

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

[www.wpcaustin.org](http://www.wpcaustin.org)

### Connections @ Westminster

March 1 - 15, 2009

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## Weekly Word

Dear Westminster saints,

As you know, the season of Lent is upon us. Many of you were in worship a short day or so ago for Ash Wednesday, either as part of the early morning crowd, or as part of the evening gathering. Many of you will undertake certain spiritual disciplines during this season, perhaps by “giving something up” or by seeking to be more aware of your life and what it means. Although we often think of Lent as a time of *fasting*, it can be more than that; Lent can be a season of *feasting*. We can use Lent to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we can:

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ indwelling them.  
 Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.  
 Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.  
 Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.  
 Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
     Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
     Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
     Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
     Fast from worry; feast on divine order.  
     Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
     Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
 Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.  
     Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.  
     Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
 Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
     Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal Truth.  
     Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
 Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.  
     Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
     Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
 Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
 Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.  
     Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
 Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

- William Arthur Ward

*American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994*

So as we make our way toward Easter and the promised day of resurrection, may our “fasting from” be congruent with our “feasting on.” As the Ash Wednesday liturgy says, “I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.” Blessings to you this day, and always...

Grace and peace,  
Kathy

## Calendar

Sunday, March 1	8:15 a.m.	Worship/Communion	Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Church School for all ages	
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship	
	11 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	12 noon	Annual Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
	4 p.m.	Caring Friends Meeting	10
	5 – 7 p.m.	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Monday, March 2	12 noon	Property Committee	10
	5:30 p.m.	Human Resources Committee	10
	7 p.m.	Worship Committee	Library
Tuesday, March 3	10 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12 noon	Adventures	10
	2 p.m.	Rebecca Burk Hibner Memorial Service	Sanctuary
Wed., March 4	12 noon	Website Committee Meeting	Library
	6 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper	10
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary

	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thurs., March 5	12:15 p.m.	Mid-day prayers	Sanctuary
	7 p.m.	Theology on Tap	Off-site
Friday, March 6		Mission Presbytery	Corpus Christi
	11:45 a.m.	Friday Circle	Library
	1 – 3 p.m.	Lifetime Learning	10
Saturday, March 7		Mission Presbytery	Corpus Christi
	9 a.m.-12 noon	Landscape Workday	Grounds
Sunday, March 8	8:15 a.m.	Worship/Communion	Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Church School for all ages	
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship	
	11 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:45 p.m.	CROP Walk	Off-site
Monday, March 9	5:45 p.m.	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	6:30 p.m.	Diaconate	10
	7:30 p.m.	Fellowship Committee	10
Tuesday, March 10	7 p.m.	Men's Breakfast Group	10
	9:30 to 11 a.m.	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	10 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 a.m.	Tuesday Circle	Library
Wed., March 11	9:30 to 11 a.m.	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	6 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper	10
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, March 12	12 noon	Children's Ministries Committee	Library
	12:15 p.m.	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	1 p.m.	Thursday Circle	Annex
Friday, March 13	1 – 3 p.m.	Lifetime Learning	10
	6:30 p.m.	All Church Potluck Supper with Schreiner University Choir	10

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### Annual Congregational Meeting this Sunday

The Westminster Session has called a congregational meeting for this Sunday, March 1 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. During this meeting the congregation will receive the 2008 annual report and have the opportunity to see the 2009 operating budget.

### Westminster Financial Information

In order to keep the congregation better informed on a regular basis about the financial condition of the church, we will have a short update in Connections on the general fund revenues and expenses each month. On a quarterly basis, we will provide the full income statement. Additionally, the full financial statements are always available in the church office on a monthly basis. We encourage anyone who is interested to pick up a copy or ask Jimmie to email you one.

Operating Revenues and Expenses As of January 31, 2009	
Revenues	\$34,440

**Buried with Christ—Raised with Christ**  
**Wednesday Evening Lenten Services at Westminster**

6:00 p.m. Light Supper in Room 10

6:45 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Guest Preachers**

March 4, The Rev. Dr. Kristin Saldine, Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

March 11, The Rev. Dr. Michael Jinkins, Academic Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

March 18, The Rev. David Evans, Director of Seminary Relations, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

March 25, The Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw, President and Professor of Homiletics, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

April 1, Melissa Koerner, Westminster seminary intern and senior student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**Order Easter Lilies Beginning Sunday, March 1**

If you are interested in contributing toward furnishing the sanctuary with lilies on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form in the Order of Worship beginning Sunday, March 1, and return it to the WPC office by March 29 with \$12 per plant. The lilies may be given in honor of friends or family or in memory of loved ones. The names of those honored and the donors will be recognized in the Easter Sunday Order of Worship. The Worship Committee invites you to participate.

