

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

January 24 – February 7, 2010

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Weekly Word

James 1:19-27

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that

is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Dear Fellow Followers of the Way:

January brings Mission Presbytery's youth Mid Winter Conferences at Mo Ranch. This year's theme "The Word: It's What You Do" is based on James 1:19-27. Last weekend Robert Quiring and I got to accompany several of our middle school youth and this week Robert and Lesley Fields will take some of our high school youth.

As I have been preparing to keynote the high school weekend, the words of James have been ringing in my soul. Be quick to listen and slow to speak. Words that I think we all need. How many conversations do you have in the course of a day that you actually stop and listen? That you set yourself aside and don't have a prepared response before the other has finished speaking?

When we listen, truly listen to another, we honor them with our full attention and presence. It is not just their words that we hear, but we pick up on non-verbal messages. We hear all the things they are not saying. However, this is not a skill that comes easily, we have to work at it.

The second part of the passage speaks to being doers not hearers of the word. How do we put our faith into action. The concept of works is what has made the book of James questioned. Martin Luther did not think the book belonged in the Bible, that it talked about doing good things instead of having faith, but James speaks to works stemming out of faith. Our deeds, according to James, are our faith lived out. It is what keeps us from being in the Christian secret service. Those who show up on Sunday and then go undercover the rest of the week.

To live out our faith in daily life is to put our faith into action. These don't have to be heroic size actions. It is as simple as praying for others, sharing your faith, helping those who need it, or listening to people. These actions stem from our love of God and cause us to share that love with others.

The last part of the passage talks about true religion. For James, true religion is about caring for widows and orphans, those who are most vulnerable in society. Who are the people around us who are the most vulnerable? It may look different. It may be someone you work with who is struggling with a problem and needs someone to listen to them. It might be someone who has lost a job or who has lost their way.

How do you live out your faith? Do your actions show your faith? We are called to be in community with others, to be involved in others lives. May we all work toward being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger and to find ways to live out our faith through the things we do.

Grace, mercy and peace,
Karen

Calendar

Jan 24 - Sun		Interfaith Hospitality Network Departure	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
	04:00 PM	Easter Vigil Planning Meeting	Library/Sanctuary
Jan 26 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study

	12:00 PM	WPDS Staff Meeting	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Session	Room 10
Jan 27 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jan 28 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	WPDS Kindergarten Forum	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Doane College Choir Concert	Sanctuary
Jan 31 - 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	Caring Friends Meeting	Fellowship Hall
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Feb 1 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	06:00 PM	Delta Kappa Gamma	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Feb 2 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12:00 PM	Adventures	Fellowship Hall
Feb 3 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Feb 4 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Feb 5 - Fri	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
	06:00 PM	WPDS Dinner and Auction	Fellowship Hall

Coffee for \$8 Per Pound and Other Tasty Bargains

The fair trade coffee sold at church is now only \$8 per pound! Locally roasted especially for Westminster by Joe Lozano of Third Coast Coffee are the following outstanding coffees: Guatemalan Huehuetenango Río Azul has a mellow aroma, snappy acidic taste, a rich body, and a semi-sweet chocolate flavor with subtle notes of fruit. Pangoa Peruvian has sweet undertones, hints of fruit and spice, medium body, dark and earthy. Ethiopian Harrar Sidamo and Yirgacheffe Oromia are intensely aromatic, balanced body with incredible fruit notes, bold yet smooth. The decaffeinated coffee is Pangoa Peruvian, water-processed in Mexico. The Equal Exchange Organic Sister's Blend drip grind coffee for \$8 per pound honors women around the world. All coffees are fair trade, organic, and available in whole bean or drip grind. The air-tight 4-ounce packages of whole bean are only \$2 each. The popular cocoa mix is still \$6 per can. The Chai, English Breakfast, Earl Grey, and Green fair trade organic teas are still only \$4 per box. For questions, comments, special orders, or requests, please contact Adrienne Inglis at 320-0613. Thanks for your support of a healthy sustainable economy for farmers worldwide.

Thank You Notes from Christmas Benevolence Recipients

Dear Westminster,

Thank you for supporting me, personally, with your benevolent gift. I feel safe knowing my homeowners dues are paid for two months.

My prayer is, and I know, God rewards your generosity and compassion tenfold. I am fortunate to live in a neighborhood with Pat Zombola and her mother, Doris Etheridge. Their loving vibrations bless all of us here.

Yours in Christ,
Floy Kelly

Hi Jim and Sharon (Raab/Albrecht) - Mo came by this weekend with a card from the two of you. We were so touched by your kind words and thoughtfulness. It means so much that you reached out to us during this difficult time.

We were also extremely humbled by the generosity (materially and spiritually) of your congregation. I cannot begin to express how it feels to be on the receiving end of such kindness from people. It is even more astonishing when it comes from people you have never even met.

On the one hand, I pray that none of you ever are in a position to need the kind of outpouring of love and support that we have received. On the other hand, I wish that you could feel it every day of your lives. It's a very powerful, very humbling, and very overwhelming sensation. We find ourselves asking what we have ever done to deserve such kindness.

Please extend our deepest gratitude to your congregation. Their selfless generosity has lessened our pain. Their compassion has given us the strength that we need to get through the next steps. If there is one more thing that we can ask of them, it is this: please check your smoke detectors. It is without a doubt the thing that saved our lives. If we had been in our home for 5 more minutes, this sad story would have had a truly tragic ending.

