

The Chimes

of Westminster Presbyterian Church

A monthly newsletter of events and opportunities for the members of Westminster

Memorial Organ Recital

Sunday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.

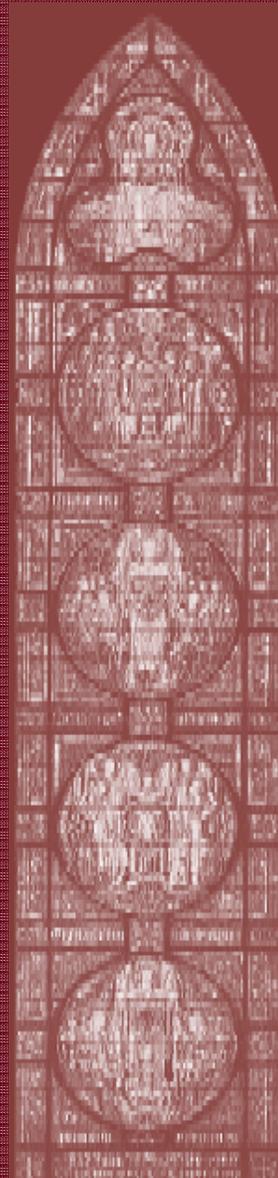


Douglas Cleveland will perform this year's recital on Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Cleveland gained international prominence when he won first prize in the 1994 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Dallas. Since then he has performed in 48 of the United States and has been invited to perform in such venues as Westminster Abbey, The Berlin Cathedral, Stockholm Cathedral, Moscow Conservatory, Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, Minato Mirai

Concert Hall in Yokohama, Japan, and the Cathedral of Lausanne, Switzerland. He has also performed with numerous symphony orchestras including the Chicago Symphony and St. Louis Symphony. From 1999 to 2004, he was Assistant Professor of Organ at Northwestern University. Since 2004 Cleveland has held the position of Organist and Director of Music at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle.

The organ console will be visible by way of a large screen projection system.

This program is made possible by the members and friends of Westminster who have contributed to the Memorial Organ Recital Fund. Those wishing to memorialize a loved one by contributing to this fund can obtain information at the Church Office.



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Issue 1009
October 2009

Where Loving God and Neighbor Is Transforming Lives

Food Bank needs our support

On Sunday, October 4, we will have the opportunity to support our local Food Bank with a **special offering** of either food items or monetary donations. It is reported in the *Interpreter Magazine* September/October issue that Dayton lost 33,000 manufacturing jobs between 2000 and the summer of 2008. The median income in our area dropped 10.5% in one decade. The poverty rate in Dayton for children 5-17 was 24% in 2000 and 32.8% in 2005, and is increasing every day. We are commanded by God to love our neighbor. We have so much and many of our brothers and sisters have so little. Please give generously to those less fortunate than ourselves on **Sunday, October 4**.



Did you know???

We have invited the Pastor and four Elders from our sister church in Barranquilla, Colombia, to visit Dayton from October 15 to 29. We pray that they will all be granted travel visas and that we will be able to welcome them to Westminster and the Miami Valley.

\$7,918.00 was collected in a special offering on September 13 for the E.J. Brown School Church Partnership.

The Chimes Deadlines for 2009-2010 are:

- October 8 (for November issue)
- November 5 (for December issue)
- January 7 (for January/February issue)
- February 11 (for March issue)
- March 4 (for April issue)
- April 8 (for May issue)
- May 6 (for June/July issue)
- July 8 (for August issue)
- August 12 (for September issue)



*Faith is not a delicate flower
which would wither away under
the slightest stormy weather.*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Among Our People...



On Sunday morning, September 6, Westminster member **Bob Eisenach** was part of a group of former Naval Officers recognized and honored during the morning worship service at the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. In introducing Bob and others who were commissioned out of the Midshipmen's School located on the downtown campus of Northwestern University during World War II, Senior Pastor Dr. John Buchanan said that each Sunday evening during the war the Midshipmen would march up Michigan Avenue to attend vesper services at Fourth Church. In his remarks, Dr. Buchanan welcomed them, "for this morning, at least, 'back home.'"

Westminster member and Elder **Michele Wheatly**, a veteran educator at Wright State University, was named West Virginia University's new provost, according to the *Dayton Daily News*. She will begin her new position January 1, 2010.

Death

September 15, 2009
Jane Ellen Gurokovich

Preparing Our Hearts for Generosity

Stewardship Sunday is November 1. Our focus this year is on the ministry that we share in common here at Westminster and what we are doing collectively to advance it.

