

The Westminster Presbyterian Church

Communicant

Winter 2017



Perceiving New Beginnings

"I am about to do a new thing; how it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

We are in the midst of a sermon series here at WPC entitled *New Beginnings*. Primarily we are hearing from Isaiah and Matthew as we discover together what the Spirit is beginning anew in our time and place.

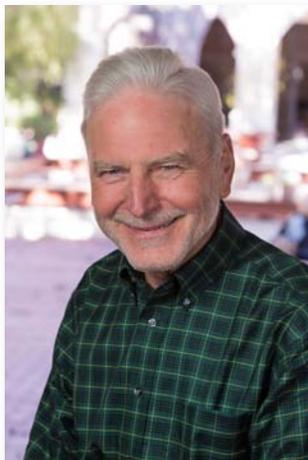
Isaiah wrote during a time of transition in Israel's history. The people who had lived in exile for some 70 years were now returning to their beloved Jerusalem. The city and temple were in deep need of repair, but hopes were high. Isaiah 43 describes the God who, despite ruin and destruction all about, promises blessing. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, and have called you by name and you are mine." (v. 1)

Those ancient words are ours today as well. We too are a redeemed people... a called people... and a people who belong in Christ to God. Moreover, our redeeming, calling and guardian God is doing a new thing among our Westminster ministry and mission. It is springing forth. Our responsibility and joy is to perceive it. What was once a wilderness has become ways and rivers in the desert.

How are we perceiving the new beginnings of God's Spirit as we move into 2017? Could the Spirit be at work as we feed and house 50 or so guests each Wednesday evening? Could the Spirit be moving among our active and eager Westminster Preschool people every week day?

Could the Spirit be speaking afresh as we gather for worship in both traditional and contemporary expressions? The newly launched Alpha classes, our book group, the Thursday Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras, and many support groups (including 300 plus at the Friday AA meeting) are all evidence that the Spirit is stirring here at WPC.

Finally, our Pastor Nominating Committee is in the midst of its exciting search for new pastoral leadership. When you see our hard-working PNC members, namely Sheryl Brownfield, Jeff Covert, Laura Horrigan, Darv Howell, Kimberlee Kayton, Ron Makela, Jonathan Mason, Lindsay Rush, Jo Zimmerman, and Kathleen Zlokovich, please extend your thanks and prayers for them.



Interim Pastor Charles Svendsen

It is my honor and delight to be with you for my second year as your Interim Pastor. Working with my colleague the Rev. Dr. Steve Miller, our thoughtful Session, our loving deacons and our creative staff is a privilege indeed.

I keep an open door. Please stop in anytime.
Epiphany blessings,
Charles Svendsen

Winter Highlights...

- Boundaries: an Adult Christian Formation Discussion
- All-Church Book Study
- Souper Bowl: tackle hunger!
- Welcome the Stranger (potluck dinner)
- Plan on These Dates
- Thank You from Haiti, Giving Tree
- Bos Scholarships Awarded
- Adults: Bible Studies, Women's Gathering, Bookworms, Pathfinders
- Help WPC Winter Shelter: Give One Hour
- A Note from the Chancel Choir
- BethEx Photos
- Youth Internships
- Youth Winter Camp

Adult Christian Formation, Sunday mornings, 10:45 – 11:45

“Boundaries”

You are always busy and stick to commitments necessary only for work and family, but sometimes wish you could take a risk and say “yes” to something new and fulfilling. Or in another situation, you just agreed to do something and a moment later you wish you had said “no”! We all engage our boundaries regularly, yet we seldom think about how to productively interact with the boundaries we set.

Come take part in discussion-based sessions centered around the well-known book *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. Classes led by Mark and Nancy Pierce continue through March 5.

All-Church Book Study

The Winter All-Church Book Study of *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. You can find the book on Amazon or purchase a copy on the courtyard Sundays at church. Although the study began in mid-January, everyone is welcome to jump in any time.

