



1300 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
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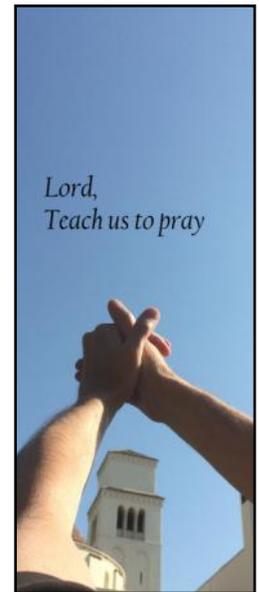
Spirituality Center to enhance prayer

Closing out this year's, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray", emphasis will be the section entitled Praying With Our Bodies. On Sundays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and, when other activities are taking place at the church on Wednesday evenings, the Club Room will be transformed into a "Spirituality Center" where participants will learn to experience God's presence by using all their bodily senses!

The Center's main feature will be Westminster's very own labyrinth! Meant to be walked in one's stocking feet (or wearing the overshoe booties that will be available), walking the labyrinth represents an inward spiritual and contemplative journey...toward its center...and toward our center! It is an ancient discipline, and we are proud to now have our own (made-to-order) labyrinth.



The labyrinth will be part of the Spirituality Center.



- See CENTER, page 4



He is risen!

Easter joy abounded at Westminster on March 27. To see more of our wonderful celebration in action turn to page 7.

Potential option for parking lot presented to task force by CADA

By Peter Winslow
Facility Task Force member

The WPC task force on the parking lot development met twice in the month of March. In early March the architect retained by CADA presented a concept for the development of the parking lot.

The proposal includes 3 levels of parking (one underground) providing approximately 150 parking spaces and 4 to 5 stories of apartments built on top of the parking structure. Because of the high cost of providing 3 levels of parking, CADA's goal to provide affordable housing had to be scaled back. The current proposal would be to build 70 to 90 units of which 25% would be affordable housing and the remainder would be offered at market rates.

In addition to the parking and apartments there would be retail space along O St.

- See PARKING LOT, page 5

Wes' Wonderings

Revealing the truths in Revelations

S In the first church I served as pastor 20 years ago, there was a member who questioned whether I was prepared to resist the implanting of a microchip under my skin. For him, this was a spiritual question because he believed that a world economic system was soon to be put into place, and anyone who wished to purchase anything would need to have this microchip under their skin. But this economic system was evil, and the microchip was the “mark of the beast” that was spoken of in the New Testament book of Revelation. Only those who refused this chip, or mark, as it were, would be saved, though, obviously, times would be unpleasant for a while. He was prepared to resist even to the point of death. I told him I would resist too, but only because I still like the feel of cash in my hand and no foreign bodies under my skin. The threat of death might change my mind though.



Truthfully, I probably wasn't that flippant. But I'm sure I wanted to be. I don't believe all this apocalyptic stuff. So why would I choose to preach a sermon series in April on the book of Revelation? Well, I made the decision while immersed in the darkness of Lent, so it may have something to do with my mindset at the time, but mostly it is because the lectionary cycle we follow draws readings from Revelation and, though many biblical scholars through the years including Martin Luther have discounted the value of Revelation, I think there is some spiritual truth there. One has to fight through the tall grass of apocalyptic imagery to find it, but it is there. Perhaps we can discover it together.

It's been 20 years since the encounter with my apocalyptic friend and no microchip yet, and no worldwide economic system either, though the European Union is still thought to be the “beast” by some end-of-the-world speculators. A lot of overworked imaginations, if you ask me. We might disagree on details, but my faith does find agreement with my friend's faith and the proclamation of Revelation in a number of areas, I would imagine, especially this one - God is still calling the shots.

Easter blessings...

Wes

A Springtime Stroll through an Apocalypse - The Revelation of St. John

April 32nd Sunday of Easter

Revelation 1:4-8

A Higher, and Lower, Power

April 103rd Sunday of Easter

Revelation 5:11-14

Relentless Being-ness

April 174th Sunday of Easter

Revelation 7:9-17

Quite a Mess

April 245th Sunday of Easter

Revelation 21:1-6

God's Home is Here!

MINISTRIES

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

Deacon officers selected

The new Deacon officers for 2016 are:
Denise Jones - Secretary.
Cheryl Stewart - Treasurer.
Patti Fairbanks - Vice Moderator.
Joseph Gormley - Moderator

Circle	Date	Time	Place
Mary/Martha	4-18	7:00 pm	Club Room
Sophia	4-26	10:00 am	Lynne Courtney
Esther/Ruth	4-3	12:30 pm	Club Room
The Searchers	4-12	11:30 am	Library
Hannah	4-4	6:30 pm	Serra Room



Youth art work on display

Yes, the Crocker may currently have Warhol, but Westminster has its own beautiful art display. Be sure and venture into the hall by the children's area and the patio to see some wonderful pieces that have been created by the younger members of the congregation.

