

RallyDay-2014

Sunday, September 14th

Our program year is off to an exciting start! Our two worship services resume, our new Grand Piano will be showcased in the Sanctuary, our education programs are scheduled for the new year along with more fellowship events, and glorious music programming. Time to get re-connected, and, this year, we encourage you to "Sing a New Song!" Try something new! Be generous with your time and talents - within the church or in the community. Embrace God's Abundance throughout all of the seasons:

- Volunteer to help on a fellowship event
- Join a committee
- Choose one month to teach Sunday School Workshop Rotation Classes.
- Try out for the Adult Choir or the new Choir School for children third grade and above
- Become a WEDI volunteer

Information on these and additional giving opportunities will be available in the Information Table in the Gallery Room on Rally Day.

In addition, in our Gallery Room this year you will see a colorful music staff. Please contribute to our *Sing a New Song* staff by placing a musical note onto it. Let us know what you and your family's "new song" might be this year by writing it on the music note!

Rally Day at Westminster

- Worship at 8:45am in the Holmes Chapel
- Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall at 9:45am
- Worship at 11am in the Sanctuary

Sing a New Song



*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

- Psalm 98:1

- Rally Day 2014 - Sing a New Song!



Dear Friends,

As we gather for Rally Sunday on September 14 our theme for the day and for the weeks ahead will be "Sing a New Song." That admonition is heard in many of the psalms in which the writers urge God's people to sing a new song rather than the old song of defeat, despair and death.

The reading for the day from which we are taking this theme is Psalm 149. The Psalm is a psalm of praise for God's protection and strength leading to victory over the enemy. Therefore, the writer urges God's people to sing a new song because God equips the

people with everything they need to face and defeat the forces of death and darkness. *That is something to sing about as we gather again for the fall!*

But how do we sing a new song in a world that seems to be in deepening crisis and as we re-enter our own worlds from the leisure of summer and relaxation? Perhaps there are challenges on our horizons which loom and intimidate. Sometimes we don't always feel as confident and strong as the Psalmist seems to feel when he urges us to praise and glorify God.

It's good to remember that the writer of Psalm 149 was a human being too. He was a person who had hopes and fears like us. There can be no doubt that he experienced defeat, worry, and real dread. The reason this Psalm and all of the bible has survived centuries and millennia of human hardship and despair is because the writers of the Psalms and the writers of the biblical accounts really did experience God's saving grace, mercy and abundance in the midst of their trying circumstances. The message they deliver does not come out of an attempt to sound religious or "churchy"; they are filled with joy and relief that they have been rescued, healed and given, yet another chance at life by the Creator of the Universe.

These words "sing a new song" are grounded in the experience of God's real (and often unsolicited) presence in the life of someone who had nothing to sing about before God entered in. As we gather this fall let us come with expectation that God is here, that God enters human hearts that are open and trusting and that God gives us the song of life to sing to a world and to people too often in the grip of death.

See you on Rally Day!

Tom

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

Save the Date!
OCTOBER 28, 2014

GENEROSITY
Sunday

Preaching Schedule

8:45am am in the Holmes Chapel with Communion
11am in the Sanctuary with Communion offered on the first
Sunday of the Month.

What We Have to Sing About

The Scripture lessons for September continue to follow Jesus and his disciples in their Galilean ministry; although because he has announced that his mission is to suffer and die at the hands of the authorities, there is an underlying tension to these encounters between Jesus and the people as well as a deeper resonance to what he says regarding our themes in September: forgiveness, grace and judgment. These are appropriate themes as we gather together after the summer months. The world continues to be at war, our own nation struggles to demonstrate generosity toward those who are driven to our borders by violence in their own countries, including children. It is in the midst of challenging times such as Jesus faced in first century Palestine in an occupied nation and such as we face today in our politicized and violent nation and world that his message stands like a beacon of truth. Conducting our own lives with purpose and clarity against the backdrop of greed and gain is what Jesus calls us to do in this month's Gospel lessons. See you in worship!

September 7 - The Rev. Dr. Geri Lyon,
Guest Preacher and Celebrant
(this will be the last 10:00am Sunday summer
worship service)

September 14 - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Sermon: *What We Have to Sing About: Forgiveness*
Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

September 21 - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Sermon: *What We Have to Sing About: Grace*
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

September 28 - The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Sermon: *What We Have to Sing About: Judgment*
Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32

Pancake Breakfast!



Plan to join us for a new Westminster tradition - The Famous Rally Day Pancake Breakfast on September 14, from 9:45-10:45AM. Come for a fun and delicious event while catching up with

old friends... and maybe making some new ones! Calling all Men!! If you'd like to volunteer to help prepare breakfast please contact Jeff Renzoni at jrenzoni@aol.com or Debbie Katz at dkatz@wpcbuffalo

Sunday Morning Adult Learning for 2014-15

Please Note: No offerings will be available on Sundays, November 30 and December 28 for Thanksgiving and Christmas break and Sundays, March 29 and April 5 for Palm and Easter Sunday.

Adult Bible Study

Sundays, 9:35AM - 10:45AM in the first room on the balcony on the 3rd floor.

Our Sunday morning Bible class welcomes adults who are interested in exploring the Christian story, by studying the scripture and applying those lessons learned to our present lives. Hearing, reading, and wrestling with scripture helps us nurture the sensitivities, attitudes and abilities we need to live and work together as a community of faith. Whether you were raised in the church, or if you're a more recent member, we welcome your voice in these discussions. Come as your schedule permits. first room on the balcony. This class uses *Feasting on the Word* curriculum which explores the Bible passages used in our worship services.

Spiritual Life

Sundays, 9:35am in the Heritage Room

September 21

Spiritual Kickstarters: Summer Reading, 2014

Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

What do a handful of 1913 letters from Robert Frost sorting out his poetic vision, a poem by Charles Wright (our new national Poet Laureate) exploring the unending march of time with the moments in time that imprint our souls, and a book about how great photographs define the way we see the world have in common? Whatever else their contributions, they provide the synapse, the spark, the connection between the material and the transcendent that lies at the beginning of spiritual journey and exploration. Join us as we consider the brief writings which will be provided in text and in the context of our daily living.

