

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

April 26 – May 10, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear Fellow Followers of the Way,

I love rain. I particularly love to splash in puddles. One evening while in seminary, one of my friends and I went out and played in the puddles after we were finished with class for the day. Fellow students and some professors looked at us rather quizzically as we were absorbed in splashing each other. At one point in our puddle-stomping fun my friend yelled, "Remember your baptism!" This yell was followed by a wave of water that was kicked my way.

A few weeks ago we joined together for the Easter Vigil, we celebrated a remembrance of baptism during the service. It is a time to remember that we have gone under the waters and have been buried with Christ and to remember that we have been raised to new life in Christ as well. As we celebrate and remember our own baptism let us also remember the promises that we have made as others have been baptized as well.

All of the children and youth who have been baptized have been given the promise that people would nurture them, teach them, and be the body of Christ to them. This Sunday, the youth will lead us in worship and we

can celebrate with them the nurture and care they have received to this point in their journey of faith. In the coming weeks the Session will hear statements of faith from the confirmands, and we will welcome them as new members of Westminster.

Many of you have contributed to the spiritual lives of these young people. Know that as a family of faith, what we say and do impacts our children. I encourage everyone to find ways to nurture the children and youth of the church. Teach Sunday school, help with youth group, sing with the children, offer your gifts and talents in other ways with them, and even something as simple as greeting them and welcoming them when you see them. One of the great joys of being a part of a family of faith is to witness milestones and celebrate them together. How can you follow through on promises you have made at the baptism of our children and youth in the coming days and weeks as we celebrate with them?

Grace, mercy and peace,
Karen

Calendar

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Apr 26 - Sun | 08:15 AM - 09:15 AM | Worship / Communion | Sanctuary |
| | 09:30 AM - 10:30 AM | Church School (for all ages) | |
| | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Fellowship | |
| | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Worship | Sanctuary |
| | 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM | P3 Fellowship | Playground |
| | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM | Youth Fellowship | Offsite |
| Apr 28 - Tue | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Staff Meeting | Pastor's Study |
| | 12:00 PM - 03:00 PM | WPDS Staff Meeting | Room 9 |
| | 07:00 PM | Session | Room 10 |
| Apr 29 - Wed | 09:15 AM - 10:30 AM | WPDS Parenting Series | Room 10 |
| | 02:00 PM - 04:00 PM | Austin Area Pastors Meeting | Room 10 |
| | 07:00 PM | Adult Choir | Sanctuary |
| Apr 30 - Thu | 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM | Mid-day Prayers | Sanctuary |
| May 1 - Fri | 06:00 PM - 09:00 PM | Elementary Almost Lock-in | Fellowship Hall |
| May 3 - Sun | 08:15 AM - 09:15 AM | Worship / Communion | Sanctuary |
| | 09:30 AM - 10:30 AM | Church School (for all ages) | |
| | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Fellowship | |
| | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Worship / Communion | Sanctuary |
| | 06:00 PM | Confirmation Dinner | Fellowship Hall |
| May 4 - Mon | 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM | Property Committee | Room 10 |
| | 07:00 PM | Worship Committee | Library |
| May 5 - Tue | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Staff Meeting | Pastor's Study |
| May 6 - Wed | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | WPC Sewing Group | Annex |
| | 07:00 PM | Adult Choir | Sanctuary |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| May 7 - Thu | 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM | Mid-day Prayers | Sanctuary |
| | 07:00 PM | Theology on Tap | Offsite |
| May 8 - Fri | 11:45 AM | Friday Circle | Library |

To those who helped with Holy Week Services:

For all you did to help with the various service the Worship Committee and I thank you.

Pastors—Bill Clark and Kathy Anderson, for your hours of work and deep insights which focused the congregation, we do not have the words to thank you.

Music—Rick Colvin, Byron Almén and the choir, your music was glorious. Karen Wagner for leading the children and youth in their singing for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

Publicity—For arranging publicity with the American Statesman, thanks to Joan Johnson and Alice Pryor.

Palm Sunday procession, thanks to Karen Wagner and Kim Edwards for keeping the peace and distributing the palms. What an energetic throng we had waving palms in celebration!

Maundy Thursday Service—Thanks to the washers of many feet: Catherine Colvin, George Pryor, David Rose and Linda Tyler. Those who did a perfect job of removing the sanctuary furnishings: Scott Pass, Doug Clary, Lis Wise, Andy Lottes, Alice Lottes, Larry Wise, Molly Hatchel, Debbie Mincher, and Ann Humphreys.

Good Friday Vigil Keepers—George Pryor, Alice Pryor, Linda Tyler, Kim Edwards, Margie Johnson, Tim Taylor, Bob Schriber, Jack Prince and David VandenBout helped the prayer of the Church on this holy day.

