



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA
discovering · renewing · serving

WORDS AND VISIONS

Two of the most striking scriptural passages to me are the first chapters of Genesis and the Gospel according to John. In the former, God speaks and things come into being: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light..." In the latter, Jesus himself is identified with the Word of God:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christians claim that people are saved through Jesus Christ precisely because he is not just another religious leader, but the very Word of God made flesh. If Jesus is the Word of God, then how else would anyone come to know God except through him – i.e., through God's Word?

Of course this raises all sorts of questions about people of other faiths. Our summer seminars, beginning June 5, will be all about Christianity and other religions, and I invite you to join us then for some very interesting discussion.

For the moment, though, I want to focus on the Word as the source of the material world. There are scientists who now say that the fundamental constituents of reality are not just matter and energy,



but also *information*, which brings order to the universe: "Its from bits," as John Archibald Wheeler liked to say.

For Christians, all of this fits with our understanding that God is revealed to us verbally and nonverbally, in words and in things we can see. "We have *seen* his glory," John says. Job declares, when he finally meets God, "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you..." And the psalmist, like so many of us, sees signs of God in creation: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established... O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

God intends for us to hear and to see;
God comes to us in words and in visions.

As a picture is proverbially worth a thousand words, this month our new website will show more images of what God is doing in and through Westminster, besides telling the story in words. And in the months to come our sanctuary will have the capacity to show images of our ministry and mission on a screen that will disappear when not in use, but let us see the people and the contexts of the Christian life we share in our congregation, in the community, and around the world. None of this will change the way we worship, but it will let us see, as well as hear, some of what God is doing in our midst.

These are exciting times in the life of the church, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share them with you.

may

8 Mother's Day Children's Musical
14 Inquirers' Class

17 7:30 p.m. – High School Chamber Choir Festival

23 7:30 p.m. – Gretchen Van Hoesen, harp, and Louis Lev, violin

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Read the *Spire* online at:

www.westminster-church.org/spire.htm

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

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.

This Joyful Eastertide

The "great fifty days" of Eastertide – the church season of Easter – began on Easter Sunday, ending the somber days of Lent. Worship during the weeks of Eastertide reflects the joy of the resurrection. We celebrate Easter joy until Pentecost on June 12.

This joyful Eastertide,
away with care and
sorrow!

My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this
morrow.

Death's flood hath lost
its chill,
since Jesus crossed the
river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver

Had Christ, that once
was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day
prison,
our faith had been in
vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.

George R. Woodward (1848-1934), 1894

MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL

On Mother's Day at the 11:00 service, join the Cherub and Junior Choirs as they take you to the studios of WFAM-TV where *The Martha Stalwart Show* is live and on the air! The program that morning is all about the family, and Martha's guests will include experts in planting good seeds and keeping spiritually fit. By the end of the program, Martha will have baked up a family recipe which teaches us that no matter how families are shaped, the most important ingredient for a loving and Spirit-filled family is God's love.



Mother and Child by the Sea by Pablo Picasso

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SEMINARS

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

May Series

Turning the World Upside Down

Edwin van Driel, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

What difference do Resurrection and Ascension make? We just celebrated Easter; Ascension is coming up. But what do these feasts mean other than a high day on the Christian calendar?

When Paul and his friends go around the Roman Empire proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, they get dragged before the city

authorities accused of “turning the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). That is quite an accusation. When Paul’s audience hears him speaking about resurrection, they do not hear him just proclaiming a new religion, they do not hear him saying things that sound scientifically strange and weird, but they hear him preaching revolution! Why? What do they hear?

This series aims to help us hear afresh the stories about Jesus, his resurrection, and his ascension, and to ponder what difference they make for our own lives, the life of our congregation, and the life of the world.

Be careful, though: you might end up being dragged through Washington Road on accusation of turning the world upside down!

May 1

The Story of Jesus

First things first: If we want to understand what Jesus’ resurrection meant for his followers, we need to understand how they experienced Jesus. And whoever says Jesus, says “Kingdom of God.” Jesus starts his ministry with the proclamation that “the time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God has come near” (Mark 1:15). What is Jesus actually saying here? How would Jesus’ proclamation have been heard by his contemporaries, first century Jews? What does “The Kingdom of God” mean in the language of scripture?

May 8

The Story of the Resurrection

This Jesus, who proclaims the coming reign of God, is arrested by the Romans, crucified, and dies. His ministry seems a failure; his proclamation empty. Until the third day – Resurrection Morning. How does the resurrection fit with Jesus’ announcement of the Kingdom of God?

May 15

The Story of the Ascension

Ascension plays hardly a role in our spirituality. How many congregations still have a church service on Ascension Day? In the New Testament, however, the ascension is as important as the resurrection. Why?

May 22

The Story of the Church

The ascended Christ is now at work to lead creation to its final goal. How? By forming himself a new people, a new community. This Sunday we will think about the church – not a voluntary organization, but a people brought together in baptism: that is, a people rooted in the future. What does that mean?

Edwin Chr. van Driel joined the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Theology in 2009. Previously, he taught for two years at Fordham University. A native of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, he holds master’s degrees in theology and philosophy from Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and an MA, MPhil, and PhD in religious studies (theology) from Yale University.

Van Driel is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). He is married to the Rev. Kimberly Miller van Driel, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

DIARY OF A LUNATIC

Freedom

Ah, the spring is here! Today after church I came home, threw on my cycling gear, and hit the Montour Trail. Near the Farmhouse Coffee shop, I weaved and dodged around some runners and joggers. I took a break to eat a granola bar right next to a beautiful waterfall. I rode through some of the tunnels on the trail, which frankly is as scary a situation as I might be comfortable with (you can't see where you're going)! At several points along the 30-mile ride, I felt the wind blowing through my hair and relished the feeling that seemed to be missing all winter:

Freedom.

We hear a lot about freedom in our great nation, and for good reason. Every now and again I wonder what it would be like to live in one of the places in our world where we could get arrested or even killed for professing our faith in God. But here in our country we have freedom to do nearly anything we want, so long as it doesn't impose upon anybody else's freedom. In elementary school, we learn about freedom. On the fourth of July, we celebrate freedom. On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, we honor those who protect our freedom.

And yet I wonder how much we actually take advantage of freedom.

I'm not talking about speaking out or holding a rally, or even enjoying the occasional hot dog/fireworks combo. I'm talking about the freedom that we are promised through Christ. In Galatians 5:1, we learn that

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourself be burdened by the yoke of slavery."



