



Artwork courtesy of John Montague

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017, 10:30 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS (1951)
MUSIC AND LIBRETTO BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI (1911-2007)

Menotti was commissioned by Peter Herman Adler, director of NBC's new opera programming, to write the first opera for television. The composer had trouble settling on a subject for the opera, but took his inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's *The Adoration of the Magi* hanging in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. As the air date neared, Menotti had yet to finish the score. The singers had little time to rehearse, and received the final passages of the score just days before the broadcast. The composer's companion, Samuel Barber, was brought in to complete the orchestrations. After the dress rehearsal, NBC Symphony conductor Arturo Toscanini told Menotti, "This is the best you've ever done."

Menotti distinctly wanted Amahl to be performed by a boy. In the Production Notes contained in the Piano-Vocal score he wrote: "It is the express wish of the composer that the role of Amahl should always be performed by a boy. Neither the musical nor the dramatic concept of the opera permits the substitution of a woman costumed as a child."

The booklet with the original cast recording contains the following anecdote from Menotti:

This is an opera for children because it tries to recapture my own childhood. You see, when I was a child I lived in Italy, and in Italy we have no Santa Claus. I suppose that Santa Claus is much too busy with American children to be able to handle Italian children as well. Our gifts were brought to us by the Three Kings, instead.

I actually never met the Three Kings—it didn't matter how hard my little brother and I tried to keep awake at night to catch a glimpse of the Three Royal Visitors, we would always fall asleep just before they arrived. But I do remember hearing them. I remember the weird cadence of their song in the dark distance; I remember the brittle sound of the camel's hooves crushing the frozen snow; and I remember the mysterious tinkling of their silver bridles.

My favorite king was King Melchior, because he was the oldest and had a long white beard. My brother's favorite was King Kaspar. He insisted that this king was a little crazy and quite deaf. I don't know why he was so positive about his being deaf. I suspect it was because dear King Kaspar never brought him all the gifts he requested. He was also rather puzzled by the fact that King Kaspar carried the myrrh, which appeared to him as a rather eccentric gift, for he never quite understood what the word meant.

To these Three Kings I mainly owe the happy Christmas seasons of my childhood and I should have remained very grateful to them. Instead, I came to America and soon forgot all about them, for here at Christmas time one sees so many Santa Clauses scattered all over town. Then there is the big Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza, the elaborate toy windows on Fifth Avenue, the one-hundred-voice choir in Grand Central Station, the innumerable Christmas carols on radio and television—and all these things made me forget the three dear old Kings of my old childhood.

*But in 1951 I found myself in serious difficulty. I had been commissioned by the National Broadcasting Company to write an opera for television, with Christmas as deadline, and I simply didn't have one idea in my head. One November afternoon as I was walking rather gloomily through the rooms of the Metropolitan Museum, I chanced to stop in front of the *Adoration of the Kings* by Hieronymus Bosch, and as I was looking at it, suddenly I heard again, coming from the distant blue hills, the weird song of the Three Kings. I then realized they had come back to me and had brought me a gift.*

I am often asked how I went about writing an opera for television, and what are the specific problems that I had to face in planning a work for such a medium. I must confess that in writing "Amahl and the Night Visitors," I hardly thought of television at all. As a matter of fact, all my operas are originally conceived for an ideal stage which has no equivalent in reality, and I believe that such is the case with most dramatic authors.

SYNOPSIS

Amahl, a disabled boy who can walk only with a crutch, has a problem with telling tall tales. He is sitting outside playing his shepherd's pipe when his mother calls for him (Amahl! Amahl!). After much persuasion, he enters the house but his mother does not believe him when he tells her there is an amazing star "as big as a window" outside over their roof (O Mother You Should Go Outside; Stop Bothering Me!).

