



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Ten Years Together

Round number anniversaries tend to be occasions for reflection, and because this fall will mark 70 years since Westminster first gathered and ten years since I joined the staff, I thought I'd offer a little retrospective, by way of anticipating good things to come.

A great deal has happened in the last ten years. Westminster has truly become a caring community, celebrating milestones together and supporting each other through challenging times. Developing a culture of caring has largely been the work of Tammy Yeager and the people she's recruited and guided. Tammy will be retiring from her role as associate pastor on August 14, and we'll send her off on that Sunday with great love and appreciation for all that she's done for so many people.

Volunteering has grown enormously, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Jan Baumann. More than 800 people volunteer in and through the church each year, and many of them are actively engaged in outreach, with the support over the years of Will and Janet Hignett. And speaking of outreach, annual contributions to mission have roughly doubled since 2006, to \$658,000 in 2015, while the importance of mission is woven through our whole life at Westminster.

Another financial indicator is the growth of Westminster's Endowment Fund,

again roughly doubling to a balance of \$3.2 million. Annual grants from undesignated funds began in 2010 and have totaled nearly \$800,000 for capital improvements, mission, and new initiatives. Approximately \$1.9 million was raised for capital improvements through the New Cornfield Campaign, in addition to more than \$300,000 for outreach and around \$1 million added to the Endowment Fund.

Meanwhile, our regular activities help people grow in faith as we seek to serve God together. Jason and Ed continue to serve enthusiastically after nine years – a very long time in youth ministry and contemporary worship leadership – while Dave, Robin, Debb, and others provide guidance in Christian education and adult spiritual formation. Chris, Jim, and the entire music ministry bring outstanding music to the glory of God week after week, and our Music & Arts Series reaches the wider community with extraordinary offerings. At the same time, Kathy Long's WROC programs bring hundreds of people to the

church for physical as well as spiritual strengthening.

Our website, revised by Mariela and maintained now by Jeannie, will help us communicate better within and beyond the congregation, while Anna, Jason, and others develop new strategies for reaching people. And then there are any number of special initiatives, from the science and religion grant a few years ago to the ongoing Jewish-Christian dialogue, reflecting our interest in relating faith to the wider community and the world around us.

All of this is made possible by a talented and energetic staff, hundreds of volunteers, and the support of a great many Westminster members. We've come this far by grace and faith, and in that hopeful spirit we look forward to wherever God will lead us next.

PASTORS

DR. JIM GILCHRIST, *Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*
 DR. TAMMY YEAGER, *Associate Pastor for
 Congregational Care*

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTORS

PEG KINSEY

BUSINESS STAFF

DAVE REITER, *Church Business Administrator*

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DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and
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ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry &
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 CASSANDRA MILLIS, *Assistant Director of Youth &
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TRACEY MATTES, *Administrative Assistant*

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PROPERTY

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VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*

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KATHY LONG, *Director*

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www.westminster-church.org

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 telephone number, email address, and a title.
 All articles are subject to editing.

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WORSHIP

Traditional Worship

📅 Sundays

🕒 8:30* & 11:00 a.m.

📍 Sanctuary

The Bridge Contemporary Worship

📅 Sundays

🕒 9:45 a.m.

📍 WROC

* 8:30 a.m. worship moves to the courtyard for the summer

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

Upcoming Events

5
JUNE 8:30 a.m. worship
moves to the
courtyard

15
JUNE Congregational
Care Call

16
JUNE Westminster
Organ Summer
begins
Thursday at 5 p.m.

20
-24
JUNE Barefoot School

MISSION

Being an Outward Focused Church

Imagine someone asking this challenging question, "If Westminster Presbyterian Church just disappeared from this area tomorrow, who would miss it besides those who attend services?"

Happily, as a congregation, we can point to many places where our talents and resources help. Here is just one example. Last fall the Deacons collected \$15,000 for City Mission and decided to use it to support a cold weather or emergency shelter for men who would not "fit" into the main shelter due to occupancy restrictions. Our congregation also contributed another \$5,000 through the Christmas loose change offering. The total of \$20,000 allowed four months of staffing to enable this additional cold weather shelter to open. From November on, around 18 to 20 men stayed in that shelter overnight – men who would have been on the streets during bitter cold weather. Some of these men moved into City Mission's long-term program.

Westminster is an outward-focused church in many ways. Our youth and children's programs have regular activities to collect food, diapers, and other items for the less fortunate. Deacons deliver flowers and organize a yearly fundraiser for a mission partner. Even our two popular annual rummage sales, which provide great fellowship for our volunteers, benefit mission by providing all the funds collected to charity organizations.