Two things really stand out for me in this short scripture:

1. Christ HAS set us free. Not if we say/believe/do the right things. Not if we look like the right group of people. Not if we fit in with this or that group. It's done. It's finished. You are free. Right now. Just as you are. So often we doubt this, we call it into question. I have heard so many folks say that they feel like God is disappointed with them. Nothing could be further from the truth. You are free, and it's the love of God that fuels our freedom.
2. It seems to me as though we decide to be enslaved or not. If I can submit myself to a yoke of slavery, then I can also keep myself out of it. And when I think about the things that typically enslave me, it seems to confirm this theory. Guilt. People pleasing. Diet Coke. Those things only have power over me because I give it to them, and I could easily take it away.

So this month, as the spring fully engulfs us and we stand in the shadow of Easter's empty tomb, let's take some time to celebrate our freedom. Enjoy time in worship, maybe even in places where worship typically isn't enjoyed. Take guilt and throw it out the window, because I'm convinced it doesn't belong in our faith. Get on a bike and spend some time in a world lovingly and carefully created for us by the God of the universe.

Because freedom is only as good to us as we use it.

Godspeed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sunday School NEWS

Children **2½-fourth grade** will be learning about Jesus appearing to his disciples (Luke 24:36-49) and Jesus' ascension into heaven (Acts 1:6-11). The faith traits for these lessons are peace and patience.

The **fifth and sixth grade** topic will be "Choices, Choices." Discussion will include the question "What if I mess up?" The Key Faith Foundation: recovering from bad choices. Students will use Numbers 15:22-31; Luke 22:55-62; Romans 7:15-20; and 1John:7-9 to help with the answers.

Sunday School Reminders

May 12 – Last day of regular Sunday school

May 29 – No Sunday school – Memorial Day weekend

June 5 – Summer Sunday school begins at 11 a.m. for children Pre-K through first grade

HAPPENINGS

> *Third and Fourth Grade: Jesus' Last Journey*

Twelve of our third and fourth graders traveled with Jesus on his last journey through Jerusalem. They began their journey by celebrating Palm Sunday and ended sorrowfully with Jesus' death on the cross. During their journey, they became money changers, saw films relating to specific events during this time, did CSI investigating, played games like "It happened at Dinner," participated in a mini Seder meal, made crafts, and completed a map of all the places Jesus visited and was taken to before his death. It was a busy four Wednesdays learning about the last days of Jesus' life.

> *Shut-in Projects*

In April, the children made two decorations, which they shared with people in nursing homes: a bird carrying the message "God takes care of the birds and you too" and crosses, designed by the children. Doing shut-in projects helps the children think of others and brings joy to the recipients. A special thank you to Kathy Thompson for all her work this year with the shut-in projects.



Daily Jesus

Recently we have been focusing on prayer in our classes with the fifth and sixth graders. We've talked about kinds of prayer, places to pray, why we pray, how to pray, and so on. The other day I was working with a group of these students. Our focus for the lesson that day was actually a question: is there a right way to pray?

The lesson centered on Matthew 6:5-14, where Jesus discusses prayer with his disciples. We were taking apart the Lord's Prayer – discussing the meaning of each phrase, heading toward using it as a model for our own prayers. When we got to the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread," I asked the kids what it meant. Their answer was that we were to ask God for bread, everyday, obviously. I asked if there was anything else we might ask for. Expecting that, as relatively concrete thinkers, I'd likely get more kinds of food – perhaps candy or other treats. If it was a good day, perhaps they'd offer an answer like water or air, clothing or shelter. Instead, to my surprise, one of the students answered "The Bread of Life"! Holding my breath (one never knows what the kids will say), I asked the student to elaborate. With another "well, duh" sort of tone, the reply was "Jesus, of course – we need Jesus every day."

And off we went in a new direction....

So – is there a Recommended Daily (or Dietary) Allowance (RDA) of Jesus, like for vitamins?

According to Wikipedia, here's the definition of RDA: "the average daily dietary intake level that is sufficient to meet the nutrient requirements of nearly all (approximately 98 percent) healthy individuals." So – the average daily intake level sufficient to meet the individual's needs. The kids liked the idea – in fact,



they really behaved as if it was perfectly clear, as basic as the fact that we need air to breathe, to live. It made sense to them that Jesus can meet each of our needs, as much as we require, everyday. And all we have to do is ask....

Which led us to the next question: how/where can we get our RDA of Jesus? What kind of "Jesus vitamins" should we take?

And again, the kids had lots of ideas....

They started with the fairly obvious answers, like reading the Bible or attending worship, Sunday school, and Bible study.

But then they started to get creative!

We can find Jesus in other people – in our family and friends, but also in that weird kid who sits next to me in science, and that one who picks on me at lunch; in people who look and act like me, and in those who don't; in others who believe in Christ, but even in those who don't share our faith.

We can see him in nature: taking a walk in the woods; watching the birds at a bird feeder in our yard – and those persistent squirrels that eat there too; enjoying the warmer days and sunshine, new leaves and flowers; and in sunsets. But we see

Jesus, too, in storms and rainy days, in puddles to splash in, in games canceled and muddy feet.

And we can find Jesus in prayer. We get to know our friends by spending time together – talking and listening, doing things we both like, playing on the same sports teams, going to school or church – but really, just by being together.

So, the kids said, prayer is a great way to get closer to Jesus by telling him about our day; letting him know when things are hard, or we need help; remembering to thank him, even when things aren't going the way we'd like; and just listening to him.

Have you met your RDA of Jesus today?

— Robin Pyles

Family Movies IN OUR CHURCH LIBRARY



Did you know that your Westminster library has a wonderful collection of movies for families? Well, we do! During the past several years, we have expanded the collection to contain classics, tales of the Bible, stories of redemption, true stories of people who overcame obstacles to become heroes, adventures, and many more. All you have to do is check out our family movies in the library – just don't forget to bring them back!

In the classics, you can check out *The Secret Garden*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Little Women*. Recent depictions of these beloved stories make them come to life and offer good viewing for families to be together and discuss these memorable tales. The C.S. Lewis parables of *Narnia*, recently serialized, are also available. Grab your popcorn!

Funny, yet poignant, tales such as *Babe*, *Toy Story 3*, and *Up* have a place on the Westminster shelves as movies that portray good values, are fun for kids, and are on the list of great movies for families. They are all award winners and just plain fun to watch.

Animal stories, especially dog stories, are favorites that never grow old. A recent addition is the movie *Hachi*, a true story from Japan of a dog who showed unflinching love for his master. The story was rewritten and now takes place in New England. It begins with a very cute Akita puppy in Japan being sent to the United States. The tag on his carrier was lost and

he finds a home with a music professor played by Richard Gere. You will definitely need a big box of tissues as you laugh and cry at this marvelous story.

