

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

July 25 – August 8, 2010

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Weekly Word

Dear Fellow Followers of the Way:

In recent weeks I have found myself drawn back to a book by Renita Weems, *Listening for God*. It is a book made up of short stories about her spiritual journey as a pastor and theologian with all of the ups and downs that all of us encounter in our spiritual lives. One I was reading this past week is entitled "Ordinary Time." In it she speaks of how in discovering the liturgical calendar in seminary, she began to make sense of how she felt in her personal life.

Ordinary time makes up the majority of the church year. We get excited for Advent and Christmas, for Lent and Easter, for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, for the high holy days of the church year. There is special music, colors in the sanctuary change, the mood of worship changes. The well known stories line us up for encounters with our God who is mysterious and wholly other. We wait with Mary for the incarnation, for the birth of the Christ child; we engage in the solemn feast of Maundy Thursday and marvel with great joy the resurrection on Easter morn; and we wonder with amazement the tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit breaks forth on Pentecost. But the rest of the year is ordinary time.

However, ordinary time is not ordinary. All time is God's and therefore all time is holy. It is a time however like summer, a time when our pace slows just a bit. I look at the calendar and can hardly believe it is the end of

July. There are not as many meetings or other events going on. Committees are taking some time off. We take vacations and enjoy other hobbies. We take a deep breath.

A deep breath which is in contrast to the breathlessness that we experience in the midst of the other liturgical seasons. A deep breath as we may find God silent, but we know God is ever present. The stories we read show God's presence in the everyday of life. The parables we have been exploring this summer are great examples of how God is always at work around us. Ordinary time is a chance to look for the everyday miracles around us and to reflect on how God is working in us and through us.

This week I invite you to take a deep breath. Look around you at the ordinary, everyday miracles of God. Pause in conversation with the Divine and reflect on how God is at work in your life.

Grace, Mercy and Peace,
Karen

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Calendar

Jul 25 - Sun		Interfaith Hospitality Network Departs	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 27 - Tues	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Jul 28 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Jul 29 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
Jul 31 - Sat	10:00 AM	WPC Crafting Bee	Annex
Aug 1 - 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 / Communion	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	VBS Meeting	Fellowship Hall
Aug 2 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	12:00 PM	Children's Ministries Committee	Library
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Aug 3 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Aug 4 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Aug 5 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite

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News Spreads About Astonishing Journey in the Fellowship Hall!

Reports of Calendars Marked in July as High Excitement Builds for October 24th!

The Connections Café Comes With The Connections!

Many un-connected WPC members are voicing a need for knowledge about the many ways our visitors are welcomed, how our newest members are mentored and "plugged in" to Westminster. Who does all the fun work on the Web site and finds all the news and stories? An "Informed Source," who declined to be named,

indicated **Membership Committee** members do all this, and much more, and even take posed and sneaky pictures of happy, connected WPC members too! Amazing!

Another group of members reportedly meets once a month, on the third Thursday, at the home of Margie Johnson. This **Book Group** of literature mavens chooses a list of books for the season for all its members to read. Then, each month, they gather to talk about a book they've actually read! "You can join in, even if you haven't read the book," reports Margie, "it is an easy time to get to know some other folks and share ideas and dessert." Another Astonishing Journey!

Keep watching this news spot, or miss your connection.

"Only Connect!" - E. M Forster

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2nd Quarter Financial Update

The June financial statements presented include a budget comparison for the General Fund, the income statement for all the funds of the church, and a balance sheet. The full financial statements are available in the church office on a monthly basis. We encourage anyone who is interested to pick up a copy or ask Jimmie to email you one.

