



1300 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-442-8939

'ROUND ABOUT

Epiphany celebration includes community bonfire

All are invited to attend an Epiphany celebration on Jan. 6, 2016, at 7 p.m.. The outdoor event will include a communion service and a bonfire, for members and neighbors of Westminster and will be held in our parking lot.

Originally, the Epiphany is considered God's revelation of himself in the flesh in the person of Jesus. It marks the time when the Three Wise Men, Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior arrived at the manger, bearing the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant

Jesus. This is seen as the time when Jesus was recognized as the Messiah.

In our celebration of this important event, the fire will signify the light that Christ brought into the world.

Guitars will accompany the singing and communion will be served. Hot chocolate and coffee will be available to warm us.

Epiphany is traditionally the time when the focus is on light, which will guide us as we venture into our mission field - the world.



A bonfire will highlight our Epiphany celebration.

Special meeting will be held on Jan. 10

On Sunday, January 10, there will be a brief Special Congregational Meeting after each worship service to elect new officers.

This will be followed by an informal discussion with the Facilities Task Force members, regarding the proposed parking lot development. The task force and session members met together in December and many issues and concerns were discussed about the proposal to develop our parking lot.

The members will continue the conversation with the greater congregation to insure all concerns are addressed and recognized while the process continues. Please join us.

Westminster's wanderings into winter wonderland

One of the great features of Westminster is our location. We are able to enjoy - and we believe also enhance - the downtown Sacramento community. In winter time one of those downtown treats is the skating rink on K Street and this year many members will be enjoying an outing to this fun site.

On Jan. 8 our Fun Friday Night for all middle and high school youth will venture over to the rink. They will meet at the church at 5:30 and then travel to the rink, returning to the church for an 8:30 pick up. Cost is \$5, includes skate rental and scholarships are available. For more information contact Diana at Diana@westminsac.org. And on Sunday, Jan. 10, our young families will spend the afternoon at the rink. They will assemble in the Cameron Room at 12:20 and proceed over as a group.



Skating at he downtown ice arena.

Participating in fun, healthy activities for all ages is part of Westminster's church community and it's great when we can do that right in our own neighborhood! Hope you'll join us.

Wes' Wonderings

Westminster leaders take on duties, show the way

The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word *presbuteros*, which means elder. It was so important to the founding fathers and mothers of Presbyterianism that the church be guided by a group of people elected by the congregation (that is, elders) rather than one person, that they named their church after this kind of church governance. I can't think of another Christian denomination that identifies so closely with its own structure and process. The way we run our church is what we call ourselves.

This may seem weird. Names like Baptist, Pentecostal or Disciples of Christ describe *what* should happen at church, at least according to the emphasis of these churches. Makes sense. Presbyterians are named after *how* church is supposed to happen. It happens through the guidance of God's Spirit as envisioned and overseen by elders. The pastor is not in charge! The direction of the church is laid out by the session, which is made up of ruling elders (laypeople elected by the congregation) and teaching elders, the pastor(s). Naming ourselves Presbyterian makes sense to us because we strongly believe that important decisions are best made by groups of wise leaders rather than one leader, even if that leader is wise.



On January 10, after each service, we will hold a brief congregational meeting to elect three new elders to join the session (made up of nine total) and lead us. The new elders, who will serve a three-year term, for nomination are Maria Thomas, Beverly Jumper and Phillip Reese. I am thankful for their willingness to serve. I am also thankful for the service of the three elders who are rotating off the session—Susan Watkins, Patty Fairbanks and Sharyl Stevens. They have done a wonderful job these past three years.

Every bit as important as elders to the functioning of the church are deacons. The word deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonia* which means service. Look around on Sunday morning and you'll see deacons ministering in all kinds of capacities - serving at coffee hour, preparing communion, staffing the office, bringing people to church and helping those with mobility challenges negotiate this labyrinthine facility. You may not see though all the stuff deacons do beyond the facility like serving home communion, hosting parish activities and visiting the sick. They are a blessing to me and this church. The deacons to be nominated on January 10 to serve on the 18-member board are: Robin Thompson, Paul Maltby, Cheryl Winslow, Tricia Morris, Maureen McMahan and Blu Brown. Those rotating off the deacon board and not returning for a second term are Herb Freeman, Hilary Pollock, Tim Hawkins and Doug Griebner.

On January 17, these new deacons and elders, elected by you, will be ordained and installed. As we enter this new year, I am thankful for this church and especially for its leaders.

New year blessings,

Wes

January's scripture readings

Jan 3 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

A Stubborn God's Stubborn Plan

Jan 10 - Baptism of the Lord

Special Congregational Meeting

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

A Dangerous Life

Jan 17

Officer ordination & Installation

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Where Has God Sent You Today?