Along the lines of overcoming obstacles and working hard to reach your goals are *Remember the Titans*, *The Blind Side*, *Rudy*, *Hoosiers*, and *Breaking Away*. If you ever feel like you need a lift, these films will do the trick. *Secretariat* is a recent movie that also illustrates grit, determination, and leaves you cheering for the underdog. We all know how the movie will end – Secretariat won the Triple Crown in 1973, but the real story is of Penny Chenery, a Denver "housewife," saving the family horse farm and believing in her horse against all odds. The racing scenes are amazing, heart-pounding close-ups of the gorgeous horses, especially Secretariat tearing up the turf at Belmont.

Two films that really moved me are *Gifted Hands* and *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry*. These movies are not from big studios and were not shown in big releases all over the country. They are independent movies, made from the heart. *Gifted Hands* is the true story of Dr. Ben Carson, a renowned brain surgeon who overcame obstacles to change the course of medicine forever. Young Ben Carson didn't have much of a chance. Growing up in a broken home amid poverty and prejudice, he did poorly in school and had trouble controlling his temper. His mother never lost her faith in him, insisting he

follow opportunities she never had. She cultivated his imagination, his intelligence, and, most importantly, his belief in himself. You will be truly inspired by the movie and the special feature of Dr. Carson as he talks about his journey and his life.

The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry is truly an inspiring film for all ages. Set in 1970 in a small town, it is a heartwarming story of a twelve-year-old boy, Dustin, and his two best buddies. A summer vacation filled with fishing, a secret crush, a bully, and Dustin's lawn-mowing jobs sets the stage for a unique friendship with an older man from church that changes the boys' lives forever. Remarkable acting from Gavin MacLeod and Robert Guillaume, as well as the young actors, gives this touching message of faith and forgiveness an irresistible edge.

— Mary Kay Mitchell

UNFETTERED



The Psalmist offers a wonderful definition of spiritual growth. Psalm 145 is about praising God for God's wonderful deeds. Tucked within this Psalm is a wonderful two-verse description of the spiritual life:

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and I will **meditate** on your wonderful works.

They will tell of the power of your awesome works,
and I will **proclaim** your great deeds.

(145:5-6, NIV)

Meditate and proclaim: two essential components of spiritual growth. Meditating on God's love and wonders draws us into closer relationship with God. Proclaiming the wonders of this relationship with a gracious God draws us into closer relationship with other children of God.

Sounds like a piece of cake, right? It may sound that way but it really isn't that way. Instead, this business of spiritual growth is difficult. It is difficult because once we conclude that we need to meditate and proclaim, we are then confronted with the pesky questions: How? and What? How do we meditate? How do we proclaim? What books do we read? What practices do we need to learn? There are probably other questions, but you get the idea.

Confronted with the challenge to meditate and proclaim – and the accompanying pesky questions – we may feel a little like singing the Beatles' song "Help, I need somebody." We may feel that we need somebody to help us find answers to those questions...somebody to help us to think through ways to approach meditation and proclamation...somebody to share their walk on the journey of faith with us to give

us added strength and encouragement on our own journeys of faith.

Some good news for us spiritual seekers at Westminster is that there are some companions to share the difficult journey of spiritual growth, of discovering how to meditate and proclaim. Whether you are a Sunday school teacher seeking to create meaningful class experiences, a small group facilitator seeking to enhance group members' relationships with God and each other, or individual members seeking to live a more faithful life from day to day: there are folks at Westminster who are committed to supporting you in answering those pesky questions that follow the discovery of the need to meditate and proclaim, whether that be finding specific materials to read personally or in your class or group, or simply seeking to make sense of the often puzzling journey of spiritual growth.

To this end, please be in touch with me at any time. You can reach me at dfetterman@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630. In addition, we have a wonderful cadre of committed folks on our Adult Spiritual Development Commission. Chaired by Brian Peck, these commission members stand ready and available to support and help you in your journeys of spiritual growth. All you have to do is ask. Don't feel you have to meet the challenges of spiritual growth or of facilitating the growth of others alone. You don't. Pick up the phone and call or drop an email. I am looking forward to our conversations.

Shalom,

Believing and Belonging Go Together!

In writing about the church, the author of Acts 2:46-47 tells us, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....They continued to meet together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the flavor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily..."

These are the reasons we gather at Westminster Presbyterian Church: to worship God, to hear and study God's word, to have fellowship with one another, to share in the Lord's Supper and pray together, and to serve God in mission. And, yes, God continues to add to our numbers.

If you're a visitor and have been considering membership, we invite you to attend an Inquirers' Class, a time of sharing and teaching as we explore what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. Classes take place on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Parlor. Upcoming class dates include **May 14** and **September 17**. If you have any questions or would like to attend an Inquirers' Class, please call Peg Kinsey in the church office at 412-835-6630.



Nancy

the YES TOUR

Entry for March 16, 2011: Random Thoughts

It has been two weeks since I hit the road. I have had a lot of moments that I know will stay with me. I know I have not written very much, but this is more about me experiencing rather than reporting. I do want to share a few things that have happened. No notes here, just things I remember. While in Wildwood, New Jersey, I stayed at a hotel that had a pool and Jacuzzi. I spent one night sitting in the Jacuzzi watching the sunset, thinking how lucky I am and blessed. What I had prayed about for some time long before I started this journey was that whatever I did would please God. I have always wanted to go and travel but never had the courage, money, or faith that I had God's blessing to succeed in this. But things have changed for me in the last year, including God putting people in my life who have changed me and God letting me know I do have some gifts to share. I was always a fringe person before, just outside the circle watching but not getting too involved. Taking but not giving. It might really be corny, but I am not a tourist in this life anymore, but a Christian Traveler. I am seeing things and experiencing things that I was blind to before. And I do thank God for this every day.

Entry for March 27, 2011: Scattered Thoughts

His snoring is keeping me awake so I thought I would write some more. I am in room 104 at a Motel 6 in Gulfport, Mississippi, near the end of an airport runway, and the guy in 103 is louder than the 747 landing a half mile away. And he has phlegm issues too; he is hacking then snoring.

The motel where I stayed in Savannah employed hookers, had drug deals going on, broken beer bottles in front of my door, and no heat, but at least I could sleep. The motel was one-and-a-half miles from the beautiful, historic, more expensive part of Savannah just over the bridge – it might as well have had a fence around it to keep the locals away. Savannah did have some distinct neighborhoods separated by major streets or bridges, but if you didn't have a reason to travel a certain street, then you would never see the people or the local shops and restaurants that give neighborhoods their own flavor. You would only see what the tourist board thought you should see.

