

## Interfaith Congregational Picnic



*A covenant between Presbyterians and Jews in pursuit of a more just world: Israel, Palestine, Divestment, and Longing for Peace. An opportunity for discussion and fellowship.*

- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Temple Beth Zion
- North Presbyterian Church
- Congregation Shir Shalom

A Picnic Dinner will follow:

- All ages are welcome
- Activities for children
- Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and refreshments provided
- Bring casseroles, desserts to share
- Donations of paper towels/bathroom tissue, toothpaste, etc. for the Town Square Food Pantry is appreciated.

The picnic will be held in the backyard of Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221

**RSVP! Call Congregation  
Shir Shalom at  
716-633-8877**

## Worship Hours Will Change This Fall: 8:15AM in the Holmes Chapel 10:30AM in the Sanctuary

Dear Westminster Members and Friends,

As you may have heard, the Session has been considering moving our Sunday morning worship and education times earlier by thirty minutes. Last night, at its July meeting, hosted by Elizabeth Stewart at her home in Williamsville, the Session approved the motion by the Worship, Music and Arts Committee to implement the time change beginning Sunday September 11, 2016 – Rally Day – and to monitor how the change is impacting our congregational life on Sunday mornings.

The reason for this change is so that we can conclude the later worship service by 11:30am (well before noon) and also allow for fellowship time after worship at what we are calling “Meet and Mingle.”

In conducting five focus groups (by open invitation to the early and later worship service attendees last April) we learned from those participating that most enthusiastically endorsed this change, some were neutral and some who said it would not be their preference also said they would be willing to give it a try.

By noon on Sunday many of our church members are eager to get on with their weekend preparations for the week ahead. This change is an effort, an experiment, to make maximum use of our time together as a church family on Sundays while finding the right ‘balance’ with our personal weekend agendas.

The “Meet and Mingle” fellowship time will be set up in the Holmes Room so that those leaving the Sanctuary through the pulpit side doors will step into a welcoming, attractive space with excellent refreshments. Our aim is to encourage mingling, connecting, bonding among our members, friends and visitors who come from 18 zip codes and often only see one another briefly on Sundays. But we also want to send folks on their way with the full afternoon to tend to domestic responsibilities, recreational activities, school work – whatever Sunday afternoons usually hold for our diverse membership.

The Sunday morning schedule will be as follows:

**8:15am**  
**Early Worship Service, Holmes Chapel**

**9:00am**  
**Adult Education and other activities**

**10:30am**  
**Later Worship Service, Sanctuary and  
Sunday School**

**11:30am**  
**Meet and Mingle, Holmes Room**

We hope that you find this change helpful for and compatible with your Sunday morning experience. Please let your Elders and church staff know what you think. This is a trial run for the coming year. We look forward hearing from you!

See you in Worship,

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

# Finding the Beauty & Wonder Around Us



Dear Friends,

Earlier in the spring I referred to the writer Annie Dillard. She is the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* and several other books. Her gift as a writer is to give the reader a tangible sense of being in the moment with her in whatever surroundings or circumstance she is describing. One of the great readers of this congregation, Sue Adams, purchased and has read three of Dillard's books. She told me that reading Annie Dillard in the secluded garden of her apartment complex one summer day was like being transported with Dillard to Tinker Creek. What is fascinating is

that Tinker Creek is a tiny tributary that runs through the backyard of Dillard's Massachusetts suburban home. Donavon Hohn, the son of David and step-son of Lucinda Hohn, reviewed Dillard's new book recently in the *New York Times*. He referred to her as a "suburban Thoreau." What I am saying is that you don't have to go very far to experience the wonder and awe of nature.

I hope that you have been using this summer, and will discover in the month of August before we gather in the fall for "business as usual," to step away from your busy, information bombarded, full agenda life, and discover the beauty of creation wherever you might be—on a park bench, walking along Canalside, or in your own backyard.

Happy Summer!

