

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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Connections @ Westminster

August 16 - 30, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear saints,

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate **Rally Day** on **Sunday morning, August 23 at 9:30 a.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. As we do each year, we will welcome one another back to church after a summer of rest, vacations, camps, and recreation. We will enjoy singing (which sounds *great*, now, in the new Fellowship Hall!); we will have fabulous breakfast food; and we will hear about all sorts of opportunities for children, youth, and adults to be involved in the life of our church. This annual tradition is a great way to reconnect with other WPCers and to recommit ourselves to Christian formation and education here at church. **Rally Day is a great way to kick off the year as we seek to Connect, Serve, Teach, and Tell at Westminster.** We hope to see you then!

Grace and peace,
Kathy

Calendar

Aug 16 - 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
	04:00 PM	Crafts & Back to School Night	Fellowship Hall
Aug 17 - Mon	09:30 AM	Pictorial Directory Photos	Fellowship Hall
	05:30 PM	Human Resources Committee	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library
Aug 18 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Aug 19 - Wed	09:00 AM	P3 Informal Play Date	Playground
	06:00 PM	IHN Coordination Meeting	Library
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Aug 20 - Thu	09:00 AM	WPDS Staff Orientation & luncheon	Room 10
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Aug 22 - Sat	10:00 AM	Worship Committee Workday	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group Workday	Offsite
Aug 23 - Sun	08:15 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	09:30 AM	RALLY DAY	Fellowship Hall
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	Caring Friends Meeting	Library
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Aug 25 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Session	Room 10
Aug 26 - Wed	09:00 AM	P3 Informal Play Date	Playground
	02:00 PM	Austin Area Pastors Meeting	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Aug 27 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPDS 2009-2010 Board Meeting	Room 10
Aug 29 - Sat	09:30 AM	Middle & Hi School Retreat @ John Knox Ranch	Offsite

Prayer Requests

Joy and Thanksgiving for the marriage of Amanda McDonald and Graham Sutliff at Westminster on Saturday, August 8 (daughter of Becky and Brent McDonald and granddaughter of Peggy Moore)
Mrs. Everett Bohls and family, upon the August 12 death of **Everett Bohls**, long-time Westminster member
Marcia Kiger
Amy Hoffman
John Gutzke
Marilyn Clary
Kathy Lockart

John Clary

Charmaine Denius

The family of Maggie Lee Henson, upon her recent death (granddaughter of a friend of Molly and Mike Hatchell)

Pam Stout and family, upon the recent death of husband **Mike Stout** (former WPC choir director and friend of the Colvin's)

Ken Coffelt (childhood friend of Katie Burns)

Karen Nathan (friend of Ann Palmer)

Michael Estes (nephew of Glenda Fincher)

Caye Inglis (aunt of Adrienne Inglis)

Steve Jennings and family (friends of Lis Wise)

Dottie Kotowicz (aunt of Larry Wise)

Laurie Gillies Yarborough (daughter of former members, Carolyn and John Gillies)

Col. Tim Kopra and the space station crew (friend of the Tylers)

Jerry Smith (friend of the Sullivans)

Janie Johnson (sister-in-law of Susan Cockburn)

Elizabeth Hampton (neighbor of Josie Whitley)

James Rohlich (friend of Mary Jansen)

Hope Young (friend of Katie Burns)

Rose Wahrmund (Bryan Saunders' grandmother)

Ricky Davidson (uncle of Todd Davidson)

The Rev. Juan Treviño (pastor of First Presbyterian, Brownsville and friend to many WPC members)

Shirley Bridges (sister of Mary Anne Ater)

Drew Saenz (friend of Lea Anne Porter and Michael Gianotti)

Laura Johnson (friend of Layla Young)

George O'Dwyer (friend of the Fields and Shaw families)

Bill Whiteside (friend of Jack and Shirley Howard and Susan Cockburn)

Peggy Huckabay (friend of the Somervilles)

Shirley Bird Perry (friend of Sharon McGraw)

Civilians and military in war-torn areas: Ron MacKay, stationed in Iraq; **Scott Cameron**, deployed to Afghanistan (son of Marcia Kiger); **John Ulsamer and Alpha Company**, stationed in Iraq (son-in-law of Jim and Kathy Lockart); **Sgt. Lindsey Rush** (niece of Jim and Karen Nelson)

Victims of oppression

Peace and peace workers

That God's peace may come

Are you looking for a way to participate in worship?

Be an usher!

