



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

The Great Ends of the Church

Our Presbyterian *Book of Order* reminds us why we gather as the church of Jesus Christ. Churches serve lots of functions, but these six “great ends,” as they’re called, offer a summary of our purpose and a framework for everything we do. As we head into summer, we might do well to reflect on some of the things that matter most in our life together.

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind. We were made in the image of God, but we all fall short of God’s will for our lives and fail to be the people we were meant to be. The resulting mess is what we call “sin,” but the church’s task is to spread the good news that God is in Christ reconciling the world to himself.

The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God. Shelter from the storms of life (the storms around us and the storms within), helping one another to grow in grace, and sharing the joys of God’s extended family are among the blessings of being “spiritual and religious.”

The maintenance of divine worship. “God is great, and greatly to be praised,” the psalmist says. Giving thanks and praise to our Creator brings joy and peace and strength to us as well, because God is gracious.



The preservation of the truth. People shy away from the truth when it makes them uncomfortable, but the ultimate truth turns out to be a Person who comes to make us whole and unafraid. “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Jesus says. “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

The promotion of social righteousness. Some people want spirituality to be a purely personal thing, as if God didn’t care about the way we look out for one another in the way we live. But the Bible is full of social implications from beginning to end. “Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God,” the prophet Micah says, and Jesus himself says woe to those who tithe the little things but neglect “the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.” And then, of course, there’s the Parable of the Sheep and the

Goats, where everything hangs on how we treat one another, especially those who are most in need.

The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. A short summary of the whole gospel message is “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” To repent is to have a change of heart and mind, to be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that will make us fit for God’s own kingdom. Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” The church is to give the world a glimpse of what that would look like.

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Read the *Spire* online at:

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

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 The deadline for submitting an article is the fifth
 day of every month for the following month's
 issue. Please include the author's name,
 telephone number, email address, and a title.
 All articles are subject to editing.

3 Worship

Sunday Worship Services
 Sabbatical Leave – Mindfulness
 This Month

4 Education

Christian Formation Seminars
 Diary of a Lunatic: Innovation
 Between Here and There
 Glimpse of My World
 Barefoot School: Everest
 Clearance Policy
 Baptisms

10 Spiritual Growth

Unfettered: An Adventurous, Courageous Community
 Arts & Spirituality: The Way
 Evening Prayer

12 Mission

The Pocket Change Project Update
 Feed Our Children – Bread for the World's 2015 Offering
 of Letters
 Soles for Haitian Souls
 Save the Date: Stop Hunger Now
 Save the Date: Westminster Family Charities Golf Outing

16 Community Outreach

WROC
 The Gallery at Westminster
 Music & Arts Series

20 Caring Community

Body & Soul: Extending the Membrane
 Volunteers among Us
 Life Care Transitions Planning
 Pet Ministry News

21 Other

Financial Report
 Session Update
 Westminster's Archives
 Deaths

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m.

*Traditional
Worship*

9:45 a.m.

*The Bridge
Contemporary
Worship*

11:00 a.m.

*Traditional
Worship*

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

Sabbatical Leave

Mindfulness

"Be still and know that I am God." One of the blessings of being the associate pastor for Congregational Care is the amount of time I get to spend praying. Prayer is a conversation with God. Yet, our focus always seems to be on the things we want to say to God.

What about the things that God wants to say to us?

I believe that God is constantly reaching out to us, not only in our prayer life but also in our everyday circumstances. The thoughts racing through our minds and all that is going on around us make it very difficult for us to pay attention to God.

For many years I have longed for opportunities to grow in my awareness of the presence of God. Being still is not something that comes naturally to me.

This summer I will be taking a course in mindfulness based on the research of Jon Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts. Mindfulness is a form of meditation. In one of his books on the subject, Kabat-Zinn says, "Mindfulness is awareness, cultivated by paying attention in a sustained and particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally."¹

My hope is that the meditation skills I learn and develop in this course will enhance my abilities for contemplative prayer, an ancient Christian practice of becoming open to receiving God in the stillness of silent prayer. I have also enlisted the help of a couple of well-seasoned contemplative "pray-ers" to meet with me through the summer and help me integrate the mindfulness techniques into my prayer life.

Research shows that mindfulness has the added benefit of relieving stress. So, I anticipate that immersing myself in this practice for eight weeks will also be very restful.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to sharing all that I've learned with you when I return.

Blessings,



¹ Jon Kabat-Zinn, *Mindfulness for Beginners: Reclaiming the Present Moment – and Your Life* (Colorado: Sounds True, 2012), 1.

This Month

18 & 25

Organ Summer

14

Bread for the World
Offering of Letters
Pet Remembrance Service

20

Pet Fair

22-26

Barefoot School

23

AGO musical program

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

The month of June features conversations with Jim Gilchrist in Fellowship Hall. After a break on July 5, conversation continues with three Summer Discussions sponsored by Westminster's Peace and Justice Group.

June

Grace and the Beloved Community

A Series of Conversations with Jim Gilchrist

Don Quixote says, in *The Man of La Mancha*, "I hope to add some measure of grace to the world." It's a profoundly Christian aspiration for a world that so often feels ungracious. The church is a "beloved community," loved by God and founded on the grace of God in Jesus Christ. How do we live into this high calling?

June 7 – Grace: What the World Needs Now

"Amazing Grace" is America's favorite hymn, but many people don't really understand grace, let alone practice it. The discussion begins with how grace can relieve our fears, as the hymn says, and free us to become more gracious ourselves.

June 14 – God and Country

Flag Day is an appropriate time to reflect on the relationship between the church as a distinctively Christian community and the wider community around us.

June 21 – Spiritual and Religious: Reaching In and Reaching Out

Loving God and loving our neighbors are two sides of the same thing. "Faith without works is dead," as the letter of James says, and works without faith are unlikely to last.

June 28 – Who Belongs to the Beloved Community?

Our society and the world at large seem preoccupied with tribal questions: Who's in and who's out? As the parable of the Good Samaritan tells us, God's idea of the neighborhood is much larger than ours.

July

Who Is My Neighbor? Discussions on Racism

People of faith played a major role in the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s. Progress was made in the areas of voting rights, education, housing, and employment. Still, things are not right today. Large disparities in income result in minorities living in areas with substandard schools and housing; the unemployment rate among blacks is easily twice that of whites. Clearly change is needed. So what is the job of the church today?

July 12 – The Journey: What is the history of racism in the U.S. and where has the church entered in? What is the theological foundation for our involvement?

Ron Peters, Theologian in Residence, Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church

July 19 – Racism in 2015: Racism persists in spite of the Civil Rights Movement. What are the manifestations of racism today?

