

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

June 13 - 27, 2010

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Weekly Word

Dear Westminster Saints,

During these summer months, Kathy and I will be preaching a series of sermons on the parables of Jesus. The parable that we read on Sunday morning in worship will be the same parable the children are learning in their church school class that day. Together we will be considering things like tiny mustard seeds, a lone lost sheep, a prodigal son (and prodigal father for that matter!), a very good Samaritan, and a lavish wedding banquet.

The gospels tell us that Jesus often spoke to the crowds in the form of parables. Of course, Jesus wasn't the only rabbi in those days who used parables. Others did as well. In fact, we see traces of Jesus' teaching in the parables of other rabbis who were his contemporaries.

So why did Jesus and his contemporaries teach in the form of parables? Some would simply answer, "To make a point." Jesus wanted to drive home a particular point, so he wrapped it in the form of a parable. There is some truth to that, but I think that there is more to a parable than a single point. When Jesus spoke in the

form of a parable, he was creating a place for his listeners where they could encounter and be encountered by the ways of God's grace and judgment.

These parables usually include images and experiences from daily living--a sower sowing seed, a man with two sons, a stranger in need of help. While the images of the parables are drawn from ordinary, everyday life, the parables carry a surprise, some of them quite shocking: a sower who scatters his seed *everywhere*; a father who throws a party for a son who has blown have the family inheritance; a man in a ditch who receives aid from a despised Samaritan; a sumptuous wedding banquet where all the guests reject the invitation. Welcome to the strange new world of Jesus' parables!

I invite you to enter this world during the summer. Check out the scripture reference listed in the worship section in *Connections* and read the parable in advance. I look forward to reading and hearing them with you. May we encounter and be encountered by the surprising, grace-filled kingdom of God in the process. Let everyone with ears to hear, hear.

Faithfully,

Bill

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Calendar

Jun 13 - Sun	08:30 AM	<u>Worship / Communion</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	09:40 AM	<u>Church School (for all ages)</u>	
	10:40 AM	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
	11:00 AM	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	05:30 PM	<u>Hymn Sing & Supper</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
Jun 14 - Mon	05:45 PM	<u>Fellowship Committee</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
	05:45 PM	<u>Diaconate</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
	05:45 PM	<u>Congregational Care Committee</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
Jun 15 - Tue	10:00 AM	<u>Staff Meeting</u>	<u>Pastor's Study</u>
	05:30 PM	<u>Admin/Finance Committee</u>	<u>Library</u>
Jun 16 - Wed	07:00 PM	<u>Adult Choir</u>	<u>Choir Room</u>
	07:00 PM	<u>"Connections" meeting</u>	<u>Library</u>
Jun 17 - Thu	12:15 PM	<u>Mid-day Prayers</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	06:30 PM	<u>WPC Book Group</u>	<u>Offsite</u>
Jun 18 - Fri		<u>Mission Presbytery</u>	
Jun 19 - Sat		<u>Mission Presbytery</u>	
Jun 20 - Sun		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip Departure</u>	
	08:30 AM	<u>Worship / Communion</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	09:40 AM	<u>Church School (for all ages)</u>	
	10:40 AM	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
	11:00 AM	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	04:00 PM	<u>Mission Committee</u>	<u>Library</u>
Jun 21 - Mon		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip</u>	
	05:45 PM	<u>Human Resources Committee</u>	<u>Pastor's Study</u>
Jun 22 - Tue		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip</u>	
		<u>Middle School Mission Trip</u>	
	10:00 AM	<u>Staff Meeting</u>	<u>Pastor's Study</u>
	07:00 PM	<u>Session</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>

Jun 23 - Wed		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip</u>	
		<u>Middle School Mission Trip</u>	
	07:00 PM	<u>Adult Choir</u>	Choir Room
Jun 24 - Thu		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip</u>	
		<u>Middle School Mission Trip</u>	
	12:15 PM	<u>Mid-day Prayers</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
Jun 25 - Fri		<u>Sr. Hi Mission Trip Returns</u>	
		<u>Middle School Mission Trip</u>	
June 26 - Sat	10:00 AM	WPC Crafting Bee	Offsite

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Old Fashioned Hymn Sing – Sunday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Join us for another rousing hymn sing as we begin our summer life together as a church! We'll sing some of your good 'ol favorites, as well as some "newer" hymns. You won't want to miss it!

For our meal:

If your last name begins with **A – K**, please bring some **fried chicken** to share (or some version of chicken, if you don't want to go the friend route).

If your last name begins with **L – Z**, please bring a **side dish or dessert**.

Or, if you refuse to be categorized, just bring whatever you want!

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IHN -- A Great Opportunity

Now that we have our wonderful Fellowship Hall with bathing and laundry facilities, we are able to host Interfaith Hospitality Network families for a week. Many members of WPC have volunteered for the past few times when we have hosted these homeless families who are well on their way to self-sufficiency.

Our next opportunity will be July 18 - 25. Many have already signed up to help, but we still have need for more. Think about yourself or your family and see if you can participate. This is an excellent way to show our children and young people the joys and challenges of helping others who have hit rough times.