*Tom*

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Save the Date!  
**Rally Day, 2016**  
Sunday, September 11

- Worship at 8:15am in the Holmes Chapel
- Worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
- Blessing of Backpacks during Time with Children

Join us as we  
**Welcome!**  
in the New Program Year!

## Preaching Schedule

**One Service at 10AM in the Holmes Chapel**

*The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty will preach unless otherwise indicated*

**August 7**

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

**August 14**

Maine Bisons Youth Group  
will lead worship

**August 21**

Hebrews 12: 18-29

**August 28**

Guest Preacher: Mark Aquino

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## One Service Sunday

**Worship This Summer!**  
**July 3 through September 4**  
**10:00am in the Holmes Chapel**

Join us this summer for an intimate Worship service. The doors of the Chapel will be open allowing a wonderful view of the Kratz Garden. What a great way to start a summer Sunday morning! (Fall hours resume on Welcome Back Sunday, September 11)

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Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting in the Case Library immediately following our a.m. worship service on the following date: **September 18**. Thomas Yorty, Pastor of the congregation will tell the story of our church as well as 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.



This year our six week Sunday series, July 10th to Aug 14th, will compare and contrast two short Christian books. 8:30 - 9:45AM in the Case Library: *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still be a Christian: A Guide to What Matters Most* by Rev Martin Thielan. This 156 page paperback emphasizes good beliefs Jesus and God.

*Long Live Salvations by Works: A Humanist Manifesto* by Rev Harry Cook. This 157 page paperback emphasizes good works and humanism. We will read 20-30 pages from each book each Sunday and then discuss our findings with each other and volunteer facilitators (to be determined). Reading the books, while encouraged, is not mandatory. And each session will provide standalone material so, while encouraged, it is not necessary to attend all six sessions. There is a sign up sheet in the Gallery Room so we can determine how many books to order. This series has been organized by Debbie Katz, John McClive and Jerry Kelly.. Session 5, August 7: Mark Aquino Session 6, August 14: Jerry Kelly



## Westminster Day at Chautauqua! Wednesday, August 3

*This year Westminster is excited to join with the Buffalo Unitarian Universalist and Trinity Episcopal churches for a Three Church Venture with all three of our pastors at Chautauqua!*

**Half Day Gate Pass: \$16. All-day Gate Pass: \$40. Carpooling from WPC parking lot leaving promptly at:  
Full Day Trip leaves at 7:00AM Half Day Trip leaves at 10:30AM**

**All are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. We will meet at 12:30PM for a three-church picnic! A sign up sheet is in the Gallery Room. You must sign up if you intend on carpooling.**



**Those choosing the half day trip will hear: The Rev. William Barber II**, who is national Chair of the NAACP's Legislative Political Action Committee and president of the NAACP's North Carolina state chapter, the largest in the South. The Rev. Barber is the founder of Moral Mondays in North Carolina which is fighting back against a raft of Republican changes to election laws, including reducing the number of early voting days, ending

same-day voter registration, and requiring ID at the polls. Rev Barber has been incarcerated three times. Duke University professor Timothy Tyson named Barber "the most important progressive political leader in this state in generations. **2:00pm Hall of Philosophy**



**Those choosing the full day trip will also hear: The Rev John Philip Newell:** Poet, peacemaker, minister and scholar who is visiting from the Church of Scotland. Rev Newell is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality. Newell teaches that "the sound of God resonates in every creature. If we are to listen for God, it is not away from creation, it is not away from the depths of our being. It is rather in the very heart of our being that we need to turn our attention. For then we will hear that the deepest sound within us which is the deepest sound within everything that has being. Everything arises from this sacred sound." A prolific writer, Rev Newell has authored 19 books which include his celebrated work, *Listening to the Heartbeat of God*.

**9:15am The Amphitheater**

Any questions, contact Jerry Kelly 839-9533 (daytime) or gerald@geraldkelly.com.



