

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

August 2 - 16, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this correspondence I will be completing a week-long stay with our middle school youth at the Heifer International Headquarters in Perryville, Arkansas, just north of Little Rock. I have had the privilege to spend time with eight of our middle schoolers, Roger

Cain, Annie Clark, Justina Lange, Jessica Johnston, John Pass, Todd Schriber, Martin Torres, Madison Tyson, and our other adult sponsor, Layla Young. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to spend time with all of these people. Knowing them pretty well already, I'm sure that there will be some adventuresome tales to share when we return!

Many of you are familiar with the ministry of Heifer International. This will be the third middle school group from Westminster to participate in the program. A good number of Westminster members have purchased a Heifer goat, rabbit, or even a share in a water buffalo during the Minter Alternative Gift Market. Heifer International assists families who live in developing nations to raise livestock and become more self-sustaining. Our group will be learning about hunger, sustainable development, and how livestock can help change the lives of people around the world.

I'm grateful that our congregation encourages our youth to participate in mission trips like this one. I'm also grateful to be a sponsor on this trip. When the youth committee said that they needed a male sponsor I added my name to the list as a "maybe." When my daughter Annie said that she would like me to come with the group, I said, "Sign me up!"

So thank you for the opportunity. And thanks be to God who calls us out into this world to learn, serve and to be a part of Christ's far reaching mission.

Faithfully yours,

Bill

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Calendar

Aug 2 - Sun	08:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
Aug 3 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Aug 5 - Wed	09:00 AM-12:00 PM	P3 Informal Play date	Playground
	06:00 PM	IHN Coordination Meeting	Library
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Aug 6 - Thu	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Annex
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Aug 7 - Fri	05:30 PM	Wedding Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Aug 8 - Sat	06:30 PM	McDonald/Sutliff Wedding	Sanctuary
Aug 9 - Sun	08:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall

	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Aug 10 - Mon	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Vacation Bible School	
	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	Room 10
Aug 11 - Tue	09:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Aug 12 - Wed	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Vacation Bible School	
	12:30 PM	Grow Christ's Church Task Force	Library
	02:00 PM	Alpha Chapter/Delta Kappa Gamma	Room 10
	06:00 PM	IHN Coordination Meeting	Library
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Aug 13 - Thu	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Vacation Bible School	
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Aug 14 - Fri	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Vacation Bible School	
	02:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Pictorial Directory Photos	Fellowship Hall
Aug 15 - Sat	09:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Pictorial Directory Photos	Fellowship Hall
	01:00 PM - 04:00 PM	WPC Sewing Group	Offsite

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Financial Information and Monthly Report

Desiring to be the best stewards of the churches resources, the Finance and Administration Committee has been looking at ways to make the church operations more efficient. Many of you have recently received your quarterly contribution statements by email. This has saved paper, postage, and time spent stuffing envelopes. If you have any questions or concerns about your emailed statements, please contact Jimmie in the church office.

The church will also soon be able to receive pledges and contributions through electronic funds transfer from your bank account. You will be able to make a donation on a monthly or quarterly basis. If you wish to make your contributions in this manner, please complete the donation form on the website www.wpcaustin.org or contact Jimmie and she will get you the forms.

The June 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. The third category is the Capital Campaign Fund. This fund is for receipt of gifts and their payment towards 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.

We are halfway through the year and our financial condition has improved since the start of the year. This is due to several families completing their 2008 pledges this year, those who have made additional 2009 pledges, and those who have paid their 2009 pledges ahead of schedule. Additionally non-pledged contributions are higher than last year. If members continue giving with the same level of commitment thus far, we are cautiously optimistic that we will meet our revenue budget this year. Expenses remain within budget. We are continuing to hold the additional funds budgeted for Presbytery to ensure we do not run another deficit this year. We have received over \$286,000 and spent \$1,337,000 this year in the Capital Campaign. Our loan totaled \$1,321,000 at the end of June. We do not expect to draw any further on the loan.

The Finance and Administration Committee and the Session are committed to keeping our expenses within our means and working toward the financial challenges we will continue to face in the future. As part of that work, the Session has created a task force that will assist the Finance and Administration Committee as we look toward the challenges we face in next year and the future as we begin to pay back our loan. This task force will strive to think creatively, identify priorities, and help the church to best achieve our mission within our financial constraints. If anyone has questions regarding the churches finances, please contact myself, Jim Lockart, or Rev. Bill Clark.