September 28

Inquiry Learning

Presenters: Peter and Mimi Dow

The power of an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning is its potential to increase intellectual engagement and foster deep understanding through the development of a hands-on, minds-on and 'research-based disposition.' Please join us for this informative presentation !

October 5

Reinvigorating a City as a Christian Endeavor

A Joint Presentation with Case Library

Presenter: Houghton College Professor TBA

October 12 and 19

What Matters Most by James Hollis

Presenters: Cricket Gordon and Allan Hayes

We will discuss James Hollis' book *What Matters Most*. Excerpted from the author's web-

page: "This book is designed to stir thoughts in the reader, possibly to reorient directions, priorities, and values. If we fail to engage in some form of cogent dialogue with the questions which emerge from our depths, then we will live an unconscious, unreflective, accidental life.... Having a more interesting life, a life that disturbs complacency, a life that pulls us out of the comfortable and thereby demands a larger spiritual engagement than we planned or that feels comfortable, is what matters most."

October 26 and November 2

Book Talk : Finding God in a Bag of Groceries:

Sharing Food, Discovering Grace

Presenter: Fred Cooley

Running a program to help the needy, the author discovered a world of people she never knew: the lonely and unemployed, chronically poor families, and middle-class folks surprised to be struggling in a great recession. And to each, she offered a bag of groceries, a compassionate ear, and a heart of love. Author Laura Lapins Willis learned about her own hunger for God and began to discern her own spiritual directions. Join Dr. Cooley as he leads us to explore what it must be like to live in a less privileged world than the average American.

November 9 and 16

Anthropology, Culture, Brain, Mind: Belief and Biology

November 9: Part I in the Case Library

November 16: Part II in the Heritage Room

Presenter: Phil Stevens, Ph.D., Anthropologist and WPC Elder

Following up on John McClive's March series on neuroscience and religious experience, Phil suggests that we should back up, to look at the nature of culture and ways in which cultural ideas and psycho-physiological states can shape people's perception of the world. We can thus appreciate that "reality" is relative! We also should consider some of the basic principles of science, especially the need to consider all possible explanations for any phenomenon. In Part I Phil sets down some essential principles of anthropological investigation. In Part II he considers specific reports of "religious experience," including two of his own.

November 23

What Do We Want Out of a Retreat?

Presenter: Austin Sanders

December 7

Advent and Music

Presenter: Garrett Martin--

December 14

Advent, Christmas, and History

Presenter: Claire Schen

Claire will present an overview on evergreens and customs of the season.

December 21

Advent and Art

Presenter: Art History Professor TBA

Spiritual Life in January

All people of faith stand in line with the disciples to say "Teach us how to pray." So how do we get started? Yes, with our Lord's own prayer. But beyond that? We've heard prayers that connect us with the Holy Spirit. How can ours be like that? Are there different ways of praying? How do we know our prayers are heard? What kind of prayer is good for certain occasions? How do we mix and match? Is all prayer "please" and "thank you?"

January's *Month of Sundays in Spiritual Life* will offer presentations that strengthen our knowledge and experience of praying:

January 4

Prayers and Praying

Presenter: Elder Gretchen Brand

Gretchen will explore different kinds of prayers: thanksgiving, petition, confession, intercession, claiming the promises. Elder Brand will link these kinds of prayers to the Psalms. Easy to find in the middle of our Bible, the Psalms provide nourishment and companionship in our desire to pray. Please bring your own Bible!

January 11

Prayer Mandellas

Presenter: Mary Mohlke

Mary Mohlke, our presbytery coordinator of art and education, will educate us on mandalas. Mary herself is an artist of the highest order, the creator of the awe-inspiring banners and crosses on display in our chapel. Her leadership in knowing the Holy through art spans half a century. We will experience close up this prayerful art form, the mandala, this colorful and circular symbol of the universe. The mandala is often associated with Hindu and Buddhist observance.

January 18

Centering Prayer

Presenter: Delight Dann

Surely no one in our congregation is more winning evidence of prayer on a day-to-day basis than our own Delight Dann. Faithful in worship as well as in the Spiritual Life Sunday seminars, Delight is also a regular participant in Westminster's early morning centering prayer

Adult Learning continued...

sessions. This uncommon church leader will bring us the terrain of centering prayer. None of us can afford to miss Delight's leadership on prayer as she informs and guides us on its myriad stabilizing effects.

January 25

The Power of the Labyrinth

Presenter: Connie Constantine

Our finale for January's series on prayer is a repeat-by-request, the walking of the labyrinth, led by Connie Constantine. Labyrinths have taken hold in exciting ways recently in our own Elmwood Village, with the Unitarian Universalist Church creating one on Elmwood Avenue. Connie is a proven master at translating the power of the labyrinth to us. Giving us permission to walk it ourselves — and guidance for the journey — she will bring us its ancient myths and modern uses. She will equip us with one more way to pray.

February 1

Arts and Spirituality

Presenter: Gary Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe is a local artist. His art work was displayed in the Sanctuary last year. He will speak on his motivation for creativity and how it is expressed.

February 8

Arts and Spirituality

Presenter: TBA

February 15

Arts and Spirituality

Presenter: Garrett Martin

Garret leads our Westminster music ministry. He will speak on the upcoming Master Works presentation the Choir will be offering.

February 22 - March 22

Lenten Series

Presenter: Lance Brown

In the Case Library

The sessions will be in a "small group/ conversation" style. Lance will be following the lectionary — so his topics should follow what Tom will be preaching.

April 12

Nurturing Spirituality in the Family

Presenter: Chris LaMendola

April 19 and 26

Environmental Series

A joint presentation with Case Library

Earth Day/ Ecology

Speakers TBA

May 3, 10, 17 and 24

The Four Gospels

Presenter: Geri Lyon

But it says so in the Bible.... really? Which two gospels have birth narratives? How are the disciples portrayed? What is the original short ending of the gospel of Mark? Why do they call Matthew, Mark and Luke the synoptic gospels? Who were the audiences which are addressed in each gospel, and do you have a favorite? Come,

and let's have a three-week search for these and some other gospel questions. It's a search that can take a life-time, but you have to start somewhere and no experience is necessary!

