

Web Press

June 2007

News for the Webster Presbyterian Church Family

Special Points of Interest

- June 3rd VBS starts
- June 8th STS 117 launch
- June 17th Blood Drive
- June 25th Covenant Group Celebration

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Presbyterian in Space

In the hours before dawn on May 15, space shuttle Atlantis will begin its slow rollout to Kennedy Space Center's launch pad 39a. It will await the mission STS-117 crew that will include first-time space traveler and WPC member Clay Anderson, who will replace Suni Williams as Flight Engineer for Expedition 15 (and 16) on the International Space Station. Launch is scheduled for June 8, 2007, or soon after.

Clay originally trained for mission STS-118, but was recently reassigned to 117. Since the crew of six had already prepared to carry out all assignments, Clay is a windfall seventh pair of hands. He describes himself as their "utility infielder". He'll assist them with the delivery, installation and activation of the third U.S. power system for the station. Then he'll help Suni pack up so that he may settle into his home through October.

Clay's duties will include throwing out unneeded equipment, using robotic skills to make a port for the Harmony node that will be brought by mission STS-120, and maneuvering outside the station to repair a gyroscope and install

new equipment. Scientists will also plot and study his food intake, vitamin D consumption, and sleep patterns while Clay conducts combustion, worm, and plant experiments. (Not all together—these are separate investigations!)

There will be a measure of free time. Clay may apply his vocal and songwriting talents with an onboard guitar. We may hope to enjoy insights from his continued journaling about family, faith, and purpose. He will carry with him not only our prayers but also a hand-crafted silver cross dedicated by our congregation earlier this year.

Clay has commented that he regards the Space Station as a key example of how cooperation among people of different languages, cultures, and skills can serve to benefit everyone. We are indeed blessed to share in "an adventure provided by God" that has taken a Nebraska kid from 2nd prize in a tin foil spacesuit to aerospace engineer, husband, father, Christian and astronaut.

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Replicas of Space Cross Available

Clay Anderson will be going to the International Space Station very soon as a member of the Expedition 15 Crew. Our Session approved a cross, similar to our church logo, for Clay to take to the Space Station. This cross was dedicated during Sunday worship service on February 11. Replicas of the cross may be ordered for purchase until June 15. These sterling silver crosses are hand crafted by a local artist and priced at \$52.50 each. Crosses may be ordered by calling Daphne, at the church office, or Al Manson.

“Mark”ings

I suppose I was like a lot of people in that I found it difficult to decide what I wanted to do with my life. There were many different careers that appealed to me, and there was nothing about them that made them similar. They were all over the map, you might say. I was interested in all kinds of things, and it wasn't easy for me to choose between them. No doubt one of the things that made ministry an appropriate vocation for me is that it is one of the few “generalist” professions left. Some ministers do specialize – hospital chaplaincy, educational ministry, counseling – but the typical parish minister has a vast array of tasks facing him or her. A typical day and week might include preaching, teaching, planning and conducting worship services, helping people dealing with illness or the loss of someone close to them, and on and on. And I haven't yet mentioned what is perhaps the most difficult and time consuming of all, getting and/or keeping an organization up and running properly and productively.

That last one comes as a surprise to most ministers. Most of us, I suspect, are

drawn to ministry because of theological or “spiritual” reasons, and those are the things we tend to study. In seminary I never had a course on church administration or parliamentary procedure. I never remember any lectures on, say, “the care and feeding of volunteers,” or “how to repair a copy machine.” (No one even taught me how to baptize a baby. How do you manage to graduate from seminary without that?) When we are ordained we are full of church history and theology and Greek and Hebrew, and we are shocked to learn that day-to-day ministry has virtually nothing to do with any of that.

I suspect I am writing about this because I am a little bit intimidated right now by all the administrative issues I face and that we all face as members of Webster Presbyterian Church. We have to struggle with how we can have the most effective educational program for our children and our adults, how we can engage in mission most productively, how our worship services can be more engaging and compelling. We are in the process of looking for an

associate pastor with primary responsibilities in youth ministry. We must decide if it is time for us to move to a fulltime music director. Our building facilities present us with challenges, we're raising money for the property next door, and we have another fall stewardship campaign coming up very, very soon. And, while dealing with all that, there are still sick people to visit, and lessons to prepare for, and sermons to write, etc. There is no lack of things to do, or things to occupy one's mind.

I do hope none of this sounds like complaining. I feel very fortunate to be here working with the staff and the membership of the church, and I welcome the challenges we face. And I know I am not alone. I am very proud of our staff, and of the many, many members of our church who work so hard and so long around here. There are still moments, though, when it seems difficult to know where to start, or what to do next.

