

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

August 8 - 22, 2010

All New This Week

Weekly Word

Calendar

Prayer Requests

Astonishing Journey Still Approaching the Fellowship Hall!

Rally Day is Sunday, August 22!

Financial Update

Your Input is Needed for Minter Alternative Gift Market

IHN Needs

Mobile Loaves and Fishes Needs Supplies

Thank You from IHN Families

New Children's Choir Director

A Christmas Benevolence Recipient Sends Thanks

Thank You for Your Prayers

Theology on Tap

Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Opportunities

From Previous Connections

[Remember to Bring Food for Manos de Cristo](#)

[Coming Soon! – Hands Across Exposition](#)

Regular Attractions

[Worship - Are You an After-Church Elder, Greeter, Cookie Host, Acolyte?](#)

[Are You Scheduled to Deliver Flowers After 11 a.m. Worship?](#)

[Mission](#)

[Children's Ministries](#)

[Youth Ministries](#)

[Adult Ministries](#)

[Fellowship](#)

[Daily Scripture Readings](#)

Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

As Jill and I prepare to send our oldest child, Chris, off to his first year of college next week, I have been reflecting on our eighteen years with him, and this next stage of life for Chris and the rest of our family. Naturally I am very grateful for these years that we have had with our oldest, for the gifts that he has brought to our family, for many fond memories, for the opportunities that he has had and continues to have. I'm also in a state of disbelief that this is actually happening. The years did go by so quickly as others kept saying they would. Finally, I am somewhat relieved. We made it through the high school years...Hooray!

Earlier this summer on the day that Chris graduated Jill and I hosted a party at our house with family, friends, neighbors and Westminster members. As I surveyed the group present from our church I marveled at the "cloud of witnesses" who had such an influence on Chris' life. There was Chip Somerville, Chris's covenant

partner during confirmation class. Chris' senior high Sunday School teachers, Andy and Alice Lottes were there along with Deb Mincher, who greatly assisted him with the college application process. The list goes on. These people and others like them at Westminster helped shape and form Chris into the young man that he is today. And I believe their influence will stay with him the rest of his life.

I realized why we want our children to participate in the life of the congregation on a regular basis and why we even sometimes “make them go” to church. There is a cloud of witnesses waiting for them at Westminster, a wonderful collection of people who live out the Christian faith in various ways and teach us by their example. I want my children and your children to be a part of that. Come to think of it, I want all of us to participate in that cloud of witnesses, as one who is influenced and even one who influences others.

Rally Day is this Sunday. It's a great opportunity for our congregation to come back together at the end of the summer and celebrate our life in Christ together. It's also a time for you and your family to start anew at Westminster if you haven't been around for awhile.

I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday. Let's come be a part of something grand. And may our witness continue to faithfully influence all who come into our midst.

Faithfully...and gratefully yours,

Bill

[\[back to top\]](#)

Calendar

Aug 22 - Sun		<u>RALLY DAY</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>
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship Fall Kickoff	Annex
Aug 23 - Mon	07:00 PM	Nominating Committee	Pastor's Study
Aug 24 - Tue	10:00 AM	<u>Staff Meeting</u>	<u>Pastor's Study</u>
	07:00 PM	<u>Session</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
Aug 25 - Wed	07:00 PM	<u>Adult Choir</u>	Choir Room
Aug 26 - Thu	12:15 PM	<u>Mid-day Prayers</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board Meeting	Room 10
Aug 28 - Sat		Youth to John Knox Ranch	
	10:00 AM	<u>WPC Crafting Bee</u>	Offsite
Aug 29 - Sun		Youth Return from John Knox	
	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>
	05:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
	05:00 PM	WPDS Parent Orientation	1-10, FH

Aug 30 - Mon	12:00 Noon	Budget Task Force	Library
Aug 31 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Sep 1 - Wed	09:00 AM	WPDS Open House	Ed Bldg.
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Sep 2 - Thu	09:00 AM	WPDS First Day of School	
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite

[\[back to top\]](#)

Pssst...hey, need a cure for the summer doldrums? Think "Autumn in Austin." Think about an average daily temperature of 68F, three inches of rain and, even better... The Connections Café - all on October 24th!

