



Summer Schedule: May 30 – August 22

9:30 a.m. – Contemporary (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time (Parlor)

11 a.m. – Traditional (Sanctuary)

Sunday School offered at both 9:30 and 11 a.m.

NOTES ABOUT THE NEW SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Times: 9:30 or 11 a.m.

Where: Gym

Check in: in the entryway or Gym

What if you are only attending one hour? Send your child to Sunday School or they may stay in Worship.

What if your family will be attending two hours? Send the children to Sunday School the hour you attend Sunday School, then the opposite hour take them to Worship and they may come to the gym after the Time For Young Disciples.

What about pick up? Children attending Sunday School at 9:30 should be picked up in the gym by 10:40 for Fellowship Time with their parents. Children arriving for Sunday School at 11 may come in the gym at 10:50.

Which grades attend Kingdom Court? Just completed kindergarten thru completed 4th grade.

What about a 5th grader (just completed)? These students will meet in room 166 on June 6th, then after Discover VBS they will move to the Youth Department for Sunday School.

How does this affect younger children? Children preschool and younger may attend both hours including Fellowship Time (you do not need to move them or pick them up until you are ready to leave the building).

What is the format of Sunday School? We will be using a large/small group format. Volunteers are still needed to lead the small groups.

Questions about the new schedule? Contact Cindy Gangstad at 327-1116, ext 125 or email cindyg@whpc.org.

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

When: July 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per event

What is this? Wacky is a Fun Fellowship Time for our completed 1st thru 4th graders.

Can We Invite Friends? Yes, be sure to register each friend.

How do I register? Registration forms for each event will be available outside the Children's Ministry office.

When are registrations due? Registration forms are due one week prior to each event.

Information: Contact Lisa Ruth Pullen at lisaruthp@whpc.org or call 327-1116, ext 147.



JUNE ISSUE 2010

To invite

People into

God's Larger

Story as we

follow Christ

together

Phone: 512 327-1116

Fax: 512 328-4328

Email: whpc@whpc.org

Website: www.whpc.org

**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 Discipleship

Ron Ragsdale

Director of Women's Ministries

Kathryn Weldin

Director of Communications

Nancy Gray

**Director of Contemporary
Music**

Todd Mayo

**Director of High School
Ministries**

Doug Congdon

**Director of Middle School
Ministries**

Kyle Bender

**Director Local and Regional
Ministries**

Mark Charbonneau

**Director of Children's
Ministries**

Cindy Gangstad

**Assistant Director of Children's
Ministries**

Lisa Ruth Pullen

**Sunday School Preschool
Coordinator**

Judy Crochet

Director of Support Services

Bud Reynolds

Office Manager

Dee Fuger

Financial Administrator

Anita Maxwell

Facilities Manager

Kyle Key

Librarian

Peggy Greenawalt

Preschool Director

Susan Bright

The Echo

Dee Fuger, Editor
Diane Pollard, Layout

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

by Dr. Peter Barnes



Earlier this year, the Session of our church formed a Next Steps Task Force which has been charged with developing a five-year strategic plan for Session to consider. It's a wonderful diverse group of people, and I've enjoyed getting to know them during the early times we've met together. It's an exciting time to think about the strengths of our church as well as our weaknesses and pray about the church God is calling us to be in the future.

One of the things that has surfaced in our conversation is the need for WHPC to develop a greater expression of invitation and a deeper experience of community. Many people are wondering how we can live more fully into our vision statement as a church – "to help nurture our relationships with God, one another, our neighbors and the world." We all would like to see more done to make this become a reality.

A few years ago, I read a book by Michael Frost entitled *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*. In that book he talks about "third places." This is a term that was coined by sociologist Roy Oldenburg and appeared in his 1990 book *The Great Good Place*, which is a celebration of the places where people can regularly go to take it easy and commune with friends, neighbors, and whoever just shows up. The subtitle of the book is *Cafes, Coffee Shops, Community Centers, Beauty Parlors, General Stores, Bars, Hangouts and How They Get You Through the Day*. According to Oldenburg, third places are those environments in which people meet to develop friendships, discuss ideas, and interact with others. Sometimes referred to by other sociologists as "social condensers," these places have always been an important way in which a community develops and retains cohesion and a sense of identity.

