



# WEBPRESS

January 2009

Webster Presbyterian Church \* 201 W. NASA Pkwy \* Webster, TX 77598  
www.websterpresby.org \* 281-332-1251

## Mark-ings

The beginning of a new year probably isn't all that significant. It does let us know fairly dramatically that time is definitely passing, but mostly New Year's Day is just another day. After it, though, we have to start writing a different, slightly larger number on things such as checks.

Actually, we might be a little less sorry to see the turning of this particular year than is always the case. Not everyone will remember fondly the year that has just passed. Hurricane Ike certainly was a very unwelcome visitor to us all, but most especially to a number of families in our congregation whose homes were severely damaged. Also, the economic crisis has had an effect not yet completely understood on us individually, on our church, our nation, and the entire world. There are a number of ways in which 2008 was not a good year.

The turning of a year, whether or not we are glad to see the old year end, does create in us a sense of promise. We resolve to do differently some of the things we can control, in order to do our part to make things better. We make New Year's Resolutions because of our hope.

Around dear old WPC we're certainly aware of both the promise and the challenge of the New Year. There are so many wonderful things going on around our church, so many things that we can be proud of and thankful to God for. We have made significant progress in a number of areas of church life, and more things are planned. We are growing, not only in terms of numbers. We are growing in some very important areas. Not long ago we had no children in our nursery department. Now we have eight young children below the age of two. That is marvelous. Also, I need to say how very proud I am of the staff I get to work with at WPC. We are fully staffed and the staff is working to develop the most effective ministry and mission possible at WPC. The New Year is bursting with promise.

We at WPC do face significant challenges, too. For instance, as I write this we are in the midst of the budget process, trying to figure out how we can accomplish what we hope to accomplish with the resources we have available. Frankly, maybe in a couple of weeks I won't be, but right now I am quite worried. While many of our expenses, such as utilities, have gone up dramatically, it looks like the amount of money we will have to work with in 2009 will be less than in 2008. Also, we had to borrow money just to pay operating expenses in 2008. We cannot allow ourselves to do that again or we will end up in some very serious difficulty in the not-too-distant future. The point is, we are going to be living much differently in the area of finances in the future than we have in the past. Since every area of church life operates on the thinnest of margins, very painful cuts are likely. I don't yet know what we will have to work with in 2009 so I don't yet know what those cuts will be. Although it pains me to say it, it is possible that we will not be able to maintain the fine staff we have managed to assemble.

Whatever the New Year holds, for us as individuals and as a church, we will face it with faith and confidence. We will continue to trust that God is with us, in good times and in times that are not so good. The presence and faithfulness of God are not dependent on prosperity. In fact prosperity can stand in the way of our trusting God fully. So, let us embrace this New Year, believing that when the year turns again, we will look back and say, "Surely, God was with us."

Fondly,

*Mark*

# Family of Faith Ministry

## ADULT MINISTRY PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

### Adult Rally Day on January 4

An Adult Rally Day is scheduled for January 4, during the Sunday School hour, in Bouton Hall. The Adult Education Committee will unveil plans for Sunday School classes, covenant groups, Bible studies, and a variety of programs for January through May. Bring your calendar, and be sure to get in on all the great offerings for Winter and Spring!

### Adult Sunday School Classes for the Winter months

There will be three adult classes at WPC during the period of January 11 through February 22. These classes are: "Jubilee in the Gospel of Luke," led by Rev. DeLeon in the Gallery; "Science and Faith," led by Ed Tobia in the Library; and a series of contemporary issues classes, which will meet in the Meeting Room. Two sessions will be led by Dr. Susan Wittjen, Former Moderator of the Presbytery of New Covenant, "End of life issues", on January 25 and "Health Care & the Other; Are Immigrants Our Responsibility?" on February 1. Other classes in the series will be announced soon.

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### Important Announcement!!!

The annual meeting of the congregation of Webster Presbyterian Church will be held after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, January 25.

