

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

March 15 - 29, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear Fellow Followers of the Way:

After Kathy's sermon on Sunday, I have been pondering the difference between volunteers and disciples. As I have read the various call stories of the disciples, they were all handpicked by Jesus and they made radical shifts in life letting go of an old life to follow Jesus. They didn't volunteer to be a follower of Jesus, they were chosen.

If they had volunteered, they would have always had a choice. As a volunteer you choose the organization and how deeply involved you want to be. How much money and time will you commit? What is your level of commitment? The other element of volunteering is that you always have a way out. You can choose not to help just as easily as you can choose to help.

Discipleship doesn't give you that easy way out. You have been chosen, it was not your initiative to be involved. We have been called to a lifelong relationship with God and with our fellow disciples. It is a life that is to be shared without reservation, a life of giving ourselves up for others. We have to learn to be dependent not on ourselves but on God.

Just as Jesus served the disciples, he told them that they had to learn to be the servants of others. He commanded them to love one another just as he had loved them. He drew them in to a new way of being and we too are called to a new way of being. As Jesus calls to the crowd and to the disciples to "take up their cross and follow" and he calls to us as well.

I agree with Kathy that the church is a group of disciples and not volunteers. We have been handpicked; we don't have a way out. And when you have no way out, you need to go in further. I leave you with part of the lyrics from Garth Brooks *The River*.

Too many times we stand aside, and let the waters slip away
'til what we put off 'til tomorrow has now become today
So don't you sit upon the shoreline and say you're satisfied
Choose to chance the rapids and dare to dance the tide.

As we continue this journey through Lent, I invite you to look for ways to go in further and deeper. You are a disciple and not a volunteer, take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Grace, mercy and peace,

Karen

Calendar

Sunday, March 15	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
	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Lenten Spirituality Group	Library
Monday, March 16	7 p.m.	Mission Committee	Library
Tuesday, March 17	10 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12 noon	Adventures Special Trip	Offsite
	5:30 p.m.	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Wed., March 18	6 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper	10
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thurs., March 19	12:15 p.m.	Mid-day prayers	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Friday, March 20	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Peace, Justice & the Environment Sub-Committee	Library
	11:45 a.m.	Friday Circle	Library
	1 – 3 p.m.	Lifetime Learning	10
Sunday, March 22	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
	5-6:30 p.m.	Lenten Spirituality Group	Library
	5 – 7 p.m.	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Tuesday, March 24	10 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12 noon	WPDS Staff Meeting	10
	7 p.m.	Session	10
Wed., March 25	6 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper	10
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, March 26	12:15 p.m.	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Saturday, March 28	10 a.m. - 12 noon	WPC Sewing Group/home of Amy Rose	Off-site

Schreiner University Choir at Westminster This Sunday

The Schreiner University Choir will sing at both the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. services this Sunday, March 15. Members of the choir will be staying with Westminster families during their visit. Westminster's own Kathleen Sullivan is a Schreiner student and a member of the choir. The choir has a full itinerary from Friday through Saturday including performance opportunities at Westlake Presbyterian Church on Saturday evening, Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, Westminster Manor, the Dell Children's Center as well as enjoying some "fun" activities in Austin. Located in Kerrville, Schreiner University is a four-year, liberal arts school with a strong connection to the Presbyterian Church.

The Easter Vigil Will be Here Soon ... We'd Like You to Participate!

This service of worship will be held **Saturday, April 11**. One of the most ancient practices of the church, the Great Vigil of Easter involves the lighting of the new fire (from which the Christ candle is lighted), the reading and telling of the stories of salvation from the Bible, a remembrance of baptism, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. One of the things that make the Easter Vigil special is that so many people can participate (we need about 80 people!). There are parts great and small, both speaking and non-speaking. Please let Kathy know if you are interested in participating (kathy@wpcaustin.org). We'll be calling you soon!

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.

Fellowship Hall Financial Update

The time is quickly approaching that we will be able to use our new Fellowship Hall. As many of you are, I am eager to see the finished product and enjoy all the wonderful ministries that it will allow the church to offer. I also know that many of you have questions about the financial impact of the building. Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

What kind of loan do we have?

