



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Taste and See

Bring a friend to church and “taste and see that the Lord is good,” as the psalmist says. Some of us experience that truth almost daily in our life together, and we invite you to join us on September 13 to discover how God is doing great things in and through Westminster Church.

Worship will be lively, with the choir singing in the sanctuary at 8:30 and 11:00 and the Bridge band leading in the WROC at 9:45. The Fellowship Hall and other locations will have displays about all that goes on at Westminster for children, youth, and adults: small groups and classes, recreational and fellowship activities, a huge array of mission and service opportunities, resources to care for individuals and families, and all sorts of ways to get involved and experience the goodness and love of God.

And there will be food all morning long in the Fellowship Hall, including things to enjoy for lunch, whether you're catching up with friends, meeting new people, or mostly just browsing around.

Our Taste and See event was inspired by some new members who found the church to be a lively, welcoming community where their whole family could learn and grow and find meaningful ways to serve. Lots of people have that experience at Westminster, so this special event is an invitation for others to share that experience.



If you're already active at Westminster, you may still be surprised to see how much is going on, and you'll come away with some helpful information and resources.

If you haven't been to church for a while, this will be a great opportunity to catch up on what's happening. You may discover that the church is different from what you remember – livelier, more welcoming and caring, with new kinds of opportunities, depending on your particular interests.

We hope you will invite friends and neighbors to visit, too. If you know anyone who might want to see what a warm, welcoming, active church has to offer, this Taste and See gathering is the perfect opportunity. Families with children think of September as a time to explore new things, and even those without children in school often want to get back to things they've been missing. People are most likely to visit a church if

someone they know invites them, so all you have to do is extend the invitation. We'll have tours of the building for those who are new, or for those who still don't know their way around. Youth leaders will be upstairs to welcome young people. There will be stations with videos and handouts and people on hand to talk about all that goes on at Westminster, and announcements of things “coming soon to a church near you.”

Meanwhile, our all-new website, beautifully designed by Mariela Antunes with lots of dynamic features, also goes live that weekend. Everything we do this fall is meant to invite people near and far to taste and see that the Lord is good.

PASTORS

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

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTORS

PEG KINSEY

BUSINESS STAFF

DAVE REITER, *Church Business Administrator*
 EILEEN CHRZASTEK, *Accounts Payable Clerk*

CARE ASSOCIATE

JOAN WATSON

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

REV. DAVID FETTERMAN, *Director of Christian
 Education & Spiritual Formation*
 ROBIN PYLES, *Director of Children's and Family
 Ministry*
 DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and
 Family Ministry*
 ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry &
 Family Counseling*
 JASON FREYER, *Director of High School Ministry*
 CASSANDRA MILLIS, *Assistant Director of Youth &
 Young Adult Ministry*
 TRACEY MATTES, *Administrative Assistant*

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 MARIELA ANTUNES, *Print & Graphic Coordinator*
 LAURA WHITCOMB, *Print Room Assistant*

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CHRISTINE HESTWOOD, *Director*
 LORRAINE MILOVAC, *Assistant Director*
 JIM BURNS, *Organist*
 LISA HOFFMANN, *Junior Choir Director*
 AMY SANDERS, *Administrative Assistant*

OUTREACH MINISTRY

WILL HIGNETT, *Consultants*

PROPERTY

BILL SINGLETON, *Property Management Consultant*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 LACIE BRYNER, *Kitchen Manager*

**WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH
 CENTER (WROC)**

KATHY LONG, *Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL

412-
835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

412-835-9450

AMANDA HUTCHISON, *Director*
 ANNIE HUNTER, *Assistant Director*

Staff email addresses and phone
 extensions are available on our website,
www.westminster-church.org.

Read the *Spire* online at:

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

The Spire is published monthly by the church
 staff from September through June. Contributions
 can be made by emailing a Word document to
Spire editor Sara Kyle at sara@ruhlekyle.org.
 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.

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**Traditional
Worship**

 Sundays
 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary

**The Bridge
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.*

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Great news! Chancel Choir practice has resumed on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. – and we have a place reserved just for you! Adults of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join our loving choir family. Do you have what it takes to be a choir member?

- *Physical Qualifications*
Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary.
- *Experience*
Applications will be accepted from anyone who has ever sung, hummed, or whistled in the shower.
- *Salary*
Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.
- *Fringe Benefits*
Social Security in the fellowship of other choir members. A guaranteed seat in the sanctuary every Sunday, regardless of the weather or holidays. Other benefits are out of this world!
- *Retirement*
Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small, the notes getting too heavy, or the organist unable to play the notes you sing.

We need you! Please join us as we start a new year in praise and worship through music. NO auditions required. Questions: Contact Chris Hestwood, music director, at 412-835-6630x267 or Amy Sanders, music secretary, at 412-835-6630x268. Come, Christians (and/or Presbyterians)! Join to sing!

