



# NEWS

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our calling as believers in Jesus Christ is to love and live by His example, to share God's Word and to find new ways to serve.*

## VISION

Worship Prayer Community

### From the Pastor's Study:

What a wonderful Advent/Christmas season we have had! The four Sundays of Advent reminded us of our need to be prepared for Christ in our lives. At the same time, we are waiting to see what all God has for us; from the anticipation of Christ's second coming to the fulfillment of prophecy in the coming of the Christ child and everything in between. The four Sundays of Advent and our candlelight Christmas Eve service help us start the new church year with heartfelt joy and awe. The Advent and Christmas seasons have been a microcosm of experiences and changes that reflect the rest of our 2020 year.

Most, if not all, of us have spent this year worrying about our physical health and that of our loved ones, which also has our mental health rather stressed. We have waited for the pandemic to end while watching the numbers of new cases of Covid-19 and deaths rise. We have spent a lot time hoping that the virus will run its course and realized that none of us will be safe if we do not strenuously follow all of the protocols/recommendations set down for us – and perhaps not even then. We have self-quarantined, and been separated from and unable to visit those in nursing homes and assisted living, as well as those giving birth or undergoing medical procedures. We have even had to say goodbye to loved ones without the supportive gatherings of traditional funeral and memorial services. And yet, in the midst of it, we have all seen God at work all around us, bringing hope, peace, joy and love. The vaccines are coming out and are being seen as a way of saving the people but how much credit for that "salvation" are we giving to God, as well as to science and human accomplishments? Think about it; last summer we were told we would be lucky if there was a vaccine by summer 2021 and yet people are being vaccinated before the end of 2020. Can you not see God's hand in all that is happening? The speed with which the vaccines were formulated, tested and approved has been nothing short of miraculous. Yes, the people involved have put in extraordinary effort and long hours, but God has paved the way for them and walked every step with them.

So where do we go from here? Well, the waiting is not over yet. The magnitude of the job of global vaccination is staggering. It will take time for the pharmaceutical companies to produce enough of the vaccines and for them to be distributed and administered and results seen. Until then the protocols will still need to be followed. So the miracle ending of the pandemic, while ultimately in God's hands, is to some degree dependent on our own actions. Does that not sound like the core of our Christian faith? God acts to save us, and we are expected to receive that salvation through faith and then live it out in the way we behave. We are in covenant with God. He has offered us salvation, so our actions should reflect His grace.

As we head into the New Year, I pray that we can continue to see God's love in the birth of His Son and carry that understanding of love with us into all that we do. Look back over the last year and see all the times that God brought blessings to you and yours, even if it was just the strength to survive the unusual challenges of 2020. I am sure you will find many other things to be thankful for in your life. Remember to reach out to loved ones, friends and those who are struggling or less fortunate. We are all in this together. May the love of God shine through the way that you live.