Our openings are the following:

MONDAY, JULY 19

- hosting with another family for the evening meal; maybe helping that family with food preparation

THURSDAY, JULY 22

- (preferably a male) spend the night and see everybody off the next morning

FRIDAY, JULY 23

- (preferably a male) spend the night and see everybody off the next morning

SATURDAY, JULY 24

- host from noon - 3 pm (hang around, help, play with kids, ...)
- host from 3 - 6 pm
- preparing evening dinner and hosting
- hosting with the cook, maybe even helping with food preparation

In addition, we need people to **set up** the bedrooms in Sunday School rooms and common areas in Fellowship Hall (Sunday, July 18; 2 pm - 3:30). The more, the faster it goes!

And, people to **take down** (Sunday, July 25; 7 am) Again, the more, the faster!

And, **most importantly: a driver** of the IHN van to pick up the trailer Sunday, July 18th, from the church where our guests will have been the previous week (probably 2:00 pm)

And **another or the same driver** to drive the van to the next church at about 8:00 am, July 25th

Please decide what you can do (okay to find friends to help you!) and let us know. Call Moneta Prince at 708-8293 or e-mail her at myongsook@aol.com.

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National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat

The Landscaping Subcommittee proudly announces the certification of the church grounds as NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat #127,545. Our new status demonstrates that our campus provides food, water, and cover for wildlife, as well as shelter to raise young. We have an owl house, a bluebird house, a bird feeder, two birdbaths, and a high percentage of native plants that provide natural habitat for many kinds of birds and other creatures of God. We have greatly reduced use of non-organic compounds and irrigation water. We use compost, mulch, and organic fertilizer to enrich the soil and protect plants from heat and weeds. Take a moment to enjoy the lesser goldfinches feeding on the zexmenia seeds north of the Fellowship Hall or the black swallowtail butterflies visiting the flowers and larval plants in our Resurrection Butterfly Garden.

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John Knox Ranch Seeking New Executive Director

Mission Presbytery is seeking a mature career professional committed to reside on and provide executive leadership for the development, ecological management, facilities, staff and programs at the John Knox Ranch, Fischer, Texas, where the mission statement is, *"To foster experiences of Christian community in God's creation."*

If you or someone you know wants to know more about this position, contact Rosemary in the Westminster church office, wpc@wpcAustin.org, or 459-5497. She will be happy to email you the Job Description with complete information about this position.

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Ladies Who Brunch

Hello Ladies of WPC!

This summer you are invited to join the Ladies Who Brunch, Saturday PW Circle. We will meet on the second Saturday each month this summer to nosh on a lovely brunch and discuss women in the New Testament and their encounters with Jesus. The study is derived from the book [Back to the Well](#) by Frances Taylor Gench. Brunch begins at 10:00 am in the library. Study begins at 10:30 am.

This Saturday we will discuss this encounter between the Samaritan woman and Jesus. Please read John 4:1-42 before you come.

Let Lesley Fields (lesley_fields@msn.com) know if you would like to join us this summer.

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From Previous Connections

New Westminster Directories

Our wonderful new pictorial directories have finally arrived and are ready for distribution. Thanks to Cynthia Shaw for her many hours overseeing the project; Eleanor Cochran for her grace in recruiting volunteers; Susan Cockburn for her creative hand in designing the photo layout; Carolyn Long for her leadership; Frank and Mary

Lea Baker for their editing assistance; and Rosemary Standerfer for her help and support. If you had your photo taken earlier in the year, or if you sent a photo to us, a directory with your name on it is available for you in on a table in the church library. If you did not have your photo taken, you may pick up a directory in the library as well. Please sign the list on the table to let us know you have received your directory. Limit one per family.

Westminster Crafting Bee – Summer schedule

The crafting bee will meet on the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. with the following schedule:

June 26, Amy's house

July 31, Annex

August 28, Amy's house

Everyone is welcome – come craft with us. Yarn, fabric and expertise is available! Let me know if you need a ride and I'll help you find one. Contact Amy Rose, 258-9288, or arose@austin.rr.com for more information.

Mark Your Calendars for September Mo Ranch Retreat!

September 10-12, 2010 (the weekend after Labor Day) ... another fun at the All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch!

Save the date!

Sunday, Sept. 26

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

HANDS ACROSS EXPOSITION!

Sponsored by:

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Tarrytown United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church**

5:00 pm: Begin at Good Shepherd
for games & snacks

5:45: Walk to Tarrytown Methodist
for games, performances, hot dogs, and more!

PC(USA) General Assembly to meet in Minneapolis – July 3-10

“Out of the believers heart shall flow rivers of living water.” – John 7:38

In July, the General Assembly will meet to deliberate and discuss matters that are of importance to the congregations and member of the [Presbyterian Church](#). Commissioners (elders and ministers) from all 173 presbyteries (regional gatherings of congregations, WPC is part of [Mission Presbytery](#)) gather to worship God and to make decisions for the overall life and ministry of the PC(USA).