On this trip I have made a point of driving through those areas not on the tour maps. Just eating, doing laundry, drinking way too much coffee, talking, and listening. I was thinking of when my family went to Disney World. Everything was perfect and clean and we knew they worked at keeping up that perfect image, and we all pretended it was real and magical but it wasn't. We just saw what they wanted us to see and never questioned their intentions or authority. We wanted to take the beautiful pictures to remember our trip, not take the tour of "backstage Disney" where reality wrecks the magic. At this point in my journey, I feel I am just starting my "backstage tour" and I am loving it.

— Nancy McDaniel

Read more of Nancy's blog at <http://www.nancymcdanielonline.com/>.

Teaching Mural for Haiti



Last Supper by Sandy Conley



Jesus Washing Feet by Sandy Conley

Sandy Conley, Westminster artist and veteran of multiple trips to Haiti, is currently designing a 16' x 9' mural to be painted on the children's chapel wall in La Croix during the week of June 11-18. The mural is meant to illustrate the Life of Jesus. The children in Haiti do not get to see many illustrations. The Bible is read to them and they are taught about the stories. For this mural, Pastor Pierre asked Sandy to design a visual teaching tool that will always be available to the children of the New Testament Mission. This is proving to be a large challenge, as one can well imagine. First, how to choose which stories of Jesus' life to illustrate, how to organize these into something that is not chaotic, and then how to paint the entire mural in one week in Haiti!

Sandy is in the process of making a series of eight similarly-sized illustrations that can be replicated in paint on the wall. The subjects include the nativity, Jesus' baptism, Jesus and the little children, Jesus healing the blind man, the loaves and fishes, Jesus washing the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, and the Crucifixion.

In the center of the mural will be a full figure of the resurrected Jesus. Along the bottom of the entire mural will be a Pentecost gathering of Jesus' followers. Sandy plans to paint people with tongues of fire above their heads. These people will loosely resemble some of the people at the mission and some who support the mission.

Sandy describes the style of art:

"For a long time I have admired the beautiful bold color and design of Haitian art. I am attempting to use a 'Haitian style' for this mural. As I work through the design process, I consider how to tell the story instead of how to render each person or

object realistically. I am learning that a designer makes different choices for a large mural as opposed to a small canvas. This project is artistically challenging and exciting."

Jenny and Darby Gallo and Bobbie Hartman have agreed to help paint the mural in Haiti. The Haitian students will also join in the painting. During Sandy's last trip, she learned of some students who have an interest in art and a talent for drawing and painting. Sandy plans to document the process and progress of this project. If it is successful, the group will illustrate the parables on another wall in the future.

Partners for Sacred Places COMES TO PITTSBURGH



Congregations and their buildings are vibrant, productive, and integral to the community thanks to their heritage, service, and physical presence.

Sacred places embody our culture and heritage, and in many cases represent the finest work of America's architects, craftspeople, and builders. At the same time, caretakers of these sacred places are challenged by a changing world, including vast community need and aging

architectural assets. Left unattended, the integrity of these buildings – as well as the health and vitality of congregations and community outreach – are compromised.

Working with *Partners for Sacred Places* (www.sacredplaces.org) gives hope, skills, and connections to congregations so their challenges become manageable, and their public value – their ability to use their assets for the community's wellbeing – is maximized.

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of America's older religious properties. Through its training programs, information center, and professional network, Partners has helped build the organizational capacity of congregations in all 50 states.

New Dollars/New Partners for Your Sacred Place is Partners for Sacred Places' innovative program now being offered through collaboration with the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Over the past two years, a group of Westminster men led by Eric Harrison have worked to bring this program to Pittsburgh to help the city's historic Presbyterian churches meet the many challenges of their aging buildings. They were ably assisted in the effort by associate pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery Doug Portz, whose support has been, and is, invaluable. Most important, we are thankful to God for his presence in this worthy effort.

New Dollars/New Partners offers training for congregations seeking to:

- Raise new funds for aging buildings
- Use these assets more effectively
- Deepen connections and service to their community.

If you have an interest in old buildings or professional skills to share with Pittsburgh's struggling historic churches, please contact Eric Harrison at 412-221-6797.

— Elizabeth Terry, Director of Training
Partners for Sacred Spaces

New Dollars/New Partners Success Story

Fort Street Presbyterian Church occupies an 1855 Gothic Revival building in downtown Detroit. As it grappled with a leaking roof, an aging building, and a dwindled membership, this diverse congregation focused on its assets and organized a comeback with the help of Partners for Sacred Places.

The comeback began with a grassroots effort. "It came out of a congregation member's energy and desire to do something positive, who heard about the Partners and took it upon herself to make it happen," states Jack Callas, architect and 30-year member of Fort Street Church.

New Dollars/New Partners encouraged the congregation to build leadership among its members and raise funds for

stewardship by establishing a dedicated committee to organize community-wide capital projects. While the committee began small, it grew to 20 members, including several with financial and facilities backgrounds as well as architects, a historian, an outreach expert, and a grant-writer.

Fort Street has succeeded by creating relationships with the community, including ministries for the homeless and the needy, a 90-member choral group, and an interfaith youth program. A successful capital campaign provided \$450,000 to fix the roof, and building maintenance is ongoing. With its historic sacred space, Fort Street Presbyterian Church continues its mission to be a spiritual oasis in the heart of Detroit.

VISUAL ARTS AT WESTMINSTER

Our faith community supports the visual arts and artists through the gallery exhibits as well as with the art on display throughout the building. Please plan to spend some time in the Westminster Gallery and Gallery Annex during the month of May and discover God's work in the lives and artistic expression of our own Westminster members and friends.



Jennifer Camody

The Westminster Gallery

features the work of local artist Jennifer Camody. As a member of Westminster, Jen participated in a recent mission trip to India. It was this trip, as well as her participation in Westminster's Perspectives class, that led her to pursue an opportunity to work last summer in China with the English Language Institute China (ELIC). Her exhibit displays work that was inspired by her experiences in China.

Jen spent a week in Beijing training and a month in Northeast China in the city of Shenyang. In Shenyang, she worked with and taught Chinese English teachers to improve their English speaking skills and incorporate different teaching methods into their classrooms. Jen worked with a team of five other American teachers, all from different parts of the USA. Not only did Jen teach her students, she began to build friendships with them. While teaching about United States culture, Jen learned much about the Chinese culture and was able to spend time with her students outside the classroom and meet their families and children.

