



Westminster News

8200 Devonshire Drive *Dallas * 75209 * 214-351-3251 *www.wpcd.org * December 2017



Dear church family,

Advent is the “season of waiting” – waiting for the Christ child to be born anew, waiting for God to “create a new heaven and a new earth,” waiting for Jesus to come again and the reign of God come to this world.

But this idea of waiting can have its problems. In her book *Fearless Living*, Rhonda Britten writes, “When we passively wait, we are living in fear.” If we sluggishly wait for circumstances outside of ourselves to change in order to experience Advent hope/peace/joy/love, we rob ourselves of the chance to experience those things right now.

Cultivating hope/peace/joy/love means we make our lives our own and move freely into the future, no matter the circumstances of our lives or the world around us. And when we do that, we live fully into who God calls us to be – active participants in creation that have the agency to make a difference – to help shift circumstances rather than live in fear of them.

Our Advent waiting can’t be passive. God needs us in order to make the world a safer, better, more just place. This is the message the Advent angels brought to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. It’s the message that angels bring to us today. They bring news, but they also invite us to participate in God’s great story of love.

God needs us. During your wait, where will you share more hope/peace/joy/love this Advent season?

With great hope,

Rev. Nicole Bates

ANGELS AMONG US - Advent at WPC

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus’ birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point, their favorite line being #donotbeafraid.

As we explore the stories of winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring

- #morehope,
 - #morepeace,
 - #morejoy, and
 - #morelove
- to the world.



Join us for *Angels Among Us* every Sunday in December at 11 am in the Sanctuary.



FAMILY ADVENT WORKSHOP December 3 from 9:45 - 10:45 AM

Get ready for Christmas with this all-ages event! We will gather in Fellowship Hall to watch the award-winning video, “The Story of Christmas,” from Sparkhouse, followed by family fun and learning at activity stations. **Join us for this one-of-a-kind parent and child advent experience!**



- 2 Tony Natalicchio
- 2 Margarita Outley
- 5 Marjie Rozell
- 5 Chris Stanley
- 5 Erin Wallach
- 8 Eli Wallach
- 9 Jeff Glenn
- 11 Josh Parks
- 14 Perry Wright
- 15 Tom Chambers
- 18 Steve Coffin
- 19 John Rose
- 20 Susan Edwards
- 21 Martha Batts
- 28 Liz Barber
- 28 Margaret Highland
- 30 Stephanie Spillane
- 30 Sue Spellman
- 31 Corinne Bizzle



**WPC IS SO GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

If there are contributions still to be made in 2017, please know that the church office will be open until 4:00pm on December 28th for walk-ins. Of course, any mail that is postmarked on or before Sunday, December 31 will also be credited in 2017. Thank you again, Cindy Haddock

**ANNUAL TREE DECORATING
AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE**

The women of WPC are invited to help decorate the Christmas tree at GPV Friday, December 1. All can meet at Westminster and be ready to leave at 10:00 for the Village. Please bring a plate of cookies or finger snacks to serve the residents on Azelea wing. We should be back by 12:00 or 12:30.



WPW BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible Study will continue on December 12 in Room 102. Gloria Fearson is leading the study on the Minor Prophets, this month we will be reading the Books of Nahum and Zephaniah. We meet at 10:30am and be finished by noon. All ladies are encouraged to attend, and stay for a catered lunch.

COMMUNITY TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Remember loved ones by visiting the Faith & Grief Ministries Community Tree of Remembrance at Thanks-Giving Square this December. You are also invited to attend multi-faith worship service of remembrance at 6:30 pm on December 21. For more information, go to FaithAndGrief.org.



BROWN BAG BOOK CLUB

Book Club will take a break for the holidays in December but meet up again on January 23 in the Parlor. We will gather at 10:30 am to visit and snack and begin the book discussion at 11:00 am. In January we are reading *The Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follett. "A towering tale...a ripping read.... There's murder, arson, treachery, torture, love and lust."

A WORD ON THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the fondest Advent traditions is the lighting of Advent candles. The tradition began with pre-Christian northern Europeans, who in the darkest days of winter lit candles on an evergreen-covered wreath. Lighting a candle a day marked time and anticipated the return of the sun's light and warmth. By the 16th century Christians adapted the wreath as a way in Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.



Advent Wreath Symbols

Circle of evergreens - a reminder of the eternal and ever-renewing promises of Christ

Blue candles - lit on the first and second Sundays to represent the season's expectation of royalty, redemption, and hope of Christ's future and final return

Pink candle - lit on the third Sunday to recognize the shift in Advent themes to the joy of the coming of Jesus, the Christ

White candle - lit on Christmas Eve to declare the light of Christ is fully present -- Jesus is born!

HOLIDAY BOXES FOR THE HOMELESS – A Program of the Stewpot

Westminster is again participating in this Stewpot program this Christmas. We are inviting members and their friends and family to fill a shoe box with inexpensive necessity items for those living on the streets. The gift boxes will be distributed by our friends at The Stewpot.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use an empty shoe box (standard size). Please only use boxes that have a separate bottom and lid. Please wrap the lid and box separately. The box should not be wrapped shut when finished.