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## A Thanksgiving Feast

The 2008 Thanksgiving feast was on Wednesday night Nov 19 this year. We had 150 people in attendance and filled up Bouton Hall, the Gallery and the Meeting Room. Folks managed to polish off 120# of turkey, pans of bread AND cornbread dressing, gallons of gravy, a couple pans of smashers (for those of you that don't know what that is, come next year and be amazed!), green beans, corn, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls. Not to mention the fabulous desserts that were brought to share. We do have some excellent cooks in this church.

Thanks to all : Jennifer Carr, Joan McMillan, Deborah Kidwell, Johnny Jones, Blaine (carved the turkeys this year) & Mary Goeckler, Nancy Spivey, Mike & Connie Carden and to Carole Kloves, Lois Phillips and Carol Young who helped decorate, set up and generally get things going.

- 1--Jack Armstrong, Steve Schulz
- 2--Cyndi Kibikas
- 3--John Bissell
- 4--Flo Sell
- 5--Patricia Frank, Chip Newman, Jenny Cowan, David Sydnor
- 6--Ronnie Lusk, Richard Loynes, Colleen Grady
- 7--Ed Czerwinski, Eric Eaves
- 8--Lucinda Guajardo, James Loynes
- 9--Jack Kinzler, Randy Moore
- 10--John Holland
- 12--Chris Ramsay, Lynn Godwin
- 13--Barbara Ferguson
- 14--Jane Markley
- 15--Vernon Kane, Kent Frohme, Kelley Kiernan, Chris Kidwell, Darren King
- 16--Abbey Menard
- 17--Geoff Rorrer
- 18--Glenn Royal, Ryan Pavone
- 19--George James
- 20--Maryann Neukom
- 21--Lonnie Fogle, Marjorie Seiter, Ruth Ann Prince, Debbie Johnson
- 22--Jerri Terry, Johnathan James
- 25--Kandice Aaron, Cole Harris
- 26--David Minks, Kelly Pillow, Katy Loynes
- 27--Jeanette Chase, Joan McMillan, Cinda Rank
- 28--Helen Teegarden, Christie Tubb, Chad Yeamans
- 29--India Allen, Becca Massie
- 30--Terri Rosenberg
- 31-- Betsy Horsley, Bev Matson, Alberta Rohlfing

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## Family of Faith Ministry

### A Thanksgiving Day

Webster Presbyterian Church joined hearts and hands with the Austin Christian Fellowship for Thanksgiving. Austin Christian Fellowship (ACF) is actively serving in Galveston to bring relief and assistance to those devastated by Hurricane Ike. For Thanksgiving Day, ACF provided a thanksgiving meal to anyone in the Galveston area who wanted to come. They put up tents, prepared food, provided clothing, and even set up a playground for the children.

A call came to WPC from Ron Fleming, asking for volunteers to help set up and serve the dinner. A last-minute call to the congregation yielded 22 volunteers! Several went on Wednesday evening to set up chairs and tables in preparation for the event. The rest of us made our way to Galveston bright and early Thanksgiving morning, where we served plates of food, greeted guests, helped shoppers in the clothing store, played with children on the playground, or helped in the kitchen.

Volunteers were encouraged to take time with the guests, giving them the opportunity to tell their stories, allow them time to rest and relax at their tables, enjoy one another's company, and to share God's love with them. People were allowed to have as many servings as they wished, and were even given to-go boxes if they wanted them. One person from each family was given the opportunity to go to the clothing venue and pick out one outfit for each member of the family.

We served approximately 500 guests, and gave out another 300 meals to go. The WPC congregation was, as always, well represented, as we made up 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the 87 volunteers who came out to assist ACF in this Thanksgiving task. Everyone I spoke with found it to be a very gratifying way to spend Thanksgiving Day, and many have asked if we're going back for Christmas, and I'm checking out the possibilities.

### Early Risers' Breakfast and Everyone Welcome

Come to the first Early Risers' Breakfast of the new year on Sunday, January 11 from 9:30-10:30 in Bouton Hall. There will be a sit-down menu plus take-out items for those going to Sunday School. Enjoy good food and good fellowship all at the same time!! See you there!