## - Maine Mission Trip, 2016 - A Wonderfully Successful Senior High Mission Trip to Hartford, Maine!

Debbie Katz, Christian Educator

Our Senior Highs scraped off old paint, and then painted anew at two different houses. They put in a new laminate floor in an older farmhouse. They split wood and then delivered twenty-five truckloads of firewood to people who are unable to either split or buy their own wood. Twenty-five truckloads of delivered firewood is an all-time high and roughly equates to about 10 cords of wood.

That's the list of what our youth accomplished in Maine. This list doesn't begin to describe is how well our senior highs worked together to reach these goals nor

does it include all the time, energy and work it takes just to get them to Hartford.

Last November our youth and adult advisors peeled 8 cartons of apples donated from Sun Orchards in Burt, New York. They sold 152 pies, thanks to your generosity. Actually they baked 160 pies, but we always bring 8 pies back to Sun Orchards in gratitude for their donation. Folks at this Orchard have been known to be waiting for our pies with their forks at the ready.

By June the youth's fundraising efforts were in high gear. They began selling Maine Shares each Sunday. For each \$10 Maine share sold, each shareholder received a handwritten postcard from Maine. This year our group wrote over 100 postcards to report on their progress in Maine.

The second weekend in June marks the Allentown Festival. During the festival our youth, and some of their parents, manned both the Westminster and CTG's parking lots. They collected \$5 per car. This was a great year, good weather and a high turnover of people both coming and going.

Our general rule is that all youth must participate in these major fundraisers in order to go to Maine. I'd also like to thank all the youth, who for various reasons can't go to Maine themselves, they also participate in the apple pie baking, selling Maine shares and working during Allentown parking. I'd also like to thank this year's adult advisors Marcia Buhl and Dave Carstensen whose leadership was a wonderful gift both to our youth and our leaders.

Sometimes I think the Maine mission trip traditions help bond our youth and prepare them to work so well together. The ten hour drive to Maine begins this bonding process. While in Maine, they divide up into teams; one group cooks dinner and the other group cleans up. Before they go to their worksites, we begin in a circle. Mark reads a Bible verse, and offers them a daily challenge. Each night after dinner we discuss the Bible story and report back on what we learned from our challenge. One night we write postcards. One night we're invited to a church potluck. One night we all have ice cream at the stand with the wooden moose, thanks to Phil Stevens. One night is spent planning and rehearsing for Sunday morning's worship.

After working hard all week, Saturday morning is spent being tourists in Freeport, home of L.L. Bean and later that afternoon we head to Popham Beach. Saturday night we visit Spinney's Restaurant and enjoy the Maine lobsters caught that morning. Sunday morning we clean up the church and pack our vans. The youth lead worship, with the prayers they've written and sermon they've prepared. This is the moment when they articulate the reason for their trip: To love God with all their heart, soul and mind and to love their neighbor as themselves. This lesson is embedded in their hearts.



### Westminster's Youth Ministry

**August 8-14:**  
Maine group in Buffalo  
**Wednesday, August 10:**  
6- 8pm - Westminster picnic honoring the Maine

youth group - All  
Congregation Members  
and Friends are Welcome!  
**August 15-August 18:**  
Middler Mission Camp.

Contact Mark Aquino,  
askmark@roadrunner.com  
or Debbie Katz dkatz@  
westminste.bflo.org with  
questions or to enroll.

### Calling all 6th-8th Graders and their Parents!

Please save the dates of **Monday, August 15th -  
Thursday, August 18th** for the Middler Work Camp.

Contact Debbie Katz or Mark Aquino for details.

We look forward to a week of faith, mission, fellowship and fun!!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Wednesday,**  
**August 10**

**Westminster is hosting a  
picnic honoring the Maine  
youth group in Parish Hall  
from 6- 8PM.**

**All Congregation Members  
and Friends are Welcome!**

# 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 Senior Choristers produce a high volume of quality choral repertoire each week for use in worship and concert.