The loan that the church has now is a construction loan. It operates a little like a line of credit (we are approved up to \$1.5 million), but we only borrow what we need, as we need. As of the end of February, we have drawn out \$480,000. Our first draw was made in January 2009. Up until then, construction costs were paid from actual capital campaign pledges received. It is a variable rate loan at the Prime Rate of Frost National Bank (currently 3.25%). It is an interest only loan until June 30, 2010 with interest payments due quarterly.

After June 30, 2010, the loan changes from an interest only "construction" loan to a more traditional long-term loan. At that time, we will have to start repaying the principal and interest on a quarterly basis with a 15-year amortization and a balloon payment due on June 30, 2018. The loan would be a variable loan at Frost Bank Prime plus .50% with the rate adjusted annually as of June 30 of each year. The church also has a one-time option at June 30, 2010 to fix the interest rate at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas rate plus 2%.

How much are we borrowing?

We anticipate borrowing up to the full \$1.5 million of the construction loan as construction will be completed soon, but members will still be fulfilling their pledges through the rest of this year.

We anticipate that at the time we convert to a long-term loan, the amount borrowed will be \$1.2 million or less if, additional donations are received.

How will we pay back this loan?

The interest portion of the construction loan is to be paid back from interest earnings on the capital campaign funds held by the church prior to and during initial construction. We have earned \$98,000 in interest and expect to pay interest expense of about \$65,000 through June 2010.

Last year, when the session decided to proceed with construction and take out a loan, the plan was to hold an additional capital campaign in 2010 to pay off as much of the outstanding balance as possible before the construction loan was converted to a long-term loan. Obviously, the amount of the actual long-term loan depends on two variables: the final construction costs of the project (anticipated to be \$4.5 million) and the amount raised in the third capital campaign. Any amount of the loan not repaid through a capital campaign will be paid through the operating budget.

How does the debt impact the operating budget?

If we do not have a third capital campaign, the operating budget would have to cover debt service of approximately \$130,000 annually with a balloon payment of \$810,000 in 2018. If we were to reduce the debt burden in half through a 2010 capital campaign, the debt service would drop to about \$75,000 with a balloon payment of \$415,000 in 2018. These amounts are based on estimated interest rates. Interest rate changes could have a significant impact on these amounts. Both scenarios would require an additional capital campaign or refinancing prior to the balloon payment. Those decisions would be made closer to that time.

Capital Campaign			
Income Statement			
2/28/2009			
	Budget	Actual	
Donations	3,280,000	3,119,601	
Misc Income	2,000	2,000	
Investment Income	98,000	97,767	
Total Income	3,380,000	3,219,368	
Benevolence	17,288	12,966	
Annex Debt Payoff	524,394	524,394	
Architect and Engineering Fees	630,000	581,675	
Contractor Fees	3,051,655	2,168,107	
Contractor Fees-Room 10	118,000	117,887	
Permits and Fees	40,000	34,648	
Misc	5,500	2,607	
Administration	2,850	5,897	
Fundraising	75,000	72,541	
Debt Service	65,000	-	
Contingency	14,013	-	
Total Expense	4,543,701	3,520,722	
Revenue over expense	(1,163,701)	(301,354)	

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 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

Derek Forbes, Former WPC Seminary Intern, to be Ordained March 15

To the staff and congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
I'd like to share this invitation and event with all of you. Thank you so very much for the cards, emails, and well-wishes regarding my upcoming ordination. But most of all, thank you for welcoming me into your family, for nurturing and teaching me, and for being a church that continues to support and educate seminary students. I am forever grateful and thankful for your presence in my life. You have been a blessing from God unto me.

