

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

November 22 – December 6, 2009

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Weekly Word

Dear WPC saints,

Perhaps more than any other time of the year, we celebrate the bounty of the harvest at Thanksgiving. While Thanksgiving is not a Christian holiday, the way we, as Christians, celebrate reflects our faith commitments. Our celebrations can extend the love and fellowship of Christ beyond our own dining room tables.

We can practice our faith at the table by choosing foods and ingredients that honor the people who produced them as well as God's creation. We can engage in Christian hospitality by welcoming strangers and providing for those in need. Simplifying our lives and being mindful of the spirit of "thanksgiving" by taking time to relax, pray, play and spend time with those we love returns the focus to God's blessings. In a spirit of celebration for the breadth of God's goodness, here are several ideas to help your season of Thanksgiving be one of giving thanks (for a full description of each idea, and for more information, visit www.pcusa.org/justliving, and click on Seasons and Celebrations):

Keep it local: Support food sovereignty, the ability of communities to produce food for themselves, by purchasing local foods. Cherish the beauty and blessings of food grown locally by incorporating them into Thanksgiving meals. Local foods, like those from farmer's markets, require less energy to transport to your Thanksgiving table and help minimize your environmental impact. Local foods are fresher and reflect seasonal flavors.

Buy organic: Care for the creation in preparing for the meal by selecting organic foods.

Buy fair trade: God calls us to do justice. This includes ensuring all people have what they need to live in the world. Fair trade products support justice by increasing tangible income for farmers and producers around the world. Fair trade certification requires certain environmental standards to be met as well. As you prepare for Thanksgiving, consider increasing the number of fair trade products you will use. **And, visit the Minter Alternative Christmas Gift Market this Sunday to do your Christmas shopping early...and to make a just difference in the world around us!**

Share the work: Celebrate with the gift of service by encouraging everyone to help with preparation. Decide together as a family how you want to celebrate Thanksgiving. What traditions are important to everyone? Which are essential to you and your family? Consider letting go of things that are not essential to make room for more family time! Avoid highly-processed foods and include as many whole foods, such as autumn fruits and vegetables, as possible. Cook from scratch as much as possible and make preparing the meal a fun activity for the whole family. If your family is one where one person tends to do most of the cooking, cleaning or other planning and preparation, consider giving that person a break this year and offer to help or share tasks among all involved!

Play together: Establish your own sense of holiday play! Take a walk or play outside (even if it is during halftime of a televised football game!) Give thanks to God by exploring the beauty of creation. Spend time outdoors by planning a walk around the neighborhood, a farm or wooded area. Take time to explore God's world and learn about the creation around you.

Take it slow and savor the meal: Enjoy some "slow food." Enjoy each bite and encourage others to take it slow. Let your palate discern the flavors of the ingredients. Take time to share Thanksgiving memories and allow for each person to explain what he or she is thankful for. Savoring the meal honors all of the work that was put into preparing the meal as well.

Serve someone and share the wealth: Thanksgiving is known as a celebratory feast, and we hope that it will be for all people. Indeed, God's Word states that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. However, there will be those who are not able to partake in a Thanksgiving celebration. Perhaps they do not have the money or resources; perhaps they do not have a family or friends to visit; perhaps they do not have a home. Whatever the reason, we can work together to eliminate the causes of hunger. If we love others as our own selves, we need to strive to share our food and resources so that the hungry are fed. Taking the time to visit a local shelter or food bank can help develop a strong sense of service. If it is possible, take the time to serve a Thanksgiving

meal to others outside of your home. Food donations (**you can bring non-perishable food items to WPC to help the food pantry at Manos de Cristo**), meal preparation and delivery are all forms of ministry you can embrace. Invite new guests to your home and engage in a ministry of hospitality.

Stay home: God calls us to abundant life, but this does not mean a wasteful and exuberant life. Rather the call to abundance is one for all people. God’s vision is one in which every person has enough to live and thrive and creation is cared for. Door-buster deals may seem cheap, but they come at a cost. Not only do you have to get up during the wee hours of the morning, but so do all the employees of those stores. Simplify life and take the day off from shopping. You can plan family outings or activities. There will be plenty of time to shop later!

Pray and renew: In prayer we connect with God. We share our concerns, offer thanks, seek grace and listen for God’s call. Analyze your traditions surrounding prayers and blessings. How often do you pray? Is there one person who offers the prayer each year, or do multiple people offer prayers? Take time to talk about prayer with your friends and family. Invite others to write prayers and thanksgivings to share at the meal. Consider how your family prays, too. If one person traditionally offers the prayer, perhaps others can join in for communal prayer, or you can rotate the tradition from person-to-person year-to-year. There are a number of different prayers and ways to pray. Find the prayers that fit best with your celebration.