For more information, see the GA website: <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219>.

If you want to know more about some of the issues facing the General Assembly, come to the Forum Class on Sunday morning, June 13. Miles White, the Stated Clerk of Mission Presbytery, will be here to share a preview with us.

Also, the [Presbyterian Outlook](#) is hosting 5 “webinars” that will explore one of the five key issues facing the General Assembly. Top experts on each topic will speak about the issue – pro and con – and then address your questions.

June 15 Overtures to Change or Retain Ordination Standards (Fidelity/Chastity)

Led by Tricia Dykers-Koenig (change) & Jerry Andrews (retain)

June 22 Christian Marriage – Civil Unions Report

Led by Jim Szeyller (pro) & Bill Teng (con)

June 29 Dialogue Papers: Jewish/Christian and Muslim/Christian

Led by Jay Rock, Charles Wiley & Joe Small

The one-hour Webinars will begin at 2 p.m. EST, 11 a.m. PST. The cost is \$9.95 per webinar, #34.95 for all five webinars. You'll need access to a telephone and an internet connection. Register by going to www.pres-outlook.org or call 1-800-446-6008.

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Worship

Sunday, June 13

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgist: Martha Richardson

Scripture: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Mark 4:30-34

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

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Carolyn Long, Ann Scott

Greeters: **South Door**, Debbie and Rick Mincher; **North Door**, Aoife O'Reilly and Marsha Hunt

Cookie Hosts: Bonnie O'Reilly and Marsha Hunt

Acolytes: Will Ezell, Wyatt Ezell, Chance Polan

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Molly Hatchell

Sunday, June 20

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Psalm 107:1-15; Luke 15:1-10

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

After Church Elders: Jack Prince, Trey Fyfe, Corrinne Bowers

Greeters: **South Door**, Frank Denius and Ann Humphreys; **North Door**, Terry Allbright and Mike Rush

Cookie Hosts: Kim Edwards and Amy and David Rose

Acolytes: Todd Schriber, Julia Schriber, Sam Pollard

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Dotti Sizer

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Adult Ministries

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

WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit the

Upcoming Classes

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

June 13 *General Assembly Preview*

Miles White, the Stated Clerk of Mission Presbytery, will be with us to offer a preview of what will be discussed at this year's General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He'll cover some of the "hot topics" that will be discussed, as well as some of the lesser-known issues that will be on the minds and hearts of Presbyterians this summer.

June 20 *The Amazing Faith of Westminster*

The annual summer favorite is back! We'll have several of these classes over the course of the summer, and each time, two WPC members will share a bit of their life story and faith journey with us.

June 27 *Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask But Never Had the Chance*

Have you ever had a question about church, God, or faith that you've always wanted to ask, but never had the opportunity? Or, is there something that you've always wondered about that you want to ask about? If so, come join us for an informal Q & A time with one of the pastors. You'll have the opportunity to write down your question, put it into a box, and have it chose to be talked about. Come one, come all! There are no bad, stupid, or wrong questions!

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!

June 13 Acts 26:1-32

June 20 Acts 27:1-44

June 27 Acts 28:1-31

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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.

Starting June 6th the preschoolers will meet together to find out if God has a favorite color?

Jonah and Great Fish	(Jonah 1:1-3:10) Blue
Lady with the Purple Cloth	(Acts 16:11-15) Purple
Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree	(Luke 19: 1-10) Green
Daniel and Lions Den	(Daniel 6:1-23) Yellow
A Bright Star	(Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12) Yellow
Samuel Hears a Voice at Night	(1 Samuel 3) Black
Miriam Helps Her Baby Brother	(Exodus 1 and 2) Brown
Three Men in a Fire	(Daniel 3: 8-29) Orange
Fish for Breakfast	(John 21:1-14) Orange
God Made a Promise to Noah	(Genesis 6:9-9:17) Rainbow

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 is on break for the summer. Thank you to all the parents who have faithfully supported this program. It wouldn't happen without your help and your willingness to volunteer as storytellers and doorkeepers.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13.

Mustard Seed
Parable Lost Sheep
Prodigal Son
Parable of Talents
Good Samaritan (Lectionary)
Widow and Unjust Judge
Wedding Banquet
2 Sons
Laborers in the Vineyard
3 Parables (Matt 13:44-50)

[VBS Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace](#)

WPC Vacation Bible School August 9-13
Registration is open online for children who have turned 4 by June 1 through 5th grade
Youth are needed as volunteers (volunteer registration is online as well)

Looking for help with crafts, science, music, and other areas. Let Karen know if you will be able to help.

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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.

Also once we know dates in early August we will look for times to help with Manos de Cristo back to school.

And of course we need as many youth as are around to help with VBS August 9-13!!!

[WE HAVE NOT FOUND SPONSORS...TALK TO Karen ASAP](#)

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

Middle School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 22nd – June 25th – Waxahachie, TX Presbyterian Children's home

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 – July 1

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

Film Topic: *Atonement*

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.

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Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, July 4 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **July 4**. 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).