



To invite people into
God's larger story as we
follow Christ together

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AUGUST 2011 ISSUE

FALL KICK-OFF AND BBQ

Children's Sunday School Open House

9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

PoK-e-Jo's BBQ Lunch

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AUG 28

8:15 a.m.

Traditional

9:30 a.m.

Contemporary

11:00 a.m.

Traditional

Join us on August 28 as we resume our regular schedule of worship and celebrate the beginning of a new Fall season at WHPC.

Families with children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to visit their child's classrooms and meet their teachers. Families should attend the worship service of their choice and then visit their classroom during the hour they would normally attend Sunday School. The kids are invited to bring a swimsuit and towel to enjoy the water inflatables on the back playground.

*No Adult or Youth Sunday School will be held.
All Sunday School Classes will resume as normal on September 4.*

BE A PART OF WHPC DAY WITH MANOS DE CRISTO'S BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Over a two week period, our Mission Partner, Manos de Cristo, will help over 2,000 children prepare for school with new clothing and school supplies. On August 4 and 9, WHPC has committed to fully staff the program with volunteers. The event will be held from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 10601 N. Lamar Blvd. All ages are welcome to serve. No need to sign up. For those who want a ride, church buses leave WHPC at 7:20 a.m.





WESTLAKE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- Senior Pastor**
Dr. Peter Barnes
- Associate Pastor for Mission**
Dr. Carol Friesen
- Associate Pastor for Community**
Rev. Peter Haas
- Interim Associate Pastor for Discipleship**
Dr. Jim Bankhead
- Director of Music**
Emily Craven
- Director of Contemporary Worship**
Jason Johnson
- Organist**
Paul Keith
- Director of Women's Ministry**
Kathryn Weldin
- Director of High School Ministry**
Doug Congdon
- Director of Middle School Ministry**
Kyle Bender
- Director of Local & Regional Mission**
Mark Charbonneau
- Director of Children's Ministry**
Cindy Gangstad
- Assistant Director of Children's Ministry**
Lisa Ruth Pullen
- Sunday School Preschool Coordinator**
Judy Crochet
- Business Administrator**
Bill Laughlin
- Special Advisor to Senior Pastor**
Bud Reynolds
- Director of Communications**
Nancy Gray
- Financial Administrator**
Anita Maxwell
- Facilities Manager**
Kyle Key
- Librarian**
Peggy Greenawalt
- Preschool Director**
Susan Bright
- The Echo**
Nancy Gray, Editor
Travis Hardy, Design

It seems to me ...

by Dr. Peter Barnes



As many of you know, we are in the middle of a church-wide discussion (some might call it a disagreement) as to what we think the Lord is calling our church to be and do. There is a significant difference of opinion among members of our church on the issue of human sexuality and ordination standards for church leaders, and the feelings run deep on both sides. Someone asked me, "Why is it that Christians fight so?" I responded, "It's because the issues about which they disagree run to the very core of their being." We each feel and believe strongly about these matters.

What does Christ think about all of this? How does He feel as He looks down from heaven on our situation? And how should we conduct ourselves in our disagreements with each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord, members of His body? In Colossians 3:12-17 the apostle Paul encouraged his readers to develop the marks of grace which involved a five-fold list of Christian virtues: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Read the passage and take a look at it yourself. They are marks of God's grace we need all the more at WHPC in this challenging time. These virtues point to character qualities which, if present in the community of believers, will help reduce frictions and tensions that exist in our congregation.

Compassion speaks of a tenderness expressed toward someone who is suffering. The Greek word used here literally means, "To suffer with." The word that is translated kindness combines the ideas of goodness and graciousness. Humility and gentleness, which are related terms, were not considered virtues by the pagan world at the time of Paul. The NT, however, deepened and enriched their meanings and made them two of the noblest of Christian graces. Humility means not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought, and gentleness is the opposite of arrogance and aggressiveness. Patience, or long-suffering as it is sometimes translated, means self-restraint, bearing injury and insult without resorting to retaliation. It is mentioned elsewhere in Scripture as an attribute of God (Rm.2:4) and a fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22). All of these characteristics speak of the need to look beyond our own concerns, and even hurt, and seek to understand and care about others, even those with whom we disagree.

