

# WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF  
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH  
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



DECEMBER – 2017

## *A Note About Advent Season at WPPC*

*By Dustin Wilsor...*

December is a joyous time of year for so many of us. As we walk down the street, the strings of lights on all of the houses provide a warming light for the darkest month of the year. We make an effort to spend time with our loved ones, some of whom we may only see once a year, and tell our friends how much we appreciate them. The Joy, Light & Life that fills us this time of year makes it easy to get through the cold temperatures outside.

In the life of the church, December is Advent. Much like the Month of December, Advent is a month of anticipation, a time for reflection, and a time to remember the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that we are surrounded by every day. It's also a month filled with Traditions: the hanging of the Crismons, the lighting of the Advent Wreath, Holden Evening Prayer, and the Advent Pageant (to name a few). These traditions mean so much to us at WPPC. Last year was my first experience with most of these traditions; what a pleasure it was to canter the Holden Evening Prayer the Oliver's home and to deliver the message of the Magnificat during the Advent Pageant. This year as we journey through Advent in anticipation of Christmas and the New Year, we will be reflecting on messages of Light in our own lives, and we are utilizing some of our beloved traditions to accomplish that. This year our individual

messages of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love will hang on our Crismons Tree, and I am developing an Advent Pageant to celebrate these moments of light in what has felt like a very dark year. I invite you to join me in creating this celebration.

As is traditional, the Advent Pageant is for all who wish to be involved, all ages and abilities – you don't need to be able to sing or dance or have previous experience, just an open heart, mind & desire to be a part of something fun. Rehearsals will begin on December 3 at 9:00 a.m. in lieu of Adult Education, and the Pageant will be during the December 24<sup>th</sup> morning service. Feel free to contact me with any questions after church or at [dustinwilsor@gmail.com](mailto:dustinwilsor@gmail.com).

In Peace,

*Dustin*

*We hope to see you at our Christmas Eve service  
Sunday, December 24th 7:00 p.m.*

*A Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and Carols*



A Member Congregation of the  
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**Toward a Church as Generous  
and Just as God's Grace**

# Congregational Advent Testimony Response



Early in October, the Worship Committee met to consider the Narrative Lectionary readings for Advent and try to extract a central theme for our worship practices during that season. To those of us in attendance, it appeared that the readings were testimonies of God's reality and presence as an organizing principle presenting us with examples of true life amidst a world of adversity and disorder. We felt that it would be appropriate for us as a congregation to respond to the testimonies of scripture by offering our own testimonies of how God calls us to live into our best and truest meaning.

Logistically, it would not be feasible for each of us to offer our testimonies orally. There are too many of us, and some of us probably would not feel comfortable speaking so personally in front of the group. We therefore alighted on the idea of writing our testimonies and using our sanctuary Christmas tree as a place where those who wish to can hang their written testimonies. Throughout the month of Advent, attendees at worship will be given blank paper prayer ribbons on which they can choose to write their prayers and testimonies of God calling them to live more truly. Those who wish will be able to hang these ribbons on the sanctuary Christmas tree after they take communion (or, really, any time they want). The testimonies can be as anonymous or as personal as you like. You do not have to hang any. You do not have to hang only one. The ribbons will be available every Sunday in Advent. This practice will take the place of our traditional hanging of the Chrismons on the second Sunday in Advent. It is our hope that this modification of tradition will allow us to decorate the tree with symbols of our distinct experiences of God's call, both as a congregation and as individuals. We are still working out the logistical details (you will note that we have not specified how the ribbons will be provided each Sunday).

Feel free to talk to Scott Daniel, Serena Daniel, or Jessica Cross if you have any questions.

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Parish Associate The Reverend Ellen Acton  
Minister of Music Jeffrey Wilsor  
Office Manager DeAnne Hamlin  
Church Newsletter Editor Alan Herbig  
Church Librarian Jeri Lee  
Church Custodian Tom Keim  
Nursery Attendant Jenna VanderMeer Davis

Articles for the **WOODLAND PARK PRESS** are due by the 20th of the month. E-mail them to me at [debbicalan@yahoo.com](mailto:debbicalan@yahoo.com).

Please make sure to note **your name and phone number** with your article so I may contact you if I have any questions. Thanks again to all of the contributors for this month's **PRESS**!

