

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to John Dearman and Jason Webster, who were awarded Master of Divinity degrees on May 30, 2010 from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. John was awarded the Chalice Press Book Award and Jason was the recipient of the Pile-Morgan Fellowship and a Presidential Scholarship. Both graduates have been under the care of Session as they worked towards their degrees. Paul Gamel, Chair of the Seminary Oversight Committee, along with committee members Cathy Little, Christy Engemoen and Wally Warrenburg, have walked alongside John and Jason to provide help, support and encouragement on behalf of WHPC.



John Dearman

John, son of Andy and Kathy Dearman, has been a part of the WHPC family for a long time. He grew up in this church and thinks of WHPC as his 2<sup>nd</sup> family. He's grateful for the good care, and spiritual renewal and refreshment that this congregation has provided to him over the years. John, his wife Vanessa, and twins Andrew and David, are currently in a time of discernment. They covet our prayers as they seek a call which will lead them to the church where God wants them to serve.



Jason Webster

Jason began his studies at Austin Theological Seminary six years ago. It has been a long journey for him and his wife, Courtney, and their two children, Max and Melanie. They, too, are grateful for the care and support given to them by WHPC as he has pursued his degree. They also ask for the continued prayers of the congregation in this time of discernment as they wait for a call to his next steps in ministry.

Acts 4:23-31 has been a meaningful verse for John in the past few years:

*<sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of*

*your holy servant Jesus."*

*<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Congratulations to both men and their families on their graduations. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill John and Jason so that they might speak the word of God boldly in their new adventures in service to God's people.



JULY ISSUE 2010

To invite

People into

God's Larger

Story as we

follow Christ

together

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# IT SEEMS TO ME ...

by Dr. Peter Barnes



Hebrews 12:1-3 has always been one of my favorite passages in Scripture. It speaks of running the race in the Christian life. I love the metaphor of running and athletic competition to stir my imagination for living the Christian life. Part of the reason I love this passage is because my wife Lorie and I have enjoyed running road races over the years. Since moving to Austin, we've gotten involved in the running scene a little in central Texas, and it's been fun to experience some of the road races. Lorie and I ran the Turkey Trot together last Thanksgiving, and Lorie ran a half-marathon in Bastrop back in the spring as well as the Capital 10K. She's the real runner in the family.

Ever since I saw the movie *Chariots of Fire* many years ago, one of my heroes of the faith has been Eric Liddell. He was the legendary Scotsman who refused to run the 100-meter race on Sunday out of Christian conviction in 1924 when the Olympic Games were held in Paris. However, he went on to win the gold medal in the 400-meter race. In addition to the gold medal, he also won the bronze in the 200. After celebrating his short-lived career in running track, he went to the mission field in China to serve the Lord with the London Missionary Society, following in the footsteps of his parents and older brother.

Six days after he won the gold medal at the Olympics, Eric walked through the commencement ceremonies at Edinburgh University where he received his bachelor's degree in science. When Eric stood along with those in his row to walk forward to receive his diploma, murmuring and applause began to ripple through the crowd. By the time he mounted the steps to the platform, cheers erupted, and the entire assembly rose in a standing ovation that continued until Dr. Ewing, the university's vice-chancellor, quieted the crowd.

In an unprecedented departure from convention, Sir Alfred Ewing spoke directly to Eric and said, "Mr. Liddell, you have shown that none can pass you except the examiners." Laughter swept the audience, followed by sustained applause and cheers. Sir Alfred continued, "In the ancient Olympic contests the victor was crowned with wild olive by the high priest of Zeus, and a poem composed in his honor was presented to him. The vice-chancellor is no high priest, but he speaks and acts for the university. In the name of the university which is proud of you, and to which you have brought fresh honor, I present you with this epigram in Greek, composed by Professor Mair, and I also place upon your brow this chaplet of wild olive."

Eric smiled and was flushed with embarrassment as he was crowned with the garland of honor over his receding hairline. After the ceremonies, he emerged from McEwan hall and was met by a crowd of young men who seized him, sat him on something resembling a sedan chair on poles, and hoisted him onto their shoulders. They carried him along the streets of Edinburgh to St. Giles' Cathedral for the university's commemoration service.

When they arrived at the church, a large crowd of people gathered and shouted repeatedly, "Speech, speech!" Stepping down from the chair and surveying the crowd, Eric stood on the steps and said, "Over the entrance to the University of Pennsylvania, there is written this, 'In the dust of defeat as well as in the laurel of victory, there is glory to be found if one has done his

Continued on page 3

best. There are many here who have done their best, but have not succeeded in gaining the laurel of victory. To these, there is as much honor due as those who received the laurel of victory. Thank you all very much for this reception."

Liddell's remarks have stuck with me in recent days. I think of the many ways that I and others on our staff and leaders of our church often stand in the spotlight of our church's ministry seeking to point people to Christ. But I also think of the hundreds of others in this church who are faithful servants behind the scenes in quiet ways. They as much as we should receive the glory for the tireless ways in which they have done their best to honor the Lord and serve Him with their gifts.

