

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

September 27 – October 11, 2009

Weekly Word

Dear WPC saints,

As you may have read, the Sunday morning Adult Forum Class (Fellowship Hall, 9:40 -10:40) is enjoying a four-week series of speakers entitled *Witnesses of Faith in the Community*. Each week, we hear from one or more "notable" Austinites, people of faith who are making a difference in our city. Last week, we heard from Alan Graham of Mobile Loaves and Fishes; this week will feature Ed Clements of KLB Radio and Randy and Jenna McEachern, local Longhorn fans; on October 11 we welcome Tom Spencer from the Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (you may recognize his name from his previous work with KLRU). However, the highlight of the four weeks will be here on **October 4. Gilbert Tuhabonye of the Gazelle Foundation will be with us - and you won't want to miss hearing what he has to say!**

Gilbert Tuhabonye was born on November 22, 1974, in the southern county of Songha in Burundi, a small mountainous country in east central Africa. He is the third of four children. His parents were part of the Tutsi tribe and were farmers by profession. They kept milk cows and raised potatoes, peas, corn and beans.

His love of running was forged early. Gilbert loved to run everywhere. He ran to the valley's edge to get water for his family. He ran to school, five miles away, and he loved to race his friends. His favorite thing to do was to chase his family's cows. He was baptized as a Catholic in the sixth grade and moved 150 miles away the next year to board at a Protestant school in Kibimba.

While attending the Kibimba school, Gilbert began running competitively. Running barefoot, he won an 8K race while only a freshman. As a sophomore, he met a man who taught him how to change his running technique by getting his knees up and holding his arms correctly. The coach encouraged him to work hard and try for the Olympics. Gilbert became national champion in the 400 and 800 meters as an 11th grader. As a senior, Gilbert was already an extraordinary runner whose goal was to get a scholarship to an American school, get an education and return home to Burundi.

Fate had another plan for Gilbert.

On October 21, 1993, the centuries-old war between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes erupted in horrific reality one afternoon as Gilbert and his classmates were in school. The Hutu classmates at the Kibimba school, their parents, some teachers and other Hutu tribesmen, forced more than a hundred Tutsi children and teachers into a room where they beat and burned them to death. After nine hours of being buried by the corpses of his beloved friends, and himself on fire, Gilbert used the charred bone of one of his classmates to break through a window. He jumped free of the burning building and ran into the night, on charred feet, the sole survivor of one of the most horrible massacres in the long Tutsi-Hutu war. He ran from that horror into a new life.

Now, 15 years later and more than 8,000 miles from Burundi, Gilbert Tuhabonye is a celebrity in the world of running. He went on to graduate college at Abilene Christian University where, despite being covered with scar tissue from his extensive burns, he was a national champion runner.

He is now, by all accounts, the most popular running coach in Austin, Texas where he lives with his wife, Triphine, and two daughters, Emma and Grace. Gilbert still competes, owns and operates a training program called Gilbert's Gazelles and is founder of the Gazelle Foundation.

His autobiography, *This Voice in My Heart*, is a must read!

So, bring some friends, and plan to be here on October 4! See you Sunday...

Grace and peace,
Kathy

Calendar

Sep 27 - Sun	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	03:00 PM	Coming to the Lord's Table	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Sep 29 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Sep 30 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Oct 1 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Oct 2 - Fri	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Oct 4 - Sun		World Communion Sunday	
	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Oct 5 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	03:00 PM	Little Helping Hands	Fellowship Hall Kitchen
	06:00 PM	Delta Kappa Gamma	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Oct 6 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12:00 PM	Adventures	Room 10
Oct 7 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Oct 8 - Thu	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Annex
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board Meeting	Room 10
Oct 9 - Fri	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10

Prayer Requests

Laura Ford and family upon the Sept. 10 death of Laura's mother, **Virginia S. Hill**

Mike Rush and family upon the recent death of Mike's sister, **Peggy Martin**

Susan Somerville

Red Olander

Marjorie Voiers

Lois McGarity

Marcia Kiger

Kathy Lockart

Marilyn Clary

Charmaine Denius

Kathy Treviño and family upon the Sept. 11 death of **The Rev. Juan Treviño** (pastor of First Presbyterian, Brownsville and friend to many WPC members)

The family of Lorraine McReynolds upon her recent death (sister-in-law of Glenda Fincher)

Kate and Steve Goode and family upon the Sept. 20 death of their son, **Jamie Goode**

Nancy Sien (mother of Susan Somerville)

Ginger Henslee (sister-in-law of Molly Hatchell)

The family of Dale Anne Herter upon her recent death (cousin of LeaAnne Porter)

Myrna Benne (mother of Amy McClintic)

Shirley Bridges (sister of Mary Anne Ater)

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

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)

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)

Thanksgiving for the safe return of 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)

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

Godly Play for Preschoolers on Sunday Morning

Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. We understand, however, that sometimes children grow restless, so during the 11 a.m. worship service, as a part of caring for our youngest saints, we offer a nursery for infants and Godly Play for 3-5 year olds. Godly Play will begin at 11:15, but children may join us at

any time after the Passing of the Peace. We ask that parents wait outside Room 13 after worship for children to be dismissed.

Presbyterian World Mission Challenge '09 – October 11 @ 7 p.m. – Westminster Fellowship Hall

What do you know about Colombia? Did you know there is a Presbyterian Church there? Did you know that many people from the Presbyterian Church (USA) have lived there as “accompaniers”?