Becca Thompson, Treasurer

Westminster Presbyterian Church

General Fund Revenue & Expenses

For Period Ended June 30, 2009 (50% of the Year)

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	YTD Actual	Annual Budget 2009	Percent of Budget Met	Prior Year Actual	Prior Year Variance
<i>Revenue</i>					
Pledges	352,320	\$ 632,000	55.75%	250,177	\$ 102,143
Non-Pledged Contributions	38,870	52,500	74.04%	18,251	20,619
Miscellaneous Income	2,242	6,150	36.46%	2,806	(564)
Investment Income	136	500	27.20%	458	(322)
Assets Released from Restriction			<u>100.00%</u>		

	1,330			1,330
Total Revenue	\$ 394,898	\$ 691,150	57.14%	\$ 271,692
				\$ 123,206

Expenses

		\$		\$
Benevolences	14,111	70,710	19.96%	41,886
Children's Ministries	489	4,250	11.51%	598
Adult Ministries	1,505	5,445	27.64%	1,473
Youth Ministries	1,360	6,025	22.57%	1,993
Worship	5,394	11,515	46.84%	5,325
Fellowship	4,557	7,950	57.32%	2,869
Membership and Commitment	2,443	5,830	41.90%	1,568
Congregational Care	16	300	5.33%	14
Personnel	221,536	452,635	48.94%	212,287
Administration and Finance	14,652	24,090	60.82%	12,728
Stewardship	17	1,000	1.70%	135
Property	47,393	96,400	49.16%	44,296
Total Expenses	\$ 313,473	\$ 686,150	45.69%	\$ 325,172
Net Revenue over Expenses	\$ 81,425	\$ 5,000.00		\$ (53,480)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 46,848			\$ 69,494
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 128,273			\$ 16,014

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Income Statement - All Funds
Period Ending 6/30/2009

	General Fund	Misc Restricted Funds	Capital Campaign	Endowments	
Revenue:					
Pledges	352,320		259,842		612,162
Non-Pledged Contributions	38,870	17,191			56,061
Miscellaneous Income	2,242	12,390	425		15,057
Investment Income	136	1,648		4,693	6,477
Assets Released from Restriction	1,330	(25,748)	26,075	(1,657)	-
Total Income	394,898	5,481	286,342	3,036	689,673
Expenses:					
Benevolences	14,111	9,157			23,268
Children's Ministries	489				489
Adult Ministries	1,505	572			2,077
Youth Ministries	1,360	739			2,099
Worship	5,394				5,394
Fellowship	4,557				4,557
Membership and Commitment	2,443				2,443
Congregational Care	16				16
Personnel	221,536				221,536
Finance and Administration	14,652				14,652
Stewardship	17				17

Property	47,393	7,069			54,4
Total Expenses	313,473	17,537	-	-	331,
Capital Expense	-		1,326,612		1,32
Interest Expense			10,739		10,7
Net revenue over (under) expenses and transfers	81,425	(12,056)	(1,051,009)	3,036	(978
Net Assets, beginning of year	46,848	174,475	(55,651)	62,897	228,
Net Assets, end of year	128,273	162,419	(1,106,660)	65,933	(750

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Back to School Night – Sunday, August 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Kids (grown-up ones too!) are invited to join us for a Back to School Night in the Fellowship Hall. We'll sing, have kid-friendly food, and make some fun crafts together.

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Rally Day is on the way! Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 23

All ages (birth to adult) will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for singing, yummy breakfast food, and to hear about this year's opportunities for education and fellowship.

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Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Update

Greetings,

Westminster is rapidly approaching our first host week for the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We will be hosting September 6th through 13th.

There are several activities that are ongoing to prepare for this exciting event, and if possible I would welcome your participation

- **Volunteer Training** – On Sunday August 16th, I will be conducting a Sunday school volunteer training. I will be covering the officially sanctioned IHN training which will allow you to be officially certified as an IHN volunteer once your application is complete and cleared. I will have plenty of applications on hand. If you happened to attend the July

16th training this Sunday school class is not required – but of course you are welcome to attend.

