

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

512-459-5497

www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

Feb. 5 - 19, 2012

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Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

Here's an update regarding our search for an associate pastor:

The Church Information Form created by our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been approved by the session and the Mission Presbytery Committee on Ministry and is now online at the PCUSA website. We've also posted a copy of the form on our website. The Church Information Form includes a description of our congregation and the associate pastor position. Feel free to read it and even refer people to it who might be interested.

The APNC members are: Bob Schriber (chair), Joanna Cook, Margie Johnson, Ron Luke, Lea Anne Porter, George Pryor, and Lis Wise. Five of these committee members also served on the Long Range Planning Task Force, and have been a part of the conversation that we began last spring regarding a new staff position. The committee has already received a number of Personal Information Forms (P.I.F's) from individuals seeking a call. After reviewing this information, the committee will begin contacting those candidates whom they consider to be a good match for the position.

I'm grateful for the committee's commitment to this process so far, and know that you will want to join me in praying for them and the search in the weeks ahead. Bob Schriber will also give you a progress report at our February 12 congregational meeting.

We can all be grateful for the many good things that are taking place at Westminster these days. Our Bible in 90 Days class has been very popular, and many of the members are already 1/4 of the way through reading the Bible. The Youth Ministries Committee has sponsored some classes for parents of teenagers that have been very well received. Our new elders and deacons are excited about the many opportunities for ministry and have already launched some new programs for the year. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to grant all of the 2012 budget requests from our ministry committees.

Thanks be to God for the gifts of time, talent and treasure that so many are willing to share, and for the opportunities before us. May they become vessels of God's grace for us and all whom God sends our way in the coming year.

Grace, mercy and peace,
Bill

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Calendar

Feb 5 - Sun		IHN 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 / Communion	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	The Bible in 90 Days	Fellowship Hall
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
Feb 6 - Mon	12:00 PM	Property Committee	Room 10
	06:00 PM	Delta Kappa Gamma	Fellowship Hall
Feb 7 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	12:00 PM	Adventures	Fellowship Hall
	07:00 PM	Worship Committee	Library
Feb 8 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Feb 9 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Library
Feb 10 - Fri	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
Feb 11 - Sat	10:00 AM	Saturday Circle	Library
Feb 12 - 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
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
	05:00 PM	The Bible in 90 Days	Fellowship Hall
Feb 13 - Mon	02:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Choir Room
	06:00 PM	Fellowship Committee	Fellowship Hall
	06:00 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Fellowship Hall
	06:30 PM	Diaconate	Fellowship Hall
Feb 14 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study

	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
Feb 15 - Wed	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Feb 16 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	02:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Choir Room
	06:00 PM	Travis Audubon Society	Fellowship Hall
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Feb 17 - Fri	02:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10

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Congregational Meeting

The Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 12 immediately following the 11 a.m. service for the purpose of receiving the annual report, hearing an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to vote on changes in the terms of call (salary package) for the Rev. Bill Clark.

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Lenten Spiritual Formation Group

Everyone is invited to participate in this Lenten Discipline by meeting every Sunday afternoon in Lent, February 26-April 1, from 4:00-5:00 in the afternoon in the Church Library. We will be using God's Abundant Table, a devotional study of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, by the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, as our guide. Please contact Linda Tyler, 452-8623, or imt@austin.rr.com for more information.

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Check Out the "New" WPC Library!

Celebrate the newly refurbished and gleaming WPC library by checking out a book—or two. As several of us were placing the books in their new home, we came across many titles of interest along with some of our own favorites: authors such as Joan Chittister and William Stringfellow, titles such as The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis and Letters from Prison by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, commentaries by Walter Brueggeman and, of course, Calvin, subjects such as prayer and the devotional life, biographies of Bible figures, atlases, religious art books, and so on.

The helpful and erudite Interpreter's Bible series along with many translations/versions of the Bible has been placed in the group of smaller shelves on the outside wall. There also you will find the checkout/return area.

The library has a wealth of information—and entertainment. Enjoy and learn. And thanks to those responsible for the "remodeling." What a gift to all of us!

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LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon Sunday, Feb. 19

On Sunday, Feb. 19, the LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon and Half Marathon will take place on the streets of Austin. An estimated 20,000 runners and 20,000 spectators will take part in the Marathon and Half Marathon and participants will travel from all 50 states and over 20 foreign countries. The race will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Congress Ave. and progress through the city as in past years. Southbound Exposition from 35th Street to Enfield will be closed. Northbound Exposition will remain open.

Please allow extra time and an alternate route as you come to church on Sunday, Feb. 19.

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Bible in 90 Days

By the end of this week over 70 Westminster members and friends will have read through the Old Testament books of the Kings, ¼ of the way through the entire Bible! We're making steady progress and grateful to have the opportunity to meet together weekly on Sunday evening. This Sunday, because of the Super Bowl schedule, the class will meet an hour early at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In case you missed the previous class, the lecture from that class will be replayed at 3:30 p.m. prior to our meeting.

