



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Inside this issue:

- Pastor's Message 1
- Birthdays 1
- Calendar 4
- Contacts 3
- News & Events 2, 3

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June News Deadline:  
MONDAY, May 15<sup>TH</sup>



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«address»  
«city», «state» «zip code»

Upcoming Events



Sun. April 30	Mission Faire Gift & Jewelry Sale	11:15 AM-1:00 PM	Courtyard
Tue. May 2	Benefit Concert-S. D. Trombone Collective	7:30 PM	Theatre
Thu. May 4	M <sup>3</sup> Womens' Luncheon	Noon	Humphrey's
Sat. May 6	WPC Garden work day	9:00 AM—Noon	Garden
Sat. May 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry Knitters	10:00 AM –Noon	Harris' Home
Tue. May 9	Session	7:00 PM	Library
Fri. Ma 19	Venture Group Dinner	7::00 Pm	Johnston's Home
Mon. May 29	Memorial Day; Church Office & Preschool	Closed	

Thursday, May 4th 11-Noon

Hi Tech High students will stop on campus for refreshments as they complete a walking journey from the San Diego County – Mexico border to Cabrillo National Park. More than 100 students and faculty will enjoy our Westminster Park and Amphitheatre as the break for lunch. Call the office & volunteer to Greet. Pray for their safe journey!

Music At Dusk

The season will kick off with a benefit concert featuring the San Diego Trombone Collective. An all trombone group creating great sounds all new to music! That is Tuesday, May 2nd, 7:30, Westminster Theatre.

Concerts on Mondays July 24 through August 14 will feature, Peter Sprague, Billy Hawkins & his High Society Band, Fred Beneditti and Stacy Antonel. Summer Concerts begin at 6:30 PM.



Westminster Presbyterian Church's Vanguard Ministry is pleased to present Seussical for the 2017 summer musical.

Performances will run July 14-30, Thursdays through Sundays.

Tickets sales coming soon. Plan a group of 10 or more and receive a discount!

Every Week

Adult Seminar  
Sunday 8:45 AM

Worship Services  
Sunday 10 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church, San Diego

www.westminstersd.org

Westminster News

Nonprofit Newsletter  
Published Monthly

May Volume 5



Pastor's Message

Last month, in addition to our Easter celebration and the last weekend of our Vanguard show, the Pastor Search/Nominating Committee (PNC) was busy at work distributing and collecting surveys, organizing a church family meeting, and working on a mission study to determine our long-range plan. Defining God's mission for us in this neighborhood and who we want to be helps us determine what type of pastor will best lead this wonderful flock. Thank you for your participation in this activity and thanks to the PNC for their work.

We also continued Preschool Chapel. It is truly launched! With much appreciated collaboration with the Preschool director, Deb Batchman, we have six 4 to 5-year-old participants each Wednesday at noon in the cry-room behind the sanctuary.

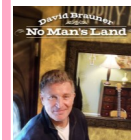
Sue Murphy leads the chapel, and it has become one of the favorite parts of my week. We start with the Johnny Appleseed Grace (we combine chapel with lunchtime). Quorchesca Comacho, Lizbeth and Robert Walker's daughter, proudly shares her church with her new chapel friends and leads the way exploring the various parts of the sanctuary. Sue tells a Bible story, we chat a bit about the story, and then we do a craft to put busy little hands to work and to reinforce the Bible lesson.

One day our topic was church. Sue asked the wee ones, "Why do you think people go to church?" Spencer said, "To sing songs." She said, "Very good!" and we taught them the song "God is Love." Sue asked again, "Why else do people go to church?" and Evelyn said, "To Pray!" Sue said, "Very good! Let's say a prayer right now. Show us your prayer hands!" and they each clapped their hands together and bowed their precious heads, and repeated a short prayer. "Why else would people go to church?" I had to admit, I was scratching my head when Cole, who had been quiet until now said, "To find the truth."

Sue, Deb and I were stunned. Rarely am I speechless, but it felt like minutes passed before I could close my gaping mouth and engage my brain again. We heard God speaking, and God sounded like a very wise 5-year-old!

Jesus quotes Psalm 8:2, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise" to the Pharisees who are displeased about the children singing Hosannas to Jesus in the temple (Matthew 21:16). William Barclay once commented on this verse, "There are truths which only the simple in heart can see and which are hidden from the wise and the learned and the sophisticated. There are many times when heaven is nearer the child than it is to the cleverest among us." My take-away from Preschool Chapel is that people, including children, yearn for truth. And according to Cole, that's why people go to church. I thought I'd pass this input along to the PNC.