Case Library Conversations

September 21

Professor Amelia Gallagher,

Niagara University, on the Shrine at Ephesus.

Amelia Gallagher has been researching the site of Mary's House outside the ancient ruins of Ephesus, Turkey. This is a unique pilgrimage destination for both Muslims and Christians (and a considerable amount of tourists). Believed by pilgrims to be the dwelling of the Virgin Mary during her last years on earth, what is it about the place that draws more visitors with each passing decade? Why have Muslims made up most of the visitors over the past century? Along with questions such as these, Dr. Gallagher will also look at the practical aspects of "sharing" a sanctuary among various religions.

Community Series

September 28

Pop-up Parks

Presenter: Joy Kuebler, Landscape Architect

"Pop-Up" refers to an intervention, usually within the urban environment, that "pops up" temporarily for a specific need or event. Joy has designed over 18 schoolyards addressing the needs of academic curricula as well as play. She launched her firm to have a positive impact on the public's quality of life through sensitive and responsible design for outdoor spaces.

October 5

Presenter: A.Carmen Airhart, Professor of History, Houghton College and Director of City Semester: Reinvigorating a City as a Christian Endeavor [Joint Program with Spiritual Life]

October 12

Presenters: Brendan Mehaffy and Chris Hawley
Buffalo's Green Code

October 19

Public Art: Building Community

Presenter: Nathan Peraciny, film producer.

October 26

Sophie Feal, Esq., Supervising Immigration Attorney, Erie County Bar Association, Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.

November 2

James Sampson, President, Buffalo Board of Education

November 9 & 16

Anthropology, Culture, Brain, Mind: Belief and Biology (Joint Program with Spiritual Life)

Presenter: Phil Stevens, Ph.D., Anthropologist and WPC Elder

November 9: Part I-Part I: *Essential principles of anthropological investigation*

Dr. Phil Stevens suggests that we look at the

nature of culture and ways in which cultural ideas and psycho-physiological states can shape people's perception of the world. We can thus appreciate that "reality" is relative! We also should consider some of the basic principles of science, especially the need to consider all possible explanations for any phenomenon.

November 16

Part II: *Specific Reports of "Religious Experience,"* This presentation will include two of Dr. Stevens' own experiences.

November 23

The General Assembly

Presenter: Mary Callaghan

In June 2014, the General Assembly of PCUSA voted to allow pastors to perform same-gender marriages in those states that have made those marriages legal. What is still to follow is a vote in regional presbyteries on changing words in the Book of Order from "... a woman and a man" to "... two persons, formerly a woman and a man." Join the members of Westminster who attended the General Assembly and have been informing the congregation on these matters over the past few years for a discussion of the meaning of the vote taken, and the one still to come.

Advent Program

December 7, 14, 21

(Joint Program with Spiritual Life)

December 7

Advent and Music

Garrett Martin, Westminster Organist and Choirmaster, will present music of the season!

December 14

Advent, Christmas, and History

Presenter: Claire Schen

December 21

Advent and Art

Presenter: TBA

January 4 – 25

Travelogue Series

Westminsterites will present slide shows and share with us their travel experiences in a 4-week series.

14th Annual Understanding Islam Series

February 1-15

Organizers: Al Ryan & Jerry Kelly

This year will mark the 14th year Westminster has co-sponsored with the Muslim Public Affairs Council this critically important conversation. This annual month of conversation, learning and reflection is designed to gain a deeper appreciation with our Muslim brothers and sisters of one another's faith traditions.

February 22 - March 22

Lenten Series

(Joint Program with Spiritual Life)

Presenter: Lance Brown in the Case Library. The sessions will be in a "small group/ conversation" style. Lance will be following the same

lectionary – so his topics should follow what Tom will be preaching.

April 12: TBA

April 19 and 26

Environmental Series

(Joint Program with Spiritual Life)

Earth Day/ Ecology

Speakers: TBA

April 26

Ride your bike to church day!

Justin Booth of *GoBike Buffalo* will speak on *Buffalo's Complete Streets* project and the city's bicycling renaissance. We may even have a church bike ride to tour some of the new lanes and amenities for bikers!

May 3, 10, 17 and 24

The Four Gospels

(Joint Program with Spiritual Life)

Presenter: Geri Lyons

But it says so in the bible.... really? Which two gospels have birth narratives? How are the disciples portrayed? What is the original short ending of the gospel of Mark? Why do they call Matthew, Mark and the Luke the synoptic gospels? Who were the audiences which are addressed in each gospel, and do you have a favorite? Come, and let's have a three-week search for these and some other gospel questions. It's a search that can take a life-time, but you have to start somewhere and no experience is necessary!

**Lord's Supper Preparation
Breakfast
Sunday, October 5
9:45 - 10:45 am in Parish Hall**



According to our Book of Order, baptized children, who are being nurtured and instructed, are welcome to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Our Lord's Supper Preparation Breakfast is an opportunity for both parents and children to be nurtured and instructed. Over a simple meal in Parish Hall, we will learn how we remember, celebrate and give thanks for Christ's gift of love to us each time we have communion. This time together is designed for both parents and kindergartners and first graders. However, brothers and sisters are certainly welcome. Please sign up at the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

A Program for Older Adults

Passages



Join us on Tuesday, October 7 for our FIRST Passages Program!

Lunch at 12:30pm in the Oak Room

1:15pm program in the Case Library

Soprano Sara Kovasci and pianist Ellie Seib will present Baroque to Broadway, songs and arias from three centuries. Sara holds a BFA in Theatre from Niagara University and an MS in Education from Buffalo State College. A talented singer, actress and English teacher, she has performed roles with Opera Lytes, Theatre in the Mist, Irish Classical Theatre, O'Connell and Company, and has experience working backstage at the Kavinoky Theatre.

Passages is a gathering for adults who have reached this time of their life. These programs focus on the topics that deal with the physical, spiritual and mental interests of older adults. For more information about this group or if you would like to be included in our postcard reminder list, please contact Nancy Hanavan 835-6459 or Debbie Katz at 884-9437, ext. 329.