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Thank You from a Christmas Benevolence Recipient

Dear Martha and Walt and Church,

There are really no words to express the gratitude we feel for the generous gift to our family this Christmas. It was so unexpected and needed. You helped make our family's Christmas!

Thank you! We promise to pay it forward one day!

Much love,

The Lopez Family (A young family with a young son – both parents lost their jobs and may lose their home)

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Thank You Messages from WPC Missions

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin our 109th year of providing Christ-centered services for children and families in need, we rejoice that your congregation and all of our partners in ministry continue to support us with prayers, volunteer assistance, and financial commitments. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your support, as we give thanks to God for empowering us to serve 4,000 children and families in need in 2011.

Today I am writing to express our thanks for your recent gifts. Your faithful support enables us to welcome children in need into safe environments where, with our guidance and that of their caregivers, they are able to set and achieve personal, academic, social, and spiritual goals.

For the children,

The Rev. Peter D. Crouch, Vice President for Development, Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

Dear Friends,

God's word tells us "... the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) By your faithfulness, you make it possible for us together to shine the light of Christ's hope to those who have survived storms, fires, earthquakes, wars, or other disasters.

Thank you for your continued prayers for those who are hurting, for sharing your resources to make a difference in lives around the world, and for helping reach through the darkness of disaster to bring the light of hope to our neighbors in need.

Serving together with you,

Randy Ackley, Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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An Offering of Our Lives Stewardship Update

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the *Offering of Our Lives* stewardship campaign this year. We now have received pledges from 186 households for \$703,134, which is 96% of our projected 2012 goal of \$730,000.

For those of you who have not yet returned a pledge card, we urge you to do so. You can complete a pledge card and place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or you can email your pledge information to our church accountant, Jimmie Grossman at wpcadmin@wpcaustin.org.

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WPC Book Group or “Margie’s Bookies”
Meets February 16, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Margie Johnson
Book: *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl

Please join us!

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Worship

Sunday, February 5

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgist: Sudie Niesen

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; Mark 1:29-39

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, and After-Church Flower Delivery

After Church Elders: Lesley Fields, Ron Luke, Stephen Palmer

Greeters: **South Door**, Susan Somerville and Tim Taylor; **North Door**, Charlotte Trafton and Linda Tyler

Cookie Hosts: Laura Slaughter and Jare Smith

After-Church Flower Delivery: Shawn Harrison

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: The Rev. Lana Russell

Liturgists: Bill Clark, Sudie Niesen

Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, and After-Church Flower Delivery

After Church Elders: Trey Fyfe, Mike Rush

Greeters: **South Door**, Mary and Ed Tyson; **North Door**, Nancy and Steve Westmoreland

Cookie Hosts: Susan Somerville and Charlotte Trafton

After-Church Flower Delivery: Suzy Fields

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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

Feb. 5, 12, and 19 – *Real People at Prayer*

This three week series focuses on how one may better understand and practice a prayerful life. Three questions receive attention: What happens in prayer? Why do we pray? and How do we pray and keep praying as 21st century Christians?

The series will be led by Dr. Allan H. Cole Jr. and Sudie Niesen, WPC’s seminary intern. With his wife, Tracey, and their daughters, Meredith and Holly, Allan has been a part of WPC for several years. Allan is Academic Dean and Professor in the Nancy Taylor Williamson Distinguished Chair of Pastoral Care at Austin Seminary. Author of numerous books, including *The Life of Prayer: Mind, Body, and Soul*

(Westminster John Knox Press, 2009); *Good Mourning: Getting through Your Grief* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2008); and *A Spiritual Life: Perspectives from Poets, Prophets, and Preachers* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), his next book, *The Faith and Friendships of Teenage Boys* (co-authored with Robert C. Dykstra and Donald Capps) (Westminster John Knox Press) will be published in the spring.

Parents of Youth – Library

Come be a part of this seven week series exploring the topic of teen sexuality as well as topics on parenting and other issues of teenagers and their parents. This class will meet on Sunday mornings through February 19th.

Feb. 5 – “Been There, Done That” – Q/A with panel of WPC parents of young adults

Feb. 12 – Abuse (eating disorders, bullying, etc.) – Ed Tyson

Bible Study – Room 9

Feb. 5– Ephesians 5:1-21

Feb. 12 – Ephesians 5:22-6:9

MyConnections – Room 10

Feb. 5 – Week 3 of Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, led by Brian Moore. Addressing such questions as “Is the Bible the Literal Word of God or Just a Long, Boring Book?” This is an easy-to-understand, slightly irreverent approach to theology and the kind of theological musings many of us have today.

Feb. 12 – Mission Opportunity: CROP Walk -- Elise Ragland will talk about the annual CROP Walk and what a great opportunity for us as families to join in mission with people from all over Austin to walk for hunger.

