

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

May 10 – 24, 2009

All New This Week

[Weekly Word](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Farewell to Melissa Koerner](#)

[Graduates Recognized this Sunday, May 10](#)

[Call for Graduates](#)

[Columbarium Committal Service May 10](#)

[Fellowship Hall Dedication Event, May 31](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

[Thank You for Prayers](#)

[Interfaith Hospitality Network Information](#)

[April 25 Landscape Workday Update](#)

[Confirmation Dinner Thank You](#)

[Chaski to Perform May 21](#)

From Previous Connections

[Presbyterian Women Spring Fiesta Coming May 21](#)

[WPC Book Group Reschedules May Meeting](#)

[Adventures](#)

Regular Attractions

[Worship - Are You an After-Church Elder, Greeter, or Cookie Host Sunday, May 10 or 17?](#)

[Mission](#)

[Children's Ministries](#)

[Youth Ministries](#)

[Adult Ministries](#)

[Fellowship](#)

[Daily Scripture Readings](#)

Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, following the 11:00 a.m. service, we will inurn the ashes of the late Jack Herring in the columbarium. Jack was a Westminster member and beloved husband of Hazel Herring. The Herring family has invited Westminster members to join them for this brief service of worship and committal.

If you haven't already seen the columbarium I encourage you to visit. It's located just outside the south side of Fellowship Hall across the sidewalk from the Butterfly Garden. The columbarium can also be seen through the large windows of our new building. I'm grateful for its location. As we look through those Fellowship Hall windows in the years to come, we will see the names of dear Westminster members inscribed upon the brass plaques. Those names will remind us of our connection with the saints who have lived the life of faith and joined the Church Triumphant. Those saints will still be with us in memory and spirit.

I was recently reminded that the word "columbarium" comes from the Latin word *columba*, which means "dove". A columbarium is literally a collection of niche-like homes for doves. Since the dove is an oft used

symbol for the Holy Spirit, it is not difficult to imagine God's presence in each of those niches, receiving the remains of loved ones with care and mercy.

The psalmist exclaims:

*Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

Psalm 139: 7-10

May we all know the presence of God's Spirit, especially as we commit our loved ones to the Lord's everlasting care.

In the name of our risen Lord,

Bill

Calendar

May 10 - Sun	08:15 AM - 09:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Church School	
	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Fellowship	
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00 PM	Jack Herring Committal Service	Columbarium
	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
May 11 - Mon	5:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	Room 10
May 12 - Tue	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
	12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Adventures	Fellowship Hall
	12:00 PM - 03:00 PM	WPDS Staff Meeting	Room 10
May 13 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
May 14 - Thu	12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Children's Ministries Committee	Library
	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
May 17 - Sun		Confirmation Sunday	
	08:15 AM - 09:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Church School	
	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Fellowship	
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Worship	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Youth Fellowship - Cookout	Annex
May 18 - Mon	05:30 PM	Human Resources Committee	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library

May 19 - Tue	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
May 20 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
May 21 - Thu	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PW Set-up	Fellowship Hall
	12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:00 PM	PW Spring Fiesta	Fellowship Hall
May 22 - Fri		WPDS Last Day of School	
	05:30 PM	WPDS End of School Celebration	Sanc. and Grounds

In gratitude to God and with sincere thanks
please join us at the Inaugural

COVERED DISH SUPPER

when we dedicate our new

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 31

6:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite covered dish!
enough for your family + guests of the Church

Desserts and drinks provided
All ages are welcomed!

Please let us know that you'll be with us at the celebration!
459-5497 or wpc@wpcaustin.org by May 27

DRESS: Westminster Casual!

HOORAY!

and sincere thanks to the WPC Building Committee:

Chip Somerville, Chair
Amy Ehrlich
Chuck Fields

Margie Johnson
David Thompson

Thank You for Prayers

Dear Westminster friends,

Thank you for your prayers. Jim and I are former members and my daughter, Janice White, had called and requested I be placed on your prayer list. She and her family belong to Covenant.

Because of your prayers and the love and devotion of my family, I have never felt so completely loved and cared for in my whole life. I know that you gave me strength and comfort and I am very thankful.

Sincerely,
Barbara Ferrell

Interfaith Hospitality Network Information

This year our congregation has an exciting opportunity to participate in mission very close to home through participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our first opportunity to host is coming up September 6th – 12th, 2009 (Labor day)

Over the years many here have supported IHN at other churches, and with our new beautiful fellowship hall with kitchen, laundry facilities and showers, our congregation can now support hosting!

What is the Interfaith Hospitality Network?