A man once suggested to Abraham Lincoln when he was President that if the railroads had run north and south, instead of east and west, the North would have been in a much better position to bring an earlier end to the Civil War. Lincoln's reported reply was: "If the railroads had run north and south there would have been no Civil War. Our people would have known and understood each other better."

A rancher once observed an interesting contrast in the wilderness as he was taking care of his cattle one day. Whenever a group of wild horses was attacked by a pack of wolves, they would circle up together, much like settlers with their wagons, and they would put their heads together in the center of the circle and kick outward at the attacking wolves. In this way they worked together to protect themselves. Then he noticed how wild donkeys responded to the same crisis. Whenever they were attacked by the

Continued on page 3

wolves, they too circled up, as did the horses. But in contrast to the horses, they put their heads on the outside of the circle, and they kicked one another with their hooves on the inside. The moral of the story is don't be a Well, you get the moral of the story!

Paul goes on to urge his readers in Colossians 3 to *"...let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and counsel one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."* Paul suggests we can secure the peace of Christ by allowing God's Word to take up residence in our hearts. The word that is translated "let the word richly dwell" can also mean "let it have ample room" or "let it remain as a treasure in your hearts." Elsewhere in Scripture we are urged to heed God's Word, handle it accurately, hide it in our hearts, and hold it forth to others as being in truth the word of life. Here Paul calls us to submit to the demands of the Christian message and let it become so deeply implanted within us as to guide our thinking. But he does not call us to use the Word of Christ as a club to bash others into believing as we do. It is the Holy Spirit who is called to convince and convict. The injunction is for us to let the Word instruct us as we teach and counsel and praise God together.

History is sadly replete with examples of the way in which Christians have claimed the name of God for their cause. With the conversion of Constantine in 313 A.D., Christianity was legalized. As nations were conquered by Constantine, they were offered the choice to confess Christ or die. Great choice! The Crusades followed in the Middle Ages, and the story of holy wars continues to our day in many parts of the world.

Years ago, my friend Mark Heard wrote a song whose lyrics are very telling:

Some say that God has approved of their mob
esteeming their purposes alone,
Choosing sides with a definite pride
and taking their cause for His own.

Many is the man with the iron hand
supposing his own lot divine.
He will break any bond because the others are wrong.
It's a handy excuse for his crime.

Dissident cries are met with cold eyes
and treatment that the devil would get.
Righteousness and truth can be weapons in the hands of fools,
while Innocents go to their death.

Chorus:
Everybody loves a holy war;
Draw the line and claim divine assistance;
Slay the ones who show the most resistance;
Everybody loves a holy war.¹

How can you and I demonstrate the grace of Christ in our present differences? How should we treat our brothers and sisters when we disagree? I hope that as we wrestle with our present crisis, we will not lose sight of the fact that there is still a hurting world out there that needs us, there is darkness that needs our light, and there are people who need our ministry. The matters about which we are discussing are very important, but I hope that in our struggle we aren't drained of all our energies and fail to be a church that addresses the needs of the world around us because we are so focused on ourselves. For the sake of the gospel, let's remember the grace of Christ in the midst of our differences.

References:

¹"Everybody Loves a Holy War", by Mark Heard.



2011 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, AUGUST 11 – 12

It's not too late to register! WHPC is hosting Willow Creek's Global Leadership Summit in our sanctuary on August 11 and 12. The Summit endeavors to transform Christian leaders from around the world with an annual injection of vision, skill development, and inspiration for the sake of the local church. This year, WHPC is excited to be partnering with Austin Stone Community Church, who will also be simultaneously hosting the Leadership Summit at their St. Johns campus. This exciting news means that we will be able to reach even more leaders in the Austin community – from Westlake to the East side.

Registration is available at whpc.org. Members of WHPC can use the password: **2011Summit** to register for the special rate of \$105. For information about rates for non-WHPC members, visit www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership.