Peace, love, and joy be with you all,

Derek Forbes

*The Presbytery of Denver
Announces the
Service of Ordination to the Office of
Minister of Word and Sacrament
for
Derek Forbes
at
Arvada Presbyterian Church
5592 Independence Street
Arvada, Colorado
Sunday, March 15, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Reception Follows
Please RSVP at 303-422-3463*

New Book Given to the Church Library

Winnie Gage has given the book, Brothers in Hope, The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan, by Mary Williams and illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, to the WPC library in "remembrance of Gatluak Chane."

Flowering, Flowering, Flowering the Cross

Is there a better metaphor for the Kingdom of God? All kinds and colors and shapes of flowers come together to form one glorious flower-cross. Isn't it wonderful?

Please bring flowers from your yard... or the shop. Think broadly! Lovely foliage or twigs from a flowering shrub are gorgeous.

Anything you or your child pick or clip will be lovingly received. I always bring a snip from a rose bush that I rooted from my grandmother's garden. I like thinking of the "communion of saints."

All gifts can be used in the Kingdom!

Catherine Colvin

From Previous Newsletters

Order Easter Lilies

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.

Westminster Sewing and Knitting Group Reforms for Spring

The Westminster Sewing & Knitting group is re-forming for spring 2009. Please contact Amy Rose (arose@austin.rr.com or 258-9288) for further information.

Presbyterian Women Fun and Fellowship Opportunity

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, please contact Jo Clark at njwfc5@sbcglobal.net.

WPC WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT
Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
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.

Manos needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **April 5**. And as we are fed at our Lord's table, we remember to feed others in need!

Worship

Sunday, March 15

3rd Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Psalm 19; John 2:13-22

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

After Church Elders: Kim Edwards, Bob Schriber, Corrinne Bowers

Greeters: South Door, Marian and Mark Kelley; North Door, Ben and Pat Boswell

Cookie Hosts: Dorothy Andrews and Pat Boswell

Acolytes: Louisa Ehrlich, Hannah Dale, Kerby Dale

Sunday, March 22

4th Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: Ephesians 2: 1-10; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21

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

After Church Elders: Carolyn Long, Cindy Sullivan, Jack Prince

Greeters: South Door, Linda Tyler and Lis Wise; North Door, Jim Cochran and Bob Schriber

Cookie Hosts: Janet Carroll and Eleanor Cochran

Acolytes: Adelaide Ehrlich, Robert Ehrlich, Markley Ehrlich

Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Forum Class – Room 10

March 15: *Sowing Tears, Reaping Hope: The Bible and Brahms' Requiem* Led by Rick Colvin

March 22 & 29, April 5: *Faith & Poetry* Led by the Rev. Dr. Michael Jenkins.

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 15 – April 5 – review and Journey through Lent – a focus on Spirituality

Youth Ministries

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 15 – No Fellowship – Spring Break

March 22nd – Fellowship @ the Annex

March 29th – Fellowship @ the Annex

April 5th – Stuffing Easter Eggs

April 12th – Easter Sunday – no fellowship

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 22nd – 26th – 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.

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Fellowship

A Special Adventures Invitation – Tuesday, March 17

Mary Lou and Walter Firey have invited the Adventures' group to come to their home on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, to see Mary Lou's garden in bloom. Address: 1307 Wilshire Blvd. This is a special Adventures gathering and we hope you will plan to come. Her garden is well worth seeing...she has done an incredible job! We do need to know how many of you can attend. Mary Lou is also preparing a light lunch for us! Please call or e-mail Joan Johnson to let us know if you can come. (jimjoanj@aol.com or 327-1587) We'll plan to be at the Firey home at 12. If anyone would like to carpool, we can meet at church at 11:30. Let Joan know.

Adventures – Tuesday, April 7

Westminster's own **Matt Scoggin** will join us for our program. Matt was the U.S. Olympic Diving Coach for the Summer Olympics in Beijing, and he will share what his journey to China was like, both personally and "officially" as part of the Olympic team.

Adventures – Tuesday, May 12 (one week later than usual)

Join us for a fabulous end of the year potluck gathering...the **Silver Strings** will be with us! Bring a dish to share (we need to feed these people!) Bring a friend.

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

Theology on Tap – Next Gathering is Thursday, April 2 – location TBA.

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