Bibles & Bagels

Sunday school children and their parents are invited to the Bibles & Bagels Breakfast in the Parish Hall on September 21, 9:45am to 10:45am.

There will be activities for both children and their parents. Grandparents are welcome to join in the fun. Please sign up on the Information Table. For questions contact Debbie Katz at dkatz@westminster-bflo.org or 884-9437, ext 329.

Westminster Knitting Group



Our first meetings are on September 9 & 23. 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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office Hours: 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Office: 884-9437 • Office Fax: 884-3450

WECP: 884-9438 • WECP Fax: 886-7641

www.wpcbuffalo.org

To email a staff person use the person's first initial and last name @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.

Program Staff

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty	Pastor (ext. 313)
Garrett F. Martin	Director of Music Ministries (318)
The Rev. Beth Hennessy	Pastoral Care Associate (697-0919)
Mark Aquino	Youth Coordinator (715-432-4585)
Monique Brannon	Director of Development and Operations (ext. 305)
Karen Kones Dearing	Co-Director, Early Childhood Programs (ext. 328)
Debbie Katz	Director of Christian Education (ext. 329)
Priscilla Maddock	Co-Director, Early Childhood Programs (ext. 330)
Austin Sanders	Interim Membership Coordinator (ext. 310)
Betsy Mitchell	President, Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)

Support Staff

Jamie Adamczyk	Administrative Assistant (ext. 326)
Christina Banas	Staff Accountant (ext. 315)
Margaret Craig	Administrative Assistant to the Pastor (ext. 306)
Loretta McKenna	WECP Bookkeeper (ext. 327)
Lenore Neiler	Communications Coordinator (ext. 302)
Aaron Vivian	Facilities Supervisor (ext. 319)
Jeff Kaczmarek	Maintenance (ext. 319)
Carlos Ortiz	Maintenance (716-208-4070)
Henry Piotrowski	Maintenance (716-572-4846)

Elders

Robert Bojidak, Clerk of Session

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Karen Keaton	Robert Bojidak	Maureen Boyd
David Hohn	Gretchen Brand	Bill Gray
Sandy Laub	Jen Callaghan	Mark Hall
John Paget	Cricket Gordon	Allan Hayes
Ardrey Manning	Jeff Renzoni	Jack Jacobs
Fran Holmes	Brad Smith	Ellen Kennedy
Tom Warszawski	Reed Stevens	Chris LaMendola
Jim Wieland	Debbie Erwin	Kathy Vitagliano

Deacons

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Cathy Forrest	Mary Callaghan	Shea Akers
Eric Forrest	Zandy Barrett	Janet Kifner-Amatt
Teddie Granville	Patty Charlier	Frank Coheley
Tyler Hallen	Roh-Yu Shen	Darrell Davis
Mike Reynolds	Kathleen Kelly	Earl McColgen
Nancy Stevens	Sarah Reynolds	Warren Emblidge
Roy Stewart	Griffin Saia	Florence
David Weeks	Austin Sanders	Kilambo Kalumbu Rebecca Read- Lukan



WOW NEWS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Members of the WOW Steering Committee are working on creating new activities; see accompanying article, "Survey Results." We recognized that the five activities typically scheduled are

important to continue, with perhaps just a little tweaking. Put these events and dates on your calendar right away so you won't miss out! All activities at WPC unless otherwise noted.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY: Thursday, September 18, 2014, @ 12:15 p.m. and continuing the second Thursday of each month. Bring a brown bag lunch and be ready to move from what the scripture means to what it means for us today. This year's text is Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of Second Corinthians. Study guides are free with a subscription to Horizon's magazine or available from Jamie for \$8. Contact Debbie Katz if you have questions. Coffee and tea provided.

BOOK DISCUSSION: October 8, 2014, @ 7PM. Everyone brings a list of our top 2 or 3 favorite books from the last year and we compile a list to share with each other. We often have chosen one to three books to discuss during the year. If there is strong interest, we will do this. There is no membership involved in this group. Just come if you are interested, and you don't need to share your book list if all you want to do is listen. It is a great way to get to know each other.

CHRISTMAS PARTY & SERVICE PROJECT: December 9, 2014, @ 6PM. This is a time for the Women of Westminster to get together and chill out before the holiday rush. Just bring an appetizer or dessert to share along with personal care items for either men or women. We prepare gift bags of the personal care items to be distributed by CEM, Concerned Ecumenical Ministries, to elderly shut-ins. For many of them it is the only Christmas gifts they receive.

WINTER RETREAT: Friday, January 30 – Sunday, February 1, 2015 @ the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. This is a favorite event for everyone who's ever gone! There's wonderful conversation, inspiring workshops, fresh air in beautiful surroundings, great food, spiritual renewal, and since everything's optional--REST if you need it! Details to follow; space is limited plan to register early.

WOW HAT DINNER: Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Heavenly, humorous, historic, hideous, or humble...each year the Women of Westminster don chapeaus of various shapes, sizes, virtue, and lineage! This is an evening of food and fun, spanning all ages of women in our congregation. Just one requirement: the head must be attired! Come hear the hat stories! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

WOW SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to those who completed the Women of Westminster (WOW) Survey earlier this year, we have lots of new ideas for programs and activities to offer women of the congregation. Sixty-nine women took part in the Survey which was conducted during the month before Easter. The most obvious survey result is that current WOW programs are generally successful for the needs of "45 and older" women, but new types of activities are needed and would be very welcomed by the younger women of Westminster. Many of the comments reflected a desire for more active events such as visiting local attractions (other churches, galleries, recreational events, surrounding communities, etc.). Service projects were high in interest, particularly those with brief or focused efforts to meet community needs (clothing drives, cooking for shut ins, work in local service agencies). Offering opportunities for intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth were cited numerous times (study of current issues impacting women, reading books by women theologians, small groups for greater sharing, and relationship building).