Multiple global mission partners, as well as local organizations, would sorely miss the contributions Westminster members make and those that the Outreach Commission oversees year after year. Local mission partners include South Hills Interfaith

Movement (SHIM), City Mission, Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank (including Produce to People), Friendship Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh Presbytery's Lazarus Fund, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, East End Cooperative Ministry, Garfield Community Farm, Open Door Youth Outreach Center, Open Hand Ministries, East Liberty Family Health Care, PRISM, the Bair Foundation (including Bair Hugs), Meals on Wheels of Peters Township, Jubilee Soup Kitchen, World Vision, Bread for the World, Family Promise, Ursuline Support Services, and the Center for Victims.

Around the world, Westminster makes a difference in multiple countries. We are now supporting an orphanage in Malawi for children whose parents died of HIV. Other partners include these great programs and organizations: Haiti New Testament Mission, India Mission organizations (Sangli Industrial School, Vadaketh Development Centre, Miraj Medical Center, Prabhat Tara Sanstha), Himalayan Cataract Project, Global Links, Stop Hunger Now, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Oikocredit, the World Mission Initiative, and Project Hopeful.

Christ's call to follow him, loving others as Christ loves us, is really about the character of our life together. What we do with our daily lives – what we do with the resources and talents God has given to us – matters. Our actions have a great deal to say about who we are. In a similar way, church congregations are known by what they do. It is good to be known as an outward focused church.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

—Sandy Conley and Will Hignett

Outward Focused

Summer Series: June 5 – July 17

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Thirsting for Justice

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.”

Matthew 5:6

Justice is at the heart of our faith. The Scriptures, from the prophets to Jesus, are overflowing with calls for justice for the poor, the stranger, the marginalized. In our day, this longing for justice has many incarnations. Join us as we explore some of these this summer.

June 5**“Please tell our story” – A Visit with Palestinian Christians**

Westminster mission trip members

The trip to Israel and Palestine was wonderful and heartbreaking. From the joy of worshiping with Palestinian Christians to the angst of seeing the security wall and settlements, from a dismal concrete refugee camp to a hope-filled school built by a refugee, from a playful water ballet in the Dead Sea to a prayerful visit to the site of the Sermon on the Mount, this was a trip of contrasts. Hear stories of life in Israel and the West Bank.

June 12**Israel and Palestine – The History behind the Story**

Jim Gilchrist, trip co-leader

Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have roots in a complex history, with differing interpretations of scripture informing conflicting views of the current situation. Who are the chosen people? Is Israel a land or a people? What is the role of Christian Zionism? What is meant by one and two state solutions? Is there movement toward either of these? How can Christians work for justice in the midst of so much conflict?

June 19**Hunger and Public Policy – More Than a Handout**

Joyce Roethermel, founder, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; co-chair of Bread for the World, Pittsburgh

We know that hunger is a problem both here and abroad, but we are often overwhelmed by the scale and scope of the problem. While food collection and distribution are important emergency measures, in the long run, policy changes are needed to bring dignity and stability to families who are hungry. Learn about the work being done toward this end, and how advocacy is a part of our caring for those least among us.

**June 26****One Human Family – Justice for Refugees**

Leslie Aizenman, director, Refugee and Immigrant Services, Jewish Family and Children’s Services

Where there is armed conflict, religious or political persecution, oppression due to one’s nationality or belonging to a particular social group, there are those who are forced to flee their homelands. Refugees are very much in the news today, and as Christians we want to do what we can to make sure they are treated fairly. Learn about the lives of refugees and asylum seekers: where they come from, where they are living and resettled, what they need, and how we can help.

July 10**Race and Criminal Injustice – Searching for Solutions**

Jim Gilchrist

Jack Simmons, former director, Shuman Juvenile Detention Center; former City Court Magistrate

For the same crimes, black men are many times more likely to be convicted than white men. “Returnees” have difficulty in finding jobs, housing, and healthcare, adding to poverty in communities of color. In many states they cannot vote. The focus of incarceration is often on punishment rather than rehabilitation. Still, some positive changes are being made.

July 17**“If a man has two coats” – Economic Justice in 2016**

Jim Gilchrist

The Bible has a great deal to say about sharing this world’s goods, but we live in a world where economic inequality seems to be the norm. What is our role in shaping a world where the poor are not left behind? For centuries the Church has been in the forefront of charitable giving. How does this relate to economic justice?

How I'll Spend My Summer Vacation

When you read the next sentence I type, some of you will experience the same level of shock I do at the too rapid passage of time. So I just want to give you a moment to prepare yourselves.

By the time you read this, I will have been a full-time member of the staff at Westminster for nine years.