**Caring Friends – Gathering in Room 10 on Sunday, March 1 at 4 p.m.**

Are you interested in visiting Westminster's homebound members? The Congregational Care committee of the Board of Deacons is seeking some "caring friends" to visit Westminster's members who are unable to be with us for worship and other church activities. This is a great way to get to know some of WPC's saints, as well as to make a significant difference in someone's life. Contact Kathy ([kathy@wpcaustin.org](mailto:kathy@wpcaustin.org)), Amy Hoffman ([amyjhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:amyjhoffman@hotmail.com), 459-7285) or Virginia Hill ([vihill@austinisd.org](mailto:vihill@austinisd.org), 301-9932) for more information, or to let us know that you're interested in participating.

**THE SAINTS CAME MARCHING IN -- MARATHON STYLE**

Our own Westminster Jazz Combo -- that would be Sean Newton on trumpet, Karen Wagner on trombone, Rick Colvin on tuba, Byron Almén on keyboard and Catherine Colvin on drums-- was joined by about 40 congregation members who sang enthusiastically to all the marathon runners who were making their way up the Exposition hill.

The runners waved, "thumbs-up," grinned and danced as the group sang appropriate tunes like, *Bambalela (Never Give Up)*, *May You Run and Not Be Weary*, *We Are Marching in the Light of God*, *Guide My Feet While I Run This Race*, and of course, *When the Saints Come Marching In*. Bill Clark was there in his robe singing, and Elise Ragland was on the microphone. It was magnificent fun.

We gathered beside the circle drive about 9:15 and sang until Church School time. We really didn't want to stop we were having so much fun and felt so important to the joy of the day. Watching hundreds of people interact with Westminster and having them feel our support felt like a true ministry.

We'll do it again next year.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

9:30 a.m.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You are invited to join with Church Women United and with women throughout the world to celebrate together the gift of fellowship with God

### **Spring Landscaping Work Day Saturday, March 7: Dress for Dirt**

Do you like to play in the dirt? Do you like working in the yard? Do you need to log community service hours for high school? All church members and friends may join us for a Spring Landscaping Work Day Saturday morning March 7 from 9 AM to 12 noon. Dress for dirt and bring all, some, or none of the following: yard waste bags, lopping shears, pruning shears, shovels, gloves, weather-appropriate clothing, and enthusiasm. Our main task is to remove Asian jasmine, prune some perennials, and do a bit of planting and weeding. No expertise or experience is necessary. Meet in the church parking lot near the annex. Cold water and snacks will be provided. R.S.V.P. to the church office at 459-5497 or [wpc@wpcaustin.org](mailto:wpc@wpcaustin.org) or just show up!

### **Travel Study Seminar to Zambia: The church's life & mission in Zambia**

Dr. Dave Jensen of Austin Seminary will be leading a two week travel seminar this summer. Highlights include visits to Justo Mwale Theological College and area congregations in Lusaka, Zambia, an excursion to Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, and a safari in Chobe Game Park. Dates: May 26-June 9. Contact Dave if you are interested in participating: [djensen@austinseminary.edu](mailto:djensen@austinseminary.edu) or 404-4851.

### **Lenten Spiritual Formation Group to Meet During Lent**

A Lenten Spiritual Formation Group will meet each Sunday of Lent, March 1-April 5, in the church library at 5 p.m. Please contact Linda Tyler (452-8623 or [lmt@austin.rr.com](mailto:lmt@austin.rr.com)) if you are interested in being a part of this group. The group will be limited to 8 participants.

## **CROP WALK MARCH 7 & 8**

Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park

**Saturday March 7**, Registration: 9:30 AM Walk Begins: 10:00 AM

**Sunday March 8**, Registration: 1:45 PM Walk Begins: 2:45 PM

Your feet are made for walking

And that's the thing to do!

Sign up for Crop Walk

Fight hunger and poverty too!

**Sign Up Sunday after 11:00 service in Narthex**

**Donation envelopes also available in church office**

**Sign Up Online anytime.** Log in: [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)

Select: Find a walk

Select: Texas

Select: Austin Crop Walk

Select: Join a team

Team name: Westminster PC

For more information:

Angela Oliver 512-767-9755

angelaoliver@hooplahq.com

## **Presbyterian Women Fun and Fellowship Opportunity**

Come join other Presbyterian Women for dinner and fun! As a Presbyterian Woman if you are interested in going to dinner at various restaurants on an occasional basis to get to know one another better and for fun and fellowship without commitments, come be a part of our group. If you are interested or have an idea to suggest about this, please contact Jo Clark at [njwfc5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:njwfc5@sbcglobal.net).