We are having two special stewardship events this year. On Wednesday evening, October 21, we will be hosting a discussion about our ministry action plan and some visions about what we will need to get there.

After worship on Sunday, October 25, we will host an intergenerational event on the role of Christian Stewardship as part of our walk of faith. Please mark your calendar for both events.

Parish

Labyrinth open walk



Come walk the Labyrinth, noon-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 6, in Fellowship Hall. Please note the change in our ending time. Invite a friend to come along for the walk. All are welcome.

Head Usher training held over by popular demand: Sunday, October 4

Good news! If you were unable to attend the Head Usher training sessions held in August and September, you have another opportunity. Find out exactly what is involved by attending our final Head Usher Training session of 2009 on Sunday, October 4, 12:15-1:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Children in fourth grade and above are invited to serve as ushers along with at least one parent. Make it a family activity!

The 2009 edition of the Head Usher Manual is hot-off-the-press and will be used in training. We will answer all your ushering questions, and we hope to complete the Head Usher schedule for the coming year. Questions? Speak to Judy McCormick, Kay Davis-Dudding, or Laurie Davis.

Church tour

Are you interested in finding your way around the church and learning more about the beautiful building? Stop by the Welcome Center at 11:20 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, after worship, for a brief tour that will conclude at 12:15 p.m.



Fall Investigating Church Membership Seminar: Sunday, October 11

Have you enjoyed visiting Westminster? Would you like to know more about Westminster and how to become a stronger part of our congregation? Do you wonder what it means to be a Presbyterian? You can learn the answers to these questions and more by attending our next "Investigating Church Membership Seminar" on Sunday, October 11, 4:00-8:00 p.m., in the West Parlor. Supper and childcare will be provided.

The seminar is designed for folks who have decided to become members, and for those who want to investigate the possibility of membership. Register for the seminar by calling the Church Office or by signing up on the Fellowship Pad during worship. Please indicate if you need childcare. For further information please contact Laurie Davis (223-7285 or laurie@westminsterdayton.org).

Little dots all over the place

A new Interest Group is forming to play Dominoes. The group welcomes seasoned players as well as those who have never played. We will teach you how to play this fun game. The group will meet once a month on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the West Parlor. Our first gathering will be October 22. If you need more information, please call Carol Faulkner (667-1612).

Notes

Do these groups peak your interest?

Come and be a part of one of our **Interest Groups**. We have two new groups this year: Bell Choir and Dominoes. All of these groups are open to everyone and provide a great place for fun and fellowship, and you can even bring a friend or two! Singles, beginners and all walk-ins are welcome.

- ❖ Bell Choir Interest Group on Thursday, October 1, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 300
- ❖ Bridge Interest Group #1 on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m., in the West Parlor
- ❖ Dominoes Interest Group on Thursday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Parlor
- ❖ Bridge Interest Group #2 on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the West Parlor



Music Notes



Choirs for children and youth are in full swing

Now is a great time to become a part of Westminster's music ministry.

Children's Choirs and Youth Handbells (Sundays)

11:20-12:15

Genesis Singers (4 and 5 year olds, pre-kindergarten) – Rm. 104 - Holly Martin, Director

Senior High Bell Choir (grades 9-12), Rm. 300 – Jerry Taylor, Director

11:30-12:15

Cherub Choir (grades K-3), Theater – Marcia Wood, Director

Calvin Choir (grades 4-6), Rm. 100 (Choir Room) – John Neely, Director

Junior High Bell Choir (grades 7 and 8) Rm. 301 – Brent Manley, Director

Youth Choir (Sundays)

5:00-6:00

Knox Choir (grades 7-12), Rm. 100 (Choir Room) – John Neely, Director. Supper and youth fellowships follow.

Local Mission “Done In a Day”

Saturday, October 17

Would you like to put your faith into action on a mission project, but don't really have a lot of time? If so, join us Saturday, October 17, for a “Done in a Day” (DID) project emphasizing local mission needs.

Interested individuals should meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:15 a.m. After introductory comments, devotions and instructions, folks will head out to a local worksite. Everyone will work at a local agency from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will return to the church by 12:15 p.m. to enjoy a prepared lunch and to share our mission project experiences.

Participants are asked to contribute \$10.00 in advance of the project (\$5.00 for a Westminster Presbyterian “Faith in Action” t-shirt and \$5.00 for the lunch). Please turn in your money in an envelope to the Church Office and mark the envelope DID.

