

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

January 10 -- 24, 2010

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Weekly Word

Dear WPC saints,

I hope all of you had a joyful and restful Christmas season! Like many of your families, the extended Anderson family gathered on Christmas Day to exchange gifts and to spend time together. One of the children received a neat gift: A solar system projector that allows one to project images of the different planets on the wall or ceiling (up to 30 ft. away!). As you turn the lens, a different planet shows up on the wall. Then, a voice that sounds something like a cross between the Star Trek announcer and a Space Odyssey and NASA Central Command would speak a fact about that particular planet (e.g., its diameter, how many moons it has, what the force of gravity is like compared to Earth, etc.). After the fact is given, the voice says, "Press a but-ton," which is what you have to do to get the next fact. "Press a but-ton." I cannot tell you how many times over the course of the weekend I heard, "Press a but-ton." And, when something would go awry, when the projector got confused or stuck or needed to be re-set, we would hear, "Press a but-ton." "Press a but-ton." "Press a but-ton." "Press a but-ton." "Press a but-ton." "Press a but-ton."

I realized something. **In how many situations or things in our lives do we either expect to be able to (or wish we could) "press a but-ton" to solve the problem or remedy the situation?** Want coffee? *Press a button.* Need money from the ATM? *Press a button.* Want to order something on-line? *Press a button.* Want to cook something? *Press a button.* Tired of talking with someone? You don't like what they say? Don't want to be their friend anymore? *Press a button.* You get the picture. When we want the next thing to happen, we expect to be able to press a button and have it happen right then!

But friends, as you know, a whole and complete life (and the life of faith) does not work like that. While pressing buttons sometimes makes our lives easier, or makes connections quicker, we cannot rely on that to create genuine community or to do worthwhile ministry. Time must be spent planting seeds, and waiting for them to grow and flourish. Our forbears knew this well: corn, cotton, livestock, and gardens did not happen by pressing buttons. Time, patience, attention, hard work, prayer, hope, grace, a little good fortune (or providence), waiting, trusting in the Lord, and more patience went in to seeing a full and bountiful harvest.

On Sunday, we will ordain and install Westminster's newest officers (elders and deacons). Along with the currently serving officers, they will be asked to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. They will be asked:

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? They won't be able to serve in this way by pressing a button. In fact, I am reminded of what former Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Stated Clerk Jim

Andrews once said: "The way you exercise leadership in the church is through long hours of toil, the running of risks, and the doing of menial chores."

So, please be in prayer for these individuals as they seek to lead us and to serve with us. And, be mindful of those situations in your own lives – even as you go on pressing buttons – that call for time, patience, attention, hard work, prayer, hope, grace, a little good fortune (or providence), waiting, and trusting in the Lord.

Having said that, I now will press a button and send this to Rosemary in the church office, who will, in turn, press a button and send it to you!

See you Sunday, if not before.

Grace and peace,
Kathy

Calendar

Jan 10 - 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
	05:30 PM	Blessing of Confirmands	Sanctuary
Jan 11 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Fellowship Hall
	05:45 PM	Fellowship Committee	Fellowship Hall
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Fellowship Hall
Jan 12 - Tue	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
	07:00 PM	Committee Chair Meeting	Library
Jan 13 - Wed	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPDS Parenting Workshop	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jan 14 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Jan 17 - Sun		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	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

Jan 18 - Mon		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	05:30 PM	Human Resources Committee	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Mission Committee	Library
Jan 19 - Tue		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	05:30 PM	Admin/Finance Committee	Library
Jan 20 - Wed		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jan 21 - Thu		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Jan 22 - Fri		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
Jan 23 - Sat		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall

Ordination and Installation and Renewal of Baptismal Vows this Sunday, Jan. 10

This Sunday, Westminster members will have the opportunity to renew their baptismal vows during the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship as we remember the baptism of Jesus and begin the new year.

We will also be ordaining and installing elders and deacons during the 11:00 a.m. service. Elders who will be ordained are: Abby Cain, Mike Cook, Jean Davis, Lesley Fields, Trey Fyfe, Sadie Pass, and Lea Anne Porter.