Love to all,

Vicki and Jack Newton (and Aly and Emmett too)

Lifetime Learning Institute Offers Spring Classes

Do you seek new ideas, experiences of acquaintances? If you are age 50 or older, check out the 63 courses Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) offers for its Spring 2010 term. Whether it's exercise, needlework, finance, line dancing, foreign languages, Egypt or America's religions that's of interest, you should find at least one course to enjoy. Cost is \$20 per course.

The daytime classes meet once each week, Monday – Friday, for six or eight weeks, February 15 – April 16, at various locations in Austin. Registration is now underway. Check LLI's website: www.lliaustin.org or call LLI's office, 206-4232.

Two of the spring classes will meet at Westminster. *Great Decisions 2010 Discussion Group* will meet Wednesdays from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in Room 10. *Jane Austen on the Page and on the Screen* will meet in Room 10 on Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

The Westminster session hopes to finalize the congregation's budget for 2010 on Tuesday, January 26. *We have made significant progress toward our goal, but still need to hear from Westminster families and individuals who have not pledged for the year. Your participation is vital to helping us reach the goal for the 2010 proposed budget and fully funding Christ's ministry at Westminster for the year.*

If you have not yet returned a pledge card, please do so by *this Sunday, January 24*. You may also call the church office with your pledge information, or send it by email to our church accountant, Jimmie Grossman, at wpcadmin@wpcaustin.org.

Thanks to all of you who have made a pledge to the 2010 *Connecting to God, One Another, and the World* campaign. To date we have 171 pledges for \$676,654. You have stepped forward in faith, generously increasing your giving by 24% for this year!

The 2010 budget calls for a significant increase in pledges to \$755,000. This increase provides for:

- debt service on our new building totaling \$85,000
- funding the additional expenses associated with our new facility
- a 20% increase in mission budget

- a 2% raise in pay and benefits for our staff
- partial replenishment of our reserves

Obviously, full participation by the congregation is essential for a successful campaign. If we are unable to come near our goal the session will be faced with the difficult decision of reducing our budget--possibly drastically cutting our mission giving and/or reducing staff.

Thank you again to those who have already made generous pledges, and thanks to those of you who are prayerfully considering your pledge to the campaign.

Presbyterians Respond to the Earthquake in Haiti

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) coordinating efforts with our ecumenical and international partners in the relief work in Haiti. Carlos Cardenas is on the ground in Port-au-Prince as part of the initial response team. The past few days' priorities have focused on search and rescue, medical attention for those injured by the earthquake, along with food distribution for the survivors.

Food and fuel supplies are limited and there is urgent need to bring in these most essential resources at this time. Fifteen sites have been identified for distribution of relief items. Distribution of food and clean water are a top priority. It is estimated that 200,000 families, nearly one million people, are without homes and living out in the open air. Temporary shelter is a focus for this next week. PDA and its partners are seeking to bring in 20,000 tents to Port-au-Prince in this next week. There are three to four thousand tents currently on site. Direct donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, [can be made online](#) or you may give through Westminster. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Haiti" in the memo.

Last Week to Apply for Fall 2010 Day School Classes

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, will end its registration for the 2010-11 school year at the end of this month. 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.

We look forward to serving you.

Presbyterian Women T-Shirt Sale



Starts Sunday January 24

Narthex

10:30 -11:00

12:00-12:30

Tee Shirt is Black 100% Organic cotton

We have your number!

Junior Size Baby Tee S-L

Ladies Tee S-XXXL

We have sizes you can try on.

From Previous *Connections*

***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.

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.tomsofmaine.com/community-involvement/dental-clinic-vote.aspx?proposal=30>

Thank you for voting and spreading the word!

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.

Easter Vigil Planners and Participants Needed!

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.

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!

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

Worship

Sunday, January 24

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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

After Church Elders: Jim Lockart, Corrinne Bowers, Kim Edwards

Greeters: South Door, Matt and Becca Scoggin; North Door, O. R. Schmidt and Connie Moore

Cookie Hosts: Matt and Becca Scoggin and Dot Wolfe

Acolytes: Hannah Dale, Kerby Dale, Will Ezell

After-Church Flower Deliverer:

Sunday, January 31

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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

After Church Elders: Grover Campbell, Kim Edwards, Carolyn Long

Greeters: South Door, Ann and Howard Humphreys; North Door, Mary Moody and Jim Cochran

Cookie Hosts: Dorothy Andrews and Kathy Cox

Acolytes: Walter Torres, Wiley Beale, Patrick Beale

After-Church Flower Deliverer:

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 24 Max Sherman *Civility, Dialogue, and the Church*

January 31 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series Chris Searles, speaking on *Christian*

Environmental Stewardship

February 7 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series Shana Norton, speaking on *Air Quality*

February 14 Peace, Justice, and Environment Series Alyssa Burgin, speaking on *The Texas Drought Project*

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 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 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 24-Feb 7 Healing Stories
Feb 14-March 7 Esther

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.

Fellowship
Jan 24th – No High School Fellowship

Middle School Movie Night in Fellowship Hall
Jan 31st – Youth Fellowship @ the Annex

Save the Date

Youth Mid-winters 2010

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.

Still working on dates for Middle School to Hugo – mid July is most likely

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

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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).