

Westminster Presbyterian Church

zephyrs



"How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountain, bringing good news..." Isaiah 52:7

February 2012



Barbara Rowe



*Music Director
Ruth E. Wells*

Merciful Moments

"Love one another as I have loved you."
John 13:34
How do I love you? Let me count the ways."
E. B. Browning

How will you give and receive love in February? It is a month full of opportunities for love—beginning with lively excitement and moving in the last week to quiet contemplation.

How can you not love the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, watched for on February 2? In Marin, we desperately need rain so we hope for six more weeks of wet winter. On that day, may we remember God's commandment to be caregivers of our environment and take time to actively love our earth, our gardens, our open space and our water supply.

Valentines Day on February 14 can be something we would like to avoid – filled with sticky sweetness, Hallmark cards, obligatory candy and roses, or watching loving couples dine while we sit alone. However, romance is not required to let someone know you love and appreciate them!

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

How Can I Keep from Singing?

The family lore is that I sang before I talked. My parents had taken me with them to a Christmas program one evening, and the next day my mother heard me playing by myself singing, "Silent Night, Holy Night." Not fully formed words, of course, but the tune was there. Music has always made a vivid impression on me, and holy music in particular.

That might be due in part to the fact that I come from a long line of church choir directors—my father, his father, and his father before him. Consequently my family spent a lot of time at church. In fact, I can't remember spending a single Sunday of my youth not in church somewhere, unless I was sick.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Invite Friends to WPC in February!

- February 5:** 8:30 & 10 am, "Your Brain on Prayer" & Communion with Ted Scott, Souper Bowl Sunday
- February 12:** 8:30 & 10 am, "Healing" with Rev. Mark Trotter, 11:15 am, Conversation with Rev. Trotter & Truffle Sale
- February 19:** 8:30 & 10 am, "Covenant" & Birthday Blessing with Bethany Nelson
- February 22:** 9:30 am, Ash Wednesday Service
- February 26:** 8:30 & 10 am, "Who Is This Jesus?" with Barbara Rowe, 1st Sunday of Lent, Bagel Sunday

Inside This Issue

All in the Family.....	3
Congregational Life, Education & Outreach.....	4-6
Church Calendar.....	7
Church Directory and Zephyrs Information.....	8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Your handwritten words (perhaps accompanied by a Halo Truffle from Homeward Bound offered for purchase after the worship service on February 12) can make someone's day – a co-worker, a child, a close friend, or a homebound acquaintance.

It is a Presidential election year and already full of lively debates and finger-pointing campaign ads. On Presidents Day, February 20, give some thought to the love and gratefulness you feel for our nation. How can you be involved in a campaign this year to actively express your love and commitment to our nation and the gift of freedom?

If you are lucky enough to have a “ski week” vacation or at least some unscheduled days during the week of February 20, consider a specific way to let God's love flow through you to help another in our community.

February 21 is Mardi Gras – a time to pull out all the stops and party hearty before Lent begins. For many of us, the sharing of food, especially sweets, is an expression of love. Consider planning a special supper or sweet treats for your family and friends to express your overflowing love for them.

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, a time for introspection. You are invited to a quiet contemplative service at 9:30 am. During Lent, we move from joyous, outward-looking love-giving to looking inward, as Jesus did in the wilderness.

Lent is a time to think about whose we are, who we are and who we are becoming; to be aware of the gifts we have been given as individuals and where there is need and opportunity for us to grow in faith and in life. It is a time to consciously nurture our daily conversations with God and to be reminded that we are loved and encouraged to embody God's love in our own unique ways.

As we start on the journey of Lent, looking forward to Holy Week at the end of the season, let us remember the words of Jesus as he dipped his hands in the water and washed and dried the feet of his disciples,

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

Many February Blessings to you and may your Valentines box be full!



barb@wpctiburon.org

How Can I Keep from Singing?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

When we took vacations, my family always made the effort to find a worship service on Sunday mornings. Of course, back in the day, the schools didn't schedule activities on Sundays, or even Wednesday evenings (the universal choir night in the Midwest).

When I went off to college, I attended the family school—Jamestown College; remember that great touring choir we hosted last spring? That's the primary reason I wanted to go to school there. We sang in a LOT of Presbyterian churches in my five years in the choir! So when I went off to graduate school, on my first Sunday in Philadelphia, I opened the phone book and looked up The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. It was love at first sight; the preaching was awesome and the choir there—24 paid singers—was amazing. It took a couple of years until a position opened up and I passed the audition.