**Glory to God, the Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 267*

Upcoming Events

13
SEP **Taste & See**
Sunday | 9:00 a.m.

19
SEP **Stop Hunger Now**
Saturday

20
SEP **Blood Drive**
*Sunday
8:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

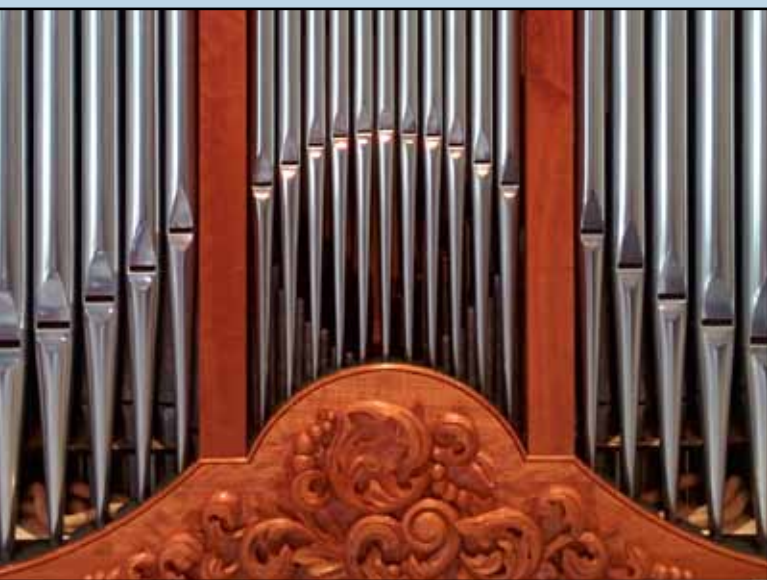
**Galbreath
Chapel Organ
Dedication and
Recital**
Sunday | 4:00 p.m.

The Galbreath Chapel Organ Taylor and Boody Opus 67

Dedication and Recital

Alan Lewis, organist
Sara Botkin, soprano

Sunday, September 20
4:00 p.m.
Galbreath Chapel



The Galbreath Chapel Project

John Galbreath, Westminster's founding pastor, had a clear vision for worship in large and small spaces. This vision was central to planning for the organ and the renovation of the chapel. Galbreath appreciated the value of an intimate space for worship services and prayer, and for teaching children about worship. He wanted the chapel to be a smaller version of the sanctuary. Both sanctuary and chapel were built in 1959, and they served the thriving congregation. Electronic organs provided musical accompaniment. In the sanctuary, the congregation waited patiently for the solid leadership of a pipe organ; the Austin organ was installed in 1991.

In the chapel, named for Galbreath after he retired from Westminster in 1979, an electronic organ continued to provide music for services in a space that increasingly needed renewal. By 2011 plans were underway, supported by a generous gift, for a careful renovation to preserve the integrity of Galbreath's vision for the chapel as a space for worship. The chapel became a brighter room with increased lighting, fresh paint, new windows, and a porcelain tile floor. Using the chapel is now easier, with areas for handicapped seating and improved traffic flow around the pews. An arched window was installed in the chancel to provide more natural light.

With the addition of the Taylor and Boody organ, Galbreath Chapel is now complete as a small worship space to serve many needs: funerals, weddings, special worship services, and concerts to reach out into the community. John Galbreath's vision for worship has been fulfilled at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Let us all rejoice and give glory to God!

Westminster's lovely Galbreath Chapel has been graced with a beautiful new pipe organ custom built for the space by Taylor and Boody Organbuilders of Staunton, Virginia. The organ, made possible by special gifts from members and friends of Westminster, was installed in June. It has already served in worship for memorial services, providing music of comfort and strong leadership of hymns.

The organ will be dedicated to the glory of God on Sunday afternoon, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. Jim Gilchrist will lead the congregation in scripture and prayer. A dedicatory recital will follow, performed by organist Alan Lewis and soprano Sara Botkin. The program includes delightful works that will introduce the organ as both a solo instrument and as accompaniment to the angelic voice of Westminster's Sara Botkin.

Dr. Alan Lewis has been Director of Music at Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh since 1997. He holds degrees in organ performance and music history from Oberlin College & Conservatory of Music. At the University of California, Berkeley, his doctoral research focused on sacred vocal music of the Renaissance. Lewis is a passionate advocate for excellence in the church's musical offerings, both old and new.

To learn more about the organ, pick up a booklet in the gallery or north entry, or download the booklet online in the music section of our website.



Wednesday Bible Study

4:00 p.m. in Room 231



Bible study on Wednesday afternoon. What's that all about? The only way I can really tell you about this study group is to tell what it has meant to me.

There are three suppositions that I want to get straight:

1. You do not have to be an expert on the Bible – we are all there to learn.
2. It is not merely a group of old folks – opinions of all age groups are welcome.
3. We are a non-political group – we don't represent any one tribe or viewpoint.

What you have to be is a serious Christian who is eager to study the Bible and to discern the Christian response to many of today's problems.

I have grown in my knowledge of the Bible, but best of all I have learned to look at passages in the Bible with new eyes. Jim Gilchrist has a gentle way of letting everyone express ideas while guiding us with his immense knowledge of the Bible and its history. Never have I ever felt that anyone was made to feel foolish for their questions or answers. Jim is gracious enough to say that he gets ideas for his sermons from us. That is a bit of a stretch, but every once in a while thoughtful comments and ideas make it into the sermon.

The group has studied individual books of the Bible over the years. This last year we have studied many of the moral issues confronting the church today and related them to specific references in the Bible.

If you are eager to stretch your mind and spirit, consider joining our Wednesday group. It is a warm and considerate group that would love to have your input. You could even help us decide what our focus will be this year.

See you on Wednesdays.

– Sue Redfield

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

September 13, 20, 27;
October 4

Encountering the Holy in Unexpected Places

John Burgess, Professor
of Systematic Theology,
Pittsburgh Theological
Seminary

This seminar will explore what Christians can encounter in “the holy” and how “the holy” can encounter us in nature, prayer, art, and politics. We will draw from both ancient and contemporary Christian thinkers, while examining our own life experience.

