



Phone: 512.327.1116 | Fax: 512.328.4238 | Email: whpc@whpc.org | whpc.org

To invite people into

God's larger story as we

follow Christ together

FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE

FOCUS 2011 - UPSIDE DOWN

At the beginning of each year, the middle school and high school students join together for Focus, a weekend-long event filled with fun, service, teaching, and engaging worship. The theme for this year's Focus is Upside Down, and will be held on February 25 – 27.

Focus gives students the opportunity to learn more about what it means to have a relationship with the Lord, and it is perhaps the most powerful annual experience in sharing Christ with the students.

Separated by gender and grade, participants bunk Friday and Saturday evenings in the homes of volunteer WHPC families. Events throughout each day include rallies with worship led by the Jason Johnson Band and a message brought by Austin Evers of Austin New Church and Habitat for Humanity.

Saturday afternoon the students offer themselves in service at various sites around the city. Last year service activities included raking leaves, assembling and passing out manna packs, cleaning, hanging out with inner-city kids, and praying for the city. Many participants say the afternoon of service is one of their favorite parts of Focus.

WELCOME JASON JOHNSON NEW DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church is excited to announce the hiring of Jason Johnson as the new Director of Contemporary Worship. Jason is a familiar face at WHPC. He served as a high school intern in 2004 and since then has led worship for many youth events and was a guest worship leader over the past several months. He's already set to lead worship at this year's Focus 2011: Upside Down weekend retreat in February. We are thrilled to have him and his wife, Sarah, join our WHPC family again as we continue to follow Christ together.



FOCUS 2011: Upside Down
February 25 - 27
Middle and High School students register now at whpc.org for this weekend retreat
Guest Speaker: **Austin Evers**
Worship Leader: **Jason Johnson**
Cost: **\$75** if registered by January 24
\$100 if registered later
Registration deadline – Feb. 16

The weekend culminates with "Focus Sunday." During the 9:30 a.m. worship hour, students are involved in the service and give those in attendance a glimpse into the weekend of fun, community and spiritual growth.

The student ministry leaders extend an invitation to all middle school and high school students to come be a part of this exciting event. Cost for the weekend is \$100. Registration is available online at whpc.org through February 16. For more information, contact Teresa Ward at 327.1116.



WESTLAKE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor

Dr. Peter Barnes

Associate Pastor

Dr. Carol Friesen

Associate Pastor

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 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

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



Recently I read an article by Carolyn Arends that got my attention. She talked about the way she never met a potato chip she didn't like. Actually, she never met a chip that didn't call her name from behind the pantry door until she was forced to eat it and every one of its salty companions! So when she heard the phrase "carbohydrate addiction," she knew nutritionists were onto something. It turns out there are foods that can actually increase our hunger when we consume them, creating an escalating, recurring need for the very substances that intensify the problem.

Carb addiction is more widely accepted in popular culture than in the scientific community, but most people can verify anecdotally that some food only makes them hungrier. Like the Scottish short bread I ate over Christmas. Or should I confess – shortbreads!

This phenomenon is a picture of what plagues us all. We drink liquids that dehydrate us. We buy things that require we buy more things. We make some money, ratchet up our lifestyle, and then we find we need more income just to sustain it. And the harder we work, the more work there is to do. In our culture we always seem to want MORE.

Addiction requires tolerance, the experience of needing an ever-increasing amount of a particular substance or behavior in order for it to satiate us. We see that dynamic in substance dependence, but it's harder to spot in the areas of work, food, approval, ministry, intimacy and possessions. These may be more culturally accepted addictions, but addiction to them is unhealthy nonetheless.

Gerald May was a psychiatrist whose work with addicts convinced him of two things: addiction is at root a spiritual problem; and every human is addicted to some variety of substances, behaviors, and thought patterns. In his book *Addiction and Grace*, May argues that each of us has a profound desire for God. When that desire is inevitably frustrated or misdirected in a fallen world, we experience pain, and we tend to deal with that pain in one of two ways. We repress the longing, or we attach it to something else. According to May, attachment "bonds and enslaves the energy of desire" to certain people, things, or behaviors until we are obsessed by unworthy masters who can never truly satisfy. Tragically, our attachment to anything other than God uses up our desire for God. It wastes us.

