

Westminster News

8200 Devonshire Drive, Dallas, 75209 * 214-351-3251* www.wpcd.org - January 2012



TWO NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

FAITH AND FAMILY Sunday School Class

Meets in the Parlor at 9:30AM

Will be studying the book "**Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church,**" by Kenda Creasy Dean. Ty Gomez will lead the study, which will begin January 8, 2012 and last 6 to 8 weeks (not exactly sure how long at this time). A brief review of the book, which will give potential attendees an idea of the subject matter, is as follows:

"Dean (The Godbearing Life), a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, opens this absorbing portrait of teenage religiosity by throwing down a gauntlet: the faith of America's teens is 'not durable enough to survive long after they graduate from high school. One more thing: we're responsible.' Dean, who worked on the National Study of Youth and Religion with sociologist Christian Smith, says that American Christians' emphasis on 'a do-good, feel-good spirituality' at the expense of deep discipleship may cost them the rising generation, which is (with the exception of Mormon teens, the subject of an admiring chapter-long case study) largely apathetic about Christian faith. How, then, can religious leaders and teachers inculcate what Dean calls a 'consequential faith'--i.e., one that bears fruit for the long haul? She identifies four factors teens need: a personal encounter with God, a strong church or youth group, a sense of being called to duty, and hope for the future. In a refreshingly personal final chapter, Dean outlines her frustration at the daunting task ahead but emphasizes the possibilities if the Christian church decides to take up its cross and follow Jesus.



OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY CLASS

Meets in Arabella's Room at 9:30AM - Led by George Gee & Dick Powers - Begins January 8, 2012 and runs through May 27, 2012. The class will involve an overview of the Old and New Testaments, with an emphasis on the Psalms, using the New English Bible. The purpose of the class is to encourage each individual to trust the

living, eternal and true God of the Old and New Testaments, and to pray and study together the written, revealed and proclaimed word of God with understanding, joy and thanksgiving. "Is a Christian teacher one who believes everything is sweetness and light or have they tasted death and the devil?" - Martin Luther.



YOUTH LOCK-IN

(6th graders through college students) Friday night, January 6th through serving at the Bridge on Saturday morning, January 7th. This is an annual tradition as we go back to our busy school schedules. Join us for the fun!

Questions? Contact Lisa Reece

lisar@wpcd.org



SERVING BREAKFAST at THE BRIDGE

January 7
7:00AM



AUSTIN STREET SANDWICHES

Bring a loaf on January 15 to be delivered to the shelter



Space is available to sign up for

Sanctuary Flowers or After Church Fellowship

in 2012



CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED JANUARY 2





- 1 Ken Adams
- 1 Ruth Shaw
- 2 Jerri Smith
- 2 Clemi Thompson
- 2 Tom McDaniel
- 3 Frances Knight
- 5 Patsy McDonald
- 6 Emily Touchstone
- 7 Alexandria Chambers
- 10 Reba Carter
- 14 Christina Urquhart
- 14 John Ampil
- 14 Cynthia Sample
- 17 Dan Craddock
- 18 Donna Reast
- 19 Chris Hollas
- 19 Madge Dameron
- 19 Ashley Blackman
- 20 Suzette Hicks
- 22 Obinna Abaraoha
- 22 Lisa Florjancic
- 23 Henry Cummins
- 24 Bill Tiffany
- 25 Margaret Spellman
- 29 John McDonald
- 29 Susan Gee
- 30 Deborah Adams
- 30 Blair Hudson
- 30 Grant Colocousis



for
**Adrienne
Stanley**

Sat., January 14 - 2:00PM
at Westminster
registered at Macy's, Target
and Bed Bath & Beyond



WPW - BROWN BAG BOOK CLUB

The Brown Bag Book Club has chosen the following books for the new year 2012.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

"The Secret Scripture" by Sebastian Barry

A story of a 100 year old lady living in a mental hospital that wants to leave a bright and honest minded history of her life. If God gives her the strength she will tell her story. Lone Wilson will lead the discussion



Tuesday, February 28, 2012

"Double Shot" by Kay Sanford and Joan C. Clark

A detective story set in New York City in the 20's. A real "who done it" story. Kay and Joan have doctorate degrees in English literature and taught at Brookhaven College. Kay is a personal friend of Cleta Glenn. Cleta will lead the discussion. See her for the book.



Tuesday, March 20, 2012

"Maggie's Journey" by Lena Nelson Dooley

If you were adopted would you like to know who, when, and why? Come join us as we follow Maggie on her journey to discover both her past and future.