Jen is a graduate of Penn State University, where she majored in art with an emphasis in photography. She also attended Carlow University for an art education certification and hopes to teach art one day. In addition to photography, Jen enjoys ceramics, sculpture, painting, and printmaking and has taken courses including those mediums.



Easter Scene by Erica Struzyna

The Gallery Annex highlights a bit of the Westminster Presbyterian Church permanent collection featuring art by Erica Struzyna, a member from 1977 to 1984. Much of the paper cutting art by this artist tells the story of the life of Christ. While living in South Carolina, Erica relearned the unique "scissor-cutting" art known as *Scherenschnitte* in her home country of Germany. This style of art is often symmetrical within the design and often includes silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The technique dates to the 16th century in Germany and has comparable forms in other countries.

Prior to her death in 1993, Erica was a member of the McMurray Art League and exhibited throughout Pittsburgh. Her friends knew her as a caring wife and mother of three children. She was valued for her practical intelligence and her forthrightness. Absolute honesty was her hallmark. These character traits may have stemmed from her remarkable life experiences: Erica grew up in "Hitler Germany" and became a refugee when the Russians occupied her homeland in 1945. She went on to master three foreign languages, live on three different continents, and finally make a successful integration into the United States.

— Jenny Gallo and Linda Weaver

PWW Mother'n Daughter/Best Friends Tea

You won't want to miss this lovely Spring Tea sponsored by PWW and held in **Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 7, at 11:30 a.m.** Tea and lovely delicacies will be served while you take time out and relax from your busy day. You will hear author Violet Covert present excerpts from her novel, *Reflections from a Grass Widow*, based on the travel journal written by Sally Hastings in her quest for freedom. Sally's journey started in 1800 east of Pittsburgh around Donegal, and continued over the mountains and through Canonsburg to Cross Creek in Washington County. Sally left all she held dear on earth to begin an exile far from home. Her story is one of inspiring faith, love, and suspense – sure to bring many a smile and possibly even a tear.

Tickets are \$17.00 per person and may be bought at the reception desk in the church office.

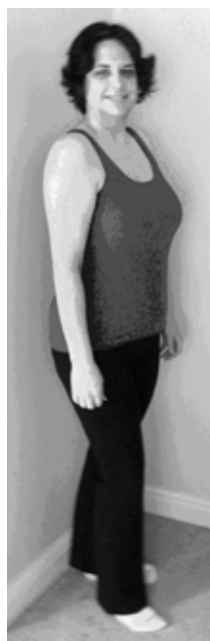


WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)

Personal Trainer – Hilary Livingston

Rev. Hilary Livingston is a certified personal trainer who has lost 70 pounds by changing her lifestyle. She never intended to be a personal trainer and says that “For the better part of my life I was overweight and out of shape. In May of 2008, I made the decision to lose weight and improve my health. My fitness journey inspired me to become a personal trainer so that I could help others lose weight and develop a healthier lifestyle.”

Some of my before and after pictures:



Knowing that the beginning of a workout program can be a daunting task, and that traditional gym settings can be intimidating, Hilary aims to provide safe, effective, and fun workouts to get people in the best shape of their lives, without the use of heavy equipment. She says, “As an ordained Presbyterian minister, I also understand the spiritual and emotional aspects of physical fitness, allowing me to provide holistic support for the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. I want to empower people to increase their fitness level, lose weight, and develop an overall healthier lifestyle.”

Hilary will be offering her personal training through the WROC. Please visit wroc.westminster-church.org for more details or to schedule an appointment with Hilary. You will be given one complimentary session to assess your fitness needs and allow you to determine if this program will best meet your fitness goals.

Personal Training

May – August

Dates and times by appointment

Location: Upstairs fitness room

Introductory cost

\$35 per 1 hr. session

\$120 for 4 sessions

\$240 for 8 sessions

\$350 for 12 sessions

Group rates

2 people - \$25 per person/session

3 people - \$20 per person/session

4 people - \$15 per person/session

You will be given one complimentary session to assess your fitness needs and allow you to determine if this program will best meet your fitness goals.

Sports Equipment Flea Market

May 21

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location: South Parking Lot
(Fellowship Hall if raining)**

Do you have sporting equipment filling your garage so you can't get your car in anymore? Do your kids' closets burst with old football pants, baseball jerseys, and soccer shoes? Are you getting ready to drain your savings again in order to buy new sports equipment because the kids grew another 2 to 4 inches since last season? Well, maybe we can help. Come to our first sports flea market.

You may stay and sell your own items and barter, or leave and the items will be sold at asking price only.

8:00 – 10:00: bring in your used, clean, and in good condition sports equipment. Pre-priced and marked.* Tables will be divided by sport.

10:00 – 1:00: sports equipment flea market will be open

1:00: pick up remaining items and envelopes. All remaining items after 1:30 will be taken to local charity.

**If you plan to have your items sold, all items must be marked with your name, phone number, and price. Each person will be given an envelope at each sports table, marked with name and phone number. All sales will be put into matching envelope to be picked up no later than 1:00 p.m.*

Donated items only: For free pick-up, contact Mary Schmitt at mary.schmitt@mac.com.

Tables: football, baseball, golf, lacrosse, hockey, soccer, basketball & misc.



WROC

2011 SUMMER REGISTRATION

Each participant must sign and return the entire registration form.

Name of participant: _____ Age, if under 18: _____

Name of parent, if under 18: _____

Address: _____ City, state, zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Westminster Church member

Email address: _____ Non-member

ACTIVITIES

For more information about these classes, visit our website at wroc.westminster-church.org

55+ Classes Cost \$ Paid

Line Dancing	\$16	\$
Wellness Through Yoga	\$90	\$

55+ Excursions Cost \$ Paid

9 to 5: The Musical	\$50	\$
Fernwood Tea Room	\$25	\$
The Marvelous Wonderettes	\$46	\$

Athletics Cost \$ Paid

Adult Open Basketball	\$25	\$
Adult Open Volleyball	\$25	\$
Cardio-Sculpt	\$154	\$
Drop In & Work Out	\$168	\$
Fitness Yoga	\$56	\$
Hope, Faith & Fitness	\$116	\$
M-W-F Morning Aerobics	\$52	\$
Personal Training (please calculate and write in total)	\$	\$
Strength-Sculpt-Stretch	\$112	\$
Total Body Blast: 2 days/week	\$144	\$
3 days/week	\$216	\$
WROC Walk	\$108	\$
Yoga	\$56	\$
Zumba Saturday	\$64	\$
Zumba Toning: May	\$9	\$
June	\$12	\$
July	\$12	\$
August	\$12	\$

Zumba Tuesdays & Thursdays (Please use separate registration form.)