- **Volunteers Needed** – We have a number of volunteers already lined up as well as quite a few folks who have expressed a strong interest but have not yet designated a day (or days) to participate. To streamline the sign-up process I have created an easy-to-use online sign-up form (also used by IHN) to fill our slots. Please check out this link – http://www.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=wpc_ihn also there is a screen shot below so you can see what it looks like. Note we have a slot for Morning Host. Some congregations have these; some do not as this can be filled by overnight hosts. We can determine what is best for our church as we continue to move forward. Quite a few people have expressed interest in this slot.
- **Donations Needed** – Below the sign-up screenshot, I have attached my worst case scenario shopping list. The most expensive item is the air mattresses that have been recommended as a *very nice to have*. As our date approaches we will know how many we actually need and the number I have estimated is likely to go down.
 - BIG donation update – a friend of mine is moving to Denver – she donated a nice living room set to us (now residing in my garage). This consists of a sofa, love seat, large storage ottoman, and a large area rug. This will make our common area very comfortable! Picture below – it came with all the comfy pillows too.
- **IHN Countdown Team** – We need to establish a core team of volunteers to help ensure we are tied out as our deadline approaches. These meetings will occur Wednesday August 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and Wednesday Sept 2nd - all at 6:00-6:45 at the WPC library – please let me know if you would like to participate – *I need all the help I can get here*.
 - We need to insure our list of required materials is appropriate and being filled
 - Prioritize the items to purchase – some items are “nice to have” and with limited resources we need to make a call on what we need and what we can live without.
 - Authorize the purchase of required items
 - We need to write our Westminster Host Manual – the rules we will have in place to keep things running safely and smoothly. This goes beyond the IHN manual and will help us with areas around how we want to manage our hosts, guests, and facilities. We will cover items such as smoking policies, bathroom policies, check-in and check-out status, etc... (we need to work with the property committee and any other required committee)
 - Events planning – discuss having a Labor Day BBQ or other special events is so desired
 - Everything else I am forgetting that your previous experience will help us remember!

Westminster Sewing Bee Special Project Update – Welcome blankets and quilts for IHN kids. The sewing bee has a target of 18 blankets – small, medium, and large for both boys and girls. We currently have 10 hand crafted blankets and quilts! We are looking for additional help and creativity – especially for the older kids (and boys). Additional details can be found in Connections.

David Rose

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Westminster Sewing Bee to Donate Blankets to Young IHN Guests

The Westminster Sewing Bee has undertaken the challenge of providing a handmade blanket to every IHN guest under 18 years of age that stays at our church. The first families will arrive Labor Day weekend and we are striving to have enough blankets ready before that. If you have been unable to attend meetings but would like to help with this project there are several ways you can do so. We can use donations of fabric, yarn or other supplies. We can also use volunteers to help during our work days during the month of August – skilled and unskilled labor welcomed! (meeting dates to follow.) Lastly, you can make blankets at your own house for donation to the cause. If the blankets are “a hit” we will strive to continue this project and replenish our stocks for our future guests!

Meetings for August 2009:

Thur. Aug. 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Annex

Sat. Aug. 15, 1 – 4 p.m. in the Annex

Sat. Aug. 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Amy Rose's home

Sun. Aug. 30, 1 – 4 p.m. in the Annex

If you would like to help and need more information, contact Amy Rose, 258-9288 or arose@austin.rr.com.

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Nancy Lamb to be Honored by Faith In Action Caregivers - West Austin

Nancy Flaherty Lamb has been selected for the Volunteer of the Year Award by Faith In Action Caregivers- West Austin. She will receive the award, named for the first recipient, John C, Scurlock, on Oct. 18, at the fourth annual Stories From the Road event. The event will be held at the downtown Congress Avenue home of Eddie Safady.

Nancy Lamb was instrumental in founding the Caregiver concept in the late 1980's. At the time, she was doing graduate work in her chosen field of gerontology. From its small beginnings, the concept of providing transportation and services for older adults by volunteers has grown to a coalition of ten groups in the Austin Metroplex area. Nancy has served not only as a volunteer driver, but also on the board as vice-president, president and now member-at-large. She was the first intern to serve with Austin Hospice, during which time she helped develop the program for recruiting volunteers. In addition to her work with Caregivers, she has served on the boards of Austin State School and Austin Groups for the Elderly (AAGE). In the early 70's she served as City Chair for the Mothers March of Dimes.