Confirmed worksites for DID include:

The House of the People – painting (all ages)

Linda Vista – sanding and sealing an outdoor playset (all ages)

The Peace Museum – specific project to be announced (all ages)

Westminster – minor repair and cleaning projects

Westminster – lunch preparation for workers (all ages)

YWCA – painting (all ages)

Other possible sites are Dayton Urban Ministry and E.J. Brown School.

Contact Becky Bower (434-8889 or rebekah.bower@wright.edu) with your name, contact information, t-shirt size, and worksite preference by Monday, October 12. Directions to each site and opportunities to car pool with other workers will be provided. Don't miss your opportunity to get it “Done in a Day.”



Spring 2009 DID volunteers in action

2009-2010 Music Events at Westminster

DOUGLAS CLEVELAND, ORGANIST - Sunday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.

See front page article.

CHORAL VESPERS - Sunday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.

See back page for more information.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS - Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.

All choirs participating

HANDEL'S MESSIAH - Sunday December 13, 4:00 p.m.

The Dayton Philharmonic Chamber Chorus and Orchestra

Neal Gittleman, Music Director

Hank Dahlman, Chorus Director

For tickets call Ticket Center Stage (937) 228-3630.

NOONDAY CAROL SING - Wednesday, December 16

12:00 Noon - Handbell Prelude

Adult Bell Choir, Westminster Church

12:10 - 12:40 p.m. – Carol Sing

Carol singing by all and choral music

by the choirs of Xenia High School, Brent Manley, Director

Lunch follows

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Thursday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Christmas in the Stable

Family Oriented Service

Genesis Singers, Cherub and Calvin Choirs

9:20 p.m. - Prelude

10:00 p.m. - Christmas in the Cathedral

Traditional Candlelight Service

Westminster Choir, Junior and Senior High Handbell Choirs

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY - Sunday, January 24, 10:00 a.m.

With the Miami Valley Pipes and Drums

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEN'S GLEE CLUB - Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Paul Rardin, Conductor

Founded in 1859, The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club is one of the oldest collegiate choruses in the United States and the oldest continually-run student organization on the Michigan campus. Long acclaimed as one of the finest male choruses in the world, the Glee Club has achieved this stature by sustaining and respecting the traditions which have been established during its 150 year history.

Freewill Offering

MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS, 1610 - Saturday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

The Dayton Philharmonic Chamber Chorus

The Bach Society of Dayton

The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

Neal Gittleman, Conductor

Hank Dahlman and John Neely, Chorus Directors

For tickets call Ticket Center Stage (937-228-3630).

EASTER SUNDAY - April 4

Identical Services - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

The Westminster Choir

Oakwood Brass and timpani

FESTIVAL OF HYMNS - Sunday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth

KNOX CHOIR BON VOYAGE CONCERT

As farewell concert as the Knox Choir (grades 7-12) prepares to leave for a summer Music/Mission trip

Date to be announced

WPW Fall Gathering is October 24



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." At the Westminster Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering, we will consider the issue of hunger, not only in our community, but globally. We will also do our part to alleviate hunger in Dayton by making packets for bean soup and corn bread to be given to the local food pantries. All supplies for making the packets will be available for the project.

Elementary-age children are welcome and encouraged to come! There will be a special program just for them, and they will also help make up the packets. Plan to attend and bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or perhaps neighbor children, along with mothers, daughters, friends and neighbors. All are welcome!

Crock pots are a needed item for the food pantries as they are a good way to cook inexpensive, but delicious meals. If you have an extra one, or find one at a garage sale, please consider donating it to WPW for the food pantries.

Westminster Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 24

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Light lunch served

Cost: \$5 for adults and \$3 for children

For reservations contact Sharon Jones
(426-8175 or jonesrsd@woh.rr.com).

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09-20-2000

WELCOME, HAVE A BUSHEL OF TOMATOES FOR
OUR NEW 'RATE THE SERMON' SYSTEM

Adult Education Opportunities

Let's Learn and Grow Together

Every Sunday, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m., Room 206

Lectio Divina: Sunday Morning Meditation and Prayer

This class experiences the ancient practice of “sacred reading” of the day’s scriptures, seeking a personal word from God through the biblical text. Class members lead the group.

Now and continuing through Sunday, October 18

11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The Reformation, Presbyterianism, and Calvin

Leader: Tom Preisser

West Parlor

This class offers an overview of the church at the threshold of the Reformation and will discuss what Luther, Zwingli, Melancthon and their colleagues were endeavoring to achieve. The focus will move to Calvin and his subsequent influence in that this year marks the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Responses to Economic Crisis among the Early Christians

Leader: Larry Welborn

Chapel

This course explores Paul’s letters for insights into a distinctively Christian response to economic issues. Could it be that Paul’s bold thoughts about the economy will have relevance for Christians facing a global economic crisis in the 21st century?