In short, it is a very exciting time for the future of the Women of Westminster. The steering committee will be exploring new options over the next several months and if you'd like to help, please see Jen Callaghan or Debbie Katz. (Complete Survey Results are available via email: jcallag10@aol.com)

Join Westminster

We welcome you and your family to join our community of faith at Westminster. Westminster is a church that is active in our community and welcomes all God's people. Following is some important information concerning the membership process:

Dinner with the Pastor You are invited to attend an evening of dinner and conversation with Rev. Tom Yorty plus others who are considering membership. Learn about our rich history and share your hopes for finding a church family that's right for you. The next date will be announced.

Inquirer Class An introduction to worship, service, and education opportunities at Westminster. Meet staff members and tour the church and school. Explore Presbyterian history and theology, and consider your own faith journey. A light lunch will be served, with child-care available upon request. The next date will be announced.

New Members Received Upon your decision to join, you will be received by the church Session at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed by the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. worship service and at the reception following. The next date will be announced.

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring membership opportunities, please contact Austin Sanders, Interim Membership Coordinator at 884-9437, ext. 310 for more information on membership.

2015 Generosity Envelopes Are In!!

Please pick up your envelopes in the holmes room. If you wish to have envelopes and don't find a set, I have ordered additional sets and will be happy to personalize a set for you. Please contact Monique Brannon with any questions at mbrannon@wpcbuffalo.org or by calling 884-9437 X305.

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.

WESTMINSTER
Milestones

Anniversary

August 22: Garrett Martin 1 Year Anniversary

Youth Ministry

Sunday, September 14 - Rally Day!

Youth help with Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, September 21st, 2014

9:30am-Dialogue Diner (Parish Hall Kitchen)

9:45am-Sr. Highs help set up and clean up for Bagels & Bibles

12pm-Confirmands and Sponsors meet in Case Library

Saturday, September 27th, 2014

5pm - Middler & Sr. High Fellowship Lock-in

Sunday, September 28th 2014

Middler & Sr. High Fellowship Lock-in Cont'd

9:30am-Dialogue Diner (Parish Hall Kitchen)

12pm-Confirmand/Sponsor Lunch



Sunday School at Westminster

*Children are a vital part of the life and worship
at Westminster.*

- 3 – 5 year olds: Mrs. Debby & Mr. Chris LaMendola are our beloved preschool teachers. The three through five year class meets in the Early Childhood building. The children and their teachers walk to the building together and in cold weather, the children need their coats.
- Our 6th & 7th graders meet with their teacher, Marta Butzer, each Sunday in the last classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our 8th grader confirmation class meets from 9:45-10:45AM in the Parish Hall balcony classroom.
- Our Senior Highs (9th through 12th graders) meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialog Diner.
- 1st - 5th graders: Each month their class rotates through our three Rotation Workshops;



Creation Station

(artwork) in the Heritage Room



Hollywood

(video) 1st room Parish Hall balcony



Apostles Playhouse

(drama, cooking, & games)
Parish Hall Kitchen

Experience a Taizé Service

Friday, September 19th, 5:30pm
in the Holmes Chapel

Westminster will offer a Taizé service of music, prayer and contemplation on the third Friday of each month from 5:30-6:00PM. For more information call 884-9437.



The Value of Silence

Debbie Katz, Christian Educator

This summer I spent a week at a cottage on a lake. Except for the sound of an occasional motorboat passing by the dock, my time there was blissfully free from city noises. I'd like to say my time by the lake was silent, but there were the calls of the birds, the hum of the insects and sound of the wind through the trees. I valued my time in this softer silence. I relaxed and enjoyed the peacefulness. I longed to bring that quietness home when my vacation was over.

I believe the peace I found at the lake is much like what the psalmist wrote in Psalm 131, "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother." Prayer or a peaceful communion with God can come without words. Like a satisfied child in the psalm who has stopped crying and rests in its mother's arms, so my soul can be in the presence of God with prayer that needs no words and maybe not even any thoughts.

The question is then how is it possible to reach this inner peace without moving to a remote lake. There are numerous types of prayer from centering prayer to walking a labyrinth that people use to reach that inner silence and communion with God. This coming January the folks in Spiritual Life will be devoting a month of Sundays to many of these prayer practices.

However I'd like to introduce you to a contemplative worship called Taize that we will offer here at Westminster in September. Taize worship combines singing short songs with added harmonies between periods of silence. Brother Roger Schutz, a Protestant priest, developed this style of worship and founded the Taize Community in 1940. Next year this community will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Brother Roger's birth along with the seventy-five year anniversary of the founding of this community in Taize, France. This ecumenical community has united Catholics and Protestants in their contemplative style of worship.

Presently, University Presbyterian Church offers a Taize service at 5:30PM on the first Friday of each month. On September 19th, Westminster will offer a Taize service at 5:30PM and then on every third Friday of the following months. These services offered at the end of the work week are a time for silent prayer and wondrous melodies. If you've never attended a Taize service they include singing, prayer, silence, lighting candles and a scripture reading. Attending these half hour services here at Westminster or at University Presbyterian can be a way to end the busy-ness of the week with a time for quiet reflection.

We live in a world of noise and distractions. When we seek out time and places for silence we can use these moments as holy stop, a sabbatical rest or even a truce on our worries. Remaining silent can be a form of praise. Psalm 65 which begins, "Praise to due to you, O God," in the Hebrew is better translated as "Silence is praise to you, O God." When words and thoughts come to an end God is praised in silent wonder and trust.

MUSIC & THE ARTS

WESTMINSTER *Presents* 2014 > 2015 SEASON

Westminster Presents, like all of Westminster's fine arts programming, is focused on the greater Buffalo community and includes concerts, events, established local artists as well as well-known guest artists. Please join us for the 2014-15 season.

September 19th, October 17, November 21 and December 19

Taizé Worship, 5:30pm in the Holmes Chapel

The candlelit meditative service is centered around music, scripture readings, prayer and silence to quiet the mind, open the heart, and feed the soul: a time of quiet and solitude in the presence of God.

September 21st, 4 p.m.

Garrett Martin in Recital

Garrett Martin, Organist and Choirmaster of Westminster Presbyterian Church, presents an recital on the historic Aeolian-Skinner organ of Westminster.

October 4th, 10 a.m.

