Dear saints,

As we have traveled through the *Stars of Christmas*, as we have celebrated those guiding lights who point to the Light of the World, we travel into 2016 following the star. On Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate the journey of the magi and the gifts they brought to the Star child. In celebration, everyone in worship will receive a Star Gift.

Consider this a possible spiritual New Year’s Resolution. Everyone’s Star Gift will have a word printed on it. That is your word for the year. As Mary did with joyous news, you’re invited to treasure this word in your heart, to ponder this word in prayer. What Word does this word have to say? What might God be speaking through you through this word? Carry this word in your pocket, purse, backpack, or briefcase. Sing a song about this word. Color a picture reflecting this word. Journal about this word. Take photos of where you see this word reflected in your daily life. Circle it in the newspaper, or post it on your Instagram.

We will start 2016 by being asked to receive instead of give, as God always gives to us first. As the Christmas season comes to a close, our Star Gifts offer us a moment to be still once more in the presence of God and consider the gifts we have received from God – not the ones that were under the tree, but the ones that fill our lives each and every day.

Take your Star Gift and hang it where you can see it – on a mirror, TV screen, back of your tablet, the refrigerator, the door. We will check in throughout the year, to see what your Star Gift has revealed in your life. The Rev. Susan Foster reminds us that “Epiphany is the celebration of God’s presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness....[so let us] rejoice in the reminder of our generous, giving God—one Star Gift at a time.”

Thanks be to God for our Star Gifts, and of course, the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kate
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SOUL FOOD SUPPERS
Wednesday evenings in January (6, 13, 20 & 27)
6:30 p.m. - “Soup’s On”    7:15 p.m. - Program
RSVP to the office. Childcare provided!

Jan. 6 - Kathleen Manning - Helping Refugees Adjust
She’s had experience working with refugees from all over the world who were
moved through the cooperative oversight of the State Department and the U.N. to
North Texas. Their varied needs and extraordinary range of worldviews were an
education unlike any other. During her tenure with the resettlement organization, it
wasn’t unusual to spend the morning assisting Iraqis, afternoon serving a
Vietnamese or Haitian family, and end the day having Bosnian coffee.

Jan. 13 - Darlene Rees - Arlington Charities
The Relationship with WPC
Westminster supports various local charitable organizations, none more than
Arlington Charities. With our financial contributions and the monthly food
basket collections WPC is a generous supporter of Arlington Charities. We
will hear from their director about the programs they provide to assist others.

Jan. 20 - Wendy Birdsall - From Homeless to SMU
Wendy Birdsall wears her SMU-themed sunglasses almost everywhere she
goes. The black-and-red glasses, with the motto “World changers shaped
here,” represent a new life for Birdsall who was homeless at 16 and a repeat
felon and drug addict by her late 20s. She’s been clean since 2010 and now,
at age 41, she’s studying biology at SMU.

Jan. 27 - Cindy Wabner – Ebby House
Caring for Young Women
The Ebby House is a residential home for young women who have aged out of the
foster care system. This new strengths-based program will mentor up to 16 young
women for 12-24 months, instill life skills, and provide housing, healthcare,
education, career guidance, job training, and permanency. In our intergenerational
community, they also will benefit from the wisdom and encouragement of our
elders.

An offering will be collected following each Wednesday evening presentation in support
of their work!
Cherubs Sunday School
If you are age 3-K, please join us as we begin the new year with a new study, “Feasting on the Word.”

First-Sixth Grade Sunday School
The current study is I Know My Bible. The format allows anyone to come any Sunday without feeling like they have missed something.

Youth Sunday School
If you are in the 7th - 12th grade, join us on Sunday mornings for Confirmation class. Here’s what we’re talking about each week.
Jan. 3 - No class @ Celebration
Jan. 10 - Can We Talk?
Jan. 17 - Pray This Way
Jan. 24 - Faith field trip to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Jan. 31 - Review

Reading Disciples
We begin the new year discussing Persuasion by Jane Austen.

The More You Know…
Did you know…we received pledge cards from 51 giving units, the most in seven years? Thank you to everyone who made their commitment to God and to our church. (And it’s not too late to turn in your pledge!)

Bookworms
Will not meet in January, enjoy the “Soul Food Suppers!” Join us in February as we discuss Tumbleweeds by Leila Meacham.

Adult One Class
Come join us in Fellowship Hall @ 9:45 AM. Our class is very informal where discussion and questions are encouraged. The following is what we will be discussing in January. The Sunday’s class handout is sent by email mid-week. If you would like to receive a copy please contact Bill Cobb.