Good Friday Service—drapers Sharon McGraw, Claire Breihan, Lis Wise, Ann Humphreys, Angela Oliver and Molly Hatchell thanks for your gracious help.

Ushers—Stan Shaw and Martha Richardson thanks to you for arranging for ushers for all of our services Holy Week.

Easter Vigil—Thanks to *all* who participated (there were almost 100 of you!).

Easter Lilies—Rick Colvin and Ann Humphreys for your help with the beautiful display of lilies.

Flowering of the Cross—Amy Ehrlich and your family, thanks to you for your gentle arranging of the flowers brought by many hands.

Bouquets of thanks to Rosemary and to Ray for all of your hard and faithful work which went in to each of the Holy Week services.

Worship Committee members Ann Humphreys, Sean Newton, Alice Pryor, Rick Colvin, Catherine Colvin, Ann Scott, Elise Ragland, Martha Richardson and Josie Whitley who helped with planning, services, and preparation for worship for each service.

Thanks be to God who calls us to be part of the Westminster community and blesses us with gifts to share to God's glory.

Linda Tyler, chair Worship Committee

Fellowship Hall News and Dedication Event

We had a wonderful celebration in our new Fellowship Hall on Easter Sunday. In spite of a heavy downpour of rain, we managed to stay quite dry in our new home! Over 400 Westminster members and friends enjoyed

breakfast prepared by the Manchaca Fire Department that morning. The tables were beautifully adorned with flowers, baskets of fresh grass and brightly colored eggs. Thanks to Catherine Colvin, Angela Oliver and members of the Fellowship Committee for all of their efforts to help us open the new space in such grand style.

During the next few weeks, crews will be completing punch list items (touch up painting, spot cleaning, mechanical adjustments, etc.) as they put the finishing touches on our new building. We will wait until these items are complete before moving into the building and receiving our certificate of occupancy.

Fellowship Hall will be officially dedicated on Pentecost Sunday evening, May 31. All members and friends are invited to join us for this momentous occasion in the life and history of Westminster.

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?

WPC Financial Update

The March financial statements presented include the income statement for all the funds of the church and a budget comparison for the General Fund. The full financial statements are 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.

The funds of the Church are broken out into four categories. The General Fund is used to provide the ongoing general operations of the Church such as missions, Christian education, personnel, and property maintenance. It is funded by an annual budget that is made up of pledges, contributions, and interest earnings. The Restricted Funds are used for donations, which can only be used for a specific purpose as designated by the donor. This category includes such funds and the Mission Fund, the Property Fund, memorials, and gifts directed toward a specific purpose. The third category is the Capital Campaign Fund. This fund is for receipt of gifts and their payment toward the construction of the fellowship hall and the benevolence portion for new church development. The last category is Endowments. In these funds, the original donation can never be spent, but instead is permanently invested and a portion of the income may be spent. This includes the General Endowment, the David Rainey Adult Christian Education Fund, the Mission Endowment, and a Choir Endowment.

Due to the generosity and commitment of the members of the church, we are currently ahead of budget on pledges. Additionally several members who had not completed their 2008 pledge have now done so and have helped begin to replenish our reserves. Expenses remain under budget. In the Capital Campaign, we continue to receive donations towards the Fellowship Hall. We have collected 78% of pledges in the Stepping Forward Campaign and 95% of pledges in the Building on Christ's Foundation campaign. Our construction loan totaled \$833,000 at the end of March.

The Finance and Administration Committee and the Session are committed to keeping our expenses within our means and working towards the financial challenges we will continue to face in the future.

Becca Thompson, Treasurer

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
Income Statement - All Funds
Period Ending 3/31/2009**

| | General | Misc | Capital | | |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|----------|------------|-------|
| | Fund | Restricted Funds | Campaign | Endowments | Total |
| Revenue: | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Pledges | 221,508 | | 121,674 | | 343,182 |
| Non-Pledged Contributions | 21,233 | 2,620 | | | 23,853 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 335 | 645 | | | 980 |
| Investment Income | 78 | 33 | 256 | (3,291) | (2,924) |
| Assets Released from Restriction | 1,330 | (526) | | (804) | - |
| Total Income | 244,484 | 2,772 | 121,930 | (4,095) | 365,091 |
| | | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Benevolences | 8,797 | 5,839 | | | 14,636 |
| Children's Ministries | 403 | | | | 403 |
| Adult Ministries | 1,218 | | | | 1,218 |
| Youth Ministries | 1,185 | (200) | | | 985 |
| Worship | 1,334 | | | | 1,334 |
| Fellowship | 631 | | | | 631 |
| Membership and Commitment | 757 | | | | 757 |
| Congregational Care | - | | | | - |
| Personnel | 113,017 | | | | 113,017 |
| Finance and Administration | 10,177 | | | | 10,177 |
| Stewardship | 17 | | | | 17 |
| Property | 17,135 | 6,685 | | | 23,820 |
| Total Expenses | 154,671 | 12,324 | - | - | 166,995 |
| | | | | | |
| Capital Expense | - | | 728,795 | | 728,795 |
| Debt Service | | | | | - |
| | | | | | |
| Net revenue over (under) expenses and transfers | 89,813 | (9,552) | (606,865) | (4,095) | (530,699) |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Net Assets, beginning of year | 46,848 | 174,475 | (55,651) | 62,897 | 228,569 |
| | | | | | |
| Net Assets, end of year | 136,661 | 164,923 | (662,516) | 58,802 | (302,130) |
| | | | | | |