Thanks -

Alan Herbig - Editor

**WOODLAND PARK PRESS**

## *What's a "Welcome Team?"*

A group formed by Session, called the "What's Next Team" has been exploring ways to welcome visitors and regular attenders and include more of us in the activities of welcome. From this came the idea of having "Welcome Teams".

The first Welcome Team is being formed for the new year. There will be a discussion during coffee hour on December 10<sup>th</sup> on how you can be involved. We think this could add some creativity, an opportunity for small group interaction, and freshness to our church community.

The Welcome Team will include members who are familiar with current welcoming activities to assist where needed, with activities including ushering, lighting the candles, communion service, hosting coffee hour, etc.

We look forward to new ways to welcome!

*What's Next Team*

# Bits and Pieces

*WE CHOOSE WELCOME!*

**PASTOR STACI AND NATE INVITE THE WHOLE WPPC COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE** their wedding at a special reception for their Seattle community the evening of Friday, December 1, at the Congregational Church of Mercer Island. No gifts, please. The church will also have the opportunity to participate in a blessing of Staci and Nate's marriage during worship Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL SOUP AND BREAD POTLUCK** hosted by the Fellowship Committee, Sunday, December 3, while we decorate the church for Advent. Bring soup or bread to share or just come enjoy the food.

**ADVENT HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES** are back! Join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and a short service of interactive and meditative music in the following host homes:

December 3 - Jan and Gene Oliver, 110 NW 55<sup>th</sup> St, 98107

December 10 - Cathy and Michael Bronsdon, 2701 11<sup>th</sup> Ave E, 98102

December 17 - Abby and Roger Brockway, 616 NW 80<sup>th</sup>, 98117

**THE WPPC READERS** meet next on Sunday, January 21, in the Gathering Space after the Coffee Hour, to discuss Liz Theoharis' *Always with Us?* The book is available in the WPPC Library, was reviewed in the November 2017 WPPC newsletter, and recommended by the current PC(USA) Co-Moderators.

**THE ST. CHARLES HOUSING MINISTRY TEAM** is continuing our practice of providing holiday gift bags to all the formerly homeless residents of the St. Charles apartments where we offer brunch once a month. This year our bags will include socks and warm gloves and we are asking the congregation for your help. The socks and gloves may be placed in a box provided in the Gathering Space until the Sunday before Christmas. The St. Charles has 60 residents, including 5 women. We thank you for your participation.

**HOLY HOPS BATMAN!** Join us for fellowship and discussion at the next Holy Hops, Tuesday, November 28, at 6:00 p.m.. We will meet at The Dane, 8000 15th Ave NW.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**Recovery:** Pat Moberg, Salwa Nemr, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Margaret Russell, and Ken Stover.

**Missionaries:** Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer.

**Our college students:** Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Lupita Barren, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hiramaya, Luke Luttrell, Myles Sproul Nelson, Ben Peterson, and Emily Peterson.

## Presbytery Connections - December, 2017

By Roger Lee

*Where Are You Hiding, God?* is a new children's book by Elisabeth Zartl from Westminster John Knox Press. The author helps readers, ages 3 and older, understand that they can feel God's presence wherever they are. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/new-picture-book-helps-children-understand-god-always/>

A truly intercultural church should reflect the cultures represented in the community of faith in the worship service, as well as in the leadership and decision-making processes. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/1217-journey/>

As the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team met with the Synod of Boriquen (Puerto Rico) and the presbyteries of the Northwest, Southwest and San Juan an initial tallying of damage could be listed. For example, of the 30 churches in one presbytery, 15-18 churches were damaged. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-delegation-travels-puerto-rico/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-visits-puerto-rican-seminary-presbytery-leaders/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-delegation-travels-remote-communities-puerto-rico/>

A Book Review from the WPPC Library.

## Harvey Cox Reader

by Harvey Cox (author); Robert Ellsberg (editor).

Harvey Cox first attracted attention with the publication in 1965 of *The Secular City*, a rare theological bestseller, and one of the true religious classics of the 1960s. Since then, through his many books, Cox has been recognized as a keen theological observer of the religious and cultural scene and a public intellectual gifted at mediating academic and popular audiences. In much of Cox's work, he assumes the role of pilgrim or explorer, reporting back on his own journeys into the worlds of Eastern religion, liberation theology, Pentecostalism, Jewish-Christian relations, and the changing shape of global Catholicism.