Blessing of the Animals

On the South Lawn of Westminster

October 19th, 11 a.m.

Festival Celebration of Worship, Music, and Arts

During morning worship at Westminster in the Sanctuary.

October 19th, 4 p.m.

Festival Service for the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Featuring Bruce Neswick, Professor of Organ at Indiana University and former Organist and Choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo.

October 31st, 8:30 p.m.

The Phantom of the Opera

Organist Garrett Martin accompanies the 1925 silent film in the Sanctuary of Westminster. Come in costume!

November 2nd, 11 a.m.

A Celebration of the Feast of All Saints

The Westminster Choir will present Herbert Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi* (1938) - a moving work that Howells wrote after the death of his son in 1935.

December 7th at 11am

Selections from *Handel's Messiah*

Handel's masterpiece depicts Christ's birth, passion and resurrection through inspiring music. Please join us to experience this moving and timeless music.

December 21st, 11 a.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

The children of Westminster present their annual Christmas Pageant in morning worship.

December 24th, 10 p.m.

Christmas Eve at Westminster

5:15pm: Family Service: Carols, The Childrens's Choir and Scripture.

Join us for our Christmas Eve Concert and Service. Westminster's Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Organ. The Westminster Choir will present Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* followed by a candlelit Festival Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. 10pm: Concert Prelude and 10:45pm: Lessons & Carols.



Come Experience Westminster's Magnificent Steinway Concert Grand Piano

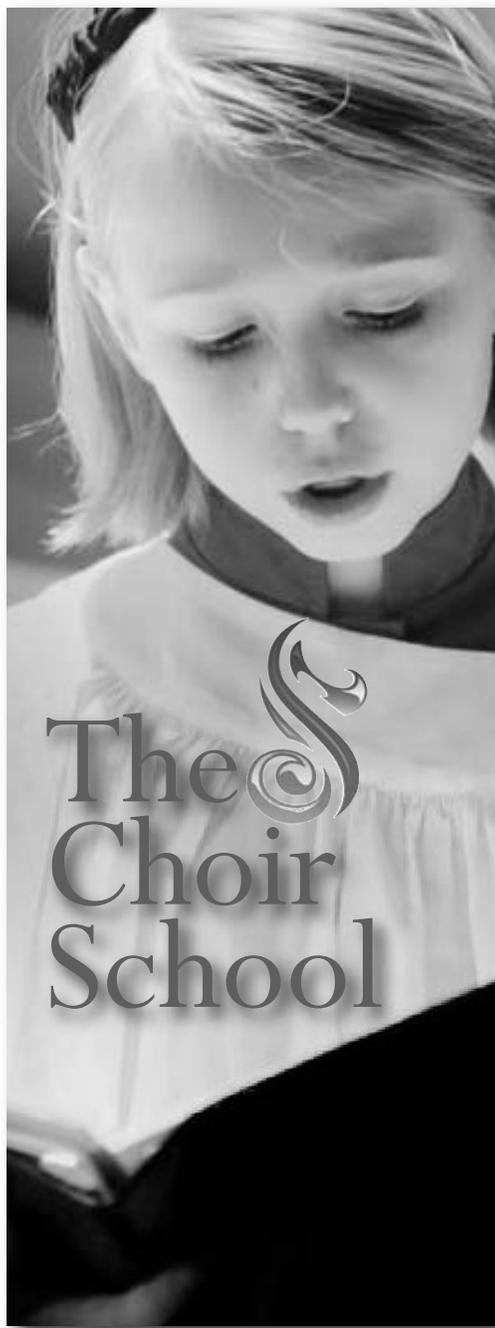
Though still new to Westminster, one of my first concerns for our sanctuary was the inadequacy of the 1906, 5'10" in length, Steinway Model O to project into our cavernous space with both richness and clarity. It became even more obvious when our choir and subsequent visiting choirs could easily "out-sing" the almost 110 year-old piano. On October 20th, Patty Charlier mentioned that her daughter-in-law, Sarah Charlier, had interest in her grandmother's 1979 Steinway Model D coming to Westminster. Sarah's grandparents, Frina Arschanska Boldt and Kenwyn Boldt, taught at UB and Buffalo State during their time in Western New York. Several dedicated volunteers worked out the details with the full support of our Session. The 1906 Steinway that was once home in the sanctuary will be taken to the Butzer Building for use in WECF chapel each Tuesday and Wednesday, replacing a failing spinet upright.

At 8' 11 3/4" in length and weighing 990 pounds, the Steinway D Concert Grand Piano is the overwhelming choice to the world's greatest pianists. For more than a century and a half, the world's most accomplished pianists have preferred to express their musical genius on Steinway & Sons pianos. The list includes the giants in classical, jazz, and popular music: the men and women who have shaped the world's musical heritage. Today, more than 98 percent of the world's active concert pianists choose to perform on Steinway pianos.

A Steinway grand piano takes nearly a year to create. Even the carefully selected woods that make up the rims, top, soundboards, and actions cure for months in the Steinway yard, kilns, and conditioning rooms before they stabilize at a rigidly specified moisture content. The rim of the instruments consists of layers of hard rock maple and with our bell-quality, full cast-iron plate, withstands the enormous amount of tension exerted by the strings. The finest acoustic-quality spruce is fashioned into the delicate curve of the soundboard, which tapers gently from the center to the edge, assuring the full, rich Steinway sound.

Ultimately, the pieces — massive and delicate — come together through the interweaving of the craft and technology until the instrument is complete. However it is not a Steinway until voicing gives it the special quality that makes it unique. Here, every subtle nuance is drawn out by balancing and adjusting the keys and shaping, hardening or softening each hammer. In the end, the new piano is transformed from more than 12,000 individual parts into an instrument...and from an instrument into a Steinway.

We have heard the piano throughout the summer in the Holmes Chapel; on September 14th, it will be moved to its permanent home in the Sanctuary. A formal dedication will be announced soon.