Drew Smith, Professor of Urban Ministry, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

July 26 – Going Forward: What is the role of the church in healing the racial divide and where can Westminster be engaged?

Jim Gilchrist

DIARY OF A LUNATIC



Innovation

As I am sitting in a Starbucks at the moment, I am writing this article on my relatively new Macbook. Sitting beside the relatively new Macbook is my iPad mini, open to a text I am reading for school. Beside the iPad mini is my iPhone. This iPhone is connected to a (sadly, not Apple) watch on my wrist, which buzzes when I get notifications or alerts. I tell you all this to let you know something that every member of Westminster has known for years: I am a tech geek.

The words “fan boy” might even be more appropriate. I sit glued to my computer every time Tim Cook makes an announcement about some new Apple product. My blog feed is filled to the brim with blogs about Apple and other tech products (yes, people write about their computers...it’s a little weird, I know). Friends and I will sit around discussing what Apple might be working on next, and whether it will be worth our money (Apple TV: no. Apple Watch: maybe. iPhone 6s: almost definitely). I am a geek.

A few years ago we were at a conference for youth workers (another thing that actually exists in the world and is as crazy as it sounds) and the speaker that evening tapped into my fan boy nature. He brought on stage with him the original Apple Macintosh. He reminded the room that in 1984 this was the pinnacle of computing. He paid roughly \$2,000 for it when it first came out, and he and his family could not have been happier with their decision. He then walked to the other side of the stage, and pulled out an envelope. Inside the envelope was a brand new MacBook Air. It fits in an envelope. He noted that this computer also costs about \$2,000, is the pinnacle of computing in our day, and features absolutely no moving parts. His point was this: what if Apple had released that first Macintosh and said “That’s it! We’ve made it! This is the best computer on the market, and we can sit around and celebrate now!” Of course that’s not what they said! As soon as one product rolls off the line, whether it is successful or not, Apple and other tech companies begin working on the next version. Rumor has it that even now as we the public await the iPhone 6s, Apple has prototypes down the line to the iPhone 7 or 8. They never stop.

What our speaker that night was trying to get across is that innovation is the lifeblood of sustainability. If a tech company is going to last, it needs to constantly evaluate what it’s doing, fix bugs, change things around, and occasionally throw out the playbook and start over. The same is true for ministry. Running

the same programs year after year after year will eventually wear out, no matter how successful they are. Eventually, they need to be improved.

We in the youth ministry are entering a season of evaluation and overhaul. It seems that when Ed and Cassandra and I tell people that, the first look on their face is shock. “Why? It’s working! Why would you change things?” Because first and foremost, our world is changing. The programs that worked for us nine years ago (!) when we got here may not serve the culture of the youth around us anymore. But also because we know we can do better. It’s not that the original Macintosh was a dud. It’s just that Apple knew they could do it better. And we feel the same way. This is an exciting time to be in youth ministry, and of course as always I invite you to come on the journey with us as a volunteer!

But this has implications for a personal faith journey too. At that same conference this year, I met with a spiritual director the conference provided. I told him that while ministry and school and all that I “do” was going well, I was having a hard time hearing the voice of God. He asked me what sorts of spiritual disciplines I was working on, and I told him that I have read the daily lectionary every day for the past three years. I say the prayers written in the lectionary book. I go to church. All of these patterns I have faithfully kept up with for three or more years, and yet they seem to be failing me. He quietly looked me in the eye and asked “Well then, why don’t you try something different?” It was revelatory. Since that meeting I have been trying to explore new ways to connect with God, and meeting Christ in unusual and unexpected places. Repeating the same patterns and traditions has a place to be sure, but if it’s not working, perhaps it’s time to try something else?

This is why I love summer. At least in our rhythms in youth ministry, it’s a time to slow down, take a break, and try something new. I hope that it can be that way for you. In the meantime, we’ll see you in the fall, hopefully with a little innovation under our belts!

Godspeed,

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE



Just the other day I had a conversation with one of our fellow community members who expressed to me deep and long-lasting feelings of inadequacy, disappointment, and self-doubt. At some point the conversation turned toward feeling not “good enough.” Not good enough in relationships, not good enough in daily duties, not good enough in the eyes of scripture.

Not good enough in the eyes of scripture? Here we paused, as I think we all need to. When you look to the person scripture calls you to be, are you good enough? In both the gospels of Mark and Luke *even Jesus* says, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.” In Matthew Jesus calls us to “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” In Romans Paul claims that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” You’re not perfect, you fall short, *you’re not good enough*. It’s not hard to find these messages.

What does it mean to be “good enough” through the lens of scripture? I don’t for a moment believe that any one of us comes close to the perfection found in Christ. Not only that, I also firmly believe that because Romans 6:23 tells us that “the wages of sin is death,” the sin in each of our lives places us in a state of debt, requiring payment – or forgiveness.

Ah, forgiveness, the oft-forgotten gift of God.

It seems to me that it’s especially easy to forget about forgiveness when it comes to our own feelings of inadequacy. Life beats us up, then we beat ourselves up, creating a habit of downward spiral that goes something like this: It starts with an external voice that says “You weren’t good enough today.” We are quick to agree, “You’re right.” We drop our confidence, we lower our expectation, we approach the next day one step lower than the day before. “You weren’t good enough.” “You’re right.” Drop

confidence. Repeat...repeat...repeat. Soon, we don’t even need the external voice. The internal voice does the shouting, “I’m not good enough!” By this logic, we create a self-debt so large that payment seems impossible. If we approach scripture with the same logic, our sin-debt becomes crippling.

All the while, as we say to ourselves, “I’m not good enough,” Christ shouts in return, “But I love you!” If it’s true as 1 Peter tells us that “Love covers a multitude of sins,” what then would the multitude of Christ’s love cover? If it’s true as 2 Corinthians tells us that the Lord’s “power is made perfect in weakness,” how perfectly powerful must he be when we fall our hardest? If it’s true as Jesus tells us in Luke 7 that “he who is forgiven little loves little,” how much more capable of love are those who hold the greatest debt?

You’re not good enough. Neither am I. That makes us both perfect candidates for a Savior who “came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17). Turns out our not being good enough is exactly what we need. Exactly what we need to feel Christ’s love, and exactly what we need to be able to return it to others.

Are there places in your life that you feel inadequate? Have you felt beaten up by yourself, or by the world? I’d love to hear about it. Let me know if you’d like to talk more.

Ed

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

They say “it takes a village to raise a child.”

I can't think of a better example of the village that is Westminster than our annual vacation Bible school – otherwise known as “Barefoot School.” This program has been around for a lot of years, and the format and style of programming has changed several times throughout that time. But it remains the largest single program sponsored by the Children's & Family Ministry Commission, serving over 200 children. And it requires a huge investment of volunteer hours to make it work.