For Period Ended March 31, 2009 (25% of the Year)

| | | YTD | Annual Budget | Percent of Budget | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|
| <u>GENERAL FUND</u> | | Actual | 2009 | Met | | |
| <i>Revenue</i> | | | | | | |
| Pledges | | 221,508 | \$ 632,000 | 35.05% | | |
| Non-Pledged Contributions | | 21,233 | 52,500 | 40.44% | | |
| Miscellaneous Income | | 335 | 4,700 | 7.13% | | |
| Investment Income | | 78 | 500 | 15.60% | | |
| Assets Released from Restriction | | 1,330 | | 100.00% | | |
| Total Revenue | | \$ 244,484 | \$ 689,700 | 35.45% | | |
| | | | | | | |
| <i>Expenses</i> | | | | | | |
| Benevolences | | 8,797 | \$ 70,710 | 12.44% | | |
| Children's Ministries | | 403 | 4,250 | 9.48% | | |
| Adult Ministries | | 1,218 | 5,445 | 22.37% | | |
| Youth Ministries | | 1,185 | 6,025 | 19.67% | | |
| Worship | | 1,334 | 11,515 | 11.58% | | |
| Fellowship | | 631 | 6,500 | 9.71% | | |
| Membership and Commitment | | 757 | 5,830 | 12.98% | | |
| Congregational Care | | - | 300 | 0.00% | | |
| Personnel | | 113,017 | 452,635 | 24.97% | | |
| Administration and Finance | | 10,177 | 24,090 | 42.25% | | |
| Stewardship | | 17 | 1,000 | 1.70% | | |
| Property | | 17,135 | 96,400 | 17.77% | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Expenses | | \$ 154,671 | \$ 684,700 | 22.59% | | |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Net Revenue over Expenses | \$ 89,813 | \$ 5,000.00 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Net Assets, beginning of year | \$ 46,848 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Net Assets, end of period | \$ 136,661 | | | | |

Church Women United, Friday, May 1

Presbyterian Women, put this on your calendar! At this meeting, the Least Coin will be offered. Be a part of this celebration of friendship among all denominations and colors of Christian women!

Church Women United

Friday, May 1st

9:30 a.m. United Christian Church

3500 W. Palmer Lane (27)carpool? call Mary J. 323-2355

New Books in WPC Library:

The Great Awakening, Seven Ways to Change the World, is by Jim Wallis, an evangelical pastor with a lifetime commitment to social justice.

The New Interpreter's Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha, is a concise, scholarly comment and reflection on the meaning of Scripture for faith and life, intended for use by all students of Scripture.

The First Paul, Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon, is by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, frequent collaborators and both emeritus professors of religion.

Praying for Those Who Serve

Luncheon

In Association with the National Day of Prayer

Friday, May 8, 2009 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Camp Mabry Drill Hall #8

A box lunch will be served. Tickets (\$8) may be purchased in the narthex after worship and through the church office by April 29. A ticket is required for all who attend.

WPC Book Group Reschedules May Meeting

The WPC Book Group that normally meets on the third Thursday of the month will meet on Thursday, May 14 instead of May 21. Please mark your calendars and join us at the home of Margie Johnson.

Gently Used Toy Drive

Over the last several weeks, we have been collecting gently used toys to send to a mission project one of our construction workers is involved with. We have collected numerous boxes and bags of toys to send with him. Thank you for your donations. They will make many children smile!

Come Join the Fun at *Your* Presbyterian Women's

Spring Fiesta

Thursday, May 21

6 p.m.