There are lovely "fork tulips" created during art ministry classes, fun giraffes created during preschool and the duct tape art, made during the Friday Fun Nights for our older participants, is proof that it's aptly named.

Productive Session meeting addresses building work, missions

On March 28 Session met and took the following actions:
Reviewed 2015 financial audit report. Church members who would like a copy of the report can stop into the church office to receive one.

The Session also approved the following items:

- New air conditioning unit for office and Serra Room
- Roof gutter repair.

Mission budget adjustments--

- Reduce the budget amount for Area Congregations Together by \$450, from \$800 to \$350.

- Provide \$300 to the Peace and Justice Forum for 2016.

- Increase the budget for Opening Doors by \$150, from \$450 to \$600.

- Remainder of Christmas Eve offering allocation

- \$350 for Wind Youth Services

- \$350 for Women's Empowerment

- \$831.35 for purchase of food for bag lunches as part of our new mission project with River City Food Bank

- Provide \$100 funding for presbytery mission dinner in May.

- Move church financial oversight responsibilities currently undertaken by Administration Ministry Team to Stewardship Ministry Team.

- Serve communion on Palm/Passion Sunday.

- Funding Lee Hoffman's attendance at the Hand Bell Musicians of America conference in Modesto, June 17th.



The church infrastructure will be improved following Session's actions.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Westminster welcomes three new members

Having completed a class on membership and speaking with Session members, three people have decided to join Westminster this month. They will be received into the church at the 11 a.m. service on April 3rd. They are pictured, left to right Avi Sharma, Don Ruthrauff and Mikel Nalley. Here's some information from their membership application:

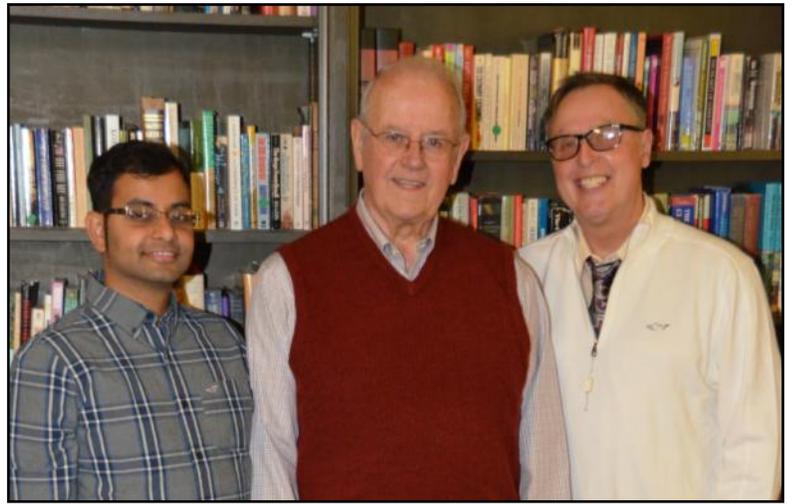
Donald Ruthrauff

Born on a small farm in Southeastern Kansas near Fort Scott in 1933, Don was blessed to have a Christian mother and father, who were members of the rural Brethren Church, which their ancestors helped build. He was baptized around age eight and was involved with Methodist Youth Fellowship.

He was stationed at Mather AFB after returning from Vietnam in 1972 and attended Fremont Presbyterian. (He spent 26 years in the Air Force, with over 7,000 hours in the air.) Joyce introduced him to Westminster around 1990, and they were married here in 1998.

"As I got more and more involved, I realized Westminster was my spiritual home."

Mikel Nalley



A California native, Mikel is a resident services representative at Capitol Area Development Authority. He's also an artist and actor who collects books and antiques. He has a large, loving family and loves art and films.

Avi Sharma

Avi was born in Fiji and, for more than 20 years, has been living in California. He has an associate degree in health care and enjoys living in downtown Sacramento with his partner of 14 years, Mikel.

He is considering furthering his skills and says if you can't find the happy couple in Sacramento then they are probably in Kuai.

Please extend a warm Westminster welcome to these three new members of our community.

CENTER—from page 1

which can be used on various occasions in the future, but it is hoped that many Westminster's members and friends will be able to take advantage of its "maiden voyage" over the coming weeks!