Jan. 3 - “Faithful Praise”
Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3–14; Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20; John 1:(1–9,) 10–18.

Jan. 10 - “Lived Out in Prayer”

Jan. 17 - “Abundant Life”

Jan. 24 - “Transforming Hope”
Scriptures: Luke 4:14–21; Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Jan. 31 - “Liberating Words”

Adul t Two Class
The Present Word
This quarter’s lessons focus on the bride: Rachel, Solomon’s Song of Love, Hosea’s bride of conflict, the wedding at Cana, and the raising of Lazarus.

Come any Sunday morning for a discussion of the Bible texts and their messages for us today.

Unit II - Four Weddings and a Funeral
Jan. 3 - A Bride Worth Waiting For
Genesis 29:15-30
Jan. 10 - The Most Beautiful Bride
Song of Solomon 6:4-12
Jan. 17 - An Unfaithful Bride - Hosea 1
Jan. 24 - A Wedding in Cana - John 2:1-12
Jan. 31 - The Death of a Friend
John 11:38-44
Westminster Stewardship Story

Winston and Elizabeth Barney

Our Westminster story began during Advent in 2005 when I substituted for Fran Kerlin on the organ. The friendliness and acceptance by the congregation and the choir were amazing. I only worked sporadically for the first year and a half. It was a daunting position because I was following in the steps of a beloved and accomplished musician.

We had attended several churches and were “turned off” by the nonchalance of the congregation towards visitors. This was not the case at Westminster. We found a God-centered, loving congregation with concern for all people.

After prayer and soul searching, I accepted the job of music director in 2007. It has been a joy and a blessing to serve in this position since then.

Winston and I had attended church throughout our marriage with one or both of us actively engaged in the music programs of various churches. However, until we came to Westminster we were not involved in activities other than music.

Since joining Westminster we have become involved with the people of this congregation, especially the choir. We established a regular tithing program, a regular prayer/Bible reading time, and a closer relationship with each other.

We are always grateful for the prayers and love exhibited during our times of illness and grief.

This congregation is an amazing group of prayer warriors.

Thank you, Westminster friends, for your love and care.

New Session Structure

At their November meeting, Session voted to reorganize how the elders spend their time. Each area will now have one elder who moderates the committee. We are combining Finance and Stewardship into one committee, and creating an Evangelism & Communications committee. Please pray for our elders as they prepare to serve in 2016 in these following areas: Administration, Christian Education, Clerk of Session, Congregational Care, Evangelism Communications, Finance Stewardship, Mission, Nominating/Personnel, Worship. If you feel called to serve in any of those areas in the new year, please let Pastor Kate know, and she will connect you with the appropriate committee moderator.

QUILTERS

meet on Monday, Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

We begin another year in meeting community needs by making quilts for the Salvation Army Arlington Family Life Center. Anyone may join us at anytime, a day or several weeks. Welcome! I hope you, our Westminster family, saw the quilt art our women created. Also remember it is your donations of unwanted material and your sheets that give us the combinations for these creations.

For those women who show up every month, I feel so blessed to know you. Over the years their dedication remains strong. It is through their stitching, and cutting and sewing and fellowship of friends, that each year we are able to deliver a trunk load of warmth and beauty to waiting families at Christmas time.

To them my deepest love,

Mary Jo Patten
Musings of an Intern...

When I decided to take a gap semester, I knew I was probably going to see some changing and growing. What I was not prepared for was - upon returning from my trip - seeing how much of that growing had happened in my church. My first Sunday back at WPC, I found myself standing in the back of the sanctuary, wondering if we had enough room. I was struck by - after being gone only two months - how many new faces there were. The youth row, which had been my place for so long, now belonged to a different group that had managed to grow bigger than the one I had left behind. I have grown up at Westminster in a time of transition - my childhood being witness to our first female pastor, first immigrant families to join, the collapse of the youth group and its rebuilding stronger than ever. But never has that change struck me so much as it did these last two months. It wasn't that Westminster had suddenly stepped onto a different road, but I was able to see clearly the leaps and bounds of progress we had continued to take on the same road - growing not just in numbers but in the space of our hearts to be more inclusive, more welcoming, more loving, and even more devoted to being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors. An impressive feat considering how much WPC has embodied those things my whole life.