- IHN is an innovative program that provides temporary assistance to families in crisis.
- Last year IHN housed 114 people locally.
- Communities of faith work in collaboration with support teams to provide year-round accommodations, meals, and support to families as they work toward achieving goals of permanent housing and self-sufficiency.
- The IHN program unites congregations to provide shelter, meals, and other basic needs to homeless families with children.
 - Enables communities of faith to fulfill their traditional mission of helping people in need.
 - Provides an organized, hands-on opportunity for congregations to help homeless children and their families.
 - Empowers volunteers to be directly and personally involved in providing a solution for homelessness.

This is an opportunity for us to grow

- The positive action of volunteering changes the frustration and helplessness that many people feel about homelessness into joy and seeing what caring can do.
- Reduces prejudices by bringing people of all faiths, races and cultures together to recognize the commonalities and understand the differences while learning about the needs of our community.
- Strengthens the bonds among the members of participating congregations and often aids in recruiting new members

There are typical concerns - who are the people and what about our facilities?

IHN screens all clients for criminal backgrounds, drug/alcohol dependence, domestic abuse, mental illness and employability.

- IHN clients do not fit the stereotypical homeless person mold. Three million people will be homeless at some point throughout this year. Only a small percentage of these people live on the street, yet when the general population thinks of a homeless person an image of an individual “on the street” or at intersections

pops into their head. ***Most people without homes stay in motels, shelters or the homes of their friends and families.***

- You will learn through your participation with IHN that homeless people cannot be categorized as a particular type. Our clients could be the family you've seen camping in the park or the family that once lived next door to you. Many of our clients are similar to you and me in crisis mode but they lack the support groups that we often take for granted. The cost of living in Austin is higher than any other city in Texas, thus families in crisis are faced with difficult decisions like paying for housing or seeking much needed medical attention. What if your family ended up in a similar situation?

What about our facilities? Similar to youth overnights. Rooms are maintained daily by hosts and guests. Facilities get some extra attention before and after the stay for set-up and pack-up. We will be using Rooms 9-10-13 and 14 as an FYI.

How Can you help? We need volunteers for hosting, - overnight, breakfast and evening. Also need help with food prep and serving. Finally we need to get prepared with the materials needed to host for families - staples, bedding, and amenities.

Volunteer fare:

Volunteer training – Initially, IHN staff will provide training to volunteers - we will host a IHN training in June.

Volunteer sign-up - on the bulletin board.

You don't have to wait until September to participate - every week a local church is hosting - you can volunteer now and learn about the program as Westminster's day approaches.

You are invited to sign up to volunteer at the mission bulletin board in the narthex or email David Rose - daviddouglasrose@gmail.com

Committal Service in the Columbarium

A committal service for Jack H. Herring will held in the new columbarium on Sunday, May 10 following the 11 o'clock worship service. The Herring family invites all to attend. The columbarium is located on the south side of the new Fellowship Hall. This will be our first service of committal in the newly created space.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2009

On Sunday evening eight Westminster youth affirmed their faith before members of the session, their covenant partners and their families. They will be confirmed on Sunday, May 17 at the 11:00 a.m. service. Members of the 2009 class are:

Roger Cain, son of Randy Cain and Kathy Cox
Annie Clark, daughter of Bill and Jill Clark
Hannah Dale, daughter of Craig and Carol Dale
Elenor Griffith, daughter of Steven and Stephanie Griffith
Robert Luke, son of Ron and Eleanor Luke
Aiofe O'Reilly, daughter of Mark and Bonnie O'Reilly
Sara Shaw, daughter of Stan and Cynthia Shaw
Martin Torres, son of Emilo Torres and Adrienne Inglis

Farewell to Melissa Koerner

On Sunday, May 17 we will bid farewell to Westminster's seminary intern, Melissa Koerner. Melissa will be completing her internship with us on that day and graduating from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

the following Sunday. Melissa will also be getting married on May 31 to Jose Lopez. Fortunately, we will have the opportunity to see Melissa in the coming year since she will be serving as a hospital chaplain with the Seton hospital system.

Recognition of Graduating Seniors

This Sunday, May 10, we will recognize Westminster youth who will be soon graduating from high school. Our graduates include: Caroline Barba, Kira Lange, Adam Long, Marie-Claire Serou, Christopher Sullivan, and Kathryn Taylor.

Congratulations to all of our graduates, and may the Lord bless you and keep you in your upcoming journeys!

Call for Graduates

If your son or daughter will be graduating from high school, college or graduate school this year, please email the church with their name and the name of the school from which they will graduate. We would like to share this wonderful milestone with our entire church family!

April	25	Landscaping	Workday	Update
Eight St. Stephen's Episcopal School students, three Westminster members, and eight Troop 399 boy scouts, plus several scout parents, participated in a landscaping workday April 25, 2009. The crew successfully removed the overgrown primrose jasmine patch at the northwest corner of the parking lot. Security and visibility are much improved, as is the opportunity for the native Turk's cap, hackberry, and live oak to grow. The patch will no longer attract litter and mosquitoes. Participants included...				
St. Stephen's: Elizabeth Ball, Michael Carruth, Shair Ahmed, Aidan Dean-Jones, Anna Ewell, María Saenz de Ormijana, Taylor Nelson, and Katie Carruth.				