May God's blessings and peace fill your life,

*Don*

## **December 2020 Session Notes:**

- Session extends its sincere condolences to the families of Don Wheeler, who died on November 24 and Dutch Holland, who died on December 12, both of whom will be missed.
- Elders-elect to the Class of 2023 Mark Judice and Barry Miller will be ordained during our worship service on January 3, 2021 and all Elders-elect to the Class of 2023 Ricardo “Rick” Bargas, Gordon Couch, Mark Judice, Barry Miller and Chris Sullivan will be installed. Session is grateful for their service beginning on that date.
- Session is also very grateful for the service of the Class of 2020, who will rotate off session after three years’ service with the installation of the Class of 2023 on January 3: Jimmy Cartrette, Robi McAllister, Barbara Stephenson, James Werner and Jim Wynne. They each have contributed their time and talents over the past three years and particularly during this past challenging year. They have earned a rest! Thank you to each of you, without whom Session would not have been as strong, wise or able to accomplish more than would have happened in your absence.
- Session members were placed on its 2021 Teams and designated Team Leaders beginning January 4, 2021 as follows: Building and Grounds: Bob Bittle, Leader and Gordon Couch; Christian Education, Alice Carter, Leader and Barry Miller; Finance: Barbara Wheeler, Leader and Becky Bittle with Larry Bartlett as a resource; Membership: Mark Judice, Leader and Rick Bargas, Outreach and Mission: Susan Green, Leader and Becky Earley; Personnel: Alex Seleny, Leader, and Donna Christian; and Worship: Chris Sullivan, Leader and Kaye George.
- Any congregation member willing to work with a Team may contact the Leader of that Team so that dates (normally the first Monday of each month except for Finance, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month), times and method of meeting may be communicated.
- On January 3, 2021, we will receive our “Penny Collection” for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Its mission statement, “We welcome anyone without a home. And then we help them find one” utilizes more than an overnight night sleep in a clean, dry location. It provides housing assistance, support services and employment opportunities in an attempt to break the cycle of homelessness. Donations will be received in person that day but also by mail, through the Church Center or in person during office hours with prior notice to the Office Administrator.
- Session encourages everyone to join in viewing the Christmas Eve Service, which will be available at 7:00 p.m. on December 24.
- There are four tablets available for those who wish to participate in the Sunday worship and Wednesday mid-week ministries but do not have computer, tablet or other way to connect with these services online. Access through tablets is easily learned and there are tech people who can easily and quickly explain the process.
- Session gratefully thanks those members who have responded to the pledge drive and the time and talent survey. If you have not, there is still time to respond. We would love to hear from you. We also are grateful to those members for their continued financial support, which enables Rev. Hogg and others to continue the work and mission necessary despite inside-facility protocols and restrictions.
- Session thanks the continued commitment of the Worship committee and participants as well as the Tech Team involved to provide Sunday morning worship in several platforms for viewing.
- Please be in prayer as session and its Teams continue to discern God’s will for Westminster, its mission and its ministries.
- Please continue to join us in daily prayer at noon – or as close as possible – as we continue to lift our collective prayer for God’s will for His church at Westminster, as well as prayers for our first responders.
- Reminder: Session minutes are available, upon request, through the church office.
- A reminder: articles for the December newsletter will be due Thursday, December 17.

## Treasurer's Corner

December 2020

I missed last month's update as Debbie and I were in Colorado welcoming a new grandson (our seventh grandchild!). For the months of October and November, the church received \$62,080.05 in donations while expenses were \$63,376.07. Expenses in November were high because we had to install handicapped access cutouts in the sidewalk on the East side of the building at a cost of \$7,425.



Year to date, pledged income is at 95% of budget. I have been gratified and humbled by the faithfulness of this congregation through this very trying year. Speaking of pledges, if you haven't returned your 2021 pledge form, it's not too late! You can do so online, by mail, or in person. Session needs to hear from you so it can formulate a budget for the coming year.

Wishing you a safe and prosperous new year,

Larry Bartlett

## January Morning of Mission: CCA Winter Wear Drive



The need continues to be great for Christian Community Assistance clients, especially during this critical time. One way you can show your love this season is to donate gently used or new winter coats and blankets or new (only) socks and knit caps, all benefiting CCA.

Outreach & Mission will host a drive-by, drop-off Morning of Mission on **Saturday, January 16, from 10 a.m. to noon** for these items. You may also bring them to in-person worship on January 17, and for those unable to do either, the CCA grocery cart will be positioned in front of the church office on January 19 & 20 for those who want to leave donations during office hours (no contact).

Thank you in advance for spreading the love – and warmth!



## Pennies for Epiphany

Even though we are not all attending service in-person, we want to support Presbyterian Night Shelter with our annual Epiphany collection. Sunday, January 3, is in-person collection day, with tubs available in the sanctuary for those who want to drop in their change/cash. There will also be a Church Center online fund set up.

Outreach & Mission thanks you for your support of this WPC tradition.