#### From the Treasurer's Desk

**NEW SAFE** – We now have a safe "with a slot". It has a door at the top of the front that pulls open for you to drop in checks or cash that you have collected. Beside the safe are envelopes for your convenience to insert cash and checks. Please write your name, telephone no. and the account number or description of where funds should be deposited. Be sure to check that the envelope or check "drops".

Don't know where to find the safe? It is in the bottom cabinet in the front office to the right of the Members' computer.

Please be sure you deposit funds promptly after collection. Please do not leave cash or checks in mailboxes or desk drawers even temporarily.

**DIRECT DEBIT** is also available. Ask Anne Waehner for details. She completes this on the second Thursday of each month.

**PURCHASING FOR THE CHURCH?** You can use the church Tax Exemption form and save the taxes. This is true whether you choose to be reimbursed or donate the purchases to the church. The forms are in a clip on the side of the mailboxes in the office. The church cannot reimburse you for sales tax.

**DONATING NON-CASH ITEMS.** Forms to donate non-cash items are in the office above the Members' Computer. Please complete the form and put it in the safe. We'll be sure the amount is added to your Charitable Tax Receipt. You should maintain a record to justify the amount in case of an IRS audit.

If you haven't sent in your Letter of Commitment to fund 2009 Ministries and Mission, please go online at [www.websterpresby.org](http://www.websterpresby.org) and log in to record your gift. Or just call Shannon at 281-332-1251 ext. 15 to leave a voice message. Blank forms are in the narthex and office. Help your Session to set up the 2009 budget.

### Important Announcement!!!!

**On Saturday, February 21, under the direction of our new Special Events Board, WPC will be hosting a Workshop in Biblical Storytelling.** The Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones, from San Marcos, Texas, a member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, will be our guest. The workshop will run from 9:30 AM 'til 2:00 PM. The cost will be \$18.00 for those who pre-register, and \$25.00 for those who register at the door. The cost for students will be \$12.00. To register, please call the church office.

## Mission Ministry



### **Bay Area Habitat for Humanity is undertaking a Women Build House Early in 2009.**

Like other Habitat houses, this will be a solid, single-family house that will be provided to a deserving, low-income family at cost and paid off with no interest. The Women Build home will be a new addition to Habitat's usual roster of projects and will be built almost entirely by women -- WPC women too! Habitat will need to raise \$60,000 in addition to their usual funding to support this work.

WPC's Mission Committee has pledged \$2000 to Bay Area Habitat to support the Women Build house. If you feel called to help the Mission Committee fulfill this pledge, you can participate by writing a check to WPC, designate it as "Women Build"; then place it in the offering plate at your regular church service any time in January.

Some people may wish to make a donation directly to Habitat, in order to take advantage of other opportunities, for example employers that offer matching funds for charitable donations. If this describes your situation, you may still participate through WPC. Please make the check out to "Bay Area Habitat for Humanity" and designate "Women Build" on the memo line, and give the check to Pastor Helen DeLeon. She will bundle these checks with the church donation when our WPC pledge is sent in. You may give checks to Helen in person or give them to the secretary in the WPC office by January 11.

### **And there's More!**

"Women Build - Women Walk", a 5K walk sponsored by Habitat to raise funds for the Women Build, is scheduled on Sunday, February 8, University of Houston campus at 3 PM. The walk is open to all supporters, women, girls and even men -- you don't have to wear the pink tee shirt! For more information, stop by the Habitat table in the narthex and pick up a signup form; or sign up on the web at [www.bahfh.org](http://www.bahfh.org) > through the "Women Build" 5K walk link. If you are just a little curious, stop by the table in the narthex to see the pink hammers!!

