

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

March 29 – April 12, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

As we press on through this Lenten season toward Easter, I draw your attention to two significant dates in the life of our congregation. On Easter Sunday, April 12, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we will also begin a new chapter in Westminster's life. The Fellowship Hall will be open for our Easter brunch that morning. This will be the first official gathering in our newly constructed facility. An old and favorite tradition will carry on in a new space.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, as we remember the presence of God's Holy Spirit in the church and in our lives, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall that evening for dinner and a service of dedication. Those who have helped make the completion of this project possible will be joining us that evening for the celebration.

It is significant that Easter and Pentecost, two high and holy days in the life of the church, happen to coincide with the opening and dedication of our new space. On those two days we will certainly give thanks to God who has blessed us with an opportunity for new life and new beginnings.

It's been a long wait. We've been without the use of a large fellowship space for nearly two years. I hope that you can join us on both of these special occasions. I look forward to celebrating with you, and praising the name of the One from whom all good blessings flow. May God's Spirit come and fill our new space with abundant life in the coming months and years!

Faithfully yours,

Bill

Calendar

Mar 29 - Sun	08:15 AM - 09:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Church School (for all ages)	Westminster
	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Fellowship	Westminster
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM - 07:00 PM	New Member Class	Room 10
	05:00 PM	Lenten Spirituality Group	Library
	05:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Mar 31 - Tue	09:30 AM - 11:00 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Apr 1 - Wed	09:30 AM - 11:00 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	06:00 PM - 06:45 PM	Lenten Soup Supper	Room 10
	06:45 PM - 07:30 PM	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Apr 2 - Thu	09:00 AM - 11:00 AM	WPDS School Tour	Room 10
	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Apr 4 - Sat	09:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Spring Retreat -- Presbyterian Women	APTS
Apr 5 - Sun	08:15 AM - 09:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Church School (for all ages)	Westminster
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM - 07:00 PM	New Member Class	Room 10
	05:00 PM	Lenten Spirituality Group	Library
	05:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Apr 6 - Mon	12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Apr 7 - Tue	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Adventures	Room 10
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board Meeting	Room 10
Apr 8 - Wed	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	WPC Sewing Group	Annex
	07:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Apr 9 - Thu	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 10 - Fri	09:00 AM - 06:00 PM	Good Friday Prayer Vigil	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 11 - Sat	07:00 PM	Great Vigil of Easter	Sanctuary

Westminster Financial Information

Below is the financial information as of February 28, 2009 for the General Fund of the church. The full financial statements are available in the church office. We encourage anyone who is interested to pick up a copy or ask Jimmie to email you one.

Operating Revenues and Expenses As of February 28, 2009

Revenues \$166,596

Expenses 105,607

Net income 60,989

Cash on hand – Operating Fund \$127,903

Fellowship Hall Debt \$480,000

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

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

Holy Week at Westminster

Maundy Thursday

April 9

7:30 p.m.

The Lord's Supper and Footwashing

Good Friday

April 10

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

7:30 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday – 7 – 9 p.m.

April 11

The Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter
April 12**

8 a.m. – Flowering of the Cross
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. – All Church Easter Breakfast in the New Fellowship Hall
(no church school today)
10 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt for Preschoolers and Elementary Children
10:45 a.m. – Flowering of the Cross
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

“One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be collected

Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall!

On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate an old tradition in a new place. Westminster’s Fellowship Hall will be open for Easter brunch! All are welcome to join us for this commemorative event beginning at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast catered by the Manchaca Fire Department. Suggested donation will be \$5.00 per person and \$20.00 for a family.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Where is your treasure? These days we might find this question difficult to answer. We read in Scripture that, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and we have seen the danger in storing up treasures here on earth as we have watched the global economy crumble around us. This year as we continue to celebrate Lent, we are reminded that our true treasure is found not in earthly things, but in Christ alone. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering seeks to remind us that our treasure is to be shared with those in need.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering began 60 years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. A variety of national leaders and celebrities gave their time to participate in a Saturday evening broadcast which asked the American people to give generously to a special offering being collected at churches throughout the country. 75,000 churches participated in that first offering. Since then, this ecumenical offering has continued to grow and over the past 10 years has raised over \$20 million.

The PC(USA) has always strongly supported the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and uses the funds raised to help people all over the world. The gifts received by the PC(USA) are split by three different programs. 36% of the money helps fund the Presbyterian Hunger Program, helping to eliminate the problem of hunger, end homelessness, and provide affordable housing. 32% of the money raised goes to the Self-Development of People program, and the remaining 32% of the money goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, which provides assistance to disaster victims all around the world.

This year Westminster will be joining thousands of other congregations by participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday. As we make these final steps on our journey toward Easter, let us be reminded that we have freely and abundantly received an incredible treasure in Christ. Let us also freely give to those in need.

Symposium on Race Unity to be Held Thursday, April 2

The 3rd annual Louis Gregory Symposium on Race Unity will be on Thursday, April 2, at Huston-Tillotson University. Keynote speaker is Dr. Joy DeGruy, author of “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing.”

Registration is 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Contact O.R. Schmidt for more details.

Lenten Reading:

The Last Week, a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week in Jerusalem, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan is a perfect book for this time of the church year. Borg and Crossan, frequent collaborators,

offer a literate, insightful account of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem--from his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday to his death on the cross.

Writes Peter J. Gomes, author of The Good Book: "This is a 'must read' for clergy and laity."

From Previous Newsletters

Flowering, Flowering, Flowering the Cross

All kinds and colors and shapes of flowers come together to form one glorious flower-cross on Easter Sunday. Bring from the shop or clipped from home and place on the cross in the Sanctuary.

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

This service of worship will be held **Saturday, April 11**. 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!

Order Easter Lilies—Sunday, March 29 is last day to order

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.

WPC WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT
Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
REGISTRATION FORM on next page (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.

Worship

Sunday, March 29

5th Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: Hebrews 5:5-10; Psalm 51:1-12; John 12:20-33

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

After Church Elders: Debbie Mincher, Russ Somers, Ann Scott

Greeters: South Door, Eleanor Luke and Miss Jane Smoot; North Door, Ryan McGinn and Sharon McGraw

Cookie Hosts: Kelly McGinn and Lynn Eno

Acolytes: Chris Clark, Elizabeth Tyson, Madison Tyson

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgists: Bill Clark, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 14:1-31

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

After Church Elders: David Rose, Linda Tyler, Margie Johnson

Greeters: South Door, Ann Culver and Shaaron Conoly; North Door, Steve and Nancy Westmoreland

Cookie Hosts: Walle Conoly and Nancy Westmoreland

Acolytes: Dustin Clary, Ada Barbee, Read Barbee

Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Forum Class – Room 10

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

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.

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. Youth Fellowship meets each Sunday evening from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Annex.

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Fellowship

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 – Thursday, April 2 @ The Fiddler’s Hearth

For more information see www.fiddlershearth.com

301 Barton Springs Rd.

7 p.m. ‘til 9 p.m.

The Gospel According to U2

(since we’re going to an Irish pub, we’ll talk about one of Ireland’s most famous bands!)

Low key. Conversation. Fun. Beer. Thoughtful conversation. Loose (in terms of “preparedness” and “required knowledge: none” and not in terms of morals!). No experts, just a facilitator to keep things sort of on track and to bring a question to get us going. ...come from work, come from the gym, bring a friend, get a sitter for the kids, eat dinner (they have great burgers), or just come for “liquid dessert” or the conversation and fellowship.

Hope to see you!

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, April 5

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! Please remember to give for those who have less than we do.

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