John, a Presbyterian minister and professor, is interested in religious experience in different Christian traditions and in recent years had deeply explored Russian Orthodoxy. He is married to Deb and lives in the city of Pittsburgh.

The Word

One question that my friends and I like to play with is “Who would you like to sit down and have lunch with?” There are many flavors of this game. Of all the living people in the world, who would you like to have lunch with? (Dave Matthews, Rob Bell,* Jimmy Carter) Which historical figure would you most like to have lunch with? (Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, Steve Jobs) What fictional character would you most like to have lunch with? (Superman, Superman, Superman)

Lunch is a remarkable thing. When you share a meal with someone, there’s a level of intimacy that doesn’t seem to exist in other contexts. For as much as your mouth will be full of food, people seem to talk and share more when there is a meal involved. And if it’s a Chipotle Burrito, all the better.

So what would you do if you could have lunch with Jesus? What kinds of questions do you think you would ask? What kinds of questions do you think he would ask you? What restaurant would you take him to? Could you make him laugh? Would he be able to incite a chuckle in you? Would you get to know him better? He already knows us, but isn’t there something appealing about getting to know him in the flesh, face to face?

We forget sometimes that we don’t have a religion of ideas. We don’t have a religion of dogma. We don’t have a religion of rules. We have a faith that follows a person. A living, resurrected, reigning person named Jesus. And as surely as we need to consume food, he is a living and active presence in our world. He is acting on our behalf, interacting with us every day. While we might not be able to see him or touch him, Jesus surely eats lunch with us every day.

This year at Veritas, we are launching a series called “The Word.” We’re going to look exclusively at the words of Jesus (the Red Letters of the Bible if you will) to see what Jesus has to say about the situations we face every day in the world. Does this first century carpenter’s son still have something to say to middle and high school students dealing with the problems of our world? I believe so.

And so we’re going to study, not just to contain facts and figures, to be able to pass the theological test. We are going to study for the same reason we strike up a good conversation over lunch. We want to get to know this Jesus. We want to know the savior who stepped into our sinful world and pulled us back out. We want to know the kind of love that does what we are unable to do. We want to know the light of the world. We want to know the good shepherd. We want to know Jesus.

This isn’t just a journey for the youth of our church. I would encourage us to get to know our risen savior. Richard Rohr said that two great books will help: the Scriptures and the book of nature. Take some time to get to know Jesus through the written word of the Bible, through the stories and history of his life. But take some time to recognize where Jesus is moving in and through our world.

And, if you want to go to lunch, just let me know!



*While we didn’t have a meal, Rob Bell and I were surfing together last March. It counts!

This Year at Veritas

My guess is you’ve heard each of these three sayings: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” “Actions speak louder than words.” And finally, “Words are powerful.”

Three sayings that we’ve all heard and likely all said at some point, but each gives a slightly different message about the weight of *words*. Not only do we throw around a variety of interpretations of the weight of words, but the first chapter of the Gospel of John even refers to Jesus as “The Word.” What an amazing notion this is: the Living Word speaking the very words of God. Now *that’s* some weight in those words.

This year at Veritas we’ll look solely at the words that Jesus spoke. We think it will help us to get to know him better than we’ve ever known him before, and we’re excited to see the growth that his words bring into our community! Jesus’ words have shaped millions of lives since he spoke them, and we’re convinced that their work is not done. We invite you to join us as we seek out how Jesus’ words will change each of us this fall.

As Veritas starts another great year, we’re taking a slightly different approach. We think that the changes are going to make this our strongest year yet! As always, Veritas invites all students in grades 7 through 12 to join us each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. throughout the school year. And don’t forget to keep an eye out for our awesome retreats and other special events!

For any questions, comments, or just to get to know us better, feel free to contact Ed Sutter or Jason Freyer.



He suggests that I should seek out spiritual companions because it's good for me, because it's how I grow.

In Richard Foster's book *Streams of Living Water*, he describes six dimensions or traditions of faith and practice that define Christianity. The author offers an in-depth description of each tradition, along with life stories of historical, biblical, and contemporary people who exemplify these traits. At the conclusion of each chapter, he suggests several practices to follow in order to live in that particular tradition.

Foster describes the Contemplative Tradition – the prayer-filled life – as the basis for holy living, for living as Christ commands us, loving God and loving others. The practices he recommends in the “how-to” section of this chapter are:

- We train. We go about living a prayer-filled life by engaging in spiritual disciplines – various exercises of mind, body, and spirit that build spiritual “muscle.” In other words, just like an athlete, we practice.
- When we fail, we get up and try again. We aren't defeated when we mess up. We keep on running the race.
- And we invite others to travel the journey with us.

To be honest, I'm not much of an athlete. So all this talk of training, exercises, and running races – yes, I know all of that is good for me – doesn't sound like much fun. Kind of like going to the dentist: one of those things I know I should do, but not something I really look forward to.

But the last one caught my attention. Inviting others to make this trip along with me – that sounds like it might be fun! Which of us, when we discover a great new restaurant or an interesting place to shop, a terrific new place to vacation or an interesting new movie, don't immediately start thinking about with whom we want to share our new discovery. We say, “You have to see...taste...try...”

