



# THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Do Not Be Afraid

The phrase “Do not be afraid” appears 59 times in my Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, which I take to mean two things: first, that human beings have always been inclined to be fearful, and second, that we don’t really need to be.

The first point seems almost self-evident, given the high level of fear among us these days. Lots of people are afraid of all sorts of things, from personal circumstances to the threat of terrorism anywhere in the world.

A devilish thing about fear is that it can become generalized. We start out being afraid of something in particular and then scary things accumulate in our minds until we become fearful personalities. That’s sad, because fear robs us of the joy of life; and it’s dangerous, because people often make bad choices when they’re afraid.

The Bible is full of stories where, had people given in to their fears and not trusted God, great things would never have happened. Abraham would never have become the father of nations. Moses would not have gone down to Egypt and led his people out of slavery. David would not have become king of Israel, and the Israelites would never have returned from captivity in Babylon. Mary would never have become the mother of Jesus, and Joseph would not have married her when she became so



mysteriously pregnant. The disciples would have abandoned Jesus by the time of the crucifixion, and none of them would have dared to preach the gospel in the face of such powerful opposition.

Jesus is forever telling his followers not to be afraid, in the New Testament and down to the present day. He doesn’t mean that bad things will never happen. Of course they will. But Jesus says that God is with us, always and everywhere, and even the worst that can happen will never separate us from God’s saving power and redeeming love.

That’s true even for death itself. In this Easter season we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, who says in the book of Revelation, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.” And because Jesus lives, we too will live, even on the other side of death.

If we really believe what we claim to believe as Christians, why should we be so afraid? Of course we need to take reasonable precautions about many things, but after we’ve done that, it’s just foolish and faithless to continue being afraid. It’s foolish because chronic fear does nothing but take away our peace of mind, and it’s faithless because it means we really don’t trust God after all.

The world needs brave people who don’t fall into fear so easily, and who resist the temptations of those who conjure up fears for their own selfish purposes. Who should be braver than the followers of Christ, whom not even death can overcome?

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Read the *Spire* online at:

[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

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 telephone number, email address, and a title.  
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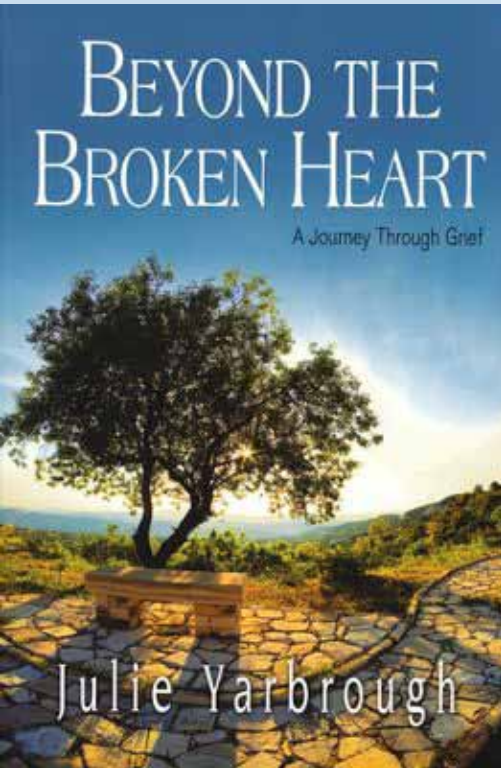
**The Bridge  
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📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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

# Grief Recovery Group

Thursdays, March 31-April 28  
6:45 – 8:00 p.m.  
Memorial Parlor



If you have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, it may be hard to feel optimistic about the future right now. You may have found that people don't always understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never before faced. Grief Recovery is a faith-based grief support group, which uses Julie Yarbrough's *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey through Grief*. To help you face the challenges of loss and move toward rebuilding your life, join our spring Grief Recovery sessions. To register and for more information, complete the online registration form on the church website or call Peg Kinsey at 412-835-6630. To help defray the costs of materials, a donation of \$10.00 is suggested.

