



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Human Nature

National Public Radio held its fall fund drive recently. Only a small percentage of listeners actually contribute, apparently, so NPR and its local affiliates have to come up with ways to encourage more people to help pay for this service they all enjoy.

One NPR personality tried a novel approach. He asked listeners to email the names and phone numbers of friends who might contribute if they received a personal call from someone on the air. The network played a recording of a listener who was surprised to receive a call, then sputtered awkwardly for a moment about why he had not supported his local station, and finally said he would send some money, since he really did enjoy the programs. Rather good naturedly, the listener said his friends knew he had a reputation for liking to get "free stuff," but there really was no reason why he couldn't share a bit of the cost himself.

People use the term "human nature" to explain why, for example, so many individuals are content to let other people pay for the things they want to have available, with little or no cost to themselves. But human nature isn't much of an explanation, because in fact some human beings are generous and others are not. The question is, what kind of nature, or character, does each of us want to have?

Church is a community that tries to cultivate a certain kind of character.



We encourage people to become more like Jesus, since he is the one who embodies the nature God wants us to have. We were made to grow into the image of Christ, and we can get some idea of our progress by asking ourselves whether Jesus would be pleased by any particular thing we're inclined to do.

Can you imagine Jesus taking advantage of free stuff, if that means becoming a "free rider," as economists say – someone who wants to enjoy the benefits of public goods without sharing any of the costs? The very idea is absurd, since we know, as St. Paul said, that though he was with God, Jesus emptied himself out and became like us, giving his whole life in order to save us from our sin and bring us back to God.

Human nature is an ambiguous thing, full of competing tendencies. Part of us

is self-centered, wanting the most we can get for as little cost as possible. This helps to explain the otherwise peculiar fact that the more wealth and income people have, the lower the percentage they share, on average, with those outside their own families.

On the other hand, human nature that's becoming more like Christ is a generous nature. It's not content to let other people bear the costs, or quick to rationalize self-interest. Jesus said, "From those to whom much has been given, much will be expected." And Jesus practices what he preaches. He shows us a human nature we can admire, and the kind of person we could become.

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Contemporary Worship**

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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

Thanks Be to God

America's November holiday is Thanksgiving, a time to gather with family and friends and give thanks – thanks of many kinds, including thanks to our gracious God for his many blessings to us. In our church family, November brings other opportunities to express our gratitude to God. First, we remember all the faithful who have gone to the church triumphant. And then in gratitude for God's grace and mercy to us, we renew our pledges of money, time, and talent in service to the work of Christ's church. On November 20, the traditional church year ends as we celebrate Christ the King, ruler for eternity. The following Wednesday we come together on Thanksgiving Eve to worship God with praise and thanksgiving. Finally, on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, a new church year begins with Advent, a season of hope and expectation for Christ's coming into the world and for his coming again at the end of time. Our hearts are grateful for the gift of Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God now and forevermore.

Thanks Be to God



Upcoming

1
NOV All Saints' Day

6
NOV Stewardship
Commitment
Sunday

18
NOV Chatham
Baroque
Concert
Galbreath Chapel
7:30 p.m.

20
NOV Christ the
King Sunday;
Organ and
Oboe Concert
Galbreath Chapel
4:00 p.m.

23
NOV Thanksgiving
Eve Service
*Christ United
Methodist Church*
7:30 p.m.

27
NOV First Sunday
of Advent

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel



November 6, 13, 20

Love and Connection: Relationships as a Reflection of God's Love

Hetz and Barbara Marsh

How can we connect with others through our faith? Most of us have many relationships in our lives: friendships, work colleagues, families, neighbors. Relationships in our lives deepen our understanding of ourselves and others, but they are not always easy to negotiate. This seminar series will focus on God's call to us to be in relationships that nourish others and help us to deepen our relationship with God as well as with those whom we love.

Hetz Marsh is a retired Presbyterian minister and pastoral counselor. His first call after seminary was Westminster Church, where he served as associate pastor. Barbara Marsh is a retired psychologist who worked in private practice, part of which involved work at Westminster's Counseling Center. The Marshes have returned to Westminster as members and are enjoying the connection with new and old friends .

