

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

November 8 - 22, 2009

All New This Week

[Weekly Word](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

[Dedication Sunday and All Church Luncheon](#)

[Annual Tamale Sale!](#)

[Grateful to Be at Westminster](#)

[Thank You Note](#)

[Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 15](#)

[Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Opportunities](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

From Previous Connections

[Minter Alternative Christmas Gift Market – Sunday, November 22](#)

[A Stewardship Message from the Session](#)

[Remember to Bring Food for Manos de Cristo](#)

[28th International Holiday Market](#)

Regular Attractions

[Worship - Are You an After-Church Elder, Greeter, Cookie Host, Acolyte?](#)

[Are You Scheduled to Deliver Flowers After 11 a.m. Worship?](#)

[Mission](#)

[Children's Ministries](#)

[Youth Ministries](#)

[Adult Ministries](#)

[Fellowship](#)

[Daily Scripture Readings](#)

Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

Thanks to Westminster members, Leslie Pettijohn, Mike Steckel and Ruth Brownlow, who “preached” at the recent *Celebrating Our Connections* worship service. Each responded to the questions: “What am I grateful for at Westminster? Where do I see God at work in our midst? Excerpts from their meditations are included in this edition of *Connections*.

I encourage you to read what Leslie, Mike and Ruth have to say. Then answer the same questions yourself. “What am I grateful for at Westminster? Where do I see God at work in our midst?” Perhaps you will mention the worship and the educational opportunities for all ages as our lay preachers did. Or you will consider our

many connections to God's kingdom through mission. The steadfast faithfulness and the gifts of the people in our congregation will surely come to mind.

Over the past year it seems that we have been bombarded with messages that remind us of what we don't have. The economy has entered a recession. Jobs are scarce. Budgets are tight. Reserves are low. The security of our future is uncertain. All of these statements are true, but they certainly do not come close to describing the entirety of our situation. There are other statements that need to be spoken and remembered. *God is good. The Lord provides. The whole creation is filled with the glory of God. This God is in our midst.*

As we prepare to present our pledges of time, talent, and treasure during this Sunday's Service of Dedication, I hope that each of those pledges will preach a sermon similar to what Leslie, Mike and Ruth preached. May each of those pledges proclaim gratitude for what God has done and is doing in our midst. May each of those pledges be a statement of faith—trusting that God will continue to be good and faithful to us and through us at Westminster.

I look forward to "preaching" and "proclaiming" with you in worship this Sunday!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bill

Calendar

Nov 8 - Sun		Stewardship 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	Sanctuary
	12:00 PM	All Church Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Group	Library
Nov 9 - Mon	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Library
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Fellowship Committee	
Nov 10 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Nov 11 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Nov 12 - Thu	10:00 AM	WPC Sewing Group	Annex
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
Nov 13 - Fri	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
Nov 15 - 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

	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Group	Library
Nov 16 - Mon	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library
Nov 17 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Nov 18 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Nov 19 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary

Prayer Requests

Gail Morriss

Joy and thanksgiving for the birth of Amanda Genevieve Pate, daughter of Greg and Melissa Pate

Jack Prince

Matt Wise, Jenn Scollan, and newborn son, Emmett Samuel

John Griffis

Kaden Wojcik (son of Megan Wojcik)

Emory Thompson

Red Olander

Lois McGarity

Kathy Lockart

Marilyn Clary

Charmaine Denius

Jim and Gail Gough (friends of Harvey and Dean Herbst)

The family of Leann Dean upon her recent death (neighbor of the Steckels)

Ric Johnson (brother of Jim Johnson)

Ann Bassinger (aunt of Leslie Pettijohn)

Elmer Hixson (friend of Jack Prince)

Laura Hoffpauir (daughter of Diane Frick and sister of Julie Schriber)

Ricky and Marsha Davidson (uncle and aunt of Todd Davidson)

John Davidson (father of Todd Davidson)

Chelsee Capezzuti (friend of LeaAnne Porter)

David Evans (friend of Mary and Ed Tyson)

Nancy Sien (mother of Susan Somerville)

Andrea Hays (sister-in-law of Jenna & Randy McEachern, friends of many WPCers)

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)

Myrna Benne (mother of Amy McClintic)

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

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

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)

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**, stationed in 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

Dedication Sunday & Congregational Luncheon

Sunday, November 8

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

Pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure will be dedicated this morning at either service.