I've struggled to think of how to explain how the place I feel I take in the church has changed. Maybe it can be best understood by considering how, at the last Christmas pageant we had at Westminster, I filled the role of Mary. Only a few weeks ago, I helped direct another girl to fill that role herself. Ten years ago the Claire I was then could never have imagined being where I am now. In my two months shadowing Kate and working as her intern, I was challenged to continue growing on my individual road as well. I was driven to have to reevaluate my own questions, and had the chance to reaffirm some of my answers and sometimes find new ones. I have sat at a bedside and learned how to listen and just how loudly I can laugh. The Bible I was given upon my confirmation was used in leading an Advent study, in preaching, in leading the kids in an art project. I suppose whoever had bought the Bibles of the last confirmation class made a good investment. I can only be excited to see how the investment of this confirmation class will continue to pay off. As I finish up my Advent internship, I can only be grateful to see the promise of Advent and the manger - tidings of good news of great joy - being fulfilled in Westminster today.

All my love and blessings unto you,

Claire Kennedy
Youth Group

All 7th - 12th graders are welcome to join with the youth group in our activities this month!

Jan. 2-4: Celebration @ Lake Lavon Camp (no meeting at church)
12:15-2:30 pm
Jan. 10: Lunch & Roller Skating @ Skatium
Devotional: Tia
12:15-2:30 pm
Jan. 17: Games at Church
Devotional: Adrienne
9:45 am-2:00 pm
Jan. 24: Confirmation Faith Field Trip to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Devotional: Daniel
12:15-2:30 pm
Jan. 31 - Amazing Race
Devotional: Hayden

Tarrant Area Food Bank Volunteers
meet on Friday, Jan. 15 & Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot & carpool to Ft. Worth.
If you would like to be a part of this group of volunteers, contact David Rawhouser.

Knit Wits
meet Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. in the library.
All are welcome to join us as we begin another year of knitting/crocheting/loom knitting warm items for those less fortunate.

WOMEN’S CIRCLE
meets on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the library.
Our study is Lesson 4: Absence of Water - God’s Deliverance
Scripture readings: Joshua 3, Psalm 69:1-3
Lesson Focus: The Israelites need to cross the Jordan River; the psalmist is emotionally and spiritually drowning - everyone needs God’s help. God does not disappoint. God’s ways saved the Israelites. How can he save us today?

Thank you to Chad Bridges, Trayci Brosovic, Erin Baltensperger, Earlene Pike, and Claire Kennedy for making the Christmas pageant a huge success.

Souper Bowl of Caring
"I was hungry and you fed me..." Matthew 25

Each year on Super Bowl Sunday, WPC youth raise funds to care for those in our community who are hungry and in need, through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Last year, this nationwide effort raised over eight million dollars! Please prayerfully consider giving generously on February 7 to help feed the hungry.

MOVIE NIGHT
Takes place Friday, Jan. 8 at 7:00 PM in the youth room.
This month’s feature is: St. Vincent starring Bill Murray
Don’t forget your popcorn & drinks!
Neither Rain nor COLD!!

By Saturday afternoon November 28th the darkness was closing in fast and the rains were still coming down albeit slowly. But the Sandwich Construction Artists (SCA) showed their determination by showing up a bit sooner to beat the coming darkness after the completion of their task. And what does that entail?

The process is something to behold and in less than 45 minutes the 90 peanut butter and grape jelly sandwiches were each placed into a brown paper sack along with their accompanying bag of chips, a snack of cookies, a fruit snack, and two napkins. Add six cases of bottled water to the boxed packed lunch bags, and the kitchen cleared and cleaned, the loaded boxes were then carried to the Arlington Life Shelter on West and Division Street in downtown Arlington to deliver these Sunday lunches for the homeless.

What makes this so quick an operation is the pre-collection of the ingredients donated by these families: Anderson, Ashley, Boger, George, Scott and Angie Johnson, Juhler, Pike, and Richardson.

Whose hands build all of the sandwiches and brown bag lunches? The SCA of November were: Susan Ashley, Jack Boger, Scott and Angie Johnson, Ruth Juhler, Charles and Barbara Kennedy, Jane Oosterhuis, Earlene Pike, and Harry Staley.

When’s the next opportunity to donate food or helping hands? January 30! Please consider assisting the Arlington homeless when you see the blue poster with sign-up sheets in Bullock Hall entitled “Shelter Lunches” on the 30th of January.

Where Did Dinner Go?

The pans of Ziti Noodles were pretty much gone in a half hour. The students that were at the University of Texas at Arlington Wesley Foundation House Tuesday night the 17th were obviously famished. Not only noodles, cooked by Susan Ashley; garlic bread, served by Jane Oosterhuis; fresh salad distributed by Rollin Phipps, but Jiminy Cricket! There were four pans of homemade cookies from Sandra Morris in the room! The Chocolate Chip/Pecan and Oatmeal Raisin cookies were disheveled. I believe there was at least a 50-50 ratio in the 20-or-so dozen cookies she had prepared. The cookies in themselves were a wonderful taste of home for the students.