Here are some quick “snapshots” of those folks:

- The college student, home for the summer and working to help pay for school, who rearranged her work schedule to be able to spend all five mornings with the children
- The retired school secretary who every year works behind the scenes, cutting out hundreds of paper shapes to be used in crafts, decorations, or raising money for our mission projects – sometimes all three
- The family who rescheduled their vacation with their extended family so that it didn't conflict with Barefoot School
- The teenager who showed up every single day in the week preceding the program to help with whatever tasks needed to be done
- The dad who used a week of his vacation to be able to be with the children all week
- The woman who, by her own description “doesn't have an artistic bone in her body,” took over the organization of the prep and set-up days
- The grandparents who spent the week as volunteers – shepherding a group of children – in order to spend some extra time with their grandchildren
- The doctor and lawyer and occupational therapist who adjust their work schedules to be here a few days during the week (and they're not the only ones who do so!)
- The computer guru who stepped up several years ago to help us



develop systems and procedures that allow us to run the program more efficiently, more smoothly, and all around just better – and who continues to provide support and help wherever we need it

- The ladies who cook and wrap more than 500 hot dogs, so we can share a celebration lunch at the end of the week
- The teens who show up by 8:30 a.m. (“you do know it's summer vacation, right, Mrs. Pyles??”) every day for a whole week – and give their all to make sure the younger kids are safe, and having fun, and growing closer to God

All true stories. All real, live people. Each one – and many more I could mention – a part of the village at Westminster. Each one doing his or her own unique part, large or small, visible or behind the scenes. Sharing the gifts God has bestowed – talents, abilities, material goods – to share God's love with the children. Making good on that promise we all make each time we baptize a child here:

“Do we, church family of Westminster Presbyterian Church, promise

To teach these children the Good

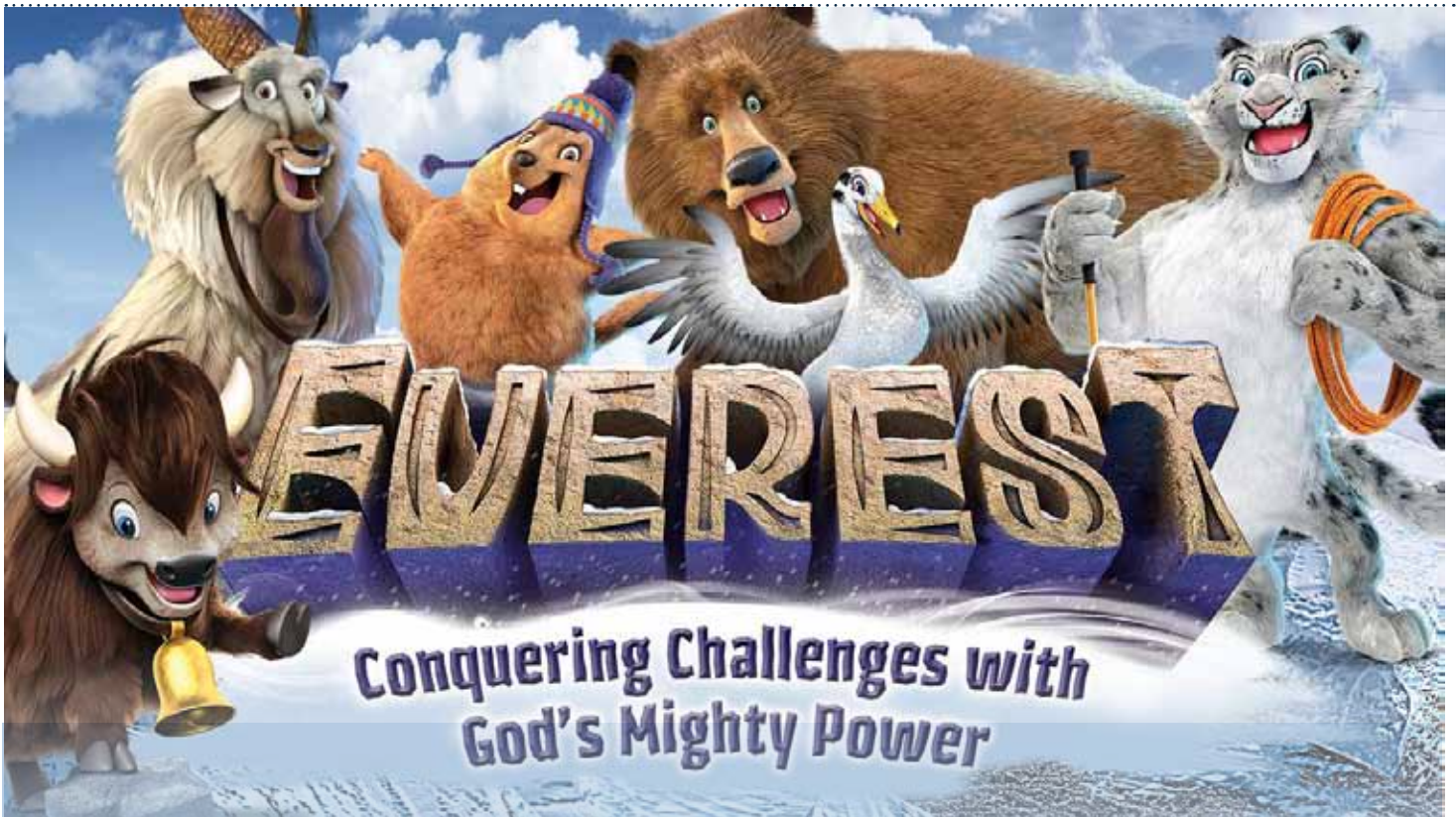
**News of the Gospel,
to help them to know all that Christ
commands,**

**and, by our fellowship and example,
strengthen their ties with the
household of God?”**

Do we?

Come...be a part of the village. It takes us all!

Robin



Barefoot School
Westminster's Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 22 – Friday, June 26
9 a.m. – Noon

Are you ready for an icy expedition?

The theme for this year's Barefoot School (vacation Bible school) is EVEREST, where kids conquer challenges with God's Mighty Power! Everest is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences, where kids experience scripture through sight, hearing, touch, and even taste. Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, and cool Bible songs are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

We'll help kids discover God's mighty power!

Programming is available for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

Younger children (infants through pre-K) are welcome to attend with a parent or teen volunteer.

Looking for an opportunity to influence a young person's faith, either directly or indirectly?

Barefoot School offers dozens of ways to get involved, both during the program and in the preceding weeks. Whatever your gifts are, whatever your age or stage in life, we can use your help!