As of June 30, 2010, general fund income exceeds expenses by \$21,592. We are very grateful that both income and expenses are right on budget. It is good to start the summer with a small cushion as donations usually slowdown in the summer. On June 30, our loan converted from an interest only loan to a long-term loan. Our current loan balance is \$1,020,000. Our interest rate is 4.761%. We will begin paying quarterly principal and interest payments of \$23,996 in September.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

General Fund Revenue & Expenses

For Period Ended June 30, 2010 (50% of the year)

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget 2010	Percent of Budget Met	Prior Year Actual	Prior Year Variance
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>					
Revenue					
Pledges	315,295	\$ 664,500	47%	352,320	\$ (37,025)
Non-Pledged Contributions	52,433	80,000	66%	38,870	13,563
Miscellaneous Income	3,074	4,136	74%	2,242	832
Investment Income	757	300	252%	136	621
Assets Released from Restriction	9,159	25,000	37%	1,330	7,829
Total Revenue	\$ 380,718	\$ 773,936	49%	\$ 394,898	\$ (14,180)

Expenses

Benevolences	17,041	\$ 31,387	54%	14,111	\$ 2,930
Children's Ministries	1,332	4,400	30%	489	843

Adult Ministries	3,125	5,800	54%	1,505	1,620
Youth Ministries	2,519	7,500	34%	1,360	1,159
Worship	4,455	11,515	39%	5,394	(939)
Fellowship	4,474	8,336	54%	4,557	(83)
Membership and Commitment	2,214	5,200	43%	2,443	(229)
Congregational Care	130	300	43%	16	114
Personnel	227,043	459,773	49%	221,536	5,507
Administration and Finance	15,466	32,725	47%	14,652	814
Stewardship	136	2,000	7%	17	119
Property	63,496	120,000	53%	47,393	16,103
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 341,431</u>	<u>\$ 688,936</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>\$ 313,473</u>	<u>\$ 27,958</u>
Net Revenue over Expenses	\$ 39,287	\$ 85,000	46%	\$ 81,425	\$ (42,138)
Debt Service	<u>\$ 17,695</u>	<u>\$ 85,000</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>17,695</u>
Net Revenue over expenses and debt service	\$ 21,592	\$ -		\$ 81,425	(59,833)
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>\$ 119,245</u>			<u>\$ 46,848</u>	
Net Assets, end of period	<u>\$ 140,837</u>			<u>\$ 128,273</u>	

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
Revenue and Expenses - All Funds
Period Ending 6/30/2010**

	General Fund	Misc Restricted Funds	Capital Campaign	Endowments	Total
Revenue:					
Pledges	315,295		8,397		323,692
Non-Pledged Contributions	52,433	14,565			66,998
Miscellaneous Income	3,074	4,698			7,772
Investment Income and Gains	757	1,342	2,896	(1,636)	3,359
Assets Released from Restriction	9,159	1,552	(9,159)	(1,552)	-

Total Income	380,718	22,157	2,134	(3,188)	401,821
Expenses:					
Benevolences	17,041	16,440			33,481
Children's Ministries	1,332				1,332
Adult Ministries	3,125	4,332			7,457
Youth Ministries	2,519	1,957			4,476
Worship	4,455	80			4,535
Fellowship	4,474	684			5,158
Membership and Commitment	2,214				2,214
Congregational Care	130	159			289
Personnel	227,043				227,043
Finance and Administration	15,466		7		15,473
Stewardship	136				136
Property	63,496	1,150			64,646
Total Expenses	341,431	24,802	7	-	366,240
Capital Expense	-	-	13,917	-	13,917
Interest Expense	17,695	-		-	17,695
Net revenue over (under) expenses and transfers	21,592	(2,645)	(11,790)	(3,188)	3,969
Net Assets, beginning of year	119,245	167,834	(937,061)	74,767	(575,215)
Net Assets, end of year	140,837	165,189	(948,851)	71,579	(571,246)

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2010

	General Fund	Misc. Restricted	Capital Campaign	Endowments	Total June 2010	Total June 2009
ASSETS						
Cash	\$ 116,836	\$ 55,191	\$ 71,149	\$ -	\$ 243,176	\$ 492,428