Later that night, Amahl's mother weeps, praying that Amahl not become a beggar (Don't Cry Mother Dear). After bedtime (From Far Away We Come), there is a knock at the door and the mother tells Amahl to go see who it is (Amahl ... Yes Mother!). He is amazed when he sees three splendidly dressed kings (the Magi), one of whom is black. At first the mother does not believe Amahl, but when she goes to the door to see for herself, she is stunned. The Three Kings tell the mother and Amahl they are on a long journey to give gifts to a wondrous Child and they would like to rest at their house, to which the mother agrees (Good Evening!; Come In!), saying that all she can offer is "a cold fireplace and a bed of straw". The mother goes to fetch firewood, and Amahl seizes the opportunity to speak with the kings. King Balthazar answers Amahl's questions about his life as a king and asks what Amahl does. Amahl responds that he was once a shepherd, but his mother had to sell his sheep. Now, he and his mother will have to go begging. Amahl then talks with King Kaspar, who is childlike, eccentric, and a bit deaf. Kaspar shows Amahl his box of magic stones, beads, and licorice, and offers Amahl some of the candy (Are You A Real King?; This is My Box). The mother returns (Amahl, I Told You Not To Be A Nuisance!). Amahl is told to go fetch the neighbors (All These Beautiful Things; Have You Seen a Child?) so the kings may be fed and entertained properly (Shepherds! Shepherds!; Emily! Emily; Olives and Quinces; Dance of the Shepherds).

After the neighbors have left and the kings are resting, the mother attempts to steal for her son some of the kings' gold that was meant for the Christ child (All That Gold). She is thwarted by the kings' page. ("Thief! Thief!") When Amahl wakes to find the page grabbing his mother, he attacks him. ("Don't You Dare!") Seeing Amahl's weak defense of his mother and understanding the motives for the attempted theft, King Melchior says she may keep the gold as the Holy Child will not need earthly power or wealth to build his kingdom. ("Oh, Woman, You Can Keep That Gold") The mother says she has waited all her life for such a king and asks the kings to take back the gold. She wishes to send a gift but has nothing to send. Amahl, too, has nothing to give the Child except his crutch. ("Oh, No, Wait") When he offers it to the kings, his leg is miraculously healed. ("I Walk, Mother") With permission from his mother, he leaves with the kings to see the Child and give his crutch in thanks for being healed.

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS:

Amahl: Ian Torres
The Mother: Jessica Ann Best
King Kaspar: James Judd
King Melchior (Sunday): Brandon Mecklenburg
King Melchior (Friday and Saturday): James Wright
King Balthazar: Nicholas Kilkenny
The Page: Shayne Jones

CHORUS:

Jacob Badding (Dancer)
Mariami Bekauri
Kaitlyn Dykstra
Anne Marie Faltisco
Patrick Saiff
Ellie Steinmetz
Julie Zenger

PRODUCTION TEAM:

James Wright, Stage Director and Co-Producer
Matthew Marco, Music Director and Co-Producer
Garrett F. Martin, Executive Producer
Keith Harrington, Lighting Designer

SPECIAL THANKS:

Buffalo Rising
Matt DiCamillo, DiCamillo Bakery
Gates Circle Wine and Liquor
Hodge Wine and Liquor
Sarah Gordon, Friends of Music
Peter Hall, WNED
Keith Harrington, AV Projex
Hillary Hunt, Friends of Music
Jan Jezioro, Artvoice
Fr. Jack Ledwon, St. Joseph University Church
Jeff Kaczmarek
Mary Kunz Goldman, Buffalo News
Lenore Neiler, Publicity
Julie Newell, Fredonia School of Music
Veronica Shanchuk, School performance coordinator
The Westminster Staff
The Westminster Friends of Music

ORCHESTRA:

Violin I: Carl Lam
Violin II: Emily Greetham
Viola: Leslie Bahler
Cello: Connor Sullivan
Bass: Rob Webster
Flute: Tatiana Brewer
Oboe: Kelly Gravel
Piano: James Welch

ABOUT THE CAST...

