

WHPC'S RESPONSE TO THE TRAGEDY IN HAITI

LINKING ARMS WITH COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

On January 12th a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, the strongest in more than 200 years. Two aftershocks of 5.9 and 5.5 magnitude came minutes later. Many homes and buildings easily collapsed including hospitals, schools and government buildings. We have been shocked by images and stories coming from the rubble of this disaster, and we have prayerfully sought how to respond with compassion and faithfulness to Christ. WHPC has already collected over \$13,000 to send to Haiti and is matching \$10,000 from our Missions budget.

Meanwhile, we have been looking to find the best way to steward this money. When disasters occur, typically it is those who were already vulnerable who are the most deeply affected. In a country where one out of five children die before their fifth birthday, there is no room for more disaster. That being the case, WHPC has decided to partner with Compassion International in relief assistance within Haiti helping those vulnerable young ones in Haiti.

Compassion International already has the infrastructure and staff in place in Haiti waiting for the support to help those in need. All funds raised in response to the Haiti earthquake will be used immediately to re-equip Compassion's local support structure and to provide for the immediate needs of Compassion-assisted children and families. Compassion International also has proved to be a trustworthy, faithful organization during times like this.

You can still donate by cash or check to WHPC or online at compassion.com.

(Note: 2009 Tax Benefit: Charitable contributions made Jan. 12 - Feb. 28 2010 in response to the Haiti earthquake can be claimed as itemized charitable deductions on your 2009 tax return instead of waiting to claim these on your 2010 tax return.)

As you can imagine, their need is overwhelming. This is where we cling to what we believe and hold true. We are to be faithful to our role in God's larger story of redemption and seek to follow Christ into the needs of this world. Thank you for your generosity and let us continue to remember our brothers and sisters in prayer.



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To invite

People into

God's Larger

Story as we

follow Christ

together

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Director of Music

Emily Craven

Organist

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IT SEEMS TO ME....

by Dr. Peter Barnes



Eugene Peterson has written that in the last half of the 19th Century, John Muir was our most intrepid and worshipful explorer of the Western extremities of the North American continent. For decades he tramped up and down through God's created wonders, from the California Sierras, to the Alaskan glaciers, observing, reporting, praising, and experiencing all God had made.

At one period during this time, in 1874, Muir visited a friend who had a cabin nestled snugly in the valley of one of the tributaries of the Yuba River in the Sierra Mountains. One December day a storm moved in from the Pacific, and it bent the junipers and pines, the Madronas and fir trees as if they were blades of grass. It was for just such times that this cabin had been built – to provide cozy protection from harsh elements. It is easy to imagine Muir and his host safe and secure in his tightly caulked cabin with the fire blazing against the cruel assault of the elements.

However, instead of retreating to the coziness of the cabin and pulling the door tight, John Muir strode out of the cabin into the storm, climbed a high ridge, picked a giant Douglas Fir as the best perch for experiencing the kaleidoscope of color and sound. He scrambled his way to the top and rode out the storm, lashed by the wind, holding on for dear life, relishing the weather!

That is the picture of a person in worship of the God of creation in all His glory. It is also a picture of a missional Christian. Instead of remaining huddled in our sanctuaries of worship and our cozy small groups of fellowship where we know everyone and feel safe, the missional Christian is invited to brave the elements and venture out into a lost and broken world to join God on His mission of love. We may encounter storms, and we may be lashed by the winds. Sometimes we'll have to hold on for dear life. But it is an adventure of faith that is so rewarding when you know you've done something that was hard and you sensed Jesus used you to be a blessing to others. There is no greater feeling on the planet!

May we relish the good works of our heavenly Father in our own lives, and may we join God as partners with Him on His mission of love.



ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no MWM classes for children and adults, and dinner will not be served. Child care will be available for children kindergarten and under.

NOONDAY LENTEN ORGAN SERIES ON WEDNESDAYS

This year's contemplative Lenten organ programs will begin on February 24 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary, and continue through March 31. Enjoy the special atmosphere and unique opportunity for meditation offered by various Austin organists in this year's series, as well as Marion Nordeman's delicious lunch immediately afterwards in the parlor.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT

APRIL 23-25, 2010

MO RANCH / HUNT, TX

On behalf of the ACR Planning Team, I encourage you to join us for our 21st Annual Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church Retreat, April 23-25, at Mo-Ranch! This year our theme is *Conforming to Christ*. We will gather as one church family to fellowship and worship, learn, play, rest, eat and laugh! It is an ideal way to connect with old friends and make new ones, nurturing relationships as a church family.

You will especially be encouraged by our guest speaker, Dr. Doug Ferguson, Senior Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston. You can discover more about Doug at his blog at www.houstonsgrace.org.

The All Church Retreat is one of the most meaningful ways to nurture relationships and build friendships at WHPC. The retreat is for everyone! Children, youth, parents, singles, friends, grandparents, extended family. We wish for you all to join us at the beautiful and relaxing Mo-Ranch retreat center in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. If you have never gone, you are in for a real treat! If you used to go but think it is no longer for you, think again! We want you to participate and experience this wonderful weekend of Christian fellowship, spiritual renewal, and deep rest along the Guadalupe River.

