

WESTMINSTER NEWS



December 13, 2011

From Eric Varnon, Director of Christian Education and Youth:

Early on Thanksgiving morning I fell victim to the stack of ads from the newspaper. I sat down at my mother-in-law's dining room table with my wife and sister-in-law shuffling through advertisements from more stores that I've probably ever set foot in. There wasn't much said at the table that morning (other than, hey, I haven't looked at that one yet). And then it got worse. For some reason, the brave-ness rose up inside of me as I boldly proclaimed that I was going to go out for Black Friday....with two women!

WHAT WAS I THINKING???

And it even got worse....we went to Wal-Mart first! Why? WHY??? WHHHYYYY??? I don't know, but it was a stupid decision. Other than having to park across the street, behind a bank and in a CiCi's Pizza parking lot, it wasn't that hard to get in. The problem was getting out. The lines to check out stretched all the way to the back of the store. It took us probably 20 minutes to get out of the store, and we weren't even trying to buy anything.

The rest of the night went a little smoother. We visited places like Kohl's and Target, which were much more organized and sane. The night ended with a stack of pancakes at 3:00 a.m. at IHOP and a few bags full of savings to be wrapped for Christmas gifts.

If you've ever braved Black Friday, you know the hysteria. If you haven't, you just can't understand it until you experience it.

As I was suffering...no...let me rephrase. As I was surviving that night, I started to notice something about myself each time we entered into a store. My experience of shopping at midnight with thousands of others depended a lot on how I approached the situation. When we walked into Wal-Mart, I was thinking, "this is dumb, this is dumb, this is dumb." People were angry, rude, and frustrated. When we walked up to Kohl's just minutes before it opened, we got yelled at that the line was "back there, around the corner of the building." I realized, I can either let that guy make me grumpy about being here, or I can choose to show grace and mercy. So I did, I chose to be light hearted and have fun. Pretty soon we had a little group around us joking and laughing and having a good time waiting for the store to open so we could save \$3.00 and justify not sleeping.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 is about as simple as they come. "Rejoice always" it says. That's it. Two words. Simple.

It isn't followed up with "...when things are good, when people make you happy..." REJOICE ALWAYS.

Now, we can sit back and wait for opportunities to rejoice, or we can seek out opportunities to show joy. It's Christmas and there are a lot of people out there trying to make it through the season without a nervous breakdown. Maybe a smile or a simple gesture of grace and mercy will be the one thing that makes someone's day better.

So, when you find the need to suffer/survive Wal-Mart this Christmas season, don't look at it as a chore, see it as an opportunity to rejoice. See it as an opportunity to show joy, grace and mercy.

Blessings,

Eric



Presbyterian Women

Then Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."
Joshua 3:5

DECEMBER EVENTS:

Please look for the Haiti Education Foundation table in the church Narthex each Sunday, Nov. 27—Dec. 18th. There you will find Christmas gift cards that let your recipients know that a donation has been made in their honor.

Save the date: Spiritual Winter Retreat—January 20th and 21st



Next Newsletter deadline will be Thursday, December 23, 2011



RECYCLE at WPC

What is acceptable: Mail, Newspapers, Magazines, School & Office Papers, Catalogs.



Please keep these police officers

PF Morrison
SL Seymour
DA Stevenson
AD Valencia



Join us on
Christmas Eve
at 7:00 PM
Communion and Candlelight
Worship Service



Please remember to pick up a Bear from the Bear Basket in the Narthex and pray for a child at Cook Children's Medical Center.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Mission Statement:



Because of God's grace and the transforming gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ, the vision of Westminster Presbyterian Church is: *to worship the Lord; to serve the needs of our congregation, community, and world; and to experience and share the power of God's love.*

PRAYER REQUEST FOR OUR CHURCH



"Session challenges all to continue to join us in daily prayer at noon (or as close as possible) as we lift collective prayer for God's will for our church."

Fathers, Brothers and Friends....
Join us on Saturday, December 31st
8:00 AM
Men's Breakfast
@ Rise and Shine Restaurant
on Alta Mesa.



Join the Presbyterian Women in giving a contribution to the P.W. Mission—Haiti Education Fund
In lieu of giving Christmas Cards to

your Westminster friends.
Your gift will be a blessing to many.

Thank you, Presbyterian Women

**Sunday,
December 18th**
Traditional Worship
Service
Chancel Choir
Cantata
"Celtic Christmas"



Friends and Neighbors

Will take a break in December.
Join us January 25th for a pot luck lunch,
fellowship, interesting program and the always
precious ELP Performers.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men of Westminster are invited to
attend each Wednesday evening as we
study several aspects of our faith:
The Gospel of John,
We start at 7:00 pm each Wednesday
and welcome all with Y chromosomes.