But often I don't invite others into my faith life. And why not? Why don't I invite more people to “see... taste... try...” when it comes to faith, to growing in a relationship with God? Does it somehow feel like I'm trying to “show off”? Or am I afraid of what people will think”? Is it

because I've been told for years not to talk about religion or politics? Or because I don't want to seem sort of “holier than thou”? Because somehow it feels like an invasion of someone's privacy. Theirs? Mine?

But Foster isn't suggesting that I invite people along because it's good for them (although it might be). Actually, he suggests that I should seek out spiritual companions because it's good for me, because it's how I grow. Companions who can see better than I can the ways in which I am growing and developing, and the ways in which I need to grow. They hold me accountable.

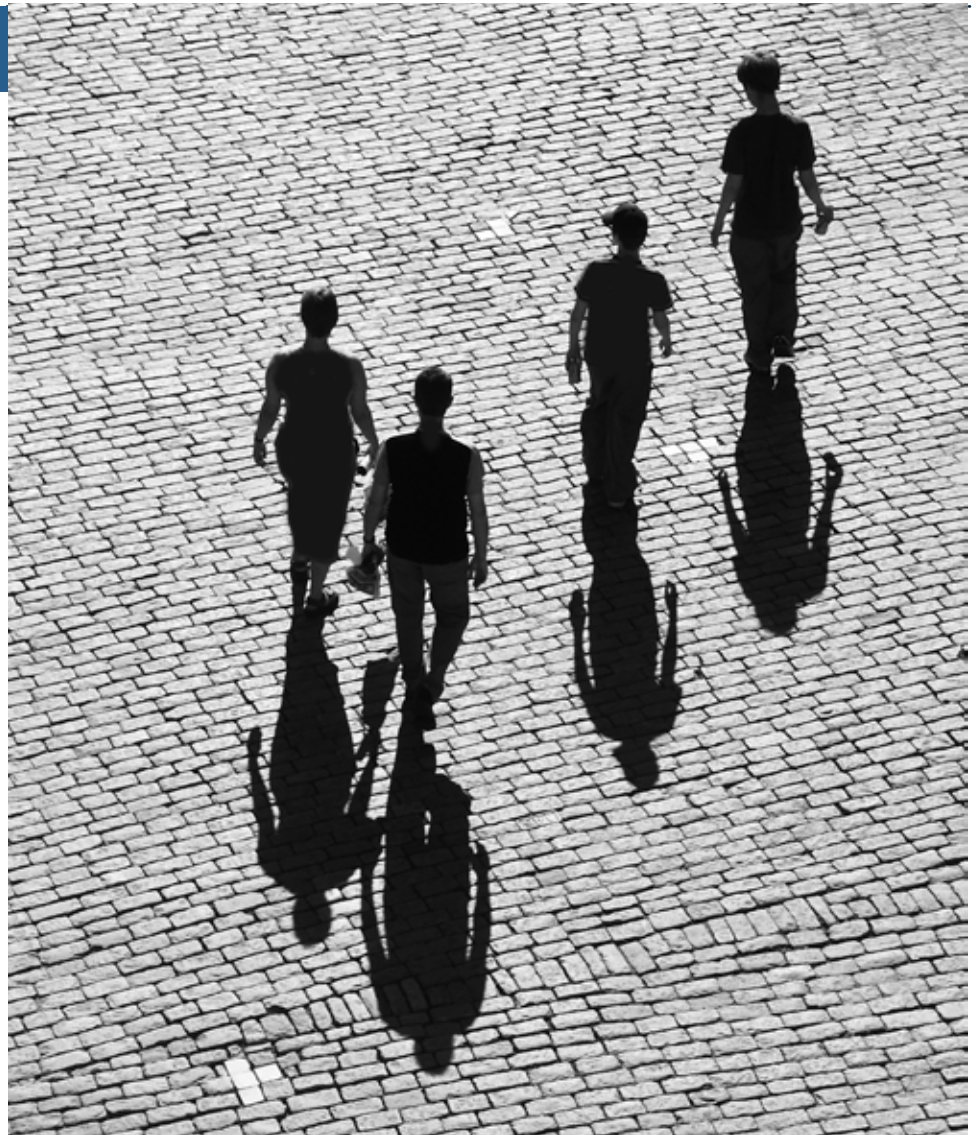
Sort of like having an exercise buddy. I think I mentioned that I'm not a fan of exercise. But if I have a friend to exercise with me, I'm much more likely to get out and do it. Actually I often discover that, as long as I have a friend alongside, the

exercise isn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be. And I almost always walk farther and faster, or work out a little longer or harder.

So maybe I need to add to my collection of “spiritual journey buddies” – those folks who walk alongside me in my faith journey, growing and praying together, reminding each other of what we should be about, of how best to love God, each other, and neighbors far and near?

So, how about it? Will you be my travel buddy?

Robin



Sunday School News

Sunday school begins September 13 at both the 9:45 and 11:00 hours. To our returning children and families, we are so looking forward to seeing you. And to children and families who are joining us for the first time, welcome!

Below is a brief description of the curriculums that we will be using:



9:45 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m.

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

252 (K through grade 3)

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

First Look (2 years through preschool)

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

XP3 (grades 4 through 6)

Introduces the children to a loving God and teaches them in a way that inspires them to follow Jesus with their lives. They learn three basic truths: who God is and what he has created (wonder), who God created them to be – their relationship with themselves (discovery), and serving others, the community, and being part of God's big story (passion).

Children's and Family Ministry is very excited about Sunday school! We hope you will become part of Sunday school and be with us as we join the children on their journey of faith.