May your celebration of giving thanks be one of peace, love, and joy this season.

Grace and peace,
Kathy

Calendar

Nov 22 - Sun	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:30 AM- 10:30 AM	Minter Market	Fellowship Hall
	09:40 AM	Church School (No Adult Church School this morning)	
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00 PM - 02:00 PM	Minter Market	Fellowship Hall
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Group	Off-site
Nov 26 - Thu		Thanksgiving Day/CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	
Nov 27 - Fri		CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	
Nov 29 - Sun		First Sunday of Advent	
	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	Westminster
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Nov 30 - Mon	06:30 PM	Girl Scouts Mother Daughter Get-together	Fellowship Hall

Dec 1 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Dec 2 - Wed	12:00 PM	PW Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 - 09:00 PM	Officer Training	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Dec 3 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Dec 4 - Sat	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Scouts landscape workday	Grounds
	03:00 PM	Delta Kappa Gamma Christmas Tea	Fellowship Hall

Prayer Requests

Gail Morriss

Jack Prince

Emmett Wise (son of Matt Wise and Jenn Scollan)

John Griffis

Emory Thompson

Red Olander

Lois McGarity

Kathy Lockart

Marilyn Clary

Charmaine Denius

Nick Kramley upon the death of his mother (brother-in-law of Bill and Jill Clark)

Paula Sullivan (friend of Corrinne Bowers)

Gordon McGill (son-in-law of Frank and Charmaine Denius)

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

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 Capezuti (friend of LeaAnne Porter)

David Evans (friend of Mary and Ed Tyson)

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)

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)

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



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.

Can't make it to this market? Contact us!

We'll be your personal shopper!

wpc@wpcaustin.org



It's Time to Order Tamales Again!

Manos de Cristo's Annual Tamale Sale

Forget about those diets and order your holiday tamales **now!**

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. **You can also order tamales at the Minter Market this Sunday, November 22.**

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

Happy Thanksgiving from Your Church Staff!





Let us celebrate the gift of the Christ Child
By sharing our love for each other!

Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

We will also celebrate our blessings with the
Collection of the annual Thank Offering

Please contact Karen (459-5497)
by November 29 if you need childcare

Please contact Julie
(452-8027) for transportation

Greening of the Sanctuary and Pancake Supper

Everyone is invited to come to the church on Dec. 6, beginning at 4 p.m. to participate in the Greening of the Sanctuary. Come enjoy decorating the church for Advent by hanging the wreaths on the outside doors, hanging the swags in the narthex, hanging the wreaths in the sanctuary, and decorating the windows and swags, placing the crosses on the tree in the narthex and more! There will be jobs and activities for the entire family. Following the decorating and a brief service of worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a pancake supper prepared by the Westminster men. What a great way to begin the Advent season!

Stewardship Update: *Connecting to God, One Another and the World*

Thank you to all who have participated in this year's stewardship campaign. Over **129** members and member families have pledged **\$542,027** for the 2010 general fund. Together these members have increased their giving by 26%! They are grateful for the connections that God has provided at Westminster and for the opportunities that we have to be God's people in this place. They are also supportive of our plan to include the debt service of the new Fellowship Hall in our 2010 budget and to provide strong support for mission inside and outside the walls of our church.

We are well on our way to reaching our \$756,000 pledge goal, but we obviously need full participation by Westminster members and friends to reach that goal. 2010 pledge cards and Time and Talent forms are available at the church. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to bring this information with you to worship on Sunday morning and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. You may also email this information to our church accountant, Jimmie Grossman, at wpcadmin@wpcaustin.org. It would be helpful to receive this information by *Sunday, November 29*.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Every year we have the opportunity to contribute toward furnishing our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas seasons. This year we have ordered red poinsettias that may be given in honor of friends or family or in memory of loved ones. A donation of \$12 per plant will cover the cost to the church. Donors will be recognized in the Christmas Eve order of worship.