Ian Lucas Bunt Torres has sung for both the St. Paul's Cathedral Choirs and the Westminster Choir School. Ian sang the treble solo in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and has traveled with St. Paul's to London (Ontario), Albany (NY), Ely Cathedral, and Peterborough Cathedral (England). He has also participated in productions of *Tosca*, *The Nutcracker*, *Shot*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Venus and Adonis*. He enjoys Tae Kwon Do, playing Chess, and practicing his "chef" skills. Currently in 7th Grade at City Honors School, he previously attended Global Concepts Charter School and the Westminster Early Childhood Program.

Jessica Ann Best, mezzo-soprano, is known for her interpretations in modern opera and is thankful to have the opportunity to sing *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Best recently made her debut with The Center for Contemporary Opera in New York City in *Jane Eyre*, portraying the roles of Bessie and Mary Rivers. She will return to the CCO in Fall 2017. Best premiered the title role in *Alice Ryley* by Michael Ching, at the Savannah Voice Festival. In June, she premiered the role of Mrs. Foster in *Shot!* with Nickel City Opera, where she also sang Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Ms. Best will join Maestro Anton Coppola's centennial gala concert with Opera Tampa in March 2017; performing selections from his opera, *Sacco and Vanzetti*. Ms. Best holds a Master of Music from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Music from Nazareth College. Ms. Best has her own voice studio in Rochester, NY. Ms. Best is thankful to sing in the Westminster Choir, under Garrett Martin. She would like to thank her friends, Matt Marco and Jim Wright, for the opportunity to sing this beautiful piece again. For more information, please visit: www.jessicaannbest.com

James Judd is an active interpreter of both operatic and concert repertoire. He has performed a variety of works as a tenor soloist, including Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Honegger's *Le Roi David*, Händel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Die Jahreszeiten*, and Monteverdi's *1610 Vespers*. James has sung with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Erie Philharmonic, and the Western New York Chamber Orchestra. Some of Mr. Judd's operatic roles include Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, the title role in *La Clemenza di Tito*, Alfredo in *Die Fledermaus*, Asgar in the United States premier of *Arshin mala lan*, and most recently Claude in the world premiere of *The Fall of Stag Lee* with Buffalo Opera Unlimited. James has participated as a Young Artist at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, Opera Saratoga, and Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. James holds a Master of Arts in Vocal Performance from The University of Iowa, as well as Bachelors of Music in both Music Education and Vocal Performance from SUNY Fredonia. He is very excited to present to you his debut performance of King Kaspar in this production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Enjoy!

Brandon Mecklenburg is a sophomore at SUNY Fredonia, currently studying with Prof. Daniel Ihasz. At Fredonia he has appeared in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* (Chorus) and scenes from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Figaro). He would like to thank his older brother, Tyler Mecklenburg, for being a great role model.

James Wright, (Baritone) is described by critics as "tremendous," "entertaining" and "talented," and is a favorite among audiences for his charismatic presence and warm tone. Recent operatic roles include Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* and Richard White in the world premiere of *Alice Ryley* by Michael Ching with Sherrill Milnes, and the Savannah Voice Festival. Other roles include the Sacristan in Puccini's *Tosca*, Rev. Gruffydd in Roger Ames' *How Green was My Valley*, The Pilot in Portman's *The Little Prince*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, John Sorel in *The Consul*, Valentin in Gounod's *Faust*, and Schaunard in *La Bohème*. He has made appearances with Nickel City Opera, Amarillo Opera, Mobile Opera, the Savannah Voice Festival, Sarasota Opera, El Paso Opera, Rochester Lyric Opera, the Natchez Festival of Music and more. Learn more at www.jameswrightbaritone.com.

Nicholas Kilkenny, bass-baritone, is a classical vocalist and voice teacher located in Western New York. Most notable roles include Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* with Houghton Lyric Theater, Sacristan in *Tosca* with Nickel City Opera, Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Eastman Opera Theater, Méphistophélès in *Faust* with Buffalo Opera Unlimited, among others. Recent concert performances include Handel's *Messiah* with the Olean Chamber Music Society, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Eastman Philharmonia, and a full performance of Schubert's *Schwanengesang* in recital at Eastman. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2014 singing the role of Jewel Scrooby in Howard Hanson's *Merry Mount* with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Nicholas is currently on faculty at Nazareth College and Houghton College teaching applied voice while completing his doctoral studies from the Eastman School of Music.