Westminster Presbyterian Church has been a supporter of the Caregivers for many years, both in its mission budget and with volunteer drivers. We have members of our congregation that regularly use the Caregivers services.

Tickets for the Stories From the Road celebration will be available for purchase in September. For questions regarding the event, call Kathy Lockart (454-2302) or Eleanor Cochran (452-4820).

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Thank You to John Calvin (2009 ed.)

Thank you to John Calvin (George Pryor) for showing up at his 500th birthday party on Sunday, July 12. Also, thank you to Josie Whitley for designing and making John's fabulous hat!

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p3 Playground Play Date

Come one come all; bring your diaper bags, your potty seats, and your baggies of kiddy treats. P3 will be meeting at the church playground thru August on Wednesday mornings from 9 -12 to enjoy the shade and spend time relaxing before the fall schedules kick into gear.

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Dear Westminster family,

Karen (Wagner) can attest, I am a very private person ... I don't like to ask for help, I don't like to depend on others; I'm the one that others depend on. I had to face a crossroad in my life recently and I was full of uncertainty but as it turns out Westminster and all of you told me and showed me that all I needed to concern myself with was healing. Every day it seemed someone would contact me somehow and let me know that it was all going to work out ... and it did.

'Thank you' cannot express the gratitude that I have for you all. The phone calls, the emails, the prayers, the cards, the flowers, the soup, the listening ears and shoulders to cry on. You all have shown me that when I have to face a storm I won't fall over if I am standing next to Mount Westminster.

Standing in light of Christ,

Allison Wilkerson

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Sanctuary Pew Available

Our friends, Les and Winnie Gage, want to let Westminster Church people know that they have an old 10 (or 12) foot pew from the Westminster sanctuary (before the remodeling took place years ago), and that they would like to offer it to anyone who might be interested. Persons interested may contact Les at lgage3@austin.rr.com by e-mail or through the Westminster church office manager, Rosemary Standerfer.

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Beat the heat with fair trade iced coffee!

Here's one way to make ICED COFFEE: Brew hot double-strength coffee, fill tall glasses with ice, and slowly pour hot coffee into glass. Serve with cream and sugar if desired. Iced coffee is also delicious with half-and-half and chocolate syrup. We have a new batch of freshly roasted Third Coast Coffee available for sale in the office and Sunday mornings. Third Coast Coffee visits the coffee farms, knows its coffee growers, roasts its fair trade organic beans to perfection right here in Austin. Buying locally ensures the freshest products, cuts way down on transportation costs, and supports small local businesses. We offer Third Coast Coffee's ground

and whole bean Peruvian, Ethiopian Harrar, Guatemalan Huehuetenango as well as Peruvian decaffeinated coffee. We also offer English Breakfast Tea, Green Tea, Earl Grey Tea, and Wild Rooibos Pyramid Tea from Equal Exchange. Please contact Adrienne Inglis at 320-0613 if you have any questions, comments or requests.

From Previous Connections

Christmas in July!

You may use up to \$300 to help someone you know who is in need. This can be all or a part of what you give to whoever needs it. You give and the church reimburses you up to \$300. Celebrate a **July Christmas**. Give gifts of love. Forms are available in the church office. Don't know anyone who is needy? Call Manos de Cristo and ask if they can put you in touch with someone (477-7454).

Mark your calendars now – The All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch is September 11-13

Registration forms are available in the church office or email Rosemary at wpc@wpcaustin.org and she will email to you. Registration will also be available online.

NEW Church Photo Directory!

It's time to take your picture! Every three years, Westminster produces a professionally photographed membership directory. All photos will be taken in the comfort of our own church, and with no sitting fee. The first settings are August 14-17. Sign up online any Tuesday -Friday beginning July 6th by going to our church website or by going directly to: <https://www.Appointment-plus3.com/ap/westminster/index.php?page=10>

Manos de Cristo BACK TO SCHOOL Event – **Still time to call to volunteer**

Once again Westminster is supporting this wonderful event! Thanks for all the pink erasers!! Now call to volunteer!