Pray for your church. And pray for your pastors. We need it.

*Fondly,
Mark*

MISSION

at Webster Presbyterian Church

Seeing, hearing, going, touching . . . sharing God's heart with the world.

WPC'S MISSION CONNECTION

VICKI SMITH IN JAMAICA



Vicki Smith is shown above with her friends at the Immanuel United Church in Tower Isle, Jamaica on their rally day. Vicki is participating in the youth music program. She has had some wonderful experiences including watching a baptism in the Caribbean. Vicki says, "This morning (Sat) I was on the

beach at 7:00 to witness 2 baptisms. A couple (Jamaicans) from Miami came home and had our pastor baptize them in the Caribbean. As the Reverend lowered the wife into the sea a white dove flew over. It gave us all goose bumps."

In addition to teaching at Iona Preparatory School and

serving at Immanuel United Church, Vicki has been asked to lead the music in one of the United Church of Jamaica's large church camps. This is a wonderful challenge for Vicki as these camps are among the most important projects of the United Church in Jamaica. She will lead young adults 16-23 years of age.

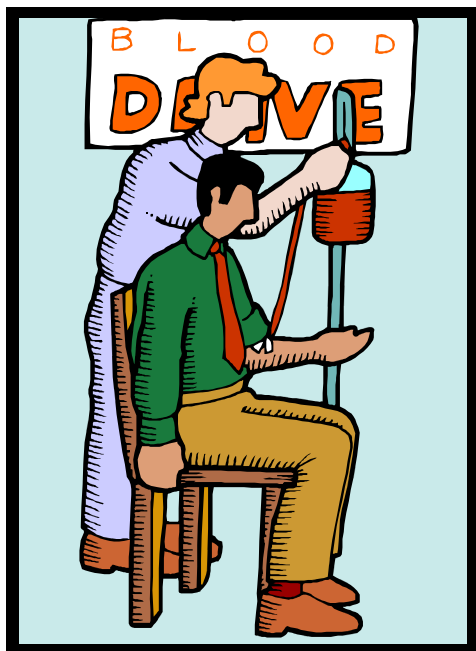
English-as-a Second Language Class

For about a year, a group of dedicated teachers from our church has been teaching English-as-a-Second-Language at the Oasis of Hope Church, our neighbor church, across the street from the Webster Civic

Center. Our teachers, Dick Brackett, Sylvia Kinzler, Mary Camp, Marlon Figueroa, Casey Fletcher, Alicia Ruiz, Kim Harano and Marjorie Seiter have taught beginners through advanced classes on Sundays from 10 – 11:30.

Studies are wrapping up for our 20+ students with an assessment test. We will take a short break during the summer and resume this rewarding mission again in the fall.

Blood Drive



WPC Mission committee will host the first of 3 blood drives this year on Sunday June 17. We need commitments from 18 folks for the blood donor coach to come to our church. Please consider giving the Gift of Life. Each unit of blood saves 3 lives. What a way to honor our fathers for Father's Day! To sign up please contact Elizabeth Spivey and choose a time between 7:45 and 1:00 pm for June 17. A sign up sheet will be available after each worship service in the narthex starting June 3rd.

Fellowship & Welcoming

Dinner Club 7

WPC is forming new Dinner Club 7 groups of 6 to 8 persons. Now is your chance to renew or initiate your participation in this fun fellowship. For those who are not familiar with Dinner Club 7, it is a small group fellowship activity. Groups are established for a nominal period of six months. Both couples and singles are welcome. The nominal number 7 was chosen to make that point. Each group will hopefully meet at least 4 times during the half year giving each family an opportunity to host a meeting. A typical meeting would be a dinner with the hosts providing a main course and others bringing other designated pieces of the meal or the group might decide to meet in a restaurant. Once groups are established, it is

entirely up to each group to decide when, where, how often and in what format to meet. The small group setting provides an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted with others of your church family.

It has been some time since new groups were formed; Blaine Goeckler has volunteered to organize the groups. The plan begins with promotion and includes the following:

This announcement will appear in the newsletter.

Notices will appear in the bulletin 2 or 3 times in June.

Couples or individuals interested in being in a group should do one of the following:

- Call or email Blaine Goeckler or Daphne in the church office.
- Sign up on a signup sheet in the narthex

Since Blaine needs your names to set up the groups you are encouraged to use one of the first two options!

Names of participants will be collected in June and the groups formed by the end of June. This will be repeated in December to create new groups to begin meeting in January. Ideally, group assignments should be varied to allow participants to socialize with as many people as possible. Unfortunately, there are no records as to earlier assignments so any history you could provide will be appreciated and used.