## Upcoming Events

**3**  
APRIL Jack Kurutz,  
pianist

**8-10**  
APRIL **Spiritual Renewal  
Weekend**  
*A retreat with  
Jim Gilchrist*

**14**  
APRIL **Evening Prayer in  
Galbreath Chapel**

**23**  
APRIL **Rummage-  
Recycling Sale**

**30**  
APRIL **Men's Breakfast  
with Tunch Ilken**

*Save the Date*

### The Arsenal Duo

May 1  
4 p.m.  
Sanctuary

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Galbreath Chapel

*April Series*

# We Three Kings

Lessons from Israel's First Kings for Faith and Politics Today

James E. Davison



Three of the most fascinating personalities in the Old Testament are the first three kings of Israel – Saul, David, and Solomon. Their complex characters and their fluctuating faith in the Lord God are not only thought-provoking in themselves, but instructive for how we ourselves live today. But not only that! Especially in this election year, the attitudes and actions of these three political leaders suggest some significant characteristics that we can be looking for – or aiming to avoid – in the candidates who seek our votes over the next few months.

April 3	Saul: A Good King Gone Bad
April 10	David: A Good King with Feet of Clay
April 17	Solomon: A Wise but Foolish King
April 24	The King of Kings: A Model for Political Leaders

*We welcome back Dr. Jim Davison, a former pastor at Westminster. During his years here, Jim developed and nurtured a strong program of adult seminars on Sunday mornings. This tradition continues and now Jim graciously returns every year or two to teach a series of seminars on a biblical topic. After serving Westminster, Jim directed the continuing education programs at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and taught classes in Greek. In retirement, Jim continues scholarly research and writing, teaching, and serving in mission. Jim's guide to the Year of the Bible and book on baptism for Presbyterians are well known to Westminster members.*



## Evening Prayer

Thursday, April 14  
7:00-7:30 p.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

You are invited to Evening Prayer on the second Thursday of each month in Galbreath Chapel. Led by David Fetterman, this is a simple and informal time to pause at the end of our day for just one-half hour to rest in God's love as we experience it through prayer, scripture, readings, and each other. Come and join in a brief respite from the busyness of the day.

# Signs and Wonders



A long time ago, at a previous church, a member of my congregation gave me some unsolicited advice for preaching that was admittedly kind of weird, but it's stuck with me for years. He pulled me aside after a sermon one day and said, "Don't ever talk about cats in your sermon." I thought about it for a second, and asked "Why not?" He quickly shot back, as though he was anticipating the confusion his advice would cause, "People either love cats or they hate 'em, so either way you're going to alienate half of your audience." That sounded about right, so I have to this day never spoken, written, or prayed about cats in our fine congregation.

Until now.

You see, I am much more in the ambivalent-toward-cats camp. For one thing, I'm allergic. Cats cause me to sneeze for roughly a year after they brush up against my leg. For another thing, if you happen to be a cat owner, take a good hard look in your cat's eyes. He or she is actively plotting *something*. Who knows what, but there is a plan in place, and for my money it doesn't look good.

This all leads me to high school, and girls. When I was in high school, I was interested in asking one particular girl out, but being a nerd (I know, hard to imagine, right?) I was scared to go through with it. While I was deep in deliberation, I asked God to send me a sign. Should I do this, or should I let this go? The day after praying that prayer, the girl in question excitedly came up to me in school and proudly announced that she had just adopted nine cats from a shelter that was about to put them down.

Message received, Big Guy...message received.

I think when we enter into seasons of discernment, we're always

after signs and wonders. We just want God to show up and make things so abundantly clear that there can be no doubt at all which path we should take. To be sure, sometimes God does. Sometimes God tells you that if you pursue asking this young lady out you will suffer a histamine attack that your sinuses may never recover from. Sometimes the business deal that looks too good to be true turns out to be, well, too good to be true. Sometimes the fleece is wet.\*

But other times, we end up looking for signs where there are none. We find ourselves parsing every detail and every potential outcome hoping to discover God behind it all. Worse yet, sometimes we end up looking for God's signs in the midst of our own screwups, kind of like messing with the system to get the results we want. Sometimes God is hard at work to get our attention, and sometimes life is just happening.