Deacons to be ordained include: Terry Allbright; Phillip Doughtie, Wynn Doughtie; Dotti Sizer, Steve Thomas, Walter Torres, and Mary Tyson. Previously ordained elder, Paul Stubbs will also be installed as an elder. Previously installed deacons, Shawn Harrison and Scott Pass. Ann Humphreys will also be ordained as an elder at a later date.

Thank You for your Faithful Service

As we ordain and install a new class of elders and deacons we also give thanks to those officers who have faithfully served the Lord and this congregation and are rotating off the session and the diaconate. Elders include: Margie Johnson, Bob Schriber, Cindy Sullivan, Linda Tyler and David Vanden Bout. Deacons include: Catherine Colvin, Chris Clark, Adelaide Ehrlich, Robert Ehrlich, Jack Kidd, Mary Moody, and Brian Moore.

Update on Christmas Party at Austin State School

Thanks to all Westminster saints who bought and wrapped gifts for the Christmas Party for residents at the Austin State School. Thanks also to those who volunteered to provide food for the party, and for those who attended the party at the school on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. As we do each year, WPC hosted two parties, one for the men of Home 797, and one for the women of Home 796. Members of Westminster provided our friends at the State School with some great food and drink for the party, and 28 beautifully wrapped presents. The food was a big hit, and the gifts were very much appreciated by our friends. For many of our neighbors at the State School (now known as the Austin State Supported Living Center), this is the only Christmas they have each year. For the third year in a row, the members of Girl Scout Troop 567 helped to sort and wrap presents, then attended the party to serve as hosts. Additionally, several Westminster families helped to serve the food and pass out presents. What a great way to give and receive the Christmas spirit to and from our friends at the state school!

Easter Vigil Planners and Participants Needed!

It may be difficult to believe, but Christmas may be over, but Easter is on the way! Plans are now being made for this year's Great Vigil of Easter, the service that is held on Saturday night of Holy Week (aka: the service with the fire!).

If you would like to participate in the service – in whatever way – please let Kathy know. There are many ways to help and to be involved. All ages and stages of folks are needed and welcomed! Also, if you wish to help *plan* the service (a little more involvement between now and Easter), let Kathy know that as well. An organizational meeting will happen sometime in the next few weeks.

Manos de Cristo is Grant Finalist! – VOTE to help them receive grant money

Manos de Cristo has been chosen as a finalist for Tom's of Maine *Dental Health for All* Project Sponsorship. As a finalist, they have the chance to get a **\$20,000 grant** to provide dental treatment to low-income individuals.

Manos can get this grant with your help. Of the 16 finalists, the 5 organizations that receive the most online votes will receive a \$20,000 grant. Voting is simple and takes only one click and 15 seconds-- no registration is needed!

Voting began January 5, so **vote now** and **vote often**. You can vote once every day until voting closes at 11 p.m. on March 12th. Bookmark the website (below), vote as much as you can, and spread the word to help Manos provide dental care for low-income individuals who lack resources to meet their essential oral healthcare needs.

Vote Here: <http://www.tomsomaine.com/community-involvement/dental-clinic-vote.aspx?proposal=30>

Thank you for voting and spreading the word!

Thank You Notes from Two Christmas Benevolence Recipients

Westminster,

Gracias por las Cartas de HEB.

Felis Navidad,

Luz y Familia Collazo 2009

A La Iglesia Westminster,

Gracias por La Cartas de HEB para mi familia.

Feliz Navidad y que dios los Bendiga de la Familia Alvarado

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

Thank you to all who have participated in this year's stewardship campaign. Over **161** members and member families have pledged **\$638,450** for the 2010 general fund. Together these members have increased their giving by 24%! 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. **Prompt return of this information greatly assists us in our planning for 2010.**

Summer Employment Opportunities at Mo Ranch

Mo Ranch is now accepting applications for young adult summer staff. Excellent, free accommodations, a variety of jobs, and a superb spirituality program await young adults. Prospective applicants please go to www.moranch.com and click on **Jobs at Mo**. Then click on **Summer Staff** and download a general employment application. Send questions to vanessap@moranch.com, or call 1-8---460-4401, ext. 273.