Beginning on November 27, the Advent series begins with Samuel Calian, President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Theology of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Aftermath

So here we are. November. In just a few days after press, our nation will have a new President. A few hours after that, roughly half of our nation will be really happy, while slightly less than half will be really upset. I bring that up not to suggest who anybody should vote for (For one thing, I'm not allowed, and for another, who would listen to a youth pastor's opinion on politics?), but to point out a stark reality. This cultural moment is fertile, fertile ground for the gospel.

One of the passages I take to heart comes from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We take as the central understanding of the Christian faith that God wants to redeem fallen humanity. As far away as we may choose to run, God pursues, God engages, and God carries us back into right relationship. It's reconciliation. Where once there was a great divide between humanity and God, there is now nearness and love and grace. How great is that!

But this gift is not something to be passively received. It also happens to be the example we follow, the ministry we are given. Paul calls it the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to find the places where there are chasms between ourselves and our neighbors, and quite like God, replace them with nearness and love and grace. This can be hard work. It can be daunting. It can be near impossible. But anyone who has participated in the ministry of reconciliation will tell you that it's also beautiful, life giving, and encouraging. We look at what God has done for us, and we participate in it ourselves.

And this is why the moment we find ourselves in now is such a beautiful opportunity. I'm writing this nearly a month before you're reading it, so I have no earthly idea how this election is going to go. Maybe your chosen candidate won, maybe they didn't.



We take as the central understanding of the Christian faith that God wants to redeem fallen humanity.

Either way, you still have a ministry to participate in. You have an opportunity to find division and strife, and bridge the divides. We have an opportunity to hold back on divisive Facebook posts and tweets, and instead ask how we can work toward healing. And yes, it will be hard work. It will be challenging. It will be exhausting. But in this case it will literally be God's work. In this fertile ground, reconciliation is possible in so many places it's dizzying. Where will you work toward it?

So as we approach the end of this election season, let's remember the divides that God crossed on our behalf. Let's remember that our default position ought to be to work on reconciliation, whether we are the victors or the defeated. Let's remember that when we reconcile with our brothers and sisters, we are participating in building something beautiful!

Grace and peace.

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Incomplete. Therefore, in my control. This is a fallacy that I have told myself over and over again for the last few decades. If I don't complete something, then I am, by a matter of semantics, "still working on it," and if I'm still working on it, there's time to improve it. Again – this is all fallacy based on the notion that once something is finalized, it is ready for critique, and critique is not in my control.

I'd rather have control.

Have you ever been in this boat? If I don't apply, they can't reject me. If I don't finish the project, I can't fail. If I don't reach out, they can't ignore me. If I don't forgive them, they can't hurt me. I suppose we do this to protect ourselves, but you and I both know that it's an ineffective system.

Incompletion does not yield control. Incompletion breeds poor discipline. *Discipline* is an interesting word in this context – its root means "instruction or knowledge," but its use in language has developed to mean "punishment and correction." Many of us want instruction and knowledge, but few of us want punishment or correction. It's this unwillingness to be corrected that leads us to walk away from half-started projects. However, it's only through a combination of both instruction *and* correction that we gain the result we all desire: completion and accolade.

We want to be accepted, we want to succeed, we want to belong, but we never reach any of these (not so small) victories without laying a completed project at someone's feet and awaiting their critique – for better or worse. One day each of our projects of life will be complete, and the product of who we are and who we have become will be set at the feet of our risen Savior. Is this a project that you have walked away from? Is this a task that you have left incomplete? Whose accolades do you desire?

Here's another way to ask the question: One of your masters will say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Which master is it?

We can't walk away from the projects that our Creator has tasked us with. We must first love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We must love our friends, neighbors, and enemies as we love ourselves. We must devote ourselves to the comforting of those who mourn and the raising of those who are trampled. We must do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly hand in hand with a God and Savior who loves and guides. This is not a project we can leave incomplete because of a crude desire for control and a misguided fear of failure.

Incompletion is not control. Correction is not punishment. Imperfect completion is not failure.

Challenge yourself to complete the tasks, conversations, and endeavors that you have set aside. If you're interested in some guidance, or want to bounce a few thoughts around, just let me know.

– Ed Sutter



**We can't walk away from
the projects that our Creator
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who loves and guides.**

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

“Your job is to carry me.”