Informational letters were sent the first week of September. If you did not receive one or have any questions, please contact Debb Egli at egli@westminster-church.org.

– Debb

See you on September 13!

Come, Rest for a While

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while."

Mark 6:30-31, CEB

If Jesus, or anyone for that matter, were to say to you, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while," what would you say? What would you think? Would you say "thank you" and go to a quiet place for solitude and rest? Or would you raise an eyebrow while skeptically saying, "Are you kidding me? I am so busy, the day so hectic, that I can't possibly do that.?" Many of us would at least think the latter response.

Caregivers in our midst know not only our culture of competing demands on our time, but also the need to provide constant care for loved ones. They care for people who have dementia, who are dying, who have chronic illnesses, and the list goes on.

Daily these caregivers, as the name suggests, give of themselves and their love so that someone else can know safety and security and enhanced quality of life. In short, they give of themselves so that others can know love in critical and often life-threatening situations. Many of you reading this know all too well what I am talking about because you are walking the road of caregiving.

To each of you who daily give of yourselves and your love to care for another, consider Jesus' gentle words of invitation. He was speaking to disciples who had given and given and given some more. People kept coming to them with many yearnings. They were so busy that "there was no time to eat." Caregivers can think of times when they have similar days: so busy that they almost have "no time to eat." In his typically gracious way, Jesus invited the disciples, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." He knew that anyone would soon find their ability to give undermined as they became spiritually, emotionally,

and physically depleted. Thus the invitation to go away "to a secluded place and rest for a while." Jesus was not inviting the disciples to leave the world of caring and giving. Instead, he was inviting them to take a break, a time of respite, to rest and recharge their spirits and emotions and bodies.

Caregivers, hear Jesus' invitation today as fresh and relevant for your lives. Where is your secluded place? When will you carve out a little time and space to rest? It is not an act of selfishness to do so. To the contrary, Jesus invites us all to do so.

I knew a woman when I was a hospice chaplain. She was caring for her dying husband and her two teenage children. She loved the three of them with all her heart and would have given anything for them. Regardless, her days were often full of stress and hard work and anxiety. She needed to find a calm place in the midst of the turmoil of caregiving to rest. Her secluded place was a small room in her house where she could shut the door. She took a brief time each day to go into that room, close the door, turn off the lights, and lean back in a favorite recliner. She would put on some classical music and her earphones, close her eyes, and allow the beauty of the music to wash over her and ease her tensions from the day. In those moments she didn't abandon her beloved husband. Instead she had someone, usually her children, providing for his needs in her absence. She wisely knew her need for these times to reconnect with God and herself, to revitalize body, mind, and spirit. She had found her secluded place and daily went there to "rest for a while."

Where is your secluded place? Where can you find rest for your body, mind, and



spirit in the midst of the pressures and stresses of caring for ones you love? If you don't have such a place, take some time to identify one. And then go there regularly. Perhaps a friend, neighbor, or family member can stay with your beloved while you rest. As you give and love and care, remember that Jesus has invited you to a quiet place so that you might replenish your body and soul. Not only hear but gratefully accept Jesus' invitation: "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while."

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Centering Prayer Workshop

Saturday, October 17
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Room 231

Join us for an "Introduction to Centering Prayer" workshop hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church and Contemplative Outreach of Pittsburgh on Saturday, October 17. Discover the meaning of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." The practice of Centering Prayer is an invitation to deep personal freedom and an ever deeper relationship with God.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Room 231. Suggested donation is \$20 and includes all materials and optional five follow-up sessions on Tuesday evenings (Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17; 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.). Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided. Scholarships are available. Four key topics will be covered:

- Prayer as Relationship with God
- The Method of Centering Prayer
- Thoughts and Use of the Sacred Word
- Deepening Our Relationship with God

Contact Nana Wilson at 412-833-9303 or nanadirect@yahoo.com to register or for more information, or mail the registration form below.

Introduction to Centering Prayer October 17, 2015 Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Special physical needs: _____

Cost: \$20.
Please make check out to
Contemplative Outreach Pittsburgh.

To register, mail form and check to:
Nana Wilson, Westminster Presbyterian Church,
2040 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15241

Reflections on Art Rooney, Chuck Noll, and Troy Polamalu

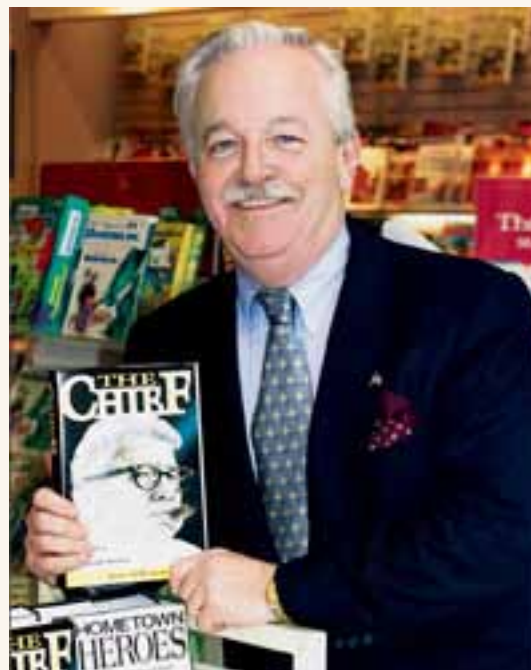
Lunch with Jim O'Brien
Sunday, October 4
Noon in Fellowship Hall

Join Pittsburgh sports author and Westminster member Jim O'Brien for lunch and a fascinating talk on three key figures in Steelers history. No reservations necessary.