That's kind of crazy! Presidents don't get to serve for as long as I have enjoyed hanging out with this congregation. The students from my first confirmation class have now graduated from college and have full-time jobs of their own. We've seen so much together, and the best part of that news is that we are just getting started! I wonder what the next nine years will look like together?

In the middle of those nine years, I decided it would be wise to go to seminary, to place myself on the path to ordination. More than a few times along the way, particularly when sitting in bumper to bumper traffic on the Liberty Bridge, I had second thoughts about that decision. But by the time your eyes gaze upon this page, I will have graduated. Done. Finished. No more teachers, no more books, that kind of thing. And about seven months ago, in the midst of all that, these two beautiful boys joined our family. I've included pictures because as a father I can't keep from showing off my boys.



School. Boys. Youth Ministry. There's been a lot going on. What's absolutely crazy is that you as a congregation have extended to me a season of rest and renewal this summer. At the end of so many journeys, you have graciously given me eight weeks to rest, relax, write, and get to know my boys at decent hours of the day and not, say, two o'clock in the morning for their mid-night bottle. I don't know how in the span of this *Spire* article to say thank you enough. I don't have the vocabulary for how grateful I am to this congregation for the rest and renewal, for the nine years of ministry together, for walking alongside and encouraging me through this process. You are all beautiful, wonderful people, and you have my deepest thanks and appreciation!

So what does one do with a whole summer off? Folks have been asking me what I'm going to be up to and, while I'm not sure exactly, I have some ideas. After graduation weekend, I'm fairly sure I will just sleep for a solid 72 hours. I'm certain Sarah will be okay with this. I will spend a lot of time riding my bike around town and on the trails in the mountains. For a while now, I've wanted to ride in a few races but haven't had the time. I'll visit some of our brothers and sisters in Christ in churches around town to learn how they do this crazy thing called ministry, and see if there are any ideas I can shamelessly steal for the Bridge. And one of my bigger ideas is the hope that I will sit down and write a book that's been bouncing around in my head. I've started and stopped this idea more than once, so a whole summer to take time to put idea to paper seems like just the jump start this project will need. And again, I'll spend time with the boys. You know what? Here's a second picture. Still can't help myself!



This is an interesting season. It is of course an ending for a few seasons of my life, but in so many ways it is a new beginning. It is a fresh start. It is a chance to recharge, to gear up for what comes next. So while I'm taking a season of rest and renewal, I encourage you to do the same. I have some big plans for us when I get back.

Grace and peace.

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Readers' Note: This may as well be a journal entry. I'm working through the concept of what it means to "invest" in something. Join me.

"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

John 12:24-25

We hear a lot of talk today about "investments." The stocks are up, the market is down, retirement accounts, college savings, social security, low interest, high yield, blah blah blah. We get it, *but* we also want it right now. Faster results, quick acting, long lasting, a new you in just six weeks! It's a precise balance that we're looking to strike, isn't it? I'll work hard now if it pays off later, and I'll work even harder if it pays off now *and* later.

Enter Jesus.

What if your investment was your life?

All of it.

Right now.

Oh, and by the way, your yield may not even be about you. "But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

And then he hits you with this one: "Anyone who hates their life..." I know for certain that I don't hate my life. In fact, I love it an awful lot. I have an amazing family and a community more beautiful than I had ever imagined. So what does it look like for me to invest in my life? All of it. To "fall to the ground and die" for the sake of Christ's kingdom. I've invested in myself for 30 years now. Do more, get further, earn praise, garner respect, be better. And it worked. I met almost every goal I set for myself and had a great time doing it. And then my family and I began to pray about "investing" in kingdom work – hospitality, sacrificial giving, caring for others' needs, sharing our time and resources. That's when it got real.

The spirit began lining up opportunities. People to pray for, neighbors who needed help, chances to grow, ministries to share, things to learn, places to go. And you know what? It's been an investment. An investment in time, an investment in finances, an investment in energy – you name it. Just today I was mulling over some of these investments when my wife texted me, "Remember, there are no quick fixes." Dang it. She's right. What we invest now must fall to the ground and die. It must lose itself to become something greater.



Each of us is called to invest *fully* in the kingdom of God. This requires sacrifice, perhaps uncomfortably. It requires us to value both present and future. It requires us to value others above ourselves. When we do all of these things we begin to fall to the ground and die. To give of ourselves, our potential, and our resources in order for something bigger, more beautiful to grow. And, as Jesus points out, when it comes to work of the kingdom, the growth that comes out of our investment is growth not in ourselves, but in others. We are seeds, kernels that fall to the ground. And we all know that the seed itself is rarely the end goal. The seed exists for the sole purpose of creating life beyond itself. An unplanted seed is of little value.