Gerald May called addiction "the spiritual disease of our time," but it's not just a modern phenomenon. Throughout history it has been a problem, and we read about it in the Bible in hundreds of passages. Check out Haggai 1:4-6, for example.

Are you struggling with problems related to your finances? Is your addiction to things sapping not only your wallet but also your love for God? In this uncertain economy are you worried about the future? WHPC is offering Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" course beginning this month, and I hope you will consider taking it. Lorie and I are signing up, and we look forward to the ways this seminar will help us address the addictions of our lives as it relates to money and possessions.

Work that is unproductive, food that doesn't fill us up, and money that doesn't last – the Rolling Stones sang a song about that years ago titled "I Can't Get No Satisfaction." Only Jesus can satisfy the longings of our hearts, and we'll never be able to deal with our addictions until we enlist His help by the power of His Spirit.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT April 1 - 3

WORSHIP

SLIDE

PRAY *together.*

ACR 2011

LAUGH

FELLOWSHIP

REGISTER NOW! www.allchurchretreat.com
Hurry! Registration Deadline is February 6

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Class begins February 9 and runs for 13 weeks.
6 - 8 p.m.

Cost: \$98 for materials kit, purchased at first class meeting. Kit can be shared per couple or group.

Free childcare available with reservation.
Scholarships are available.
Call 301.1001 to learn more.
Register at www.DebtFreeAtWHPC.com

CLASSES START SOON!

Financial Peace University is a program that teaches you how to beat debt, build wealth and keep your own economy thriving.

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

More info:
Westlake Hills Presbyterian
6 - 8 p.m. starting February 9th

Have you ever wondered where your money goes? Come learn how to better manage your money and your life. Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace class to teach God's way of handling money. The class features Dave Ramsey teaching on video followed by small-group discussion. These principals apply to everyone - whether you're financially secure or struggling with debt. The class will show you how to really live like never before with lessons on such topics as saving, debt elimination, investing and real estate. Over a million families have changed their family trees through Financial Peace, and we want to give you

the opportunity to do the same. Please make plans to join us on the journey to a true financial peace! For more information, call Kent Redding at 512.306.1001, or visit www.Facebook.com/FinancialPeace

ACTS OF LOVE



actsOFLOVE

A new class will be added to the Midweek Moment lineup on February 9 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The class will run until May 4 and will be facilitated by Mary and Jeff Mills, along with other guest speakers.

Every 18 seconds a child becomes an orphan. There are over 143 million orphans in the world. There are 500,000 children in foster care here in the U.S. Worldwide, 30,000 children die each day from starvation, lack of clean water, or disease. Every minute a child is trafficked. We can move this mountain for God's glory!

Please join us as we explore Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Together we will study what the Bible teaches us about orphans and children, learn about children who suffer from afflictions ranging from extreme poverty to enslavement in human trafficking, and explore ways that we can be the hands and feet of Christ.

Each class will feature Bible study, group prayer, and a speaker who will provide us with information and resources about the plight of orphans and children, and information and action steps on how we can help. Topics include how to support orphans and orphanages both foreign and domestic, how to become an advocate for children (CASA), the role of foster care, and adoption, both foreign and domestic. Questions? Please contact Mary or Jeff at jeffrey_mills81@hotmail.com.

PASTORS' *Newlywed Game*
valentine's dinner &

Saturday, Feb. 12, 6:30 – 10 p.m., Gym
Join us for dinner and dancing, along with a Newlywed Game skit featuring all four pastors and their spouses as contestants.
Cost: \$45 per couple, \$25 per individual or \$180 for a table of 8.

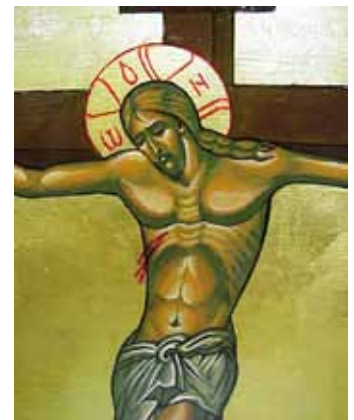
Register online at whpc.org, or contact Barbara Phillips at 327.1116

PRESBYTERIAN
pilgrimage #31 
Feb. 17 – 20, 2011
Sign up now for this weekend of spiritual renewal at Camp Buckner, near Marble Falls.