Jim O'Brien has written 23 books in his "Pittsburgh Proud" series. He is on the advisory board for the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, and has been inducted into the Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. He was given the Bob Prince Award for his journalism efforts and the David L. Lawrence Award for "promoting Pittsburgh in a positive manner on a national level."

Jim and his wife Kathie have been members of Westminster since they moved to Upper St. Clair in 1979.

Sponsored by the Adult Spiritual Development Commission and Christian Formation Seminars.





Stop Hunger Now

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer now to help package meals for hungry children around the world. We will be assembling small meal packets containing rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals for Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief agency.

When

Saturday, September 19

1½ hour shifts beginning at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon, or 1:30 p.m.

Where

Westminster Presbyterian Church

We are partnering with Christ United Methodist Church to join the fight against hunger. We need over 600 volunteers (300 Presbyterians and 300 Methodists) to make this one-day event a success.

Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you. Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a fun, hands-on international mission project for everyone that encourages team building and provides the opportunity to have an exponential and sustainable international impact without leaving our area. Wow, 300 volunteers in one day! We can do this. Let's beat our past record!

Reserve your shift now: go to the church website. If you need help signing up, contact Jan Baumann, baumann@westminster-church.org or 412-559-1034.

If you would like to help with the financial obligation for these meals (WPC has a \$11,600 obligation), contributions can be made:

- By check, payable to WPC with Stop Hunger Now in the memo line. Please submit checks to Dave Reiter, church business administrator.
- Online at www.westminster-church.org.

\$29 buys 100 meals

\$58 buys 200 meals

\$100 buys over 340 meals

\$250 buys over 850 meals

\$500 buys over 1700 meals

Each meal costs 29 cents.

Family Charities Golf Outing

“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Romans 12:13, NIV



Clean your clubs, practice your putting, and sign up for Westminster’s Third Annual Family Charities Golf Outing. This year’s event will be held Monday, October 5, at Rolling Hills Country Club. Registration and lunch begins at 10:30 a.m.; shotgun scramble start is at noon. Dinner for golfers and dinner-only attendees begins at 6:00 p.m.

Not a golfer? No problem. Dinner is available for those not golfing for \$40 per person. Lots of silent auction and Chinese auction items will be available for your generous bids beginning at 5:00 p.m. during fellowship hour.

This year’s event will benefit two family charities – City Mission and Family Promise. City Mission has offered 73 years of care to the homeless, the poor, and the working poor of our region, fulfilling its mission of “Ending Homelessness One Life at a Time.” In the past year, City Mission has provided over 92,000 meals and 36,391 nights of shelter to those in need. Family Promise, formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network, provides safe temporary shelter, meals, and intensive case management for local families who are homeless. Partnering with a local network of churches, this organization is unique in its mission of keeping the family unit together. It has served over 500 local families, including 940 children, since it opened its door in this area in 1994.

There are many ways members of the Westminster family can support this worthwhile event. First, if you golf, sign up now to play. If you don’t have a foursome, we can match you with other golfers. If you are not a golfer, plan to attend the fellowship hour and steak and chicken dinner. Bring your checkbook or credit card and bid on the fabulous silent auction items. Sports’ memorabilia, unique gifts, vacation packages, dining packages, golf packages, and many more items will be there for your bidding. Tickets for the Chinese auction baskets will be available at the dinner and also in the church narthex on September 9, 23, and 30 before and after all services. You do *not* have to be present at the golf outing or dinner to win any of these amazing baskets.

Registration forms and event details are available throughout the church and also online at www.westminster-church.org. Randy Langlois is again our golf chair and can be contacted regarding the various sponsorships that are available from a \$100 tee sponsor to a Diamond sponsor donation of \$10,000. Please see registration brochure or information online for more details.

We are called upon by God to help our neighbors in need. By participating in this Family Charities Golf Outing, we honor this request. Thank you for your support.

Give Your Time and Talents in Haiti

February 13-20, 2016

and/or

February 20-27, 2016

When we join the church we promise to “give our time, talent, and treasure.” Haiti is a place that needs all of these. Since the first purchase of a goat in 1997, Westminster has been supporting the mission in La Croix, Haiti. Over the years, and alongside many other churches that support the La Croix mission, Westminster has built schools, houses, and a library. We have taught classes in English, art, chemistry, computer systems, silk dyeing, gardening, and baking. We have provided medical assistance and purchased farm animals. We have worked side by side with the Haitian people doing construction, providing medical care, and working with their young people. And in the process we have been learning to know our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ.

We work hard, but the rewards are rich, and it’s hard to say whether we or the Haitians benefit more from our visits. We know that we are called to serve “the least of these” and in doing that our souls are fed. Whatever your particular talent, you can find a way to serve in the La Croix community.

We are committed to two weeks “back to back” in 2016. You may choose to go either week or both weeks, but we are limited to 20 travelers each week. We will hold spaces for Westminster people through the end of September, and then we will open it to other travelers. If you would like to go or just want to know more, contact Paul and Sandy Conley at conley1973@verizon.net or Tom and Bobbie Hartman at hartman1967@verizon.net.

What's New at the WROC This Fall?