Please bring your 2010 pledge cards and Time and Talent forms with you.

All Church luncheon in Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. service.

Reservations can be made at www.wpcaustin.org or by calling the church office **by Friday morning, Nov. 6.**

The Rev. Dr. K.C. Ptomey is the Zbinden Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was the senior pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee from 1981-2008. Ptomey's sermons and articles have appeared in Presbyterian Survey, Journal for Preachers, Weavings, Pulpit Digest, and Reformed Liturgy and Worship.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

A world in need now summons us to labor, love and give, To make our life an offering to God that all may live.

Grateful to be at Westminster

At the recent *Celebrating Our Connections* worship service we heard from three Westminster members who responded to the question, "What am I grateful for at Westminster?" Here's what they had to say.

Leslie Pettijohn--As we celebrate our connections today, I know how blessed my family and I are to be a part of this vibrant and dynamic community and family of faith. I am filled with gratitude for the life and ministry of Westminster and constantly marvel at the strength and diversity of connections throughout our congregation and community. The bonds that we share are evidence of God at Work here in our midst... Almost immediately upon attending church here, I discovered a multitude of people with Asia and China connections. One of the first people I met was the inspirational Lib Minter. Given my two daughters' heritage, I care deeply about Asia and China connections, yet had no idea there would be anybody here with that type of connection, much less so many people with those connections.

Another connection that impresses me comes from the time that I have been privileged to spend with our children and youth, mostly as a teacher in Sunday school. I am constantly amazed at the perceptions and maturity of faith of our young people. They are some of the brightest, caring, compassionate young people anywhere and really fun too. I see God at Work in them and others in every single event we have. Each of these experiences is robust in the lessons and connections it imparts. In observing some of these connections, I have been awed by the bonds that develop between our younger saints and the youth, especially during Vacation Bible School. During VBS sessions, one this past summer and the other several years ago, each of my daughters developed a special connection with one of the Slaughter young men: rich, unpredictable, grace-filled connections. I am so thankful for the involvement of the youth in the life of our church. The opportunities for cross-generational interactions and building connections is a priceless gift to each of us, creating lasting impressions where we learn from one another about living a life of faith.

Mike Steckel --As we started visiting (Westminster) I slowly began to connect with a variety of things here:

The campus -- We have a beautiful space. We have both large trees and open spaces. Places for quiet prayerful reflection and places large enough for a vigorous soccer game with a well managed, spacious playground. And who can forget the slab?

The music at the services -- I love hearing everything from the classics, to Taize, to the choir programs, to the simplicity of the early service, and to the amazing improvisations that Byron sneaks into the hymns.

The children's programs -- We have 3 sons. So Sunday School and Youth Group are important to us. Our kids have not only made some great friends here but they have learned about both the Bible and God's place in their lives. OK -- I know that during much of the Sunday School class their minds are on doughnuts in the fellowship hall, but I am still pretty sure that a few of the stories and teachings stick. Also, importantly, they are building connections with other adults and people of all ages. It is really one of the few places kids go where they are not the center of attention. Best of all, my kids often don't mind coming to church.

The Adult Sunday school classes -- When we started we were regulars in the Thoughtful Christian classes where we found an environment that was very open to a variety of different views and since then we have explored topics such Karl Barth, torture, the Brahms requiem, the latest musing of Michael Jenkins and Cindy Rigby, and most recently, Judaism. I also always enjoy those brave souls who explore their own faith journeys in the "Faith of Westminster" series.

Ruth Brownlow—My greatest memory is remembering all of the close friends we have made over the years. One way we go to make these friends was through the "Shepherd" program. Each family of the church was paired with another church family. We were there for each other through good and bad times. All it took was a phone call. Lewis (my husband) and I were paired with a couple who continued calling us their shepherd long after the program had ended. In a sense I still have many shepherds who help me. Those people are Margie Johnson, Dot Wolfe, Miriam Burke, Marcia Kiger, O.R. Schmidt, Claire Breihan and many others.

Another wonderful memory was breaking ground for the new Fellowship Hall. I was one of many who turned the dirt. Lewis would have remarked that Ruth doesn't even know how to hold a shovel! My first memory of the new Fellowship Hall was the Easter breakfast where there was plenty of good food and fellowship. During that breakfast, a cross made by Becky's (my daughter) husband, John, was shown. The cross was made from wood from the old Fellowship Hall that Kathy Anderson had given to Becky.