During a recent lecture, Mitch Albom shared some of his experiences running an orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Prominent among them was the story of Chika, a young girl from the orphanage, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Albom and his wife care for her in their American home, allowing her access to better medical care. Like many young children, Chika wants “Mr. Mitch” to stay at home and play. When he says he needs to go to work, she responds with “No, you don’t; your job is to carry me.”

Hold on to this thought – we’ll come back to it....

This fall’s Sacrament Education class, a group of 19 young elementary students and their parents, was discussing baptism – the sacrament that points us toward our place in God’s family. We began with the children sharing about their own families – the family they know best, living and playing together. “What’s special about being in your family?” I asked.

“They love you – always.”

“It’s where you feel cared about.”

“They take care of you – no matter what.”

“Families keep you safe.”

“They help you when stuff is hard.”

Hold those thoughts too....

I’ve been reading John’s Gospel this last week – and two verses sort of leapt off the page:

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:16-17 NIV)

Now let me try to put it all together:

One of the points we make with the children as we talk about baptism is that God chooses us. He makes the first moves to call us into relationship with him. We see this throughout the Bible: God speaks first to Abraham, to Moses, to Jonah, to Samuel, to David. Jesus says to each of his disciples: “Follow me.” We have the opportunity to respond to God’s call, but the first move, the invitation, is his.

Children begin to understand this idea when we talk about their families: children don’t choose their families, but are, in one way or another, chosen. And then they begin to learn what it’s like to be in a family by living in a family. The children describe how they feel as a member of a family: cared for and protected, kept safe and fed – in a word, loved.

Which is the same way it feels to be chosen by God, isn’t it? To know that God calls us to him in order to love and care for us. To help us and protect us. And then to challenge us to grow.

Because God isn’t satisfied just to love us. All through the Bible, God expects a response from us. Not in payment for what he freely offers, but because we truly love him, and can’t help but respond in kind. In the verses above, Jesus commands us to love one another. To bear witness to God’s love for us by living out that love in our actions toward the people in our world, both far and near.

“It’s your job to carry me.”

In a way, of course, that’s my cry to God. (Maybe it’s yours, too?) And God does. He lifts me up and holds me close, comforting and supporting me when I need it. Just like a parent does when a child falls and skins a knee. But just like a good parent, God doesn’t just cuddle me. He sets me back on my feet and says, “Try it again. You’ve got this.”

And then God says, “Go pick up someone else. Someone needs you to carry him.”

Who needs to be carried today, in my world? Who is it that God has called me to serve? I’ll be looking for that answer, today and every day.

– Robin Pyles

Save the Date – Advent Celebrations Are Coming!

Westminster’s Christian Education programs invite you to join us for any (or all) of the variety of family-oriented Advent celebrations that are coming up soon. Please mark your calendars for these activities, and watch for additional information in the bulletin, on the website, and in weekly emails.

Advent Festival
Sunday, November 20
10:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy lunch with our church family, make an Advent Wreath to share with a home-bound church member, and enjoy Advent activities.



Breakfast at the Manger
Saturday, December 3
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a delicious breakfast, experience the story of the First Christmas, and participate in crafts, games, and fun.



Gingerbread House Factory
Friday, December 9
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy supper with our church family and work together as a family to decorate your own Gingerbread House.



Who Is My Neighbor?

My daughter Sarah and I had an afternoon ritual when she was a little girl. We would watch *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. We loved the stories, the field trips, the make believe. We liked the homey security of the way that he began each show in the same way: donning his sweater and sneakers, singing a song while he did. Do you remember that song? Mr. Rogers sang:

*It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?...
Won't you be my neighbor?
Won't you please,
Won't you please?
Please won't you be my neighbor?*

And with that we embarked on a half-hour adventure of meeting friends, imaginary and real, and learning how diverse the people were in Mr. Rogers' neighborhood – and ours.

All these many years later I cherish those memories. They bring to mind a poignant question that Jesus addressed, too. Who is my neighbor? Is my neighbor my closest friend? Is my neighbor my spouse or my child? Is my neighbor the person who looks like me, talks like me, works and earns like me, believes like me, lives like me? Who is my neighbor?