Photography Workshop with Bob Hayes

Introduction to Digital Photography

This workshop is designed for someone who wants to learn how to use their camera more efficiently. You will learn how to effectively use your camera and explore the basics of digital photography, including how to compose an image to capture the viewer's eye. All students are expected to have a DSLR camera along with the instruction booklet. You will be invited to bring prints of photos taken after the first session for critique.

Saturdays: October 24 and 31

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Registration required.

Instructor Bob Hayes is a member and three-year president of the photography section of the Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh. Hayes has received many awards with his exceptional images. His photos are displayed in offices and business establishments throughout the Pittsburgh area and have been displayed in the Gallery at Westminster. His images may be viewed at www.bobhayesphoto.photorelect.com.

Li'l WROCers

Imagination Yoga

Through Imagination Yoga children will have time and space for relaxation, movement, imagination, and joy. The teacher will use biblical adventure themes to guide children through a yoga class designed just for them. Each biblical adventure introduces developmentally appropriate kids yoga poses, kindness activities, calming techniques, and concentration exercises.

October 14 – November 18

Wednesdays:

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Ages 3 – 5

October 15 – November 19

Thursdays:

4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Ages 6 – 10



Fitness

PiYo

Although traditional Yoga and Pilates are a favorite of many, the pace is just too slow for some folks. Not with PiYo. It combines the muscle-sculpting, core-firming benefits of Pilates with the strength and flexibility advantages of yoga. And the pace picks up for a fat-burning, low-impact workout that creates long, lean, and defined muscles.

September 10 – October 29

Mondays and Thursdays

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Visit wroc.westminster-church.org for a complete list of fall programs.

THE GALLERY AT WESTMINSTER

September's art exhibit includes a mélange of colorful work – everything from trash to prehistoric animals.

Diane White

In the main gallery, featured artist Diane White's oils have won awards in many juried exhibitions. Now concentrating on still life, Diane is captivated by the way falling light creates interesting shadows and edges on ordinary objects. In her provocative "trash to treasure" paintings, she finds beauty in relating everyday items to our fast-paced, throw-away society. A graduate of West Virginia University, Diane studied art with Robert Daley and Elizabeth Robbins.



The display in the hallway annex captures the spirit and talent of Westminster's Gallery Committee.



Nancy Barnard

Enjoy beautiful scenery photographed by Nancy Barnard. A compassionate person, Nancy has a nursing degree from WVU. When her children were young, Nancy became interested in photography and, for many years, provided candid work for soccer teams, high school yearbooks, and community magazines. For the past 15 years, Nancy has been a member of the Photo Section of the Academy of Science and Arts of Pittsburgh.



Pamela George-Valone

Pamela George-Valone has created spectacular fiber-art quilts, including one specifically designed for this exhibit. A graduate of Edinboro University, Pam is a free spirit – a caring, fun person whose artistic passion spills over to all things. Pam loves color, and she says its endless combinations enable her to push the creative envelope. Her quilt accepted for the South African tribute to Mandela has toured the country.



Shari Valicenti

Artwork of Shari Valicenti, also a graduate of Edinboro University, can be found in local homes. A highly creative, spiritual person, Shari is well known for her murals. Her favorite is a mural of Renaissance-type angels painted in sepia on a 20-foot bathroom ceiling. Coming from a long line of artists, Shari began painting as a child, sitting in an attic on an aunt's knee. In a recent exhibit at the Galleria, Shari won "Best of Show" for *Titmouse Relic*, a painting she says is "out-of-the-box."



Betty Digby

Betty Digby replicated the dinosaurs on display from illustrations in a grandson's favorite book. She is the gallery reporter for the bulletin and *Spire*, and loves both art and writing, but she's not trained in either. A graduate of Pitt's School of Business, her passion for art was ignited several years ago when she began traveling with a brother to purchase art for his gallery. An enthusiastic romantic, Betty occasionally writes stories and paints landscapes and animals, but only for family.

Sue Wyble

Mentor and honorary member of the committee, Sue Wyble is a thoughtful, talented artist. Beginning in fourth grade, Sue attended Carnegie Museum's Saturday morning art classes, which ultimately led to studies at CMU and a career in graphic design. About eight years ago, she began botanical art classes at Phipps Conservatory. Her watercolor of the *Rosy-faced Shiner* was part of a 2012 touring exhibit that paid homage to Dunkard Creek. Sue's positive support is the force beneath all of the Gallery Committee's endeavors.

– Betty Digby



Do we invite our friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers to our church?

According to research, 98% of us do not. I began to wonder why and to explore that question in books, on the Internet, and with people I know. Why are we intimidated to extend an invitation? I have found many reasons and some of them are true for me too, even some that were not in my conscious thought before I began my research.

- Fear of rejection: What if they say “no”? Or, they might think I am judging them for not going to church.
- They might think I am strange.
- They might not fit in or might not feel welcome. Plus, I already have my church friends I like to spend time with when I am at church.
- I won't know what to say if they ask me something about my faith.
- If they don't like WPC, it might feel awkward afterward.
- I like to keep my church life separate from my work life.
- It's the pastor's job.

So, in spite of all of these good reasons, and many more, why should we invite people to Westminster?

Because God commands us to. “Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world” (Matthew 28: 19-20).

And because people are waiting to be asked. According to research by Thom S. Rainer, “Most people come to church because of a personal invitation.” Eighty-two percent of people who don't attend church are at least somewhat likely to attend if invited.

For the first time, invite people to a social event, an exercise class, a mission opportunity, or a support group. It may be less intimidating than an invitation to worship on Sunday morning. Think about whom you might invite. If someone likes you, chances are they will like the things that interest you at church. Invite them to join you. Who knows, it may lead to them worshipping here, but it might not – and that's okay.