This is a totally new endeavor into spiritual growth for Westminster. Thanks to the generous support of the Worship, Membership, and Christian Education ministry teams for supporting the creation of our labyrinth.

Also in the Spirituality Center will be exercises in appreciating God's presence in sound, smell, taste (my sweet lord???) and sight. There will be religious artwork, a contemplative fountain, frankincense and a prayer wall and (if you get there at the right time), the sheer joy of watching Ali Nordman perform Spiritual Dance!

This will be a largely self-guided "tour", with written explanations of every part of the Center available including handouts which you will be welcome to take home with you and share with family and friends. The Spirituality Center will premiere on April 10 and be available throughout the remainder of Eastertide, and ending with Pentecost on May 15th. Come and experience God's presence in your life in a whole new way!!



Westminster's labyrinth was hand made at Paxworks.



Architectural drawings of a proposed development on the parking lot, from 13th Street, above, and 14th street, below.

PARKING LOT - from page 1

However, CADA is uncertain whether this proposed development can be made to work financially. CADA will do further evaluation of the project over the next 30 to 60 days to assess whether they are able to proceed.

WPC has not reached any agreement with CADA to proceed with this project.

The task force met again on March 15 to discuss the merits of CADA's proposed development. The task force agreed to identify sources independent of CADA to examine the financial implications of the proposed development for WPC.



New mission opportunities



In observance of Earth Day, please make an effort to come to church on Sunday, April 24, by an earth-friendly mode of transportation such as car pool, light rail or bicycle. We'll be celebrating God's care, and our stewardship, of creation.

Winter Sanctuary ended in March for the season, but Westminster will be expanding its service to Sacramento's homeless and hungry with the following activities, in connection with the River City Food Bank.

Thursday evening, April 7 we will be making sandwiches and preparing bag lunches at the church for delivery and distribution at the food bank on April 8. We will also be pre-sorting all of the food that the church has donated to the food bank. For this effort, we will need about 20 volunteers for about two hours.

On Friday, April 8, our volunteers will be responsible for all food intake, delivery, and processing at the food bank, which is located at 28th and R Streets in midtown. Up to 20 volunteers will need to be at the food bank from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. though working a half-shift is possible, too. This work will require volunteers to mostly be on their feet and to carry food items.

If you are interested in participating in either of the above activities, please contact Chuck Nicol at csnicol@sbcglobal.net.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Talent Show provides entertainment for all

On April 24 Westminster members and friends are in for a real treat: lunch and a show. That's right the annual Talent Show, which is filled with acts that are moving, funny, and zany will be held in the Social Hall. It's sure to be a great time for all ages, plus there's the added joy of knowing proceeds from the event will support youth mission trips. This year Westminster has groups traveling to San Diego, Oregon and even the Triennium in Indiana! These trips are always influential and a great opportunity for our youth to meet with other in a faith-filled environment. The lessons learned really do last a lifetime.



Participants in the Westminster Talent Show have been entertaining us for years.

Prior to the show there will be a delicious pasta lunch offered in the Club Room, with a free-will donation offering. Throughout the event there will be raffles. Anyone wishing to donate items for raffle baskets is encouraged to bring donations into the office by April 18. (Gift certificates to area restaurants and events are always appreciated.) Please be sure and join us for this event - it's a highlight of the year that brings out the best in everyone.

Summer Bible School needs helpers

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help with Vacation Bible School, August 1-5, 2016. If you enjoy spending time with young children, working on decorations, preparing snacks, arts and crafts, science, music, and more we need you!

Even if you're unavailable that week, you can still be a vibrant part of the VBS experience as there is plenty of work to do in June and July! People of all ages and skill sets are sincerely encouraged to contact: diana@westminsac.com and discover just how much fun summer faith activities with youth can be!

Fun-filled youth events are planned

Westminster's youth have many opportunities to enjoy various events. Every Wednesday night InterAct happenings include a dinner, and time playing games such as ping-pong and basketball in the social hall, as well as discussions of faith in a fun environment,

Monthly events for youth include Fun Friday Nights. In April, this special night will be held on April 22, from 6 - 9 p.m. Activities include movies, roller skating and other fun endeavors all in a safe and caring environment. Thanks to support from the church these events are offered free of charge (scholarships are available for outings if needed) so everyone who wants to has the ability to participate. For more information contact Diana Wright.

Parents deserve a night out too!