So be planted. Join in with Christ in the work of giving of yourself. Invest in others. Fall to the ground so that others may be raised. Then pray. Pray for energy, for zeal, for passion, for willingness and strength. You'll need all of them. I need all of them. We need all of them.

Let's work together. Imagine if our whole community were to invest of ourselves in the value of others. Have you been planted, or are you sitting on a shelf somewhere? I'd love to hear what you might invest in.

– Ed Sutter

invest fully in the kingdom of God

The Stories You Won't Find in the Bible

In his Gospel, John recounts a story of Jesus healing an invalid at the pool of Bethesda. Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to get well?" The man doesn't directly answer this question. Instead, he explains why he hasn't already been healed in the pool: he doesn't have anyone to help him get into the water. Jesus' response is surprising: "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." And the man does. Cured. Off to the rest of his life.

Which started me thinking. In the Bible we hear the stories of the people who, however reluctantly, said "yes" to the invitation to become a part of God's story. Moses had a bunch of excuses, but finally he went to see Pharaoh. Jonah tried to run away from God, but in the end he headed off to Nineveh. "Follow me," says Jesus to each disciple. And leaving decent jobs, homes, and families, off they go. "What do you want me to do for you?" "Do you want to get well?" And Jesus heals them – the blind see, the paralyzed walk. Recovery and restoration – and a great story that we still read more than 2,000 years later.

But, what if someone said "no"?

What if when Jesus said "Get up!" the man simply refused, too afraid that maybe this was a mean trick, that Jesus was just making fun of him? After all, he had been paralyzed for something like 38 years, according to John. He *knew* he couldn't walk. What would make him willing to trust this guy who showed up one day and just said "Get up!"?



What if Peter said, "Um, no thanks. I've got a great little fishing business here. I'll just stay home, thanks." Or Matthew, "No thanks. I have lots of security working for the government – good pension, great salary. I'm good, thanks."

How would it change God's story of redemption if any of those invited to participate refused?

Luke tells us that Jesus gives us a hint in this story he shares. A man hosted a great banquet, but all the invited guests made excuses; they're too busy doing other things to attend. Does that stop the host? No way. He sent his servant out to gather anyone and everyone he could find on the streets – no matter who they were. But those who were invited and refused? They don't even get a taste of the banquet that was prepared.

Will God's story be different if someone refuses to take their part in it? Yes – and no. God will still hold his banquet. God will still redeem his people. God will, ultimately, redeem the world. God's story won't change. But my part in the story depends on my answer. And so does yours. Will we be at the banquet, sharing a meal? I'm thinking that's a party I don't want to miss. I hope you'll be there too.

– Robin Pyles

Sunday School News

The 2015-2016 Sunday school year has come to a close, and what a year it was! Thank you to an amazing group of leaders and helpers who developed relationships with the children as they walked with them on their journey of faith. Thank you to the children who attended Sunday school and to the parents who brought them. It was a year filled with Bible stories, music, games, skits, discussions, and fellowship as you will see in the pictures.

– Debb Egli



On Being Mary and Martha

Are you a caregiver? Do you care for an elderly parent in your home or in some other facility? Do you have children living in your home? Do you provide support and care for someone experiencing mental health issues? Do you look after a neighbor or other friend who, due to illness, injury, or age, is unable to provide for basic daily needs – but can't afford to hire someone? Do you care for a spouse who is experiencing Alzheimer's disease? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you are a caregiver. And these are just a few of the ways that people give care to others.

Caregivers often know times of significant stress. Research literature even has names for this: *caregiver burden* or *compassion fatigue*. Giving and giving and giving some more can deplete our spiritual, emotional, and physical strength. The time can come when our wells simply run dry if they aren't continually replenished along the way. How often caregivers say in frustration, "But I don't have time to take care of myself!" Think about that for a moment. Perhaps replenishing our wells of spiritual, emotional, and physical strength isn't a matter of carving out chunks of time to do so, but of bringing a renewed sense of balance to life.

Luke's gospel may provide some insights here. The tenth chapter begins with Jesus sending 70 people on mission, includes the compassionate incident of the "good Samaritan," and ends with Jesus visiting in the home of Mary and Martha.

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42, NRSV)

This is not typically thought to be a story about caregiving. Yet Martha and Mary can give us a glimpse into the kind of balance that our lives need. Unfortunately, Martha doesn't get many positive reviews for her performance that day. By letting us glimpse both Martha and Mary, we can also see the importance of both of them and their expressions of care and hospitality.