Please print out the order form below and turn it in to the WPC office along with your check made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church (memo "poinsettias") by December 6. Order forms will also be available in the narthex. In addition, you may contact the church office (459-5497) if you do not have the opportunity to pick up a form at a Sunday worship service or have problems printing out the form. The Worship Committee invites you to participate in this lovely tradition.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

(Please print legibly)

of poinsettias @ \$12 _____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Advent Devotional Guides – 2009

As we enter the season of Advent, we turn our sights to preparing for the coming of Christ, by both remembering his birth, and watching for that day when God's reign will be complete, and God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We do this in many ways, but none are as significant as reading Scripture, reflecting on God's Word, and prayer. This year, Westminster's Advent Devotional Guide will be a weekly one: with suggested Scripture readings for each day, a meditation on which you may reflect for the week, a prayer for the week, and words for a service of lighting Advent candles if you have an Advent Wreath at home. **Each week, you will receive each the devotional guide via-email, either the Thursday or the Friday prior to the upcoming week. If you do not have e-mail, you will receive hard copies with the issue of *Connections* that is mailed to your home.** It is our prayer that these offerings will aid you in your prayers, and in your preparation for the gift that will be given to us yet again this Christmas, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Copies of Advent Reflections from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary community are available in the narthex at church.

From the Admin/Finance Committee

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Revenues \$574,503

Expenses 536,703

Net income \$37,800

Cash on hand – Operating Fund \$64,556

Fellowship Hall Debt \$1,200,000

Austin Area Interreligious Ministries Thanksgiving Celebration – Sunday, November 22

The AAIM Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration is just a few days away from celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

This year's service will take place at **First Baptist Church** (downtown at 901 Trinity St.) on **Sunday, November 22, at 3:30 pm**. A reception will follow at 5:00 pm. Parking is available on the street (free), at St. David's Episcopal Church at 8th & Brazos (\$2), and in the LAZ Parking lots on 7th & Trinity and 9th & Red River (\$2).

Please join us as we celebrate the theme of **Courage**.

Courage, in the words of Winston Churchill, "is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." In light of recent events, we are truly called upon to be courageous – to speak, to listen, to share our traditions, and to offer compassion and support.

Manos de Cristo Needs Clothes

The Manos Clothes closet has an extreme need for **children and men's clothing!** As you clean your closets to prepare for the holidays, remember the Manos Clothes Closet. The need at Manos continues to grow, as we are seeing more and more people each day. Please consider making donations to Manos de Cristo.

Sign up for Flowers in Worship

The 2009 Flower Calendar is up in the church office waiting for you to sign up for a special Sunday to furnish flowers for worship. Many people give flowers in thanksgiving for blessings received, in honor of a loved one, in celebration of an event, or in memory of a saint who was dear to them. Whatever your reason is the flowers which you give to the church not only enhance our worship space but also are delivered to Westminster shut-ins on Sunday afternoons, a double blessing.

You may reserve your Sunday by calling the church office, 459-5497 or emailing wpc@wpcaustin.org or by contacting Amy Ehrlich at aehrich6@sbcglobal.net.

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 Landscaping Work Day Saturday morning December 5 from 9 AM 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. R.S.V.P. to the church office at 459-5497 or wpc@wpcaustin.org or just show up!

Worship

Sunday, November 22

Christ the King Sunday

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgists: Bill Clark & Robert Quiring

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-18; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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

After Church Elders: Liz Jones, Jack Prince, Corrinne Bowers

Greeters: South Door, Eleanor Luke and Susan Somerville; North Door, Wadene Harrison and Katie Burns

Cookie Hosts: Cristia Moore and Leslie Pettijohn

Acolytes: Abigail Cain, Roger Cain, Eliza Cain

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Scott Pass

Sunday, November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36

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

After Church Elders: Margie Johnson, Ann Scott, Debbie Mincher

Greeters: South Door, Debbie and Rick Mincher; North Door, Diane Frick and Hazel Herring

Cookie Hosts: Debbie Mincher and George and Alice Pryor

Acolytes: Annie Clark and Sam Clark

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Angela Oliver

Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.
the WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit

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

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

The Scandal of the Manger

Dr. Cindy Rigby

In preparation for the class, Cindy has asked that interested participants reflect on the *Magnificat* in Luke 1:46-55.

November 29: *The Shocking Truth About God*
December 6: *The Shocking Truth About Us*
December 13: *The Shocking News for all the World*

Bible Study & Thoughtful Christian Will meet with the Forum Class during Advent
(November 29 – December 20)

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.

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 22nd - Fellowship TBA
Nov 29th – No Fellowship – still recovering from too much Turkey
Dec 6th – All Church Greening of the Sanctuary @ 4pm

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.

* * * * *

Fellowship

Theology on Tap – Thursday, December 3 @ 7 p.m., Location TBA – watch your e-mails! 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).