Jesus addressed this question one day when the Pharisees made one of their many attempts to trap Jesus, trying to make him look foolish. The Pharisee asked him, "Which commandment is the greatest?" Without blinking an eye, Jesus replied,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV)

"Love God with all that you have and are," Jesus said was the greatest commandment. "Love your neighbor as yourself" was the second. All of the law and the prophets are built on the foundation of these two commands. It's interesting to note that Jesus never defined what the neighbor looked, sounded, or acted like. He just said that we were to be in loving relationship with God and our neighbor. Did Jesus forget to mention who our neighbors are? Not likely. A clue is probably found in other things that Jesus said. Words like, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

Apparently we are to love friends *and* enemies alike. Jesus drew a very large circle around those whom we are to love. Who is my



neighbor? "Everybody" is Jesus' likely answer. The rich and the poor are our neighbors. Men and women are our neighbors. The young and the old are our neighbors. People of all faiths are our neighbors. People of no faith are our neighbors. The Democrat and the Republican are our neighbors. The Syrian, the French, the Malawian, the Haitian, the U.S. American, the Brazilian, the Chinese, the Canadian, the Russian – all are our neighbors.

What a challenge in our global village where there is such diversity of opinion, belief, and behavior. Jesus' words don't help us build walls between us and our neighbors. Instead, Jesus just says "love your neighbors" not too many chapters after he admonishes us to love our enemies. Who is my neighbor? Everyone is my neighbor. What a challenge! What a joyful opportunity!

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman

Fall 2016

Rummage-Recycling Sale



Saturday, November 12

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, November 11

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

Please donate only clean and usable items. Magazines, textbooks, large pieces of furniture, and broken or unusable items will not be accepted. Leftover goods will be donated to local mission and 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. Each person will have a specific job. We also need donations of salads and desserts for the volunteers' lunches both days.

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

Oh, What a Night!

On Saturday, September 24, the Deacons hosted their first ever gala at St. Clair Country Club. Our SHIMmering Soirée raised \$31,000 to benefit SHIM, South Hills Interfaith Movement.

It was a fun-filled evening where we gathered with friends and family to support this worthy mission. We had an excellent meal, enjoying the music of Jason Freyer and his band as we ate. This was followed by our basket raffle and live and silent auctions. The prizes were amazing! Some folks were fortunate enough to win Penguins and Steelers tickets, while others went home with beautiful designer jewelry and purses. Many secured amazing sports memorabilia, and three lucky people bid on and won dream vacations. Twenty-three magnificent baskets were raffled and happily received.

However, the best gift that any of us left with is the knowledge that we positively affected the lives of others in need. The Deacons thank you for your support.

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

Deuteronomy 15:11

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Music & Arts Series

Organ & Oboe

Jim Burns, organ
Cynthia Anderson, oboe
Sunday, November 20
4:00 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

Organist Jim Burns will present a program of music from the early Baroque to the present day – music you're not likely to hear on Sunday mornings. Featuring small scale works such as dance and song variations, this music is ideal for the small space of Galbreath Chapel.

Guest oboist Cynthia Anderson will perform seldom heard works by Hertel and Chedeville as well as the popular "Gabriel's Oboe" from the motion picture *The Mission*. The concert will conclude with Dan Locklair's "Salem Sonata," an energetic and jubilant piece based on Moravian hymn tunes.

A reception in the church gallery follows the program. Free admission – freewill offering.

Chatham Baroque at Westminster

Friday, November 18
7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

The Art of the Trio: Music from Across Baroque Europe

Chatham Baroque's annual trio concert is an armchair tour of a vast and varied musical terrain. Shifting from transcriptions of J.S. Bach to chamber music at the court of Versailles, and from the florid, Italianate craft of Corelli to the Englishman Playford, the program also includes a newly composed work written for Chatham Baroque and recently premiered in Vermont.

For more information and ticket prices, visit www.chathambaroque.org or call 412-687-1788.



Spotlight on *Fitness* at the WROC

Why enroll in the WROC fitness programs and not a health club? Because we offer more than programs. The WROC is part of something bigger. It is part of a family—first the church family and then our extended community. We help to quiet the discomfort or intimidation that bubbles up when walking into a fitness center for the first time. The WROC instructors care for the whole person through prayer, encouragement, and knowledge of health and fitness. Try your first class free—you'll feel the difference! Visit our website at wroc.westminster-church.org for a complete list of all WROC fitness classes.