Deb



Support a new sound system for Westminster Sanctuary. Purchase David Brauner's new release, No Man's Land and your \$10 will be donated to this project.

Worship In May

May 7	The Perfect Church	Nehemiah 1-1-8; Philippians 2:1-13
May 14	Mother's Day	Guest Speaker
May 21	My Body—A Temple?	Isaiah 66;1-2; Acts 7:44-47; 51-55
May 28	There is a season...	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 15:9-16



Mission Faire and Jewelry Sale

Sunday, April 30 — 11:15 AM — 1:00 PM in the Courtyard

May Birthdays

Andy Douangphachanh	06
Kay Faust	13
Alice Schmid	14
Karen Anderson	17
Mikaela Estrada	19
Kathleen Berridge	25
Melissa Lane	25
Laurin Hoadley	29
Hannah Creighton	29

Volunteer for flowers

Sign up on the flower chart in the theatre lobby!

Every Thursday Morning Prayer 7:30 AM LOBBY

Ask and keep asking. Seek and keep seeking. Knock and keep knocking. God, our father, hears our prayers and responds.

Join our Morning Prayer Team for a 2017 life change!



Making All Things New

As you have read or will read in this issue, the Preschool Chapel has launched. What has surprised me is how fascinating church is to these wee ones and how tiny things that we do or say during Chapel inspires such wonder! Spend a Wednesday at noon with us and you, too, will understand the words of Jesus when he said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." They bring a little bit of heaven to Westminster.





## Making A Difference ~ John and Susan Murphy

John and Susan became members of the Westminster family shortly after their marriage in 1984. Through the years Susan has served Westminster in many ways: as ruling elder, church school teacher, wedding chairman, and costumer, director, actor, singer, and dancer for Vanguard. John has also served as an elder and technical director for Vanguard. You may have seen him in the light booth over the 25 years he ran lights for every production in the theater. Their two sons, Robert Craig and John Murphy, grew up helping around the church and now have families of their own in Temecula and Los Angeles.

In retirement, Susan and John have found new ways of ministering to a larger community. John's participation in Toastmasters International (he is now a Distinguished Toastmaster) led to a phone call from the San Diego Police Department six years ago. Their STAR/PAL organization for underserved youth wanted to start a club for senior high school students with an emphasis on community service and public speaking. The Murphys have been mentors to this group, now called Making Changes, since the beginning. They lead their Gavel Club meetings with opportunities for all to improve speaking skills. They teach social and business etiquette. They often attend award ceremonies for and performances by students whose parents cannot attend. The students they work with attend Gompers Preparatory Academy, and Crawford, E3, and other San Diego high schools. This is a program that works. All of the students that complete the Making Changes program have graduated from high school with four-year scholarships to many UC schools, including UCSD, UCLA, UCR, UCSC, and UCB. Each participant also has completed over 1000 hours of community service. The students who are in college now are succeeding. They have learned that hard work and perseverance will lead to success.



Their Vanguard experience and Susan's 42 years of teaching have now led to a new outreach project. They have become volunteer drama coaches for the students and staff at Gompers Preparatory Academy. GPA is a charter school for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have a desire to go to college. In partnership with UCSD they have a focused academic program, but not many opportunities for real theater experience. That is changing as Susan and John work with the English department to develop theater classroom experiences. Sharing their love for the performing arts with students who come from very difficult backgrounds has opened a new way to spend retirement. As the actress, Hilary Swank, once said, "You only have one life and if you're not doing what you love, what's the point?"

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## SESSION NOTES



Session meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the library. All congregation members may attend but only current session members have voice and vote.

We opened with the prayer and discussed John 5:2-9, the story of Jesus who tells the invalid by the pool of Bethesda to pick up his mat and walk after asking him if he wants to be healed.

Much of our time was spent in discussion about the Harris House (HH). Although the vote was not unanimous, and we wish to honor those who have gifted this church with the terrific building in the park, session voted to pursue a temporary reconfiguration as a multipurpose room that will accommodate a Kindergarten Transition class from the hours of 8AM – 2:30PM on weekdays from August 1 through July 30, 2018. The Preschool staff, parents and church members will paint, rebuild cabinets, and clean floors. The church will receive over \$1000 (which will be restricted to building a youth program, paying a youth leader, etc.) per month in rent and still have complete access for activities and programming after 2:30PM on weekdays and all weekends. The kids who will use HH as their classroom are the older kids, some attend Preschool Chapel. This could be our way to begin to build a youth group from the ground up.