Total column A: \$ _____

Creative Expression Cost \$ Paid

Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$20	\$
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Creative Expression for Special Needs Cost \$ Paid

Art for Autism Series (May - August)	\$45	\$
Movie Night	\$6	\$

Health Cost \$ Paid

Change is Possible Seminars		
May	\$10	\$
June	\$10	\$
July	\$10	\$
August	\$10	\$
Series	\$35	\$
Mother/Daughter Evening		
Mother & one daughter	\$30	\$
Additional daughter	\$7	\$

Li'l WROCers

BOZ the Bear Summer Camp (Please use separate registration form.)

Special Interests Cost \$ Paid

Baking Workshop	\$30	\$
List. Show. Sold!	Free	<input type="checkbox"/>
Painting Workshop	\$50	\$
Solutions for a Well Organized Purse	\$10	\$

Women WROC Cost \$ Paid

Women of Faith Conference	\$89	\$
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Total column B: \$ _____

MEDICAL HISTORY

Please list any medical conditions or physical limitation you have:

CHILD CARE REGISTRATION

Several morning classes and some evening classes offer child care.
In order to ensure proper adult supervision, child care is only available through advance reservation.
Please check our website at wroc.westminster-church.org for child care cost.

Name:	Age:	Comments:	# of Classes:
Child 1:			
Child 2:			
Child 3:			
			Total # of classes: \$ _____
			Multiplied by cost per child: \$ _____
			Total child care cost: \$ <u> </u>

CONSENT, RELEASE, AND INDEMNITY

I understand that participation in any of the WROC programming can present a risk of harm to the participant and that I have a personal responsibility for assuming any and all medical, hospital, and related expenses that may result from my own or my children's participation in any of the Recreation Center's programs.

I presently have satisfactory insurance coverage with:

Name of insurance carrier

Policy number

I hereby release Westminster Presbyterian Church, affiliated and sponsored organizations, and its personnel, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the church and its personnel from and against any liability of any nature whatsoever for any injury to myself and/or my son or daughter resulting or arising in any way from my/his/her participation in any programs offered through WROC Ministries.

Signature (parent/guardian if under 18)

Date

PAYMENT

Once you have completed the registration form,
please total your fees as follows:

Subtotal: \$ _____
Total child care (above): \$ _____
Total amount paid: \$
Check #: _____

Please return this entire form with your
check, made payable to **WROC** to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
c/o WROC
2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SPRING Rummage Sale

PWW extends many thanks to all those who donated items or volunteered their time to work at the Spring Rummage Sale. This churchwide activity afforded the opportunity to meet Westminster members you may never have seen before or spoken with. Lots of lively conversations ensued during the delicious luncheon and plenty of laughter filled the air. What a wonderful time of fellowship while filling an important mission need! This year's sale garnered \$9,500.00. Additionally, Interfaith Hospitality Network clients were invited to select clothing and household goods. Items left over at the close of the sale were donated to Washington City Mission and other churches. Books were taken to Goodwill, and cardboard, metal, and electronic items were recycled.

This sale occurs twice yearly. Again in the fall we will be looking for items to be donated and for volunteers to staff this worthwhile mission project. A special thank you to the first-time participants. Many of these volunteers came from recent new member classes. If you were unable to be a part of the fun this time around, please consider joining us in the fall.

— Maureen Ludwig



MUSIC & ARTS: SPRING 2011

Welcome to the final two programs in the spring season of Westminster's Music & Arts series. Held in the sanctuary, both programs are free (a freewill offering will be taken). All are cordially invited to attend.

■ Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

The High School Chamber Choir Festival, featuring the chamber choirs of Bethel Park, Mt. Lebanon, and Upper St. Clair, as well as Westminster's Chancel Choir.

■ Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

Music for harp and violin. We once again welcome Gretchen Van Hoesen, principal harpist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and Louis Lev, associate principal second violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony.

— Westminster Music & Arts
Committee

Hey, Li'l Wrocer's!

Come join Boz the Bear for a fun, jumping, singing summer of Adventures in Imagination!



July 11-22
Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday
9:30 a.m. – noon

For more information & registration forms, go to our website, wroc.westminster-church.org

How the Austin Came to Westminster



Twenty years ago this month, May 1991, two large semi trucks appeared at the front door of Westminster Church. They contained virtually all the components for the new Austin pipe organ to be installed here.

But let's back up a few years to see what led to this event. We should really go back to when the sanctuary was built in 1959. Chambers on each side of the chancel were provided for the eventual installation of a pipe organ. At the time, funding was not available for a pipe organ and an Allen electronic organ was installed, with loudspeakers occupying the chambers.

In November 1984 the Session authorized a long-range planning committee to study the feasibility of three "Capital Challenges": expansion of the Westminster building, a major mission project, and the installation of a pipe

organ. The results of this study were presented to the Session in late 1985, resulting in a decision to conduct a major capital campaign, labeled "The Vision," to fund all three projects.

At that time the Pipe Organ Committee was formed and started its work in early 1986. We studied several organ manufacturers and requested proposals from six companies, including Austin. Many discussions were held involving the size of organ and where it should be placed. We also had an acoustical survey of the sanctuary conducted. The acoustical consultant made several recommendations, which included detailed specifications for hard surface plaster to line the existing organ chambers (done as part of the chancel construction described below), and the suggestion that a hard surface floor be installed throughout the

sanctuary (realized five years ago with the installation of the porcelain tile floor). The recommendations of the Organ Committee – along with the results of the other committees studying the building addition and mission projects – were presented to Session in January 1988, and the Vision capital campaign was launched.

In early 1989, Bill Evans, an experienced and highly talented organist, was hired as Director of Music and Arts. With Bill's guidance, a revised specification for a pipe organ was developed and Austin was selected as the organ manufacturer. A letter of intent was issued to Austin in May of that year and a contract was signed in December when funding was identified.

Meanwhile, major revisions to the chancel were taking place. These included

repositioning of the choir pews to face the congregation (they had been “cathedral-style” on either side of the chancel), removal of the marble on the front wall and reinstalling it as the floor of the chancel, and addition of two windows. Also, cantilevered platforms were built in front of each chamber to house the Great and Choir divisions of the organ (the exposed pipes on each side). Platforms were also constructed for the Nave organ in the rear of the sanctuary. Additionally, Westminster was required to make preparations for installation of the organ, such as:

- Installation of large-diameter piping, pressure tested, between the location of the organ blower (located in the lower level of the church near the furnace room) and the organ chambers.
- Providing electrical service for the organ at various locations, and for the blower.
- Providing a “pit” below the chancel floor for storage of the cable connecting the organ console to the rest of the organ (allowing the console to be moved to different positions).