"The Thoughtful Caregiver" is a blog written by James Miller, a writer and family caregiver among other things (www.thoughtfulcaregiver.com). Miller's blog is full of wonderful poetry that he writes about caregiving. One of those poems, "Both," uses the story of Mary and Martha as an illustration of balance in caregiving. Ever mindful of the stress and difficulty of caregiving as well as its joys and rewards, he wrote:

I believe there is a Martha and a Mary
inside virtually all caregivers.
The Martha in us is primed for action,



ready to roll up the sleeves
and start swinging those arms...
The Mary in us somehow knows
that truly effective caring can happen
when we're doing seemingly nothing,
or at least very little.
We're sitting, taking in, communing.
We're not trying to demonstrate caring;
we're simply inhaling it and exhaling it
so it begins to fill the space we're in...

I believe that within all of us as caregivers
there is a valid place for our Martha—
our aware and discerning Martha,
as well as a place for our Mary—
our purposeful and committed Mary.
As thoughtful caregivers,
we're not one or the other—
we're both.

As caregivers we can be both Mary and Martha. In fact, the work of caregiving calls out to us to be both.

Caregivers often know Martha moments when errands need to be run, meals prepared, loved ones cleaned up, laundry done. Caregivers, however, can also know Mary moments. These are moments of quiet reflection, moments of prayer, moments to read the scripture, moments to let God's love warm and care for you, moments to just be present with the one for whom care is offered. Some of us may believe that Mary moments are simply impossible to achieve because of all of the Martha moments. If we give thought and prayer to it, though, we will likely find possibilities for Mary moments among the Martha moments. There is hard work for caregivers to do, to be sure. This is all the more reason to discover ways to keep our spiritual, emotional, and physical wells replenished. Revisiting the story of Jesus in the home of Mary and Martha, *and letting both Mary and Martha surface in our lives can allow for more balance in life and less chance of our wells going dry.* As James Miller reminds caregivers in reflecting on the story of Mary and Martha:

As thoughtful caregivers,
we're not one or the other—
we're both.

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman

THE GALLERY AT WESTMINSTER

Westminster Permanent Gallery

The quest is over. It was a surprising journey, with twists that touched the very core of our being. Many pieces of art have been submitted – all outstanding and worthy of consideration. Art is personal. We all react to it in different ways. No one style or subject is better than another, so the selection of pieces for the Permanent Gallery is challenging. And the choice is limited by the amount of funds that become available.

There are two works tied to Westminster Church that the committee feels should be included in the Permanent Gallery. One is Pamela George-Valone's tribute quilt to Mandela, and the other is a piece of stencil art by Sadao Watanabe.

Pam Valone only ventured into fiber art after retiring from her career in education. It was a natural emerging of playing with color, shape, and design in the form of fabric. It was spontaneous creativity, an "expression of joy coming from her soul," as Pam says. In 2014, Pam was made aware of an upcoming exhibition in Africa to honor the life of Nelson Mandela. Although she felt quite intimidated to enter, Pam had strong feeling and respect for Mandela and decided to work on a piece suitable for submission. She struggled for inspiration. Pam is not a regular churchgoer, but one Sunday, out of the blue, she attended Westminster and heard a sermon by Dr. Jim Gilchrist. She took notes in a journal as she sat listening to his sermon. Once home, she looked at the journal and found this entry: "Freedom, humility, mercy, justice, together we have power, love comes more naturally to the human heart." She was so moved by those words, she went into her studio and began creating – and did not stop until she was finished with her tribute piece, titled *Harmonious*. Pam presented her quilt with essay, and it was accepted as one of the tribute offerings. As part of the tribute collection, the quilt has traveled extensively and is now at the University of Kentucky. Pam has submitted this special work to Westminster for its Permanent Gallery.

Sadao Watanabe was a Buddhist. When Sadao was ten years old, his father died, and he dropped out of school at an early age to become an apprentice in a dyer's shop. One day, a Christian woman in the neighborhood invited him to attend church with her; and at the age of 17, Sadao was baptized. In his mid-20s, he became interested in the *mingei* form of art and the *katayome* technique of stenciling and dyeing. Watanabe's art almost exclusively depicts the gospel rendered in the *mingei* approach. His stencil prints won top awards and honors in highly-competitive exhibitions and have been included in art books, galleries, and museums throughout the world, and in the White House and the Vatican. But Watanabe preferred that his prints be hung in the ordinary places of life: "I would most like to see them hanging where people ordinarily gather, because Jesus brought the gospel for the people."