More information (including registration forms for children and volunteers) is available at www.westminster-church.org or by contacting Robin Pyles at pyles@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x226.



Clearance Policy

In 2014, a number of pieces of legislation were signed into law in Pennsylvania in an effort to increase protection of children, youth, and vulnerable adults from abuse. The laws require church staffs and volunteers to receive clearances, and then to have those clearances updated every 3 years. The session of Westminster Presbyterian Church approved our new Clearance Policy on March 16, 2015. The Clearance Policy at Westminster will be administered by the administrative assistant in the Christian Education Department. Some key components of our clearance policy are:

- All new recruits, paid or volunteer, are to be reported to the administrative assistant within 3 days of recruitment so that the clearance process may begin.
- Every 3 years the administrative assistant will inform those whose clearances need to be renewed.
- Those working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults are Mandated Reporters, which means that if abuse is suspected or witnessed by a worker, paid or volunteer, it must be reported immediately to the supervisor of the program for prompt action and reporting to the authorities and our senior pastor.
- All costs for clearances will be borne by Westminster Presbyterian Church.

If you have any questions about our Clearance Policy and its administration, please contact David Fetterman, director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (dfetterman@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630), or Tracey Mattes, administrative assistant for the Christian Education Department (mattes@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630).

Baptisms

2014

March 22

Hudson Scott & Mackenzie Colleen

Parents: Lauren & Scott Dooley

Brooklynn Elizabeth
Parents

Lauren & Richard Gasher

Thomas Leo VI

Parents: Anne & Tomas Meikle

Cam Michael

Parents: Stephanie & Kirk Wojno

April 19

David Allan Lamborn

Parents: Katy & Dave Davis

May 10

Leo David

Parents: Dana & David Smith

Colton Pearse

Parents

Katherine & Matthew Lenhart

May 17

Isla Leigh

Parents: Leigh & Kevin Slowey

Jeffrey Mathew & Madeline

Sarah

Parents: Sarah O'Brien & Mathew Eapen

December 21

Eliana Catherine

Parents

Jessica & Andrew Capretto

December 24

Aidan David

Parents

Cindy & David Wintruba

River Faye

Parents

Amanda & Jonathan Zelezniak

December 28

George Thompson

Parents: Beth & John Grealy

2015

February 8

Luke Matthew

Parents

Cynthia & Matthew Bittel

Lucas Michael

Parents

Summer & Ryan Carroll

Parker William

Parents

Jamie & Brett Schaltenbrand

UNFETTERED

An Adventurous, Courageous Community

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8, NRSV

We live in a world where self-reliance is considered a prime value for many and individualism is more and more prevalent. Perhaps this isn't really all that new. Regardless, it has the potential of running counter to the nature of the church, the community of faith. You can observe this sort of attitude when people are reluctant to ask others for help, saying they don't want to bother them. In part this is because society has taught us that asking for help can be an indicator of some sort of personal weakness. You can observe this in restaurants as you look at the tables around you, populated with several people each, many of them not talking to each other but instead glued to their smartphones. You can observe this in workplaces that foster cultures of competition rather than collaboration. And you can continue the list of relevant observations from your own experiences. Paul still speaks to us as he did to the Romans in the midst of our self-reliant, individualistic culture, saying, "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

We are individuals – unique, wonderful creations of a loving God. No two of us



are identical. Each of us has marvelous gifts given to us by divine grace. But we are also one, united in one body in the midst of our individuality. Living out of that reality is what gives Christ's church power. Failing to embrace that reality undermines the power of Christ's church in the world.

Recently I have been reading a book by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch *The Faith of Leap; Embracing a Theology of Risk, Adventure & Courage*. The authors comment:

While we appreciate individual effort and achievement, we need to foster the understanding that we are in this together. Private discovery of meaning is not enough. Meaning is discovered in community – it is a "tribe thing." Beware of the naturally competitive nature of Westerners here: it should involve movement into space where ongoing transformation can continue, not competitive space where I must continue to define and prove myself. Remember, it is about becoming mature disciples of Jesus and not defining ourselves over against others.

And again,

Seen in this light, faith is the exciting venture in which we bet that God really is – that this is his world, and that he is like Jesus Christ, and that he saves those who love him with their lives! It is therefore correct to say, with Elton Trueblood, that "faith is not belief without proof, but is trust without reservation." Therefore faith is more an act of courage than it is an act of knowledge.

Living in the church, the community of faith, is an adventure that involves courageous living. It is an adventure because God leads us in unexpected ways to often unexpected places. It is an adventure because this God cannot be contained and controlled by human desires and attitudes. It requires courageous living because it calls us to be witnesses in a world that often doesn't understand, or understands and rejects God's powerful, loving, mysterious ways. It requires courageous living because it calls us into a life where proof is seldom present and is replaced by the need to trust in God's mercy and grace to lead us.

As we move into the summer months, months often characterized by a quieter and slower pace, let's covenant together to use the time to reflect on what it means to be a disciple in 2015. What does it mean to be the church, the community of faith, today? How can we celebrate our uniqueness, our individuality, while at the same time cherishing the richness and support of the community into which God has called us? The words of Frost and Hirsch can be our guide: "While we appreciate individual effort and achievement, we need to foster the understanding that we are in this together...Remember, it is about becoming mature disciples of Jesus."

Shalom,

The Way

I've always been attracted to the myths of different cultures – the stories that are told from generation to generation and that embody the moral wisdom that culture values as worthy of sharing with the young. The ancient Greeks had a vast collection of myths that speak to the relation between humans and the gods, and the tragedies people suffered when they chose a path different from the one they were to follow. These stories look to bring the sacred time of the story into the present and to establish models of behavior for humans.

One of my favorite Greek myths is the story of Icarus. The story starts with the father, Daedalus, who was an inventive craftsman. Daedalus was the artisan King Minos of Crete hired to build a labyrinth to imprison the Minotaur – a half-man, half-bull monster born of the King's wife and the Cretan bull. Once the Minotaur was trapped in the labyrinth, Minos demanded of Athens a yearly sacrifice of seven young women and men, who were left in the labyrinth to be devoured by the Minotaur. When the third yearly sacrifice approached, Theseus, a brave young Athenian, volunteered to go in the labyrinth and slay the beast. Ariadne, the daughter of Minos, fell in love with Theseus and consulted with Daedalus on a way to get him out of the labyrinth. Daedalus told Ariadne that Theseus should carry a ball of thread, allowing him to retrace his path. Theseus killed the Minotaur and, thanks to Ariadne's thread, made it out of the labyrinth. King Minos was furious and imprisoned Daedalus and his son Icarus in the labyrinth.