The Choir School



Westminster is excited to announce the founding of The Choir School

• Rehearsals will begin at 5:30 on Wednesday, the 17th of September with a meeting for interested choristers (third grade

A true sense of responsibility is instilled:

- Take a crucial part in leading worship, singing standards of the sacred repertoire
- Learn from older, more experienced singers

Our choristers carry their experiences with them beyond their lives at Westminster:

- Learn confidence, time management, leadership and cooperative skills
- Build community and camaraderie with their peers
- Grow in faith and their knowledge of the church; these skills are timeless and cannot be learned as a course of study
- Forge relationships with fellow-choristers through a unique shared experience

Becoming a member of a The Choir School at Westminster is as serious a commitment as it is a beneficial experience: Choristers pursue a professional level course of musical training and play an important role in the life of Westminster. As with sports teams and other extracurricular activities, participation in all rehearsals and services must be a priority to the choristers and their families to ensure that they are able to get the most out of this experience and to ensure that they are contributing meaningfully to The Choir School of Westminster.

For additional information, please contact
Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music
gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org, 716.884.9427 ext. 318

and above) and their parents

- Rehearsals continue each Wednesday, September through May, from 5:30-7:30 in the Holmes Chapel
- Participation in the program is not limited to Westminster members; all are welcome and encouraged to join

The vigorous and intensive choral training offered by The Choir School at Westminster is unique:

- Rehearsals are not just spent learning notes, our choristers are taught to read and understand music
- The "Voice for Life" music curriculum developed by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) is used
- To mark their progress, Choristers earn ribbons and medals that are worn when they sing in worship

Our new RSCM-based Choir School will sing in worship several times in the fall of 2014:

- In January of 2015, the choristers will lead worship each Sunday at our 8:45am service in the Holmes Chapel
- Regularly, they will join with our Adult Choir, allowing our choristers to sing a much greater-breadth of repertoire
- As boys' voices change and as girls reach high school age, they will graduate into the Adult Choir of Westminster

Worship Music in September

Here is a hint of the glorious music that will be presented during Sunday worship. Please join us!

September 14 - Rally Day

Voluntary:

Fantasia on Hyfydol and Diademata Hayes

Introit

O Sing to the Lord a New Song Purifoy

Anthem:

Let the People Praise Thee, O God Mathias

Offertory:

Make Our Church One Joyful Choir Crutchfield

Benediction:

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Lutkin

Voluntary:

Finale from Symphonie IV Widor
Garrett Martin, organ

September 21

Voluntary:

Matt Marco, organ

Introit:

All That Hath Life and Breath Clausen

Anthem:

Ain't That Good News Hogan

Offertory:

Steal Away Helvey

Benediction:

God Be In My Head Davies

Voluntary:

Comes Autumn Time Sowerby
Garrett Martin, organ

September 28

Voluntary:

Matt Marco, organ

Introit:

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened Handel

Anthem:

At the Name of Jesus RVW

Offertory:

Let Justice and Judgment Handel

Benediction:

Alleluia Handel

Voluntary:

Grand Choeur in the Style of Handel Guilmant
Garrett Martin, organ

Summer, It's Been Fun!!

Carol Greetham, ENERGY Director



Here's what we've done:

We visited the Buffalo Zoo in July and although the animals were interesting, the best part of our day was riding the carousel. Many of the kids had never ridden one before and the looks on their face were pure delight! Thanks to all our volunteers who helped out.

The ENERGY Family picnic held August 28 at WPC gave us time to connect our families to each other and to the services WEDI provides. Our busy day included tours of the ENERGY rooms, fun games, American style cook-out food and ethnic dishes for all to enjoy, and a school supplies give-away. Thanks to all who drove our families.

Home visits throughout the summer helped us connect with our families, new and old. A quick reading assessment was done with our new students; we have many challenges and a mountain of opportunities! Most of the children are reading below grade level or not at all. This is the challenge. The opportunities begin with a new and improved ENERGY reading program which will provide the children with consistent time on task, reading, discussing, writing, and more reading. Our dedicated volunteers, having been trained in regard to using our new program, will be a constant source of encouragement and guidance for the children. More on literacy next month.

Looking toward the school year, we're excited to welcome 25 students to ENERGY. They range in age from 6-12 years old, are in 1-6 grade, attend seven different schools, come from Burma, The Congo, Nepal, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Thailand and speak 8 different languages. Our start date is Tuesday, September 16. Volunteer Training will be held September 9, 10 and 11 in the Heritage Room at WPC.

Join us for a unique opportunity to help a child learn to read AND to expand your world as you learn from the ENERGY kids. It's Life Changing!

The ENERGY Program creates a caring environment where refugee and immigrant students 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 become a volunteer.



Lunch & Shop at WSB!

This is a great opportunity to take friends and family for a delicious lunch and do some shopping all in one bright, welcoming and warm venue!

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am-8pm,

Friday-Saturday 10 am -9pm. LOTS OF FREE PARKING!

25 Grant Street, Buffalo, 464-6389



Gay Bingo!

Saturday, September 13, 7pm (doors open at 6pm) Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks are available for purchase; admission is \$5 per person. Details can be found at www.gaybingo.com.

West Side Housing Rehab

You can be a part of the resurgence of the West Side and use your skills by participating in our upcoming building days working in collaboration with a housing agency who rehab older homes and sell them to low income people at affordable prices. These are satisfying days spent with your Westminister friends and making new friends while doing important work. Contact Brad Smith, 884- 2405; Betsy Mitchell, 868-9008.

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

Westminister's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral 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, Jim Wieland 523-021.

Friday Night at the Movies!

God Loves Uganda

October 3, 7pm in the Case Library

documentary re the role of American evangelical churches in supporting anti-homosexual legislation in Uganda. Popcorn and pop provided.

Donations to the ENERGY After-School Program and Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated Sponsored by Racial Justice

September Calendar

Monday, September 1 WECP & WPC Closed

Tuesday, September 2

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
7:30 AM WECP 1st School Day
9:45 AM Quintet Rehearsal
10:00 AM Garden Group
4:00 PM Program Meeting
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
7:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, September 3

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
11:00 AM Reserved for Aaron
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, September 4

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
8:30 AM Ministry of Generosity
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 5

12:00 PM WECP Welcome Back Lunch
12:00 PM Check Request Deadline

Sunday, September 7

8:30 AM Infant /Toddler Care
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Cookies and Punch

Monday, September 8 - WPC Closed

Tuesday, September 9

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:45 AM Quintet Rehearsal
10:00 AM Garden Group
4:30 PM Buildings & Grounds
5:15 PM Worship, Music & Arts
5:30 PM Congregational Life/Membership Mtg.