When the concept of a permanent gallery was in its preliminary stage, the name Watanabe was mentioned to a committee member. An exquisitely-framed print of his *Last Supper* was viewed via email, and it made a heavy impression on the group. Two months ago, while two members of the committee were searching for historical information in the church archives, one ran across an article in the October 1977 *Spire* announcing the opening of "The Gallery" and describing at length the technique and fame of the sole exhibiting artist, Sadao Watanabe! The discovery unnerved the two; it was like a "God wink." A few Watanabe stencil prints have been submitted for consideration, but it all depends on your contributions.

Funding must be in place before commitment is made to any of the artists whose works will be hung on the walls of Westminster's reception area – a welcoming, yet reflective, gathering place. **We have until June 15 to make a one-time contribution to the Permanent Gallery. Think about it. Pray about it.**

– Betty Digby



Harmonious by Pamela George-Valone

Art is *personal*.

We all react to it
in different ways.

No one *style* or
subject is better

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WESTMINSTER Organ summer

2016

June 16 – July 21
Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Thirty Minutes of
Exceptional Organ Music

June 16

Don Fellows
St. Paul Cathedral

June 23

John Henninger
Bethany Presbyterian Church

June 30

Nick Capozzoli
Oberlin Conservatory of Music

July 7

Gail Henry
Memorial Park Church

July 14

Sarah Wanamaker
Northmont United
Presbyterian Church

July 21

Chaz Bowers
St. Bernard Church

Musical Refreshment on Thursdays

Westminster Organ Summer returns for its sixth season beginning June 16. This series of six free organ concerts coincides with the Upper St. Clair Farmers' Market. On Thursday afternoons, nourish your spirit and your body with great music and fresh food.

At 5:00 p.m., renew yourself in the cool sanctuary as you enjoy 30 minutes of exceptional organ music played by outstanding performers from the Pittsburgh area. The organists, each in their distinctive way, will demonstrate the Austin organ's almost boundless combinations of sounds. The programs will feature an appealing variety of music, both sacred and secular. The organ console will be placed in the middle of the chancel, and after the concert you are welcome to take a close look at the organ. These casual (come as you are!) concerts are friendly to all ages. Plan to come and invite friends for refreshing entertainment.

Westminster Organ Summer 2016 celebrates the 25th year of the sanctuary's magnificent Austin organ. Organ Summer is a musical outreach to the community sponsored by the Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the generosity of the performers. All organists donate their time and talent; a freewill offering defrays their expenses.



Summer Happenings at the WROC

BRICKS 4 KIDZ CAMP

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

Ages: Camp activities are geared toward specific age groups (5-8 and 9-12).

Time: Monday – Friday,
9:00 a.m. – noon

Cost: \$125 per session. Includes a t-shirt and a visit from the Kona Ice truck on the last day of camp.

Session 1: June 27 – July 1

SUPER HEROES

Join Bricks 4 Kidz for a week building Super Heroes with LEGO® bricks. Explore all the caped crusaders and discover their super powers. Create a fantasy world and protect it against all the evil arch enemies with custom contraptions made with LEGO® bricks. At the end of the week, all super hero campers will go home with a custom mini figure! *Copyright Bricks 4 Kidz® 2012. This camp is not affiliated with Marvel Comics.*

Session 2: July 18 – 22

MINING and CRAFTING

Experience the world of Minecraft with LEGO® bricks. Li'l WROCers will start by crafting their shelters and some of the mobs, critters, and tools using LEGO® bricks. Kids will face new challenges each day, building models and crafting key elements from the popular game.



Session 3: August 1 – 5

CLASH of BRICKS

Gather your barbarians and archers Bricks 4 Kidz style! Experience the thrill of battling barbarians, greedy goblins, powerful PEKKAs, and wild all breakers. All this and more at Clash of Bricks camp!

Summer Basketball Skills and Drills Workshop

June 28, 29, and 30

Ages: boys and girls ages 7 – 11

Time: Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Cost: \$45

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



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

Faith Night at PNC Park

Wednesday, July 20

5:00 p.m. – Tailgate and Dinner

7:05 p.m. – Pirates vs. Milwaukee Brewers

Players and coaches share their faith stories after the game.



Painting with a Twist

Visit Westminster's Galley Annex beginning May 23 to view a display of "Painting with a Twist" artwork from our previous participants.

Join us for more Painting with a Twist fun on Friday, June 3! Visit our website for more information and to register.



Pet Remembrance Service

Sunday, June 12
2:00 p.m. in the South Courtyard

It's common to have a memorial service to celebrate the life of a loved one who has died. In fact, we do it all the time because these gatherings allow us to grieve the death of our beloved and also provide an opportunity to start coping with the loss and start moving toward healing. So why wouldn't we do the same for our beloved pets? After all, our animal companions have given us years of joy and are often regarded as members of the family. And when we lose them, the grief we experience can be as powerful as it is with the loss of any family member.