Remember: Donations for the property purchase can be made at the church office or during Sunday worship. Please make a note on your donation as “Property Purchase”



WPC YOUTH

To encounter the loving God, to learn to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ,
to share the Good News, to change the world.

What's Happening !!

A quick look at plans for upcoming youth activities.

June	Jr. High	Sr. High
3	Helping with VBS Sunday thru Thursday	
10	PYC – Get-to-Know-You Night 6:00 – 7:00	No PYC (Mission Trip)
17	PYC – Visit to The Main Event 6:30 – 8:30 (5:30 Pizza at WPC)	
24	PYC – Service Project 6:00 – 7:00	PYC – TBD 6:00 – 7:00
	Youth Worship Service 7:00 – 7:30	

Keep a close eye on the bulletin, web site, and an e-mail inbox near you for more details!

Wonderful Wednesdays for Jr. Highs and Sr. High Connections will be starting up their summer sessions in June.

Step by Step – It's Promotion Time

The 8th grade youth will be moving up to join the Sr. High Youth Group on Sunday, June 3rd, and get right to work as the youth head out on their Mission Trip the following Sunday, June 10th. And on June 10th the 5th graders will join the Jr. High Youth Group and start to get to know everyone that evening at their first PYC.

We Were Really Baking, Brothers!!

On Sunday, April 29th the annual Baking Brothers Bake Sale was held to help support the youth trips this summer. And there was a wide variety of delectable dishes to discern . . . there was a lot of really good stuff. From triple chocolate brownies (with a golf theme) to jalapeno jelly to hot cinnamon rolls, and much more, there was something for everyone. The youth want to thank everyone who donated their delicacies and all those who bid on them to raise a total of \$404!!!

“Worship Together” – The 2007 Youth Musical

This year the Youth Choir, under the direction of George Gray, presented “Worship Together” on Sunday, May 13th. After much work and a fair amount of anxiety, the youth presented a very real and meaningful treat on Mother’s Day for all in attendance. At the performance a love offering was collected to help with the youth summer trips, raising \$600.50. The youth want to thank the WPC family for this truly generous support, along with the WPC Music Department and George Gray for making the musical possible.

Chair Evangelism . . . what is THAT??

PYC sponsors always have to come up with interesting, fun and Christ-centered activities for the youth here at WPC. It is often a challenge but one that each of us undertakes with enthusiasm and creativity. At least, we TRY. There are, of course, some favorites among the teens (the fun, crazy ones) and the sponsors (the ones that bring groans) but all in all, we have tried a lot of new things without too much resistance. So, when chair evangelism came along, they were wondering just what we were up to. We try to name an activity that will describe, with some accuracy (sometimes not), what it is we will be doing. This was one such event. We broke up into random teams of 3 teens and one-to-two adults. We had them find a chair from the church to borrow (don't worry, we brought them back!), then we were off on a race to see which team could 1) approach people, introduce themselves and explain what we were doing, 2) ask them to sit in the chair for a photo, and 3) hand them a piece of paper, an invitation, if you will, to WPC with all the pertinent church info we could fit on a 3x3 square. Not too difficult you say? Well, I have to admit it wasn't easy for the sponsors either! But after approaching a few people, it became a little easier, and no one actually ran away from us. We met families, individuals, and some grandparents. Teenagers playing basketball and some really great kids. Some comments from our youth were "it was hard", "I was uncomfortable approaching strangers", and "I think it taught me to know I could do something that I normally would not have done". We then met back at the church and "reviewed" the pictures and discussed who we met, how we felt, etc. In 35 minutes we met about 15 different people! They came away feeling a little more confident in knowing that we had Christ with us the whole time, we never walk alone, and our cares and concerns are His as well. For everyone.

Peace, Nancy Spivey

*If you would like more information on the youth programs at WPC,
or are interested in the opportunity to work with awesome youth,
please contact Chuck Moede or Watson Dupont.*

Children's Ministry

Celebrate a Great Year

More than a dozen 4th and 5th grade 'tweens enjoyed pizza and fellowship on April 29. After lunch they adjourned to their classroom and learned about the important mission work of our own Vicki Smith.

Marjorie Seiter shared information about Vicki's mission teaching music and art, and her desperate need for resources because her supplies had been lost in transit.

Our 'tweens then got busy to help Vicki and her kids. They created posters with art and music themes. They copied music from this year's children's musical, *Race to Win*, and booklets of the songs. They requested CDs be made, if possible, of the children's musical performance. The plan? To send Vicki the posters, music booklets and music CDs for her classes.

Their hard work done, they headed over to Putt-Putt to celebrate. Thank you to Brenda Fixel, Patty Kloves and Karla Bradley for sponsoring this fun mission and fellowship afternoon for our 'tweens.