Your **C**onnections **U**nnamed **R**oughly-Informed **U**nconnected **S**ource (aka CURIIOUS whom you may remember by another alias in previous episodes), has once again found amazing facts you, the unconnected, can also discover on a beautiful, cool October 24th in the Fellowship Hall.

For example, our church is a member of the Austin **I**nterfaith **H**ospitality **N**etwork. IHN, part of the Foundation for the Homeless, provides periods of transitional services to carefully screened homeless families with children. The goal is to get these families off the streets and into homes, jobs, and schools. You can unite with other connected volunteers to help provide shelter, meals, and basic needs for families living in the Fellowship Hall for a week. IHN can connect 50 volunteers! Check it all out at the Café and be a part of the next hosting November 21 – 28.

CURIIOUS has uncovered news of another group, even larger than the Book Group, of **P**resbyterian **W**omen who meet to form friendships, laugh, and connect! Believe it! Did you know there are 315 supportive, caring, and fantastic women at WPC? It's true! That means there are 630 loving arms to support you at any time when you need a hug and 315 smiles to greet you as you attend one of their fabulous fellowship events throughout the year! There are four smaller Presbyterian Women's circle groups to attend monthly for Bible study and fellowship, and an infinite number of meaningful conversations and experiences to be had with intelligent, witty, and supportive women of the church. Are you a Presbyterian woman? Looking to connect further at Westminster with other women? Form friendships? Laugh? The Café will connect you.

"Be curious, not judgmental." - Walt Whitman

"Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas." – Marie Curie

Keep watching this news spot, or miss your connection.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Rally Day is Sunday, August 22 during the Church School Hour (9:40 – 10:40 a.m.)

Each of you...Everyone...People of all ages...No matter who you are...Old, young or in between...Yes, you!.. YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

Come hear about the many education and fellowship opportunities for you here at WPC this Fall! We'll gather for a time of food (you know that fabulous Westminster food?!?), fellowship and song. Then, after introducing teachers, we'll "break out" into our different classes (e.g., the preschool LAMBS will go with their teachers, Youth and Dwelling Places with theirs, etc., etc.). Adults will remain in Fellowship Hall to hear about offerings especially for them. See you then! Bring a friend!

[\[back to top\]](#)

Financial Update

Below is a short update on the general fund revenues and expenses. The full financial statements are available in the church office. We encourage anyone who is interested to pick up a copy or ask Jimmie to email you one.

Operating Revenues and Expenses
As of July 31, 2010

Revenues	\$447,214
Expenses	<u>405,605</u>
Net income	<u>\$41,609</u>

Cash on hand – Operating Fund \$130,287

Fellowship Hall Debt \$1,020,000

[\[back to top\]](#)

Your Input is Needed for Minter Alternative Gift Market

As we look forward to the Minter Alternative Gift Market, let us know which organizations that you would like to be recipients of our gifts.

Please email your suggestions to Rosemary Standerfer in the church office, wpc@wpcaustin.org. Thank you.

[\[back to top\]](#)

IHN NEEDS

We still need sleep-over-ers for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights during our next week for Interfaith Hospitality Network. You come to Fellowship Hall around 8:00 to 8:30 p.m., sleep and just be around while families get ready to leave, grab some breakfast, and pack lunches the next morning. You should be out of there by 7:00 am or earlier. The dates are September 7, 8 or 9. Contact Moneta at 708-8293.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Mobile Loaves and Fishes Needs Supplies

Mobile Loaves and Fishes has a need for lotion, shampoo, soap, and baseball caps. These should be travel size, (except for the hats). I am collecting these things in a box marked for Mobile Loaves and Fishes at Westminster. I will be making several trips to Mobile Loaves and Fishes this summer. Please contribute to this cause. Although these items are in the greatest need currently, any size items will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please email me at lrobert1357@yahoo.com or my mother at elea_luke@yahoo.com.

Thank you,
Robert Luke

[\[back to top\]](#)

Thank You from IHN Families

Homeless with Love, L-O-V-E, Love.

There are so many sad, lonely homeless people.
But there is so much love in all the church steeples.
Reaching out more than just a helping hand,
Each and every one of you deserve more than a Grand Stand.
So thank you all for the many things,
And all the kindness, love, and cheers you bring.
We appreciate all of you from the bottom of our hearts,
And look forward to a brand new fresh start.

From the four IHN families who were at Westminster July 18-25.