So of course, the difficulty for the believer is, how do you know the difference?

This month in the high school group, we're studying the eight signs of Jesus recorded in the book of John to see if there is any insight into how God chooses to act among God's people. Is there any insight into the way Jesus performed signs and wonders that could speak to our situation today? I think so. So I would encourage you to take a moment to read through the book of John, or to stop by on a Wednesday night, and let us know what signs you're seeing in your life.

And if you're a cat owner, please accept my apologies. But they are totally plotting something.

\*Check out Judges 6:36-40.

– Jason Freyer



Last month I wrote about the desire that I think is innate in each of us (even unconsciously) to be in community with God, how we yearn for more than just glimpses of his presence. I'd like to continue that thought process this month.

Cooped up, cabin fever, bored, unmotivated, suppressed, longing for more, ready for a change. In my family, we use the word *discontent* to describe these feelings when they're all wrapped up into one. I use the term most often when I've been locked into a pattern or stuck in a rut – when life circumstances dictate that each day look like the one before it or when I have limited opportunities to get out and “stretch my legs” – go for a run, take the dog on a hunt, spend the morning fishing. It's in these times that I get the itch, a yearning for something new, something adventurous. I look around and I feel it: discontent.

This is certainly a dead horse that I've beaten before, but I'm convinced that these longings are evidence of the Creator's work in our lives. We yearn to live as the people that he created us to be – especially in communion with him. In John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the main character (aptly named Christian)

feels a similar calling before he begins his journey. As Bunyan puts it, “I saw also that he looked this way, and that way, as if he would run; yet he stood still because (as I perceived) he could not tell which way to go.”

Do you ever feel “as if you would run,” yet instead you stand still because you simply cannot tell which way to go?

It's this feeling that ultimately spurs Bunyan's “Christian” on his journey toward God. I'll make the assumption that many of us have felt similarly as I pose this question: When you feel “as if you would run,” does it spur you on to a journey toward God, or

*Discontentment can be dangerous when we allow it to run rampant. Or discontentment can encourage us toward beautiful relationships, a sense of purpose, a greater connection to God who created us.*

something else? This desire can take on any number of forms – shopping sprees, midlife crises, overdrinking, depression, affairs, isolation, aggression – I could go on for a while. It's an unfortunate symptom of our broken relationship with God that we seek wholeness in the immediate and temporary “solutions”

of this world. Discontent with our current standings, we “look this way, and that way” and run into the arms of whatever it is that we feel will bring contentment, satisfaction.

Unfortunately, in this battle for contentment there's a necessary skill that many of us have yet to hone – the ability to use reflection and insight to properly cite the source of our discontentment. Am I really upset with my husband, or am I feeling unappreciated at work or with my friends? Do I really need a new car, or do I wish to feel accomplished? Will a few drinks after work take care of it, or would a difficult conversation at home be more productive?

Discontentment can be dangerous when we allow it to run rampant. Or discontentment can encourage us toward beautiful relationships, a sense of purpose, a greater connection to God who created us. Seek after the voices in your life that point you toward relationship and connection with the Kingdom of God. These are the voices that will be able to speak insight into your discontentment.

How does discontentment manifest itself in your life? I'd be interested to hear about it. Give me a call.

– Ed Sutter

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD



We have recently been thinking and talking a lot about hospitality. I think when we hear that word, many of us have visions of Pinterest or Martha Stewart inspired spectaculars of decorating, food, fancy tablecloths, and the “best” dishes. I have to be honest, if that’s what it means to show Christian hospitality, I’m sunk! I just don’t have a gift for being a hostess in that sort of social scene.

