

Westminster News

8200 Devonshire Drive, Dallas, 75209 * 214-351-3251 * www.wpcd.org * February 2018

Letter from the Pastor

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

- Romans 12:4-5

One of the things I love about being Presbyterian is that we are a **connectional church**. Being connected is the essence of who we are. The body of Christ is just that – *a body*, with lots of different parts that work together for the common good.

As a connectional church, we are united with other North Texas Presbyterian churches through Grace Presbytery. **Grace Presbytery** is comprised of 158 congregations with over 41,000 members, and of these congregations is **John Calvin Presbyterian Church**.

In 2017, WPC and John Calvin began forming a connection. We had joint Holy Week services (Maundy Thursday at John Calvin, Good Friday at WPC). John Calvin even cancelled its Sunday worship so its members could join us to celebrate Westminster's 125th anniversary!

After much prayer and reflection, the Session of John Calvin has voted to close the church. On March 4, John Calvin will have its final worship service. While it will be a sad day when John Calvin closes its doors, I know its members and pastor are shaping the worship service to be a real celebration. God has done amazing things at John Calvin, and God will continue to inspire its members to BE the body of church in a new way.

As a connectional church, we need to support our friends at John Calvin. **I would like to invite at least 10 WPC members to attend John Calvin's final worship service.** Will you consider attending? This is a tangible way to show them our love. Please let me know if you are able to participate (nicoleb@wpcd.org)

In Christ,

Nicole Bates

Rev. Nicole Bates

John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Closing Worship Celebration
Sunday, March 4
10:45 am
4151 Royal Lane, Dallas

ANNUAL MEETING

The Session of WPC has called an annual meeting of the congregation on February 11, 2018, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2017 annual report and 2018 budget, and to approve the Pastor's terms of call. – Sharon Wright, Clerk.



ANGELS AMONG US

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the coat drive at Sudie L. Williams Elementary School in December. The season was much warmer for many kids thanks to your generosity. Although this school is located in Bluffview, over 90% of these children live in economically disadvantaged homes outside the neighborhood. Blessings to you for your love and support. --Lynn Puchlopek - Sudie L. Williams SBDM Chairman

WPC WORK DAY

Join us after worship Sunday, February 4 for a WPC workday. We will begin with lunch at 12:15 pm. People of all ages and abilities are invited to stick around after worship to help beautify the church building and grounds.



**HAPPY
VALENTINES DAY!**
February 14, 2018

February

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

During After Church Fellowship on Sunday, February 4 we will celebrate February birthdays. Come enjoy a cupcake and share birthday wishes with our WPC friends born this month.

- 4 Tom Gaunt
- 8 Claire Ampil
- 9 John Colocousis
- 14 Gil Smith
- 14 Melissa Frennea
- 14 Logan Wright
- 16 Jackson Glenn
- 17 John Henry Hollas
- 19 Wynne Miller
- 20 Bill Vilbig
- 29 Cheryl Bradford



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BABY BLESSINGS

WPC celebrates the birth of Charlotte Alise Simoni, born January 15, 2018 to Marc and Kelsey Simoni. Big brother is Jackson (age 2). Welcome to the family, Charlotte!



NEW MEMBERS



Hailey & David Neher
with daughters
Isabelle (2 3/4 years)
Charlotte (14 months)

Lauren & Dan Frunzi

with children
Emma (6 months)
Harry (2 ½ years)

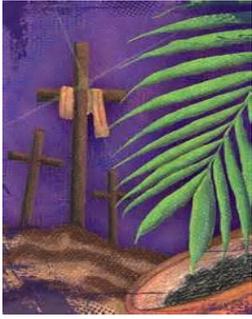


NEWLY BAPTIZED

Mila Lassiter
(8months)

with parents
Drew and Brittani





LENT 2018

What Is Lent?

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and self-examination to help us prepare to celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter. Lent is 40 days long (the same amount of time as the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness). Sundays in Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days, as every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, a day of: repenting of our sin (both individually and corporately), recognizing our mortality, and asking God to breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 14
6:30 pm
WPC Chapel

WPC's Ash Wednesday service will be a Taizé service, a style of worship that includes simple songs, scripture and poetry, brief silence for personal reflection, and the imposition of ashes. Join us Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Childcare is available in the nursery across the hall from the Chapel.

What Is Taizé Worship?

The Taizé (pronounced tah-ZAY) style of worship began in an ecumenical community founded in Taizé, France in 1940. More than 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year to pray, study the Bible, share and work together.

Prayer and silence are at the heart of Taizé worship.

Taizé worship is held in peaceful, simply lit settings. It incorporates prayer and repetitive songs. Many of these songs will be familiar to you. There is no preaching or teaching, just a simple service that will encourage personal meditation.