It's Time to Order Tamales Again!

Manos de Cristo's Annual Tamale Sale

Forget about those diets and order your holiday tamales!

Manos des Cristo is our Presbyterian mission helping the working poor in Austin. You can support this important mission and enjoy wonderful homemade tamales by ordering now! **A table will be set up in the narthex each Sunday from November 15 to December 6** to place your order or you can come by the church office during the week. The last day to place your order is Sunday December 6.

Tamales are available in pork, bean, jalapeño pork, and chicken, and are **\$10 per dozen. Tamales must be picked up on Friday, Dec. 11, between 12 noon and 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Thank you!
Sharon McGraw, Tamale Sale Coordinator

Thank You from Lois McGarity

Dear Members of Westminster Church,

Thank you so much for your prayers and cards, and for the visits from Rev. Clark and Kathy. I am much better and look forward to returning to church.

Sincerely,
Lois McGarity

Congregational Meeting

The Westminster Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 15 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee, electing church officers, and electing new members to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee.

From Previous Connections



Minter Alternative Christmas Gift Market

returns for the 16th year!

Sunday, November 22

When: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon - 2 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

What it is:

A chance to browse booths staffed with representatives from local

and global "giving opportunities",

enjoy Fair Trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate ... and some muffins (savory and sweet).

Choose a gift that will benefit a favorite cause

and honor friends, loved ones, teachers, and co-workers.

A Stewardship Message from the Session

As we thank God for all that has been given to us, we also need to be preparing for all that God is calling us to live into for the coming year. It is our hope and prayer that we will continue to strongly support our mission in 2010 and we will be able to:

Connect with God through giving with gratitude as the Lord has given to us.

Connect with each other through adequately funded programs and ministries and a well maintained campus.

Connect with the world through strong support of mission in Austin and around the world.

Pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure will be dedicated during worship this Sunday, November 8. Please bring your 2010 pledge cards and Time and Talent forms with you.

28th International Holiday Market

Genesis Presbyterian Church

1507 Wilshire Blvd., Austin TX 78722

Friday, November 13, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Worship

Sunday, November 8

Stewardship Sunday

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. K.C. Ptomey

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Bill Clark, Robert Quiring

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Psalm 103, Exodus 35:4-9, 20-24,; 36:2-7

Those **Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:**

After Church Elders: Kim Edwards, Carolyn Long, Jim Lockart

Greeters: South Door, Claire Breihan and Liz Jones; North Door, Red Olander and Annie Clark

Cookie Hosts: Robert Lewis and Margie Johnson

Acolytes: Elenor Griffith, Kim Griffith, Balie Griffith

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Mary Moody

Sunday, November 15

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6a; Psalm 24; John 11:32-44

Those **Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:**

After Church Elders: Linda Tyler, David Rose, Bob Schriber

Greeters: South Door, Ehrlich family; North Door, Kathy and Kathryn Taylor

Cookie Hosts: Ehrlich family

Acolytes: Phillip Doughtie, Wynn Doughtie, Sam Pollard

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Frank Baker

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 **November 8 – Dr. Jennifer Lord** *Preparing a Sermon: What's Involved*

November 15 – Dr. Jennifer Lord *Worship & Mission: Inside Out*

Bible Study – Room 9 **November 8 – Acts 11:19 – 12:25** (The Succession of the Twelve)
November 15 – Acts 13:1-52 (Paul's Mission to the Nations)

Thoughtful Christian – Library **Meet with the Forum Class to hear Dr. Jennifer Lord.**

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.

No classes will meet on November 22. Join us for the Minter Alternative Christmas Gift Market!

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.

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.

Nov 8 – Nov 22 **Amos**
Nov 29-Dec 20 **Advent**

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

Nov 8 - Fellowship at the Annex (*We will split the groups tonight*)

Nov 15 - making college care boxes

Nov 22nd - Fellowship TBA
Nov 29th – No Fellowship – still recovering from too much Turkey
Dec 6th – All Church Greening of the Sanctuary

Youth Mid-winters 2010 - put these on the calendar - [Karen has registration forms.](#)

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

Theology on Tap – Thursday, December 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!

Adventures meets Tuesday, December 8 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall

The GBATTs are coming! Join us for our Christmas gathering as we enjoy the voices of folks who are Getting Better All The Time (GBATTs)!

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch – a pot luck dish to share.

Bring a friend.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, December 6 – 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).