Join us in the Church Parlor at 11:00AM

Bring a sack lunch and stay for knitting with the KnitWits".

It is always an interesting and fun Tuesday.



KNITWIT UPDATE

Since August of this year, we have donated 385 Knitted, Crocheted, and sewn items as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 26 - Premie Shirts | 7 - Lap Robes |
| 14 - Shawls | 7 - Angel Gowns |
| 208 - Baby Caps | 68 - Scarves |
| 46 - Baby Blankets | 9 - Youth Caps |

These projects are funded only by donations. Most supplies are purchased by Knitwit members. Donations of yarn, soft flannel, ribbons, lace and materials for angel gowns are gladly accepted.



NEW CROCHET CLASS

Diane Spicer will be teaching beginning crochet classes Jan. 10, 17 & 24 from 1:00 – 2:00PM in the parlor. Please call Diane at the church office (214-315-3251) or send her a note at diane.spicer@sbcglobal.net if you can attend so you can receive a list of materials and we can get a head count. Our goal is for each learner to be able to produce a baby hat or a blanket for Parkland's nursery or a warm scarf for the Bridge after the final lesson. Everyone is welcome!



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Loring Stanley
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter

Adrienne Greer
to
Claude Wilson Nicholson, IV

Saturday, the twenty first of January
Two thousand and twelve
half after four o'clock
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Dallas, Texas

Reception following
Stewart Fellowship Hall

To My Church Family...

I am so excited and blessed to be getting married in January! Westminster has forever been my church home. I was baptized, confirmed, raised, and transformed into a strong Christian at Westminster Presbyterian Church. My dear church family at Westminster also supported me throughout last year, when I completed a year of volunteer work in Belfast, Northern Ireland with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I feel so blessed and honored to now be getting married at my church home.

Our wedding would not be complete without all of my church family there. I would be so honored and privileged to have the presence of the Westminster congregation there with us when Wilson and I celebrate the sacrament of marriage.

Please join us as Wilson and I exchange vows on January 21, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. Following the ceremony there will be a small church reception honoring and thanking all of those at Westminster that have supported and encouraged me throughout my life.

Blessings,
Adrienne Stanley



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA... a blessing for all

Once again, our hallways were filled with children and their parents coming to see Santa and spend time with their families celebrating the spirit of Christmas. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes most of

WPC's members to host this event. Almost 50 members came ready to decorate, prepare crafts, meet and greet, serve up muffins, take and print pictures, give craft instructions, read a Christmas story, sing a Christmas song, blow up a snowman, and throw a snowball. But more importantly, we opened our home, shared a meal, and met new friends.

Many thanks to our special Santa and his helpers, and to John Hollas for believing that a snowball fight room was a GREAT idea, then roping Deanna, Eleanor and Emily Hollas into helping set it up and run it. It was a HIT!



CONGRATULATIONS to KARLONDA!

Karlonda Burton received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas on December 17th. She has been part of our church family through Bright Futures. Her last semester she took 18 hours, worked part time, and took care of Jairon, her 4 year old son. What a heavy load she carried to meet her goal of a college diploma. We congratulate you, Karlonda! Karlonda will be honored at After Church Fellowship on Sunday, January 15th.





DAY OF PRAYER for Parkland Hospital

We are invited to join other faith communities during the weekend of **January 6 to 8** to pray for the welfare of Parkland Hospital.

Mark Wingfield, Associate Pastor at Wilshire Baptist writes....." I'm writing today to invite your participation in a simple gesture to strengthen our community in a way that unites us across lines of faith, race, gender, politics and ZIP codes. This is an idea that requires no expenditure of money and no organization of committees or study groups.

This may be an audacious goal, but my hope is to engage faith communities across Dallas County in the simple act of prayer on behalf of an institution that is essential to fulfilling a core value of all our religious traditions. We share a desire to care for "the least of these" among us and to help all people know fullness of life. Even though Parkland is not a "religious" institution, what happens there every day is a fulfillment of this basic faith value.

Were it not for Parkland, each of our congregations would face immensely greater burdens in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our community. We would be coming together to create some other sort of safety net, because none of us could meet this challenge alone. I cannot imagine what life in Dallas County would be like without Parkland succeeding at its mission. Even our fantastic faith-based hospitals in Dallas, which go the extra mile in providing charity care, would be overwhelmed without Parkland.

Unless you've been ignoring the news for several months, you know that Parkland stands at one of the most critical junctures in its history. Leadership change, construction of a new facility, meeting the increasing demands of our county in tough economic times and addressing the need for excellence in all areas of care are but a few of the challenges.