At that point in my career, I wanted everything to be sophisticated and professional. But as the years have passed and the experiences have compounded, I've come to appreciate that perfection is God's business. Our job is to be authentic.

It is more important to me to make music, preferably in groups, than to attain perfection (not that they're mutually exclusive). I've led community choruses and small ensembles, conducted a couple of community theater musicals, produced a couple of really small-scale operas, and coached high school contestants. I've sung in church choirs, Christian rock groups, professional choirs, and symphony choruses. I would rather be in the middle of 80 people singing “Messiah” than sitting it out on the sidelines. What I need more than anything—even an audience—is willing co-conspirators.

Why? Because it feeds me the way nothing else can. The poetry and layers of melody, harmony, rhythm and dynamics have the capacity to express love, disappointment, aspiration, despair, exuberance, contemplation, anger and intimacy, and the shared experience of choral music amplifies it all. It touches every part of me, which is the experience that I strive to create for you with the music in worship. I'll give you a little hint: the people having the richest experience of the music are the ones who are making it.

Come sing in the choir! I'd love it if you could be there every week, but I know that's not realistic. Come when you can to share in the joy of rehearsal and the camaraderie of performance. How can **you** keep from singing?

RuthE.

Prayers of Comfort for:
Family and friends of Jean Sullivan, following her death.

Carolyn Grey and family, following the death of her mother.

Healing Prayers for:

Ann Ganote, recovering from knee surgery.

Kyle Quick, recovering from foot surgery.

Prayers of Joy for:

Blair Scott and her baptism on January 15.

Prayers of Energy, Wisdom and Strength for:

the 11 members of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Pastor Nominating Committee Elected

On January 8, the following 11 people were elected and commissioned to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Liz Arnold, Jim Gibbs, Trevor Guyton, Betty Hasler, Bill McLeod, Bob Miller, Judi Sachs, Evelyn Sayers, Melinda Stephenson, Michael Vare and Sherry Wangenheim. Bill Schultz, a member of the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, representing the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Redwoods, is an important part of the committee's process.

At the first meeting, Jim Gibbs and Judi Sachs were elected the Co-Chairs of the PNC. Their next task is to complete a Church Information Form (CIF) which communicates the important aspects of Westminster to possible candidates and explains what WPC is looking for in a new pastor. A bulletin board between the Sanctuary and Findlay Hall will provide updates and photos of committee members. Please keep them in your prayers!

Legacy Fund Continues Growth

Two years ago, Westminster's Session determined that an endowment fund was essential to establish a strong financial foundation for the future of the church. Using undesignated memorial funds from a few members' estates, the Legacy Fund was formed. Since its inception, the fund has grown to over a half million dollars.

We hope to keep this important investment in Westminster's future in front of the congregation so that at the time when personal finances are being reviewed (tax time, estate planning, portfolio reviews, etc.) members will consider making the WPC Legacy Fund a planned gift option.

A growing number of members have already made provisions beyond their annual pledge gifts to include Westminster in their estate plans. This enduring legacy of support not only offers additional church revenue, it also provides the donor with significant personal tax advantages.

Planned gifts can support the general fund or they may be earmarked to support specific programs such as Mission, Buildings and Grounds, Music, Youth Programs or Spiritual Growth.

To learn more about supporting WPC through a planned gift, or to let us know you have already included Westminster in your estate plan, please contact Legacy Fund advisors David Elliott at 381-1037 or David Hansen at 683-8400.

Rod Farrow

Wanted: Sunday Morning Greeters

Do you enjoy seeing a friendly face at the door to the sanctuary each Sunday morning? We are looking for more volunteers to help greet, hand out bulletins and take the collection

each Sunday morning at 10 am. The commitment is normally for one Sunday a month but we can be flexible.

For more information, contact Peter Wuertz at 479-4349 or Peter Sayers at 461 1218.

The Poetry Corner

The Spiritual Life Commission continues with its new column which features a selected poem each month. This poetry is meant to help remind us of God's loving presence within and around us.

Feel free to submit a favorite poem or piece of original work you'd like to share to me or any member of the Commission.