This year's speaker line-up includes:

Bill Hybels, Founder and Senior Pastor, Willow Creek Community Church; Howard Schultz, Chairman, CEO and President of Starbucks Corporation; Erwin McManus, Activist, Filmmaker, Innovator and Cultural Architect, Mosaic; Michelle Rhee, Founder and CEO of Studentsfirst.org and former Chancellor, D.C. Public Schools, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Henry Cloud, Clinical Psychologist and Author; Seth Godin, Bestselling Author, Squidoo Founder, Marketing Blogger; Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, Speaker and Thought Leader, Founder and President of Salter McNeil & Associates; Len Schlesinger, President, Babson College, Harvard Professor; Steven Furtick, Lead Pastor, Elevation Church, Charlotte, NC; John Dickson, Director, Centre for Public Christianity, Sr. Minister, St. Andrews Anglican Church, Sydney, Australia.



FALL 2011 MIDWEEK MOMENT STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 7

For over 25 years, MidWeek Moment, sponsored by the Discipleship Division, has been a Wednesday night time of fellowship, community and discipleship in the life of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. Families gather for dinner, children attend handbells, choir rehearsal and classes, Middle School students meet for JAM, adults attend Bible studies, the adult choir rehearses – and our community grows together in study, fellowship, and fun. Sundays are a joyous occasion of worshipping God together. Wednesdays are about coming together as a family of faith to enjoy one another's company, learn more about the Bible, and grow together as we journey through our often hectic and busy modern lives.

One of the foundations of the Christian life is growing together in community with one another. There is no better way to do this than to set aside an evening each week to break bread together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to study the Word, to have a shoulder to cry on, to share a laugh, and to enjoy the company of our fellow WHPC family members.

Childcare and dinner is offered for all who are involved in classes, rehearsals or groups meeting on Wednesday nights.

Pre-Register Children for Choir, Handbells and Small Groups at whpc.org. Registration will also be available for Choir and Handbells at the Popsicle Party on Wednesday, August 31 at 5:15 p.m. on the front steps of the sanctuary.

MidWeek Moment Dinner and Children and Youth Activities end on November 16. Adult Classes will end on December 7. Childcare will be available with a reservation after November 16, but no dinner will be served.

Please consider making Midweek Moment a part of your family's weekly schedule beginning September 7.

FALL 2011 CLASS SCHEDULE

Complete course descriptions can be found at whpc.org.

4:30 – 5:15 p.m.	Children's Handbells
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.	Children's Choir
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner Served in Fellowship Hall
6:15 – 7:30 p.m.	Gym Time and Small Groups for Kindergarten - 5th Grade
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	JAM (for Middle School students)
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Discover your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style and God-Given Passion for Serving, taught by Carol Friesen (This class is 6 weeks and will end on November 12)
6:15 – 7:45 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (curriculum TBD)
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Practicing Jesus' Instructions, taught by Jim Bankhead
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	The ABC's of Grace and Truth, taught by Hilton Chancellor
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Centering Prayer class, facilitated by Phil Haag and Janis Caflin
6:45 – 8:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Midweek Moment Dinner Prices:

Children 2 and younger: Free

Children 3 yrs. – 5th grade: \$3/meal or \$33 per semester *

6th grade – Adult: \$5/meal

**Preschoolers and Elementary students can purchase a meal card for \$33 when they enroll for the semester. The meal card will be kept at the meal check-in desk. When you check-in, your meal card will be punched. With a meal card a child never need to worry about having cash.*

COOKING TEAMS NEEDED FOR MIDWEEK MOMENT DINNERS:

Sign up as a family or with some friends to host one or more weeks of planning and cooking the Wednesday MidWeek Moment dinner. You may choose your menu item if you sign up soon, otherwise you may sign up for a specific meal or pizza night. Volunteers are needed to prep the food, cook and serve. Additional volunteers are needed to help with clean up. Contact Cindy Gangstad at cindyg@whpc.org for details or to sign up. A schedule is posted outside Cindy's office in the Children's Ministry area.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

It's that time again! The Children's Music Ministry is gearing up for another fun and exciting year of singing and ringing praises to God. There are musical opportunities for all ages and levels of experience. Don't be left out of this important and exciting ministry in the life of our church.

