

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

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[www.wpcaustin.org](http://www.wpcaustin.org)

### Connections @ Westminster

July 11 - 25, 2010

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## Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

This week 712 elder and minister commissioners from 173 Presbyterian Church U.S.A. presbyteries are meeting for the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme for this year's Assembly is from John 7:38 "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

On Saturday these commissioners elected a new moderator of the General Assembly, Cynthia Bolbach, an elder from the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia. Noteworthy topics coming before the assembly this week include: A Middle East study committee report, "Breaking Down the Walls," requested by the 2008 Assembly, which affirms Israel's legitimacy as a state, but challenges the Israeli occupation of Palestine; a committee report on civil unions and Christian marriage; a report from the Form of Government task force which proposes a return of the Presbyterian Book of Order to its original intent as "a constitution rather than a manual of operations"; a committee proposal that the denomination add the Belhar Confession, which originated in South Africa during apartheid, to the Book of Confessions.

Commissioners will also hear about a new strategic direction for World Mission over the next three to five years and will also be asked to extend the “Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide” church-wide commitment for another two years.

It will obviously be a very full week for our commissioners and the Assembly. I invite you to join me in following the proceedings of the assembly at the GA website <http://ga219.pcusa.org> . I also encourage you to join us for the General Assembly re-cap church school class on Sunday, July 18. Elder Hilary Shuford, Mission Presbytery's new Executive Presbyter, will be joining us that morning to give an overview of what happened at the Assembly.

Finally, I invite you to join me in praying for the Assembly and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The challenges before us are great as we deal with the many issues in our world and congregations, and seek to be faithful witnesses of God’s love in Jesus Christ. During this time may our church be renewed and strengthened in the knowledge that God is the source of our life as Presbyterian Christians. And may the “living waters” of God’s Holy Spirit continue to flow out of our hearts.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bill

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## Calendar

Jul 11 - 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	Sundae Sunday	Fellowship Hall
Jul 13 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Jul 14 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jul 15 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Jul 18 - 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
Jul 19 - Mon		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
Jul 20 - Tue		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Jul 21 - Wed		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jul 22 - Thu		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Jul 23 - Fri		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall
Jul 24 - Sat		Interfaith Hospitality Network	Fellowship Hall

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## ***Start an Amazing Adventure in the Fellowship Hall on October 24<sup>th</sup>!***

Yes! Coming to Westminster, in a few short months, is the very best opportunity to find the answers to all the Connections questions you've been wondering about!

For example: Did you know the **Worship Committee** has over 700 one-hour job slots to fill each year?? Dive in! No experience needed!

Are you a groupie? Do you love to sing even though your dog loves to sing along? How about ice cream? Why not? There are **Fellowship** opportunities every week, every month, for everyone, including you!

How about **Children's** Choir, VBS, Passages, Dwelling Places, and Lamb : – Oh My!

The Connections Café will make connections for you on Sunday morning, October 24. Watch this spot in the coming weeks for more information...

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### **Sundae Sunday – This Sunday, July 11 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Don't be sad...before we head into another "Monday, Monday," we'll enjoy a time of Sunday evening fellowship, singing, and worship, all while eating dessert first: old-fashioned ice cream sundaes! **Bring your favorite ice cream to share. Drinks, toppings and other goodies provided.**

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### **New in the WPC Library:**

A People's History of Christianity by Diana Butler Bass discusses the grassroots movements that preserved Jesus' message of social justice for 2000 years and their impact on the church today.

An Unsettling God, The Heart of the Hebrew Bible, by Walter Brueggemann, professor emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary, "...distills a career's worth of insights into the core message of the Hebrew Bible."

The Presbyterian Handbook is a handy and often humorous resource for all those interested in learning about much of what encompasses life in the church.

The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan seeks to restore the radical teachings of Paul, who has been domesticated by the church.

Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu begins with Jesus' parable of the prodigal son: God has made us for goodness, and when we simply start walking in the directions of this calling, God is there to meet us, encourage us, embrace us.

Beyond Tragedy by Reinhold Niebuhr, who was at Union Theological Seminary in New York City for 30 years, presents essays on the Christian interpretation of history.

To find these books on the shelves, consult one of the loose-leaf notebooks (one for author and one for title) on right shelf as you enter library from hall across from offices.

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### **Ladies Who Lunch Saturday Circle Meets This Saturday, July 10**

We are having our monthly PW circle meeting this Saturday, July 10, in the church library. Please feel free to bring along a friend or spread the word. Brunch begins at 10:00 am in the library. Study begins at 10:30 am.

The summer program will continue to encompass excerpts from the book [Back to the Well](#) by Frances Taylor Gench. Lynn McCree will lead our discussion this month on the encounter between Jesus and Martha and Mary. Please try to read Luke 10:38-42 prior to attending.

If you can't make this circle meeting, join us August 14 for the next one! Contact Lesley Fields ([lesley\\_fields@nsn.com](mailto:lesley_fields@nsn.com)) if you need more information about this circle group.