A few suggestions for this month:

- JAM or Veritas for children in grades 5 through 12
- Stop Hunger Now Mission Opportunity
- Alzheimer's Support Group

If you have a story about being invited or inviting someone to church, please consider sharing it with me. You may remain anonymous, but I would like to share the stories.

– Jan Baumann

Volunteers among Us

Jennifer Nestler and her family are longtime members of Westminster Church. Coming from a smaller church where she had been a deacon, Jennifer did not hesitate to become involved in our church community. In fact, given Westminster's physical size and large congregation, she feels volunteering is the perfect way to meet people and become connected. Jennifer is a friendly and kind person, willing and able to help in many capacities.

Over the years, Jennifer has volunteered in numerous ways. Having two children, helping with their activities was understandable. Over 10 years ago, Jan Baumann asked her to teach Sunday school. Jennifer said "yes" and is still teaching today. She found that she loves teaching second and third grade and enjoys the relationships she develops with the children. Also, she is currently on the Children's and Family Ministry Commission. And most notably, she was the Barefoot School director for five years.

Other areas of the church have benefited from Jennifer's involvement. She has been on the Strategic Planning Committee, the Finance Commission, and the Chancel Guild. The Rummage Sale is something she and her boys enjoy helping with every year. This is a one or two day commitment that she likes because it is an intergenerational event.

Outside of Westminster, Jennifer is active with the Boy Scout organization. She is currently an assistant scoutmaster and has the Wood Badge, a high level of training. She began with her boys in cub scouts and, at different times, was a cubmaster, den leader, and treasurer. Through the years she has also held other positions, including troop chaplain and quartermaster, along with helping during day camp and twilight camp. Jennifer likes participating in Boy Scout high adventure activities. Being out in nature is where God speaks to her and where she is able to listen and enjoy his creation.

Jennifer would tell anyone considering volunteering that "you get more from it than you ever give." She feels this is a great way to develop friendships and "from the kids you get smiles!"

– Kris Overstreet

Jennifer would tell anyone considering volunteering that "you get more from it than you ever give."

Blood Drive

Sunday, September 20

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



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

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

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

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

- Online at www.centralbloodbank.org, using sponsor code G0010171
- Sign-up tables before or after worship services on September 6 and 13
- Contact the church office at 412-835-6630
- Walk-ins are always welcome

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

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

New Members



Laureen Cramer



Josh Dilly



Pat Gambridge



Jeanette Getty



Lauren Maiure

and Hee-Ju Moon

Baptisms

July 5

Carson Michael

Parents: Shanan & Erik Gloff

Maxwell John

Parents: Lindsay & Joseph Senge

Alzheimer Association Support Group

Thursday, September 24

Noon-1:00 p.m.

Memorial Parlor

Are you a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia? You are not alone. You are invited to join others who are giving such care in a support group sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Our September meeting will focus on legal issues surrounding caregiving for someone with dementia. We will welcome attorney Karen Timko from Julian Gray Associates as our presenter. Come prepared with your relevant legal questions. We will address as many of them as time allows. Facilitator will be Rev. David Fetterman. If you have questions, please contact Dave Fetterman (412-835-6630 or dfetterman@westminster-church.org) or Peg Kinsey (412-835-6630 or kinsey@westminster-church.org.)



Financial Report

As of July 31, 2015

David Rylander, May 31

H. Dale Winger, June 22

June Ormiston, July 10

John White, July 28

Margaret Shields, August 1

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual	\$ 1,128,706.28
Annual Budget	\$ 2,073,722.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$ 945,015.725

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$ 1,330,106.01
Expenses	\$ 1,327,407.68
Net Position	\$ 2,698.33

Thank you for your strong support through the first seven months. We are pleased that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments, yet, as you can see above, approximately 45.5% of our 2015 budget remains to be fulfilled.

As the summer is coming to an end, please remember that Westminster has commitments to staff, programs, and building costs, as well as local and global mission. If you are current or ahead on your 2015 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2015 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge so that we can continue to meet all our commitments. Thank you.

Giving Back

For our family, summertime means a lot of time on baseball fields, paired with a lot of requests from our children to go to the concession stand. Oftentimes, I will give one of our children a few dollars to go get a treat. I am always intrigued by what they do with the money. Sometimes they use all of it to get as many items as they can. More often, they go and get something and bring back some change. I'm still waiting for the day they get something for themselves and say, "Here Dad, I got this for you, too."

While the analogy is not perfect, I do see this summer ritual as an instructive way to think about stewardship. When we "give back" to the church, I don't see it as repaying for the many services we receive there. Rather, I see it as God offering us so much in our lives and saying, "Take what you need, then give back the rest." In this way, we are able to see stewardship not as an afterthought, but as an acknowledgement that what we have never really belonged to us in the first place.

God has entrusted us with so many resources. From the very earth on which we live to the skills we are given that lead to our professions, each is a gift from God. Trust consists of believing others are benevolent, honest, open, reliable, and then will be able to consistently do the right thing when given the chance. God has trusted us with so much; it is merely up to us to give back.

— Pat McClintock-Comeaux
Stewardship Commission





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www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

“O **taste**
and **see**

that the Lord is good;
happy are those who
take refuge in him.”

Psalm 34:8

taste and **see** event

Sunday, September 13

9:00 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