Merriam-Webster defines *hospitality* as “generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests.” My daughters and I recently had the chance to spend some time with a neighborhood friend who moved away several years ago. The three girls were talking about how comfortable they felt in one another’s homes – which did not surprise me a bit since they were constantly in and out of each other’s houses. But here are the things they said that helped to define that comfort:

For my girls, it was an awareness of and accommodation for their allergy to milk. Although no one in their friend’s family drank soy milk, the mom kept a container of it in their fridge, so that it was available for Caitlin and Kiera when they were there for a snack or meal.

For their friend, it was that we always made sure that we made small adjustments to help Mandy keep the kosher rules that are important to her family. Little things – like using paper plates, or offering cheese burgers and plain burgers at the same meal. Never anything that was difficult, and that was exactly Mandy’s comment: “You just did it like it was no big deal.”

Little things that communicated to each of these girls, “We are glad you are here. You are welcome in our home as one of us.” Somehow I think that might truly be a clue for us. Have you ever been at someone’s home and they make such a fuss about making sure that you have the best chair, the nicest snack, the best service, that they end up actually making you uncomfortable?

Last week, one of our fifth graders invited a friend to join us for JAM on Wednesday night. At the end of the evening, we invited

him to return “because now you belong to the group.” And you know what he said? “This was really fun, cuz I felt like just one of the kids all night – not a guest!”

Throughout the Scriptures we see the command to “love one another.” 2 John says it this way:

...I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

I have been thinking that perhaps one way we can “walk in love” is to show hospitality – warm, generous welcome – to those

*[...] one way we can “walk in love” is to show hospitality – warm, generous welcome – to those around us, both in our homes and here at Westminster.*

around us, both in our homes and here at Westminster. When we offer welcome to those in our world, we have the opportunity to share God’s love with our friends, neighbors, and perhaps, even

strangers. When we welcome visitors into our church family, we invite them to move closer to God as well. What are the simple things we could be doing to make others feel more comfortable and welcome in our homes and our church? Easy things – like soy milk in the fridge?

– Robin Pyles

# Transformed to Be Transforming

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2, NRSV)*

Paul was challenging the Romans to live lives that were transformed by the gracious, saving love of God – lives that were not molded by the whims and attitudes of the world around them. Instead they were to be molded by the God in whose hands rests the salvation and care of all of creation. How easy it was for the Romans to seek other gods who were far less demanding of their followers! How easy it was for them to look inward, focused solely on themselves rather than looking outward to the needs of others! How easy it was to be complacent – each day the same as the last – rather than living evolving, growing lives filled with new challenges and experiences! Paul wrote: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.”

In December of 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer delivered a speech in Barcelona on Christian discipleship. He said:

One thing is clear: we understand Christ only if we commit ourselves to him in a stark “Either-Or.” He did not go to the cross to ornament and embellish our life. If we wish to have him, then he demands the right to say something decisive about our entire life. We do not understand him if we arrange for him only a small compartment in our spiritual life. (“Jesus Christ and the Essence of Christianity.”)

Paul’s talk of transformation is Bonhoeffer’s talk of “Either-Or.” Either committing ourselves to following Christ as disciples or not. Either loving all people with gracious, merciful hearts or not. Either loving as we have been loved or not. Either standing for and with those on the margins of society or not. Paul’s transformation, Bonhoeffer’s “Either-Or,” are both the same challenge to us: a call to single-minded and hearted obedience to Christ not because we fear the consequences of not doing so, but because God’s love in Christ is so powerful that it elicits a profound response of love.

We are in the midst of the season of Easter, a time when we sing joyously the ancient words “Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!” Those words form the rallying cry to all of God’s people to live lives transformed by the risen Christ, to live an Either-Or life that allows the risen Christ to act decisively in and through us. In 1707, Isaac Watts wrote these words of transformation:



Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

It was God’s love, “so amazing, so divine,” that motivated Paul to write those challenging words. It is God’s love, “so amazing, so divine,” that makes it possible for us to allow ourselves to be truly transformed, made new, something decisive said and done in us by the living Christ. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Allow the God whose power makes those words possible to act decisively in your lives, transforming you by his amazing love.