6:00 PM Zen Dharma

7:00 PM Knitting Group

Wednesday, September 10

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM CMH Board Meeting
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
4:30 PM Reentry Friday,ends
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
7:00 PM WOW Comm. Mtg.
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, September 11

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
6:00 PM Gay Bingo Board Mtg.
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 13

6:00 PM Gay Bingo

Sunday, September 14 Rally Day

8:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
8:30 AM Infant /Toddler Care

8:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
8:45 AM Worship/Communion
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM Worship
11:10 AM Sunday School
12:30 PM Dream Group

Monday, September 15 - WPC Closed

Tuesday, September 16

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:45 AM Quintet Rehearsal
10:00 AM Garden Group
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM WECP Board Mtg.
6:00 PM Mission Outreach Mtg.
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
7:00 PM New Parent's Orientation

Wednesday, September 17

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
5:30 PM WPC Choir School
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, September 18

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
7:30 AM Budget & Finance Mtg.
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
10:00 AM Margaret Off
12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 19

5:30 PM Taize Worship

Saturday, September 20

4:00 PM WECP Fall Fest

Sunday, September 21

8:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
8:30 AM Infant /Toddler Care
8:45 AM Worship/Communion
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
9:35 AM Case Library Series
9:35 AM Spiritual Life
9:45 AM Bibles & Bagels
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM Worship
11:10 AM Sunday School
12:00 PM Acolyte Training
12:30 PM Conf/Sponsor Mtg.
4:00 PM G. Martin Organ Recital

Monday, September 22

WPC Closed

Tuesday, September 23

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:45 AM Quintet Rehearsal
10:00 AM Garden Group
4:00 PM Presbytery Mtg/
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Personnel Meeting
7:00 PM Knitting Group

Wednesday, September 24

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
5:30 PM WPC Choir School
6:00 PM Session Mtg.
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, September 25

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
3:00 PM Chuck LaChiusa Tour
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 26

6:00 PM Choir Retreat

Saturday, September 27

9:00 AM Choir Retreat
5:00 PM Middler & SH Lock-in

Sunday, September 28

8:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
8:30 AM Infant /Toddler Care
8:45 AM Worship/Communion
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:35 AM Case Library Seris
9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
9:35 AM Spiritual Life
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM Worship
11:10 AM Sunday School
12:00 PM Conf/Sponsor Lunch

Monday, September 29- WPC Closed

Tuesday, September 30

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:45 AM Quintet Rehearsal
10:00 AM Garden Group
4:00 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Presbytery of WNY

Teaching in the Church

Leader, Debbie Katz

September 23, 30
October 7, 14, 21, 28, 2014
6:30-9:30 PM

North Presbyterian Church
300 North Forest Avenue
Williamsville, NY

Registration Deadline:

Friday, September 19.

Phone 631-0979 mornings, or
email mmohlke@gmail.com

This course will be beneficial to:

- teachers, pastors, youth ministry leaders, Christian Education Chairs and Directors, Session and board members and adult education leaders
- people who help others grow and learn and/or who enjoy the conversations of dedicated colleagues in ministry
- people interested in becoming Commissioned Lay Pastors



Presbyterian Women of WNY

Fall Gathering

Humming, Health and Harmony

Rev. Stuart Buisch

Worship

Rev. Laura Buisch

Saturday, September 27, 2014

10:30 am registration

First Presbyterian Church,
505 Cayuga St., Lewiston

Lunch at 1:00 pm

Creativity Fair: show and share the
treasures we have made!

Mission Items to bring:

School Supplies (backpacks, note-
books, etc.) to benefit immigrant
children in Buffalo Schools

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
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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



A novel I read a while ago (long enough that I don't recall the title OR the author!) had a quote that really resonated with me. It said that "for teachers, August is the longest Sunday." In many ways, it is so true! Just as teachers spend Sunday afternoons and evenings writing lesson plans, gathering materials, correcting papers, and organizing for the week ahead during the school year, they spend a lot of time during the month of August getting ready for the new school year!

Our teachers here at WECP are no different. The 2014-2015 school year begins on Tuesday, September 2nd. Parents and children will be impressed with how calm, welcoming and prepared the

teachers are, and how inviting and cheery the classrooms look as they arrive for their first day. They may not realize the hard work and thoughtful planning that has come before this all important first day of school.

One of the main reasons that we will all have done a lot of work ahead of time and "behind the scenes" at school is because for all of us, our priority on the first day (and first week – and first month) is to make sure children and families have a positive experience. We want to get to know each new child and their parents and caregivers – and learn what will help to make them feel most comfortable with us. We want to be able to answer questions, dry tears, give hugs, find fun toys to play with, make introductions, start routines, and respond sensitively to the needs of each person.

We take great delight in starting a new year: welcoming back friends who were away for the summer, meeting friends who are brand new to WECP, and greeting children who have been with us and are moving up to a new age group. It's all good – and we are thrilled to **begin again!**

Also, THIS new school year, our front office got a facelift, our first floor has a new color and fresh coat of paint, and our Baby Pandas room has been expanded (by literally moving a wall)! Our most grateful thanks go out to our very handy, talented, hardworking (and even good-natured!) maintenance staff; they have done an outstanding job!

Priscilla Maddock, WECP Co-Director



*Fall at WECP:
Openings and Events*

Openings for the 2014 – 2015 School Year

All Day Program: One and two year olds
Morning Program: Three year olds

2nd Annual WECP Fall Fest

When: Saturday, September 20 4 – 7 p.m.

Where: Westminster grounds or Parish Hall
(depending on the weather)

What: Hot dogs, chili, and desserts.

Skiffle Minstrels band. Petting Zoo

Who: For all current WECP families

Why: A chance to meet each other and enjoy a fun evening!