But Daedalus conceived of a way to escape the labyrinth: he created two pairs of wings out of wax and feathers, one for himself and the other for his son. Daedalus warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, or the wax would melt, nor too close to the sea, or the sea's dampness would clog his wings. Daedalus said to Icarus, "Follow my path." Overcome by the excitement of flying, Icarus soared into the sky and he came too close to the sun, which melted the wax in his feathers. Icarus kept flapping his wings but soon realized that he had



La caduta di Icaro (1636-1638) by Jacob Peter Gowy. Museo del Prado, Madrid.

no feathers left and that he was only flapping his bare arms. He fell into the sea to his death.

Oftentimes we all become like Icarus, don't we? We are delighted in our gifts and our strength and our freedom and we extend our wings and fly up and down rejoicing in the flight. Our achievements give us confidence in our abilities and choices, and we begin to believe our compass is the only guide we need. We soon become so jubilant in our journey that we forget the father's warning: do not fly too high or too low, but follow *my* path. We grow proud, and we begin to believe we don't need anyone to show us the way; we are doing well, and our life is our flight after all. We come to see our wings and our flight – our accomplishments and everything we have in life – as our own merit, and the experience seems fulfilling in itself. We live for the here and now, and the success and happiness we can grasp turns into all there is. We lose our way, we depart from the way of the Father, and we fly up and down with no sense of destination. And many times it will take a fall, it will take things not going the way we hoped and our security stripped from us,

it will take our wings melting for a while, to get us to ask ourselves: "What is the way? Where am I going, and how do I get there?"

Daedalus is a loving father who tries to guide his son to freedom and safety and, out of love and wisdom, asks him to follow *his* way. Daedalus' words remind me of what Jesus said to Thomas when he asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:5-6). Jesus' words point us both to the way and the destination. To have a truer, fuller life now and a joyful eternal life then, we need to follow *his* path. Daedalus' flight is the way for Icarus to get to safety; Jesus Christ is the way for us to be reconciled with God, and the model on how to live our lives. If our flight follows his way, we'll know our path in this life and we'll be on the way to our final destination: the room prepared for us in the house of the Father, and an eternal life of peace and joy.

There is no better way.

– Mariela Mazziotti Antunes

Evening Prayer

Thursday, June 11
7:00-7:30 p.m.
Memorial Parlor

You are invited to Evening Prayer in Memorial Parlor. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the same time and place. Led by David Fetterman, this is a simple and informal time to pause at the end of our day for just ½ 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.

the Pocket Change PROJECT

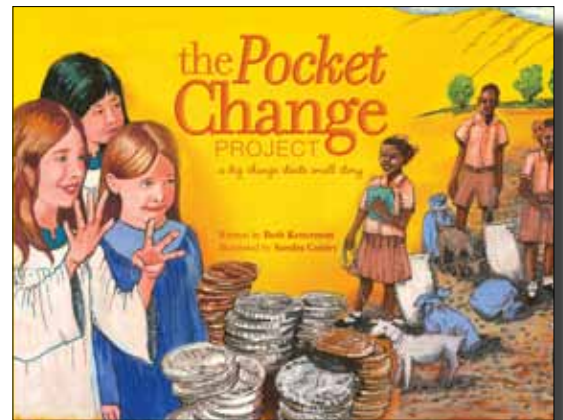


Update

- On behalf of the Cherubs, and the children's choirs at Southminster and Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Pocket Change Project this year. Collectively we were able to raise **\$2,880**, which is enough to sponsor twelve children at the La Croix New Testament Mission. Well done!
- The Pocket Change Project has also become a children's book!

Written by Beth Ketterman, illustrated by Sandra Conley, and designed by Mariela Antunes, the book tells the story of how our children's choir was inspired by a vision of sharing with

children in Haiti, and how the vision caught on in some other churches. The newest title from WPC Publishing will be available in mid-June. The cost is just \$15, and proceeds will be donated directly to the child sponsorship program in La Croix.



June 14

Feed Our Children

Bread for the World's 2015 Offering of Letters



Westminster members care about hungry people. In our recent *Listening Initiative*, the number one concern expressed was hunger. Our latest church survey shows similar results. We support the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Jubilee Soup Kitchen, Produce to People, and we are about to begin working with Meals on Wheels. We see these gifts as a response to Jesus saying "I was hungry and you fed me," and they are part of a long history of Christians providing direct food aid to hungry brothers and sisters.

Bread for the World, whose tag line is "HAVE FAITH... END HUNGER," serves hungry people in a different way. This bipartisan Christian organization researches hunger-related issues that can be addressed by legislation. Christian citizens use this research to call on their members of Congress to make legislative changes that benefit hungry people.

As Christian citizens, our collective voice can have a significant effect on the daily lives of disadvantaged people. Certainly giving food directly is very gratifying, particularly if we are able to make a personal connection. In contrast, writing a letter can seem sterile and disconnected, but a legislative change encouraged by letter writing can result in increases in aid in the millions of dollars, far beyond what even a generous church like Westminster can provide. And a recent survey showed that it takes on average *just seven letters* for a congressional office to start tracking an issue. So your letter can move your senator or representative to act on behalf of hungry children.

So what is the message we want to send? This year's Offering of Letters is designated as **Feed Our Children**. Our child nutrition programs aid 29 million low income children annually. These programs provide nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and meals during the summer months when school is not in session. This support also includes the nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). But, these nutrition programs must



be renewed every five years, and 2015 is the year for renewal. Already one in five children in the United States live with food insecurity. We can't afford a reduction in the current level of aid. And this renewal must happen by this September, so our quick response is important.

How will this work? On June 14, in both the north entry and at the Bridge, we'll have tables with background information and addresses of our congressmen. You can copy a sample letter or write your own; you can complete it on the spot or take it with you and write in the quiet of your home. Members of our Peace and Justice Group will be at the tables to help, and we'll be happy to mail your letters. You can learn more about *Bread for the World* at their website: www.bread.org.

June 14 is also Flag Day, and it's no coincidence that we chose that day for our Offering of Letters. On this day when we celebrate our American citizenship, we can use that citizenship to help the least among us.



Soles for Haitian Souls

My name is Caitlin Pyles and I am collecting gently used or new shoes for the kids who attend the New Testament Mission in La Croix, Haiti. I have been to Haiti twice now and I have a special place in my heart for the people there.

Something I always look at in Haiti are the shoes. It always saddens me to see the condition of the people's shoes. The kids in Haiti have very old and beaten down shoes, shoes that don't fit them anymore, but they still wear them because it is the only pair of shoes they have, or no shoes at all.