Third places are distinctive informal gathering places which make a person feel at home, and they nourish relationships and a diversity of human contact. They help create a sense of place and community, invoke a sense of civic pride, promote companionship, allow people to relax and unwind after a long day at work, and encourage sociability instead of isolation. In Oldenburg's thinking, our first place is the home and the people with whom we live. Our second place is the work place, the place where we spend most of our waking life. But the third places in our society are the bedrock of community life and all the benefits that come from such interaction. It might be a restaurant or a bar. It might be a social group such as a Rotary or Elks club, or a quilting circle, or a snow skiing group. It might be a physical location such as a coffee shop, a mall, or a rec center. Your third place is a place where you just like to relax and be you.

All societies have informal meeting places, such as the Forum in Ancient Rome or the contemporary British pub. In other societies it might be the gathering of elders at the city gate or the casual lounging of warriors around the campfire. Oldenburg concludes that for the healthy functioning of the community, we all need such third places, places where we can go to relax and belong.

He suggests that essential ingredients for a well-functioning third place are: it must be free or quite inexpensive; food and drink, though not absolutely essential, are important factors; it must be highly accessible to neighborhoods so that people find it easy to make the place a regular part of their routine. A lot of people should be able to comfortably walk to the place from their home. They should be places where a number of people regularly go on a daily basis. They should be places where a person feels welcome and comfortable, and where it is easy to enter into conversation. And a person should expect to find both old and new friends on each trip to the place.

You can understand why businesses such as Starbucks have latched on to this concept. They have invested a great deal in seeking to be a third place for American culture, knowing that it can be very lucrative for a business to be seen this way. By providing free wireless internet access, comfy sofas, and cool music, they are attempting to be the place that America likes to be when not at home or work.

The implication of all this is that Christians need to develop a greater witness in third places. Where might God want you to strategically invest your energies in a third place? It might be the rec center, or a social club, or an organization at school, or a business affiliation. It might be a coffee shop, or a grocery store, or even 6th Street downtown. All too often, Christians live in isolation from non-Christians, and the church develops into a kind of Christian ghetto where all of our friends are Christians and all of our activities are with Christian people.

If you take an inventory of your list of friends, how many non-Christians can be found among them? In addition, many of us are too busy to make time for third places. That needs to change. If we are going to be effective for Christ we will need to be, as Jesus said, the salt and light of the world. Salt is only effective if it is in contact with something, and light is only effective if it shines in the darkness. How might God be calling you to seek to be His witness in a third place this summer?

Please pray for the Next Steps task force as it wrestles with these important matters, and pray for Session as it seeks the mind of Christ for our future ministry. Lorie and I feel so blessed to be a part of this community of grace, and we're excited to be partners with you in the case of Christ.

STAFF PICKS FOR GREAT READING

Visit the WHPC Library to find these!

Carol Friesen, Associate Pastor for Missions

Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church by N.T. Wright.

The Jesus Way by Eugene Peterson

Peter Haas, Associate Pastor for Community

A Severe Mercy by Sheldon Vanauken

Invitation to Love by Thomas Keating

Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer

Soul Feast by Marjorie J. Thompson

Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin

Todd Mayo, Director of Contemporary Music

Scandalous: The Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus by D.A. Carson

Ron Ragsdale, Director of Adult Ministries

Moments With the Savior: A Devotional Life of Christ by Ken Gire

Teresa Ward, Administrative Assistant for Discipleship, Youth, and Worship

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat by John Ortberg

Doug Congdon, Director of High School Ministry

They Like Jesus but not the Church by Dan Kimball

Faith and Criticism by Basil Mitchell

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence



Peggy Greenawalt, WHPC Librarian

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Someone Knows My Name by Lawrence Hill

Keys of the Kingdom by A. J. Cronin

Kyle Key, Facilities Manager

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

As Bob Dylan so aptly put it: "The times they are a-changin'!" This is certainly true of this season at WHPC! While we have sadly said goodbye to several treasured staff members in the past year, the Lord has blessed us richly by bringing eight new faces to our staff in the past six months. Each one brings their unique talents and gifts to this congregation and we are excited and encouraged about the work that they are doing among us for the Kingdom of God. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to meet these new staff members, please reach out to them and welcome them to our church family.