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman



# Spring Rummage-Recycling Sale



## Saturday, April 23

Regular sale

8:00 a.m. – noon

Closed for lunch

noon – 12:30 p.m.

Bag and half-price sale

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

## Collection Day

Friday, April 22

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

It's time to start collecting your unused or unneeded clothes, books, kitchen and household items, appliances, sporting goods, shoes, jewelry, small pieces of furniture, etc. You name it, we take it unless it is too big, broken, or unusable.

This is WPC's biggest mission effort. All proceeds benefit mission projects and all leftover goods are donated to local mission or recycling efforts.

## WE NEED YOU!

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

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

# What's New This Spring at the WROC



## Pole Walking

May 3 – 24  
Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
\$25

Would you be more committed to walking if you joined a group? This group begins indoors for two consecutive weeks to learn proper technique and experience pole walking. Following indoor instruction, the group will move outdoors for the remaining two weeks.



## Line Dancing

May 2 – May 23  
Mondays: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
\$20

This fun, absolute beginners' class will introduce basic line dance moves in easy wedding and party dances such as the Wobble, YMCA, Electric Slide, Alley Cat, Cha Cha Slide, Cupid Shuffle, and New York, New York.



## Fit4Baby® Fitness

May 12 – June 16  
Thursdays: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
\$80

Exclusively for pregnant moms, Fit4Baby focuses on functional movements designed to strengthen and help prepare the body for changes throughout pregnancy and for labor and delivery.



## Save the Date

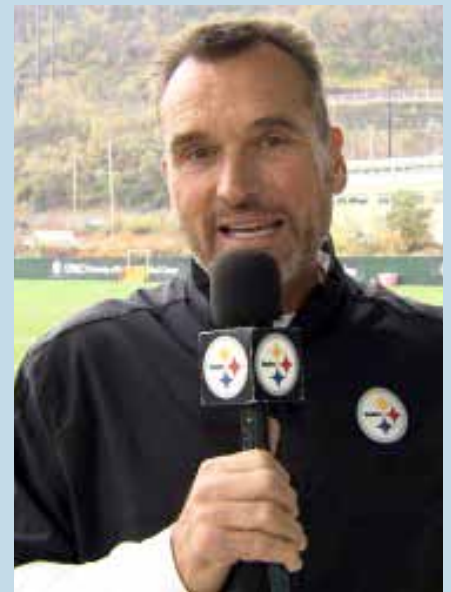
### Faith Night at PNC Park

Players and coaches share their faith stories after the game.

Thursday, July 20  
5:00 p.m. – Tailgate and Dinner  
7:05 p.m. – Pirates vs. Milwaukee Brewers

*The WROC and Westminister's Men's Ministry present*

## Men's Breakfast with Tunch Ilkin



Saturday, April 30  
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

7:30 a.m. – doors open  
8:00 a.m. – breakfast and program  
Tickets: \$20. Purchase tickets online at [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org) in the church office.  
Former Pittsburgh Steeler Tunch Ilkin serves as the Pastor of Men's Ministry at The Bible Chapel. Join us as he shares his faith insights and passion for men's ministry.

## THE GALLERY AT WESTMINSTER



### The Westminster Permanent Collection

The Gallery Committee is off on an exciting adventure! After over 35 years of rotating exhibits, the committee members are now searching for approximately 12 pieces of artwork to form a permanent collection for the main gallery area. They are seeking artists whose work evokes a spiritual connection, but does not necessarily depict literal Christian or religious imagery. There are no boundaries, only that the work must have an inspirational tone. The committee is searching diligently; the target date to open this permanent collection is fall of this year.

After careful consideration of costs for acquisition of the art pieces and framing, the committee estimates about \$20,000 will be needed. It is believed this amount can be attained through individual donations, contributions received in memory or honor of a loved one, and other sources – but not from the general operating budget of the church. This provides a limited opportunity for all in our congregation to be part of an undertaking that will add a new dimension to the worship experience at Westminster Presbyterian Church. You are invited to participate.