Nurturing Children’s Spiritual Lives

A New Class Designed for Parents and Grandparents

Leader: Laurie Brubaker Davis

Room 203-205

This course gives parents and grandparents an opportunity to learn, discuss, strategize and practice ways to nurture their children’s spiritual lives. The primary text will be *Real Kids Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children’s Spiritual Lives* by Karen Marie Yust. You may purchase the book for \$15.00 in the Church Office.

Sundays, November 1 through November 22

11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Ephesians—A Bible Story

Leader: Sandy McConnel

This letter is an essential part of the biblical story. It is clear that God takes the church far more seriously than some of his people in later times have done, precisely because it is the place where God has brought about reconciliation between diverse people, who were often bitter enemies, and made them his people who bear his likeness in their life together. All of this points to evidence that God has defeated “the powers.”

Health Care Today

Facilitator: Kay Davis-Dudding

This class will address several issues regarding health care, including the current health care debate. Topics will be presented by various speakers.

Visions of Grace in Modern Literature

Leader: Bob Davis

This course will consider scenes of spiritual insight in four modern writers: Walt Whitman, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Anne Sexton, and Flannery O’Connor. Our writers come from a range of backgrounds, but they share an interest in what might be called *the immediacy of grace*, the sense that God’s presence is as direct and vivid as a blade of grass or a child’s cry or the tattoos on a working-man’s back. No previous experience with literature is necessary, of course, but it helps if you enjoy poetry. Prepare to be surprised, fascinated, and possessed.

Embracing Boundaries

by The Reverend Dr. George H. McConnel

As preached on August 23, 2009



Sandy McConnel

Genesis 3:1-7

Several years ago when our children were still teenagers, our family had a week's vacation at Myrtle Beach. The first night we arrived the kids coerced us into taking them to the Pavilion—the local amusement park in the center of town.

Now, I'll admit right off I've never been great at amusement parks, but, I kept up with our group surprisingly well—one ride on the Log Jammer, one ride each on the Enterprise, Tilt-A-Whirl, Bumper Cars, and a ride (whose name I've forgotten) where airplanes fly upside down. Then,

there was a quiet interlude for the Merry-Go-Round. I couldn't believe how well I was doing. But, then came the Corkscrew! I had to put my foot down. Just looking at that roller coaster going upside down was too much. I had turned as green as the polo pony on my shirt. I knew it was time to stop.

Life is limitation.

Charlie, who is 11, brought home all Cs on his report card. Disappointment registered on his parents' faces. Later, they made an appointment with a psychologist to see if the horror of their suspicions could be true. Could it be that they, an urbane, sophisticated, well-educated couple, had created an average child?

The psychologist told them there was nothing wrong with their son. He was, in fact, a pretty well put together person who was inquisitive and had an above-average I.Q. He had many friends, and he was happy.

"But why is he making Cs?" asked the parents. "He's always made at least Bs."

"For one thing, he has had a big growth spurt this year. For another, he has other interests. He's learning to play the guitar." replied the psychologist. "And besides, the school he's in now is tougher than the one he was in last year."

The conversation was going rather well until the psychologist added, "Right now, for Charlie, what's wrong with Cs?" The parents were appalled. They left and found another psychologist.

My friend was 38, happily married, had three beautiful children, a good job as a lawyer, and, on top of everything, he even had a golf handicap of

six. But after golf one day, he looked despondent. I asked how things were going and he said, "Not very well. I guess I'm going through mid-life crisis or something. Suddenly I'm realizing that all my lifelong dreams are going unfulfilled. I'm never going to be a Louis Nizer or an F. Lee Bailey in court. In fact, I probably won't be as good a lawyer as my dad. And you saw the way I played golf today (he shot an 82!). I'm never going to win the club championship playing that way!"

Life is limitation, whether it's a lab report marked malignant, or a child's first experience of having to choose just one flavor at an ice cream parlor, or the sudden urgency that time is running out.

A psychologist tells the story of taking his young daughter to a high school basketball game. Shortly after they were seated, popcorn in hand, the daughter was anxious to get up and go exploring. Her dad told her that she could walk up and down the bleachers and go around the gym. Then he pointed to the court. "Do you see the black line around the court?" he asked. "You must not step over the line. If you do, you'll interfere with the game and you might get bumped by one of the players. Do you understand?"