*The Junior Choristers*, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously with the Senior Choristers each Wednesday, August 17th through May 31st, 4:30-6PM in the Holmes Chapel, joining the Senior Choristers for the service of Choral Evensong at 6 PM, with the assistance of Ms. Hillary Hunt. The Junior Choristers further their ability to read music and various languages while shaping the voice into a beautiful treble instrument.



*The Apprentice Choristers*, ages 4-6, rehearse each Sunday, September 18th through May 21st, during the 11AM 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. Rehearsals will resume in September.

For information, contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music [gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org) 884.9437 ext. 318.

## Fridays@Westminster Come for Music, Stay for Lunch! Starting September 16th

Each Friday, local Buffalo artists present a 30 minute lunchtime recital in Westminster's Historic Sanctuary. Come for the music, stay for lunch provided by a local food truck. Fridays at noon, September 16-December 16; January 20-May 19. Donations benefit the *Westminster Friends of Music*.

9/16	Garrett Martin, Organ	11/4	Hutchinson Family Revival
9/23	Jim Wright, Baritone	11/11	Jacqueline Quirk, Soprano
9/30	York Consort, Baroque Viola de Gamba ensemble	11/18	Arioso Trio: Carol Timmerman-Yorty, Clarinet; Mary Britton, Bassoon; Marie Zak, Piano
10/7	Community Music School	12/2	Nardin Choir
10/14	Jeffrey Thompson, Tenor & John Novak, Piano	12/9	Patrick Davis, Organ
10/21	Frank Scinta, Piano	12/16	Hillary Hunt, Soprano
10/28	Patrick Barrett, Organ		

*Food Trucks TBA*

### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 AM-5:00 PM  
Office: 884-9437 • Office Fax: 884-3450  
WECP: 884-9438 • WECP Fax: 886-7641  
[www.wpcbuffalo.org](http://www.wpcbuffalo.org)

To email a staff person use the person's first initial and last name [@wpcbuffalo.org](mailto:@wpcbuffalo.org) In the event of an emergency, Rev. Yorty can be reached at 830-8596  
Staff members phone extensions are listed below for your convenience.

#### Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, ext. 313

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate, 716-697-0919

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries, ext. 318

Debbie Katz, Director of Christian Education, ext. 329

Mark Aquino, Youth Coordinator, ext. 311

Lenore Neiler, Communications Coordinator, ext. 302

Patricia Kelly, Director of Finances ext. 305

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, ext. 315

Matt Marco, Assistant to the Pastor & to the Music Director, ext. 306

Jamie Adamezyk, Administrative Assistant, ext. 326

Käthe Wright Kaufman, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar, ext. 357

#### Westminster Early Childhood Programs

Dr. Cindy-Lynn Garbe, Director, ext. 328

Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions, ext. 330

Jessica Mitrovits, Development Associate, ext. 332

Ebony Mallory, Administrative Assistant, ext. 300

#### Facilities

Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor, ext. 319, 716-504-7308

Jeff Kaczmarek, Maintenance, ext. 319, 716-345-8013

Carlos Ortiz, Maintenance, 716-208-4070

#### Elders

Robert Bojdak, Clerk of Session

##### Class of 2016

Maureen Boyd  
Bill Gray  
Mark Hall  
Allan Hayes  
Jack Jacobs  
Ellen Kennedy  
Chris LaMendola  
Kathy Vitagliano

##### Class of 2017

Fran Holmes  
Karen Keaton  
Sandy Laub  
Ardrey Manning  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Adam Utley  
Tom Warszawski  
Jim Weiland

##### Class of 2018

Mark Aquino  
Melissa Balbach  
Sawrie Becker  
Bob Bojdak  
Jen Callaghan  
Edwin Johnston  
Jeff Renzoni  
Mimi Steadman

