

# The Echo

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To invite people into

God's larger story as we

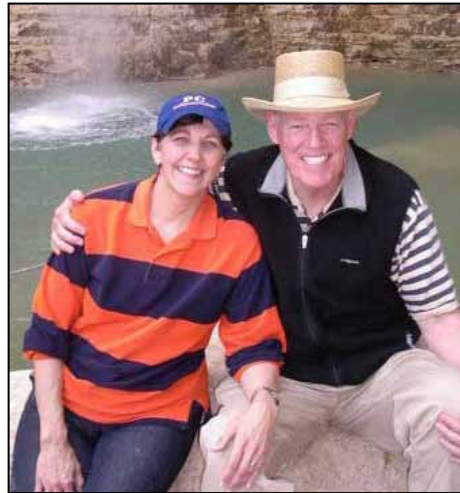
follow Christ together

AUGUST 2010 ISSUE

## Welcome JIM AND CISSY BANKHEAD to WHPC

We are very excited to announce the hiring of Jim Bankhead as the Interim Associate Pastor for Discipleship. Jim and his wife, Cissy, will be moving to Austin from Amarillo, TX the first of September. Jim has just stepped aside as the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo, after 11 years of faithful service.

Not quite ready to retire, Jim was thrilled to receive a call from Peter Barnes asking him if he would consider filling the spot left vacant by the resignation of Ron Ragsdale on an interim basis. Discipleship is one of Jim's greatest gifts – and his heart is for discipleship in the local church. He is excited about not having the administrative duties of a senior pastor, but having the opportunity to focus solely on his biggest passion: Being a disciple maker.



He loves helping people with practical, hands-on ways of growing in Christ. He looks forward to loving and caring for the Discipleship staff, working with the elders in terms of sharpening their understanding of the New Testament call to discipleship, and working with members who are interested in wanting to grow in discipleship over the coming year.

Jim and Cissy are both originally from South Carolina and have 5 children and 16 grandchildren.

They have adopted as their life-objectives:

1. To live, grow and mature as faithful disciples of the Resurrected Jesus, in all their relationships and circumstances, especially in their relationships with each other and in their family.

2. To make and assist others in growing and maturing as faithful disciples of Jesus, in all their relationships and circumstances, especially with their mates, in their families and businesses.

Jim will be presenting a class as part of the Midweek Moment programming beginning on September 8 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The class is entitled: The Story Line of the Bible. Attending the class will be a great way to get acquainted with him, as well as to learn more and grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

We look forward to getting to know Jim and Cissy in the coming months and seeing how God is leading them to live out their life-objectives together with our community of faith.

## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE Begins **AUG 29**

**8:15 a.m.**  
Traditional Worship  
(Chapel)

**9:30 a.m.**  
Contemporary Worship  
(Sanctuary)

**11:00 a.m.**  
Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary)

There will be no Sunday School on August 29, in order for everyone to enjoy the Pancake Brunch and Ministry Fair from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Children's Sunday School Open House at 9:30 and 11 a.m. The normal schedule of children, youth and adult Sunday School classes will resume on September 5 at both 9:30 and 11 a.m.

**WESTLAKE HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Senior Pastor**

Dr. Peter Barnes

**Associate Pastor**

Carol Friesen

**Associate Pastor**

Peter Haas

**Director of Music**

Emily Craven

**Organist**

Paul Keith

**Director of Women's Ministry**

Kathryn Weldin

**Director of Communications**

Nancy Gray

**Director of High School  
Ministry**

Doug Congdon

**Director of Middle School  
Ministry**

Kyle Bender

**Director of Local and Regional  
Missions**

Mark Charbonneau

**Director of Children's Ministry**

Cindy Gangstad

**Assistant Director of Children's  
Ministry**

Lisa Ruth Pullen

**Sunday School Preschool  
Coordinator**

Judy Crochet

**Director of Support Services**

Bud Reynolds

**Office Manager**

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Anita Maxwell

**Facilities Manager**

Kyle Key

**Librarian**

Peggy Greenawalt

**Preschool Director**

Susan Bright

**The Echo**

Dee Fuger, Editor

Travis Hardy, Design

# IT SEEMS TO ME ...

by Dr. Peter Barnes



This past month, Lorie and I spent some of our time in the Great Northwest at the Whitworth Institute for Ministry. I was one of the speakers there, and my assignment was to talk about the Missional Church. The leadership of WHPC made a commitment to becoming a missional church a few years ago, and it was one of the things that attracted us to come here. We share a common passion for reaching our world with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We really believe it is Good News that can change lives.