Westminster to Host Doane College Choir

As a part of its "Southern Tour", the 48-member Doane College Choir will perform in the Westminster sanctuary on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. Under the direction of Dr. Kurt Runnestad, the choir will be singing various, classical, sacred, and spiritual pieces. Founded in 1872 as Nebraska's first liberal arts and sciences college in Crete, Nebraska, Doane College is home to 1200 students. Dr. Runnestad is a graduate of St. Olaf College, and received his Master's of Arts in Choral Conducting and his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa. He is also a good friend of Westminster's organist, Dr. Byron Almén.

Church Members May Apply for 2010-2011 Day School Classes

Westminster Presbyterian Day School, a cooperative preschool for children ages 1 – 4/5 years and a mission of WPC Church, is beginning its registration for the 2010-11 school year. Church members receive priority in placement if their application is in the Day School office by January 30. Applications are available in the narthex or at the school website, www.wpdsaustin.org.

On January 24, Ali Kamas, the WPDS Chair, will give an annual Day School report during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

If you have previously applied and your application is on file, it is not necessary to reapply. If you are presently enrolled in the School, you will receive your application through your child's teacher. Please call Kitt Richter, Director, at the Day School office (459-5497) if you have any questions.

Because of the Day School's excellent reputation among preschools in Austin, Church members are encouraged to call the office anytime after the birth of their child and ask for an application or visit the school website at www.wpdsaustin.org.

We look forward to serving you.

Manos de Cristo 2010 Gala: *All You Need is Love* -- February 12, 2010

Manos de Cristo's 2010 *All You Need is Love Gala* will be held at the Hyatt in downtown Austin on Feb. 12, and tickets are available now! Each year, this event brings together hundreds of individuals and community leaders in support and celebration of Manos for a fabulous three-course dinner, an exciting live auction, dancing, and live music from the crowd-pleasing band, The Pictures.

Join Manos for the Gala and be part of an organization that has been caring for Austin for over 20 years. This event is also a wonderful opportunity to make special Valentines plans without having to worry about the crowds. All funds raised at this event will support Manos de Cristo and its programs.

Tickets to the Gala are \$100. Call 477-7454, x107 or email development@manosdecristo.org to enquire about sponsorship opportunities. Help us make this Gala our most successful ever!

New Books in Church Library

Buddhism for Mothers has been given to the church library by Amy Rose. It is "a calm approach to caring for yourself and your children" and "A truly 'mothering' book for mothers...." You'll find it at 649.1/Nap. The Violence of Globalization, given by Mary Jansen, explains the basic nature of globalization. Its call number is 306.2/Gal.

Also new in the library are several resource books given by Kathy Anderson. Among them are *Easter Sourcebook* and Advent Sourcebook. Also, take note of the books on display in Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation Class 2010

Confirmation Class 2010 begins with a service of blessing on January 10th. Eleven 8th graders will begin their journey surrounded by family and friends. Over the next 16 weeks these young people will be exploring and learning more about their faith. They will be accompanied on their journey by covenant partners. The

covenant partners will study and work alongside the confirmands as they explore together what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they begin this journey: Jessica Johnston, Justina Lange, Adam Litch, Cian O'Reilly, John Pass, Michelle Ross, Todd Schriber, Grace Scoggins, Ben Slaughter, Hayden Steckel, and Madison Tyson.

Mission Presbytery 2010 MidWinters

Several Westminster youth will be going to Mo Ranch in the coming weeks to participate in Mission Presbytery's MidWinter Youth retreats. The Middle Schoolers will go Jan 15-17 and the High Schoolers will go Jan 22-24. The theme this year is take from James 1:19-27, "Just Do It!" We will be exploring how to be doers and not just hearers of the word.

From Previous Connections

Sign up for Flowers in Worship

The 2010 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.

Library Display and Check-out in Fellowship Hall

The church library now has a display and check-out table in the southeast "corner" of Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to check out books on display, signing your name on the card in the pocket on the inside back cover of the book and leaving the card in the basket on the table. Books may be returned to this basket as well.

