

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Connections @ Westminster

April 9 - 26, 2009

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Weekly Word

Triduum: A space of three days.

Dear saints,

As you read this issue of *Connections*, and scan through its pages, you will know that we are well into Holy Week – and that Easter is just around the corner. This week is the week of all weeks in the Christian year, beginning first with Palm/Passion Sunday, then moving through the Three Days to Easter and Christ's promised resurrection. It is tempting to jump directly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, forgetting about Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, his trial and death. But, it is the space of three days – and what happens during that time – that makes the Easter celebration more real and alive.

As Peter Mazar says so well:

The first day of the Triduum, from Maundy Thursday sunset to Good Friday sunset, is the sixth day of creation, when God formed us from clay and breath. In dying the Lord Jesus fell asleep, like Adam, that we might be formed from his own body, like Eve. Jesus completed the new creation. On this day we wash each

*other's feet in tender humility. We fast as if we were again in paradise. And we come to the holy cross as if it were Eden's tree of life. **Join us on Maundy Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to wash one another's feet, remembering Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another.***

*The second day of the Triduum, beginning Good Friday sunset, is the Sabbath. In burial the Lord Jesus rested, and we rest in him. But this day is also an image of the timelessness before time began. In death the Lord Jesus entered the "formless void," the utter nothingness before creation. On this day we continue our fasting with the anxiety of separated lovers. We keep watch, learning the lessons of restfulness, silence and darkness. We reserve this day, unique in all the year, to do nothing at all. **Return on Good Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. as we descend into darkness, and as we hear once again the scriptures that tell of Jesus' crucifixion and death.***

*The third day of the Triduum, beginning Holy Saturday sunset, is a great surprise. Light is kindled in darkness. Order is born from chaos. Life puts death to death. The rainbow appears and the Red Sea opens. Dry bones come to life. God's people are gathered in. And a slaughtered lamb rises to become our good shepherd. That's why we make this night shine like day. We tell our best scriptures and sing our favorite psalms. We witness resurrection in our very midst as the newborn children of God rise from the waters of baptism, and are led to partake of the Lord's Supper. As the darkness of this night passes over into dawn, our Paschal Triduum – our three-day Passover – is accomplished, and irresistible Easter overwhelms the world. **Gather again on Saturday night at 7 p.m. for one of the most ancient celebrations of the church...to light the new fire and to read, to hear the stories of salvation from scripture, and to remember our baptisms.***

And then, join us **Sunday morning for services at 8:15 and/or 11 a.m.** as we celebrate the resurrection in the light of day.

Some of you might say, "Wow. That sure is a lot of church-going. I think we'll just skip a couple of those. That's just too much to expect of us to do." I realize there are things that keep us busy in life; I understand that all too well. However, I would encourage you (and your children!) to come to all the services – if you are at all able to do so. After all, we only have a week like this once a year. Yes, you will find yourself at church quite a bit this week if you embrace the journey of moving through Holy Week in this way ... but your celebration of Easter will be more complete if you observe each of the Three Days leading up to the resurrection.

Alleluias will soon be sung again.

Grace and peace to you all,

Kathy

Calendar

Apr 12 - Sun		EASTER	
	08:00 AM	Flowering of the Cross	
	08:15 AM - 09:15 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	All Church Easter Breakfast	New Fellowship Hall!
	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt for Pre-School and Elementary	Grounds
	10:45 AM	Flowering of the Cross	
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship	Sanctuary
Apr 13 - Mon		Easter Monday -- CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	
	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM - 07:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10

	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	Room 10
Apr 14 - Tue	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board	Room 10
Apr 15 - Wed	05:30 PM	PW Board Meeting	Library
Apr 16 - Thu	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	02:00 PM	Children's Ministries Committee	Library
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Apr 17 - Fri	11:30 AM - 01:00 PM	Peace, Justice and the Environment Sub-Committee	Room 10
	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
Apr 19 - 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	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Apr 20 - Mon	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library
Apr 21 - Tue	09:00 AM - 02:00 PM	WPDS P/T Conferences & Staff Inservice	Education Building
	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Apr 22 - Wed	07:30 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Apr 23 - Thu	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Apr 25 - Sat	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Landscape Workday	Annex
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	WPC Sewing Group	Offsite

Holy Week & Easter Worship Services and Schedule

Maundy Thursday April 9 7:30 p.m.