For more information and to register, please visit our website at www.whpc.org.



With Anticipation,
Dr. Peter Barnes



3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Twenty-five children received their 3rd grade Bibles in Worship on January 17. Please watch for the following Children and encourage them on their journey of faith exploring and getting to know their Bibles: Ryan Blais, Kyle Boyer, Rhett Burgess, Kevin Camera, Caroline Cheatham, Cullen Cline, Megan Cox, Katherine Craig, Ivan Dorian, Uriah Dorian, Brian Jessich, Audrey Kaufmann, Laura LaBoon, James Lane, Luke Lasseter, Katie Nabors, Mason Nelson, Ben Pankonien, Kinga Parrish, Sarah Patino, Owen Robertson, Olivia Rodrigues, Pierce Rodrigues, Brooke Schneider, James Stritzinger, Alex Thornley, Hope Vittorini, Rory Williams and Samantha Williams.

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE CLASS

The 4th grade Home Court Advantage class will meet February 21. This month the class focus will be stewardship of our time, talents and money. Parents are welcome to attend the class with their students. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall south during the Sunday School hour.

FAMILY MISSION TRIP JUNE 10-19, 2010

Take a family vacation with a purpose to Managua, Nicaragua. Activities include: VBS, Teacher Training Seminar, and Playground construction at Colegio Cristiano Presbiteriano. We will visit the new Juan Calvino Presbyterian Seminary, hand out layettes and toys in a local hospital and visit other ministries in Managua. We will end the trip with a day on the beach at the Pacific Ocean.

Do you have a heart and gift for training teachers as well as loving on children? If so, this trip is for you. What an amazing opportunity to serve with your family. The cost is \$450 per person plus airfare and trip/health insurance. For more information contact Nancy Pickett@263-1982 or nancycpickett@yahoo.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Ephesians 2 ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

It has been amazing to see the abundant generosity that has come from our church with the Christmas Eve offering for Habitat for Humanity. **We ended up receiving over \$62,000 from our church body!** I believe that there is no greater way to worship the incarnation of the Savior than to seek to continue His presence in the ministry with those in need. This



might come across as simple or small, but I find it profound; we are one church, building one home, for one family, in worship for the One who made this all possible.

I continue to believe that the great resource that WHPC has to offer is not our money, but it is the people! That being the case, now is time for us to follow our donation with our hands, feet, and time. We have spent hours trying to think of how to maximize this experience for the life of the church on behalf of the **Garcia family!**

Most of the needed information is at our church's website www.whpc.org/habitat_build.

There are three different ways that you can get involved:

Option One: Join a Workday!

Different groups from the WHPC community have chosen their own workday. Go to whpc.org to see if your group has signed up, or you can get involved by being a part of our **WHPC-Wide Build Days**. These church-wide workdays are **2/27** and **3/13**. These are Saturdays meant for anyone to join. You don't have to be a WHPC member to join the build, so feel free to invite a friend. Also, skilled trainers will be present on-site; **NO LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. No one younger than 16 is allowed on a work site. 16-17 year olds must be with a parent or guardian at worksite.**

** A typical work day is from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

Option Two: Provide the Meal!

To maximize the momentum of work, lunch happens at the work site. To make this possible, we will need to have people volunteer to purchase, prepare, and deliver the food for these different Saturdays. This is a perfect service event for a family, renewal group, Sunday school class, etc. These lunch groups will need to provide enough food to feed 40 people.

To sign up to provide a meal, go to the church's website to join an existing team or to form your own.

** Lunch is typically served at 11:30 a.m.*

Option Three: Help Kickoff the Morning!

To begin each workday, we will need someone to help with registration and kickoff at the work site each Saturday morning. This can be done by an individual or a couple who wants to help, but can't set aside a whole day or can't physically provide the labor.

Sign up to help kickoff the morning and see available dates by going to the church's website.

** The morning kickoff will be from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.*

I'm excited to serve as a church family and build this home in unity as we follow Christ together.

Mark Charbonneau
Director of Local and Regional Missions

ROMANCE YOUR VALENTINE



Enjoy a date with your sweetheart (married, dating or just friends!) on Saturday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the WHPC Gym. Larry Coulter will provide an inspirational talk on love and marriage while we enjoy a delicious dinner. Then we'll turn up the music and open the dance floor for a evening of Christian fun and fellowship! Dress is Valentine festive!

Cost: \$40 per couple or \$160 for table of eight, including childcare.

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If buying a table:

Couple 1: _____

Couple 2: _____

Couple 3: _____

Childcare Needed? List children's names and ages

Host Couple: _____ Couple 1: _____

Couple 2: _____ Couple 3: _____

Deadline Monday, February 8th, 5:00 p.m. Payment by check or cash to church office or online with PayPal is due within three days of registration. We encourage you to pay by check or cash since the church pays a fee for using PayPal. Registrations are non-refundable after deadline. Contact Diane Pollard at dpollard@austin.rr.com or 263-8022 with questions.