Total Body Sculpt

If you are looking to strengthen and sculpt your body, we have just the class. Total Body Sculpt is designed to shape and tone the body using body bars, dumb bells, bands, tubes, and loops (all provided). The class is fun and challenging for all fitness levels. All major upper, mid, and lower body muscle groups will be challenged to encourage muscle strength and flexibility.

Tuesdays: 6:30–7:30 p.m. and Saturdays: 8:00–9:00 a.m.

Aerobics and Strength Training

This class provides low impact cardio training, which protects the joints but still gets the heart pumping. Strength training/toning for the upper, lower, and mid body using a variety of exercise equipment is incorporated. This is a high energy class with a variety of fun music.

Workout is adaptable to a range of fitness levels (from beginner to very fit) and ages.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Instructor Cindy Egeland has 20+ years of experience with a training specialty in exercise safety. Cindy's philosophy is to provide safe, challenging workouts with the goal of exercising for longevity. All ages and fitness levels will be appropriately challenged by Cindy's classes.



Pilates Flow (55+ Friendly)

This class is a fusion of barre, Pilates, and yoga with an emphasis on core conditioning and balance. Using your own body weight, Pilates rings, body balls, and light hand weights, this class strengthens and tones muscles, improves posture and flexibility, and elongates muscles. Pilates Flow is 55+ friendly but there are plenty of modifications to make this a challenging class for any fitness level.

Mondays: 8:00–9:00 a.m.

Cardio Strength Fusion – A.M. (55+ Friendly)

Never boring and suitable for beginner to advanced exercisers, this class incorporates a fusion of exercise styles with focus on both aerobic and strength elements. Expect various types of high- and low-impact cardiovascular exercise including aerobics, dance, boot camp, and cardio kickboxing. In addition, strength training with weights, yoga, and/or Pilates will be incorporated into the exercise sessions.

Wednesdays and Fridays: 8:00–9:00 a.m.

Cardio Strength Fusion – P.M. (Higher Intensity)

Just like the Cardio Strength A.M. class but more intense!

Mondays: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Instructor Pam Hart is a holistic health coach, nationally certified in group fitness and weight training for women, with more than 25 years teaching experience. Pam believes that even if you have not been active before, it's never too late to improve your health. Pam incorporates this optimism and encouragement in all of her classes.



Worldwide Westminster

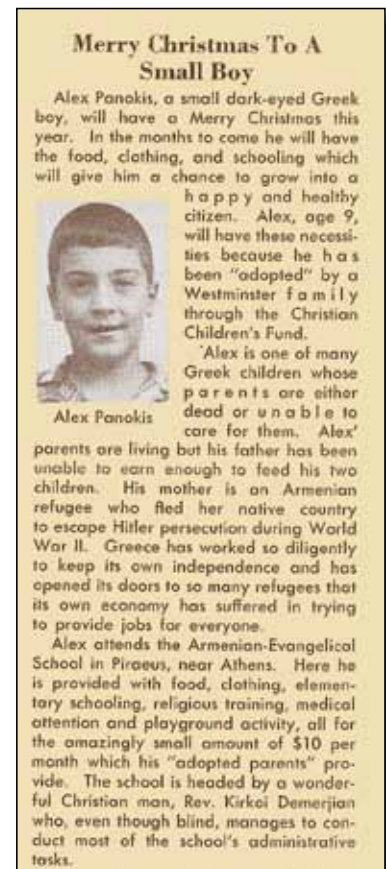
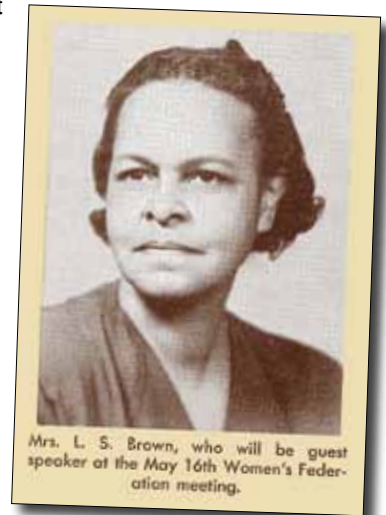
Even from its earliest days when Upper St. Clair was a sleepy, rural community, Westminster has maintained a strong commitment to being a part of the world community of faith. A trip through the *Spire* archives provided insights into the range and depth of Westminster's participation in healing the world. Reading them reminds us of our continuing responsibility to serve God's people near and far.