“Maundy,” derived from Latin *mandatum*, means **mandate**, or **commandment**. On this night, we will gather for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and for foot washing, remembering Jesus’ commandment to love and serve one another.

Good Friday April 10

Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open all day for prayer and meditation as we remember the day of Jesus’ death.

Service of Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.

This service of gathering darkness and prayer will include a dramatic reading of the story of Jesus' final hours of life.

At the conclusion of the service, the "stripping of the church" will remove or cover all liturgical symbols (table, font, etc.) until Easter Eve.

Holy Saturday April 11

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

One of the most ancient celebrations of the Church, the Easter Vigil calls us to gather in the evening darkness to celebrate the resurrection. We will read and experience stories of salvation from the Bible, as well as remember our baptisms and celebrate the Lord's Supper. **This is a "child-friendly" service for people of all ages; it is very interactive, celebrative and participatory!**

Bring whatever you consider "hot cross buns" to be to share during the fellowship time after the service.

Easter Sunday

8 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Arrive at little early this Sunday morning, and bring some fresh cut flowers – from your yard, or from the store – to adorn the flower cross in the sanctuary.

8:15 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Alleluia!

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Our New Fellowship Hall!

Plan to eat a wonderful, scrumptious breakfast of eggs, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, fruit, juice and coffee. All are invited!

Suggested donation is \$5 per person, with a \$20 cap for families (you be the judge of what that means!). Come, and eat!

10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

All pre-schoolers and elementary children, this is for you! Bring your basket for a festive egg hunt with your WPC friends. There will be separate areas for different ages, so keep those rabbit ears tuned in on Easter morning to hear your instructions.

10:45 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Again, bring your flowers to decorate the cross.

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Alleluia!

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.

Dedication of Our New Fellowship Hall

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. Mark your calendars for this memorable occasion. More information will follow in future Connections.

Youth Sunday – April 26

The youth of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be leading worship on April 26th. The text for the morning is Acts 3: 1-19, as Peter and John heal the lame man at the temple gate. Come glorify God and be joined with the Body of Christ in this place. Are you ready for a miracle?

Now Available: Organic Wild Rooibos Pyramid Tea

You asked for fair trade herbal tea. So here it is! Wild Rooibos is only harvested by a few farmers in the entire world. This rich, red tea has a fruity character with vanilla overtones and is naturally caffeine free. Rooibos contains antioxidants, which are known to promote good health. As with our other fair trade products, you may purchase them in the church office or on Sunday mornings. For questions or feedback on this new tea or other fair trade items, please contact Adrienne Inglis at 320-0613.

Trace Your Coffee Beans From Farmer to Roaster

Third Coast Coffee has become part of a project allowing anyone to track the coffee beans it buys and roasts. Most of the coffee we sell and all of the coffee we drink at Westminster comes from Third Coast Coffee. To follow the coffee, visit <http://www.coffeepath.org/>, select Third Coast Coffee from the roaster pull-down menu, then select the coffee you want to trace. Guatemala Rio Azul is what we serve Sunday mornings. You'll see the paper trail with amazing transparency, from farmer contract, financing, cupping evaluations, invoices, bill of lading, organic certification, and delivery. For questions or feedback, please contact Adrienne Inglis at 320-0613.

Thank You for the Butterfly

Thank you to Karen Millican for creating the beautiful butterfly that will be on the Resurrection Cross in the new Butterfly Garden on Easter Sunday. Karen made the butterfly just before we began the construction of the new fellowship hall, so this is the first time it will make its appearance.

Thank You from Pat Boswell

To My Westminster Church Family:

Westminster is a loving church, as evidenced by your love and support during my recent surgery and recovery. A special heart-felt thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, emails, and calls, and to Bill and Kathy for your pastoral care. I appreciate the continued support from Mary Moody, Diane Frick, and the congregational care committee. I particularly wish to thank Mary for transporting me to Circle 6 and for providing my family and me with a delicious meal and flowers from the worship service.

The surgery on my right wrist was a success, and I am scheduled to begin physical therapy this week. Please continue to pray for me.