Coffee and snacks are served. On our last evening, February 28, we will start with a Pancake Dinner at 5:30 to celebrate Fat Tuesday. The book studies are a great way to get to know your church friends. You are also encouraged to bring a friend.

See you on Tuesdays!

The Congregational Life Book Study Committee (Julie Martin, Jo Zimmerman, Kathy Spielman, Janet VanAlsten)

Souper Bowl

While we join together with friends each February to watch the Super Bowl, some of our neighbors struggle to put food on the table for their families. Here at WPC we are collecting cans of soup until February 5. Soup will be donated to Manna, our local food bank. Bring your canned soups (or other non-perishable food items) to the Manna box on the Courtyard or in the Narthex.

Enjoy the Super Bowl—and tackle hunger!



New Member Class Coming in March

Have you been attending WPC for awhile and thinking about joining the church? Come to a new member class on two Saturdays, March 18 and 25, from 10 am—2 pm. We will get to know each other and our pastoral staff, share a meal, and learn more about WPC. New members will be received on April 9, Palm Sunday.

Contact Kathy Josselyn in the church office to sign up: Kathy@wpcwestlake.org or extension 10.

Welcoming the Stranger: Our Interfaith Journey

Sunday, February 26, 5 pm

LDS Chapel, 1600 Erbes Road, Thousand Oaks

- Share a potluck dinner with members of the Welcome Team's Faith Groups
- Celebrate coming together to help refugee families settle in our greater community
- Hear from the Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service
- Learn of our future efforts for new refugee families



Sunday Worship Services

- 9:30 Traditional Service
- 11:15 Contemporary Service

For Children on Sundays

- 9:30 & 11:15 am
Children age 3 through 8th grade begin in worship with their families and are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Message.
Childcare is available for children from birth to 3 years from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday morning.

Adult Christian Formation

Sundays, 10:45 am, Fellowship Center

Weekly Bible Studies:

- ❖ **Monday Bible Study**, Mondays, 1 pm, Oakside Room, contact Aubrey Grey
- ❖ **Wednesday Study**, 2:30 pm, WPC Library, contact Jim Mulick
- ❖ **Women on Wednesday**, Wednesdays, 7 pm, Library, contact Sue Minihan

Student Ministries

Junior High Ministry, Grades 6-8

Contact Matt@wpcwestlake.org

Sunday School, 9:30 am, Youth Lounge

JYF (Middle School Youth Group),

Tuesdays, 6 pm, Youth Center

Senior High Ministry, Grades 9-12

Contact JR@wpcwestlake.org

SYF (High School Youth Group): Sundays, 6:00 pm, Youth Center

CNA (Christians Non-Anonymous Midweek Bible Study) Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, off site

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals Thursday evenings, 7:30 pm

Wednesday Koffee Klatch

For adults 50+, Oakside Room, 9:30 am, conversation & sermon text preview, more!

Weekly Community Outreach

❖ WPC Winter Shelter, Wednesdays in the Community Outreach Center: overnight shelter (December–March), dinner, showers, health care

❖ **Westminster Free Clinic**: Wednesdays, 5-10 pm, United Methodist Church, TO, contact Cindy Vinson

Upcoming Events

All-Church Book Study

Continues on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm (see page 2)

27th Annual Souper Bowl

WPC will be collecting non-perishable food items until February 5

Kids Fellowship Club

Light Show continues on Tuesdays through February 14, 4:30 pm

Women's Gathering

Wednesday, February 1

Bookworms

Thursday, February 9

(please see page 6)

Pathfinders

Wednesday, February 18

(more on page 6)

Potluck Supper

Sunday, February 26, Interfaith Welcome Team's Faith Groups (see page 2)

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 28, 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 1, 7 pm

Youth Winter Camp

SYF (Senior Youth Fellowship) March 3 through 5
(more on page 8)

New Member Class

Two Saturdays, March 18 and 25, 10 am to 2 pm (more info on page 2)

The Living Last Supper

Thursday, April 13, WPC Chancel Choir presentation, service on Maundy Thursday

Communion

February 5, March 5, April 2

Thank You for Your Continuing Support of the Haiti Healthcare Partners Mission

Haiti Healthcare Partners, the charity founded in 2005 and still managed by WPC congregation members, want to thank you for your generous and continuing support of our efforts to help improve medical care through the Jean Wilfrid Medical Clinic in Cherident, Haiti. We have treated approximately 35,000 people since the clinic opened its doors.