The young girl said she understood. Then, she got up from her seat, walked down the bleachers and right up to the black line. Looking up to make sure her father was watching, she then put her foot just over the line and smiled.

"And the Lord God commanded: 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'"

Like a diligent parent, God sets limits for all of us. In the Garden of Eden story, the concrete limits are the trees at the center of the garden. They are provided for Adam and Eve so they will understand that their lives come from God. In the middle of Adam's world, in which he has been given dominion, stands not Adam himself, but the tree of divine life. Adam's life comes from the middle, which is not Adam, but God. Alongside the tree of life in the middle of Adam's world is the forbidden tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Here God confronts Adam and Eve and points out their limit. But Adam and Eve refuse their limit. They choose to live *in* the center and not *from* the center. Our story is an assertion that the recognition and honoring of boundaries leads to well being.

Now, why do I bring all this up? Because I don't think most of us have *really* accepted the notion that life is limitation. We don't accept death or the limits of our talents, or the hard choices we have to make. We may accept it here, intellectually, but it's a long trip from the head to the heart. We may assent with our minds that life is limitation, but we live wanting it all.

Here's how the modern writer Sam Keen put the matter:

"There are so many lives I want to live. So many styles I would like to inhabit. In me sleeps Zorba's concern to allow no lonely woman to remain comfortless, Camus' passion to lessen the suffering of the innocent, Hemingway's drive to live and write with lucidity, and the unheroic desire to see each day end with tranquility and a shared cup of tea.

"I am so many, yet I may be only one. I mourn for all the selves I kill when I decide to be a single person. Decision is a cutting off. I travel one path only by neglecting many. Actual existence is tragic, but fantastic existence (which evades limits and boundaries) is pathetic. The human choice may be between tragedy and pathos, Oedipus and Willy Loman. So I turn my back on small villages I will never see, strange flesh I will never touch, ills I will never cure, and I choose to be in the world as a husband and a father, an explorer of new ideas and styles of life. Yet perhaps Zorba will not leave me altogether. I would not like to live without dancing, without unknown roads to explore, without the confidence that my actions were helpful to some."

I like that passage, and I agree with Keen that life in that sense is either tragic or pathetic. But, how could it be otherwise? Choice and limit is the core of life. Without limit, without the hard choices that Adam and Eve refused to make, life wouldn't be human at all.

Christian faith begins with a sense of reverence—the recognition of God's greatness and our limitations. That is why there are no atheists in foxholes and few atheists in hospitals. It is not just because people are hypocrites, ignoring God when things are going smoothly and suddenly discovering God and pleading piety when they are in trouble. And it is not just a matter of turning to God out of fear. There are no atheists in foxholes because times like those bring us face-to-face with our limitations. We who are usually so self-confident, so self-reliant, so secure in our ability to control things, suddenly learn that the things that matter most in our lives are beyond our control. At the limits of our own power, we turn to a power greater than ourselves.

People have always found God at the limits of their own strength. Farmers pray for rain, soldiers pray

for victory and students pray that they will ace the test, because they understand that no matter how well they do their job, they will need the favor of heaven for things to go well for them. But, most of us today can barely see the limits of our own power, and that leaves little room for God, and leaves us with the unwelcome sense of being in ultimate charge of this unmanageable mess we call the world.

"Actual existence is tragic, but fantastic existence (which evades limits and boundaries) is pathetic." I said I like that, and so I do, even though it sounds a little too pessimistic.

It's a good thing that life is limitation. Without discovering the limits of our talents, we'd never discover *who* we are. But more important, without limits we would never discover *whose* we are. We would never discover that the way, the truth, and the life are found in Jesus Christ. We would never discover our source.

So, we need not grieve the distant villages we'll never see. We need not grieve the strange flesh we'll never touch, the wrongs we'll never right, the Masters Golf Tournaments we'll never win, the promotion we'll not receive.

Contentment lies in discerning the things that we have and being grateful for them. I think I've lived just long enough to discern what Paul meant when he wrote this ironic line: "For all things are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all are yours, for you are of Christ, and Christ is of God."

Let us pray:

Great God, teach us what it means to live a life within limits with you as our source. Amen.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Sunday, November 8

Choral Vespers

4:00 p.m.

The Westminster Choir with Harp and Percussion

Chichester Psalms - Bernstein

Coronation Anthem No. 2 - Handel

Freewill offering

Annual Harvest Dinner

5:15 p.m.



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