In the new Fellowship Hall

See old “amigas” and make new ones!
Food, Fellowship, Music, Skits, and our gifts
To the Annual **Birthday Offering!**

Need babysitting? Please call Karen at 459-5497 by Monday, May 18

Plant List for Westminster’s New Landscaping

Many of you have commented on how much you like the new Fellowship Hall and Columbarium landscaping and have asked for a complete list of plants. Designed by Hazel Herring’s daughter, Judith Herring Winter, the landscaping for the Columbarium features butterfly iris, Jerusalem sage, Mexican bush sage, copper canyon daisy, bush daisy, rosemary, purple trailing lantana, Indigo Spires salvia, dusty miller, gay feather, Mexican mint marigold, Mexican oregano, lavender cotton, yarrow, blue gray sedge, and Mexican feather grass. Carolyn Long selected and planned the layout of the plants for the Fellowship Hall and butterfly garden featuring Texas mountain laurel, Turk’s cap, dwarf yaupon, dwarf wax myrtle, southern wax myrtle, copper canyon daisy, Texas cenizo, sabal minor (palmetto), red yucca, agave, inland sea oats, bamboo muhly, cross vine, Virginia creeper, rosemary prostrate, coralberry, salvia greggii red, zexmenia, nolina texana, Mexican feather grass, American beautyberry, yarrow, native white plumbago, Katie dwarf ruellia, wafer ash, wooly stemodia, Texas sedge, fig ivy, Greggs mistflower, purple coneflower, black-eyed susan, and coreopsis. The new plants have already attracted a greater variety of birds and butterflies to the church campus. More information on the native plants is found at <http://www.wildflower.org/>. A reputable nursery can answer questions about the non-native plants. For other questions about the landscaping, please contact Carolyn Long or Adrienne Inglis through the church office at 459-5497 or wpc@wpcaustin.org.

Worship

Sunday, April 26 – Youth Sunday

3rd Sunday of Easter

Preacher:

Liturgists: Westminster Presbyterian Youth

Scriptures: Acts 3:1-19

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

After Church Elders: Bob Schriber, Debbie Mincher, Kim Edwards

Greeters: South Door, Debbie and Rick Mincher; North Door, Celia Bell and Katie Burns

Cookie Hosts: Debbie Mincher and Cristia Moore

Sunday, May 3

4th Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

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

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Corrinne Bowers, Jim Lockart

Greeters: South Door, Stan Shaw and Susan Somerville; North Door, O. R. Schmidt and Connie Moore

Cookie Hosts: Susan Somerville and George and Alice Pryor

Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

- Forum Class – Room 10** **April 26** – Seminary Intern Melissa Koerner begins a new series after Easter
May 3 – *Plant Peace, Reap Righteousness*, a 4-week series begins, presented by Westminster's Peace, Justice & the Environment Committee (See below)
- Bible Study – Room 6** **April 26** – Luke 17-18:30
May 3 – Luke 18:31-19:48
- Parenting Class – Library** **Sacred Stories of Flawed Families** -- From Adam and Eve to Jesus and his siblings, all families have challenges and "issues". Families are those places where flaws are eventually revealed, and, hopefully, God's grace is made known. Join us as we take a look at some particular families from the Bible, their unique issues, and the redemptive ways of God with them. You may be surprised (and even shocked) at what you find! This class, led by Bill Clark, meets in the library.

Plant Peace, Reap Righteousness

"...a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." James 3:18

The Peace, Justice and Environment Committee is pleased to present a four-part series on the pursuit of peace, ***Plant Peace, Reap Righteousness***. By a profound pursuit of peace, James is telling us in the Scripture above, we can have a harvest of just and meaningful relationships with each other.

This will be a varied group of four presentations during May which we believe well worth your time and thought. **These classes will be held in Room 10 at 9:30 each Sunday, from May 3 – 24.**

- May 3 **Peace through Forgiveness**
 Learning the healing of forgiveness --Marilyn Ross
- May 10 **Peace through Healthy Family Relationships**
 Dealing with domestic violence in our community --Terry Allbright
- May 17 **Peace through International Justice**
 Striving for a just peace in Israel/Palestine -- Rizk Ikhras
- May 24 **Peace through Government Policy**
 Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace --Phin Washer

Children's Ministries

Children's Church School 9:30 – 10:30

The offering collected for One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday morning totaled \$143.00. That is a lot of coins in the fish banks! Thank you to everyone who collected and who gave money to support this special offering of the PC(USA).

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.

P3 Fellowship will meet this Sunday. Come enjoy fellowship together and play on the playground. We will gather from 4:00-5:30 for fellowship, fun and food. Bring some snacks to share. Meet you at the playscape!!

P3 Save the Date – June 7th will be our next P3 event. Dinner and a movie in Fellowship hall.

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

April 26th – Youth Sunday!! No Fellowship – this is a change. Take the night off after all your hard work!!

May 3rd – Confirmation Dinner – no fellowship

May 10th – Wii Night!!!!

May 17th – Final Fellowship Family Gathering.

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.

* * * * *

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 favorite **potluck** dish to share.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

Theology on Tap – Thursday, May 7 @ 7 p.m.

Join us at the **Fiddler's Hearth, 301 Barton Springs Rd.** for conversation, drink (your choice), food and fellowship! Free parking is available in the Embassy Suites garage. See www.fiddlershearth.com/austin.

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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).