Donors and honorees will be recorded and displayed in a book. A brochure introducing the collection and the artists will be created and presented to each contributing family.

The concept of a permanent art collection was presented to Session at a recent meeting, and it was unanimously approved. It will be interesting to observe the type of artwork submitted for this special location, what ultimately is selected – and how our hearts respond.

– Betty Digby

### GALLERY FUND

Level 1	(\$100-\$249)
Level 2	(\$250-\$499)
Level 3	(\$500-\$999)
Level 4	(\$1,000 and above)

If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please look for the "Gallery" brochure around the church, complete the form and submit it along with your check to Dave Reiter. To give online, visit the Gallery page on the church's website.

*The artist's mission must not be to produce an irrefutable solution to a problem, but to compel us to love life in all its countless and inexhaustible manifestations.*

– Leo Tolstoy

Throughout the year, the Westminster Music & Arts Series presents a variety of musical programs for the enjoyment of the congregation and the community. They are excellent opportunities to invite friends and neighbors to Westminster.

Two upcoming concerts in the sanctuary feature the piano, first in a program of Russian masterpieces. The second combines the dynamic sounds of organ and piano in favorites by Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, and others.

A reception in the north entry follows each concert. Admission is free; a freewill offering is gratefully accepted to support future programming.

# Jack Kurutz, pianist

Sunday, April 3  
4:00 p.m.

Pianist Jack Kurutz will play an all-Russian program of works by Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, and Prokofiev. The three composers' lives spanned the late 19th and early to mid 20th century, a fascinating era when late Romanticism gave way to the newer harmonies and rhythms of a new century. Yet despite changing times and styles, the drama and passion of Russian music continued and will be heard at its finest on April 3.

Jack Kurutz is an avid recitalist and chamber musician and advocate of contemporary music. He graduated from the University of Miami and earned his Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory in Gabriel Chodos' studio. In 2005, Kurutz completed an Artist Diploma from Carnegie Mellon University. Kurutz has appeared as recitalist and chamber musician in the cities of Salzburg (Austria), New York, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, and Charleston (South Carolina). In Pittsburgh, he has appeared frequently with the Contemporary Music Ensemble of Carnegie Mellon University, where he presented Bartok's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* as well as the Pittsburgh premieres of John Adams' *Hallelujah Junction* and *Grand Pianola Music* for two pianos. Kurutz appeared as soloist with the Pittsburgh Philharmonic performing Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto in May of 2011. He is also a founding member of the Living Room Chamber Music Project, and is the newest member of the University of Pittsburgh's ensemble-in-residence, IonSound Project.





# The Arsenal Duo

Edward Alan Moore, organist  
Nathan Carterette, pianist

Sunday, May 1  
4:00 p.m.

The 25th-year celebration of Westminster's Austin organ continues with the Arsenal Duo in concert on May 1. The dynamic playing of organist Edward Alan Moore and pianist Nathan Carterette unites the piano and organ in a unique and spectacular fashion. The *Arsenal Duo* draws from a diverse repertoire of works originally for piano and orchestra, works original to piano and organ, the duo's own transcriptions, and solo offerings for each instrument. The works for organ and piano offer a rare opportunity to hear the organ in a secular role as "an orchestra" in one instrument, a role that the versatile Austin organ performs splendidly.

A rousing performance of the national anthem will set the tone for an exciting concert. From the stunning opening of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto to George Gershwin's beloved *Rhapsody in Blue*, the *Arsenal Duo's* unique artistic collaboration promises to engage, thrill, and inspire.

The *Arsenal Duo*, described as an "unusual musical combination... of exceptional artistic quality and surprisingly precise ensemble" (ClevelandClassical.com), made their debut performance in 2013 at Youngstown, Ohio's historic Stambaugh Auditorium. Read more about the duo at [www.facebook.com/ArsenalDuo](http://www.facebook.com/ArsenalDuo).