Shayne Jones is a music education major at Buffalo State, studying voice with Holly Bewlay and viola with Janz Castelo. Originally from the southern Finger Lakes region, he has performed in theatre and concerts throughout the US east coast. He currently sings with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and at St. Paul's Cathedral. Thanks to Jim Wright, Matt, and the cast for this experience!

Matthew Marco is active in the Buffalo area as a conductor and collaborative pianist. He has served as Music Director or Assistant Conductor/Chorusmaster with Nickel City Opera, the Hillman Opera Company, the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and Opera-Lytes. His 2016-17 season includes a debut with Amarillo Opera, two performance of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and an all-new production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Recent seasons have included performances with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Buffalo Chamber Players, Civic Morning Musicals, Friends of Vienna, and the Western New York Chamber Orchestra. In addition, Mr. Marco maintains an active schedule of teaching and accompanying in both Fredonia and Buffalo. Mr. Marco completed a Master's from SUNY Fredonia in Collaborative Piano, studying with Anne Kisel, and a Bachelor's in Piano Performance from SUNY Potsdam, studying with Francois Germain. He has pursued additional studies in conducting with Brian Doyle and Paul Ferington, and has conducted in masterclasses for Larry Rachleff, Donald Schleicher, Ann Howard Jones, Kenneth Kiesler, and Helmuth Rilling. For more information, visit www.matt-marco.com.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Worship: 8:15AM in the Holmes Chapel with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and 10:30AM in the Sanctuary

January 22 - The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Proclaiming Deliverance in a World of Danger, Darkness and Death

1Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 - The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Fools for Christ

Micah 6:1-8; 1Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 15

9:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
 9:00 AM Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:15 AM Confirmation Class
 10:30 AM Worship/Amahl & the Night Visitors
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 11:45 AM Dream Group 3

Monday, January 16

7:30 AM WECPClosed
 (Staff Development Day)

Tuesday, January 17

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 6:00 PM Mission Outreach Mtg.

6:00 PM Congregational Life
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma
 7:00 PM WECPC Parent Board Mtg.

Wednesday, January 18

12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 12:00 PM News Info. Deadline
 1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 19

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

6:00 PM Handbells
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 20

5:00 PM Men's Retreat at Bymcliff

5:30 PM Taize Service

Saturday, January 21

9:00 AM WECPC Pancake Breakfast
 10:00 AM What Do I Believe?

Sunday, January 22

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:00 AM Senior Choristers
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:15 AM Confirmation Class
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 AM Worship
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 12:30 PM Inquirer's Mtg./Light Refreshments



THE ATRIUM @ RICH'S

1 Robert Rich Way, Buffalo, NY (Free parking available!)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

FUN AND FESTIVITIES

Food stations, live music, cash bar, live and silent auctions, and the opportunity to experience
 A Story of Empowerment: An Interactive Walkthrough Exhibit

RSVP BY JANUARY 27, 2017

wedibuffalo.org/winterfest2017 (RSVP cards are also available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room)

TICKETS

purchase at winterfest2017.brownpapertickets.com (Ticket forms are also available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room)

NEEDED! Volunteers/Basket Donations/Auction Items!
 Contact Betsy Mitchell, betsymitchell@aol.com if you can assist and/or donate. Thank you!

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

We invite members and visitors to sign the friendship/registration pad as it is passed during the service. Please indicate if you would like information sent to you or request a call from the pastor.

As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community to membership and full participation in worship, leadership, service opportunities, and all ministries of Westminster.

We light our peace candle remembering those relatives of Westminster members and all who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our prayers for peace include our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and families.

Bibles are available at the Sanctuary entrances.

Wireless Receivers for hearing assistance are available in the Church Conference Room.

If you need assistance, please ask any Deacon.