Session voted in the affirmative for the Seminary Scholarship Fund. Marilyn Thoman and Bill Hodgkiss will be the academic advisors on the committee with the pastor and the treasurer.

We accepted a proposal from Bob Petersen to establish an afternoon a month as a "get together" time for some of our older members to play some table games and socialize.

Bob Pozos will step down as Deacon Moderator at the beginning of May, so we must find someone to fill that spot. Anyone who is interested, let Pastor Deb know.

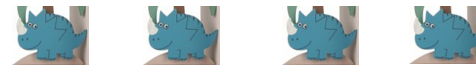


## Music At Dusk Benefit Concert Tuesday, May 2nd @ 7:30 PM Westminster Theatre

With the trombone emerging from the back of the orchestra and into the front ranks of new music, it would seem to be an exciting time to be a trombonist. Eric Starr, trombonist with San Diego Trombone Collective, says "It's always an exciting time to be a trombonist, from my perspective. To be a trombonist is the greatest thing in the world."



Starr is constantly communicating that through his music and he'll have the opportunity again on Tuesday evening May 2nd to convince an audience as well when he performs at Westminster Theatre in Point Loma. The San Diego Trombone Collective will perform a benefit concert to fund Westminster's Summer Music At Dusk Concert Series. The audience will hear a variety of classic and contemporary arrangements for trombones. The San Diego Trombone Collective is known for crafting seemingly strange notation and sounds into works of musical art. In fact, Starr says the most common comment he receives from audiences is, "I didn't realize the trombone could sound so good." Plan to spend Tuesday evening May 2nd with some good sounds and know you are supporting a good community event! Suggested donation is \$10.00 per person.



## Westminster Presbyterian Preschool

The theme this month is "Land of the Dinosaurs." Children will become "paleontologists" and investigate all things dinosaurs!

### Up coming events:

**May 5 & 6**  
Mother's Day Teas  
11 AM & 3:30 PM

**May 29**  
Memorial Day  
(School Closed)

**May 30 & 31**  
Pony Picture Days  
Western Gear!



## VENTURE GROUP DINNER

Friday, May 19 7:00  
The Johnstons  
1801 Dale street 92102  
**Theme:** Your Mother's favorite dish.

**RSVP** Peggy at:  
basspeg@gmail.com  
or 619-823-5427

## Contact Information

Pastor, The Rev. Deb Mitchell	619-223-3193
Events/Clerk, Marilyn Thoman	619-208-7872
Dir. Music, Pam Monroe	619-216-8679
Treasurer, Robyn Owens	619-223-1307
Website, Shawn Sickler	619-223.3193
Office, Suzanne Carlson	619-223-3193
Vanguard, David Pearson	619-823-3873
Vanguard Box Office	619-224-6263
Christian Education, Sarah Robinson	619-223-3193
Members, JoAnn Landis	619-223-3193
Mission, Peace & Justice, P. Johnston	619-823-5427
Ministry Support, Lesley Pearson	619-997-3873
Worship, Becky Wieder	619-226-3193
Building & Grounds, Don Evans	619-223-3193
Stewardship, Jerry Monroe	619-216-8680
Deacons, Bob Pozos	619-223-3193
Park, Marcy Bergqvist	619-224-4727
Personnel/Relationships, C. Berridge	619-226-6704
Preschool, Deb Batchman	619-224-7403

## 1st SATURDAYS 10-Noon At Mary Harris's home

Westminster Prayer Shawl Knitters create shawls for those in need or who have a special celebration. You will find this to be a group of creative and friendly individuals. Many are talented teachers, so if you are eager to learn how to knit this is the perfect group! You are welcome to join. Contact Joyce Wakefield for more information, or call the church office.



The U.S. Post Office Stamp OUT Hunger Food Drive and San Diego Military Outreach Ministries need volunteers to meet at the Mira Mesa and Coronado Post Offices on Saturday, May 13th from 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM to pick up, sort, check expiration dates, organize and store donations. See the poster in the lobby or call Fred Gestra for more information. Support this county wide mission.

## M<sup>3</sup>

Women of Westminster from the Mary, Martha and Miriam Circles are now combined and we call them "The M<sup>3</sup>" Group. This group will meet the first Thursday of each month. Pastor Deb Mitchell will serve as the host for Thursday, May 4th for lunch at Humphreys; Noon sharp!