Jan 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

How is the Bible to be Understood?

Jan 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

So Close Yet So Far Away



MINISTRIES

Annual reports are due in office by January 15

Yes, it's that time again! A year has flown by and so many exciting events and activities have occurred this past year we can't wait to share them with all members of the congregation. And that means the ministry team chairs and anyone else with annual report responsibilities, need to file their reports. Please send them, as a word document attachment, to Gordon Zerkel at operations@westminsac.org. Each ministry's activity is a critical component of Westminster, so it's imperative it is represented in the annual report.

The reports will be compiled, printed and available for review before the congregational meeting, which will be held on Sunday, Feb. 21st. Your help in providing this material is greatly appreciated.

Petitionary prayer classes planned

The Sundays following Epiphany will have 10 a.m. classes that focus on petitionary prayer and its many forms. January 10 will be healing practices in other faiths; January 17, Jan Hopson will help us understand what the church prayer chain is and what it is not; January 24, Lee Hoffman and Jean Harlow will help us understand the healing power of music; January 31, will have healing from a chaplain's point of service; February 7, those who serve or would like to serve as liturgist in the Sunday services will be helped with the reading of the Word and leading prayers for the congregation.

These classes should help us broaden our understanding of various forms of prayers of petition.

Sign up now to be part of Westminster's summer's Youth Mission Trips

Our summer mission trip dates and locations have been confirmed with Sierra Service Project! The Senior High School Mission Trip (for incoming 9th through 12th graders next fall) will head to San Diego, Sun. June 26 through Sat. July 02, 2016.

The Middle School and High School Combination Mission Trip (incoming 6th - 12th grade next fall) will head to Chiloquin, Oregon on Sunday, July 24 through Sat. July 30.

Space is limited, so if you are interested in joining us please submit a deposit of \$50 by January 15th.

Retreat planned for deacons and elders

The active deacons and elders of Westminster will be participating in a retreat at Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn on January 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle	Date	Time	Place
Mary/Martha	1-25	7:00 pm	Club Room
Sophia	TBD		
Esther/Ruth	1-3	12:30 pm	Club Room
The Searchers	1-12	11:30 am	Library
Hannah	1-7	6:30 pm	Serra Room

All women are invited to join a circle for Bible study. Call Sharyl Stevens at 942-9534 or Mary Jane Root at 362-8485.

The 2015 CROP Walk very successful

The October CROP Hunger Walk for 2015 was a great success with over 275 walkers from various churches and organizations on a dry sunny day.

District 4 City council member Steve Hansen was the master of ceremonies and conducted the drawing for the raffle and he offered a few inspiring words to help us on our way as we walked around the Capitol.

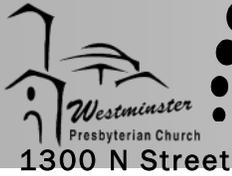
The total collected in pledges from Westminster was \$2,750 and the total regionally for Sacramento was close to \$24,500 with monies still arriving.

Pledges go to four area food banks and disaster relief worldwide. The committee and Church World Service wish to thank all volunteers and walkers who gave their time and effort to make this so successful.

These popular trips allow our youth to put their faith into action by serving others. They are inspirational, structured, life-altering and a whole lot of fun. But it does require a commitment, so without a deposit we will not be able to guarantee a spot.

Friends of your children who might want to join us will be put on a wait list and be notified if there are any available spots left in April.

If you have any questions, please call Diana at 442-8939 ext. 309 or you can email diana@westminsac.org.



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'ROUND ABOUT

JANUARY, 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

Parents night out scheduled for Jan. 22

We love our families here at Westminster, so it's great to announce that parents and their friends are invited to enjoy a night out without the kids! Simply drop the youngsters off at the church at 6:30 p.m. and go have some fun. The kids will enjoy crafts, movies and play time. Then pick them up by 8:30.

Just RSVP to Diana Wright: Diana@westminsac.org or call her at 916-442-8939.

Devotionals will be coming soon

Members of Westminster have created a lovely Lenten Devotional filled with writings, prayers and scriptures. It will be a great addition as we celebrate this holy time of year.

They will be distributed prior to Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 10, 2016.

Senior Pastor Rev. Wes Nordman
Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministry Diana Wright
Director of Choir Lee Hoffman
Organist Brad Slocum
Office & Facilities Administrator Gordon Zerkel
Communications Theresa Keegan
Faith Community Nurse Jean Harlow
Secretary Joanie Mather

We want to hear from you

The newsletter is an opportunity to publicize the special events and wonderful people at Westminster. Please share your information with us.

To submit items for consideration in the newsletter, please contact Theresa Keegan at communications@westminsac.org or call the office on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Thanks.