These are some of the reasons we're having a Pet Remembrance Service. We'll share memories, we'll laugh, we'll cry. But most important, we'll acknowledge the loss and pay tribute to these cherished members of our families. So if you – or someone you know – has recently lost a pet, please join us on June 12. All family members, including pets that are still with you, are invited and encouraged to come.

Therapy Dog Training Classes



Animal Friends' Therapets Canine Certification Prep Class

Summer Session: Monday, July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15
Fee: \$95 per dog (humans free!)
Instructors: Marcy Fenell and Anita DeBiase

As an extension of Westminster's Pet Ministry, and in conjunction with the Care Ministry at Westminster, this six-week class will develop skills needed for you and your dog to conduct therapy dog visits to a variety of facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, residential treatment centers, hospices, and more. Dogs should be people and dog friendly and have basic obedience training. We will build on those skills to develop a visiting team of dog and handler. Focus will be placed on team compatibility to ensure that dog and handler work well together. The class will include a visit with your dog to a local facility for a therapy visit. This class will prepare you and your dog for the Animal Friends' Therapets Canine Certification test.

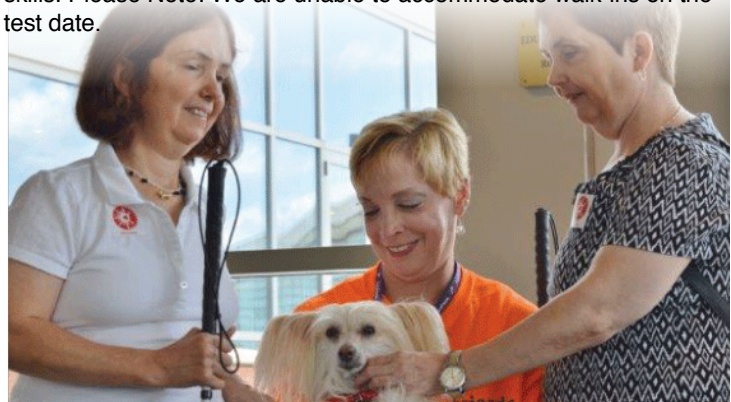
An assessment interview is required prior to enrollment in this class. All interviews will be completed at the Animal Friends shelter with classes and certification testing occurring at Westminster Presbyterian Church. To schedule an appointment, or get more details about the program, please contact Rachel at 412-847-7081 or Rmartone@ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org, or visit www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Therapets.

Animal Friends' Therapets Canine Certification Test



Summer Session Test Date: Saturday, August 20
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Fee: \$10
Location: Room 231
Evaluators: Marcy Fennell, Anita DeBiase, and Gayle Bair

Test requirements are available on the Animal Friends website. Dogs and handlers will be assessed in simulated therapy visit situations to determine the dog's basic obedience skills, visiting skills, and social skills. Please Note: We are unable to accommodate walk-ins on the test date.



Life Care Transitions Planning

What My Loved Ones Need to Know

Last fall we started distributing our Life Care Transitions Planning books at Westminster. To date we have handed out 269 of them to members, their families, and friends. Some are still available by contacting Peg Kinsey.

Many of us have first-hand experience with a family member or close friend becoming ill or disabled, or dying. Planning for life's inevitable events of disability and/or death is the responsibility of all adults. Unfortunately, we are not able to predict the occurrence of life-altering events in time to plan for them. Therefore, all of us need to plan. And it is never too early to start. Planning is a gift for your relatives, friends, and clergy who can then act in an informed manner to carry out your wishes.

The Life Care Transitions Planner is a comprehensive guide to help you organize all of your important personal information and papers in one place, to give your loved ones easy access to everything they may need to have without an agonizing search, and to start families talking about important subjects that are often so difficult to discuss.

If you have already picked up a copy of the planner, we want to remind you to take the time to fill it out! It is time consuming but well worth the effort. The last section of the planner is devoted to planning your memorial service. We will keep that information on file for you at the church. Please let us know if you need help. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

Blessings.

– Tammy Yeager

Members Section of Church Website

The church website is a great resource for those looking for a new church home, as well as for our church members. Please visit www.westminster-church.org and peruse our website. You will find bulletins, sermons, the *Spire*, and upcoming events, as well as links to our Facebook page and Blog.

For member-related information, click on *Members* in the upper, right-hand corner of the website. The login credentials are available by contacting Anna Hiner at hiner@westminster-church.org.