Christmas Benevolence Funds

Throughout Advent, Westminster will again be providing blessings directly to people in need. If you know someone who needs assistance, please sign up in the church office for the Christmas Benevolence Program. The church will reimburse members up to \$300 in expenses for such things as food, clothing, payment for utility bills, car repairs, rent, etc., for those in need who do not qualify for public assistance. Once the monies have been spent, receipts can be turned in to the church office for reimbursement. Be sure to tell recipients that the help is from Westminster in gratefulness for God's blessings. Call the church accountant for more information, 459-5497.

Worship

Sunday, January 10

Baptism of the Lord

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

After Church Elders: Ann Scott, Bob Schriber, Grover Campbell

Greeters: South Door, Stan and Cynthia Shaw; North Door, Laura and Scott Slaughter

Cookie Hosts: Kathy Taylor and Kathy Lockart

Acolytes: Justina Lange, Ada Barbee, Read Barbee

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Suzy Fields

Sunday, January 17

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10; John 2:1-11

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

After Church Elders: Corrinne Bowers, Cindy Sullivan, Todd Davidson

Greeters: South Door, Ann Scott and Katie Burns; North Door, Linda Tyler and Lis Wise

Cookie Hosts: Julie Schriber and Marian Robertson

Acolytes: Jessica Johnston, Chris Hoeffner-Ross, Jonas Tatu

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

January 10 Steve Bowers

Steve will lead us in a discussion of the provisions of the recently issued “Manhattan Declaration” which call for civil disobedience in response to religious coercion and in defense of religious freedom.

January 17 Max Sherman

January 24 Max Sherman

January 31 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series

February 7 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series

February 14 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series

Bible Study – Room 9

Interested in reading and studying the Bible? No prior knowledge is needed, just your willingness to read the Bible and reflect on it with others! Join us!

January 10: Acts 14:27 – 15:2

January 17 Acts 15:13-35

January 24 Acts 15:6 - 16:10

January 31 Acts 16:11-40

February 7 Acts 17:1-15

February 14 Acts 17:16-34

MYConnection Class – Room 10

January 10 Alice Lottes leads a discussion on new research concerning children and trends in parenting, including excerpts from the new book, ***Nurture Shock***.

January 17 Wills, legal documents and important papers everyone needs to have in order! Bring your questions!

January 24 Jean Davis will lead a discussion on new research concerning children and trends in parenting, including excerpts from the new book, ***Nurture Shock***.

January 31 Alice Lottes returns to conclude the discussion on ***Nurture Shock***.

Coming in February! Discussion about ***The Life of Prayer***, led by **Allan Cole**.

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.

Jan 3-Jan 17 Micah

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

Fellowship will NOT meet on January 10th

Jan 10th 5:30 - Confirmation Class Service of Blessings

Youth Mid-winters 2010

January 15-17 Midwinter #1 Middle School

January 22-24 Midwinter #2 Senior High

High School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 20th – June 26th – To Texas City for Hurricane Clean up with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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, January 14

7 p.m. @ **Opal Divine's, 700 West 6th Street**

(This is a week later than usual. We'll all be recovering from Christmas and New Year's festivities; and honestly, Texas vs. Alabama is on January 7!)

Topic: *Michael Clayton* (starring George Clooney)

Thursday – February 4

7 p.m. @ **Opal Divine's, 700 West 6th Street**

Topic: *Gran Torino* (starring Clint Eastwood)

If you have a chance to watch the movies ahead of time, please do...but if you can't, don't stay away; there will be plenty to talk about.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! **Opal Divine's is on West Sixth Street across from Katz's Deli. This is a great place; we have the upstairs room all to ourselves!**

Here's a link to the website if anyone wants to preview the menu:

<http://www.opaldivines.com/freehouse/index.html>

There is a parking lot in the back and lots of street parking as well within a block or two that is generally free. Suggestion: Why not meet at the church parking lot and carpool with others? Talk it up; ask around; the less vehicles we have to park the easier it will be.

Adventures meets **Tuesday, February 2 @ 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, February 7 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **February 7.** 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).