

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

September 13 - 27, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

After a year-long series of "holy conversations" with our congregation, and a season of prayer and discernment, Westminster's Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide Task Force has completed its work. The work of the task force revealed a yearning in our congregation for opportunities to be connected to God, connected to one another, and connected to the world in which we live through opportunities for service and outreach. The Westminster session has received the report from the Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide Task Force that includes the mission statement for our congregation: ***We hear God's call to be connected to God, connected to one another, and connected to our world. Responding to God's call in Jesus Christ and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to provide, promote, and sustain these connections through worship, giving, study, service, fellowship and outreach.***

I think that the task force is right on target with its statement. These connections strengthen the church to be the body of Christ in the world. These connections also equip and sustain each of us to live in the ways that God calls us to live. Since these connections are so vital to the life of our congregation and the life of each

member, the task force has challenged the session and all the leadership in the church to be even more intentional in fostering and developing them.

I'm pleased to say that as these conversations have been taking place we've begun to experience new opportunities for connections. A popular "Theology on Tap" course has been going strong since the beginning of this year. The Presbyterian Women's Group and Circles have experienced a revitalization with growing numbers of women participating in Circle gatherings. A Caring Friends group has formed through the Deacons. A covenant group designed for intentional Christian community begins meeting this fall. A new Sunday morning class for parents of preschoolers and elementary children called "MyConnection" is underway. Our week of hosting homeless families on the Westminster campus through the Interfaith Hospitality Network has begun with wonderful response from the congregation and good care for the families.

As a result of our conversations and by the grace of God, good things are happening in our midst at Westminster. We can be grateful, but we also need to press on. Our connections need to be multiplied and strengthened. Many more people need to be a part of the abundant life to which God calls.

I encourage you to read Grow Christ's Church Task Force summary report found in this newsletter. Thanks to the members of the task force for their concerted efforts. They are Celia Bell, Kim Edwards, Jon Nuelle, Leslie Pettijohn, Linda Tyler and David Vanden Bout. We are also grateful to the Rev. Mike Murray who provided such valuable leadership as a consultant with our group. And thanks be to God for being in our midst, guiding us, speaking to us and through us. May we respond to God's call in the months and years to come.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bill

Calendar

Sep 13, 2009 - 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
Sep 14, 2009 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	Room 10
Sep 15, 2009 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Sep 16, 2009 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Sep 17, 2009 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board Meeting	Room 10
Sep 18, 2009 - Fri	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Sep 20, 2009 - Sun	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:30 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Sep 21, 2009 - Mon	05:30 PM	Human Resources Committee	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library

Sep 22, 2009 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12:00 PM	WPDS Staff	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Session	Room 10
Sep 23, 2009 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Sep 24, 2009 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	PW Fall Gathering	Fellowship Hall
Sep 25, 2009 - Fri	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Sep 26, 2009 - Sat	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Offsite

Prayer Requests

Red Olander

Marjorie Voiers

Lois McGarity

Marcia Kiger

Kathy Lockart

Marilyn Clary

Charmaine Denius

Lorraine McReynolds (sister-in-law of Glenda Fincher)

Mary Graves (Meg Davidson's grandmother)

Rosemary Denny (sister of Bob Schriber)

Charlie Chaffin (best friend of Josie Whitley's grandson)

Rev. Steven Akins (friend of Karen Wagner and Julie Schriber)

Lea Dean (friend of Yvonne and Mike Steckel)

Maxine Horton (grandmother of Lisa Rogers)

Mike Bellamy (friend of Mike Rush and Terry Allbright)

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

Ken Coffelt (childhood friend of Katie Burns)

Karen Nathan (friend of Ann Palmer)

Michael Estes (nephew of Glenda Fincher)

Steve Jennings and family (friends of Lis Wise)

Dottie Kotowicz (aunt of Larry Wise)

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)

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



Grow Christ's Church Task Force Summary Report - <http://www.wpcaustin.org/grow.cfm>

Professional Portraits To Be Taken at Westminster of Your Family/Household

All Photographs will be taken on:

Wednesday Oct. 21 2:00 – 8:30
Thursday Oct. 22 2:00 – 8:30
Friday Oct. 23 1:00 – 7:30
Saturday Oct. 24 9:30 – 4:00

How to Sign Up? Go to: <https://www.Appointment-plus3.com/ap/westminster/index.php?page=10>

Why Take Family Photos at the Church?

- 1) So each of us can have a complete, up-to-date, printed Church Directory, which will include current member photos and correct contact information;
- 2) So that all our families can have the gift of professional portraits for family keepsakes (or in advance for Christmas gifts or photo Christmas cards).

All photos will be taken in the comfort of our own church, & with no sitting fee. Each photoed household will receive a free directory & a free 8X10. There will be no obligation to purchase additional portraits, but extra poses of your choice (like mom with the grandkids) will be taken, & can be purchased by those of you who may desire. (You can even include your pet!)