MISSION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ENERGY is always in need of plastic folders, spiral note books, notebook paper, pink erasers, dry erase markers, black Sharpie markers, glue sticks, white glue, and Crayola watercolor sets. Additionally, ENERGY can use sturdy paper plates, 7 oz. cups, napkins, plastic forks, cake mix, and frosting cans. Donations may be left on the kitchen counter in the basement ENERGY rooms.

Visit The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping.

Westminster's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral service has been working quietly and steadily since 1981 to help members and friends with any questions they may have about alcohol or other drugs. Call any of us for free and confidential advice. Phil Stevens, Chair 839-3357; Dave Carstensen 884-5403, Jane Morris 571-481-1839, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Elizabeth Stewart, 585-217-7878, Jim Wieland 523-0217.

Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. If you are a member recovering from an illness/surgery, a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, please contact Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326 or email jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org

CHILDCARE AT WESTMINSTER

Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 8:30AM to 11:30AM in the WECP (school) building.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WESTMINSTER

- Our preschool class meets in the WECP building. After *Time with Children*, children 3-5 year olds leave with their teachers, "Miss Debby" and "Mr. Chris" LaMendola and walk to the building together. In cold weather, the children need their coats. After worship, the children and their teachers meet together in the Holmes Room.
- 1st-5th grade classes: Each month our classes rotate through our three Workshops; Creation Station, Holywood and Apostles Playhouse.
- 6th-7th grade class meets each Sunday in their classroom on the Parish Hall balcony. Carol Timmerman-Yorty is their teacher.
- Our confirmation class is made up of 8th graders. They meet one-on-one with their mentor until their class begins in January when they meet each Sunday from 9:15AM to 10:15AM in the classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our Senior Highs – 9th – 12th graders meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

The Senior Choristers, ages 12-18, rehearse each Wednesday, from August 17th through May 31st, 4:30-6PM in the Holmes Chapel. At 6PM, the choristers sing Choral Evensong in the Holmes Chapel, open to everyone. *The Junior Choristers*, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously with the Senior Choristers each Wednesday, through May 31st, 4:30-6PM in the Holmes Chapel, joining the Senior Choristers for the service of Choral Evensong at 6 PM. *The Apprentice Choristers*, ages 4-6, rehearse each Sunday through May

21st, during the 10:30AM Sunday School in the Holmes Chapel. The Apprentice Choristers are taught fundamental music and choral skills, with the assistance of Dr. Val Cooley and Mrs. Julie Zenger.

Participation in the programs is not limited to Westminster members; all are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org 884.9437 ext. 318.

BECOME A PART OF OUR LIFE

Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. Our next date is **Sunday, January 22, 2017**, at 12PM. The Rev. Thomas Yorty, Pastor of Westminster, will tell the story of our church along with the current programs of outreach and mission in the city and region. There will be time for conversation and an opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have. Light, healthy refreshments will be served. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Yorty, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org or 830-8596, Karen Keaton, khkeaton@verizon.net or any staff member.

SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Bible Study

9:00AM - 10:15AM first classroom on the Parish Hall Balcony

Join our continuing conversation as we explore the Sunday scripture passages. This discussion moves from what the biblical passage means to what this passage might mean in our lives. Our class is led by Debbie Katz and other class members. Our curriculum is *Feasting on the Word*. Please come to these classes as your schedule permits.

Spiritual Life

9:00AM - 10:15AM in the Heritage Room

January 15

Coffee hour sharing of poems, art and music

Bring your favorite poem, short story, piece of art, song and share.