Elizabeth Barney was also in service in the kitchen and introduced her granddaughter to us and pushed food upon her too! Two members of the Wesley board were there along with Pastor Joseph Nader and his wife and two children. They were effusive for the attention and willingness of the Westminster congregation to support them, bring the meal to their house, and serve the students at 6 PM before their contemporary worship service which starts at 7 PM.

The Wesley Foundation House is not only for the Methodist students but for any who desire fellowship and a worship service near their dormitories or apartments. WPC has partnered with them for many years and our Mission Committee will continue this relationship with younger adults in the future. Many thanks to all of the WPC community and your thoughtfulness to serve others in so many ways!
Westminster continues to work on the ten projects identified in our Capital Campaign start late in 2014. The men's restroom near Fellowship Hall was completed in November. Now, six of the ten projects have been completed. The remaining projects are:

- **Sign** - The project shepherds (David Rawhouser, Jack Boger and Steve Grenzow) have met with one vendor and are in discussion on how to move forward with the project, which will include running new electrical lines to the sign.
- **Living Waters of the World Mission Trip** - Our volunteers continue to finalize their plans for a trip in the early spring.
- **Video Display in the Sanctuary** - Will be reviewed as funds are collected for this project.
- **Scholarships** - Funds have been set aside to help youth attend various youth conferences & camps. Additionally, funds are available for adults who might need assistance to attend camps and conferences to help them further their faith journey. More information is available on the church website.

As a reminder, pledges were set up over a three year period with final payment not due until the end of 2017. We are very fortunate that many members have already paid their pledges and this has allowed to complete projects early. We thank you for your continued belief in the mission of Westminster.

Your Capital Campaign Committee,
Bill Cobb, Matt Baltensperger, Gary Anderson, David Rawhouser

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**Financial Report**

**As of November 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nov 2015</th>
<th>YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$27,007</td>
<td>$178,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus / &lt;Deficit&gt;</td>
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<td>$2,016</td>
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As we come closer to the end of the year, we find Westminster in excellent shape in order to meet our financial obligations for the year. Several members have already prepaid their 2016 pledges. Those monies have been set aside in our savings account to be used in 2016. This income tax strategy is very useful for many people and we encourage you to talk to your tax adviser to see if it might be advantageous to you.

Our expenses were on par for the year, and the Session continues to monitor their expenses to make sure we are good stewards of all the gifts we have been given. We ask that you continue to help us as you leave the building. Please make sure the thermostats are re-set, and lights and water turned off.

We continue to be blessed in our mission as a family at Westminster. We thank you for your continued support.

David Rawhouser,
Church Treasurer
Members/friends in need of prayer: Andrea Canterbury; Joyce Peden; Winston Barney; Elizabeth Barney; Paul Schauwecker; Patrick Marcello; Matthew Nelson’s friend, Tom Georgia; Rev. Dr. Peris Kamau’s sister, Waithira; Mary Jo Patten’s great-granddaughter, Lillian

Sympathy Prayers: Elizabeth Barney and the family of Debi Weir, on her death.

Serving the Lord in January 2016

Liturgist
Chad Bridges

Elder of the Month
TBA

Jan. 3 Communion Servers
Gary Anderson, Matt Baltensperger, Linda Bridges, Mark Grimes, Earlene Pike, & Docia Thompson

Acolyte & Chiming of the Hour
TBA

Greeters
Jan. 3 - Barbara & Claire Kennedy
10 - Mable Kapyepye
17 - Jean King
24 - Robert & Myrna Luttrell
31 - Benson & Wittness Makileni

Flowers
Jan. 3 - Epiphany - no flowers
10 - Jean King, in memory of Raymond King Sr. & Raymond King Jr.
17 - Shirley & Judy Hart, in honor of Bret’s birthday
24 - Rev. Dr. Peris Kamau
31 - Don & Sandra Morris, in honor of their 53rd anniversary

Celebrating January Birthdays:

3 - Dane Argentini, Chad Bridges
5 - Yleen George
6 - Malik Makileni
7 - Harry Staley
17 - Olivia Bota
26 - Jill Rawhouser
27 - Reverend Peris Kamau Inez Montague
29 - Jim Johnson
31 - Jean King
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, care, and love during Winston’s health problems and subsequent pacemaker surgery. God was very good to us and gave us a week of miracles. This congregation is certainly an example of Christian living at its best. We love each and every one of you and appreciate your commitment and devotion to the cause of Christ. May you each have a special 2016!

Blessings,

Winston and Elizabeth Barney