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## From Previous Connections

### 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.

Please call Moneta Prince at 708-8293 or e-mail her at [myong\\_look@aol.com](mailto:myong_look@aol.com).

### Manos de Cristo 2010 Back to School Drive

Our church will be providing Elmer's Glue (4 and 8 oz. bottles) and Elmer's Glue sticks for the Back to School Drive. Manos needs over 1000 bottles of glue and over 1100 glue sticks for the children. You can bring Elmer's glue or glue sticks and place them in the box in the narthex, or you can write a check to help Manos buy the glue at a much lower rate. **Checks should be made out to WPC with "Manos Back to School" in the memo line.** You can drop your checks off in the church office in the envelope marked Manos de Cristo Back to School Drive. We must present the glue and checks to Manos by July 16.

Manos also needs volunteers to help with the Back to School Drive. Shifts are available July 26-30 (9 a.m.-12 noon & 1-3 p.m.) and August 2-6 and August 9-13 (8 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.). You can contact Judy Cardenas at 477-7454 Ext. 106 or [outreach@manosdecristo.org](mailto:outreach@manosdecristo.org). Additionally, Manos is collecting new or used children's books. If you can donate books, please place these in the Manos box in the narthex. Thanks!

### Mark Your Calendars for September Mo Ranch Retreat!

**September 10-12, 2010** (the weekend after Labor Day) . another fun weekend 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!*

*Desserts provided by Westminster*

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## Worship

### Sunday, July 11

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Preacher:** Bill Clark

**Liturgist:** Kathy Anderson

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 82; Luke 10:25-37

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

**After Church Elders:** Jean Davis, Lea Anne Porter, Paul Stubbs

**Greeters:** **South Door**, Pat and Ben Boswell; **North Door**, Sharon McGraw and Tom Cockburn

**Cookie Hosts:** Pat Boswell and Alice and George Pryor

**Acolytes:** Phillip Doughtie, Wynn Doughtie, Jonas Tatu

**After-Church Flower Deliverer:** Molly Hatchell

### Sunday, July 18

*16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Preacher:** Kathy Anderson

**Liturgist:** TBA

**Scripture:** Luke 18:1-8

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

**After Church Elders:** Mike Cook, Jack Prince, Ann Humphreys

**Greeters:** **South Door**, Jim Cochran and Ann Humphreys; **North Door**, Curtis and Dorothy Andrews

**Cookie Hosts:** Eleanor Cochran and Dorothy Andrews

**Acolytes:** Adam Litch, Alex Clark, John Clark

**After-Church Flower Deliverer:** Ed and Mary Tyson

### *Preaching the Parables Summer Sermon Series*

July 11	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
July 18	The Widow and Unjust Judge	Luke 18:1-8
July 25	The Wedding Banquet	Matthew 22:1-14

Aug. 1	Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32
Aug. 8	Laborers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16
Aug.15	Three Parables	Matthew 13:44-50

You are invited to read the parable in advance and ponder its meaning. Where do you see signs of God's kingdom in this parable? What is new and even startling?

We look forward to your presence in worship with us this summer.

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## Adult Ministries

**Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.** *For more detailed descriptions, please visit the WPC website!*

### Upcoming Classes

#### Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

- July 11**      ***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 chosen to be talked about. Come one, come all! There are no bad, stupid, or wrong questions!
- July 18**      ***General Assembly Re-Cap***  
 Join us as we welcome Elder Hilary Shuford, Mission Presbytery's new Executive Presbyter, as she gives us an overview of what happened at this year's General Assembly (which will meet July 3-10 in Minneapolis). Come hear more about what decisions and dialogues were part of this gathering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)!
- July 25**      ***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. Cary & Trey Fyfe will be with us this week!

#### 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!

- July 11**      I Thessalonians 4-5  
**July 18**      II Thessalonians 1-3  
**July 25**      James 1

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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 1<sup>st</sup> to be in the 2 year old class. Younger children may be taken to the nursery.

## Starting June 6<sup>th</sup> the preschoolers will meet together to find out if God has a favorite color?

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree	(Luke 19: 1-10) Green
Daniel and the Lion's 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.

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 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Youth are needed as volunteers (volunteer registration is online as well)

We have a different format this year with an Egyptian marketplace. We will be needing shop keepers who can help the children with a variety of crafts and activities. We need make-up specialists, artists, brick makers, embalmers, and jewelers. The children will make scented lotion, Egyptian collars, bricks, hieroglyphic art, baskets, and an ancient Egyptian game. We are also looking for pop up tents (the ones without walls) to use for the week of August 9-13. Please let Karen know if you are interested in helping or contributing in other ways.

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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.**

Sunday School -- we will be following the parables for the summer  
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)

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!!!

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

Check out <http://www.wpcaustin.org/texascity.cfm> to see updates from the trip

**Middle School (Grades 6 – 7)**  
Meets in the Annex Living Room

**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 – August 5**  
**7 p.m. @ Opal Divine's, 700 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Film Topic: *The Soloist***

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, August 1 – Always the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month!**  
**Manos always needs food.** Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **August 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).