This was a period of much coordination between Westminster and the Austin Organ Co. – with a myriad of letters, telephone calls, etc. to and from the organ and building committees, the architect, and subcontractors – that lasted from the time the contract was signed in late 1989 until delivery of the organ.

When the organ components arrived in May 1991, two gentlemen from the Austin Co., who were residents here until completion of installation, busied themselves with the lengthy process of assembly. The first step was hiring of riggers (another Westminster responsibility) to hoist the windchests and other large components into the chambers and the cantilevered platforms in front of them. I recall it was a pretty scary process, especially when they were hoisting the big windchests, but there were no disasters. Rooms throughout the church were used as storage areas for organ components until they were installed.

The installation process went on for weeks during the summer of 1991 until all

the windchests were connected to the air supply, the large sealed “boxes” (actually rooms) for the Enclosed Choir and Swell divisions were constructed, all electrical connections made, and each of the 4,772 pipes was placed in its designated location. The final step was the voicing of the organ, done by two other Austin employees. This would be the first time the organ could be played as a whole, since only portions could be tested at the factory. During all this time, the use of the sanctuary for Sunday services and the occasional funeral or wedding was not interrupted.

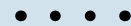
The organ was dedicated the first weekend of October 1991 with two concerts by Bill Evans on October 4 and 5 and a dedication service on Sunday, October 6. Later, concerts were performed by John Erickson of Christ United Methodist Church and noted English organist Simon Preston.

I recall the first time I heard the organ played a few weeks before its completion. I stopped by the church on my way home from work to see how things were going. What I heard then was not a glorious Bach prelude and fugue or a great hymn tune, but the most magnificent rendition I have ever heard of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," played by one of the Austin installers!

— Dave Hilty

The Pipe Organ Committee, 1986

- Dave Hilty, Chairman
- Joan Giles, Secretary
- Linda Dietz
- Winona Goffe
- Susan Haddad
- Doris Hartman
- John Hayes
- Charles Magdsick
- John Noyes
- Betty Jane Nelan
- Virginia Renberg
- Margaret Smith
- George Walker
- Walter Horsley, Staff
- Elizabeth Maier, Staff



Organ Trivia

Whose wedding was the first for Westminster’s Austin organ? Betsy and Rich Krausa’s September 1991 wedding holds that honor. At the time, the organ was installed but not fully tuned, and organist Bill Evans had promised Betsy that the organ would be ready for her wedding. Betsy was nervous, but Bill assured her that the organ was just a bit out of tune and no one would notice – and no one did.

Betsy and her dad, Fred Schneider, have been members of the Chancel Choir since 1990. Betsy’s son, Doug, has joined in the family tradition, first in the Cherub Choir and now in the Junior Choir. Three generations of joyful singing!

DEACONS' CORNER BLOOD DRIVE COMING



Sunday, May 15
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

As spring is in full bloom with summer not far behind, many people are now busy planning trips and taking to the road, launching the inevitable household spring cleaning and tackling lawn and garden clean-up. Unfortunately, these activities can result in accidents that create an even greater need for a safe and adequate blood supply.

Central Blood Bank is the region's largest blood center and supplies blood products and transfusion-related services to more than 40 hospitals in Western Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, and eastern Ohio. Central Blood Bank must register 725 donors a day to meet the blood product needs of these hospitals.

Once again, Westminster Presbyterian Church, having a longstanding and proud tradition and mission of helping others throughout the year, is partnering

with Central Blood Bank to offer the congregation and others in our community a convenient opportunity to donate blood on Sunday, May 15, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Only generous volunteer blood donors can provide this special gift of life to the people who need it.

Whole blood donation is the most common type of blood donation in which the donor provides approximately one pint of whole blood, which can be separated into three components – red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. One whole blood donation can save up to three lives.

Several donors have inquired about an "apheresis donation," a donation in which whole blood is withdrawn, a desired component separated and retained, and the remainder of the blood is returned to the donor. The three most common types of apheresis donations are double red blood cell, platelet, and plasma.

In order to donate, you must be at least 16 years old (with parental permission), weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good

health. You are eligible to donate every 56 days. Medications such as insulin, aspirin, and high blood pressure treatments do not defer 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 appropriately plan for this drive, we ask all prospective donors to pre-register in one of the following ways:

- Online: www.centralbloodbank.org using sponsor code G0010170
- Sign-up tables: before or after the worship services on May 1 or May 8
- Telephone: Betty McMillan at 412-831-8104

The deacons thank you in advance for supporting our local hospitals and patients in this worthy mission.

Graduating?

If you are a graduating student or know of a student who is graduating this year, please share that information with us by completing this form and dropping it in the offering plate or church office by May 8. You may also email it to bosko@westminster-church.org.

Name of Graduate: _____

High School/College/University: _____

Degree Received: _____

Area of Study: _____

Legacies...

News from Endowment and Special Gifts

Projects Chosen for 2011 Endowment Funding

Funding in the amount of \$115,480 was available as of December 31, 2010, according to the current formula for distribution from the undesignated portion of the Westminster Endowment Fund. Although many requests were submitted, consideration was given to the immediacy of the need, completeness of the detailing of the project, whether or not another commission of the church would handle the project, and the balance of the funding among mission, ministry, and capital improvements.

Major gifting to the church can be directed to *unfunded* projects at the discretion of the donor through the endowment committee and Session's approval.

- **Funding for renovation of the John Galbreath Chapel** has been on the list of desired improvements for several years. It will become a reality with a major private donation and budgeted funding from the New Cornfield campaign. Forty thousand dollars from the Westminster Endowment will complete the \$210,000 chapel project. In recent years the chapel has been used increasingly for weddings, funerals, concerts, and various meetings in addition to Sunday seminars. Major updates will include lighting, audio-video additions, window replacement, shutter repair, painting, porcelain tile flooring, special needs seating, better access to current seating, and opening the chancel area by reducing it to one level to provide additional access, improved aesthetics, and multiple uses for the chancel.

- **The Urban Kitchen Project**, with \$10,000 in endowment funding, supports the Garfield Community Farm, an urban farming project begun in 2008. It brings lasting change to the health of a lower income urban neighborhood through free community cooking and harvest tasting events,

augmenting food bank distributions, teaching healthy ways to cook, and building relationships through Valley View and Open Door Presbyterian Churches and improving nutrition of children in the area. Specifically, the money will purchase kitchen supplies and project materials, contribute to personnel and overhead costs, and provide funds to increase the size of the garden (fencing, seeds, fertilizers, raised beds, and other growing supplies). There are opportunities for Westminster members to participate with this project.