Wednesday, August 31, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.: Join us on the front porch of the sanctuary for a Popsicle Party to sign up for Children's Choir, Children's Handbells and Midweek Moment

Wednesday, September 7: Rehearsals Begin

RADICAL RINGERS

Rehearses Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

This handbell group for children in grades 3 – 5 rehearses in the sanctuary with director Emily Craven. Ringing handbells is a fun way to make beautiful music. All that is needed is a commitment to regular attendance and a desire to make music to glorify God. Questions? Contact Emily Craven at emilyc@whpc.org, 327.1116, x118.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Children's Choir is for all children in grades K - 5. They rehearse in the choir room with director Becky Knox. Choir involves singing, playing instruments, fellowship and lots of fun! The children sing monthly in worship and also participate in special Christmas programs as well as a Spring Musical. Questions? Contact Becky Knox at beckyknox1@aol.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CLASS

Peter Haas will teach the first Family Connections class of the school year on August 21 at 11 a.m. This class on Communion is for students of all ages. Family Connections classes are designed for students to attend with their parents. The classes are held in the gym the 3rd Sunday of the month.

The schedule of Family Connections Classes for this school year is:

AUGUST:

Communion - All ages taught by Peter Haas

SEPTEMBER:

Bible Preparation - 3rd Graders

OCTOBER:

Stewardship - All ages

NOVEMBER:

Advent Preparation - All ages

JANUARY:

Communion - All ages taught by Peter Haas

FEBRUARY:

My Church - 4 and 5 year olds

MARCH:

Family Prayer and Worship - All ages

APRIL:

Introduction to Middle School Youth Dept - 5th Graders

MAY:

Family Blessing of the 2 and 3 year olds

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING

August 27 - 9 - 11:30 am.

This training is for teachers of our RIO curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade Sunday School. Join the Children's Ministry Team for brunch and training in the Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided. Contact Judy Crochet to sign up your children for Childcare.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FALL BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4:

Once a month opportunities:

- Hold babies or teach preschoolers (9:15 - 10:45 a.m. or 10:45 - 12:15 p.m.)
- Young Disciples Class, held in Parlor during worship hours

Every other week opportunities:

- Teach 4 year olds through 5th graders for Sunday School. Teams needed at 9:30 or 11 a.m. Teacher support will meet each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. to go over the following Sunday's lesson. This support is optional.

Weekly opportunity:

- Teach a children's class at MidWeek Moment or lead games in the Gym on Wednesday nights from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. Approximately 15 teachers needed for all grade levels to teach a new curriculum called *Rooted*.

Contact Cindy Gangstad to volunteer or visit the serve board downstairs in the Children's Ministry area.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Are you going into 9th Grade? If so, please join us for WHPC's 2011 Confirmation Class, a special program for 9th graders in our community to both *confirm* their experience of faith in Jesus and *enter*, formally, into the membership of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. Confirmation is a way of publicly saying "I'm in" on both counts.

Confirmation will begin Sunday, September 18, and continue weekly through November 13, from 10:45 a.m. – noon in the Fellowship Hall. On November 20, students professing their faith will be recognized and received in the 9:30 worship service, followed by a brunch for all class participants and their families.

As the disciple John wrote, "We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). Similarly, adults and other high schoolers of our church want to share what they know and experience with Jesus as Lord and Savior, and to invite our 9th graders to join in, too. We'll do this through class presentations, small group discussion, open Q&A, and Bible study. At the end of the course, each young person is invited but not obligated to make a public profession of faith and enter the membership of WHPC.

There is no cost for Confirmation but **please register by August 28** at www.whpc.org/signulls/confirmation or with Teresa Ward at 512.327.1116 x136; teresaw@whpc.org. Any and all 9th graders are welcome.