On **Sunday evening, October 11 at 7 p.m.**, The Rev. Diego Higueta-Arango and Ms. Sara Henken will speak about the work of the Presbyterian Church in the area of peace and justice as it relates to the current violence in Colombia. They will speak about the church’s accompaniment program and how it represents a new way of being involved in mission. Higueta-Arango and Henken will address the violence that continues to plague Colombia. They will identify ways in which U.S. citizens can become advocates for the people of Colombia. **Their visit to WPC is part of the denomination-wide World Mission Challenge aimed at connecting missionaries and congregations across the life and ministry of the church. All Austin-area Presbyterian Churches are invited to attend!**

Diego Higueta is the Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. His current ministry focuses on the region of Urabá working with people in this rural area to bring peace and justice back to their community. He has also served the denomination as Moderator.

Sarah Henken is the coordinator of the Colombia Accompaniment Program, a partnership between Presbyterians in Colombia and in the United States in which U.S. Presbyterians stand with Christians in Colombia as they work nonviolently for peace. Her experience with Colombia began with her first trip as an accompanier in May of 2006. She has made five visits since then, including as a translator/interpreter for the Chicago Presbytery delegation to the Presbyterian Church of Colombia’s 150th anniversary celebration in August 2006. Originally from Los Angeles, Sarah lived in Uruguay and Argentina as a PC(USA) mission volunteer prior to her involvement with the Colombia Accompaniment Program.

International Peacemakers are leaders who are engaged in peacemaking in their own areas of the world. They are invited by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to visit with Presbyterians in the United States to help us understand the peace and justice concerns of others around the world. This sharing can also translate into a better understanding of the peace and justice issues in our own communities. Arranged through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville, Kentucky, the International Peacemakers Program has been in existence since 1988 and is supported by gifts to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering.

For more information, see <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/intl/international.htm#2009>.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the financial information as of August 31, 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 August 31, 2009

Revenues \$488,385

Expenses 430,692

Net income \$ 57,693

Cash on hand – Operating Fund \$116,884

Fellowship Hall Debt \$1,271,000

From the Stewardship Committee

		Westminster Combined Giving			
		Connecting with God, One Another, and The World			
		Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	
		Giving	Giving	Giving	Pledged
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
General Fund	\$	596,065	\$ 584,680	\$ 574,693	\$ 669,612
Building Funds	\$	529,766	\$ 280,942	\$ 646,847	\$ 367,857
Combined Giving	\$	1,125,831	\$ 865,622	\$ 1,221,540	\$ 1,037,469

Thank you for your generosity over the past years. As you see above, members and friends have given well in excess of \$1 million a year in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Additionally, members support our special offerings and designated benevolences through additional giving. Many thanks for the blessings of our community.

Giving Thanks Spiritual Formation Group

On Sunday afternoons, October 11 through November 22, at 5:00 p.m. a small group will gather in the church library to listen to each other as we share our stories, listen to God's Word, laugh and pray together. If you are interested in being a part of this group or if you have questions contact Linda Tyler at lmt@ausitn.rr.com or call 452-8623.

Coming to the Lord's Table

This Sunday, Sept. 27, at 3 p.m., parents and children in Kindergarten and First grade are invited to join us in the sanctuary to learn more about what coming to the Lord's Table means and to celebrate a child's first communion on World Communion Sunday, October 4. This is also for any parents and children who would like a review.

Urgent Request from Manos de Cristo

Dear Friends,

Manos is in dire need of men's (work clothes) and children's clothing (gently used), so as you are cleaning out your closets before the holidays, please keep Manos in mind.

Thank you,
Julie M. Ballesteros
Executive Director
jballesteros@manosdecristo.org
Phone: (512-477-7454)

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. Proverbs 19:17

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.

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!)

Worship

Sunday, September 27

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

Scripture: James 5:13-20; Psalm 124; Mark 9:38-50

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

After Church Elders: Cindy Sullivan, Kim Edwards, David Rose

Greeters: South Door, Terry Allbright and Mike Rush; North Door, Steve and Nancy Westmoreland

Cookie Hosts: Kathy Cox and Terry Allbright and Mike Rush

Acolytes: Robert Ehrlich, Adelaide Ehrlich, Chris Hoeffner-Ross

Sunday, October 4

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – World Communion Sunday

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

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

After Church Elders: Stan Shaw, Carolyn Long, Jim Lockart

Greeters: South Door, MaryAnne Ater and Sharon Raab; North Door, Kim Edwards and Doris Etheridge

Cookie Hosts: MaryAnne Ater and Sharon Raab

Acolytes: Molly Wear, Todd Schriber, Julia Schriber

Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m. *For more detailed descriptions, please visit the WPC website!*

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

September 27 – October 11

Witnesses of Faith in the Community

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 Church)

September 27: Acts 4:32-5:16 (Interlude: “One Holy and Apostolic

October 4: Acts 5:17-42 (The Apostles vs. the Sanhedrin, Round Two)

October 11: Acts 6:1-7 and Acts 6:8 – 8:3 (Interlude and The Story of Stephen)

Thoughtful Christian – Library

September 27: Simplicity as a Spiritual Discipline (led by Julie Schriber)

October 4: With Forum Class to hear Gilbert Tuhabonye

October 11: Bob Schriber, facilitator

MyConnection – Room 10

This class will deal with a range of topics and issues related to parenting, family relationships, and being faithful Christians in the world today.

September 27: Introduction to the Bible (led by Bill Clark)

October 4: With Forum Class to hear Gilbert Tuhabonye

October 11: Introduction to Exodus (led by Bill Clark)

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!!! - Godly Play occurs 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.

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.

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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 meets Tuesday, October 6 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall

Our new seminary intern, **Robert Quiring**, will be with us to share some of his stories and insights from his year in Kenya as a Young Adult Volunteer with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Robert recently returned to the United States (in August) to begin his senior year at Austin Seminary. He will be working with us at Westminster until early May.

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.