- **Outreach ministry consultants**, Will and Janet Hignett, will be funded in the amount of \$16,000, a Session approved continuation of a project begun last year.
- **The choir room** will receive new chairs costing \$3,200 and funding for an electronic keyboard costing \$1,700 to be used primarily in the popular courtyard summer worship services.
- **The Washington City Mission Shelter Kitchen project** has already been funded by \$17,400 from the South Hills Bible Chapel but needs an additional \$19,700 to complete. The endowment will finish this project overseen by the Director of Hope Enterprises. This phase includes replacing kitchen equipment, remodeling restrooms, replacing flooring, and purchasing café chairs. Volunteer help is used where applicable.
- **The City Mission's Feed My Sheep kitchen** provides food for 350 to 400 people daily. Costs should be reduced 20 to 30% through replacement of high maintenance,

outdated equipment that twice caused damage to the dormitory below. A new serving table will meet the state requirement of keeping food hot during the serving process. For every \$100 saved in maintenance, an additional 39 meals can be provided.

- **The Membership Commission** has been awarded funding for four digital signs to help members and visitors to Westminster have access to clear directions when entering the building to identify where meetings and events are being held. The signs will be mounted at eye level and will be interactive, allowing people to make queries and see information and a map. The maps are "smart" in that they will route people in different ways depending upon the time of day or for specific events. They will be installed in the north entry, the office entrance, the entrance near Fellowship Hall, and the entrance off the playground. The purpose is to make Westminster a more welcoming environment. Three bids are being solicited with a maximum cost of \$24,800.

The undesignated portion of the Westminster Endowment increases each time there is response to a memorial or celebration request, the generosity of an individual donor, a testamentary gift, or earnings on the corpus through investment. As the endowment grows, Westminster Presbyterian Church grows its hopes and dreams.

— Janis Davis

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 31, 2011

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2011	\$ 435,396.95
Annual Budget	\$1,731,057.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,295,660.05

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$ 526,358.02
Expenses	\$ 510,794.96
Net Position	\$ 15,563.06

Financial Help for Students

Seminary Students

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides financial scholarship support for church staff or members enrolled or planning to enroll in a Master of Divinity program. Applications are available in the church finance office. Questions may be directed to Carl Lindstrom, 412-833-8628.

Westminster Education and Service Trust (W.E.S.T.)

- Do you need a helping hand with post high school educational costs? The W.E.S.T. Fund has a limited amount of resources available to distribute to Westminster Church students needing some financial assistance.
- Gifts are often used toward book purchases and similar expenses. Applications are available in the church finance office or gallery.
- Undergraduate and/or graduate students are limited to a total of four (4) annual gifts.
- When completing the application, please explain why you are requesting the gift and how you are planning to use it.
- If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Carl Lindstrom, 412-833-8628.

Completed applications are due in the church finance office by June 17, 2011.

Mailing Address for Applications
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Finance Office
2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

— Marcel Proust

Inside Westminster Outside in the Spring

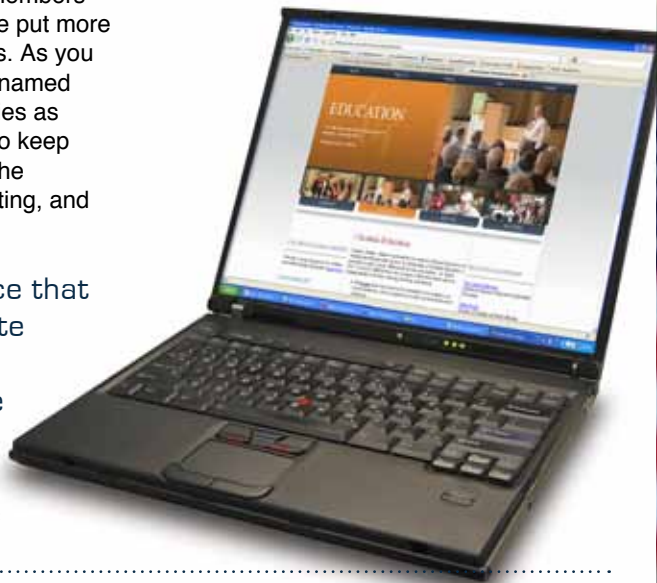
When we think of spring, we think of everything being new. There are new buds on the trees, new baby birds, new coats of paint, and new ideas. This year, spring is bringing something new to Westminster that has the Communications Commission very excited!

Westminster's website on the World Wide Web has general information for those seeking a church home. This site is fondly referred to as "outside." We also have an intranet site called *Inside Westminster*, which is a password protected site for Westminster members and very close friends, where we put more detailed information and pictures. As you can guess, this site is often nicknamed "inside." One of my responsibilities as communications coordinator is to keep these two websites, along with the WROC website, current, interesting, and appealing.

I am pleased to announce that our new "outside" website is now live on the World Wide Web. Many people spent many hours to complete this new, engaging, and attractive

website. As with *Inside Westminster*, this website is yours. It is my hope that it represents everything that is Westminster. Please visit www.westminster-church.org. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

— Anna Hiner, Communications Coordinator
hiner@westminster-church.org



SESSION UPDATE

At its meeting on April 18, Session voted to install a projector and screen in the sanctuary, both of which would retract to the ceiling and be generally invisible during worship services, but make it possible to show images of the church's ministry and mission, for example, during announcements and occasionally for special presentations. Session also voted to approve the installation of a new small pipe organ in the chapel, with the understanding that the funds would come from special gifts that would not otherwise be available for alternative purposes. It is expected to take three or four years for the organ to be built and installed.

After considerable discussion, Session also authorized the Property Commission to designate a small commission to enter into preliminary negotiations toward the possible purchase of the house and property adjacent to the church at 123 Orr Rd. A congregational meeting was called for Sunday, May 1, to share reasons for considering the purchase, along with potential costs and other considerations, and to seek input from church members. Any purchase or sale of property requires the approval of the congregation and the presbytery, and this first meeting is intended principally for information and discussion.

Remember

Memorial Day May 30





Westminster Presbyterian Church
2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

A PC(USA) Congregation

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This *Spire* was printed on paper that contains 30% recycled post-consumer fiber, is EcoLogo certified, and was manufactured in Canada using biogas.

Thank you for helping to care for God's creation by recycling this *Spire* in the bin in our north parking lot.



Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Johann Crüger, 1648

Mother and Child by Henry Moore