Usher teams provide a vital ministry at Westminster as they are often the first people visitors meet. We have five usher teams, one each for the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of each month, and a fifth team for the occasional months during the year that have five Sundays. There is a Team Captain who coordinates the team on their designated Sunday.

Some of the usher duties include welcoming folks as they hand out worship bulletins, collecting the offering, taking a headcount of people in attendance at worship, making sure the recording system is working, collecting the Friendship pad sheets, and general straightening of the sanctuary and narthex after the worship service. It is a relatively easy, but very important service at Westminster and we are looking for committed men, women, youth and even whole families who would like to participate and feel called to this ministry.

All current and prospective ushers are asked to come to a brief training and informational meeting immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, August 30th. There will be a review of operating the AED. All ushers should be familiar with this device in case of an emergency. It will also be an opportunity for Team Captains to recruit and fill out their teams.

If you have questions or are interested in joining a team one Sunday a month, please contact Martha Richardson, 329-8931, mjrcce@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on the 30th!

The Gift of Presence – Rev. Nancy Chester McCranie to speak at Westminster on Sunday, August 23 at 4 p.m.

Some of you have participated in serving communion to WPC's homebound members; some of you are former Deacons; some of you are serving as ushers, teachers, etc.; some of you come "just to worship." **Regardless of the ministries we are involved in, all of us come into contact with folks who need care and concern, both at church and in the world.**

In light of this, the WPC Deacons are planning several "continuing education" gatherings for members of our church who might be interested in aspects of caring for others – regardless of age or station in life. Deacons will be there, as well as Caring Friends (those who visit homebound members of our church). But, we wanted to expand the circle and to include you in the invitation as well, because I know that you are called to care for others in your various ways of serving. I thought you might find this interesting and helpful. **So...you're invited!**

The first gathering will be **Sunday, August 23 at 4 p.m. in Room 10**. The **Rev. Nancy Chester McCranie** will be with us to talk about the topic: **The Gift of Presence**. She will offer us some helpful hints about how and when to visit with people, whether they are homebound, in the hospital, grieving, having a bad day, or just in need of a friend. All of us cross paths with people in these phases of life; in fact, if we're honest, we too find ourselves in need of comfort and care, and the gentle, grace-filled presence of another.

Nancy currently serves as the Director of Volunteer and Bereavement Services at Hospice of Austin. She has served as an Educator and Spiritual Director at Seton Cove, as well as the Director for Professional Development of the College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS). She is a graduate of APTS, and a Presbyterian minister. As she says, she is a "mother to two lively boys; wife to organic farmer and genuine character; I work full time at Hospice Austin and am active in my local Presby church. I love to sing, dance, cook, read and jog, but not all at the same time."

Plan to join us! Please let Kathy (kathy@wpcaustin.org) know whether or not to expect you on the 23rd; we will have some light refreshments, and we need to know how many are coming so we can plan appropriately.

Thank You Note

Dear Bill, Kathy, and the congregation,
Thank you for all your support during the past year and a half. My stroke and rehab have been a long faith journey. Through your prayers and faith I learned how to talk, write, and smile again. My faith journey still continues and with my wonderful husband, two daughters, family, good friends, sweet teachers, community, and through God's grace I will prevail. Thank you all.

Sincerely,
Becky McDonald

Back to School Night – Sunday, August 16 @ 4:00 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.

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.

Senior High Stewpot Mission Trip

Six of our senior high youth and two Westminster adults recently served at the Stewpot Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Youth member Chris Clark offers some personal reflection in the following account:

It's twelve o'clock Monday and the herd is stampeding the makeshift cafeteria. Two hundred homeless and underprivileged kids, each with different yet strangely similar backgrounds, frantically search the lunchroom for their color coordinated nametag that will determine their spot at the lunch table that day. Some of the "day camp vets" nonchalantly take their nametag and switch it with another, insuring them a prime lunch seat. Making sure to avoid eye contact, I secretly scout each kid, deciding which ones it's safe to converse with and which ones I should avoid. This week looks to be light on the conversing.

I'm on a youth mission trip in the heart of Dallas and one of our group's main jobs is to assist running a free day camp for homeless and underprivileged inner city children. While at the camp, the 1st through 6th graders attend a various set of classes each day, ranging from P.E. to "silent" reading. Stereotyping the kid's backgrounds, my expectations of their ability to function in a day care environment are utterly non-existent. I'm under the impression that my main job for the next five days will be to take down youths attempting to run away, ensure kids don't cuss too loudly, and to keep all fights fair.