**Mark your calendars for February 7** and get out those hammers, gentlemen. Oh, ladies, you're invited too. Separate from the Women Build house, Habitat is also starting a new house for a needy family on Saturday February 7, and WPC will be there ! Our volunteers, along with friends from two other churches, will spend the day literally "raising the walls". We'll also provide lunch for the whole work team. Anyone over the age of 16 is invited and we will put you to work. For more information check the Habitat display in the narthex or call Carl Allen at 281-992-3772.

### **Bay Area YMCA Volunteer of the Year!!!**

Ellen Shipman has been named volunteer of the year for Bay Area YMCA for her generosity, hard work, and compassion for others during her work with the association's Child Watch Program

Shipman spends two hours a day, three days a week, working to help older youth understand people's differences.

### **Prayers from our Kids!**

Dear God,

Thank you for food.

Please help me be strong.

Help me to be brave.

Please be with me everywhere I go.

Please help my mom on her back.

Please help me when I need you most when I am scared.

Please help me be a good guitar player.

Help me when I am worried and hurt.

Make me the strongest person on the world.

Please help me get good grades in school.

I ♥ God.

Amen

# Family of Faith Ministry

A mini-house raising project was held at WPC in mid-December in Bouton Hall. In all, twenty houses were successfully raised and a great time was had by all participants, especially the children. You see, they were building their own Gingerbread house.



# Youth Ministry

## Youth Christmas Progressive dinners... Three Starbucks gift cards, two I-tune cards, and a pair of fuzzy bunny ears???

From blinking bunny ears to a wrench to Starbucks gift cards, you never know what will pop up at the annual Youth Christmas Party and Gift Exchange! On Saturday, December 13, both youth groups ventured out into the humid Houston "winter" air for good food, fellowship and Christmas fun. The junior high youth began their Christmas Progressive dinner by stopping off at Pam & Lynn Godwin's house for some delicious appetizers. Next it was off to Jill & Michael Massie's for a taco dinner and then on to Pastor Caressa's for dessert and gifts. The most popular gift of the night was a Hannah Montana game (with a \$10 iTunes gift card sneakily attached to the back).

The senior high began their night at Pastor Caressa's for appetizers, of which the pigs in a blanket were a huge hit! Then it was off to Marci & Jennifer Paden's house for a spiral ham dinner with all the fixin's. The night ended with dessert and gifts at Pam & Lynn Godwin's house, and the gotta-have gift was either the Starbucks gift cards or the popcorn and candy movie pack. Thank you to all of the host families and adult sponsors who made this fun evening possible!!

## Family Advent Celebration Title: Wow! What a Turn Out!

You might have thought that Santa Claus was in town based on the turn out for our Family Advent Celebration. On Sunday, December 7, over 85 people enjoyed an evening of fellowship, singing and of course, delicious food! Thank you to everyone who brought sides dishes and desserts to add to our feast! After dinner our children enjoyed Christmas crafts of all shapes and sizes. Then Elizabeth Noriega, with her piano talents, led us in Christmas carols.

At 6:30, everyone headed over to the Sanctuary for a worship service led by our youth. "What does Christmas mean to you?" This powerful question was asked of the congregation as they reflected on the true meaning of Christmas. Through carols, prayers, a compelling and entertaining drama entitled "Emma's Gift," and a memorable Christmas ornament offering, our youth enabled the congregation to pause in the busy-ness of the holidays to remember and reclaim the "Christ" in "Christmas."

Thank you to all of the youth and adults who planned and led this awe-inspiring worship service. And, a special thank you to Linda Smith-Gregory and the children and youth ministry teams for organizing and hosting this family event!!

## WPC Youth Sunday School

Sure, you've seen our youth head up the stairs on Sunday mornings and perhaps wondered what they do up there. So, to sooth your curiosity, here are some insights from the Sunday School teams that lead each of the youth groups.