When I was in Haiti, every afternoon I would go to the soccer field and watch the kids play soccer in very old shoes or no shoes at all. As I watched the kids play soccer, I saw so much joy on their faces. But I also saw things that made me sad, like watching kids sit on the side of the basketball court trying to fix their shoes as they were falling apart. I remember when one of the kids playing soccer took off his shoes to play, and I went over to look at his shoes. What I saw made my heart sink. I saw very old athletic slides that must have been worn for years, with very thin soles that looked like they were a couple of days away from getting a huge hole where the heel went and a huge rip in the top of the shoe. On one of the shoes, the part that went over the foot came completely off.

To be able to attend school, the children must have shoes. Not having a pair of shoes could be the only thing holding a kid back from receiving an education. Kids walk many miles in these shoes. They walk to school and church, play soccer and basketball, and go into town with these shoes – and wear these shoes for many years. Shoes also protect the kids from getting serious diseases and infections.

Please donate a pair of shoes to a kid in Haiti. This may be the last piece of the puzzle they need to receive an education that will shape their future.

– Caitlin Pyles

Join the Haiti Shoe Collection

Here are some tips on what shoes to look for and where to find them. Place your donation in one of the plastic bins near the white Gifting Tree bins. Thank you!

Girls: sandals, flip-flops, flats, dress shoes, crocs, Mary Janes, plain tennis shoes. Please no heels or boots.

Boys: tennis shoes, soccer shoes, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, crocs, athletic slides

Sizes: preschool kids' sizes to adult sizes, ages from 4 to 22

Sources: Walmart, Target, Sears, Payless, Kmart, Famous Footwear

Save the Date

Stop Hunger Now

Saturday, September 19
at Westminster

Volunteer to help package 100,000 meals for hungry children.

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.

We are partnering with Christ United Methodist Church to join the fight against hunger. We need over 800 total volunteers (400 Presbyterians and 400 Methodists) to make this one-day event a success.

More details will be available soon.

Save the Date

Westminster Family Charities Golf Outing

Monday, October 5

Westminster's Third Annual Golf Outing will be held Monday, October 5, 2015, at the Rolling Hills Country Club. Funds raised this year will benefit two local family charities: City Mission and Family Promise.

Make plans to join your friends for a fun filled day featuring golf, dinner, a Chinese auction of beautiful baskets, and fabulous items for silent auction. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this churchwide project, organized by the Deacons. All proceeds support Westminster mission partners, and the Outreach Commission oversees the stewardship of the contributions.

Brochures are located throughout the church with registration and sponsorship details. For questions regarding this event, please contact golf outing chairman, Randy Langlois, at 412-327-7957 or RLanglois@cardconnect.com.

Presbyterians *Singing* Our Faith

Since June 2014, we have been singing from the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*. Over the past year, we have begun to explore this large collection of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs – 852 numbers! The description under each hymn has drawn us into the meaning of the text and often the origin or character of the tune. Sunday to Sunday, we have learned a lot. As we begin our second year with *Glory to God*, we highlight the contribution of folk tunes – music of the people from many different cultures – to our hymnody.

The Protestant practice of hymn singing arose during the Reformation to bring congregations into active worship. Martin Luther, John Calvin, and other Reformers created collections of hymns that people would find attractive and easy to sing. Many of the tunes came from what we now call folk songs, music that was indigenous to the local culture. Over time, more and more of these folk tunes became part of our collective hymnody, as we can see from flipping through the pages of our new hymnal. *Glory to God* draws on a wide variety of folk tunes to proclaim the message of faith through hymn texts old and new. You'll find Argentine, American, Brazilian, Caribbean, English, Finnish, French, German, Ghanaian, Israeli, Irish, Swedish, Welsh folk melodies – and many more, including African-American spirituals and traditional melodies from countries throughout the world, as well as newer tunes composed in a folk style. It is a global list of songs that people like to sing. Enjoy this vibrant part of our hymnody and make a joyful noise to the Lord!



WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)

Summer Camp for Li'l WROCers This Summer!

BRICKS 4 KIDZ

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

On each day of camp, kids will build models based on the camp's theme and have time for free play with LEGO® bricks (all provided).



Session 1: June 15 - 19 PIRATE'S QUEST (ages 5 - 8)

Shiver me timbers as we explore the popular culture behind the life of a pirate. Build a motorized pirate ship, a helm, and an anchor as we batten down the hatches and prepare for mutiny. Protect the hands on deck by building a launching catapult. Beware me mateys, if it's too late, you must abandon ship and build a rowboat to escape. Watch out for crocodiles!

Session 2: July 13 - 17 MINING and CRAFTING (ages 5 - 8 and 9-12)

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 17 - 21 CLASH of BRICKS (ages 5 - 8)

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!

Each session: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – noon

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

Camp Directors: Andrew Egli and Ross Mlinac. Ross and Andrew have been working with kids in a children-focused business since 2008. Ross has been a coach for youth sports and an instructor for Imagination Yoga.

THE GALLERY AT WESTMINSTER

Over the summer months, enjoy the changing exhibits of visual art in Westminster's gallery.

Carl Palka

Carl Palka's exhibit runs through June with a delightful array of photographs that capture nature, still life, shapes, and patterns.

Jan Pini

June 30 through mid-August, we are delighted to welcome back artist Jan Pini to the gallery. Jan has created art since she was a young girl, but took a hiatus to raise two children and pursue a career as a software developer. After retiring, Jan returned to her artistic pursuits, taking workshops and exploring the mediums of pastel, graphite, oil, and watercolor. She most enjoys capturing the beauty of the nature and the personal intimacy of portraiture. She explains, "When beginning a painting or drawing, I try to express what impressed me about the scene, what stuck with me after I left the actual location. This could be the grandeur of the American Southwest or the intense concentration of a little boy playing in the sand. I constantly strive to have the viewers of my artwork feel as if they have entered into the scenes I have portrayed. Having others take pleasure in my work is a wonderful fulfillment."

Diane White

Then, mid-August through September, the oil paintings of Diane White will be on display. For Diane, art has been an important part of her life since childhood, a way she learned to express herself early on. Her work has taken many forms over the years, from decorative painted items to murals and, most recently, landscapes and still lifes. She now paints exclusively in oil, enjoying the texture of the canvas, the buttery feel of the paint on a brush, even the rich smell associated with the medium.

In creating a still life, Diane focuses on how light falls on a group of objects, and she illuminates the group in ways that will draw the viewer in. She often incorporates ordinary items such as take-out containers, coffee cups, and fast food paper wrappers in her compositions, believing these objects can be beautiful and interesting in their own way. She's coined these works "trash to treasure" paintings, where she'll often try to depict meaningful symbolism or provide a humorous twist. She also works carefully with color themes, interesting shadows, lost and found edges – hoping to entice the viewer to study each piece more closely.