We're so happy they are here!

Todd Mayo, Director of Contemporary Music. Todd joined our staff on January 1. Todd is dedicated to having a Christ-centered worship service. He seeks to be uncompromising in the selection of hymns and songs, choosing theologically correct Christ-centered lyrics with excellent music and melody. Todd believes as we sing Theology, the knowledge should penetrate our hearts enabling us to see the reality that we are dead and desperately without hope in this world except by the glorious love of Jesus. Todd is married to Ashley and they have four lovely children: Emma (8), Jack Bo (6), Griffin (4), and Georgie (2). The whole family enjoys camping, mountain biking, and swimming in all sorts of bodies of water. Ashley loves to run. Todd has recently discovered the internet and has started a blog at www.toddmayo.tumblr.com. He is currently arranging, writing and recording an album of hymns and Psalms. Find a preview of the album at <http://toddmayo.tumblr.com/post/598664382>.



Nancy Gray, Director of Communications. While not a new face at WHPC, Nancy is new to the role of Director of Communications, starting in that position on January 1. A church member since 2002, she directed the Children's Choir for five years, and worked as Worship Assistant for the past two years. Nancy brings with her years of experience working as a television producer and production coordinator for Nickelodeon, Disney and the Family Channel, along with her experience as a teacher in both the Eanes and Austin school districts. She has two boys, Nicholas and Christian, who will be in the 7th and 9th grades next fall. When not shuttling them to Boy Scouts, lacrosse, band, piano lessons, JAM or a myriad of other activities, Nancy enjoys running at Lady Bird Lake, yoga, mountain biking, hiking, singing, working in her garden, cooking and entertaining.

Leigh Congdon, Interim Associate Director of Middle School Ministry. Leigh also started on January 1 and is currently working in her dream job. She has worked with youth since she was in high school – volunteering with Young Life for the first two years, then interning at different churches for the next four. She graduated from Bethel University in St. Paul, MN with a Bible degree and moved to Austin a few months later, after marrying Doug Congdon, WHPC's Director of High School Ministry. She volunteered alongside her husband while looking for a job, but nothing seemed the right fit. She never could have imagined that right now she would be working alongside her husband, partnering in doing what they love – youth ministry. God provided, and she is so excited to be serving Him here.



Melissa Carter, Interim Associate Director of High School Ministry. Melissa began her job at WHPC on January 11. Melissa grew up in Lubbock, TX, and studied history at Lipscomb University in Nashville. In the fall of 2009 she interned with a social justice organization called "Invisible Children," in San Diego. She traveled to Austin to do a presentation at WHPC, and became fast friends with the student ministries staff and a number of the students. Two months later, she moved to Westlake to fill the position of Interim Associate Director of High School Ministry. Melissa became the proud mother of a goldendoodle puppy named Franklin soon after moving here. She enjoys music and going to concerts, writing, and road tripping. She loves exploring her new hometown, and is especially glad that some of the students have introduced her to Tacodeli and Torchy's Tacos.



Travis Hardy, Graphic Designer/Communications Assistant. Travis Hardy joined our staff on March 1. He was born and resided in Decatur, GA before moving to Pasadena, CA, where he completed a master's degree in Theology and the Arts at Fuller Theological Seminary. His undergraduate degree is in Industrial Design from the Georgia Institute of Technology. While in California he met his lovely wife, Lauren—a Dallas native, and they were married a short time ago. When not quoting *Bottle Rocket*, or admonishing their 65-lb lab/hound mix, George, to consider his theological convictions (George always responds, "All dogs go to heaven") Travis can be found wishing for his next motorcycle, looking for new music, and pondering the weight of student loans with multiple non-traditional degrees. Lauren, when not nursing in pediatric oncology, can be commonly spotted wearing plaid and listening to her discman. Their love of the arts and culture make their one-bedroom condo, shared with George, on the east side of Austin one of the best spots in Tejas.