Celebration!
High School Weekend Retreat
September 3 – 5
Cost: **\$150**
Registration Deadline – August 14
Register online at whpc.org/Signulls
or contact **Teresa Ward**, teresaw@whpc.org

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

NEW WOMEN'S MINISTRY OFFERING COMING THIS FALL TO WHPC



Do you find yourself being referred to as "Bobbie's mom"? Can you change a diaper in your sleep? Does it seem like you spend most of your life at or in route to sports practices, lessons, or playgroups? Do you long for interaction with women who have similar challenges and want to raise children with character, integrity, and joy? Do you have an imperfect family but seek to know more about a perfect Savior?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then join us this fall as WHPC begins our new Women's Ministry offering, Mom to Mom!

Mom to Mom is a biblically based parenting study designed for moms with children aged birth through elementary school centered around the Titus 2:4 concept of seasoned moms teaching and encouraging younger women in their relationships with their husbands and children. The format includes quality video instruction in parenting, interaction between more experienced mothers and small group discussion. The discussions will be led by our Titus 2 mentors who are seasoned moms that have raised children and survived to tell about it! We will also feature various guest speakers who will share their life experiences with us as we strengthen our walk with God and grow together with our families.

The class begins September 12 and will meet on Mondays from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. Registration opens Sunday, August 7 at whpc.org/whpc/women.

Space is limited to 60 women and limited childcare is available so don't delay!

Cost: \$60 per semester (September 12 - November 28) or
\$120 for the entire year (September 12 - April 23, 2012).

Please contact Kathryn Weldin at kathrynw@whpc.org for scholarship consideration. For more information about Mom to Mom, please visit www.momtomom.org or contact Ministry Coordinator, Ashley Allemann at ashleyallemann@sbcglobal.net.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS (CONTINUED)

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT AT LAITY LODGE

October 14 – 16

Join us for a weekend of renewal and fellowship at this beautiful hill country location with limestone canyons on the crystal-clear headwaters of the Frio River.

Our speaker is: Diana Schick, author of the *Creative Living* Bible study curriculum.

Online registration opens August 28 at whpc.org/whpc/women.

For questions contact Nancy Pickett, nancy.pickett1@yahoo.com or Kathryn Weldin, kathrynw@whpc.org.



BOOK CLUBS AT WHPC

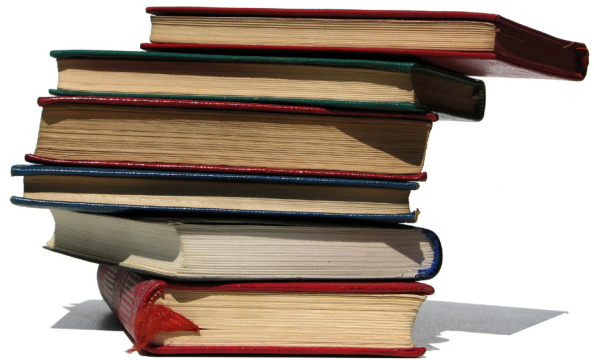
Love to read? Check out these 3 book clubs at WHPC

DAYTIME WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Join this women's group on Thursday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and discussion in the home of Peggy Greenawalt.

Book selection: *30 Ways to Embrace Life* by Lucinda Secret McDowell. Lorie Barnes will be our guest author. Contact Peggy Greenawalt, Pagtx@aol.com, 512.415.0318



THE WORLDLY READERS (FORMERLY THE COED EVENING BOOK CLUB)

Meets the 4th Monday of every month.

Join this coed group in the WHPC Parlor on Monday, September 26 at 7 p.m for light snacks, fellowship, and discussion.

Book Selection: *Golf's Sacred Journey: Seven Days at the Links of Utopia* by David Cook. Visit the library for a free copy of the book. Contact Peggy Greenawalt, Pagtx@aol.com, 512.415.0318

WOMEN'S EVENING BOOK CLUB

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Join this group of women at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and discussion on Tuesday, September 13, in the home of Debbie Johnson.

Book selection: *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Contact Dian Hansen, dchan1020@gmail.com, 512.922.4783

For more details about any of these book clubs, visit the library page at whpc.org.