*"unusual musical combination...of exceptional artistic quality and surprisingly precise ensemble"*

## Nathan Carterette

Hailed as "wonderfully poetic" and "very compelling in his power and presence," Nathan Carterette has distinguished himself in the concert world by performing a huge range of works from Elizabethan keyboard music to music written today. His innovative programming has inspired audiences to approach unfamiliar music with open ears, and familiar music with new appreciation.

Carterette has performed in such venues as Weill Recital Hall in New York City and Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, and in Germany at Munich's Gasteig and Hamburg's Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. He has been presented in several universities, including the Cleveland Institute of Music, Drake University, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, and Carnegie Mellon. Educated at Yale University, Carterette began his piano studies at the age of 11 with Cleveland's legendary Birute and Anthony Smetona. A chance encounter in 2004 with Welsh composer-pianist Dafydd Llywelyn led to an invitation for intensive private study in Germany, both of the traditional repertoire and Llywelyn's works.

## Edward Alan Moore

Edward Alan Moore is organist/music director at East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. As a recitalist, Moore was the first organist chosen to perform on the Millennium Stage concert series at the Kennedy Center in 2004. Other recitals include those at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City, Princeton University Chapel, and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. Moore's recent performance schedule has included concerts at various locations in the Pittsburgh area and at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and Riverside Church in New York City. As a choral accompanist, he has been the featured organist with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, where his performance was described as "lucid and often glorious" by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

# Introducing The Corner

*The Corner* is an outreach ministry of Friendship Community Presbyterian Church, a partner church of Westminster for more than 20 years. Operating in an old drug store/soda fountain building with a long history of bringing West Oakland residents together, *The Corner* has for five years been a place where the increasingly diverse neighborhood population can come to meet, drink coffee, form groups and relationships, plan activities, perform, discuss, and grow. It's so much more than a building. Imagine one space where in just a year's time, you could join with neighbors to garden, fight unregulated traffic from a proposed mega-commercial development, or learn of new affordable housing developments planned for your neighborhood. In the same place, come listen to some of Pittsburgh's finest jazz, spoken word, and hip hop artists expressing in their evocative art forms ideas, at once raw and stark, while pushing you to re-think our shared humanity. Or on winter mornings, stop by for coffee, and see teens of the neighborhood coming inside while waiting for their school buses, to have their bodies and souls warmed up with hot chocolate and warm hugs. Then join your neighbors to hear speakers from across the city tackling some of the toughest issues that have threatened to divide our city, issues like "black lives matter," public safety, and police/community relations. All in an atmosphere of emotional safety and openness to diverse perspectives.

**This is *The Corner* – a unique community-building space in West Oakland, which is becoming known as a premier arts and conversation venue across the entire city.**

I would like to invite you to participate in the ministry of *The Corner* by contributing an item for use in an auction basket for their upcoming fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information about what, where, and when. Look to the bulletin, website, and weekly email for the details.

– Jan Baumann



# Financial Report *As of February 29, 2016*

## General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$ 334,196.71
Annual Budget	\$1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,651,803.29

## Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$382,292.78
Expenses	\$376,496.48
Net Position	\$ 5,796.30

**Juanita Fodor**

*March 11*

## Session Update

On March 21, Session welcomed 17 new members into the fellowship of Westminster Church. Another inquirers' gathering will be held in May for those who were not able to join us in March.

Session also approved five proposals submitted to the Endowment Fund: improved lighting in the narthex, roof replacement in the north wing of the building, equipment for a technology lab at SHIM, seed money for a training program through the Homewood Collaborative, and the digitizing and safe storage of the church's records. The total cost of the proposals is \$123, 575, which is the amount available from the Fund in 2016.





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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*“Easter? We’re paying more attention to dying than to death. We’re more concerned to get over the act of dying than to overcome death. Socrates mastered the art of dying; Christ overcame death as ‘the last enemy.’ There is a real difference between the two things; the one is within the scope of human possibilities, the other means resurrection... To live in the light of the resurrection – that is what Easter means.”*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, March 1944