

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

October 11 - 25, 2009

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Weekly Word

And I shall clothe myself in your eternal will,

And by this light I shall come to know that you, eternal Trinity,
Are table, and food, and waiter for us.
You, eternal Father, are the table that offers us as food
The Lamb, your only-begotten Son.
He is the most exquisite of foods for us,
Both in his teaching, which nourishes us in your will
And in the sacrament that we receive in Holy Communion,
Which feeds and strengthens us while we are pilgrim travelers in this life.
And the Holy Spirit is indeed a waiter for us,
For the Spirit serves us this teaching by enlightening our mind's eye with it
And inspiring us to follow it.
And the Spirit serves us charity for our neighbors and hunger to have as our food.
Catherine of Siena (14th c)

Dear Fellow Followers of the Way:

Tuesday Chapel at Austin Presbyterian Seminary is when the community gathers to celebrate Communion. The professor who preaches usually presides at Table. One Tuesday during my senior year, I was sitting in the balcony of the chapel for worship. I had many things that needed to be done, but I wanted to hear that particular professor preach. I was going to leave after the sermon, but for some reason I stayed.

As I fell into the back of one of the lines, my mind was filled with thoughts of how much further behind I was getting with what needed to be done that day. I stepped forward to receive the elements and as I did I lifted my gaze from the floor to meet the eyes of my professor. As our eyes met, I felt the bread being pressed into my hand and the weight of her hand as well, but the eyes that I was gazing into were actually the eyes of Christ looking into my very soul.

As she spoke the words I have heard and have spoken hundreds of times before "The body of Christ broken for you" I had the sense that it was no longer my friend serving me, but Christ. I felt the impact of those words more profoundly than ever before. I encountered the risen Christ that day while being fed at the Table. It was an encounter that would not have happened had I not stayed.

I was reminded of this encounter on Sunday as we celebrated World Communion Sunday and we shared in the Lord's Supper with Christians around the world and were re-membered into the Body of Christ. Being a part of the Body of Christ, we are called into relationship with one another to bring about the Kingdom here on earth. We are called to remember our relationship to God, others and the world as we have been talking about this fall.

As I read the words of Catherine of Sienna and as I listened to Dr. Cynthia Rigby lecture on the Trinity recently, I was reminded that we worship and serve a relational God. The Triune God is intimately related one to another. Theologian Elizabeth Johnson describes the relationship as a triple helix, three separate strands that are woven together. And just as intimately as the Godhead is related to each other, the Triune God is also intimately relational to us.

This is the God who created both male and female in God's image, the God who became human and walked among the people, the God who gifted the apostles with the ability to speak in other languages and spread the Good News to all the world. This is the God who still acts in the world today and interacts with us. God has reached out to us,, it is our time, by the grace of God, to respond.

Everyone leads busy lives, but we make time for that which is important to us. I challenge you to look at your relationships. How are you connected to God? How are you connected to others in the Body of Christ? How are you connected to the world? Relationships only happen when we are present. How can you be present and grow in your relationships this fall? We are pilgrim travelers in this life, may we meet at the Table to be nourished and walk the road together as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, others and the world.

Grace, mercy, and peace,
Karen

Calendar

Oct 11 - 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
	4:00 PM	P3 Fellowship	Playground
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Group	Library
	07:00 PM	Mission Presbytery World Mission Challenge 2009	Fellowship Hall
Oct 12 - Mon	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	
Oct 13 - Tue	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
Oct 14 - Wed	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Oct 15 - Thu	11:00 AM	Worship Committee	Library
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Oct 16 - Fri	09:00	WPDS Parenting Series	Room 10
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Oct 17 - Sat	09:00 AM	Landscape Workday	Grounds
Oct 18 - 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
	04:00 PM	Picnic in the Park	Patterson Park
	05:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Group	Library
Oct 19 - Mon	05:30 PM	HRC	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library
Oct 20 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Oct 21 - Wed	09:00 AM	WPDS Parenting Series	Room 10
	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room

Oct 22 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Oct 23 - Fri	11:30 AM	Peace, Justice & Environment Sub-Committee	Library
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Oct 24 - Sat	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Offsite

Prayer Requests

Matt Wise, Jenn Scollan, and newborn son

Emory Thompson

Dotti and Jim Sizer

Red Olander

Marjorie Voiers

Lois McGarity

Kathy Lockart

Marilyn Clary

Charmaine Denius

Nancy Sien (mother of Susan Somerville)

Pat Ward (father of Steve Ward)

Justin Gabriel and parents, Jim and Jeri Gabriel (friends of 'Becca Scoggin)

Susan Britton (friend of Eleanor Cochran)

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

Mrs. Lou O'Rorke (friend of Lea Anne Porter)

Myrna Benne (mother of Amy McClintic)

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)

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);

Victims of oppression

Peace and peace workers

That God's peace may come

Close Out Report on Interfaith Hospitality Network

On September 13th WPC bid goodbye to our Interfaith Hospitality Network guests of one week. The families were very thankful to us for the use of our church, the great food, the fantastic welcoming hosts, and wonderful facilities. I believe their time with us has allowed them to get that much stronger and more prepared for whatever is in store for them next.