The wave of children eventually disperses to designated lunch seats and eagerly awaits the day's prayer, signaling that they may commence to fill themselves with corn dog. After a tantalizing wait the camp director shushes the group and announces that we will be singing "Johnny Appleseed" for the day's prayer, a classic I often belted as a child before dinner. She begins to sing and to my shock the entire group begins enthusiastically singing along, even doing multiple hand motions to the song. Even the older kid sporting dreadlocks and decked out in hoodlum apparel is using his pipes and dancing to the child's tune. After the prayer the storm of children gets their food and returns, so I begin to mosey around the cafeteria filling kid's cups with water. I can feel the children's stares towards their new leader, but I don't say anything. Kids like these don't want to talk to me. One of them asks for "agua, tu poco cacuate cabeza," which I soon find out means "water, you little peanut head."

Soon after, as I fill up the cup of a second grade girl she asks "you got a girllllfriend?" I think about the question for a second and blatantly lie "no, actually I have a wife" and point to Abby across the room. "It's that one right there." The table of kids erupts into a frenzy of curious questions. "Ohhhh do you looove her?" "Where did you get married?" "Does she cook for you?" "If she's really your wife, why don't you give her a big kiss right now?"

As my group enters their first class, free play, the continuous question pelting turns into playful energy. Some want to play with Lincoln Logs, some want to play Connect Four, and to my pleasure some want to play house and even cook multiple meals for me.

As I was enjoying my fourth meal of plastic eggs and toast, something clicked in my head. Each one of the kids in this group is a homeless or underprivileged child that deals with countless problems every day, yet they still manage to maintain the innocence and energy of any other child their age. Despite their unfortunate backgrounds, these kids simply live as any other kid lives, day to day in constant search of the next fun activity. Although he has witnessed more trouble than I ever have known, Khalid is still on the same mission a middle class boy as me was at his age. He still wants to play hard, make friends, and color things. That's it. That satisfies him. The environment he has grown up in may have changed his outside appearance, but deep in he's still the kid that wants to have fun. All the kids are. The kids don't dwell on something that's happened in the past, they look forward to what's to come in the future. And if they can keep this juvenile attitude throughout their lives, the little "cacuates" will go far.

From Previous Connections

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 group is scheduled the first week of September. If you would like to help and need more information, contact Amy Rose, 258-9288 or arose@austin.rr.com

p3 Playground Play Dates

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.

Beat the Heat with Fair Trade Iced Coffee!

We offer Third Coast Coffee's ground and whole bean Peruvian, Ethiopian Harrar, Guatemalan Huehuetenango as well as Peruvian decaffeinated coffee which is great over ice on a hot summer day. 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.

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.

Worship

Sunday, August 16

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scriptures: Ephesians 5:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

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

After Church Elders: Cindy Sullivan, David Rose, Linda Tyler

Greeters: South Door, O. R. Schmidt and Connie Moore; North Door, Debbie and Rick Mincher

Cookie Hosts: Debbie Mincher and Mary Margaret Sheffield

Acolytes: Elizabeth Tyson, Madison Tyson, Sara Shaw

Sunday, August 23

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rally Day Sunday

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

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

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Margie Johnson, Kim Edwards

Greeters: South Door, Ed Tyson and Miss Jane Smoot; North Door, Stan Shaw and Laura Slaughter

Cookie Hosts: Laura Slaughter and Charlotte Trafton

Acolytes: Chris Clark, Reilly Bennett, Kirby Steckel

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 16 Interfaith Hospitality Network: David Rose

Bible Study – Room 6 August 16 John 21

Rally Day is August 23
Come one, come all!

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

Aug 23rd - Rally Day!!!

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

Aug 23rd - Rally Day

CAMP E.D.G.E has been a great success this week!!!

We have Experienced and Discovered God Everywhere. Thank you to all who have helped this week. Kim, Lesley, Leslie, Allison, Cristia, Brandy, Kelly, Margo, Sharon, Juli, Adrienne, Yvonne, Kathy, Laura, Bill, Kathy, Paul, Walter, Martin, Annie, Sam, Sadie, John, Hayden, Sam, Graham, Louisa, Markley, Adelaide, Sara, Christopher, Roger, Abigail, Madison, Grace, Elizabeth, Ben, and I am sure there are some I have accidentally left off.

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.

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.

Opportunities to Serve:

Thursday, Aug 6th - Thank you Sadie, Abigail, Roger, Eliza, Randy and Kathy for helping out at Manos

Week of Aug 10-14 - Thank you for all the help with VBS - couldn't have done it without you!!

Save the Date

August 16th Pool party following the All church back-to-school event 5:30-7:30

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

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, September 3 @ 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!

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, September 6 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **September 6.** 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).