

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

[www.wpcaustin.org](http://www.wpcaustin.org)

### Connections @ Westminster

May 24 – June 7, 2009

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## Weekly Word

Dear Westminster saints,

As you know, and as you have heard, the Day of Pentecost will be here soon...Sunday, May 31. On that day, we will give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. The day will be festive and celebratory! We remember the events of Pentecost on that day, but we give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit each and every day of the year, in all the times and seasons of our lives – as individuals, and as a church. This past Sunday, we welcomed eight of Westminster's youth into active membership in the church of Jesus Christ as they made their public professions of faith and reaffirmed the vows made at their baptisms. Roger Cain, Annie Clark, Aoife O'Reilly, Hannah Dale, Martin Torres, Elenor Griffith, Robert Luke, and Sara Shaw all stood before the congregation on Sunday. As you witnessed this portion of the service, I am sure that there were a good number of you who remember when some of these young people were born, and when they were baptized. And all of you who were in church on Sunday will remember Hannah's baptism from that day. In thanksgiving for the gifts of these young people, and in gratitude to the Holy Spirit we pray for them:

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for so many things. In these moments, we give thanks for the gift of your Spirit; your Spirit that calls us to be the church; your Spirit that gives us faith and comforts us in all the seasons of our life. On this day, especially, we thank you for the gift of these young people in our midst:

For **Roger**, and for his heart and commitment;  
Open his ears that he may hear the gospel of Christ.

For **Annie**, and for her welcome and hospitality;  
Brighten her eyes, that she may see the light of Christ, the illumination for her way.

For **Aoife**, and for her enthusiasm and joy;  
May her lips speak truth, that she may sing the praise of Christ, the joy of the church.

For **Hannah**, and for her gentleness and openness;  
May God's endless love and mercy be hers, that she may learn to know and follow Christ.

For **Martin**, and for his spirit and sense of justice;  
Rest your Spirit on his shoulders that he may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

For **Elenor**, and for her sincerity and wisdom;  
Strengthen her hands, that God's mercy may be known in her work.

For **Robert**, and for his ideas and his questions;  
Guide his feet, that he may walk in the way of Christ.

And for **Sara**, and her depth and grace;  
Convict her heart, that God may dwell there by faith.

Lead us by their gifts...encourage us by their ideas...enliven us by their enthusiasm...and challenge us by their questions, that we might be your faithful people in this place and in the world. Watch over us as we seek to be your people during these journey days. Lead us always to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, our God, and with one another.

Merciful and most high God, creator and life-giver of all that is, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. We ask you: Grant grace to Roger, Annie, Aoife, Hannah, Martin, Elenor, Robert and Sara. Raise them by your Spirit. Receive them by your Word. Form them by your hand. Continue to bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God keep us ever thankful for and open to the Holy Spirit in our midst. See you soon!

Grace and peace,  
Kathy

## Calendar

May 24 - Sun	08:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	Church School	Westminster
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Westminster
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
May 25 - Mon		CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day	
May 26 - Tue	09:00 AM	WPDS Day Camp	Education

			Building
	07:00 PM	Session	Room 10
May 27 - Wed	09:00 AM	WPDS Day Camp	Education Building
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
May 28 - Thu	09:00 AM	WPDS Day Camp	Education Building
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPDS 2009-2010 Board mtg.	Room 10
May 29 - Fri	09:00 AM	WPDS Day Camp	Education Building
May 30 - Sat	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Offsite
	10:30 AM	Pentecost Rehearsal	Sanctuary
May 31 - Sun	08:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	Church School	Westminster
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Westminster
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	06:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Dedication	Fellowship Hall
Jun 1 - Mon	09:00 AM-12:00 PM	WPDS Staff Meeting & lunch	Rm. 10 & Fellowship Hall
	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Jun 2 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Jun 3 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Jun 4 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite

### **Pentecost Sunday, May 31: *Come Early, Sing Loud, Wear Red***

During our morning worship we will be celebrating the presence of God's Holy Spirit with us. We'll sing and play a variety of "spirited" music. Adults, youth and children will have the opportunity to participate in a reading of the Pentecost story. New members will be recognized at the 11:00 a.m. service. Join us for this special time of worship. And don't forget to wear your **red!**

### **Pentecost Offering**

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Westminster will be designation 40% of the offering to the Manos de Cristo Back to School program. The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

## Please Update Directory Information

Once a year we produce a new membership directory. If you have experienced any changes in address, phone number/s, email, or children in the past year, please contact Rosemary at [wpc@wpcaustin.org](mailto:wpc@wpcaustin.org), or 459-5497 so she can make the changes before May 29.