Fill the box with a variety of small, inexpensive gifts. Please fill the boxes with ADULT, UNISEX items only. Once filled, place a rubber band around each box. In a separate envelope you may enclose a holiday card or note. Place your note inside the box. (Please do not include addresses or phone numbers).

Deliver the boxes to Westminster and place them on the stage on or before **Thursday, December 14**. The boxes will be delivered to the Stewpot on Friday, December 16.

Gift Ideas

Knit hat	small flashlight with batteries	pens, pencils
Knit gloves	disposable stick razors	stationary or cards with stamps
Tube socks	small umbrella	hotel size toiletries
Plastic poncho	fast food gift card (\$5 or less)	hard candy or gum
Chapstick	small hand sanitizer	travel size Kleenex
Small Bible	deodorant	toothbrush/toothpaste

SERVE AT THE BRIDGE

Saturday, December 2

The dining room at The Bridge Homeless Assistance Center is called the Second Chance Café. Westminster has a standing commitment to provide 8 volunteers to serve breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month. Our next service day is Saturday, December 2. If you would be interested in serving with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at The Bridge, please call or e-mail Mike Stanley (817-724-7430, mike@colbystanley.com).



FEED THE HUNGRY AT AUSTIN STREET CENTER

Westminster will prepare and serve the evening meal for approximately 400 people at Austin Street Center on Saturday evening, December 16. All are welcome, including children, to participate. Much help will be needed in preparing the food and supplies in advance so that it may be transported to the Center that evening. Volunteers will also be needed to serve the meal.

There will be a sign-up board in Fellowship Hall for volunteers to bring food. **Donations may also be made to the Austin Street Feed the Hungry Special Fund.** This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families with children to serve together during the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING December 17

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings designated by Westminster to support specific causes that help those in need. Fifty percent of the receipts of the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance to programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 17. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins on that day for your gift.



CRIS' CORNER

As we move into our Christmas Season, we have many activities to share with you. The Annual Nativity Pageant will be in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 13th at 11:15. Come celebrate with us as we rejoice in the birth of Jesus with our 4's and Kindergarten classes as they re-enact the trip to Bethlehem with music and songs. Our Christian Education this month is:



December *Self-Control - Tolerance – Acceptance – Compromise - Recognizing right & wrong in our actions, thoughts and words.*

Our final tours for families interested in enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year will be January 10 & 11. If you are interested in enrollment in the school and are not currently on the wait list, please connect with the school by December 15th. Church members do have priority in the enrollment process.

This year our annual school-wide Social Responsibility Christmas Giving Project will offer an opportunity for child-to-child giving and sharing as we adopt the children from KB Polk Elementary; our neighborhood DISD school. Westminster children will share 100+ gifts for the 4's, Kindergarten and special needs students. We also grant wishes from the "Teacher Wish List". The Kindergarten class will deliver the gifts, sing songs and share the holiday spirit of giving.

Christmas Children's Stories you might enjoy:

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey
The Littlest Angel
Bear Stays Up for Christmas
Polar Express
The Legend of the Candy Cane
The Jolly Postman
The Last Straw
This is the Star
Jesus' Christmas Party
Carl's Christmas

For Adult Advent Reading:

In the Manger by Max Lucado
The Legend of the Poinsettia
Country Angel Christmas
The Night of Las Posadas
Jingle the Christmas Clown
Four Friends at Christmas
The Friendly Beasts
An Early American Christmas
The Story of the Three Wise Men

The school will be closed December 22 at 12:00 - January 8th when the children return. The staff and I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year!

Cristine L. Watson, MS Director



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

For some, Advent is just a countdown to Christmas. For others, the stories of Advent have become so familiar they've lost their power. Reawaken the beauty of Advent with this year's devotional booklet. Providing a daily scripture reading, meditation and prayer, booklets can be found outside the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.



WPC CHRISTMAS DINNER

WPC's annual Christmas dinner is Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 pm. Please bring a table-ready side or dessert; the main dish is provided. All are welcome.



Church Offices Closed

Monday, December 25

Monday, January 1



Westminster Presbyterian Church

8200 Devonshire Drive ~ Dallas, Texas 75209

214-351-3251 ~ www.wpcd.org

Church Office - 214-351-3251 - www.wpcd.org
Rev. Nicole Bates - nicoleb@wpcd.org
Emily Crump - emily.crump@sbcglobal.net
Cindy Haddock - cindyh@wpcd.org
Preschool & Kindergarten Office - 214-350-6155
Cris Watson, Director - wppkdirector@gmail.com

December 2 - Serving Breakfast at The Bridge

December 3 - The Lord's Supper

Mission Committee Meeting

December 4 - Christian Education Committee

December 11 - Church Life and

B & G Committee Meetings

December 12 - WPW Bible Study, Knitting Group

Preschool Committee Meeting

December 13 - WPPK Nativity Pageant

December 16 - Austin Street Center

December 17 - Christmas Dinner & Program

JOY Offering

December 18 - Stated Session Meeting

Newsletter Information Due

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - Church Offices Closed

**Mabuhay Fellowship - 2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:15 pm, Chapel


DECEMBER

Glory to God in
the highest
heaven,

and on earth
peace among
those whom
he favors.

Luke 2.14