With your support, we were able to make new strides in 2016 to help this community have greater access to primary care medical services. Among other developments, we:

- * Bought an SUV to help the clinic's all-Haitian staff conduct mobile health clinic visits in some of the more remote villages in this mountainous region;
- * Hired a midwife who has already delivered many healthy babies at the Cherident clinic;
- * Applied for and received medication donations from Direct Relief International;
- * Re-instituted an infant nutrition program for malnourished toddlers.

While Cherident was spared some of devastating effects of last fall's Hurricane Matthew, the clinic did lose part of its roof and the pharmacy's medications. While those repairs have been made and pharmacy supplies restored, the medical needs of this community continue daily.

We hope you will continue to pray for this special rural area of Haiti and help us make a difference there again in 2017.

The Giving Tree—Thank You!

Thank you all to the congregation of WPC, the Westminster Preschool and our sister Lightshine Church for participating in the wonderful tradition of the *Giving Tree*. The spirit of giving was exemplified by so many generous hearts

who helped us to bring Christmas joy and hope to 18 local families. We are so grateful for the organizing help from Kessie Cimino, Mollie Vallestrino, and to Betty Cendeno, who created the beautiful ornaments that adorned our tree. Also, thank you to the Zimmermans for help with creating our list. This year we delivered over 180 gifts to the distribution center for Lutheran Social Services, where each family was presented with a carton overflowing with presents. What a wonderful way to be reminded of God's abundant love through His greatest



Gift, Christ Jesus. We hope you continue to make this meaningful ministry a Christmas tradition of yours.

Please continue to pray for these families throughout the year that they may come to know God's abundant love and blessings.

Kirsten Trosper

Bos Scholarship News

Scholarship Recipients for 2016-2017

The Carole H. Bos Teacher Education Scholarship is designated for full-time college students who plan to become classroom teachers. The Carole H. Bos Scholarship recipients for the 2016-2017 school year are Heather Ferkranus, Shawna O'Shea, and Taylor Sack. Heather is a freshman at Whitworth University, Shawna is a senior at California State University Channel Islands, and Taylor is a junior at California State University Chico. All three of these recipients have close ties to WPC and are enrolled as undergraduates with plans to pursue teaching credentials.

The Dr. Robert C. Bos Scholarship is awarded to qualified seminary students who plan to enter pastoral ministry. One of the recipients well known to WPC was Moses Pulei, who said, "The scholarship has been a big blessing for my family and me... it meant that I could stay connected with WPC and keep learning ministry by actually doing it. It is a gift that builds people, a gift to the church and the world."

The 2016-2017 recipients of the award are former WPC Director of Student Ministries, James Puleo, and longtime WPC member Jeff Spiegel. James is currently enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary where he is completing his Masters of Divinity, and Jeff is currently enrolled at Western Seminary where he is pursuing a Masters of Art in Biblical and Theological Studies.

All previous Bos Scholarship recipients are recognized on a plaque that hangs in the Narthex.

How to Apply for a Bos Scholarship

Applications may be downloaded from the wpcwestlake.org homepage under the "Mission/Scholarships" tab. Completed applications are due in the church office by April 15 for the 2017-2018 academic year. Recipients are selected based upon academic excellence and financial need. WPC congregation members and their children are also given preference.