Throughout his career of over fifty years, he has shown a knack for identifying key trends as well as new variations on abiding themes, especially the message of Jesus and the meaning of faith in an ever-evolving culture. From his reflections on his Baptist roots to an inspiring essay, "Why I Am Still a Christian," this volume opens a fascinating window on the religious questions of our time.

Everything changes when we read. \_ Neil Gaiman (author).

Jeri Lee

WPPC Librarian



## Amnesty International and the Write for Rights

Amnesty International's familiar logo – the lighted candle, surrounded by barbed wire - represents a premier world human rights defender. WPPC has a long history supporting Amnesty's Urgent Action Network. - a rapid response in behalf of prisoners of conscience and others whose human rights are in jeopardy. We somehow got involved in other mission activities and ideas and

AI interest fell to where we decided to discontinue that support.

However, AI has also has a strong once a year effort called Write for Rights timed around the December 10 Human Rights Day. This effort is somewhat different. AI has identified 10 individuals, (in one case 2, in another, a group) who are prisoners of conscience, or a victim of severe persecution. This is the world's largest Human Rights Event, mobilizing thousands of people from 70 countries, to send letters to these selected individuals, (or group). These are letters of support, hope, letting those in distress know they are not forgotten. A second letter may be sent to the governmental official in charge, urging relief. Witness has chosen two of these people for our Write for Rights subjects: a Palestinian man arrested with a friend by the Israeli military and jailed. He was standing, holding a sign, at a demonstration protesting illegal settlement building in Hebron, a Palestinian town. The other individual, a man in Finland (of all places) who is transgender, has been the subject of harassment, persecution, and impossible demands.

WPPC has some stamped envelopes and many "Forever" global stamps, left from our former AI efforts. If there is too much other activity or the coffee hour is too distracting to write letters. these stamps/stamped envelopes can be taken home and the letters written from there. In this digital age, it is surprising how effective thousands of hand-written letters, sent through regular mail, descending on an individual or governmental official can be.

Nancy Horman—for the Witness Committee

## Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine:  
December 2017

<https://sojo.net/about-us>

### What can Churches Do to Respond to the Opioid Crisis?

In June, Bishop Ed Malesic of Greensburg, PA, released "A Pastoral Letter on the Drug Abuse Crisis: From Death and Despair to Life and Hope."

The Editors

### Lord, When Did We See You Addicted?

Northwest Ohio, like much of the Rust Belt, has been ravaged by unemployment, hopelessness, and opioid addiction. Churches there are responding with help and hope.

Heidi Thompson

### An Experiment in Neighborly Love

We decided to talk together across the political divide. The apocalypse didn't ensue.

Katharine M. Preston

### Everyone Needs a Place to Heal

A model for addiction recovery emerges in



the Pacific Northwest.

### Business and the Gospel of Enough

Why train future business leaders to see the common good as part of their bottom line.

JoAnne Flett, Julie Polter

### Better Business for a Better World

In a profit-driven world, B Corporations offer a refreshingly holistic - and practical - alternative.

Christina Colon

### *Commentary*

#### Birthing Hope in a Time of Anxiety

Advent in a time of trial.

#### Is Christianity a Problem for White Nationalists?

If it isn't, it should be.

#### On a Knife's Edge

North Korea's nuclear threats seem insane, but we ignore the broader context at our peril.

### Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2017

#### **2017 Operating Budget:**

Total Anticipated Pledges, year 2017	\$ 134,185
Pledges Received as of 10/31/2017	\$ 110,857
Total Income as of 10/31/17	\$ 198,247
Total Expenses as of 10/31/17	\$ 199,166

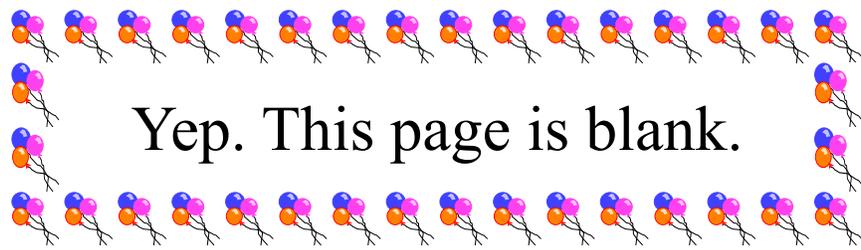
**Overall Net LOSS after expenses \$ -919**

Thank you for your pledge contributions. If you have not yet turned in your 2018 card, please send it to the office ASAP. We are working on the 2018 budget now.