Teresa Ward, Administrative Assistant for Discipleship, Youth and Worship. Teresa, who wins the award for the "Longest Title at WHPC," joined the staff on April 15. Teresa is known by many members of WHPC because of her longstanding involvement with the Cursillo (Pilgrimage) ministry. She currently serves on the Austin Presbyterian Pilgrimage Council. In addition, she has been involved with the WHPC Women's Ministry Prayer Pages class. Prior to coming to WHPC, Teresa worked as the Administrator for The PSH Foundation in Wimberley. Teresa, and her husband of 32 years, Bill, have lived in Wimberley for 15 years and they worship at Wimberley Presbyterian Church where Teresa is an Elder. Her passions include singing, worship and the Cursillo (Pilgrimage) Ministry. A few of her favorite activities are hiking, good movies, theater, musical entertainment, reading, and cooking. Teresa says that being hired by WHPC was a "God-thing" and she looks forward to using her gifts and skills in the ministry of WHPC.



Tyler Bryan, Associate Director of High School Ministry. Tyler, a.k.a. the "silver fox" as Doug calls him, also begins his ministry at WHPC on June 1. He just graduated from Baylor in May with a Religion major and a Business Administration minor. For the past two summers, he was an intern for the youth ministry at WHPC working with middle school and high school students, and has participated as a leader for the annual Focus Weekend for the past four years. Tyler says that God's ways and thoughts are always higher than ours, and that he is looking forward to finding out what God has planned for the youth ministry of this church. He is excited to be a part of WHPC and specifically in the youth ministry as it will be his joy and privilege to help disciple his young students to become passionate followers of Jesus.

Kyle Bender, Director of Middle School Ministry. Kyle begins his new position on June 7. After growing up in Wichita Falls, TX, he majored in Sociology at Texas A&M University. It was at A&M that he met his wife, Morgan. They have been married for almost five years and are enjoying the new adventure of parenthood with their four-month-old daughter, Amelia Melynn. During college, he was involved in middle school ministry to inner-city youth. It was through this experience that he sensed God's call to invest in the lives of students. For the last six years, he has served at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston where he began as the Director of Student Worship before becoming the High School Director. He is currently working on a Master of Theology from Fuller Seminary. Morgan and Kyle are thrilled to call WHPC home as they begin their family. He has never been more excited about youth ministry and its role in the church. He and Morgan can't wait to meet the families and students at WHPC!





Mariana

WELCOME KAZAKH INTERNS

These two lovely young women will be our guests from June 20 through July 11 as Interns from Kazakh-American University. They will be Business Interns at Chasse International Consulting, owned by Beverly Chasse of WHPC.

Tati will graduate in 2011 and is preparing to be a manager. She has worked in the U.S. for the past two summers. Marina is completing her MBA and wishes to work in Human Resources.

Tati and Marina will be living with church families and being entertained by many of you. Please let us know if you would like to offer hospitality to them during their visit.



Tati

Host families will provide an inside look at how American families live, work and spend their time. It is a wonderful way

for at least two of our church families to share their faith and love. Each family will have a VIP in its midst for three weeks. Previous hosts will tell you that having one of these Kazakh students in their home is an exciting adventure for the entire family.

It is very important that many of our members volunteer and get to know these young ladies by driving them to work or home each day or you might consider inviting the students for a dinner, swim, picnic, or other social activity. This is a one-time opportunity to get to know a person from another culture and let them learn about ours.

Discuss your ideas for being involved by calling Holly Salmon at 327.7927, htsalmon@msn.com or call Joan Buzzard at 261.5786 with questions.

Come to the Parlor on Sunday, June 27 to greet them!

9:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

CHILDREN

Birth to Fifth Grade (Downstairs)

STUDENTS

Middle and High School (Youth Room)

ADULTS

- THE DEARMAN CLASS (200)
- CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES (Conference Room)
- THE JOURNEY (201)
- COVENANT CLASS (205)
- CENTERING PRAYER (Chapel)



11:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

CHILDREN

Birth to Fifth Grade (Downstairs)

STUDENTS

Middle and High School (Youth Room)

ADULTS

- WOMEN OF THE WORD (201)
- THE FINE ART OF MARRIAGE (205)
- BRIDGING THE GAP (206)
- DETOX (Chapel)