I want to personally thank all of you who have been so faithful in your service to Christ and this church this past year in the many unseen ways no one will ever know. May the Lord reward you richly for your dedication and sacrifice in helping make our church a bit more of an accurate reflection of the Kingdom of God here on earth. You are a blessing!

## HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATION

### MARTHA IS GRATEFUL

*I lived in my parents' home for 25 years. When I was a child, I entered that house, a house of love, and it was safe there. In that place I could relax and feel love.*

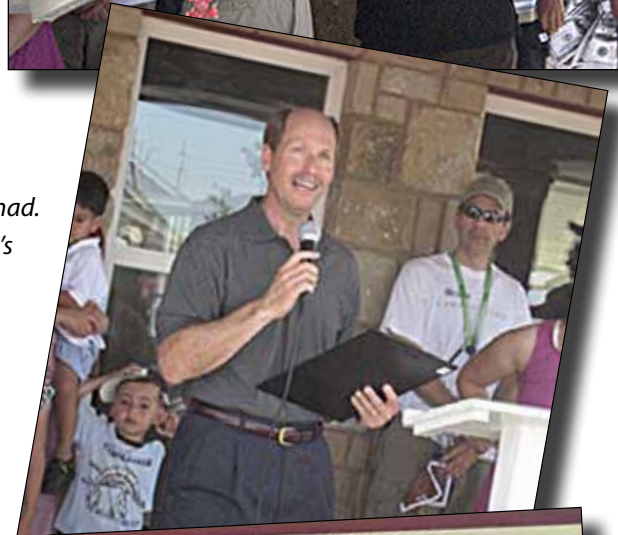
*I left that home and spent the next 20 or so years moving, always moving. When I was in apartments, they weren't mine, they didn't have love in them, they held the negative thoughts of others who had lived there. I was never safe, never at peace. I moved and moved.*

*That changed three weeks ago. I walked into the frame of my new house. My heart and my insides filled all the way to my ribs. This place is safe for me. No negativity. The very walls are filled with good wishes from the workers. There are prayers written on the studs and 'good luck' from all the people who are working to give me a home.*

*I wish I could tell you what I feel like. This building is not just a house. It is my home, and I will fill it with the same security and calm that my parents' home had.*

*When I saw the sunburst today on the top, I was so surprised. It was like God's love radiating out, a message to me and all the people that this house is the center. It is like the feeling in my heart of positivity, of hope, of the love that fills my home.*

*I am so grateful to the people who come and work to make me a house like this. I am grateful to God that He is helping me have that same feeling of optimism and safety that I had when I was eight years old and ran into the house to see my Momma and family. Thank all of you.*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS 2010 High Seas Expedition a huge success.

Thank you to the following groups of people:

- AM Coordinator Lindsay Castaneda
- PM Coordinator Arden Harkins
- Decorating Head Stacy Ussery and Morgan Stokes
- Music team-Emily Craven, Mary Mills, Hillary Files, Madison Harkins, Ki-Mi and Jimmie Fields
- 100 teen and adult Crew leaders
- Station Leaders for Snacks, Crafts, Recreation, Theater

Shout outs to our storytellers: Susie Johnson, Anne Nabors, Peggy Greenawalt and the always fun and energetic Sandi Thompson!

Special Shout out to Kyle Key for helping with making our waves and set up in the Sanctuary.

VBS programs at WHPC served 390 children this year. In addition to VBS at WHPC our decorations, craft, recreation, and food supplies helped make VBS possible at El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church and will be used again at Vox Veniae in July.

Final thank you to our families for donating over 400 books and 180 packages of markers for our mission project. These books and markers will be used at Manos de Cristo's back to School event in August. We will continue to collect the markers (8 or 10 packs of Classic markers) in the downstairs entryway through July.



## WACKY WEDNESDAY

**What is it?** Fun fellowship events for children who have completed 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> grade and their friends!

**When:** July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Each week meets in the WHPC GYM

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 per session

**Events Scheduled:** Putt Putt and Sno Beach July 7<sup>th</sup>; Magnetic Wall and Bumper Balls July 14<sup>th</sup>; Westlake Beach July 21<sup>st</sup> and Underground Bowling July 28<sup>th</sup>

**How do You Register?** Visit the Children's page at whpc.org and print a registration form or stop by the Children's Ministry offices.

Mail your completed form to: WHPC Wacky Wednesday, 7127 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX 78746.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR FALL

All volunteer opportunities are now posted in the downstairs entryway! The new commitments will begin on August 29<sup>th</sup> at our Sunday School Open House! The new curriculum and our new format for Children's Sunday School will be debuted on this date. You will not want to miss this opportunity to teach your child's class this coming school year.

The following numbers of volunteers are needed:

- 8 Greeters
- 64 Nursery volunteers – preschool age
- 27 Sunday School volunteers for Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup>
- 14 MWM volunteers

This fall Sunday School classes for children will meet in contained classrooms with a new and exciting curriculum called Rio. You can read about this new curriculum at [www.rio.davidcook.com](http://www.rio.davidcook.com). Take a look and see what exciting things are coming. The preschool piece for Sunday School is called Boz and you may read about it by visiting [www.DavidCCook.com](http://www.DavidCCook.com) and click on Boz.



## DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR MANOS BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

WHPC and other local churches are going to provide supplies for over 2000 at-risk children to return to school fully prepared. Our church has been asked to provide markers for each child. That being the case, we are collecting Classic 8 or 10 Crayola Markers. Drop off your contribution in the missions bin in the hallway of the children's department.



## FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION

By Christy Rome

In Mark 9:37, Jesus says "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Sometimes God calls us to something in a big way that is undeniably clear, and other times He calls us through a lot of little things (or through a lot of big ways for those of us who are stubborn or don't pay attention). While I can't pinpoint the exact time when I knew that God had called me to become a foster parent, He caused me to stop thinking of excuses, stop saying "one day" and led me to believe that I not only could but should open my home and my heart now.

I don't have some of the gifts that others do, who serve in other ways, but I do have a heart that loves children and I have been blessed with the financial resources to provide a home for a child. That's really all that is required. Well, that and lots of training, paperwork, and patience with "the system."

So far, I've welcomed three special children into my home. God not only called me to do so and fully equipped me with everything I needed, including the network of support within this church community, but He also had a plan for each child he entrusted to my care. Two of those children were adopted into a wonderful family within this church, and the other was able to return to his biological family.

That's my individual experience as a foster parent, but WHPC is full of lots of others who have answered God's call to love children in and from the foster care system, as well as those who have adopted children from other countries. 'Family' isn't always determined by the blood that runs through our veins.

If you feel God calling you to open your heart and home to children who need a forever family to love, accept, and nurture them, you can find more information about that through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange. ([www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption\\_and\\_Foster\\_Care/Get\\_Started/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Get_Started/default.asp)), or through the agency that has licensed and supported me and several other families in our church, Family Link ([www.familylinkkids.com](http://www.familylinkkids.com)).

Fostering and adopting isn't for everyone, and that's OK! But if God is calling you to open your heart to kids in need, here are some other opportunities you may want to consider.

Children in foster care need mentors—lots of kids are waiting for someone like you to step up and spend some quality time with them. The Presbyterian Children's Home and Services has kids under their care without mentors right now. Family Link also has a sign up for mentors and they never have enough volunteers.

Children in foster care need volunteer advocates, like a Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA to speak on their behalf in court and make sure all the right decisions are made. ([www.becomeacasa.org](http://www.becomeacasa.org))

Children in foster care have all the same needs that every child has (and then some), so foster and adoptive parents need some extra help with occasional childcare or chauffeuring needs, the donation of clothes, toys and books for new arrivals of all ages, or the preparation of a meal for a "new" parent who is more than likely a little overwhelmed.

Children (and their families—biological, foster, and adoptive) need your prayers. We need prayers that these children will be loved and nurtured enough to overcome the obstacles in their paths.

If you are interested in learning more, please come by the Detox class during the 11:00 Sunday School hour on July 25. There are so many ways you can help. There are so many kids who need your help.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVE ANGEL HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

Thirteen WHPC Middle School students had the opportunity to serve at the Angel House Soup Kitchen in East Austin on June 14. They helped prepare and serve lunch for 385 hungry people. After they helped clean up, they even got to taste the “God Soup” that was left over. Helping at Angel House were Stephanie and Rob Blais, Matt Gibson, Reed Hildebrand, Haley Lasseter, Hunter Spencer, Nicholas Kneupper, Peyton Siler, Annika Ostrom, Mary Margaret Hunt, Stephen Rioux, and Madison and Mallory Harkins, along with Kyle Bender and Christina Rioux.

Every student who attended said they wanted to return because they had such a fun time – especially in the kitchen! Mallory Jane Harkins, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Hill Country Middle School writes:

*My experience at Angel House helped me realize how fortunate I am that I have a good meal on the table every day. This experience also showed me that even though I have something to eat every single meal, some people only get the lunch that Angel House provides each day.*

*Angel House provides some meals that come with a bowl of soup. The soup being served the day I went was called “God’s Soup.” With the help of stores like Sam’s Club and restaurants like Chipotle, and Long John Silvers, food is donated to have a complete meal and to make the soup.*

*From wrapping spoons to putting cookies on a tray, we were all enthusiastic and quick in getting the tray across the table. The employees there were on top of things... switching our jobs around, and getting more soup when it was needed! The greatest part about the Soup Kitchen was whenever the soup was out one of the employees would quickly wheel more soup to the soup station. Thankfully, so no one would get burned, one of them would yell “Hot Soup!” Then everyone else would reply, “Praise the Lord!” This idea both showed our faith for what God gave us, and again, kept us from being burned!*

*This experience also showed me that even though some people might not have the ideal life situation at the moment, they are grateful for what other people can offer or give them. Some people even came up to us after they ate and thanked us by name, and even came back around to the window to thank us before they left.*

*It is so awesome that God gives us opportunities to serve Him! I hope to be able to do more volunteer work for the Lord in the future. God Bless!*