Bos Scholarship Committee Members

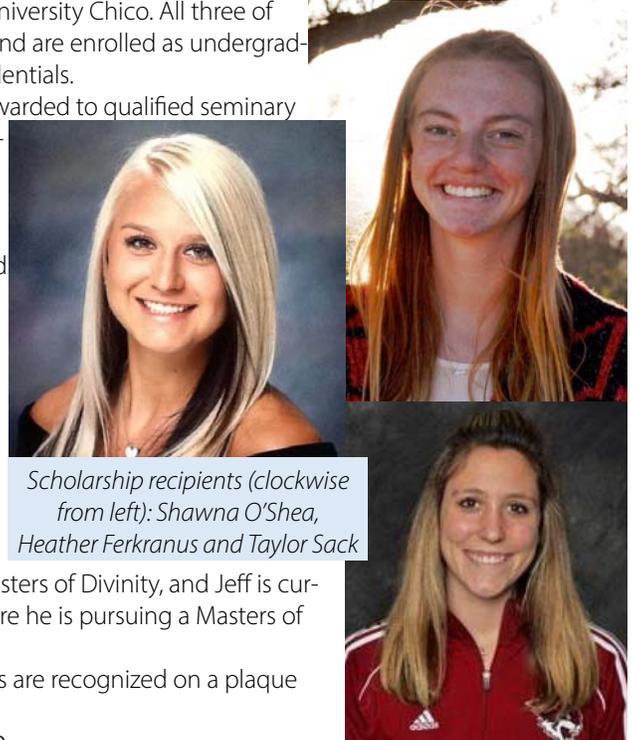
The members of the Bos Scholarship Committee are: Pat Smith and John Teobaldi, co-chairs, John Bradley, Lory Foitle, Judy Hightower, Cathy Howell, Kip Orloff, and Kathy Spielman. Bob and Carole Bos also sit on our committee as ex-officio members.

Please contact any of our committee members if you have questions about the scholarships.

Donation Opportunities

The Bos Scholarships are funded through donations by our members, friends of WPC, and often through memorial contributions. The Bos Scholarships are available for gifting throughout the year, and also at the annual Alternative Christmas Market. What a great gift idea! Investing in someone's educational future!!

We thank you for your support of these scholarships for the past 24 years.



Scholarship recipients (clockwise from left): Shawna O'Shea, Heather Ferkranus and Taylor Sack



Jeff Spiegel



James Puleo (with his wife and children)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2 PM IN THE WPC LIBRARY

Bookworms

Monthly, WPC book lovers gather to discuss a favorite book. Our choice for February is *Namesake* by Jumpa Lahiri. Copies of the book are available in the church office. Everyone is invited, please join us!

Library Lines

Many thanks to those who helped box up our books and then shelve them after we had to pull the bookcases out to check for water damage. Currently the reference books and all those in category 200 are in numerical order, but not alphabetical, so do take time to search carefully for what you want until we get them back in sequence.

The tedious job of going through the card catalogs is complete, with many titles of missing books removed. My thanks still go to Barbara Folkson who did a major part of this work before moving on to San Antonio, where Barbara and John are enjoying a new senior community with a custom home. It would be lovely to have someone else step up to replace her capable hands. Please contact Ruth Grey if you are interested.

Pathfinders

February 18 is our next Saturday to meet. Join us in the WPC Library from 8:30 to 10:30 as we study more about Jesus as His story is revealed in the Gospels and other writings of note. Each year one woman author and one woman artist are chosen to prepare a topical study for all Presbyterian women to use in small groups. Always Biblically based, these vary on topics from the Psalms to questions like our present study of "Who is Jesus?" You can be certain to discover something special during a journey that all are invited to take. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.



Join a Women's Bible Study!

To all women of Westminster, Please consider visiting the Women on Wednesday (WOW) Bible Study in this new year. We meet every Wednesday at 7 pm in the Library. We will soon be concluding our review of The Gospel of John. It has been enlightening, interesting and incredibly insightful for all of us. We welcome your thoughts and observations as we identify and begin a new study of The Lord's Word. Join us! We would love to see you! (Sue Minihan, *see printed newsletter for contact info*)

A Huge Help in Just 1 Morning Hour

The Winter Shelter needs you! Can you give an hour one Thursday a month in February and March? That's one Thursday in February and one in March at 6:45 am for one hour (or less!) to put away supplies after the Shelter overnight. Quick and easy, but your help is needed!