January 22

Spiritual Life Reflections and Integrations

What questions have come up since we started in September? Have you gone any deeper upon reflecting on topics presented? Have you become more active outside of church in some way based

Case Library Conversations

9:00AM - 10:15AM in the Case Library

Travelogue Series: January 15, 22, and 29

January 15: Louise and John McClive will speak about their two weeks in Rome where they saw outstanding art and architecture in Baroque churches, the Borghese Gallery and the buildings of the Eternal City

January 22: Jeannette Ludwig and Claude Welch will tell us about Sri Lanka, teardrop-shaped island off the SE coast of India, that presents a variety of landscapes, temples, and peoples. Its fascinating history stretches back more than 3,500 years. The Posaon Poya Day celebrates the arrival of the Buddha's teaching in the 3rd C BCE. Large numbers of pilgrims attend ceremonies at the country's most important shrines (among them Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy). Aided by a rich visual presentation we will examine the religious and historical character of this fascinating South Asian nation.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Join us on Tuesday, February 7, when Marcia Buhl will present: *Loneliness or Depression: How to Know the Difference*. Lunch at 12:30PM and presentation 1:15PM. Please sign up by January 30th in the Gallery Room if you will be having lunch, or RSVP to Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

We need your help in keeping our church records up-to-date. By doing so, we can ensure your family is kept informed about all that's happening at Westminster as we continue to design effective & interesting

programming, provide timely Pastoral Care. Forms to update your information can be found on the Information Table in the Gallery Room or at www.wpcbuffalo.org/lets-stay-connected.

WOW - WESTMINSTER KNITTING GROUP

Our next meetings will be held on **Tuesday, February 14 & 28**. The group meets on various Tuesdays throughout the year from 7PM to 9PM. The group works on their individual projects as well as prayer shawls, scarves and other handmade items for members of the church. Beginners welcome! Contact Fran Holmes: mfranholmes@verizon.net for more information and dates.

WOW WINTER RETREAT-JANUARY 27-29, 2017

Flyers with registration forms are available now for our Winter Retreat. Rooms are assigned on a first come, first assigned basis. As soon as you can, sign up for this retreat on the Information table or call to RSVP with Jamie at the church office 884-9437.

MEN'S RETREAT-JANUARY 20-21, 2017

Capture a Moment: Men's Retreat 2017 at the Byrncliff Resort, Varysburg, NY. This year's retreat will emphasize fellowship, reflection, discovery and interaction. Spiritual discernment and attentiveness will be our primary focus. Each year the Men's Retreat is designed as opportunities for rest, relaxation, reading, guided discussion about faith issues, worship and time with old and new friends. A brochure and registration forms are available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room and on the website, www.wpcbuffalo.org. If you would like a brochure mailed to you, call Jamie at 884-9437.

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS

Fridays at Westminster: Come for the music - Stay for lunch! Each Friday, local Buffalo artists present a 30 minute lunchtime recital in Westminster's Historic Sanctuary at noon. Lunch provided by a local food truck. Donations benefit the *Westminster Friends of Music*.

Choral Evensong: Every Wednesday at 6PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Choristers of the Westminster Choir School lead this service showcasing repertoire they are studying. Evensong will resume on Wednesday, January 22.

Taizé Worship: Friday, January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, and May 19 at 5:30 PM. Start your weekend with this evening service of calming prayer and meditation.

Choral Evensong: Sundays, January 29, March 12, and April 9 at 4:00 PM. The Westminster Choirs and visiting choirs present this service of Evening Prayer. Join us for an organ prelude recital at 3:30 PM.

Compline: Sunday, February 12 at 8 PM. The Westminster Schola offers this candlelit service featuring music from Gregorian chant and early polyphony.

MEET & MINGLE - FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Please join us in the Holmes Room immediately following the 10:30am worship service for "a relaxed and inviting fellowship opportunity. *Meet & Mingle* offers beverages, light healthy snacks and provides a meaningful time of gathering and bonding for our congregation.

Heavenly Grounds Café. Continue to stop by the Heavenly Grounds Café in the Oak Room which is open from 9AM to noon with coffee service until 10:30AM.

We need YOUR help! The new "Meet & Mingle" event after the 10:30AM church service is a great success! Thanks to everyone for participating! In order to keep it running successfully we are looking for YOU to help in one of the following ways:

1. Be a shopper – purchase the food from a list provided on a regular basis and bring to church for storage. Bring receipts for reimbursement.