The Lord's Prayer

Written by J. Phillip Newell,
Casa del Sol, Ghost Ranch

Ground of all being,
Mother of life,
Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred,
beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings
be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food
for the human family today and
for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness
of what we have done
as we forgive those
who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us
in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life,
the vitality of life,
and the glory of life
are yours now and forever.
Amen

Deb Dybsky



*Director of
Christian
Education
Nicole Trotter*

Children's Ministries

The Christian calendar is full of seasons and liturgical colors that correspond with those seasons.

Your children's Sunday school curriculum is called "Seasons of the Spirit," and it follows what is called the Revised Common Lectionary.

This lectionary provides readings from the Bible in a three-year cycle. By the end of the three years, the idea is that you've heard most of the Bible. Churches of many denominations all over the world follow this lectionary.

We are currently in the season of Epiphany, also known as Ordinary time. The liturgical color is green which indicates a time for growth through learning.

During the season of Epiphany, we hear mostly Jesus' miracle stories and teachings, until Ash Wednesday on February 22 when we start the season of Lent.

There is a beautiful connection between the stories, the church seasons, the earth's seasons and the rhythms of nature. Your children see and hear the stories as though they were hearing them for the first time. Because of them, I am reminded to do the same.

The Sunday School teachers continue to take on the responsibility of teaching, guiding and loving your children. I am so grateful to them, and I hope you find the time to thank them as well.

Thank you,
Nicole
nicoletrotter@comcast.net



*Director of
Youth Ministry
Bethany Nelson*

February Youth News!

Join us for some of our activities this month. Friends are welcome, too!

Sunday School

Sundays at 10 am

We have classes for both middle and high school youth every Sunday.

Bag Lunch Project

February 12, 2:30-4 pm

Middle school youth and others are invited to join with Kol Shofar youth to make bag lunches for the men staying at WPC's winter shelter. After they eat a warm meal and spend the night, we'll make sure they have a great lunch for the following day.

"A Hidden America"

February 12, 4-6 pm

This documentary, hosted by Diane Sawyer, focuses on the lives of several kids living in the Appalachia area. All high schoolers are invited to watch the movie and join the discussion. This event is mandatory for those going on the mission trip to Tennessee.

Mid-Winter Break

Week of February 20

If you are off from school and in town this week, join us for several special events! Details coming soon.

Forest Adventure Weekend

February 10-12

All 4th-6th graders are invited to this fun weekend at Westminster Woods filled with games, music, discussion, outdoor activities and more. You'll also get to meet kids from Presbyterian churches all over northern California. Registration is \$145.

Bethany
bethanyjnelson@gmail.com



*Music Director
Ruth E. Wells*

February Choir News

This month is shaping up to be one of what I consider "comfort" music, celebrating perhaps the softer side of a spirit-led life with teaching themes of prayer, healing and covenant.

With that in mind, I'm planning to draw from several contemporary, though largely familiar, sources.

The choir repertoire will include the communion prayer from the cantata we sang last spring by Carol Barnett, a hauntingly beautiful a cappella setting of the Agnus Dei text.

My favorite healing song comes from Marty Haugen (of Holden Village and Lutheran fame), "Healer of Our Every Ill."

Our covenant song will be a Mark Hayes arrangement of David Haas' compelling piece, "You Are Mine."

There may be a chestnut or two in the mix, as well as an introit my sister shared with me written by a former choir director at her church in Tucson. If you worship at 8:30 am, I'm planning to use a Muppet favorite as the anthem one day. No hints; you'll have to come to find out.

Music adds one more dimension to poetry and texts that inspire and console us. Whether you sing with us or receive the choral gifts, I hope these offerings will touch you.

If you'd like to join the choir, we meet on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm.

Ruth E.
ruthe.wells@gmail.com

*Women of Westminster Gutsy
Women of Faith Speaker Series*



Jeanne Woolford:
The Death Penalty & My Personal Evolution

Tuesday, January 31

7-8:30 pm, Sanctuary

Join the latest in WOW's Gutsy Women of Faith series, featuring Jeanne Woodford, former director of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. As warden at San Quentin, she oversaw four executions. She is now the Executive Director of Death Penalty Focus.