During the week, we had a lot of fun, learned a lot, and made new friends. Everything ran very smoothly and all involved were happy with the results.

Thank you all for your support through prayers, time, donations, and encouragement. I also thank the WPC staff for their support – and especially Ray for keeping the campus tidy for all. I declare this was a success. We should be very satisfied with the outcome through the positive impact we had on our guests and fulfilling our desire to expand our mission ministry. Also I am so happy we are realizing the potential of our new Fellowship Hall which was designed to accommodate this mission. It came through with flying colors.

We are looking forward to our next hosting week Jan 17-24th, 2010 and welcome all from WPC to participate in this fulfilling mission. Look for information soon!

Warm Regards,

David Rose and the WPC IHN Mission Sub Committee

Fall Landscaping Work Day: Dress for Dirt

Do you like to play in the dirt? Do you like working in the yard? Do you need to log community service hours for high school? All church members and friends may join us for a Fall Landscaping Work Day Saturday morning October 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dress for dirt and bring all, some, or none of the following: yard waste bags, lopping shears, pruning shears, shovels, gloves, weather-appropriate clothing, and enthusiasm. Our main task is to remove mosquito-harboring primrose jasmine from the south side of the education building, prune some perennials, and do a bit of planting and weeding. No expertise or experience is necessary. Park on Exposition Blvd. or in the church parking lot and meet at the circle drive. Cold water and snacks will be provided. We'll have another work day December 5. R.S.V.P. to the church office at 459-5497 or wpc@wpcastin.org or just show up!

WPC Picnic at Patterson Park – Sunday, October 18 @ 4 p.m.

The weather is getting cooler, and fall is on the way – so let's get together for a picnic in the park. We'll meet at **Patterson Park** (off Wilshire Ave. near the old airport) for fun, games, good food and s'mores. If your last name is **A – K**, please bring some **fried chicken** (or other suitable picnic-y dish to share), and if your last name is **L – Z**, please bring a **side dish** to supplement the fare. There will be s'mores for dessert, so if you're not a fan of those, you can bring some other kind of dessert. Bring your Frisbees, footballs, kickballs, washers, horseshoes, kites, etc. to play! (Note: AISD does not have school on Monday, so for a bunch of kids, there's no rush to get home to do homework!) There is ample, accessible parking.

Letter from a Westminster Neighbor

The following letter was addressed to Chip Somerville as Building Committee Chair.

Dear Chip:

Just a note, as I close my file, to thank you for the very tasteful and attractive addition to the neighborhood that is your new building. The construction process was far more disruptive to your church than it was to your neighbors, and the end product is beautiful and most appropriate for the neighborhood. For 35 years Westminster Presbyterian Church has been the Crocker's good neighbor, and continues to be.

Congratulations on the successful completion of the building. I hope it serves your congregation as well as its appearance serves the neighborhood.

Very sincerely,
Bill Crocker

Come Tailgate, Halloween Style!!

On October 25th come be a part of Trunk or Treat in the Westminster Parking lot and continue to celebrate the season with carnival type games in fellowship hall from 5-7 pm. Trunk or Treat has become a way to offer a safe Trick or Treat time for children. Whether you have young children, grown, children or no children decorate your trunk and bring some treats for the children of Westminster and the neighborhood. We ask that cars be parked in the parking lot by 5:15 so that we can block it off as the children trick or treat from car trunk to car trunk. Decorate your trunk as a mad scientist's lab or the back of your minivan as a Arabian tent. After 30 minutes the youth will be hosting carnival type Halloween games in fellowship hall. Come enjoy the season and see the costumes and join us for an evening of Halloween fun!

Be watching for more information in the coming weeks and the bulletin board outside Karen's office.

Celebrating our Connections

Sunday, October 25

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Join us for worship as we give thanks for all that God is doing in our midst. A special presentation of our life and ministry at Westminster will conclude the service.

Mark Your Calendars for:

Dedication Sunday and Congregation Lunch

Sunday, November 8

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship with the Rev. KC Ptomey, guest preacher

All Church lunch in Fellowship Hall

Invitations are Coming Soon!

Fellowship Hall Financial Update

We have all been enjoying the Fellowship Hall for several months now. It is a wonderful building where we connect to God through study and discussion in our Sunday School classes. We have a place to join with one another in fellowship events and to enjoy cookies and conversation after church. We are able respond to God's call of service and outreach by using our new laundry and shower facilities to connect with the world through the families we hosted in IHN. While we have been enjoying the opportunities provided, many have questions and concerns about the financial impact of the Fellowship Hall to the congregation. We want to be sure everyone understands the financial plans for the Fellowship Hall.

How much will our final loan be?

After all expenses are paid and all monies from the capital campaigns are received, we expect to have a debt of a little over \$1 million.

How long until we pay off the debt and how much is the debt service?