2. Be a host for the week – each week we are looking for a different family to serve as the host. The hosts would come early to church to make the punch and put the food on serving plates before the 10:30 service; also monitor the need to refill punch or food platters; and clean up dirty dishes, put unused food away, and take home tablecloths to be laundered and returned. *Our hosts this week are Chris and Debby LaMendola.*

3. Be a sponsor – make a donation to WPC to cover the weekly costs. As you reflect on how you can best give of your time, talent and treasure, please contact Debby LaMendola (716-983-4993) and let her know how YOU can help! *Our sponsors this week are Marcia Buhl and Dave Carstensen.*

ORDER SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/memory of family or friends, there is a monthly sign up on the kiosk in the Gallery Room. You may also call Sue Adams at 883-7597 or email her: hugwalker1@gmail.com

WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

Few Christians arrive at a set of beliefs that are then set in stone for the rest of their lives. What we believe often evolves through Bible study and worship services. Personal experiences--both joyous and traumatic--impact our faith. World events can shape what we believe about God's presence in the world and in our lives. Faith is an evolving experience that can define much of who we are and who we may become. If you would enjoy exploring and discussing your faith and what you believe, mark your calendars now and plan on joining the "What Do I Believe: Naming and Nurturing our Faith" conversation. This group will meet Saturday mornings from 9:30AM to 12:30AM beginning January 14 & 21, 2017 and then February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2017. We'll begin with coffee and bagels as we watch videos and discuss ideas from Ronald J. Allen's *A Faith of Your Own*. The purpose of this time together is to articulate and name what we believe. The leaders of this invigorating six-part series are Debbie Katz and Jen Callaghan. To help with our preparation, if you are planning on coming to this series, please sign up on the information table or contact Debbie Katz at dkatz@wpcbuffalo.org.

WOW-WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

WOW Book Discussion:

At our annual "discuss names of books we liked" evening, we came up with three book discussion ideas. These discussions are open to any woman who is interested. All meetings are at 7PM. Our next meeting is on **Monday, January 30 at WPC** when we will do a double review. The books are *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and the companion book *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy: A Novel* (both by Rachel Joyce). We strongly suggest that you first read both *Harold Fry* books which are available in paperback. Briefly, Harold Fry leaves his house to mail a letter, and walks by the first mailbox, eventually deciding to deliver the letter in person, by walking across England.

THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the two Christmas Eve Services this year, a total of **\$6,608.00** was raised. This heartwarming offering will be divided between two non-profit organizations, located on the West Side and East Side of Buffalo. Please read your February newsletter to find out more about these worthwhile efforts.

POT-LUCK - FEBRUARY 12 IN PARISH HALL!

Following the 10:30 service, join your WPC friends, and family, to warm up, to chase away cabin fever chills, and stay to play some games! February 12 is Lincoln's birthday and there will be some quiz questions to see just how much you know about our presidents- with a few first lady questions too. Please join us and bring a dish to share- main dish, salad or dessert. Sign up in the Gallery Room. Bring your thinking cap and plan to stay and play some board games with WPC friends.

GIVING 2017



Pledges received as of 01/12/17

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
233	\$475,225	\$124,775

We ask that you prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and with a grateful heart return your pledge card with support for 2017. Your financial pledge will enable Westminster to continue our ministry as we strive to answer the Prayer of St. Francis to “Love, Comfort, Understand and Give” within our church home and our community. Pledge cards are available in the Holmes Room and you may return your pledge card by mail, make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving, or email Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org. Thank you for being a contributing member of this church as your pledge - in any amount makes us a stronger congregation.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 716-884-9437 www.wpcbuffalo.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 313

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate, bhennessy@wpcbuffalo.org, 716-697-0919

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Dr. Jenece Gerber, Composer-in-Residence and Associate Conductor

Westminster Early Childhood Programs

Dr. Cindy Lynn-Garbe, Director, clynn-garbe@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 328

Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions, tbothwell@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 330

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