Jeanne has over 30 years of experience in corrections and law enforcement as an administrator, author and public speaker. She lectures at schools of law and public policy and centers for criminal justice and has testified before the U.S. Congress and California legislature. She has received numerous awards for her efforts to reform the California justice system.

The talk, preceded by light refreshments, is free and open to the public. Optional donations accepted for Death Penalty Focus. To RSVP for childcare, contact 383-6656 or hseerley@aol.com a week in advance.

Holly Seerley

Men's Group

Fridays, February 3-24

6:30 am, Fireside

Join our popular men's group for its early morning breakfast and discussion on a wide range of topics.

Questions? Contact Phil Economon at 924-6047.

Women's Spiritual Discovery

Fridays, February 3-24

8:30-10 am, Library

Join a group for quiet reflection and sharing. Newcomers are always

welcome. *Questions? Contact Pat O'Neil at 332-4438 or P2on@aol.com.*

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 5

11:15 am, Fireside Room
Souper Bowl Sunday is here again and the members of Church and Society will be making their traditional soup. Stop by after the worship service on February 5 for a cup or more of soup. The soup is free, but donations will go to the Marin Food Bank. **Sandy Smith**

At the Redwoods

Sunday, February 5

1:30 pm, The Redwoods

The Deacons offer a short worship service for shut-ins on the first Sunday of each month at The Redwoods in Mill Valley. Come attend this service as a way of serving our community. *Contact Sharon Terrill at sharon_terrill@me.com or 216-6295 for more information.*

Feed the Food Barrel

**Sunday, February 5 or anytime
Outside the Library**

As food costs increase and grants decrease, the Marin Community Food Bank needs greater support for its programs to feed those in Marin who are hungry.

On the first Sunday of each month, or any other interval that works for you, please fill the large barrel near the church library with as many of the following items as possible:

Canned goods (tuna, chicken, ham, salmon, pork & beans, stews, soups, spaghetti sauce, vegetables, fruits and juices), dry goods (macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, cereal, powdered milk, rice and dry beans) and peanut butter and jelly. Thank you!

Winter Shelter

**Sundays, February 5 to Mid-April
6 pm, Findlay Hall**

Continuing on February 5 through mid-April 2012, the rotating men's Winter Shelter will be held in WPC's Findlay Hall on Sunday nights.

This is a wonderful caring way for you or your family to be involved in the needs of the greater community. You may participate in this important activity by preparing a portion of the meal.

You may also wish to stay and help serve the meal to our guests, and perhaps to share the meal and some conversation with them. Clean-up volunteers are also appreciated.

To volunteer, you may sign up in the narthex after church services or contact Jeanine Flowers Dworak at neenflowers@yahoo.com.

The Winter Shelter at Christmas

Kol Shofar graciously agreed to bring and serve dinner for the Sunday Night Men's Winter Shelter at Westminster this past Christmas. One of our volunteers stopped in t and reported the following:

"All went well last night. Kol Shofar indeed put on a magnificent feast and the men were delighted with the food and so pleased with the gifts. They just kept thanking everyone over and over again.

One member of Kol Shofar had baked apple pies....the men were so excited about having a home baked pie. What particularly touched my heart was that on the sixth night of Hanukkah these wonderful folks were there greeting each guest with a 'Merry Christmas!'"

Congregational Life and Education 6

You Are Needed!

Tuesday, February 7

7:00-8:30 pm, Throughout WPC

Join any of the eight volunteer groups that meet in various rooms at WPC on the first Tuesday of each month. Each group or commission is chaired by a Session elder who leads the group as they consider the church's programs, ministry or operations.

The groups are: Building & Grounds, Christian Education, Church & Society, Congregational Life, Finance, Outreach/Mission, Spiritual Life and Worship. This is a great way to meet other church members and to participate in the life of the congregation. **Come February 7 or call Barbara at 383-5272 x16 for introductions.**

Inauguration at SFTS

Rev. Dr. James McDonald

Saturday, February 11, 10 am

On February 11, the Rev. Dr. James McDonald will be inaugurated as the 11th president of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

For 13 years prior to his presidency, Rev. McDonald led Bread for the World, a faith-based advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. that seeks to end hunger.

He and his wife, Dean, also an ordained Presbyterian minister, worshipped at WPC several times last fall and Rev. McDonald will preach at WPC on April 22.