Investments	41,418	76,348	-	71,579	189,345	75,532
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Expense/Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	27,280
Loans Receivable	1,705	33,650	-	-	\$ 35,355	\$ 36,666
		\$			\$	
Total Assets	\$ 159,959	165,189	\$ 71,149	\$ 71,579	467,876	\$ 631,906
LIABILITIES						
Accounts Payable	5,695	-	-	-	5,695	43,731
Payroll Liabilities	(687)	-	-	-	(687)	-
Prepaid Pledges	14,114	-	-	-	14,114	17,210
Mortgage Payable	-	-	1,020,000	-	1,020,000	1,321,000
Total liabilities	19,122	-	1,020,000	-	1,039,122	1,381,941
Net Assets	140,837	165,189	(948,851)	71,579	(571,246)	(750,035)
Total Liabilities and						
Net Assets	\$159,959	\$165,189	\$71,149	\$ 71,579	\$467,876	\$ 631,906

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Manos de Cristo 2010 Back to School Drive Needs You!

Manos 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.); also August 14-15 for breakdown. You can contact Judy Cardenas at 477-7454 Ext. 106 or 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!

For a very inspiring look at the importance of this drive, here is a great clip:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy7UTlh bivY>

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General Assembly News

A letter from the new moderator of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Elder Cynthia Bolbach, reporting on the activities and decisions of the 219th General Assembly is available at <http://ga219.pcusa.org/news/2010/7/10/post-general-assembly-pastoral-letter-moderator-an/> .

This letter includes links to frequently asked questions regarding issues that have garnered media attention over the past week. As we prepare to hear a General Assembly report from our executive presbyter, Hillary Shuford, this Sunday you are encouraged to read the moderator's letter.

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From Previous Connections



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**

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Worship

Sunday, July 25

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Charlotte Trafton

Scripture: Colossians 3:5-17; Psalm 36:5-10; Matthew 22:1-14

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

After Church Elders: Corrinne Bowers, Kim Edwards, Jean Davis

Greeters: **South Door**, Cristia Moore; **North Door**, Bryan and Lesley Saunders

Cookie Hosts: Corrinne Bowers and Marian Robertson

Acolytes: Annie Clark, Sam Clark, Grace Scoggin

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Angela Oliver

Sunday, August 1

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgist: TBA

Scripture: Matthew 21:28-32

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

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Ann Scott, Jean Davis

Greeters: **South Door**, Kathy Taylor and family; **North Door**, Steve and Nancy Westmoreland

Cookie Hosts: Kathy Taylor and Nancy Westmoreland

Acolytes: Sara Shaw, Ada Barbee, Read Barbee

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Molly Hatchell

Preaching the Parables Summer Sermon Series

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 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. Mike Rush and Terry Allbright will be with us this week!

August 1, 8, and 15 *Speaking of Faith*

Join us as Westminster members lead us in thoughtful discussion about faith, religion, spirituality, and meaning by addressing various topics highlighted on the public radio program *Speaking of Faith* (see www.speakingoffaith.org).

Speaking of Faith (SOF) is a new kind of conversation — and an evolving media space — about religion, spirituality, and large questions of meaning in every aspect of life. The program began as an occasional series in 1999, became a monthly national program in September 2001, and launched as a weekly program in the summer of 2003. SOF is heard on a growing number of public radio stations in the U.S. — 230 and counting — and globally via Internet and podcast. In 2008, SOF was awarded the highest honors in both broadcasting and electronic media: the Peabody Award.

Come join us!

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 25	James 1
August 1	James 2
August 8	James 3

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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?

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.

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)

IF you can't volunteer your time, pray for the leaders and the participants as we prepare for our time together.

Wish List for VBS

- ⌘ Newspaper torn into 2" wide strips (for a papier mâché project)
- ⌘ Paper towel/toilet paper cardboard tubes
- ⌘ Pop up canopy tents (legs and the top canopy to create our marketplace) We need 4-5 of them
- ⌘ Remnants of beads, gems, feathers or similar art materials

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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

Wedding Banquet

2 Sons

Laborers in the Vineyard

3 Parables (Matt 13:44-50)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Tuesday, August 3 – 8-12 help at Manos de Cristo

August 9-13 – VBS

Tuesday, August 17 – Trip to Schlitterbahn

Sunday, August 22nd – Youth Fellowship Kicks off

August 28-29th – Annual John Knox Youth Retreat

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 6th 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 1st 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).