***Ordination and Installation  
of Elders  
for the Class of 2023***

***Sunday, January 3, 2021  
10 AM Worship Service***

***Wednesday,  
January 20 is the  
deadline  
for the February  
Newsletter  
and Calendar***

### 2020 SESSION MEMBERS

Jimmy Cartrette	Alice Carter
Robi McAllister (T)	Kaye George
Barbara Stephenson	Donna Christian
James Werner (T)	Becky Earley
Jim Wynne	Susan Green
Larry Bartlett (T)	Alex Seleny (T)
Becky Bittle	Barbara Wheeler (T)
Bob Bittle (T)	

### 2020 TEAMS and LEADERS

Building & Grounds	Bob Bittle
Christian Education	Alice Carter
Finance	Donna Christian
Membership	Jim Wynne
Outreach & Mission	Susan Green
Personnel	Alex Seleny
Worship	James Werner



# January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>PLEASE NOTE: as of this writing, all events listed - except for Worship Services, Meals on Wheels &amp; ELP classes - are virtual events only</b>						10 AM Un-decorate the Church
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Ordination/ Installation and Epiphany Sunday (Penny Collection)</i> 10:00 AM Worship	Staff Holiday (New Year's Day Observed)		<b>Epiphany</b>  6 PM Mid-Week Ministries			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 AM Worship		7 PM Finance Meeting	6 PM Mid-Week Ministries			10 AM Drive-by/ Drop off Morning of Mission (CCA Winter Wear Drive)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 AM Worship	11:30 AM Staff 7:00 PM Session		<b>Newsletter and Calendar Deadline</b> 6 PM Mid-Week Ministries			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 AM Worship			6 PM Mid-Week Ministries			
31						
10:00 AM Worship						

## January Birthdays

01/01 Andrew Adams  
 01/02 Katie Van Geem  
 01/03 Susan Anderson  
 01/04 Laura Wheeler  
 01/12 Daniel Adams  
 01/12 Bea Anna Williams  
 01/15 Cal Miyatake  
 01/16 Libby Winn

01/21 Doug Snyder  
 01/23 Jonathan Carter  
 01/23 Wendy Burke  
 01/24 Linda Wynne  
 01/28 Allison Hurd  
 01/29 Connie Bosworth  
 01/30 Douglas Carter  
 01/30 Jane Winstead



## Serving the Church

### Sunday, January 3, 2021

**Sermon:** "Children Born of God"  
**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 31:7-14,  
John 1:1-18  
**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg  
**Liturgist:** Larry Bartlett  
**Usher Team:** Robert Nance, Gordon Couch, Kathy Nance, Linda Moore, Susan Bennett  
**Greeters:** Herman & Ann Wardlaw  
**Elder on Call:** Bob Bittle

### Sunday, January 10, 2021

**Sermon:**  
**Scriptures:**  
  
**Preaching:** Drew Southworth  
**Liturgist:** Samantha Logsdon  
**Usher Team:** Sandra Sullivan, Jimmy Cartrette, Chris Sullivan, Shar Werner  
**Greeters:** Mark & Kim Judice  
**Elder on Call:** Alice Carter

### Sunday, January 17, 2021

**Sermon:** "A Call From God"  
**Scriptures:** I Samuel 3:1-10,  
John 1:43-51  
**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg  
**Liturgist:** Barry Miller

### **Usher Team:**

Mickey Rigney, Susan Green,  
Lincoln Chin, Herman Wardlaw  
Teddy & Peggy Claus  
Kaye George

**Greeters:**  
**Elder on Call:**

### Sunday, January 24, 2021

**Sermon:** "God Calls Us to Follow"  
**Scriptures:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10,  
Mark 1:14-20  
**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg  
**Liturgist:** James Werner  
**Usher Team:** Robert Nance, Gordon Couch, Kathy Nance, Linda Moore, Susan Bennett  
**Greeters:** Jim & Linda Wynne  
**Elder on Call:** Donna Christian

### Sunday, January 31, 2021

**Sermon:** "The Prophet Raised Up"  
**Scriptures:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20,  
Mark 1:21-28  
**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Donald R. Hogg  
**Liturgist:** Susan Bennett  
**Usher Team:** Sandra Sullivan, Jimmy Cartrette, Chris Sullivan, Shar Werner  
**Greeters:** Micky & Patricia Rigney  
**Elder on Call:** Becky Earley

## Westminster Presbyterian Church 7001 Trail Lake Drive Fort Worth, TX. 76133

Main: (817) 292-1155  
10:00 am Worship Service  
9:00 & 11:15 am Christian Education

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, M-Th  
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