Thank you,  
Membership Committee

## WPC Financial Update

Below is the financial information as of April 30, 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 April 30, 2009

Revenues      \$297,600

Expenses      205,271

Net income    \$ 92,329

Cash on hand – Operating Fund      \$157,229

Fellowship Hall Debt                      \$1,041,000

All are welcome to a time of prayer at 12:15 p.m. each Thursday in the south transept of the sanctuary. A psalm is read and prayers made for those on the church prayer list as well as others. The time is brief, about a half hour, but important and meaningful in the life of our congregation. You are always welcome--

## Women in Black

Women in Black stand Wednesday noon hour vigils for peace in front of the State Capitol, 11th and Congress Avenue. They stand in solidarity with Women in Black all over the world who oppose political violence and human rights abuses. Women in Black is not an organization. It is an idea, an international peace network, a way to mobilize action by focusing attention on the unacceptable human cost of war and injustice. You-- woman or man, in black or not, for an hour or any time less than that--are invited to come on any Wednesday.

## Thank You

Dear Westminster friends,

We are grateful for your gifts, notes, cards, thoughts, prayers and beautiful Sunday worship flowers ... and for all the support these past years of my Dad's long journey with Alzheimer's Disease. Westminster has been and continues to be a source of strength and comfort to us all, especially during this time of mourning and celebration of his life.

Blessings on you all -  
The Family of Jack Jarvis (father of Martha Richardson)

## New Books in WPC Library

Martha Richardson has given two books, both by Allan Hugh Cole Jr., to the church library. Cole is Nancy Taylor Williamson Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. *Good Mourning* explains the process of grief and what loss can do to us, what it takes to be engaged in good mourning instead of endless suffering. *The Life of Prayer* demonstrates different kinds of prayer with several exercises and sample prayers.

*Things Hidden*, Scripture as Spirituality, is by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and founder/animator of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM. The book explores central themes of Scripture, what the Bible says about morality, power, wisdom, and the generosity of God.

Austin Handbell Ensemble  
presents

## Around the World With Eighty Bells

Travel the world without leaving Texas! Enjoy the haunting Welsh lullaby *Suo Gan*, the romantic Spanish tune *Recuerdos*, the beloved Japanese melody *Moon Over the Ruined Castle*, and more!

**Saturday, May 30th @ 4:00PM**

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 N Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX 78746

All concerts are free; Donations are welcomed.

For more information go to <http://www.austinhandbells.org/events.html>

### From Previous Connections

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](mailto: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

### **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!

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

### **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!

## **Worship**

### **Sunday, May 24**

*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

**Preacher:** Bill Clark

**Liturgist:** Kathy Anderson

**Scriptures:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

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

**After Church Elders:** Jack Prince, Carolyn Long, Bob Schriber

**Greeters:** South Door, Matt and Becca Scoggin; North Door, Celia Bell and Claire Breihan

**Cookie Hosts:** Becca Scoggin and Mary Jansen

**Acolytes:** Justina Lange, Ada Barbee, Read Barbee

### **Sunday, May 31**

*Pentecost Sunday*

**Preacher:** Bill Clark

**Liturgists:** Kathy Anderson

**Scriptures:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

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

**After Church Elders:** Grover Campbell, Liz Jones, David Vanden Bout

**Greeters:** South Door, Marian and Mark Kelley; North Door, Ann Culver and Lis Wise

**Cookie Hosts:** Amy McClintic and Robert Lewis

**Acolytes:** Hannah Dale, Kerby Dale, Will Ezell

## 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 24 – Luke 23-24**

**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 24** **Peace through Government Policy**

*Establishing a cabinet-level Department of Peace --Phin Washer*

The Rev. Phin Washer, a retired Presbyterian minister from San Antonio and long-time advocate of peace and justice issues, joins us to discuss the current bill before Congress to establish a federal department to address problems of violence both here and abroad. The bill suggests that the root causes of violence are probably better understood now than ever before, and can be addressed with strategies more effective and less costly than jailing and warfare. Come learn about the proposed U.S. Department of Peace, why the number of supporting citizens and Congressional co-sponsors of the bill is increasing, and why this might be a topic of interest for people of faith.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>** will be our next P3 event. Dinner and a movie in Fellowship hall.

We are in regular classes through Pentecost on May 31<sup>st</sup>. June 7<sup>th</sup> we will move to our summer mode. Pre-School music will not meet during the summer. The children will start in their regular classrooms

COME EXPERIENCE THE E.D.G.E!!!!  
VBS Registration is online!  
Sign up to be a part of **CAMP E.D.G.E** –

August 10 – 14. [Register Online](#)

## Youth Ministries

Congratulations to the confirmation class: Roger Cain, Annie Clark, Hannah Dale, Elenor Griffith, Robert Luke, Aoife O'Reilly, Sara Shaw, and Martin Torres. They were confirmed on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to our High School graduates as well!

**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.**

### SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

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

High School - Stewpot – June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – 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

### **Theology on Tap – Thursday, June 4 @ 7 p.m. location TBA**

Join us for conversation, drink (your choice), food and fellowship! For June 4: Watch the movie *The Apostle*, and be ready to discuss it!

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