VOLUNTEER for the actual event by calling Manos @ 477-7454 and ask for Karen, Julie or Judy.

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Worship

Sunday, August 2

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78; John 6:24-35

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

After Church Elders: Cindy Sullivan, Stan Shaw

Greeters: South Door, Wadene Harrison and Deborah Polan; North Door, Ehrlich family

Cookie Hosts: Deborah Polan and the Ehrlich family

Acolytes: Abigail Cain, Roger Cain, Eliza Cain

Sunday, August 9

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

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

After Church Elders: Linda Tyler, Grover Campbell

Greeters: South Door, Matt and 'Becca Scoggin; North Door, Diane Frick and Hazel Herring

Cookie Hosts: Matt and 'Becca Scoggin and Julie Schriber

Acolytes: Phillip Doughtie, Wynn Doughtie, Sam Pollard

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Adult Ministries

Adult church school 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. *For more detailed descriptions, please visit the WPC website!*

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall	August 2	Speaking of Faith Repossessing Virtue: Parker Palmer on Economic Crisis, Morality, and Meaning Led by Kathy Anderson
	August 9	The Amazing Faith of Westminster: the

College Years

Bible Study – Room 6	August 2	John 18-19 (Arrest, Trial, and Death)
	August 9	John 20 (Final Resurrection Appearances)

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Children's Ministries

We are excited to have almost all of our LAMBS teachers returning this fall but there are still opportunities to be involved in children's ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in working with our preschool and elementary children please let Karen know. We would love to have you join us!

Children's Church School 9:30 – 10:30

Preschoolers: Meet in room 4 (4's-5's). Children can be picked up following church school at 10:30 a.m. in their room. This summer the LAMBS will be using a curriculum entitled "Stepping Stones of Faith" by Anita Edlund.

Aug 2nd - God Keeps Promises (Matthew 1:18-2:11)

Aug 9th - God Made the World and God Made Me (Genesis 1:1-2:22) Psalm 119:73)

Aug 16th - God is Good (1 Samuel 1:6-20; 2:18-21)

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 through 5 years old.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13. This summer we will be learning about Samuel, David and Elijah. There are a few spots left if you are interested in teaching our elementary age group.

Aug 2nd - Elijah - The Contest (Kings 18:1-39)

Aug 9th - Elijah meets God (1 Kings 19: 11-18)

Aug 16th - Elijah Ascends to Heaven (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-14)

CAMP E.D.G.E starts on August 10th!!! Come and Experience and Discover God Everywhere!!

We will be trekking through different Bible stories each day through Science, Art, Music,
Stories, and Recreation!!!!

Our youngest classes are full, but we still have room for elementary aged students.
Contact Karen for more information!!

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Youth Ministries

Prayers for Roger, John, Martin, Justina, Jessica, Annie, Madison, Todd - Bill, Layla as
they spend the week at Heifer Ranch in Perryville, AR.

**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.**

The month of August we will be having an ipod share. What is it about the music that
inspires you? August 2nd and 16th - Let Leslie or Karen know if you have music to share.
August 9th we will join the Forum class in Fellowship hall to hear some of the college
students talk about their faith.

Opportunities to Serve:

Week of July 27th - Manos needs help sorting school supplies and getting ready for Back-
to-School

Thursday, Aug 6th - work at Manos (8-12 then have lunch together)

Week of Aug 10-14 - VBS 9-12 everyday - sign up for the days you can come.

Save the Date

August 16th Pool party following the All church back-to-school event

August 23rd Rally Day and Fellowship Kickoff (we welcome the new 6th Graders)

August 29-30 - Overnight at John Knox Ranch

Week of Sept 6th - IHN hosts - would like 3-4 youth to come up each evening to read/play
with kids, help with homework, interact with the families we host.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 7)
Meets in the Annex Living Room

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)
Meets in the Annex Red Room

Topic: Christian Practices
Grade 8: Confirmation Class

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, August 6 @ 7 p.m., B. B. Rover’s Café and Pub, 12101 Research Blvd., in the North Brook Center. Join us for conversation, drink (your choice), food and fellowship! Topic: ***Doubt*** (starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman).

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Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, August 2 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **August 2.** 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.

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