In this section you'll find:

- **Communications Resources** contains writing style guidelines and information on how to submit articles and announcements for the bulletin, *Spire*, church website, and more. It is important to use the **Publicity Request Form** so that your information reaches all those involved in publicity.
- **Care Calendar** is for members who are ill or have had surgery and are in need of meals.
- **Member Directory** allows you to search for a member's address, phone, and email address.
- **Food Request Form** is available if you need to request food preparation for your church event.
- **Church Organization Resources** include church table of organization, annual report, and Session information.
- **Deacons** lists the current classes of deacons.
- **Westminster Seminars Audio Recordings** are available if you missed a seminar or would just like to listen again.
- **Galbreath Bible Study Series** was created using sermon notes from John Galbreath, founding pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

– Anna Hiner

Save the Date

The Deacons' Annual Fundraiser this year will support SHIM, South Hills Interfaith Movement. A special shimmering Soirée will take place at St. Clair Country Club the evening of Saturday, September 24.

Plan to join your friends for an enjoyable, fun celebration with good food, fellowship, and opportunities to support SHIM. Auctions, baskets, and sponsorships will be available. If you are interested in supporting SHIM in a special way through sponsorship, please contact Randy Langlois at 724-941-9860 for more information.

The Deacons hope to see you at the Soirée!

shimmering
shining a light on need
in the South Hills
Soirée

Saturday, September 24
St. Clair Country Club

Baptisms

January 24

Charlie Samuel

Parents: Megan & Samuel Kane

Bennett William

Parents: Tammi & Dan Kramer

March 13

Kayla Raye

Parents: Kristy & Raymond Berrott

Lillian Margaret

Parents: Laura & John DeSimone

Emilie McTeer

Parents: Suzanne & Chad Smoak

Sadie Elizabeth

Parents: Megan & Andy Vance

April 24

Edward Joseph Hrabik

Elizabeth Lee

Edward Joseph Kent

Parents: Jennifer & Edward Hrabik

May 15

Ethan Zachary

Parents: Cynthia & Matthew Bittel

Lochlan Robert Wallach

Parents: Jessica & Robert Pitt

Logan Hugh

Parents: Caitlin & David Wintruba

Congratulations 2016 Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL

Bethel Park High School

Carolyn Mae Kerr
Henry Nestler

Upper St. Clair High School

Chris Adamo
Peyton Bayer
Jade Crisanti
Erin Graham
Katherine Anne Guzzi
Lauren Hamel
Joshua Robert Koch
Charlotte Madson
Meghan Matheny
Joseph D. Paul
Caitlin Pyles
Kiera Pyles
Lizzy Schmitt
Jordan Smith

David Rex
Penn State University
Bachelor of Science in Finance

Carolyn Rogers
University of Maryland
*Master's Degree
Genetic Counseling*

Kelsey Rogers
Westminster College
*Bachelor of Arts
Elementary and Special Education*

Chelsea (Overstreet) Bradley
George Mason University
*Master's in Education
Curriculum and Instruction*

Jason Daniel Freyer
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Master of Divinity

Paige Gillen
Miami University
Bachelor of Science in Business

Gavin Walton
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Master of Divinity

Christine Simon
The Georgia Institute of Technology
*Bachelor of Science in Business
Administration
Operations and Supply Chain Management
Minor in Biology*

COLLEGE

Laura Baumann
Duquesne University
Bachelor of Science in Business

Lindsay Carter
Geneva College
*Masters of Counseling
Family and Marriage*



Financial Report *As of April 30, 2016*

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$ 665,362.22
Annual Budget	\$ 1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$ 1,320,637.78

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$ 775,801.98
Expenses	\$ 768,056.29
Net Position	\$ 7,745.69

Sandy Fisch

April 25

Helen Hawkins

May 5

Session Update

Session did not have a regular meeting in April, but welcomed nine new confirmands on Sunday, April 17, and five new adult members on Monday, May 16.

At the May meeting, Session received Tammy Yeager's notice of resignation, effective August 15, in order to spend more time with her growing family. Session members expressed deep appreciation for all that Tammy has done in the last nine years to develop Westminster's ministry of caring, as well as love and best wishes for the next stage of her life. A recognition of her ministry will be planned for her last Sunday, August 14. Session also received an update on Jason Freyer's progress toward ordination, which should occur sometime in the fall. The Personnel Commission was charged with preparing a plan for seeking another associate pastor to fill Tammy's role and to make recommendations concerning the possibility of Jason's serving in another ordained capacity at Westminster when he becomes eligible in September.





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
www.westminster-church.org
A PC(USA) Congregation

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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

“For the *word* of the *Lord* is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves *righteousness* and *justice*; the earth is full of the steadfast *love* of the *Lord*.”

Psalm 33:5