Register online:
www.austinpresbyterianpilgrimage.org
Contact James Fields for more information,
4fieldses@sbcglobal.net

THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS: A LENTEN STUDY

As Jesus was hanging from the cross, He made public seven final statements for followers and strangers to hear. Each week, the Detox Gathering will study one of those final statements Jesus left us as we seek to understand His instruction for our life. Join this seven week Lenten study as we prepare our own hearts for Jesus' journey to the Cross and Easter. This study will happen on Sundays in the Chapel at 11 a.m. beginning February 27. Perhaps, we will find the seven dying words of the Christ to be words for us to live by.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 5-9, 2011. Registration will open April 1. This year's theme is Hometown Nazareth "Where Jesus was a Kid".

WALK THRU THE BIBLE

How well do you know the storyline of the Bible? Have you made a commitment to study the Bible this year? On March 26, join WHPC friends in a 6 hour one day seminar "Walk thru the Bible". The seminar will help you learn the people, places and events of the Old Testament by teaching you 77 hand signals that help connect the dots on a journey through the Old Testament! WHPC will host a version for Kids in 1st – 5th grades, Middle School, High School and Adults simultaneously. Childcare will be offered for children Kindergarten and younger. Registration opens soon! If you would like to be on the planning team contact Cindy Gangstad at cindyg@whpc.org. For more information on what Walk Thru the Bible is all about, check out this Youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmqN-xqINHM>

PARENTING CLASS - FEBRUARY 20

Fourth graders and their parents are invited to the February parenting class "Money and Me". You may attend the class during Sunday School at 9:30 or 11 a.m. on February 20. Come and hear what Jesus has to say about money. This class is focused on stewardship!

MISSION NEWS

SOUTH AUSTIN PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER DIAPER DRIVE

We're hosting a diaper drive for the South Austin Pregnancy Resource Center (www.saprc.org). Please bring your donation of wipes and diapers sizes 2 to 5 to the parlor or downstairs lobby this month. SAPRC takes any donation from maternity clothing to all things baby up to size 2T.

James 2:15 says, If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

Continued on page 6

young disciples

GOD AND ME CLASS

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church will offer a God & Me class for Scouts interested in earning their religious award. The class is open to all 1st - 3rd grade Cub Scouts and Brownies and will start on Wednesday, February 2. The class will meet for 6 Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. All participants and their families are invited to arrive early at 5:45 p.m. to have dinner with our church family. The prices for dinner are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Childcare is offered for siblings. Registration is limited, so sign up early at www.beecavedistrict.org.

GOD AND CHURCH CLASS

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church will offer a God & Church class for Scouts interested in earning their religious award. The class is open to all 6th - 8th grade Boy and Girl Scouts and will start Sunday, February 13. The class meets for 7 weeks. Registration is limited, so sign up early. Register online at www.beecavedistrict.org.



Continued from page 5

The SAPRC offers free resources to moms facing unplanned pregnancy. Moms may come monthly to receive up to five baby outfits, a package of diapers, wipes and a baby toy. We also offer donated cribs, high chairs, car seats and other baby necessities.

Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matt 22)

The SAPRC shares the Good News and love of Jesus with these new moms. We realize that a pregnancy can become a crisis when it is complicated by broken relationships, family tensions, poor timing, health concerns, assault, financial difficulties and school or career pressures. SAPRC establishes relationships as a place to go for much needed help with material resources, support, prayer and love.

For more information, a tour or check out how you can volunteer, call Teresa Camera 328-8910 or Teresa@vinebranches.com

MEN'S CONSTRUCTION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. It is a country with many needs but little opportunity for its citizens. Therefore many of these destitute people do many things that we might question that they believe are required for survival. One of the occupations that women fall into is prostitution. With no other opportunities they see this as the only way they can survive. April Havlin along with her husband serves as a missionary in Nicaragua. She saw the desperate plight of these women and since then has created a housing compound offering them a safe environment. Casa Esperanza (House of Hope) is a community made up of a group of duplexes providing homes for former prostitutes and their children. These women are also taught new trades enabling them to make a living and not end up back on the streets. April leads these women in daily devotions so that they can learn more about the love that our Lord has for them.



