**Melice (Mimi) Esherick**

*June 17*

**Curtis S. Campbell, Sr.**

*June 26*

**Lynn Blasche**

*July 24*

**Richard Langston**

*July 30*



The Westminster columbarium is beautifully landscaped and has a labyrinth as its architectural centerpiece. A labyrinth is a walking meditation, a path to quiet the mind and become closely in tune with God. People who have loved ones in the columbarium find it comforting to walk the labyrinth. God has richly blessed us with this gift of a courtyard of saints and a labyrinth to offer our gratitude and praise.

You may wish to consider purchasing a niche in the columbarium now to lessen the burden of a family member. The cost is \$1,500 per niche. Anyone interested in the purchase of a niche may contact Peg Kinsey at 412-835-6630x211.



# Financial Report *As of July 31, 2016*

## General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$1,161,126.03
Annual Budget	\$1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$824,873.97

## Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$1,359,237.49
Expenses	\$1,331,470.79
Net Position	\$27,766.70

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first seven 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 41.5% of our 2016 budget yet to be fulfilled.

As vacations and time away from home have been more prevalent in the summer, we ask that you remember that Westminster has internal commitments to staff, programs, and building costs, as well as local and global mission commitments. 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 August 15 Session welcomed the Rev. Ayana Teter from Pittsburgh Presbytery to describe the process of forming an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and seeking a new pastor for congregational care. Members of the congregation are encouraged to send suggestions for possible members of the APNC to Jim Gilchrist or Pat McClintock-Comeaux, chair of the Personnel Commission, which will present a recommendation to Session on September 19. Session will then propose an APNC to a meeting of the congregation in late September or early October, so that the committee can begin receiving applications in the fall.

Session also received an update on Jason Freyer's progress towards ordination. He expects to be eligible by the end of September. Session's tentative plan is to hire Jason for a temporary pastoral position when the way is clear. This would involve ordination and the ability to serve immediately as a minister of the Word and Sacrament, without having to pursue the lengthy call process required to fill Tammy's position. Jason could serve in this capacity for a while, renewed a year at a time, until Session and the congregation are ready to pursue another called position, which might involve different responsibilities and for which Jason would be eligible to apply through the regular call process.

# Baptisms

**June 5**

**Joshua David  
Julian Daniel**

*Parents: Jason Freyer & Sarah Fetterman*

**July 10**

**Creed Cochran**

*Parents: Caroline & Scott Kovalick*

**Merrick**

*Parents: Rachel & Jared Kreider*

**Caroline Diana**

*Parents: Elizabeth & Jeffrey McCormick*

**Tyler Jonathan**

*Parents: Meredith & John Strack*

**July 24**

**Ava Rose**

*Parents: Sarah & Mark Brenneman*

**Mark Brenneman**

*(adult baptism)*

**August 7**

**Madison Claire**

*Parents: Jennifer & Matt Abel*

**Sadie Rose**

*Parents: Lauren & Clay Alexandronicz*

**Grace Rachel**

*Parents: Jennifer & Thomas Galbraith*



**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# TASTE & SEE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

*That the Lord is Good*

Psalm 34:8

*O taste* and see that  
the *Lord* is good;  
*happy* are those who take  
*refuge* in him.  
-Psalm 34:8



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THIS FAR BY GRACE 70 YEARS FORWARD IN FAITH