Two helpers are needed to work together Thursday, February 9 and March 9. In addition, one person is needed Thursday, February 16 and March 16, and one person is needed Thursday, February 23 and March 23, each to be paired with a current partner.

Contact Amy Barson for more information (*see printed newsletter for contact info*). Thank you!



A Note from the WPC Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir and our Director of Music Ministries, Ed Lojeski, would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the congregation for all your love and support during the Advent Season. The Chancel Choir was overjoyed to see the Sanctuary full of so many dear friends during our Christmas Concert (in the pouring rain!) and on Christmas Eve. We hope that everyone had a wonderful time celebrating our Savior's birth as a church family, as much as we did.

The Chancel Choir is looking forward to the Lenten Season. We will be presenting *The Living Last Supper*, composed by Ruth Elaine Schram, for our Holy Week service on Maundy Thursday, April 13. This music passionately captures the pathos of the Last Supper while one by one the disciples speak, expressing their innermost thoughts with brief but poignant monologues portraying their astonishment at Jesus' assertion one of them would betray him that fateful night.

We are excited for what God's promise holds for the future of our beloved WPC!

We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone that would like to join the Chancel Choir. Our rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Choir Room adjacent to the sanctuary. We lead in worship at the 9:30 am Sunday service.

Blessings to all, The WPC Chancel Choir



Bethlehem Experience 2016



Summer Student Mission Internships Available

What is Westminster Student Mission Internship (WSMI)? It is a unique 6-week internship designed specifically for college students who have shown a serious interest in mission. You will join a team of up to four college students and travel to Chestnut Ridge, WV. The team will serve the ministry of New Vision and build relationships in the area while preparing and serving the SYF mission team when they arrive. WSMI will consist of three components: education, service and mission.

What Will I Be Doing?

The internship will begin in late June with a week of training. Then the team will travel to WV. As interns, the team will seek to represent Christ and WPC as team members for New Vision. Jobs may include construction, youth ministry, sports, serving VBS, preparing renewable energy devices, relating to local youth, churches and neighbors. The team will serve under New Vision's umbrella in terms of supervision and compensation. Their local staff will instruct and encourage our team members during their significant learning curve.

If you are interested in applying for an internship, please visit ministries/students on the WPC website, or contact J. R. Robertson or Pastor Steve.

YOUTH NOTES

Save the Date!

SYF Winter Camp, Happening March 3 - 5

Our WPC numbers at camp are limited—sign up with Paula Kissell in the church office, or upstairs in the Youth Center soon!

"Our Desire is to Provide A Haven for Women in All Seasons of Life, to Make Friends, Experience Christ's Love and Serve Others."

Women's Gathering: February 1

Faith in Motion

Please join us as Crystal Stratton shares about *Faith in Motion*, a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and the faith community.

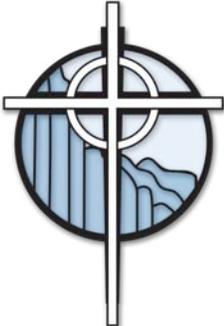
Come to the Fellowship Center at 7 pm to learn how we can make an impact on the Ventura County foster care system.

Sign up on the Courtyard or contact Julie Martin.

Remember: We collect personal hygiene items to donate to Manna at each Gathering



▲ WPC Preschool children with C&FM Director Julie Martin



The
Communicant
A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Winter 2017

THE COMMUNICANT IS PUBLISHED BY
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
32111 WATERGATE, WESTLAKE VILLAGE
818.889-1491
www.wpcwestlake.org

Material for the March 2017 issue needs to be in the office or sent by February 10 to
Kathy@wpcwestlake.org
To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.