In March a group of men from our church are going to Nicaragua to build another duplex for Casa Esperanza. This trip, the third one sponsored by Austin Samaritans, will construct the walls for the duplex. In the fall another group will go and complete the duplex by adding the roof. When one goes to Nicaragua and sees the poverty there and meets the women who so desperately want to break away from the old ways, it makes the minor sacrifices that are required for this trip a non-issue. If you want to help people who have no other help, be a witness for our Lord, and can do light construction requiring limited construction skills, please join us. The trip is from March 26 - April 2. The cost is \$550 plus air fare.



Please contact Keith Martinson at kvmartinson@austin.rr.com if you have any questions. To see more about Casa Esperanza please visit www.houseofhopenicaragua.com.

Family Mission Trip

June 2 – 11, 2011

Help host a VBS for over 300 children and their families in Managua, Nicaragua this summer.

Contact Nancy Pickett at 263-1982, or nancy.pickett1@yahoo.com for more information.

Deadline for registering is May 1

FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

Take a family vacation with a purpose to Managua, Nicaragua from June 2- 11. We will be staying at Villa Esperanza. As a result we will have many opportunities to interact with young girls and women who desire to start a new life away from La Chureca (the Local Dump). Our main focus is a Vacation Bible School, that ministers to over 300 children and their families associated with Colegio Cristiano Presbiteriano. We will visit a local hospital to hand out layettes, visit "La Vida Nueva" a local orphanage (Re-nutrition Center), and work with Matthew Jun's clinic, children's center and feeding program. The members of our Micro-Loan program will be our guest at the Villa on Sunday where we will see some of their business products first hand and have an opportunity to interact on a more personal level. We will end our trip with a day on the beach at the Pacific Ocean.

Do you have a heart for loving on people, especially 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 at 263-1982 or nancy.pickett1@yahoo.com. Deadline for registering is May 1.



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

SKI TRIP UPDATE

By Melissa Carter

Two short days after Christmas, WHPC students and leaders loaded a bus headed for Winter Park, Colorado for the annual high school ski trip. This particular trip differed from previous ones as the youth group came together with Austin Ridge Bible Church's youth group during times of worship, teaching and entertainment at the YMCA lodge in Winter Park.

"We thought teaming up with Austin Ridge would

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

help to give our kids a picture of what it looks like for churches to work together instead of compete,” Youth Director Doug Congdon said. “This was a step toward forming long term relationships with other student ministries in the area.”

The two groups, who filled four busses and a mini-van, caravanned on the way to Colorado. An accommodating Chick-Fil-A in Ft. Worth prepared 230 packs of nuggets for the hungry travelers passing through.

After 24 hours on the road, the caravan reached its destination. Throughout the following days, students enjoyed time skiing and snowboarding down the slopes of Winter Park. Between runs on the slopes, they had down time at the lodge with plenty of card games, hilarious rounds of *Catch Phrase*, and even some knitting lessons.

Each evening following dinner the groups met together for games and entertainment, followed by worship led by Tennessee duo Drew and Ellie Holcomb. Darren Youngstrom of Atlanta’s North Point Community Church spoke on what it means to be saved by grace rather than one’s own goodness, and what it looks like to fully surrender control to God. Small group time each evening allowed participants to go deeper and openly share with one another.

The final day brought news of an impending snowstorm, forcing WHPC leaders to cancel the



last day of skiing. Temperatures at the top of the mountain had dipped to nearly twenty below zero!

To make up for the lost day on the mountain, the trip home included a stop at iT’Z USA, a pizza buffet and indoor amusement park. With a ticket in hand guaranteeing unlimited play for an hour, students and leaders ran around in shameless, childlike glee.

Students had the unique opportunity to ring in the New Year at a McDonald’s in Dalhart, Texas. McDonald’s employees looked on as the seniors led all those present in an exciting countdown.

Around noon on New Year’s Day, parents picked up the weary travelers, who likely went home to hibernate after a memorable Colorado adventure.