This month features the 1950s, how the young church was actively reaching out worldwide to neighbors in need. Read about the refugees helped by Westminster members and about world missionaries who came to the church to talk about their work.

- The cover of the September 1956 *Spire* spoke of Westminster's Displaced Persons Committee. It defined displaced persons as those who "due to war, have been in concentration camps, or sought refuge in another country to evade oppression in Iron Curtain countries. After the war they either could not or did not wish to return to their native countries. Westminster had applied to assist a 23-year-old pre-med student, a couple in their 60s, and a family of four. As sponsors, Westminster was responsible for housing and jobs for them. Stephen Oei from **Dutch Indonesia** was a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II. Mr. and Mrs. Sax also came from Dutch Indonesia. "When the Japanese invaded, the Saxes joined the underground and were captured." Mr. and Mrs. Krsto Stokov were **Bulgarians living in Italy** when they were sponsored.
- March 1957 saw Westminster sponsoring more refugees. This time it was six citizens of **Hungary**. Susan was 19 and staying with Dr. and Mrs. W.B. Carson. Zoltan was 36 and stayed with the Richard Dittmer family. Zoltan was a pilot during World War II. He was captured by the Russians in 1944 and spent nine years in Russian Work camps. His entire family except for a sister had been wiped out either in the war, the revolt, or in slave camps. His father was a Presbyterian chaplain killed in the war. Frank, 29, was at the Dwight Koerber home. Another Frank, 18, was housed with the Len Nesgoda family. As the *Spire* notes, "Frank left his mother, stepfather, and two brothers living in Hungary although he believes one brother may have escaped. Frank's father died some years ago in a Soviet prison camp. Frank took part in the revolt and fled to keep from being sent to Siberia." Tamas, 18, was placed with the John Fricke family. Bela, 19 joined Mr. and Mrs. Watson S. Ross.



- May 1957's issue noted that Mrs. L. S. Brown, the wife of the director of Gillespie-Selden Institute in Cordele, Georgia, was to speak at the church. The institute was one of those supported by the Presbyterian Board of National Missions in the United States, **Alaska**, and the **West Indies**. Their project included a daycare center, a school of practical nursing, a youth center, an adult education program with counseling and guidance service, a community library, a recreation program for all age groups, and boarding home for teenage girls who attended the new public school.
- Just before Christmas in 1957, the *Spire* wrote of Alex Panokis, from **Greece**, explaining that "In the months to come he will have food, clothing, and schooling which will give him a chance to grow into a happy and healthy citizen. Alex, age 9, will have these necessities because he has been 'adopted' by a Westminster family through the Christian Children's Fund."
- Miss Alice Arey, a recently retired missionary to **Cuba**, spoke to the Women's Federation in May 1958.
- "The Middle East" was the theme of the family night session in 1959. One speaker was the Rev. Dr. Walter R. Clyde, Professor of Christian Education and Missions, Western Theological Seminary. He had just spent a sabbatical leave in **Beirut, Lebanon**, where he taught at the Near School of Theology and held classes at the Beirut College for Women.



– Carolyn Kerr

What the Deacons Do

Flower Deliveries Blossom into Friendships

In a few weeks, the congregation will gather for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons. We all know that the elders are the governing body of the church, but have you ever asked yourself what the deacons do? We are the caregivers of the church, who work to give comfort to those in need, within our congregation and around the community. This will be the first article in a series titled "What the Deacons Do."

This month's topic is flower delivery. Do you ever wonder what happens to the magnificent floral arrangements that adorn our chancel every Sunday? The Chancel Guild divides them into gorgeous bouquets that are then distributed by the deacons to members who are shut-in, grieving, or recovering from illness. How could this small gesture make a difference, you might ask?

After heading to Friendship Village for one such delivery, I met with a lovely lady who had recently had hip surgery. Her recovery wasn't progressing as quickly as she had anticipated. She relayed

that it was difficult to do the everyday things that she enjoyed most. As I listened to her, I arranged her flowers in a vase, which immediately brought a glowing smile to her face. She said that it was just what she needed to cheer her up. We sat and talked for over an hour, enjoying each other's company while sharing stories and laughter.

One of our deacons and her husband brought flowers to a person they hadn't seen in a number of years. They talked, renewed their friendship, and now get together for monthly dinners.