Presbyterian Women Invite You to PW Fall Gathering



**You are invited to
The
Fall Gathering of
Presbyterian Women as we celebrate our
Love for one another!**

Thursday, September 24th @ 6:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

Please join us for fellowship, food, and fun while we strengthen our bonds with each other

Need Babysitting?
Call Rosemary (459.5497) by September 22
Need a Ride?
Call Julie (452.8027)

Thank You from APTS

Dear Bill, Kathy and Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your generosity and warm hospitality for hosting the Seminary faculty's annual retreat last week. Your entire staff made us feel welcome and provided a wonderful setting in your new building to do the work we needed to do to prepare to begin the 2009-2010 academic year. We are grateful for your support of our work – and grateful for your witness and ministry.

Sincerely,
Michael Jinkins, Academic Dean

From Previous Connections

Online Giving

The finance and administration committee is pleased to be able to offer you a new means of making your tithes and contributions. The church is now able to receive pledges and contributions through electronic funds transfer (direct debit) from your bank account. If you wish to make your contributions in this manner, please complete the secure donation form on the website at www.wpcaustin.org or contact Jimmie at wpadmin@wpcaustin.org and she will get you the forms.

Brown is the New Green

When City of Austin Stage 2 Water Use Restrictions take effect August 24, 2009, the church grounds will be irrigated only on Fridays. We ask for your support and understanding as we conserve water so all may have enough. For ideas on how you can conserve water, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/50ways.htm>.

Worship

Sunday, September 13

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgist:

Scripture: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

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

After Church Elders: Carolyn Long, Margie Johnson, Grover Campbell

Greeters: South Door, Eleanor Luke and Katie Burns; North Door, Ryan McGinn and Sharon McGraw

Cookie Hosts: Dorothy Andrews and Janet Carroll

Acolytes: Justina Lange, Ada Barbee, Read Barbee

Sunday, September 20

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgist: Bill Clark

Scripture:

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

After Church Elders: Debbie Mincher, Todd Davidson, Bob Schriber

Greeters: South Door, Marian and Mark Kelley; North Door, Bonnie and Aoife O'Reilly

Cookie Hosts: Mary Jansen and Jon and Nancy Goree

Acolytes: Hannah Dale, Kerby Dale, Will Ezell

Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
the WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

September 20 – October 11

Witnesses of Faith in the Community

September 20: Alan Graham – Mobile Loaves & Fishes

September 27: Ed Clements – KLBJ and Randy & Jenna McEachren

October 4: Gilbert Tuhabonye – The Gazelle Foundation

October 11: Tom Spencer – Austin Area Interreligious Ministries

Bible Study – Room 9

September 13: Acts 3 – 4:4 (What Does the Gospel Do?)

September 20: Acts 4:5-31 (The Apostles vs. The Sanhedrin, Round One)

September 27: Acts 4:32-5:16 (Interlude: "One Holy and Apostolic Church")

MyConnection – Room 10 September 13: The Gift of Sabbath – Martha Richardson

September 20: Children and Worship

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!

Preschoolers: Preschoolers start in Room 14 for Song Time and the teachers will pick them up and take them to their classrooms. The children may be picked up in their room at the end of Sunday school. 2/3's will be in room 5 and the 4's/K's in room 4. Your child must be 2 by August 1st to be in the 2 year old class. Younger children may be taken to the nursery.

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. We are starting the year with the Beatitudes. Come join us in Room 13~~

Godly Play is Starting!!! - On September 20th, we will start up Godly Play during the 11:00 worship service. Like last year, children ages 3-5 are welcome to join us in room 13 following the Passing of the Peace. Children are always welcome to worship with their families; however, if the children of this age group become restless they are welcome to join in for a Bible story with us.

Youth Ministries

Church School classes for all youth meet each Sunday morning. in the Annex, located at the corner of Carlton and Hillview, just beyond the church parking lot.

Save the Date

Sept 13th - No Fellowship

Sept 20th - Fellowship 5-7 @ Annex for games

Sept 27th - Fellowship 5-7 @ Annex - we will split into high school and middle school groups this week.

Looking ahead - We are looking at hosting a Halloween party on October 25th for the younger children of WPC and inviting the neighborhood. We would start with "Trick or Trunk" and let the kids go from car to car (decorated trunks) and get treats and then have a time of games and fellowship in Fellowship Hall and on the Slab.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 7)
Meets in the Annex Living Room
Topic: I Know My Bible

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

Theology on Tap – Thursday, October 1 @ 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! Another movie is on tap: *Luther*. Karen Wagner has a copy if you can't find one.

Adventures begins Tuesday, October 6 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall

Join us as we get back together after our summer break!

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch.

Bring a friend.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, October 4 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **October 4.** 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).