#### Deacons

##### Class of 2016

Cameron Airhart  
Shea Akers  
Janet Kifner-Armatt  
Frank Coheley  
Darrell Davis  
Warren Emblidge  
Florence  
Kilambo Kalumbu  
Rebecca  
Read-Lukan  
Earl McColgin

##### Class of 2017

Kate Dierenfield  
Doug Fabian  
Carol Huber  
Joan Kuznia  
Callan Izatt  
Mike Reynolds  
Nancy Stevens  
Roy Stewart

##### Class of 2018

Russell Braun  
Patty Charlier  
Kathleen Kelly  
Kirsten  
Kifner-Kennedy  
Johnpatrick Marr  
Jennifer Russell  
Josephine Stevens  
Ronald Sutz

## Jewish - Presbyterian Geo-Political Trip to Israel and the West Bank January 8 - 19, 2017



Congregation Shir Shalom  
North Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth Zion  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Land Package will Include:

- 9 nights; Herods hotel, 2 Scots St. Andrew's in Galilee, 4 Dan Boutique hotel

Jerusalem,

- 1 Intercontinental hotel, Bethlehem
- Daily Israeli buffet breakfast
- Daily dinners
- VIP airport assistance upon arrival and departure
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 9 full days sightseeing deluxe bus
- Tour educator-guide from arrival to departure
- Bethlehem guide
- Entrance fees to all visited sites as per itinerary;
- Airport and hotels porters
- Meeting and assistance throughout trip

Total Cost, which includes round-trip airfare from Toronto to Tel Aviv is \$3596/person

There are only 30 spots available at this very low rate  
Please send your deposit of \$250 by  
September 1st to lock in your place to:  
Congregation Shir Shalom  
4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221  
Please make checks out to: SY. Travel Israel

## Lets 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
- 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](http://www.wpcbuffalo.org/lets-stay-connected)

*Thank you for your help in keeping  
our church family connected!*

# August Calendar

## Tuesday, August 2

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM Garden Group  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

## Wednesday, August 3

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program  
12:00 PM Enews Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline  
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace  
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

## Thursday, August 4

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program

## Friday, August 5

10:00 AM ENERGY Program  
4:00 PM Van Wormer/Wallace Reh.

## Saturday, August 6

2:00 PM Van Wormer/Wallace Wed.

## Sunday, August 7-Name Tag Sunday

9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
9:30 AM Deacon Mtg.  
9:35 AM Case Library Conversations  
10:00 AM Worship/Communion

11:00 AM Punch and Cookies

## Monday, August 8

6:00 PM Maine Bisons Arrive

## Tuesday, August 9

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM Garden Group  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program  
5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

## Wednesday, August 10

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program  
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.

5:30 PM Pathways To Peace

6:00 PM Picnic for Maine Youth Group

8:00 PM AA Mtg.

## Thursday, August 11

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM ENERGY Program

## Friday, August 12

10:00 AM ENERGY Program

## Sunday, August 14

8:30 AM Case Library Conversations  
9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Punch and Cookies

## Monday, August 15

9:00 AM Middler Mission Camp  
5:00 PM Congregational Life Mtg.

## Tuesday, August 16

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM Membership Data Outreach  
10:00 AM Garden Group  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma  
6:00 PM Mission Outreach Mtg.  
7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Mtg.

## Wednesday, August 17

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.  
12:00 PM Enews Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace  
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

## Thursday, August 18

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
9:00 AM Reserved for ATG  
10:30 AM Ruth McDade Memorial  
7:00 PM ATG Event

## Sunday, August 21

9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Punch and Cookies

## Tuesday, August 23

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM Garden Group  
5:30 PM Personnel Comm. Mtg.  
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

## Wednesday, August 24

8:00 AM Planned Giving Mtg.  
9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.  
12:00 PM Enews Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.

5:30 PM Pathways To Peace

8:00 PM AA Mtg.