Larry Atkinson



On behalf of my sister,
Shirley Mattice, I want to
thank all those who sup-
ported her with your
prayers and funds. You
are an amazing Christ cen-
tered church.

In the love of Christ,
Carl and Judy Ewald



WPC Youth Ministry DECEMBER Calendar

4th	8:45 AM—2:30 PM Youth Programming
7th	5-8 PM Open Youth
11th	8:45 AM—11:20 AM Youth Programming & Lunch out
16th-17th	Fri.—9 PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth Lock-In Sat.—8 AM: Youth Lock-In Pick Up
18th	8:45 AM—2:30 PM Youth Programming
21st	No Youth
25th	No Youth
28th	No Youth

Advent Candlelight Schedule



Prophets: Jim and Linda Wynne, Contemporary Worship
Bob & Nancy Craig, Traditional Worship



Mary: Larry & Debbie Bartlett, Contemporary Worship
Steve & Rebecca Early and Quinn, Traditional
Worship



Angels: Red & Carol Lindsay, Contemporary Worship
Stephen & Daisianne Younger, Traditional
Worship



Shepherds: Allison, Chanel, Payton & Lincoln Hurd,
Contemporary Worship
Vance, Julie, Elaina & Adam Riedel
Traditional Worship

Christmas Eve: Poe Family



Save the Date—Mark Your Calendars
January 7, 2012
MARINERS ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE

It is that time already to "re-gift" a wonderful gift which
might mean more to another. Bring your left over
Christmas treats, and a wrapped gift per person to:

Linda & Jim Wynne's
10172 Sunridge Drive
Benbrook, TX 76126
RSVP: 817.249.6892



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH LIBRARY
IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

*Celebrate Advent with
Westminster Presbyterian Church*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18th*

*8:45 Contemporary Worship
Service*

9:45 Sunday School

*11:00 Traditional Worship Service—
Chancel Choir Cantata
Christmas Joy Offering*

Christmas Eve

*7:00 Christmas Eve Candle Light
and Communion Service*

Christmas Day - December 25th

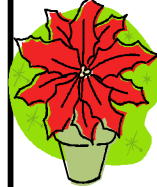
*11:00 Traditional Worship Service only
(Children have a special place in this service.)*



Christian Community Assistance
FOOD SUNDAY— January 1, 2011

Needs:

sugar, flour, oil, canned meat,
toilet paper, macaroni & cheese,
bar soap, canned vegetables.



Your reserved Poinsettias will
be available for you to pick up
following the Christmas Eve or
Christmas Day Worship Services.
Thank you for your flower order.

Penny Offering for PNS

Our annual Penny Offering will be taken up on
Sunday, January 8th at the Worship Services.
This offering is given to the Presbyterian Night Shelter.

Thank you,
Outreach & Mission



*This poem was sent as a Christmas card to one of our
members and I felt you all might should see it. Dr. Hogg*

"Merry Christmas, My Friend"

**By James M. Schmidt, a Marine Lance Corporal
stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1986**

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live
As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.
With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.
I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.
He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?
His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.
Soon around the Nation, the children would play,

And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.
He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."
With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.
Reports are that after leaving the Corps, Corporal Schmidt earned a
law degree and now serves as an attorney in Los Angeles and is
director of operations for a security consulting firm.

Here's Your New Year's Resolution: *Read through the entire Bible in 2012*

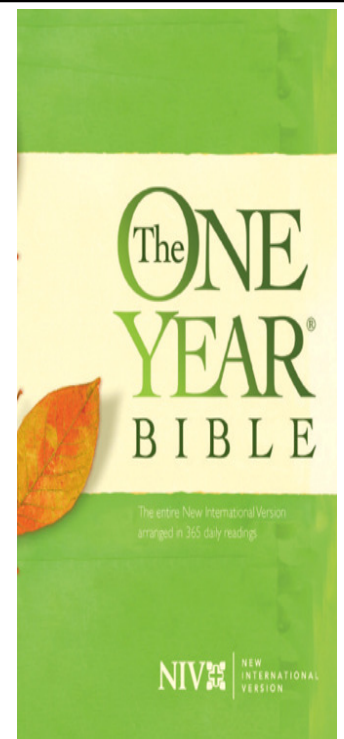
We are challenging all of Westminster to read through the Bible in one year. It sounds overwhelming, but if you will commit 15-20 minutes each day, you can read through every verse, every word of the Bible.

We will be using *The One Year Bible* as our guide. This unique Bible gives us readings for every day of the year starting with January 1st. Each day you will read through a passage from the Old Testament, New Testament, and short passages from Psalms and Proverbs.