Troop 399: Noah Lambert, Bridger Lambert, Ben Yatsu, Roger Cain, Tristan Heinen, Patrick Dunham, Jonathan Box, plus parents Jerry Box, Barbara Klitch, Dirk Heinen and more.

Westminster Church: Bonnie O'Reilly, Aisling O'Reilly, Adrienne Inglis

Thanks for the opportunity to improve the beauty and security of the church grounds.

Confirmation Dinner Thank You

Thank you to the Confirmation Class of 2008 for providing a wonderful dinner on May 3rd as Session met with this year's confirmands to hear their statements of faith. Thank you Marian and Mark Kelly; Amy Ehrlich; Doug Clary; Sharon Dunn; Monica and Steve Johnson; and Laura and Scott Slaughter for all your time and effort and for making Sunday a wonderful evening!

Chaski performs at Central Presbyterian Church May 21
Latin American folk music trio, Chaski, presents a program of music about poverty, "*La pobreza*," on Thursday May 21 from 12:05-12:30 PM at Central Presbyterian Church as part of the Thursday Noon Concert Series. Central Presbyterian is located at Eighth and Brazos Streets in downtown Austin. The concert is free. Reservations are required for a light lunch served following the concert. Please e-mail reservations to concerts@cpcaustin.org with "Lunch" in the subject line, or call the church, 472-2445 no later than 10 AM on the day of the concert with your reservations. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information

visit <http://www.chaskimusic.com/>.

From Previous Connections

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.

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

Thursday, May 21

6 p.m.

In the new Fellowship Hall

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

Worship

Sunday, May 10

5th Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgists: Bill Clark, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

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

After Church Elders: Carolyn Long, David Rose, Linda Tyler

Greeters: South Door, Marcia Kiger and Ed Tyson; North Door, Ann Culver and Red Olander

Cookie Hosts: Marcia Kiger and Carole Hawkins

Acolytes: Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Claudia Taylor, Grace Scoggin

Sunday, May 17

6th Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Melissa Koerner

Scriptures: 1 John 5:1-6; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17

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

After Church Elders: Grover Campbell, Margie Johnson, Cindy Sullivan

Greeters: South Door, Ann Scott and Liz Jones; North Door, Laura and Scott Slaughter

Cookie Hosts: Bonnie and Aisling O'Reilly

Acolytes: Louisa Ehrlich, Markley Ehrlich, Chance Polan

Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Forum Class – Room 10 *Plant Peace, Reap Righteousness*, a series presented by Westminster's Peace, Justice & the Environment Committee

(See below.)

Bible Study – Room 6 **May 10 – Luke 20-21**
May 17 – Luke 22:1-23:25

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.

May 10 Peace through Healthy Family Relationships

Dealing with domestic violence in our community --Terry Allbright

While exploring domestic violence in our community may not be what you expect on Mother's Day at Westminster, the reality is that around the world, one in three women will report abuse by a husband or boyfriend during their lifetime. In this class, we will explore some of the hard issues raised by domestic violence. How do we respond when a victim's faith is used to justify abuse? What are our priorities when a victim of abuse comes to us – as individuals or as a congregation? Can a relationship be restored after abuse occurs? What does forgiveness look like when abuse occurs?

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

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

Thank you to all who donated gently used toys. We sent 5 boxes and several bags of toys to Mexico. Thank you all for your generosity!

Vacation Bible School – CAMP E.D.G.E – will be August 10 – 14. [Register Online](#)

Youth Ministries

The confirmation class met with Session on Sunday, May 3rd to share their statements of faith and to be examined by the session. All 8 of our confirmands did a wonderful job. Please join Roger Cain, Annie Clark, Hannah Dale, Elenor Griffith, Robert Luke, Aoife O'Reilly, Sara Shaw, and Martin Torres and their families and covenant partners on May 17th at the 11:00 worship service as they are welcomed into membership of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

May 10th we will recognize our seniors at the 11:00 worship service. Come celebrate this milestone of their journey!

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

May 10th – Wii Night and ipod Share – Education Wing

May 17th – Final Fellowship Family Gathering.- Cookout at the Annex

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Middle School - Heifer Ranch July 26-31 – Cost \$250

High School - Stewpot – June 22nd – 26th – Cost \$125

High School youth - Synod Youth Workshop – Tulsa, OK July 13-18 – Anyone interested - \$275

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

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, June 4 @ 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, June 7

Manos needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **June 7**. 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).