## **What Are Deacons and What Do They Do?**

According to the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s *Book of Order*, the **office of deacon** as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is a ministry of caring, a ministry of love, a ministry of compassion, and a ministry of prayer. As deacons at Westminster, we take seriously our responsibility to care for members in all their joys and sorrows, to pray with and for the congregation, and to provide for ministries of congregational nurture and fellowship.

Our **Congregational Care** ministry encompasses prayer e-mails, care cards, Sunday flower deliveries, food for those ill or in bereavement, visits to families with new babies, quarterly home communion, and transportation to church activities for those who have difficulty getting to WPC. A new "Caring Friends" project will strive to make sure that our homebound members are cared for and offered opportunities for connection with the congregation on a regular basis, not just at certain times of the year.

The **Fellowship** ministry oversees a variety of congregation-wide fellowship events planned on a regular basis. More than 70 folks attended the recent Chili Cook-off. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and running each Wednesday evening during Lent, there will be a soup supper prior to the Lenten worship services. Watch for more details on events planned for the remainder of the year.

As a body, the **Board of Deacons** will be looking at ways we can play a role in implementing the findings of the Visioning Task Force to Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide.

While deacons are responsible for overseeing the above ministries at Westminster, we welcome and indeed encourage others to participate. **If you see something that you would like to know more about or would**

**like to volunteer to help with, please do not hesitate to contact the committee chairs or one of your currently serving deacons.**

Martha Richardson, Moderator, Board of Deacons  
Mary Moody, Chair, Congregational Care  
Catherine Colvin and Angela Oliver, Co-Chairs, Fellowship

## **New Books in the WPC Library**

[The Gift of Years](#) by Joan Chittister, noted lecturer and author, examines the often dreaded process of aging. Chittister contends that our lives move not in straight lines but in cycles, with our later years being one—or two, or even three—of them. The book is arranged as a series of essays on topics we all must face: regret, fear, authority, relationships, letting go, etc. Chittister, who wrote this in her '70s, sees the senior years as more than just a time to get ready to die. She offers advice on how to make our later years some of the best ones of our lives. The book was given by the Tuesday Circle in memory of Margaret Legett.

Those concerned about the balance between faith and science will be interested in [The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief](#) by Francis S. Collins. The author, who helped spearhead the Human Genome Project, writes that he was raised in a nonreligious family, but eventually changed his mind about spiritual matters. He cites former President Bill Clinton, who described the genome as "the language in which God created life." Collins stresses that science and faith are not incompatible. In fact, he devotes the first chapter to his recollection of growing up in a loving but agnostic home, then becoming an atheist in college. That changed after he became a physician and had to work with seriously ill patients, who sometimes wanted to talk about religion. So he did some reading on religions—not just Christianity, but many of the world's major

faith—and concluded that religion made plenty of sense, even for a scientist. In his book, Collins lays out why he sees religious belief as right and wise in modern society.

By Katie Burns

**Westminster Sewing and Knitting Group Reforms for Spring**

The Westminster Sewing & Knitting group is re-forming for spring 2009. There are two opportunities each month for crafting & socializing.

**Spring 2009 Schedule for Westminster Sewing & Knitting Group**

**Wednesday Work Days – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
at the Westminster Annex**

March 11  
April 8  
May 6

**Saturday Stitches & Snacks – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
at Amy Rose’s house (11607 Windermere  
Meadows)**

March 28  
April 25  
May 30

This spring we will be working on decorative tablecloths for our new fellowship hall and blankets/quilts for giveaway to children in the Interfaith Hospitality Network housing program. At the Annex meetings you can pick up supplies and tips for your projects and have plenty of room to spread out and get some work done. The Saturday morning meetings at my house will be a fun & relaxing opportunity for social crafting complete with brunch snacks. Come to one meeting or join us for them all. Work with us on a group project or bring your own. Young crafters are always welcome. Fabric and yarn for charity projects are still available for pick up. Contact Amy Rose ([arose@austin.rr.com](mailto:arose@austin.rr.com) or 258-9288) if you have questions, want to get involved, would like to participate but can't come to the meetings, or have fabric or yarn to donate.

**From Previous Newsletters**

**Westminster Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat** “Spirituality and Stress” **Saturday, April 4**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 East 27 Street. **Sharyn Reynolds** will explore the issue of stress and how it affects our spirituality. Contact Susan Somerville, [ssomerville@austin.rr.com](mailto:ssomerville@austin.rr.com), for carpooling. All parking spaces at the Seminary are available on the week-end except the space reserved for Dr. David Johnson or the Curry Dormitory Residence Parking. Registration below.