You can purchase a personal copy of *The One Year Bible* through the church for \$13.00. If you love the Bible you already have, the daily reading references will be printed in each week's bulletin insert for you to take home. And don't worry if you miss a Sunday. The daily references will be made available on the church website as well.

Contact Eric if you would like to purchase a copy of *The One Year Bible*. It is also available on Kindle and Nook if you would prefer an electronic version.

We look forward to experiencing together the whole story of scripture.



Christmas Joy Offering December 18, 2011

Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.



WPC will gather for one Worship Service at 11:00 AM on Sundays, December 25th and January 1st

Thank you, Worship Committee



The staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church wish you and all of your family a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Dr. Hogg, Dr. Timberlake, Eric Varnon, Vandee DeLeon, Rose Wynne, Kathy Moriarty, and Dale Montgomery



ADOPT A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS Early Childhood Intervention of Tarrant County

Bring the wrapped gifts labeled with the child's name to church by Sunday, Dec. 18. The caseworkers of ECI identify the families that need the most assistance with Christmas.

For some of the children, your gift will be the first new clothing or toys that they have ever received.

If you have any questions, please call Annette Boyd (817-703-6948 or 817-731-9032) or call Vandee at the church office. If you are short on time, Annette can do the shopping and wrapping for you---just contact her with the amount you want to spend. Also, if you sign your name next to a child and later change your mind, please mark your name off the list in the narthex. The list is the only way we have to know if all of the names are chosen and we do not want any of the children to be without a gift. Thank you for your support.



December 2011



Early Learning Place



Westminster Presbyterian Church

TAX EIN NUMBER 75-094-5945

December Events

- Supply Fees Due with Tuition
- December 1-3 Tuition Due
- December 1 Book Orders Due
- December 15 Christmas Program
- Winter Break Dec 19- Jan. 2
- Back to Preschool January 3, Tuesday*



Christmas Program
The Early Learning Place
You are Invited

Time: 1:00 p.m.

When: Thursday, December 15

*Where: Church Sanctuary for
Our Singing Program*

Followed by a Visit with Santa !!
Please pick up all belongings before
Leaving for the Holidays!



Severe Weather Closings

Please remember in the event of severe weather, school closings are announced on TV and radio. When FWISD closes due to inclement weather so does ELP!



SUPPLY FEES

SUPPLY FEES are due with your December Tuition. This is the second half of the supply fee for the preschool year and is \$50 per child if your child attends ELP 1-2 days per week and \$75 if your child attends 3-4 days per week.

Please make sure and add this to your Tuition Check for the month.

Thanks!!

Merry Christmas










Looking Ahead:

Christmas Break begins
December 19
Returning to Preschool on
Tuesday, January 3

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!!!



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3 10 AM Advent Program rehearsal
4 Food Sunday, CCA 8:45-2:30 Youth Prog. PW Bake Sale 12 PM Chime Choir 3 PM Bell Choir 4 PM Chancel Choir 6 PM Advent Program	5 9-10 AM Exercise 6:30 PM Committee Chairmen Meeting 7:15 PM Committee Meetings	6 10 AM PW Circle 1 & 2 7-9 PM Boy Scouts	7 5-8 PM Open Youth 7PM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Ensemble Rehearsal 	8 9-10 AM Exercise 6:30-8:30 PM Cub Scouts (FH) 	9 Poinsettia delivery 6-9 PM Session Retreat at the Dionne Phillips Bagsby Sub Courthouse	10 9 AM Chapel Singers-Cantata rehearsal 9 AM—9 PM Session Retreat at the Dionne Phillips Bagsby Sub Courthouse
2nd Week of Advent						
11 8:45 AM Chapel Singers—Cantata 8:45-2:30 Youth Prog. 12 PM Chime Choir 3 PM Bell Choir 4 PM Chancel Choir	12 9-10 AM Exercise 7 PM Finance Meeting 7 PM PW Circle 3	13 10 AM PW General Gathering—Christmas Cookie Fill 11 PM Staff Meeting @ Christmas luncheon 2 PM Newsletter Mail -out 7-9 PM Boy Scouts	14 5-8 PM Open Youth 7PM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	15 9-10 AM Exercise 12—2 PM ELP Christmas Program (Sanctuary)	16 9 PM Youth Lock -In	17 8 AM Youth Lock-In Pick up 10 AM Chancel Choir rehearsal
3rd Week of Advent						
18 Joy Offering 11 AM Chancel Choir —Cantata 8:45-2:30 Youth Prog. 12 PM Mom's lunch 12 PM Chime Choir	19 ELP— Begin Christmas Break thru Jan. 2nd. 7 PM Session Mtg.	20 7-9 PM Boy Scouts 	21 No Open Youth 7 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	22 No Exercise Class 	23 1/2 Day Staff Holiday	24 7 PM 
4th Week of Advent						
25 Christmas 11 AM Worship Only No—Sunday School, Youth, Choir rehearsal 	26 Staff Holiday	27 2 PM Newsletter Mail-out 7-9 PM Boy Scouts	28 No Open Youth 7 PM Ensemble Rehearsal	29 No Exercise Class	30 1/2 Staff Holiday	31  