If you'd like to learn more about Taizé, please visit this website:
<http://www.taize.fr/en>



What Are You Up To?

Sundays in Lent
February 18 – March 25
11:00 am
WPC Sanctuary

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
- Mark 8:31-38

Lent is often known as the season of giving something up in order to make room for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, scripture asks us to consider what that Jesus is "up to" (and we should be up to, too). What are we up to that call us to be our best selves, both individually and as the church?

February 18

Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Title: Store Up

February 25

Text: Mark 8:31-38
Title: Take Up

March 4

Text: John 2:13-22
Title: Raise Up

March 11

Text: John 3:14-21
Title: Light Up

March 18

Text: John 12:20-33
Title: Lift Up

March 25 (Palm Sunday)

Text: John 12:12-16
Title: Sit Up

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

with **Deanna Hollas, Rev. Amy Moore**
and **Rev. Lillian Smith**

Sundays, February 11 - March 25
9:45 am - Room 102

Begin and end this Lenten season by attending **Spiritually Speaking**. This is a 4 session Sunday school class lead by guest speakers Deanna Hollas, Rev. Amy Moore and Rev. Lillian Smith. This will be a great experience for all. Come and bring a friend.

In 1983 when the Northern Presbyterian Church (UPCUSA) merged with the Southern Presbyterian Church (PCUS) to form the Presbyterian Church (USA), there were two areas of growth defined: social justice and spirituality. While social justice took off, spirituality was left in the dust. Why? Many scholars say that we Presbyterians do faith really well. Yet, we lack the spiritual disciplines that lead deeper and meaningful experience with God.

This class will discuss Reformed Spirituality, experience a variety of prayer and spiritual disciplines, seek formational knowledge of Scripture, and touch on group spiritual direction. It will be a time of discovery as we seek freedom in our experience of God in the world. As a covenant community, we will establish a foundation of listening to one another as we check our "fix-it" thinking at the door.

Deanna Hollas is the Assistant Director of Retreat House Spirituality Center in Richardson, TX. She has a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology. Deanna is a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rev. Amy W. Moore - Lifetime seeker, Pennsylvania native. Joyfully (mostly!) following the Spirit on a fascinating journey through a 30-year career as a nurse clinician and educator, Stephen Ministry, Spiritual Director, faculty of HeartPaths DFW and multi-faith activism with FaithForwardDallas of ThanksGiving Square. PC(USA) pastor. Enjoying life as a sister, wife, mother, GramB of two, fitness enthusiast, adult learner on the piano and aspiring writer. Grateful and amazed by grace!

Rev. Lil Smith is a Teaching Elder in Grace Presbytery. She is Director of Retreat House Spirituality Center, Parish Associate at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, and a trained spiritual director and supervisor.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday, February 13 at 10:30 am in room 102. Gloria Fearson is leading the study on the Minor Prophets, this month the Book of Zechariah. Everyone is encouraged to stay for a catered lunch following the study.

February is our month to send homemade cookie care packages to college students. Please bring two dozen individually wrapped cookies. It is a special treat for our college kids, letting them know that they are loved.

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BOOK CLUB

In 1986, twenty-year-old Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the woods. He would not have a conversation with another person for the next 27 years.

Book Club meets on Tuesday, February 27 in the Parlor to discuss *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel. The group gathers at 10:30 am for fellowship and discussion begins at 11:00 am.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BREAKFAST AT THE BRIDGE

Saturday, February 3

The dining room at The Bridge Homeless Assistance Center is called the Second Chance Café. The Stewpot coordinates the volunteers needed to serve three meals a day, seven days a week to about 400 people per meal. Westminster has a standing commitment to provide eight volunteers to serve breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month. Our next service day is Saturday, February 3. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mike Stanley (817-267-6822 or mike@colbystanley.com).

FEED THE HUNGRY AT AUSTIN STREET

Saturday, February 17

Westminster has a commitment to prepare and serve the evening meal for approximately 450 people at Austin Street Center on Saturday, February 17 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. 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.**

TACO TUESDAY

Every second Tuesday, WPC serves breakfast tacos and coffee to morning commuters. It's a great way to be a welcoming presence in the Devonshire neighborhood. If you are interested in helping prepare or serve the tacos, please contact Mike Stanley (817-267-6822 or mike@colbystanley.com).

DOG PARK COFFEE

Every second and fourth Saturday, WPC serves coffee in the Westminster Dog Park from 9-10:30 am. It's a great way to welcome guests to our beautiful campus. If you are interested in helping serve coffee (it's the easiest volunteer gig you can do!), please contact Mike Stanley (817-267-6822 or mike@colbystanley.com).