If you would like to attend the inauguration, call 451-2821 or inauguration@sfts.edu.

Halo Truffles for Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 12

9:30 & 11 am, Narthex

This congregation loves chocolate, so the Church and Society Com-

mission will be selling Halo truffles on Sunday, February 12, after both services, in plenty of time for Valentine's Day. The truffles are made by Homeward Bound of Marin and all proceeds go to them. **Sandy Smith**



Rev. Mark Trotter
Guest Preacher

Sunday, February 12

8:30 & 10 am

Come on February 12 to hear guest preacher, the Rev. Mark Trotter, a retired United Methodist minister who served churches in Anaheim, Sierra Madre and Glendale before serving 24 years at First United Methodist Church in San Diego.

Rev. Trotter has served on several national denominational committees. He chaired the Committee to Study a United Methodist Understanding of Baptism and the Committee for a National Plan For Hispanic Ministry. He was also a member of the Dialogue on Unity. He serves on hospital and ethics boards in San Diego and is an author of several books.

Rev. Trotter preaches and teaches widely throughout the nation, and is currently Preacher in Residence at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in San Diego. His greatest joy and that of his wife, Jean, is to spend time with their son, John, his wife, Nicole (WPC's Director of Children's Ministries), and grandchildren, Morgan and Charlotte. Please offer a warm welcome to Rev. Trotter on February 12.

Upcoming guest preachers include:

March 11 - Rev. Dr. Bob Conover, Mission Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Redwoods

April 22 - Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald, President of San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS)

May 13 - Rev. Gene Nelson, Pastor/Head of Staff of Community Church of Sebastopol

June 10 - Rev. Allen Hinand, retired American Baptist Minister and CEO of A.B. Elder Ministries

July 22 - Rev. Scott Clark, Interim Associate Dean for Student Life and Chaplain at SFTS.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22

9:30 am, Findlay Hall

Join us for a simple, contemplative Ash Wednesday service offered in Findlay Hall at 9:30 am on February 22. The service will include prayer, readings, soft music and ritual. Come share in our reflections on the meaning of the day and the Lenten season.

Wednesday Lenten Study

Meeting Jesus Again For the First Time

February 29 – April 4

9:30-10:30 am

Who was Jesus during his life time and who did he become after his death in the hearts and minds of early Christians? This study will be a companion to the Lenten sermons.

As a springboard for conversation the class will use Marcus Borg's book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus & The Heart of Contemporary Faith." Barbara Rowe will lead this series with help from others.

Childcare is available with advance reservation (383-5272 x16). Copies of the book will also be available.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
240 Tiburon Boulevard
Tiburon, CA 94920-2220
415.383.5272

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mill Valley , CA
Permit No. 32

Return Service Requested

Your Westminster Church Family

Staff

Barbara Rowe, Pastor
Ted Scott, Parish Associate
Bethany Nelson, Youth Ministry
Nicole Trotter, Christian Educator
Eric Rowe, Administrator
Jerilynn Blackstone, Treasurer
Ann White, Accounting
Sally Pasternack, Finance Secretary
RuthE. Wells, Music Director
Alla Artemova-Helton, Organist
Jesus Posada, Sexton
Mari Robinson, Zephyrs Editor

Office

Monday - Friday
10 am - 4 pm
383-5272, Fax: 389-9834

Session

Class of 2012

Ted Bayer
John Dworak
Kurt Peterson
Sandy Smith
Anton Schwarz

Class of 2013

Jane Drobot
Jennifer Finger
Daniel Grant
Peter Sayers
John Trotter

Class of 2014

Len Ganote
Kelly Guyton
Randy Huyser
Dennis Leary
Sandra Wuthnow

Nancy Walsh,
Clerk

Officers

Deacons

Class of 2012

Deb Babe
Denny Drake
Suzanne Grady
Ellen Smoke
Sally Williams

Class of 2013

Lea Boyd
Scott Bucey
Bruce Nelson
Tess Skach
Sharon Terrill

Class of 2014

Mary Coons
Kathy Oliver
Calvin Olson
Annie Reynolds
Marilyn Wuertz



zephyrs

Published monthly, except for
a combined July/August issue.

Upcoming Deadlines

March

February 15

April

March 14

*Submissions subject to editing.
Please submit single space
copy without formatting to
marirobinson@comcast.net*