## Thursday, August 25

7:15 AM Wake Up Group

## Sunday, August 28

9:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Punch and Cookies

## Tuesday, August 30

7:15 AM Wake Up Group  
10:00 AM Garden Group

6:00 PM Zen Dharma

## Wednesday, August 31

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.  
12:00 PM Enews Deadline  
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline  
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace  
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

# Getting Down to the Business of Summer Learning

Dr. Cynthia Lynn-Garbe, Director, Westminster Early Childhood Programs



Summertime is upon us with visions of carefree days. It is traditionally considered a time when families break from their hectic work and school schedules to engage in more relaxed leisure time activities. During the months of July and August, we at WECP take advantage of all that summer has to offer -our beautiful Buffalo weather and summer events-by taking learning ‘on the road’ as well as making discoveries right here in our own backyard. We use our playgrounds, the surrounding community, and special visitors to help our children discover the world around them, explore nature, engage in creative arts, and most importantly, play.

Taking walks around our grounds in a stroller and sitting or lying on blankets in the grass in the adjoining gardens exposes our very youngest children to a whole world of sensory exploration. Hearing them squeal with delight or seeing them smile is a sure sign that they are enjoying their outdoor adventure and hopefully, these adventures will begin to instill in them a love and appreciation for nature.

*The new experience of sandbox play* is both entertaining for our toddlers and soothing to their senses. Their natural affinity for sand is obvious as they dig in it, sift it, build with it, pour it on their hands, legs and feet, feel and smell it, pretend with it, and explore how it moves. As these toddlers repeatedly fill and empty containers of sand they unknowingly learn concepts such as ‘heavy’ and ‘light’ or how many scoops it takes to fill a container. The toddlers even begin to understand the inherent physical properties of sand.

*Introducing our young preschoolers to gardening* cultivates their curiosity about the growing process and satisfies their extreme fascination with bugs and worms. From examining the differences among the variety of plant leaves to delving into the surrounding dirt in search of ants and worms, these budding gardeners are intrigued by everything involved in the fundamentals of gardening. This kind of garden play provides a perfect opportunity to further develop the minds and bodies of these youngsters and at the same time, instill a strong passion for nature!

For our oldest children, field trips to cultural institutions, orchestra concerts, and parks increases their awareness of our local community and also exposes them to experiences that they might not have had yet. The children’s recent trip to *Burchfield Penny Art Center*, for example, introduced them to a variety of artwork before participating in a unique hands-on art activity involving circles. Listening to the children enthusiastically talk about their trip and describe their individual artwork reminds us that the process of creating –exploring, discovering and experimenting –is extremely important.

As I think about the learning taking place at WECP, I must confess that it is not just the children who are being exposed to new experiences and concepts this summer. As the new director of WECP, I have had to strengthen and improve my skills as well as learn new concepts to meet the ever-changing challenges of this position. Yet, like the children, it has ignited in me a renewed passion for summertime learning!

## ENERGY Success Stories!

- Carol Greetham, ENERGY Coordinator



It’s always nice to run into old friends, especially when you learn that they are doing well. Recently, I visited with former ENERGY students and learned of their successes. Cecile is thriving in her new school. She and her mother have been reunited with her 16 year old brother after over 10 years of separation. Cecile radiates self confidence. Anne and Deng have been accepted to City Honors and have a new baby brother. Elodie and Olga are participating in Buffalo Prep at Nichols School this summer and are having a blast. During a home visit in July, Paw Set told me how she’s having a hard time going to sleep at night because she can’t put down the books she’s reading. Aren’t these good reasons to smile and be proud of the work ENERGY is doing?