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Children’s Ministries

9:40 a.m. – 2’s, 3’s and 4’s song time in Room 14

Kindergarten – First grade start with singing in room 4

9:55 – 10:40 a.m. – Church School

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 -- Godly Play is for our 3-5 year olds and meets following the passing of the peace during the 11:00 worship service. Children leave during the passing of the peace and move to room 13. Godly Play is a Montessori based curriculum that was created by Jerome Berryman and is modeled on the movements of the Episcopalian worship service. Contact Karen for more information. karen@wpcastin.org

ALMOST LOCK-IN!!!!

The Children’s Ministry committee will be sending more information about upcoming Almost Lock-Ins for Preschool and for Elementary School children.

Friday, February 10th 5:00-8:00 p.m. Preschool Almost Lock-In

Saturday, February 11th 6:00-9:00 p.m. Elementary Almost Lock-In

It is a time for pizza, games, crafts, playing outside, and a movie. Bring a water bottle with your name, a sleeping bag/pillow for watching a movie and be ready to have some fun!!

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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.

Confirmation class will be starting on Jan 8th. We are looking forward to our time together! The rest of the youth will be following the timeline with the Bible in 90 days group. They will meet in the annex living room and will be looking at the stories covered each week and creating a timeline of Bible events and historical events around the living room.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Friday, Feb 10th and Saturday, Feb 11th – Children’s ministry is hosting almost lock-ins for PreSchool (Friday) and Elementary (Saturday). Would love to have some youth come and spend time with our younger children.

Feb 5th – Super Bowl party at the Polan’s 5-7 pm (game kicks off at 5:35 I believe, we generally are ready to go around halftime)

Feb 12th – High School with Rev Linda Goddard and Middle School fellowship in the Annex

Feb 19th – Fellowship in the Annex

Jan 29th and Feb 12th we will have a guest speaker for youth fellowship. In the fall of 1982, Linda Goddard, a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Midland, Texas, was facing the reality of her oldest daughter entering the dating world. Linda had grown up in a church setting that was totally lacking in any information about sexuality, but was heavy in imparting guilt and condemnation. She desperately wanted her three daughters to have accurate information about sexuality so they could make informed decisions and she also wanted them to understand God's incredible plan for sexual intimacy.

The wonderful thing about this type of curriculum is that while it is very in-depth and educational, it also reflects the in-depth spiritual dimension of sexuality. It helps youth and adults alike understand the wonder of their creation and the incredible plan for sexual intimacy. Rev. Linda Goddard, who is now a Licensed Minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) understands parents' desire for their children to be educated while at the same time finding themselves completely incapable of imparting the necessary information. You cannot teach what you have not been taught, so the elementary and junior high programs have parents in attendance with their youth and learning alongside of them, thus opening up communication in the area of sexuality while educating both youth and parents.

Learn more about Linda at: <http://www.clerministries.org/>

June 2-9th Mission trip – 6th – 12th grade to Asheville, NC – cost is about \$400 – let Karen know if you are interested in going.

Church School -- Middle School and High School Youth will meet together for the next couple of months in the Annex to study *The Bible in 90 Days*.

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Fellowship

Adventures

The Rev. Keith Wright will be our guest speaker for Adventures' on Feb.7. Keith has written a new book entitled, "..." An Old Pastor Shares His New Faith With His Children, Grandchildren and You."

"Trying to put my faith into words that others would understand forced me to examine closely what I believe and how it enriches my life and gives me a new passion for my faith while pointing out new ways to understand some long held doctrines of the Church."

Come greet our friend, Keith Wright, who served WPC as an Interim Associate Pastor several years ago. We look forward to spending this time with him and "catching up."

Bring a friend, a sack lunch, and meet us in the Fellowship Hall at 12 o'clock on Tuesday, February 4!

Joan Johnson

Theology on Tap

Thursday – February 9 -- 6:45 p.m. 'til 9 p.m.

@ Café Express (old La Madeleine location), 3418 N. Lamar

Film Topic: Higher Ground (2011)

Rated R – Drama

Director: Vera Farmiga – Cast: Vera Farmiga, Joshua Leonard

A chronicle of one woman's lifelong struggle with her faith. (Source: www.imdb.com)

Low key. Conversation. Fun. Food. Beverages. Fellowship.

No experts, just a facilitator to keep things on track and to bring questions, ideas and insights about the chosen movie to get us started. We will rotate the facilitator among the group. **Susan Somerville** will facilitate for February. So...come from work, come from the gym, bring a friend, get a sitter for the kids, eat dinner, or just come for "liquid dessert" or the conversation and fellowship with your WPC friends! Happy Hour goes until 7:00, so come a little early if you want a discount!

Join us, even if you don't have time to see the movie. As we've said in the past, you don't have to have seen the film to have an opinion about what we are discussing!

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Mission

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

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

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