The challenge we face is that it is more and more difficult to do this in our culture these days, and the world has changed in profound ways in my lifetime. And I'm not just talking about technological changes. The way people view the world has changed. When I was born in the 1950s, Christianity was well-respected and held a central place of influence in our culture. It was fashionable to go to church, it was good for business to be a Christian, and people often wanted to join a church to get connected to the community. All that has changed. Nowadays, while people may be attracted to Jesus they don't like the church, and it is no longer fashionable or good for business to identify yourself as a Christian. We live in a post-modern, post-Christian, and some say post-denominational world. Christianity has been pushed to the margins of our society, and while people may be spiritual these days they don't want to be religious.

How do we make the Gospel known in this changing world of ours? What are some of the keys we should keep in mind? I think we can learn a lot from our sisters and brothers who began the church in the first century AD. The early Christians who were the first to follow Jesus were also a small minority in a very secular and religiously pluralistic society in the Roman Empire. They, too, were pushed to the margins of society. Reading the New Testament can give us insights about how to live faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ in our day and time, and the words of Scripture can be very relevant to our life situation. This fall we will begin a new series of sermons on the Book of Acts in the New Testament. Having studied Mark this past year and gained greater insights into the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and hopefully developed a deeper passion for loving and following Him, I want us next to study Acts and learn what it means to be the church and how we can live in these challenging times, just like the early Christians did.

I also think we can learn a lot from St. Patrick, the 5th century missionary to Ireland. In his book *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, George Hunter outlines the way Patrick and his followers bucked the conventional way of doing mission in their day and instead formed permeable communities of grace to be lights for God in the places they lived and not just to them. They saw ministry as something that took place out in the world, not just what happened in the four walls of the church. And they made relationships an organizing principle for the church. Reaching people for Jesus was at the heart of all they did, and they personally got involved. I commend the book to you.

The Session appointed a Next Steps task force earlier this year, and they were charged with the job of developing a strategic plan for our church for the next 3-5 years and to present this to Session for its consideration. They are in the final stages of their process, and I'm excited about the work they are producing. Some of what I anticipate we'll see come out of this collective effort is a renewed emphasis to being a missional church in which we live into and out of our mission and vision statements with greater intentionality. We really want to invite people into

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God's larger story as we follow Christ together. We really want to be transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to become a Christ-centered community of faith that intentionally nurtures our relationships with God, one another, our neighbors and the world.

A lot of change has taken place in my lifetime. Just looking at the last 30 years since I was ordained, I'm astonished at how different the world looks now. Back then Time magazine ran cover articles on "The Coming Ice Age." Now we hear about global warming. Back then the personal computer was just being introduced, and only the very wealthy had mobile phones (and they were very bulky!). World maps showed communism spreading across Indochina and Africa. Economists predicted the end of American dominance and a new global parity among the U.S., Russia, China, Japan, and Europe. Even as recently as 2001, if you looked for the words al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in any of the major newspapers, periodicals and journals, you would search in vain. It seems prognosticators missed all the defining events of our lifetime, including the war on terrorism and the end of the cold war.

People are not very good at predicting the future. God is the only One who knows what's around the corner. And I've found the best way to cope with the future is instead of trying to figure out what's coming next it is better to lean upon the great truths of Scripture in the past which are as relevant today as the daily newspaper or internet blog. God's Word is a sure foundation to stand upon, whatever may come our way – in our world or in our personal lives. May the Lord bless us richly as we seek His face to do His will – today and always.



## ANNUAL FALL KICKOFF: CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT AT WHPC with a Pancake Brunch and Ministry Fair!