If you’re shopping and want to take advantage of the great school supplies sales occurring, please consider buying the following items for ENERGY:

- Plastic folders ●Spiral notebooks ●Notebook paper ●Pink erasers ●Dry erase markers ●Black Sharpie markers ●Glue sticks ●White glue ●Crayola watercolor sets

ENERGY begins September 20th with a family picnic. Join in the fun! More information will be shared in the

September newsletter. I know I’ve said it before, but it never hurts to repeat words of thanks. THANK YOU for your continued support of ENERGY. As we have seen over the past few weeks, our world is in desperate need of change. Change begins with each of us. Your support reflects the belief that one person can indeed make a difference. Thank you for believing in our kids and our program. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

*The ENERGY Program creates a caring environment where children from refugee families gain social and cultural awareness and self confidence through improving their English language skills. We make a difference in the lives of refugee and immigrant kids in grades 1-6 from Buffalo’s West Side. A nutritious meal, positive adult relationships, and homework help provide physical, social and academic support to ENERGY students. ENERGY meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30 -6:30 p.m. Please contact Carol Greetham at 507-8216 or carol@wedibuffalo.org for more information, to make a donation, or to volunteer.*

### Economic Development

WEDI offers assistance and mentoring to people who want to start their own businesses on the West Side. We have helped a commercial cleaning service, a tailor shop, a Laundromat, a used bookshop, a bakery and others. You do not have to be an expert to be a mentor. You just need to have an interest in business and in being a friend and advocate to assist people in realizing their lifelong dreams. Contact Ben Bissell, 315-857-5407.

### Alcohol Consultation Services

Westminster’s Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral Services 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, Ken Carter 833-9287, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Elizabeth Stewart 585-217-7878, Jim Wieland 523-021.

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

724 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14209-2294  
716-884-9437

## Home

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development

Happy summer! I hope you are enjoying time with family and friends and finding ways to feel “at home” in your life. I have been. I am feeling like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz who said “There’s no place like home”.

Serving in my new development position at Westminster seems like coming “home” to me. It’s familiar, inviting and safe. Every day I pass through a beautiful garden and children’s playground area often with the “Westminster Chimes” ringing familiar children songs through the air. Once inside, I walk through large, wood appointed rooms and often stop to take a peek at our magnificent sanctuary with the vibrant colors, textures and appointments appearing as if I am looking at a painting -the setting so serene and awe inspiring in the quietness. I continue to my office where the light streams through a treasured, ornate glass window and I can gaze out onto the memorial garden throughout my day.

How blessed I feel to call this place my “church home”. Working with so many dedicated and passionate church members and colleagues focused on helping our great church community reach our fullest potential is a joy.

I like to invite friends and past colleagues to meet me for lunch at my new office. I will often sneak in a little “tour” of this special place, relating to my captive audience the rich history, building details and mission legacy that is Westminster. Naturally, I hope these friends will share in my enthusiasm, love and connection with Westminster and feel inspired to return for a church service or music concert – and then who knows – perhaps they will discover this would be the perfect place to call their new “church home”! Indeed, “There’s no place like Westminster for my church home”. Do you know someone who may be looking for a church to call home? Invite them over for a little “tour”!

### What’s missing from the front of Westminster?

The hedges on both sides of the steps on Delaware Ave have been removed. We believe the hedges were over 50 years old. They were well past their prime and detracting from the beauty of Westminster.

The Westminster Garden Group in conjunction with the Building and Grounds Committee has chosen a local landscaping company to evaluate the space and present us with a design plan and cost estimate for the plants and installation. Hopefully by September, we can once again enjoy the beauty of the front gardens and our magnificent church.

*Submitted by Nancy Hanavan on behalf of the Garden Group and Building & Grounds Committee*

### Nominations Wanted

All members are invited to submit names of candidates for openings on the Board of Deacons and the Session. New Deacons and Elders are needed to facilitate the many wonderful ministries of Westminster. Forms are available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. Place your suggestion form in the Nominating Committee mailbox in the Business Office

### Westminster Knitting Group

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.



### ORDER SUNDAY FLOWERS

Purchase Sunday flowers in honor /memory of family or friends. Sign up on the “Flower Calendar” on the kiosk in the Gallery Room or call Marilyn Bassett at 634-4211 to choose a date.