[\[back to top\]](#)

New Children's Choir Director for Westminster

Welcome to Grace Brooks, our new children's choir director! Grace and her husband James recently moved to the Austin area. Grace is a graduate of the Centenary College of Louisiana where she received her Bachelors of Music in Sacred Music; Western Washington University, where she received her Masters of Arts in Theatre; the Longy School of Music, where she received a Graduate Diploma in Opera. Grace has been a studio artist for Opera New Jersey and the Arizona Opera, a section leader in church choirs and directed two children's church choirs. We look forward to her presence with us at Westminster. Rehearsals for children in grades 1-5 begin on Sunday, Aug. 29 at 5:00 p.m.

[\[back to top\]](#)

A Christmas Benevolence Recipient Sends Thanks

Dear WPC Benevolence Assistance,
Thank you. This spring you help me with \$600 toward my dental care. The money was used for treatment I couldn't afford. Without your help, I would have continued to delay treatment. Your program is appreciated. I am thankful for being included, once again, through a program that provides for care that I couldn't afford.

Through my heart, a healthier body, and a drive to be the person that can somehow, "pass it along," I appreciate the example you set forth and hope to stay in step.

Thank you again.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Thank You for Your Prayers

"Sometimes, God answers our prayers through special people like you." Thank you so much for all your prayers and well wishes! They're all very much appreciated. It's been a long road, but getting better every day. ☺

The Blockinger family (Kevin, Liz, and Hannah)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Worship

Sunday, August 22

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Psalm 84, Romans 12:3-21

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

After Church Elders: Ann Humphreys, David Rose
Greeters: **South Door**, Marilyn Clary and Annie Clark; **North Door**, Debbie and Rick Mincher
Cookie Hosts: Debbie Mincher and Marilyn Clary
Acolytes: Kim Griffith, Balie Griffith, Leah Griffith
After-Church Flower Deliverer:

Sunday, August 29

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Kathy Anderson

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81; Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

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

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Paul Stubbs, Kim Edwards

Greeters: **South Door**, Ed Tyson and O.R. Schmidt; **North Door**, Stan Shaw and Laura Slaughter

Cookie Hosts: Laura Slaughter and Charlotte Trafton

Acolytes: Madison Tyson, Kirby Steckel, Reilly Bennett

After-Church Flower Deliverer:

[\[back to top\]](#)

Adult Ministries

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

WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit the

August 22 is Rally Day!

All ages meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Church School hour.

Upcoming Classes

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

August 29

Children: God's Gift, Our Calling

Presbyterian Children's Home & Services

Since its beginnings in 1903 as an orphanage in Dallas, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services has been providing residential care and other services to children and families with no place else to turn. Whether it's through one of their group homes, a foster home, their Child and Family Program, or the Advanced Education and Aftercare Program, PCHAS does all they can to help show the children in their care that they are beloved children of God. **Come learn more about this vital and valuable ministry!**

September 5

Children: God's Gift, Our Calling

LifeWorks Austin

LifeWorks is Austin's only non-profit organization to provide a continuum of services to youth and families, addressing critical needs to achieve lasting, positive change. By working in areas of housing, counseling, and education, LifeWorks helps homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services; provides children and youth in at-risk situations with the support, knowledge and skills necessary to reduce the occurrence of behaviors that negatively impact opportunities for life success; and strengthens families dealing with crisis, emotional distress and violence by helping them build on inherent strengths, utilize existing resources, develop emotional competencies, employ family roles effectively, and improve communication and advocacy skills. **Come learn more about this vital and valuable outreach to the children and youth of Austin.**

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!

August 29

James 5

September 5

I Corinthians 1 – 2:5

[\[back to top\]](#)

Children's Ministries

Sunday, August 22 is Rally Day! Everyone meets in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship, then the children will go to their classes.

Preschoolers: Preschoolers will be in room 5

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.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13.

[\[back to top\]](#)

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Sunday, August 22nd – Youth Fellowship Kicks off

August 28-29th – Annual John Knox Youth Retreat - contact Karen if you want to go!

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.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Fellowship

Theology on Tap

Thursday – Sept. 2

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

Film Topic: *Crimes & Misdemeanors*

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.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, September 5 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **Sept. 5**. 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 \(U.S.A.\)](#).