Make plans to join us with your friends and fellow church family members Sunday, August 29 for our Fall Kick Off! This year we will be hosting a Pancake Brunch, with sausage, bacon and juice from 9 a.m – 1 p.m. in the

church Fellowship Hall. At the same time, we will be hosting a Ministry Fair in the gym which is an excellent opportunity for you to invite your friends to come and see and celebrate what the Spirit is doing at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. We hope the Fair is a welcoming and joyful forum for helping folks connect with opportunities where they can nurture relationships with God, one another and the world.

The Children's ministry will also be hosting a Children's Sunday School Open House, during the 9:30 and 11 a.m. worship times, for parents to meet their student's teachers and see their Sunday school classrooms. There will also be Jumpy Gyms in the back yard. One of the activities involves water, so kids should bring their swimsuits to enjoy the waterslide! Please do join us and help in celebrating all that the Spirit is doing in our midst through the many ministries at WHPC and beyond. Come to Celebrate the Spirit at WHPC! Come for the fun! Come for the fellowship! Come for the inspiration.



## CHANGES IN CARING MINISTRIES SCHEDULES STARTING SEPTEMBER 8

**Divorce Care** will be meeting weekly on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. as a part of the Midweek Moment programming, along with a new class which will be studying the book *Setting Boundaries with Your Adult Children*, by Allison Bottke. **Grief Share** will also meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and child care are available for all classes, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

The **Job Support Group** will continue to meet on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. and **Recovery Café**, for those struggling with addiction, meets at 7 p.m. If you are interested in attending one of these support groups, please visit [www.whpc.org](http://www.whpc.org) for further information. We pray that they are deeply meaningful resources for you on your spiritual journey into God's intended future for you.

## NEW CARE SYSTEM FOR WHPC

On Sunday, July 11, a new care system for WHPC was unveiled to the congregation. It is called the iCare Net ministry and it replaces our Neighborhood Care Group system. While the NCG's have been a blessing to our congregation, in recent years it has become evident that a new vision was needed to inspire a new generation of courageous caring for one another. With the advent and popularization of technologies like email and web based care calendars, it became clear that people are no longer limited to providing care for one another based on geographical location. The iCare Net envisions drawing upon a pool of volunteers who feel called to be available to serve others in need. Will you care?

The iCare Net Ministry is an invitation for WHPC members to live into our church value of courageously caring for one another. The iCare Net is comprised of a pool of iCare Volunteers who serve congregational needs in conjunction with twelve iCare Coordinators. Spreading these needs over a large number of trained volunteers allows us to provide extraordinary care to our faith family.

Over the next several months, we will be integrating this ministry into the life of our congregation. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [whpc.org/whpc/icare](http://whpc.org/whpc/icare) or contact: Louise Redding at [louiseredding@sbcglobal.net](mailto:louiseredding@sbcglobal.net) or Margaret Moser, [margaretm@whpc.org](mailto:margaretm@whpc.org).



## 2010 KAZAKH INTERNS COMPLETE 8 YEARS!



For the eighth year WHPC welcomed Summer Business Interns for a three week stay. The annual visit has become one of the highlights of the summer months for all who are associated with the program.

This summer was no exception, with Marina and Tatyana declaring to their group at the debrief that they were very much in love with their Host Families -- the McCall's and Veal's.

The Interns were equally impressed with their business experiences at Chasse International Consulting owned by Beverly Chasse. For their final day, the staff dressed in western clothing and ordered a catered BBQ lunch at the office.

The coordinating team, headed by Holly Salmon, is grateful to the Host Families, Business Host, at least sixteen volunteer drivers, and countless members who provided special evenings of dinner or other activities. We are hopeful that these young women soaked up the Christian love that was extended to them by many members of WHPC.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMING SCHOOL YEAR (AUGUST 29, 2010 - MAY 2011)

Children's Ministries would like to invite you to volunteer in caring for and teaching our children this coming school year. The chart on our website, [http://www.whpc.org/children/serve\\_volunteer](http://www.whpc.org/children/serve_volunteer), lists the time commitment and number of volunteers still needed for each age or grade level. To volunteer please visit the downstairs entryway opportunity board to sign up or contact Director Cindy Gangstad, [cindyg@whpc.org](mailto:cindyg@whpc.org) or 327.1116, x 125. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." Please consider joining the Children's Ministry team in leading our children down the right path!