KNITTING GROUP

Join the *Knitwits* on Tuesday, February 13 & 27 at 12:30 pm in the Parlor to make baby caps for Parkland hospital newborns, prayer shawls and lap blankets for hospice patients and Meals on Wheels recipients.

DECEMBER SESSION RECAP

All were present plus one of our new elders and we shared the joys and concerns of the church as Nicole opened the meeting with prayer. After much discussion and work, we were able to get to a balanced budget for the next year. This budget will be presented to the congregation at our annual meeting on Sunday, February 11th. Looking ahead, WPC needs to plan for the near future when the pledge income may be significantly lower. Conversations about how you best utilize and allocate funding streams, including income from WPC's Foundations, will be addressed in coming months. Finance Committee made the following motion: If at year-end 2017 the overall budget has a surplus, we will carry forward (up to \$17,293) to fund the Director of Family Ministry position support services (computer, desk, facilities). Motion was passed. We have been searching for someone to fill this part-time position—with no luck. Motion was made by Mission Committee to direct their year end balance (minus \$3000) to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund. Passed. We thanked our out-going elders, Susan Gee, Mike Stanley, and Lynn Puchlopek, for their dedication and many contributions to our church for the past three years.



**New Session Members
Class of 2020**

Polly Frazier, Chris Hollas, Blair Hudson

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Recognizing four exceptional educators in worship on January 28 was a blessing. I enjoyed the opportunity to connect the large Westminster community in such a personal and celebration way! We are grateful for Mrs. England (5 years), Mrs. Ogden (5 years), Mrs. Rowland (10 years) and Mrs. Ingram (10 years).

Our *Christian Education* focus this month is LOVE (caring, joyfulness, friendship, contentment and inclusiveness). Through modeling, affirmation, stories, music and purposeful activities children are encouraged to develop these values. With Valentine's Day coming, look for opportunities to do **INTENTIONAL** acts of kindness.

Our *Social Responsibility Project* this month, teaching, caring for and giving back to others, will be creating 100 colorful, unique Valentines to uplift rooms of children who are in the hospital.

NAEYC – we are now in our 15-day window for our onsite visit for reaccreditation. Jan. 29 – Feb. 16 will bring a 2 day assessment by our validators. WPPK has continually been accredited since 1997!

Kindergarten will be celebrating their 100th day in school this month with unique collections of “100 item” objects. Stop by to see their creativity.

Dad's Night will be celebrated Feb. 8th with activities and dinner for our wonderful dads. We look forward to honoring our dads on this night.

Camp Westminster summer program will be forthcoming in March before spring break so check for dates to be posted on the web site.

Be sure our spring *Carnival* date is on your calendar – Saturday, April 14.

Chapel Stories for ages 3 - Kindergarten are led by Pastor Nicole each week, here is the schedule for February.

2/5/18	Luke 10:30-35	The good Samaritan	Like Jesus, we can show mercy
2/12/18	Luke 18:35-43	The blind man	We can ask Jesus for all we need
2/19/18	<i>No Chapel</i>		
2/26/18	Matthew 14:14-20	The miracle meal	Like Jesus, we can share

Cristine L. Watson, MS
Director- Westminster Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Easter Celebration

Saturday, March 24

10am

Fellowship Hall

Bring your children, grandchildren, friends ages 0 - grade 5.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to hear the wonderful Resurrection Story and hunt Easter eggs. We have been told there will be a VERY SPECIAL guest, someone who likes carrots!

We are looking for volunteers to help stuff eggs for the hunt. We can never have too many eggs! So load them up with toys and nut-free treats and help us provide a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for our children. Please place stuffed eggs or treats in the box marked Easter Celebration on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are also needed the day of the Hunt to hide eggs and guide the children throughout the day. Please contact Susan Edwards (susancedwards@gmail.com) or Shelley King (shelleygking@gmail.com) for more information.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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214-351-3251 ~ www.wpcd.org

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Preschool & Kindergarten Office - 214-350-6155
Cris Watson, Director - wppkdirector@gmail.com

February 3 - Serving Breakfast at The Bridge
February 4 - The Lord's Supper
Mission Committee Meeting
February 5 - Christian Ed. Committee
February 6 - Worship Committee
February 11 - Annual Meeting
February 12 - Church Life & B & G Committees
February 13 - Breakfast Tacos
WPW Bible Study, Knitting Group
Preschool Committee Meeting
February 14 - Ash Wednesday Worship
Finance Committee
February 17 - Austin Street Center
February 21 - Personnel Committee
Newsletter Information Due
February 26 - Stated Session Meeting
February 27 - Brown Bag Book Club, Knitting Group

**Coffee with the Canines - 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 9:00 am, *Dog Park*

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