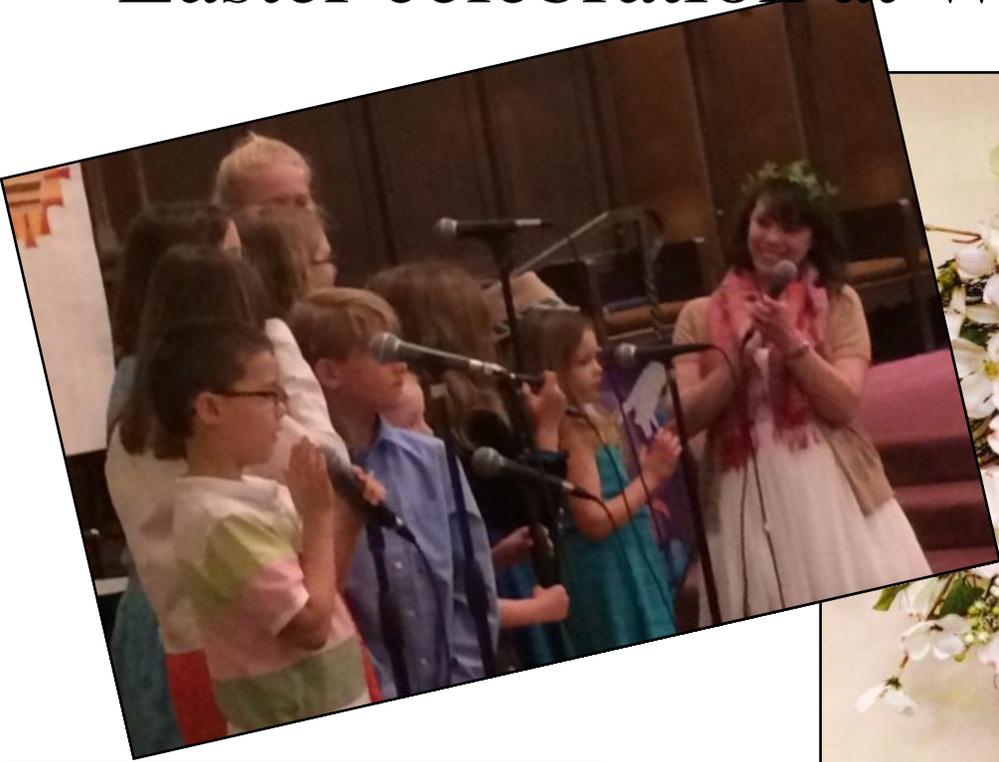
Keep thinking date night would be fun, but takeout and Netflix keep claiming your Friday nights? Well, shake it up a bit with some help from your friends at Westminster.

On Friday April 29 we'll lovingly watch your children while parents get to go out and speak in complete, uninterrupted sentences (or enjoy the silence of simply being together.)

Just drop the kids off at the church at 6:30 p.m. They'll enjoy fun, games and music. Heck, you can even use the parking lot and walk on over to a happening midtown restaurant.

Just be sure to claim the children by 9 p.m.!

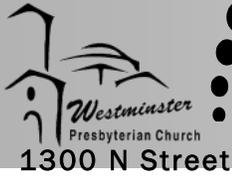
Easter celebration at Westminster



This Easter was celebrated with both services being held in the Sanctuary. Praise Band enhanced the 9 a.m. worship, while the choir created an amazing experience at the 11 a.m., including a powerful sing along of the Hallelujah Chorus.

Photos, clockwise include: youth singing, new wreaths in the Sanctuary by the worship ministry, while membership ministry created gifts for guests, and, our children enjoying their egg hunts!





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APRIL 2016

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

www.westminsac.org

Our Mission Statement:

Westminster is a welcoming, inclusive community of faith, following Christ's example by supporting spiritual growth, serving others, and promoting peace and justice.

www.westminsac.org

916-442-8939

communications@westminsac.org

Young families plan picnic

Westminster's families with young children are invited to enjoy a picnic in the park at the gazebo at Southside Park on Saturday, April 30, starting at 11:30 AM. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring food. Frisbees and footballs and other outside toys welcome.

The gazebo is right next to the playground so you

Clean up day is planned

Please join us on Saturday, April 18 for a cleanup day at Westminster. The fun starts at 8 a.m. and will continue until noon. All ages and skills are invited to join us for this community event to spruce up the

MINISTRY TEAM ELDER ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2016

Deborah MacMillan	Administration
Elizabeth Meyer	Personnel Ministry
Marie Thomas	
Robyn Cox	Membership
Beverley Jumper	
Chuck Nicol	Mission Outreach
Phillip Reese	Stewardship
Kace Schwarm	Christian Education
Jan Sharpless	Worship
Steve McGough	
Sharyl Stevens	Clerk of Sessions
Joseph Gormley	Moderator of Deacons

Presbytery Commissioners - Sharyl Stevens, Steve McGough, Diane Houle, Gordon Zerkel