News from Parent POW WOWs

Fifteen families attended our Parent POW WOWs and learned about some of the exciting new programs and plans for Children's Ministry while sharing their ideas and suggestions.

Special points of interest:

The new preschool/GIGL room has primed walls and sealed windows. Painting will be

Marjorie Seiter shares photos from Vicki Smith's school to an eager group of 4th/5th grade 'tweens



The fruits of a satisfying afternoon of mission work for Vicki Smith by our 4th and 5th grade 'tweens.



underway by the time you receive this newsletter. The adjoining bathroom has been repaired and readied for painting.

The Noah's Ark room has been restored to use. The shelves have fresh coats of paint and new centers were created for parent communication/check-in, belongings for the kids, a dress-up center and a book center.

The Angel room was restored to use. It is now home to the new children's library as well as a room for crawlers and infants. The room can be adapted to any age, depending on need. Additional plans include a separate, comfortable breastfeeding area.

Across the hall from the preschool/GIGL room, the walls have been primed for the parents welcoming/fellowship room. Parents with restless or cranky infants or crawlers will be welcome in this space for their special needs during any church function. They will be able to meet other parents with young children at Webster Presby and find out more about classes and other information

about the church.

Several rooms upstairs will be retasked, including the addition of a mission room where our kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will work on mission projects during the year.

Celebrate and thank our gifted Sunday school teachers for a great year in Children's Ministry!

We honored them during Sunday school May 20. Our teachers included Wendy Noriega, Kristen Green, Sandy Murphy, Nancy Spivey, Diane Kane, Richard Koester, Linda Smith-Gregory, Brenda Fixel, Kim Luedde and Elizabeth Stoltz.

Thank you, teachers!

2007 Women's Retreat

Finding Your Joy: Come to the Women's Retreat at beautiful Camp Allen (in Navasota) on October 12-14. It is a great time for rest, relaxation, and camaraderie in the Piney Woods. Carmalyn McCracken, our speaker, will help all of us become more aware of the beauty and joy in our everyday lives. Enjoy the

Scarecrow Festival in Chappel Hill, canoeing, nature walks, horseback riding, massage therapy, or just getting to know the women at WPC of all ages. The total cost for the retreat is \$180.00, and there are many different payment plans available. A non-refundable deposit and registration form must be

turned in by July 10. Look for registration forms in the Narthex after both services. For more information contact Connie Carden.



Young at Heart



Young at Heart is scheduled to take a pontoon boat tour of Armand Bayou on Friday, June 15 between 9-10 a.m. The "Bayou Ranger" will pick up passengers at the Bay Area Park boat launch. Bay Area Park is located on Bay Area Blvd. about one-half mile west of Armand Bayou Nature Center entry. A maximum of 12 people can be accommodated on this

trip. Reservations and payment of \$20 each should be paid to Sandra McAfee or Dottie Evans.

Orange juice, water, and homemade muffins will be provided by your Young at Heart Committee for those who want either a first or second breakfast.

We are scheduled for two Astros games this summer.

The first is Sunday, July 29. We will leave the church parking lot at 12 noon for a 1p.m. game. The second is Wednesday, August 29 for a 7 p.m. game. The bus will leave the parking lot at 5:45 p.m. The cost for each will be \$7.00. More information available later.

Celebrating Our Covenant Groups

All of our covenant groups will be meeting together in Bouton Hall on Monday evening, June 25th, to meet, mingle, and eat dessert. A representative from each group will talk briefly about her or his unique group. There will be opportunity to join one of the on-going groups or we may possibly start a new group. Some groups are full; others have openings for new members.

All the congregation is invited to attend, learn about what we are doing, and join if interested.

So save the date, Monday June 25th, and join our celebration!

Please let Pastor Helen (281-332-1251) know that you are coming.

Welcome New Member

Please welcome to WPC, Janice Smith-Bagheri.

She met with the Session on April 24, 2007, will be introduced to the congregation at second service on May 27, 2007, and comes by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Glen

Ellyn (Illinois). Janice grew up in a small farming community of Rensselaer, Indiana. Many of her family members still live in that area. She was baptized, confirmed and married in the Church where her parents were married. She was in a consulting business for a number of

years which necessitated her traveling to many of our States. She and her husband are parents to two children. Janice's areas of interests are: Running, gourmet cooking and traveling.



CELEBRATION OF JIM PADEN'S SERVICE AS CLERK OF SESSION

July 22nd



"The survey shows that the congregation wants to be spiritually fed and challenged by shorter sermons while adding more support and outreach groups that demand less of their time and money."