Another gentle lady appreciated her gift, and it turned out that the day she received her flowers was the anniversary of her husband's passing. She thought the flowers were a beautiful tribute to his life. Because her surgery left her unable to drive, the visit resulted in weekly pickups for Sunday services until she was on her feet again.

The stories we hear are too numerous to mention here, but we know that these flower deliveries have made a difference in people's lives, and it isn't just about the flowers. The Lord has put us here to minister to others in his name. If you know of someone who would benefit from a ray of sunshine, please contact Dave Fetterman.

— Andrée Jeffrey

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Report

As of September 30, 2016

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$1,429,779.39
Annual Budget	\$1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$556,220.61

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$1,684,541.00
Expenses	\$1,678,376.34
Net Position	\$6,164.66

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first nine months, and we are pleased to report that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments. However, as you can see above, we still have approximately 28% of our 2016 budgeted contributions yet to be fulfilled.

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

Online Giving with MyWPC

In the September *Spire*, we introduced MyWPC, a secure online tool that will help members stay connected with Westminster's activities and events, as well as manage personal information and giving.

With the upcoming stewardship season, MyWPC makes pledging and giving a quick and easy process while allowing you access to monitor your giving throughout the year.

Visit the church website at www.westminster-church.org and click on MyWPC in the upper, right-hand corner. Read about all of the benefits of using this new church tool.

When you're ready, click on the Login to MyWPC button:

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

For instructions on using MyWPC to set up your 2017 pledge and to make online donations, please click the Give button, also in the upper, right-hand corner of the church website.

Questions about online pledging, giving, or using MyWPC may be directed to Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or hiner@westminster-church.org.

Remembering All the Saints

On Sunday, October 30, we honored the memory of Westminster's members who died over the past year as we remembered God's faithful people through the ages in the unity of believers past and present.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

Revelation 14:13



The Rev. John Beams

Janice Billingsley

Lynne Blasche

Earl Bugaile

Curtis Campbell, Sr.

Dr. George Carrick

Janet Cook

Sidney Davis

Donald Dempsey

Melice (Mimi) Esherick

Sandra Fisch

Juanita Fodor

Florence Freeman

Rob Furry

David Glenn

Robert Hardy

Doris Wheeler Hartman

Helen Hawkins

George Herchenroether

Richard Langston

June Magdsick

Roger Meyer

Robert Nicholson

Jacquelyn Olson

Richard & Nancy (Honey) Rice

Ada Rossin

George Walker

Memorial Flowers

Beautiful memorial flowers illustrate God's glory and enhance our worship experience each week in the sanctuary. Bouquets frequently welcome us in the narthex. Chancel Guild manages the memorial flower program and determines the price for the memorials. Beginning in January 2017, flower memorials are \$45, the first increase in many years. Donors may arrange to donate flowers by contacting Peg Kinsey. If a donor wishes to take their donated memorial flowers after worship, please notify Peg Kinsey when scheduling the memorial flowers donation.

— Joy Mahrer and Marsha Gnagey, Coordinators of the Chancel Guild





Christmas Poinsettias

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. The beautiful poinsettias throughout Westminster during the Christmas season are the result of generous contributions by our members and friends. Use the form below and make your check payable to the Chancel Guild. Mail the form and your check to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate. Contributions must be received no later than **Monday, December 19**, so your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

No poinsettias will be disbursed on Christmas Eve. Please indicate if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a shut-in.



Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

Memorial Honoree

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

Deliver poinsettia to shut-in Will pick up poinsettia on Tuesday, December 27, or Wednesday, December 28, or Thursday, December 29 (9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) **NOTE: The church is closed on Monday, December 26.**

My Name _____

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by Monday, December 19.

Session Update

On October 17, Session welcomed 16 new members to the congregation, many of whom are already active in the life of the congregation.

Session also heard of a tentative plan for Jason Freyer to be ordained at Westminster on the afternoon of Sunday, January 8, when he would also be hired in a capacity similar to his current role, but with the additional ability to serve as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Meanwhile, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was to hold its initial meeting with a representative of the Presbytery the following day, October 18.

Correction

The photo in the October "Westminster at 70" feature is Mrs. R.L. Hutchinson, not Emily Goodrich.



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

Give *thanks* to the *Lord*, for he is good,
for his steadfast *love* endures forever.

Psalm 136:1