**For Jr. High**, the second most important thing to bring to Sunday School is donuts. The youth bringing their Bible is the most important thing. For Advent, the Jr. Highs have been watching the movie "The Nativity Story" and comparing it to the stories in Matthew, Luke, and Isaiah. After the holidays, they will pick back up talking about decision making and how the Bible is a fundamental part. The Jr. High Sunday School leaders are working with Pastor Caressa to develop a three year plan on 'what does a Jr. High need to know before going on to Sr. High.' The goal is to cover areas like Bible knowledge, understanding the worship service, and preparing for Confirmation Class, all through games like Bible baseball, skits, music, and, of course, reading the Bible (and eating some donuts). The Jr. High leaders are Janice Smith-Bagheri, Ralph Faxel, Nina Moede, and Frank Rix.

**In Sr. High**, the youth have started the We Believe curriculum titled Preparation for Holiness, which looks at holiness in three different ways:

- Focus on how we each prepare ourselves to receive Christ during Advent by looking at different spiritual practices as aids in that preparation,
- Looking at the relationship between holiness and acts of worship,
- Looking at the passion of Christ and what it means to be a disciple of the Holy One.

Around 12 – 15 Sr. Highs are in Sunday School each week, with 3 leaders that rotate as the teacher from week to week. The Sr. High leaders are Watson Dupont, Katy Rendon, and Elizabeth Stoltz. Oh, and the Sr. High youth have been known to eat a few donuts also.



# Children's Ministry

## Children's Ministry Calendar

Sundays	Time	Location
Worship	8:30 a.m. Child care available.	Noah's Ark Room
	11 a.m. <i>Growing in God's Love</i>	Sunday School of Fish
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.	Preschool & Kinder: Sunday School of Fish 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> graders: Double Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr Preteen 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders: Preteen Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr
Handbell Practice Young Ringers 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> graders	4:45-5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Choir Practice Cherub Singers Preschool & Kinder	5-5:30 p.m.	Angel Music Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> flr
Choir Practice Celebration Singers 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> graders	5:30-6 p.m.	Angel Music Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> flr
<b>Wednesdays</b>		
Kids Klub 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> graders	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Double room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr
Parenting 101	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Parents Retreat, 1 <sup>st</sup> flr
Child Care	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Noah's Ark Room
Children's Ministry Team 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month	6:30-8 p.m.	Preteen Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr

January 10 – “Birth to Three” Parents Breakfast for those with kids ages infant through three years old, 9:30 am, Meeting Room

January 11 – Choir & Bells back in session

January 14 – Start Wednesday night rehearsals for Choir

February 14 – Dress Rehearsal (10 am – 2 pm with lunch)

## Children's Sunday School

We'll be studying Worship during Sunday school in January and February in preparation for the Worship service that will be led by our children Feb. 15.

Not only will our kids be learning about worship, but they'll also be writing the liturgy for the Feb. 15 service. Our kids will be working with their Sunday school shepherds to write, practice and *understand* the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession and much more during our special Sunday school classes on Worship and the Worship service. These classes begin Jan. 18.

### The Angel Tree:

A Christmas Tradition with Love and Heart



One of the great traditions for our ministry to families is the “Angel Tree,” a special tree set up in the Library during Advent. What makes this tradition so special? Well, the “angels” on it, of course! The tree is adorned with a hand-stitched Christmas ornament for each of the infants born or adopted into the WPC church family during the year.

NEWS OF THE WEBSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

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For pastor emergencies, please call  
281-322-0015  
A pastor will return your call.

To encounter The loving God,  
To nurture followers of Jesus Christ,  
And to meet human needs.



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~ Dates to Remember ~

January 4—9:45 am	Adult Sunday School Rally Day for New Classes
January 10—9:30 am	Birth to Three Parents' Breakfast
January 11—9:30-10:30 am-	Early Risers' Breakfast
January 11—11:00 am	Ordination of New Officers during the Worship Service
January 14—6:30 pm	Kids Klub will be back on Wednesday nights
January 18 & 25	Superbowl Sandwiches' Sales by Youth
January 25—12:15 pm	Congregational Annual Meeting
February 7	Habitat New House Building
February 8	Women Build—Walk 5K
February 21--9:30 am- 2:00pm	Workshop in Biblical Storytelling in Bouton Hall