DECEMBER



- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Uta Engelhart | 14 Joyce Hill | 24 Patricia Watkins |
| 5 Susan Ost | 16 Jill Winn | 26 Audrey Remley |
| 5 Ronald Werner | 17 Allen Bunch | 26 Stan Phillips |
| 5 Mark Wilk | 17 Lauren Werner | 31 Carolyne Halton |
| 9 Summer Fleury | 18 Jenna Klovstad | |
| 10 Mary Jane Heiss | 21 Sandra Klovstad | |
| 13 Richard Poe | 21 Patrick White | |
| 13 Michael Pooler | 21 Tommy Dyer | |

Westminster Presbyterian Church

(817) 292-1155

Contemporary Worship Service: 8:45 AM, Sundays

Traditional Worship Service: 11:00 AM, Sundays

Web-Site: www.wpcfww.org
 E-mail: wpcfww@swbell.net
 Newsletter: www.wpcfww.org
 Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Office Phone: (817) 292-1155
 Office Fax: (817) 292-5903
 Minister: Dr. Donald R. Hogg
 wpcdhogg@swbell.net
 Director of C.E./Youth: Eric Varnon
 eric@wpcfww.org
 Director of Music: Dr. Don Timberlake
 dtimb@verizon.net
 Minister-In-Training: Dale Montgomery
 wpcintern@wpcfww.org
 Office Administrator: Vandee DeLeon
 wpcfww@swbell.net
 Organist: Kathy Moriarty
 Treasurer: Larry Atkinson
 wpcptreasurer@swbell.net
 Clerk of Session: Patricia Klint
 Webmaster: Eric Varnon
 Early Learning Place: Rose Wynne
 earlylearningplacepreschool@yahoo.com

SESSION MEMBERS

Dionne Bagsby	Carl Ewald
Larry Bartlett (T)	Allison Hurd
Becky Bittle	Sandra Klovstad
Jon Carter	Harold Leeds
Peggy Claus	Kathleen Nance
Gordon Couch	Polly Pooler (T)
Bob Craig (T)	Maury Shiver (T)
Carol Edley (T)	Neil Van Geem (T)
	James Werner

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Building & Grounds:	Carl Ewald	Co-Chairman
	Gordon Couch	Co-Chairman
	Carol Edley	
Christian Education:	Becky Bittle	Chairwoman
	Polly Pooler	
Finance/Stewardship:	Larry Bartlett	Chairman
	Bob Craig	
Membership:	Allison Hurd	Chairwoman
	James Werner	
	Jon Carter	
Outreach & Mission:	Harold Leeds	Chairman
	Neil Van Geem	
Personnel:	Maury Shiver	Chairwoman
	Sandra Klovstad	
Worship:	Kathleen Nance	Chairwoman
	Dionne Bagsby	
	Peggy Claus	

**Serving the Church — Sunday, December 18th, 2011
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Sermon: "Who Are You?"
Scriptures: I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 16-24
Cantata: Traditional Worship Service, Chancel Choir
 "Celtic Christmas"
Pulpit: Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg
Acolytes: Lisa Winn
Advent Candle: Allison, Chanel, Payton & Lincoln Hurd
 Vance, Julie, Adam and Elaina Riedel
Advent Scripture: Elaina Riedel
 Abby Francis
Counters: Linda Tallman, Tom Crouch
Doorstep Ministry: Uta and Larry Engelhart
Elder on Call: Kathleen Nance
Greeters: Don and Laura Wheeler
Liturgist: Dionne Bagsby
Sound Room: Elaina Riedel
Usher Team: Youth Usher Team
Worship Team (8:45) Red and Carol Lindsay

Serving the Church — Christmas Sunday, December 25th, 2011

Sermon: "A Child At Christmas"
 (Children have a special place in this service)
Scriptures: Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 2:1-20
Pulpit: Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg
Acolytes: Kathryn Pooler, Keith Miyataki
Counters: Greg Williams, Tony DiNicola
Doorstep Ministry: Connie and Chuck Bosworth
Elder on Call: Dionne Bagsby
Greeters: Bill and Mary Jane Heiss
Liturgist: Neil Van Geem
Sound Room: Sarah Bernardez
Usher Team: TBA
Worship Team (8:45) Larry and Debbie Bartlett

Westminster News

Presbyterian C
 Church USA
 7001 Trail Lake Drive
 Fort Worth, Texas 76133