**WPC WOMEN’S SPRING RETREAT  
REGISTRATION FORM (Turn in to Church Office by April 1.)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee - \$15.00 (includes lunch). Make check to WPC and write PW Spring Retreat in the memo section.

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**Manos needs food.** Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **March 1**. And as we are fed at our Lord’s table, we remember to feed others in need!

# Worship

## Sunday, March 1

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

**Preacher:** Bill Clark

**Liturgists:** Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

**Scriptures:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22

### **Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes**

**After Church Elders:** Grover Campbell, Liz Jones, Jim Lockart

**Greeters:** South Door, Mary Anne Ater and Sharon Raab; North Door, Corrinne Bowers and Tom Cockburn

**Cookie Hosts:** Mary Anne Ater and Sharon Raab

**Acolytes:** Kathryn Taylor, Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Claudia Taylor

**Communion Clean-up:** Mary Anne Ater and Kathryn Burns

## Sunday, March 8

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

**Preacher:** Kathy Anderson      **Liturgists:** Bill Clark, Melissa Koerner

**Scriptures:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

### **Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes**

**After Church Elders:** Stan Shaw, Todd Davidson, David Vanden Bout

**Greeters:** South Door, Terry Allbright and Mike Rush; North Door, Marsha Hunt and Mary Moody

**Cookie Hosts:** Terry Allbright and Mike Rush and Marsha Hunt

**Acolytes:** Elizabeth Tyson, Madison Tyson, Will Ezell

## Adult Ministries

### Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Forum Class – Room 10**, March 1, 8 & 15: *Sowing Tears, Reaping Hope: The Bible and Brahms' Requiem*  
Led by Rick Colvin

**Parenting Class – Library**, Parenting Class *Making a Home for Faith* Bill & Jill Clark, facilitators.

**Bible Study & The Thoughtful Christian Class** will join the Forum Class for the season of Lent.

## Children's Ministries

### Children's Church School 9:30 – 10:30

**Preschoolers:** Meet for singing in Room 14. Teachers will pick the children up and move to room 4 (4's-5's) and Room 5 (2's-3's). Children can be picked up following church school at 10:30 a.m. in their respective rooms. A **NURSERY** for our littlest members is in Room 2, staffed by a caring and trained team of child care workers. Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. The nursery, located in Room 2 of the Education Wing is available for infants and beginning at 11:15, preschool children may join in Godly Play in Room 13 if they grow restless.

**Elementary Age Children:** Dwelling Places meets in Room 13. We'll start with singing and our story for the week. After a brief time together we will be dismissed to our activities.

March 1 – Camp Emphasis Sunday

March 8 – April 15 – review and Journey through Lent – a focus on Spirituality

## Youth Ministries

We are looking for Sunday Church School teachers and Youth Leaders for both Senior High and Middle School. Prayerfully consider if you can spend 6 weeks with our youth either on Sunday morning or Sunday evenings. They are great kids. All we ask is that you come and be present with them and get to know them as they get to know you. You will be enriched by their presences as they will by yours. Let Karen know if you are interested, [Karen@wpcaustin.org](mailto:Karen@wpcaustin.org)

**Church School classes for all youth meet each Sunday morning, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Annex, located at the corner of Carlton and Hillview, just beyond the church parking lot.**

### **Upcoming Fellowship dates**

March 1 – Youth Fellowship in the Annex

March 7 – (SATURDAY) – Service project – park clean-up – more info to follow

March 8 – CROP Walk – 1:45 p.m. (NOTE DIFFERENT TIME)

March 15 – No Fellowship – Spring Break

### **SUMMER MISSION TRIPS**

Middle School - Heifer Ranch July 26-31 (there are 12 spots and 5 of them have been spoken for, so let Karen know as early as possible if you want to go)

High School - Stewpot – June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – THIS IS A CHANGE based on information from Stewpot. Still trying to get all this settled.

#### **Middle School (Grades 6 - 7)**

Meets in the Annex Living Room

Topic: Christian Practices

Grade 8: Confirmation Class

#### **Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)**

Meets in the Annex Red Room

Topic: A variety of resources focusing on our lives, current events, questions, and the role of faith in our lives.

## **Fellowship**

### **Adventures March 3**

Special Guest for Adventures: On Tuesday, March 3, **Mary Dulaney** will share stories of her trip to China - "China for Tourists"

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

### **Theology on Tap – Next Gathering is March 5, 7 p.m.**

Theology on Tap is off to a great start! An enthusiastic group gathered in February, and is already looking forward to our next gathering on March 5. Location to be announced or call the church office.

[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#), organized in 1947, is a congregation of [Mission Presbytery](#), the [Synod of the Sun](#), and the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#).