With much love and thanksgiving,

Pat Boswell

Westminster's New Landscaping

With the completion of our new building, Westminster Church now has all new landscaping around the Fellowship Hall! The naturalist design plans and the native plants were chosen very carefully to work with our particular landscape needs.

We've tried to balance the need for structure and order with a slightly less formal look. That is accomplished through massing – the repetition of plants placed in groupings. These groups of identical plants make a bigger impact than an individual plant. We've carefully chosen plants to place together based on their needs for similar amounts of sunlight and water. Our Westminster campus has sunny areas and shady areas and you'll notice a distinct difference in the plants chosen for each. The design avoids placing potentially large shrubs in front of windows in order to avoid excessive pruning needs.

You will find one particularly exciting garden space at the north end of the Education Building. This is our new butterfly garden. After Lent, the cross will bear a butterfly that symbolizes the Resurrection we celebrate at Easter. Throughout this garden are plants that provide nectar, larval food, and shelter for a host of local and migratory butterflies. These creatures begin their lives as caterpillars (eating the green stuff), and then they pupate before emerging as graceful works of art that float effortlessly on the breeze. This garden is located so that the day school students will have many opportunities to watch this complex process as well as the interaction between insects and their environment.

Plants are more than background noise. By choosing native plants to complement our limestone buildings, we are deliberately defining our sense of place. This native plant pallet reflects the evolution of flora unique to Central Texas. These plants reveal the story of relationships within God's natural world that predate European settlement; they show the complex interaction of pollinators and predators, the beauty of seasonality, and they appeal to our senses. Please enjoy the gardens for many years to come.

Many thanks go to the building committee, Pampered Lawns, and Workman Construction for their support and cooperation during this ambitious and exciting project. For questions about the landscaping, please contact Carolyn Long or Adrienne Inglis through the church office at 459-5497 or wpc@wpcaustin.org.

From Previous Newsletters

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Easter Sunday

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering seeks to remind us that our treasure is to be shared with those in need.

Please give generously on Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday.

Worship

Sunday, April 12

Easter

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: I Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8

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

After Church Elders: Margie Johnson, Jim Lockart, Grover Campbell

Greeters: South Door, Red Olander and Deborah Polan; North Door, Ann Scott and Liz Jones

Cookie Hosts: No Cookie Hosts – Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 19

2nd Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Melissa Koerner

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Bill Clark

Scriptures:

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

After Church Elders: Liz Jones, David Vanden Bout, Stan Shaw

Greeters: South Door, Ehrlich family; North Door, Kathy and Kathryn Taylor

Cookie Hosts: Marlene Magierski and Jeanne Grant

No church school on Easter – come to the Easter Breakfast in the new Fellowship Hall!

Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Forum Class – Room 10 Seminary Intern Melissa Koerner begins a new series of classes after Easter.

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

The Thoughtful Christian Class – will meet with the Forum Class after Easter

Children's Ministries

Children's Church School 9:30 – 10:30

Thank you to all the children who sang on Palm Sunday. I have heard many wonderful comments from the congregation who appreciated the Hosannas from the lips of children ringing out in our worship together. I appreciate all who sang and the parents who worked with the children outside of church.

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.

Easter Sunday – no Sunday School – there will be Easter Egg hunts in the courtyard for Nursery aged children, the playground for LAMBS and the Annex lawn for Elementary Children.

I have applications for John Knox Ranch in my office.

Vacation Bible School – CAMP E.D.G.E – will be August 10 – 14. Online Registration will be open soon.

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

April 12th – Easter Sunday – no fellowship

April 19th - Youth Sunday practice – Sanctuary

April 25th (SATURDAY) – 11:00 am Youth Sunday Practice in the Sanctuary

April 26th – Youth Sunday!! Fellowship at Mayfield Park (more details later) – nature walk, bring a sack dinner

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Middle School - Heifer Ranch July 26-31

High School - Stewpot – June 22nd – 26th – Let Karen know if you are going.

High School youth - Synod Youth Workshop – Tulsa, OK July 13-18 – Anyone interested?

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

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, May 7 – Location TBA

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, May 3

Manos needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **May 3.** 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).