We are thankful that Carl, Jan, and Diane will be exhibiting at Westminster this summer and encourage you to stop by to take a look at each display.



Wrapped Up in Love by Jan Pini



Front Row Seats by Diane White

WESTMINSTER Organ summer 2015

An Athletic Art

Playing the pipe organ is clearly an art when the playing results in beautiful music. But what's the connection to athletics? Organ playing may not be a sport, but it does require the physical skill and stamina of athletics. Both hands and both feet are engaged in intricate ways to create the art of music. Hands play notes on multiple keyboards – three in Westminster's sanctuary – often moving quickly from one to another in a kind of lively conversation between different sounds. Hands also pull stops, push buttons, and pull down tabs. The feet are also busy, playing notes from the bottom to the top of the pedal keyboard, pushing buttons, and operating levers to change the volume of sound. With hands and feet in action, an hour or two of playing the organ gives the organist quite a workout.

The physical part of making music on the organ is challenging, and when it is executed well, audiences are impressed. Yet the beauty of organ music comes when the physical skill combines with musicality to move the listener with the organ's unique expressive power. That's why Westminster finds the best organists around to play at Organ Summer. These organists have successfully reached beyond the athletic challenge to create musical art. The series opens with the return of rising national star Nicholas Capozzoli, who is continuing his organ studies at Oberlin Conservatory as a graduate student in historical performance.

Plan to come on Thursday afternoons to relax in the cool sanctuary and enjoy great music, including much you won't hear on Sunday mornings. The organ console will be placed in the middle of the chancel so that you will be entertained by listening and watching, and after the program you are welcome to take a close look at the organ. These casual (come as you are!) 30-minute concerts are friendly to all ages, and they are a great way to unwind at the end of the afternoon.

The 2015 series celebrates the fifth annual Westminster Organ Summer. Each series has been made possible 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. Please come and bring your friends to support fine organ music in Upper St. Clair.

June 18 – July 23

Thursdays at 5 p.m.

*Thirty Minutes of Exceptional
Organ Music*

June 18

Nick Capozzoli

Oberlin Conservatory of Music

June 25

Jeremy Bruns

Christ United Methodist

July 2

Luke Mayernik

St. Anne, Castle Shannon

July 9

Larry Allen

Mt. Lebanon Lutheran

July 16

Nathan Carterette

Church of the Redeemer

July 23

James Burns

Westminster Presbyterian



Enjoy Music in the Sanctuary

June 23

You're invited to a musical morning in the sanctuary on Tuesday, June 23, at 10:30 a.m. Join members of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) to hear Chatham Baroque, Pittsburgh's acclaimed chamber trio, and organist Reilly Lewis, director of the Washington Bach Consort. It will be a joyful morning of music, concluding at 11:45.

The AGO is the national professional organization of organists and choral directors. Its mission is to "enrich lives through organ and choral music." That enrichment comes from educational programs, excellence in performance, nurturing future generations of organists, and engaging wider audiences for organ and choral music. Pittsburgh is one of the largest chapters in the Mid-Atlantic region, which includes many prominent churches and two renowned conservatories of music, Curtis in Philadelphia and Peabody (part of Johns Hopkins University) in Baltimore, as well as numerous colleges and universities with strong music programs.

This month, Pittsburgh hosts the AGO's Mid-Atlantic convention, and Westminster is on the program. It is a great honor to be chosen as a venue. The regional convention last met in Pittsburgh in 1999, when an evening concert, also open to the public, featured Westminster's Austin organ. Sixteen years later, the Westminster program will be held during the day and will give AGO participants the opportunity to see the vibrancy of Westminster through the lens of music.

On June 23, plan to enjoy outstanding music as you show your support for the arts at Westminster and the work of the AGO. **Please park in the south lot and enter through the office or the church's front doors.** (Barefoot School will be busy on the north end.) There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will support the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AGO, sponsor of the convention.

For more information, contact Jim Burns at burns@westminster-church.org or Sara Kyle at sara@ruhlekyle.org.

Something New in Galbreath Chapel

Since its splendid renovation several years ago, Galbreath Chapel has become a much used gathering place at Westminster. Special worship services, weddings, and funerals have shared the schedule with Sunday seminars and various meetings and classes. It is a wonderful space where God is present and welcoming.

Music is an integral part of any worship space, and this summer the possibilities for music in Galbreath Chapel will grow dramatically. The long-awaited new Taylor and Boody pipe organ will grace the chapel with its physical and musical beauty. The organ, funded by a number of generous gifts, will serve God in worship and to nurture our spirits in public performances. The organ, funded by a number of generous gifts, will serve God both in worship and in nurturing our spirits through public performances. The organ will support congregational, choral, and solo singing alone and with other instruments.

Our organ is Taylor and Boody's Opus 67, a two-manual (keyboard) organ with pedals. Designed and custom built for Galbreath Chapel, it is a relatively small instrument for a relatively small room: a chamber organ for a chapel. The mechanism of the organ is tracker, or mechanical, action, which creates a direct link from the player's fingers on the keys to the pallets that let wind into the pipes. The link from the keyboard to the pallets is made by thin strips of wood called trackers. This type of construction lasts for many years with minimal maintenance. But more important for the art of music, it allows the organ player to control the flow of air into the pipe, which yields very expressive music.

Over the coming months, you will hear sweet sounds coming from Galbreath Chapel. Drop in and listen. Inspect the organ up close – the woodworking is remarkable. And mark your calendar for the dedicatory recital on Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. We are honored to have organist Alan Lewis, director of music at Calvary Episcopal Church, and soprano Sara Botkin present the program. In the meantime, watch the bulletin for notice of a brief service of dedication following Sunday worship.

BODY AND SOUL

Extending the Membrane

What does “faith community” mean to us when it comes to health? How do we face the more difficult health challenges in our midst and in the larger community? Do we engage with compassion or do we consciously disengage? Do we show both empathy and humility when we help others within and beyond our community? Do we work to overcome the stigma and bias that are associated with some health problems?

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has lectured on religion, evolution, and the ecstasy of self-transcendence. (Watch the lecture here: http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_humanity_s_stairway_to_self_transcendence.) Essentially, humans are cooperative creatures and things go much better when we work together – when we lose ourselves to become part of the whole. It is uplifting! While Haidt’s subject is not specifically health, his remarks offer insight into how we can effectively address health issues that involve stigma and bias.

As humans, we have evolved to form collaborating communities, and the biological “wiring” in support of this behavior is powerful. The implication of a community, however, is the establishment of a barrier: us vs. them. Haidt uses the “membrane” as a metaphor to describe how Mother Nature solved the problems that arise when we become selfless within the safety, or limits, of our group, our community.