We have financed this debt with Frost Bank at an estimated 6.5% annual interest rate. The loan has a 15-year amortization with a balloon payment due on June 30, 2018. Beginning July 1, 2010, we will make quarterly principal and interest payments of about \$30,000. This debt service will be part of our annual operating budget. These quarterly payments will continue until June 30, 2018. At that time, we will owe a balloon payment of about \$650,000.

Are we going to have another capital campaign in 2010?

We do not have plans for another congregation-wide capital campaign in 2010. The debt service will be paid through general fund contributions. New contributions to the building fund now and in the future will be most welcome and most productive. All contributions will be applied to the principal outstanding on the note. This will not only reduce the total interest we have to pay over the life of the note, but will reduce the size of the balloon payment.

Thank You Note from Susan Somerville

Dearest Westminster Family,

I can't begin to thank you enough for all you have done for my family and me since my hospitalization. I have been overwhelmed by the care and concern shown us through phone call, e-mails, cards, flowers, food, and prayers. We were lifted up by it all and know now more than ever how much our church family means to us. Despite the miles, we felt your love and your presence with us.

We were thrilled to be back in worship today – praise the Lord!

Grace and peace,
Susan Somerville

Iraqis Need Beds

Galib and his family, one of the Iraqi families Westminster has helped, returned to Austin in time for the children to enter school. This Iraqi family had been with his wife's sister in California for the summer. Galib and his three children were at worship at WPC this past Sunday, October 4; his wife had hurt her back and was not able to attend. They are Christians, members of the Chaldean Church in Iraq.

The whole family spent many months in the Hutto Detention Center before being allowed asylum status.

We asked if the family had any needs and he said the children were sleeping on the floor; they did not have beds yet. **They need three single beds.** If you have anything to offer them, call the church office or Moneta Prince at 708-8293.

Free Wood

The removal of several dead and dying trees on the church campus and yielded some beautiful chunks of live oak, elm, pecan, and oak. Please help yourself to the wood at the annex or parking lot median for your wood carving project, camp fire, bench, playground toy, or stage prop. First come, first served. If you have any questions about where the wood is or what's available, please ask Rosemary in the church office at 459-5497.

From Previous Connections

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!**

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

**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>

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, October 11

28th day in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16, Psalm 22:1-15; Job 23:1-17

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

After Church Elders: Jack Prince, Liz Jones, Linda Tyler

Greeters: South Door, Ann Culver and Marcia Kiger; North Door, Laura and Scott Slaughter

Cookie Hosts: Laura Slaughter and Margery Johnson

Acolytes: Sadie Pass, Kirby Steckel, Jonas Tatu

Sunday, October 18

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgists: Bill Clark, Robert Quiring

Scripture: Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

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

After Church Elders: Ann Scott, Corrinne Bowers, Carolyn Long

Greeters: South Door, Shaaron Conoly and Deborah Polan; North Door, Red Olander and Susan Somerville

Cookie Hosts: Deborah Polan and Jean Grant

Acolytes: Jessica Johnston, Wiley Beale, Patrick Beale

Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.

the WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

Witnesses of Faith in the Community

October 11: Tom Spencer – Austin Area Interreligious Ministries

Following the Witnesses of Faith in the Community series, we enjoy a series of conversations with three different

rabbis from Austin. They will share insights into Jewish faith and life, strengthening the ties that bind us together.

October 18 - Rabbi Rachel Kobrin – [Congregation Agudas Achim](#)

October 25 - Rabbi Rick Brody – Congregation Agudas Achim

November 1 - Rabbi David Komerofsky – [Texas Hillel Foundation](#)

Bible Study – Room 9

Stephen)

Samaritans)

The Ethiopian Eunuch

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

October 18: Acts 8:4-25 (Philip's Mission to the "Outcasts of Israel": The

October 25: Acts 8:26-40 (Philip's Mission to the "Outcasts of Israel":

Thoughtful Christian – Library

October 11: Bob Schriber, facilitator

October 18: Liz Jones, facilitator

October 25: Sean Newton, facilitator

MyConnection – Room 10 Exodus with Bill Clark

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

Children's Ministries

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.

P3 Fellowship

[P3 Event Sunday October 11, 2009 from 4 to 5 p.m.](#)

'Are you smarter than a preschooler?'

Come join the fun in the courtyard and on the slab, there will have an activity hunt for the children and parents to work on together. We will have lots of fun, fellowship and a light snack will be available! Don't forget your bug spray.

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.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13.

October 18 – Nov 1st Job

Nov 8 – Nov 22 Amos

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

Oct 11 - Youth Fellowship at the Annex

Oct 18th - NO Fellowship - we will join in the fun of the picnic in the park

Oct 25th - Trunk or Treat (5-7) youth will be running games for the younger children

Youth Mid-winters 2010 - put these on the calendar - more information will be coming out soon

January 15-17 Midwinter #1 Junior High

January 22-24 Midwinter #2 Senior High

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

Picnic in the Park – See related article in this issue.

Theology on Tap – Thursday, November 5 @ 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: *Dogma*.

Adventures meets Tuesday, November 3 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall

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, November 1 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month! Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **November 1**. 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).