

The Echo

To invite people into

God's larger story as we

follow Christ together

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NOVEMBER 2011 ISSUE

HOLIDAY COLLECTIBLES - A Shopping Celebration for the Past 25 Years



WESTLAKE HILLS PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL
 holiday collectibles
 a shopping celebration

Friday, November 4
 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 5
 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

fine art • jewelry • clothing
 food • home & garden decor
 gifts • more

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Preschool will hold its annual Christmas shopping event Friday, November 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The entire lower level of the church will be decorated to help set the mood for Christmas shopping. The \$5.00 admission fee helps support our outstanding preschool program. With a large variety of vendors, entertainment, demonstrations and food, you will want to peruse every booth and get a jump on your holiday "to do" list!

WELCOME BILL AND BONNIE ROBINSON

WHPC is pleased to welcome William P. (Bill) Robinson, president emeritus of Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington to Austin on November 5 – 8. Bill will be preaching at all 3 worship services on Sunday, November 6. On Saturday, November 5, WHPC will host a leadership development event in our Chapel with Elders and program staff of Covenant, Shepherd of the Hills and WHPC. Bill will speak on *The Challenges of Leadership in a Changing and Complex World*. He and his wife, Bonnie, principal organist of the First Presbyterian Church of Spokane, will also lead a WHPC Program Staff retreat November 6 – 8 at Camp Buckner.

Bill served as Whitworth's 17th president, from 1993 to 2010, after being president of Manchester College, in Indiana, from 1986 to 1993. Currently, he works fulltime speaking and consulting with universities, businesses and churches. Bill is a past chair of the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce (now Greater Spokane Incorporated) and a founding co-chair of the Higher Education Leadership Group of Spokane. He serves on the board of Princeton Theological Seminary, the ING Educators Advisory Board, Max De Pree Center



for Leadership, and he is an independent observer to the executive committee of Moss Adams, LLP. In 2010, a second edition of his book *Leading People from the Middle: The Universal Mission of Mind and Heart* was released. The book was first published in 2002 by Executive Excellence. His second book, *Incarnate Leadership*, was released by Zondervan in February 2009. Bill and Bonnie have three kids (two ministers and a social worker), all of whom are married.



WESTLAKE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor

Dr. Peter Barnes

Associate Pastor for Mission

Dr. Carol Friesen

**Associate Pastor for
Community**

Dr. Peter Haas

**Interim Associate Pastor for
Discipleship**

Dr. Jim Bankhead

Director of Music

Emily Craven

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



This year our church has come through an intense season of reflection and prayer as the Session wrestled with the changes in ordination standards in our denomination and made decisions this fall about how our church should respond to these things. It has been a challenging time for all of us which has taken us to our knees. And I hope we stay there. There is no more appropriate place to be as a follower of Jesus Christ. We are powerless to adequately sort through problems on our own, and we need the wisdom of God to see us through. Our need for humility and prayer is one of the reasons I felt led by God to do a series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer this fall.

Ours is a diverse congregation. We don't all agree on human sexuality or even how to read and interpret the Bible on key matters of faith and practice. But I have been so pleased with how this congregation and its Session have engaged in the dialogue regarding these controversial matters. Mutual respect and forbearance has helped us listen to each other, extend grace to one another, and agree to disagree agreeably. Now that decisions have been made, it is time to move forward in unity.

What has impressed me more than anything else in recent months is the realization that there is so much more that unites us than divides us. The differences among us have existed for some time, but in the past we haven't allowed them to divide us or distract us from keeping the main thing the main thing. We may disagree on human sexuality, but we all agree that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He offers hope and healing to all us sinners. We are united in our desire to respond to the Lord's invitation to join Him on His mission of love to a lost and broken world. Our belief in and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what unites this church more than anything else, and my prayer is that we will be able to focus on our common commitments rather than our disagreements and extend grace to each other. Christ would want no less for us.

This past Sunday was Commitment Sunday which concluded our stewardship emphasis season. (If you haven't turned in a pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. The Session depends on your responses to make prudent decisions about the stewardship of our church's resources.) Lorie and I have personally benefited from working our way through the Stewardship Prayer Guide, and I want to thank Mike Ward, Nancy Gray, and Travis Hardy for their outstanding work in producing this invaluable tool. We ask; God responds.

As I shared with you last Sunday, it is striking that in the middle of the Lord's Prayer there is a petition for daily bread. God's provision is at the heart of prayer, and we can look to Him to give us what we need. The Lord's Prayer is a conversation we are encouraged to have with our heavenly Father who regards us as His children, and it is His chief desire to meet our needs. He is One who wants to be there for us, who wants to be a Father to us, and who desires to provide for His children. It is in the context of that loving relationship that you and I can look to God for our every need, even the provision of our daily bread.

You and I have been given much in the way of material provision, and God expects a great deal from us. How do you plan to respond to God's blessings – with generosity or a tight fist? My hope is that we will all grow in an attitude of gratitude and open-handed generosity to help fund the ministries, programs, staff and missional outreach of this church.

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

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The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog, and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard, and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we really are."