## UPCOMING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

- Sunday School Rio Teacher Training August 22 – Noon, lunch provided
- Sunday School Open House: August 29 – Classrooms for 4 year olds thru 5th grade will be open during the Worship Hours for families to stop by and meet their child's teachers for the coming school year.

## MIDWEEK MOMENT BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

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, adult Bible studies and support groups convene, 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.

This year, several of the Caring Ministry offerings will move from their previously scheduled Monday time slots to Wednesday nights.

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

Please consider making Midweek Moment a part of your family's weekly schedule beginning September 8.

**MidWeek**  
**Moment**  
**at WHPC**

### THE FALL 2010 MIDWEEK MOMENT OFFERINGS AND SCHEDULE

<b>4:30 – 5:15 p.m.</b>	Children's Handbell Rehearsal (grades 3 – 5)
<b>5:15 – 6:15 p.m.</b>	Children's Choir Rehearsal (grades K – 5)
<b>5:45 – 6:45 p.m.</b>	Midweek Moment Dinner is served
<b>6:00 – 7:30 p.m.</b>	JAM (Middle School)
<b>6:15 – 7:45 p.m.</b>	Midweek Moment for Women: <i>Here and Now...There and Then: A Lecture Series on the Book Revelation</i> by Beth Moore. Facilitated by Jane Knudsen and Susan Whiteside. Come and explore, believing that God's Word is sacred and inspired, ready to have your views possibly challenged, but also affirmed as you "take to heart what is written in it." (Rev. 1:3)
<b>6:15 – 7:30 p.m.</b>	Children's Midweek Moment Dinner & Classes (grades K - 5)

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## THE FALL 2010 MIDWEEK MOMENT OFFERINGS AND SCHEDULE (CONTINUED FROM PG 5)

- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** The Story Line of the Bible, taught by Jim Bankhead, Interim Associate Pastor for Discipleship.  
This class will be entertaining, informative and helpful to those who feel uninformed on the content of Scripture, and also a good review for lifelong Bible students.
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Divorce Care – Facilitated by Kerry and Diane Pollard.  
A support group for people who are separated or divorced.
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** *Setting Boundaries with Your Adult Children....Six Steps to Hope and Healing for Struggling Parents*, by Allison Bottke.  
A support group for parents of adult children who are having difficulty making mature, independent choices for their lives.
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Grief Share (meets the first Wednesday of the month only)  
Facilitated by Susan Reynolds.  
A support group for those who are grieving and in need of personal support.
- 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Ongoing - Adults)

### 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 12, WHPC has committed to fully staff the program with volunteers. This will take a great showing from our congregation. The event is 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 5335 Airport Blvd. All ages are welcome to serve. To sign up, email [markc@whpc.org](mailto:markc@whpc.org) or sign up in the parlor. Let's make a difference in these children's lives.

WHPC DAY at  
MANOS  
de CRISTO  
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

August 12  
8 a.m. - 12p.m.  
5335 Airport Blvd.

All ages are welcome to come serve.  
Church van will leave WHPC at 7:30am.



## LAITY LODGE ADULT RETREAT

How would you like to experience an extraordinary place where the hand of God is displayed all around? Few places are as nourishing to the spirit and the imagination as Laity Lodge. It's hard to believe that such a place exists. Located west of Kerrville, Texas, it's a beautiful retreat center set over a winding river of deep blue water, opposite a canyon that is alive with the colors of fall. You'd never notice it from the highway... and you literally have to drive into the river to get there. We all need a place to relax, think and nurture our spirits without the distractions of our daily responsibilities. Whether you want time alone or to enjoy the loving fellowship of your WHPC family, it will be a weekend to treasure.

Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ron Scates, Senior Pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas. Dr. Ron Scates grew up in Bethesda, Maryland, attended Trinity University in San Antonio on a baseball scholarship, and was an assistant coach during graduate school. After earning his doctor of ministry from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, Ron was associate youth pastor at San Antonio's First Presbyterian Church. Then, beginning in 1989, he served as senior pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Baltimore where the worship attendance doubled. In 2000 he became senior pastor at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Music for the weekend will be lead by Cameron Dezen Hammon, a singer-songwriter. Cameron was the worship leader at Grace Presbyterian in Houston until recently. If you would like a sneak preview of her music, visit [www.vineyardresources.com/equip/content/come-and-see#player](http://www.vineyardresources.com/equip/content/come-and-see#player) to sample music on her "Come and See" CD. The selection of our "Artist is Residence" has not been finalized, but based on past retreats, you won't be disappointed.

You will have lots of time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones and enjoy a range of activities from hiking up the hills for breath taking views above the Frio River to lazy hours of dozing in a hammock. The hard part will be deciding what to do: fish, swim, canoe, play tennis, explore the bookstore or just grab a cup of coffee and read a book amidst the abundant beauty of God's creation. The food provided by Laity Lodge is excellent and abundant.

### **Retreat Details:**

November 12-14 at Laity Lodge, near Leakey, TX

Contact for details and registration: Keith & Barb Martinson; [bmartinson@austin.rr.com](mailto:bmartinson@austin.rr.com)

Total Cost: \$220 / \$270 per person, depending on housing.

Registration is open Sunday, September 12 – Sunday, October 24. A completed registration form and \$50 per person deposit will ensure your spot.

# NICARAGUA – BEARING GIFTS, RECEIVING BLESSING

By Nancy Kocurek

It was my first mission trip – anywhere! Our group of 16 included seasoned short-term missionaries, some moderately experienced souls, and the “wet behind the ears newbies” like me! Nancy Pickett was our fearless leader and I would follow her anywhere. She takes organization to a new level. Our plane landed in Nicaragua’s capital, Managua, at 8 p.m. on a warm humid June evening. We were met at the airport by “Dr. Nicaragua” himself, John Doty, who has been serving in Nicaragua since 1992.

I did not know what to expect in terms of our accommodations. I had been warned about no air conditioning or hot water and, “whatever you do, do NOT, I repeat do NOT, put any paper down the commode!” It was a most pleasant surprise to discover inside a high-walled compound, new brightly colored stucco duplexes surrounding a lush tropical garden. We were guests at Villa Esperanza (Villa of Hope) which provides a safe, nurturing home for young girls, aged 7 – 16 years, who are at risk for sexual abuse and slavery – often sold to win their families first pick of the garbage brought daily into the city dump.

Our week began by painting one of the stucco duplexes at Casa Esperanza (not to be confused with Villa Esperanza where we stayed). Casa Esperanza rescues women out of prostitution and provides them a safe home and alternative ways to make a living. We were proud of our flamingo pink masterpiece and gratified by the smiles of the mom and her three children who would live there.

There is way too much to tell here, but some memorable impressions from my first sojourn into the world of the very poor are:

- homes made of scraps of plastic – even backyard swimming pool sides – corrugated metal, cardboard, most with dirt floors
- the hospitality and pride with which the 13 women, recipients of micro-loans established by several WHPC families, entertained us one morning
- Rocking a tiny baby, struggling for its life, in a re-nutrition center
- Handing out bowls of steaming rice and meat stew to hungry homeless – many of whom are addicted to sniffing “poor man’s glue” made from Styrofoam and gasoline
- offering a prayer instead of the planned gift of a layette bundle to the teen-age mom whose baby had died
- the laughs, the hugs, the mud, the fun that transcended language and culture differences
- The sweet sound of traditional hymns like Marching to Zion being sung in Korean at the lovely Korean Presbyterian Church
- the dogs and cattle so thin their ribs were showing
- wooden carts drawn by oxen
- the commitment and dedication of the missionaries, pastors, and doctors who serve the least of these day after day
- overhearing a Nicaraguan woman joyfully call out to Nancy Pickett, “You came back!”
- the children at VBS wearing the bejeweled crowns they had made, whose beaming faces said it all - “We are the King’s kids too!”
- the beautiful letter and drawing from 15-year old Marta who lived at the Villa and who saw us as, “kind souls with good hearts.” That may be the highest praise I ever hope to receive – I will remember it always.

I am grateful for this wonderful experience and look forward to the day when one of these Nicaraguan sisters or brothers greets me with, “You came back!”