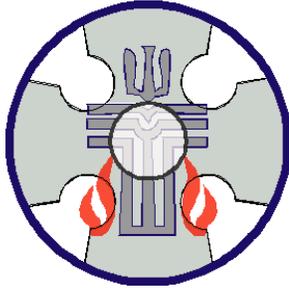
#### **Three Year Capital Campaign:**

Total pledged for three-year campaign	\$ 268,000
Building Capital funds received	\$ 235,694
Mission portion, 10%*	\$ 25,806
Total amount received as of 10/31/17	\$ 263,197

The Capital Campaign is officially over on 12/31/17. Thanks to your generous support, we are only \$4,803 from our goal. In the past three years, we have made substantial repairs to our building including roofs and made extra payments on our mortgage. The mortgage balance at the end of 2017 is expected to be about \$163,000. Our monthly mortgage payment is paid from this fund and totals \$30,364.44 per year. If you can, please consider continuing your support by writing "Building Capital Funds" as an extra designation on your pledge card. Thank you!



Yep. This page is blank.

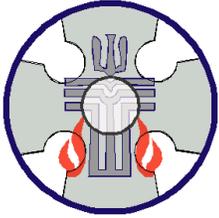


# DECEMBER 2017

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Each Sunday</b>  <b>9:15</b> Sunday School for All Ages  <b>10:30</b> Worship Service  <b>RAC</b> Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>Please let us know your <b>(Birthday)</b> so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p><b>JBC</b> = Just Before Church  <b>RAC</b> = Right After Church</p>	<p><b>NAC</b> = Neighborhood Action Coalition</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>7:00</b> Staci and Nate's reception</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>(Robert Barren)</b>  <b>(Lupita Barren)</b></p> <p><b>8:00</b> Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p>
<p><b>3</b>  <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>            RAC—Soup and Bread Potluck            RAC—Fellowship Committee  <b>6:00</b> Holden Evening Prayer – Oliver Home</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p><b>7:00</b> Witness Committee</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>6:00</b> – NAC #6</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>6:30</b> Worship Committee  <b>7:30</b> Choir Practice</p> <p><i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>6:15</b> Open Mic Check In  <b>7:00</b> Open Mic Night!</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b>  <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>            RAC Deacons            RAC Welcome Team Info and Q&amp;A  <b>6:00</b> Holden Evening Prayer – Bronsdon Home</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>7:30</b> - Stewardship Committee</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>7:00</b> Session</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>(Anne Morrison)</b></p> <p><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>(Pat Moberg)</b></p> <p><i>No Movie Night this month!</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b>  <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p><i>Birthday Cake Sunday</i></p> <p><b>6:00</b> Holden Evening Prayer – Brockway Home</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p><b>6:00</b> Holy Hops (The Dane on 15th)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>(Don Lueckert)</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>6:00</b> – NAC #6  <b>7:30</b> Choir Practice</p> <p><i>Winter Begins</i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b>            Christmas Pageant            Christmas Joy Offering  <b>7:00</b> Christmas Eve Service</p>	 <p><i>Christmas</i></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>(Barbara Barren)</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>7:30</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b>  <i>New Years Eve</i></p>	<p><i>Church Office Closed</i></p>					



WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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# MISSION IN MOTION

## Advent 2017 Worship Services, Scripture Readings, and Events

December 3

### First Sunday of Advent

Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant 9:00 a.m.  
Reading: Daniel 3:1, (2-7) 8-30  
Placing of the prayers ribbon on the  
Sanctuary Tree during the service.  
Soup & Bread Potluck after morning service  
Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service:  
6:00 p.m. at the Oliver home

December 10

### Second Sunday of Advent

Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant 9:00 a.m.  
Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14  
Placing of the prayers ribbon on the  
Sanctuary Tree during the service.  
Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service:  
6:00 p.m. at the Bronsdon home

December 17

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-13  
Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service:  
6:00 p.m. at the Brockway home

December 24

### Christmas Eve

All-Ages Advent Pageant during morning  
service  
Reading: John 1: 1-18  
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at  
7:00 p.m.  
Reading: Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

December 25

*Merry Christmas!*