For several months now, I have come to the conviction that the most important thing I can do as an individual, as a minister and as a responsible citizen is to pray for the welfare of this vital public institution. Out of this conviction has come the idea to lead my own congregation to a Day of Prayer for Parkland, with the added hope that other people of faith would join us.

If you are willing to join in this simple act of prayer, would you consider making this focused effort some part of your worship gatherings on the weekend of January 6-8? Whether you gather for worship on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or some other day doesn't matter. Your participation will add strength to our collaborative spiritual focus on that weekend.

There's no press kit or curriculum for this Day of Prayer. This brief letter is all. Take the idea and adapt it however is best for your context.

You may learn more about Parkland and its mission here:

www.parklandhospital.com. Here, you'll learn facts like these:



50 percent of the physicians practicing in Dallas County trained at Parkland; 45 babies are born at Parkland every day; more than 400 people are seen in the Parkland ER every day."



THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

With thanksgiving to God, WPC members "adopted" 50 children from the Good Shepherd Community Center. With donations from church members, the youth helped purchase and wrap gifts for 27 children. Additionally, Wal Mart gift cards for groceries, in the amount of \$25, were given to all the families (65) and staff (10) at the center. Average income of families with children attending the center is \$15,000. Thanks to all who made this a special Christmas for the children and families at Good Shepherd.

Also our special Santa delighted the Good Shepherd with a surprise visit on Monday, December 19. About 20 of our Westminster elves donned Santa hats and helped with crafts, sang songs and shared the spirit of the season with 60 excited children and staff. The wonder and magic of Christmas was seen once again in the eyes of the children, and we were blessed by their smiles, hugs.

Kudos to all the volunteers who made this joyous event happen and especially Lisa Howeth

and her amazing gift for sharing the love of the Lord and organizing the best events ever.



Thanks be to God!





YOUTH TO SERVE AT THE BRIDGE IN JANUARY

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 there on the first Saturday of each month. The youth will be serving in the month of January. Thanks to the youth and their sponsors.



Mark Your Calendar Feed the Hungry at Austin Street Centre February 18

Westminster has made a commitment to prepare and serve the evening meal for approximately **400 people** at Austin Street Centre on Saturday evening, **February 18 from 7 PM to 8 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 Centre that evening. Volunteers will also be needed to serve the meal. There will be sign-up board in Fellowship Hall for volunteers to bring food (cookies, milk and sandwiches). Donations

may also be made to the Austin Street Feed the Hungry Special Fund to cover the cost of the main course.

This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families with children to serve together.



ENGLISH LEARNING PROJECT

This year we have a new volunteer on our rolls. Thank you Judy Ziehm.

Our classes continue with dedicated teachers and students eager to learn. Our four teachers come two mornings a week to instruct the approximately 50 adults who have enrolled this year. When a teacher cannot come, we really need someone who can step in and teach the class. Judy has been a substitute teacher several times already this year. She is an excellent teacher. We could not operate without volunteers ready to step in and sub.

Our teachers this year are: Dorothy Baker, Gordon Fox, Susie Spellman, and Louise Smith.

Thank you Westminster for hosting this mission. We are grateful for everything you do for us.



Epiphany

Epiphany begins 12 days after Christmas every year on January 6. It gets its name from the Greek work epiphaneia, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest." The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Epiphany Day marks the coining of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus - a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life.

The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

Merry Epiphany!



For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says the
Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

Westminster Presbyterian Church

8200 Devonshire Drive ~ Dallas, Texas 75209

A Not-For-Profit Organization

Church Office - 214-351-3251
Preschool Office - 214-350-6155
Karl Schwarz - karls@wpcd.org
Lisa Reece - Lisar@wpcd.org
Emily Crump - emilyc@wpcd.org
Diane Spicer - dianes@wpcd.org

January 1 - New Year's Day - No Sunday School
January 2 - Church Offices Closed
January 7 - Serving Breakfast at The Bridge
January 8 - The Lord's Supper
January 9 - Mission, Administration, Church Life,
& Worship Committee Meetings
January 10 - WPW Bible Study
Preschool Committee
January 15 - Ordination & Installation of Officers
Austin Street Sandwiches
January 16 - Stated Session
January 23 - Newsletter Info Due
January 24 - WPW Book Club

**Every Tuesday at 12:30PM - *Knitting Group in the Parlor*

**Every Friday at 5:30PM - *Friday Evening in the Chapel*

MAY THERE BE PEACE WITHIN

May you trust your highest power that you are exactly where you are meant to be...

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you...

May you be content knowing you are a child of God...

Let this presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul the freedom to
sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of you...

--Author Unknown