What can we do to “extend the membrane” of community to include, truly, those we intend to help? How can we look at someone with significant obesity, or with a cigarette in his mouth, or finishing her sixth alcoholic beverage in two hours, as us and not them? As we work to extend the membrane, to overcome our biases, we enhance our caring and strengthen our faith community.

– Joe Gitchell

Joe Gitchell is a health policy expert from Bethesda, MD, and a member of the Beth Chai Congregation, a Jewish congregation that includes all members of interfaith families.

As we work to extend the membrane, to overcome our biases, we enhance our caring and strengthen our faith community.



Volunteers among Us

Ruth McMillen and her sister Joni became members of Westminster Church shortly after Jim Gilchrist became our senior pastor. As a way to get to know other church members, Ruth and Joni responded right away to a volunteer plea in the bulletin from Jan Baumann. They have both been ushers for the 11:00 worship service. And, currently, they share a once-a-month afternoon at the volunteer receptionist desk in the church office.

Growing up in a small church in Oakmont, Ruth was delighted to find a church of Westminster’s size to be so warm, caring, and friendly. Ruth is a retired elementary school teacher and Joni is a retired home economics teacher. In the community where they currently live, they volunteer for their homeowners’ association when needed, such as when they developed the association’s emergency procedures and membership directory. Additionally, they are both avid Fenton Glass collectors and belong to the National Fenton Glass Society. They enjoy the annual glass conventions in Ohio, along with the glass auction held there.

Volunteering during retirement has given both Ruth and Joni multiple ways to stay involved and keep their minds active. Ruth adds that being needed while making a contribution is fulfilling. Besides, volunteering is a great way to get to know people of the church and community. Ruth says, “We just love Westminster.”

– Kris Overstreet

Life Care Transitions Planning

What My Loved Ones Need to Know



Many of us have firsthand experience with a family member or close friend becoming ill, disabled, or dying. Planning for life's inevitable events of death and/or disability 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.

Vital Information

Too often, loved ones faced with a healthcare crisis are forced into a scavenger hunt to find the information and documents they need:

- Mom said her will and advance directive are in the safety deposit box – which bank and where is the key?
- Dad was a veteran and felt strongly about having military honors – where are his discharge papers?
- My sister's calendar for tomorrow lists Vet – what is the veterinarian's name and address, and which pet has the appointment?
- Aunt Mary was thinking about a reverse mortgage – did she ever do that, and where are those papers?
- Uncle Billy had specific funeral ideas – what was that hymn he loved so much?

Healthcare Wishes

Planning for death and disability is an acknowledgement that death is inevitable; it also allows us to make our wishes known to those who will implement them. Making healthcare decisions for loved ones who are not able to make those decisions themselves is an overwhelming responsibility. During an emergent situation, dealing with these issues is even more challenging.

You can decrease the trauma your loved ones experience by putting your wishes in writing, and verbally sharing your wishes with those who will make decisions for you. This is one of the most compelling discussions you will ever have with the people closest to you. Providing them with the tools they need decreases

the burden of making decisions for you. Sharing your healthcare wishes with your loved ones allows them to direct your care, secure in the knowledge that this is what you want.

Life Care Transitions Planner

We are developing a planner that will help you reflect on your healthcare wishes and provide information your loved ones need to know. It is your private information that can be updated whenever you wish, and it is available only to those you wish to have it. This planner does not substitute for legal, healthcare, or professional advice. Your *Life Care Transitions Planner* is designed in four sections to help you identify what needs to be planned.

- I. Personal Information
- II. Estate Planning – Accounts; Will; Trusts; Power of Attorney
- III. Healthcare Directives – Living Will; Healthcare Power of Attorney
- IV. End of Life Directives – Advance Directives; Funeral/Memorial Service

Planning and making arrangements for your disability/death allows you to make decisions yourself rather than placing the burden entirely on your loved ones. This planner provides some guidance for life care decisions as well as an opportunity to record your personal wishes. I am available to assist you in planning your memorial service and can file a copy of that plan at Westminster.

In the event that you are not able to make decisions for yourself, completing this *Life Care Transitions Planner* now will give the person(s) you designate the required information to fulfill your final wishes. When you have completed the planner and shared it with your loved ones, you have taken a step toward helping them cope with your death or disability as well as making sure your wishes will be implemented.

We expect the planner will be available to you this fall; please refer to the weekly bulletin for updates.

– Tammy Yeager



PET Remembrance SERVICE

**Sunday, June 14
2:00 p.m. in the North 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 – have recently lost a pet, please join us on Sunday, June 9, at 2:00 p.m. in the north courtyard. All family members, including pets that are still with you, are invited and encouraged to come.

Hearts and Paws Pet Ministry of Christ United Methodist Church and the Pet Ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church

invite you to the

12th Annual Pet Adoption and Care Fair



**Saturday, June 20, 2015
9:30 am – 2:30 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Visit with local animal rescue groups and service providers.

Enjoy dog agility demonstrations, pony rides, and great food.

See what's new in pet-related products.

No admission fee.

For more information call 412-277-1096.

Volunteers are needed for Friday night and all day Saturday. If you'd like to sign up, please contact Beth Ketterman at 412-589-1006 or kettermanb@comcast.net.

Financial Report

As of April 30, 2015

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual	\$ 661,548.95
Annual Budget	\$ 2,073,722.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$ 1,412,173.05

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$ 782,686.95
Expenses	\$ 776,583.05
Net Position	\$ 6,103.90

Session Update

On May 18, Session welcomed six new adult members into our fellowship. Session also extended support and blessings to Tammy Yeager as she prepares to focus on prayer and devotion during her sabbatical, June 18 through August 15. A "Taste and See" initiative is being planned for September, to invite everyone to learn more about and participate in all the ways that Westminster seeks to be a lively community of faith, loving God and our neighbors.

After months of prayer and discerning together, and having provided a number of opportunities for congregational discussion, Session voted to permit two persons of the same sex to be married at Westminster, subject to the pastors' discretion and consistent with recently approved changes in the Presbyterian *Book of Order*. A letter and email describing the Session's decision was to be sent immediately to the congregation, and a sermon offering a fuller explanation was planned for all three services on May 31.

Westminster Archives 2015

Archives has been on hold, but now we are back. Please stop by Room 231 and look at our display case.

We need a few people willing to serve on our committee and donate a little time. It's a great way to learn about Westminster Church and Upper St. Clair from decades past – and to enjoy the fellowship of working together.

If you have any old church memorabilia, please consider giving it to us. We need dates and names if these are photographs. Thank you.

To learn more about the committee, please contact Gwen Fraser at 724-288-5290.

Mary Baumiller





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

The *Lord*
watch between you and me,
when we are absent one
from the other.

Genesis 31:49