I once saw a t-shirt that said, "The opposite of poverty isn't wealth. The opposite of poverty is enough." May we be grateful for God's many blessings, and may we give generously out of our abundance so everyone can have enough.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM UPDATE

By Environmental Stewardship Committee Chair, Laurie Works (Worker1@aol.com)

Questions: Have you wondered why we have changed from Styrofoam to ceramic mugs on Sunday mornings? Aren't we in a drought? Should we be wasting water washing mugs?

Answer: Styrofoam takes 500 years to decompose.

Think about it.... if George Washington threw away a Styrofoam cup it would still be in the White House landfill for another 265 years from now!! That means all of the Styrofoam we have ever thrown away in our whole lives is still sitting there and will still sit there long past our children's, children's, children's, children's, children's, lives. Is this loving future generations?

Please think about this as you drop these in the trash:

Think:

Time to decompose in the environment:

Glass Bottle.....	1 million years
Plastic Beverage Bottles.....	450 years
Disposable Diapers.....	450 years
Aluminum Can.....	80-200 years
Tin Cans.....	50 years
Plastic Bag.....	10-20 years

- 1) Do I need it? (ex. plastic water bottles)
- 2) Can I reuse it?
- 3) If not, recycle it.

What more can we as a congregation do to love future generations?

Information Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, FL

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Family Connections Class

Sunday, November 20: Advent Preparations

Do you want to start a new tradition for your family during Advent? All ages are invited to attend the next Family Connections class on November 20 to view Advent projects and ideas. Several families have been invited to display what they do during Advent to help their children and grandchildren wait for the arrival of Jesus' birth at Christmas. The displays will be in place in the gym from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Please stop by with your children any time during that time frame to view the displays.

Family Advent Event

Saturday, December 3, 2 – 5 p.m.

The Family Advent Event is a long standing tradition at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. This is a delightful way to kick off the Christmas season! The event begins with a short program in the sanctuary featuring Christmas carols sung by the Sunday School children and a short performance by the Children's Choir. Families are asked to bring their filled Operation Christmas Child boxes forward to be blessed before they are sent to needy children around the world. After the program, everyone moves to the gym to decorate gingerbread churches. Each family is given one house to decorate, plus icing and a steeple. Each family is asked to bring candy, cereal and other items to share with others during the decorating party. In order to ensure each family has a church to decorate, please register in advance by emailing Cindy at cindy@whpc.org or sign up outside her office downstairs.

Family Connections at Home

For November, families are encouraged to work on teaching their children the Gloria Patri at home. Children can sing the song to a Sunday School teacher either before or after Sunday School any Sunday in November. The Gloria Patri is one of the songs on the Church On the Go CD that was handed out earlier this fall. If your family has not already picked up a copy of the CD, they are available on Sundays in the Gym at check out.

WHPC 2011 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Back by popular demand! Once again, WHPC members and friends have created a daily Advent Devotional Guide filled with 28 original stories that will enlighten, inspire and encourage. Each story is wonderfully illustrated by a child of WHPC. The Advent Devotional is a way for our WHPC family to share memories of Christmases past and personal reflections about the true meaning of Christmas as we join together in preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

Copies of the Advent Devotional will be available for pick-up in the church office, narthex and library beginning November 20. The daily devotions begin on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27. The guide can also be downloaded as a .pdf at whpc.org, and an email containing each day's devotion will be sent to the congregation throughout the Advent season.

1st Thursday Women's Fellowship Luncheon - November 3

Guest Speaker: Teresa Ward

Fellowship begins at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch and our featured speaker, follow from 12 – 1:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Kathryn Weldin (kathrynw@whpc.org)

Childcare available with registration
A \$6 contribution is appreciated

Celebrate Christmas through service



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS THROUGH SERVICE

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a mission project associated with Samaritan's Purse, a Christian ministry led by Franklin Graham, son of the Rev. Billy Graham. Beginning Sunday November 6, Children's Ministries will provide empty shoe boxes that members and guests may pick up and fill with new small toys, school supplies and other small gifts. The boxes will be collected at the Family Advent Event at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, and then sent to needy children all over the world. For more information, contact Cindy Gangstad at cindyg@whpc.org. For instructions on how to fill a shoe box visit the children's page at whpc.org. If you are not attending the Advent event, your filled boxes may be dropped off in the church office or the downstairs entryway any time before December 4.



Prison Fellowship Angel Tree - Starting November 20

Loving children of incarcerated parents with the Gospel, the Angel Tree is a program that provides a gift for a child and reminds the child that they have not been forgotten by a parent they seldom see. Information about each child is printed on a card that is hung on the tree. Members select a card, contact the appropriate person listed there, buy the suggested gifts and deliver them to the family before Christmas. This is an excellent chance for our families to touch needy families directly and to show them the love of Christ. The Angel Tree will be located in the Parlor beginning November 20, and will remain there until December 18, or until all cards are taken. For more info, contact Mark Charbonneau at markc@whpc.org



Matthew's Market

December 11, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Gym

Giving with a purpose! Our mission partners (such as the Presbyterian Children's Home, Community New Start, and others) will have a "wish list" of items that can be purchased on the spot. The agency will then be funded to go purchase their needed materials that will bless the hundreds of individuals affected by their ministry. Help support our community partners, as well as purchase Christmas items from some of our worldwide mission partnerships. There will be food, a pancake breakfast, and lots of fun. Don't forget your checkbooks! Cash and checks only. For more information contact Nancy Shields, nanshields@hotmail.com.

