

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024



# WESTMINSTER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# DO SMALL THINGS IN A GREAT WAY

An experienced carpenter ready to retire tells his long-term employer of his plans to leave the house-building business. He wishes to live a more leisurely life with his wife and extended family. He knows he will miss the paycheck but thinks, "I've hammered enough nails in one lifetime." He tells himself there's no need to work that hard any longer. His employer, a well-respected contractor, is genuinely sorry to see his best carpenter go and asks him if he would be willing to build just one more house for an exceptional customer of his as a personal favor to him.

Hesitant, the carpenter says yes. But quickly, it becomes clear that his heart is not in his work. Because of that, he cuts corners and uses a lesser grade of wood; in short, he resorts to substandard workmanship, not at all up to his standards or the standards of his employer. The results are not evident to the naked eye, but the carpenter knows what cannot be seen. It is an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finishes his work, the employer comes to inspect the house. As they walk through the house, the contractor hands the keys to the carpenter and tells him, "This is my gift to you for your years of service; this is your house!" Over the years, I have been on many mission trips with Aurora Christian School. I have seen kids learn from seasoned builders and craftsmen on each of these trips. These craftsmen are not only builders of buildings but also of people. As I have watched and learned, I have heard these individuals say, in essence, "Build this like you're building your own."





It's easy to forget that we are all builders. God has chosen us to be builders of His kingdom and people. We make a difference, but sometimes we forget that we make a difference or don't see the difference.

On January 14th, while you were here freezing and fighting the snow, the staff and Dorothy McCormack were in Nashville, receiving an award from Southwestern Advantage for hosting the college students this past summer.



The Award is called the Host Family of the Year Award. The plaque reads: "To extend yourself in kindness to anybody is an extension of kindness in the world."

Even though I received the Award, I received it on behalf of the people of Westminster. I was reminded that God calls us to serve, and serve Westminster did. As Mr. Rogers said, "We are chosen to be servants; it doesn't matter what our particular job is." I was pleased and honored to represent our church in Nashville.

In a world where people measure impact by numbers or outstanding accomplishments, what we did may not be all that great in the eyes of some, but as Martin Luther King wrote: "We may not do great things, but we can do small things in a great way."

That is what happened this past summer, and it was recognized by kids from all over the world and by a worldwide organization. As a church of builders, this is abundantly clear: We are connected—every single one of us.

*"Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."*

Throughout the years and once again this summer, you proved that what affects one directly affects all indirectly. Thank you for your generosity and serving in a way that affects all of us and continues to build His kingdom.

Pastor Andy



# DON'T GET BLOWN AWAY

Getting inspiration for an article is always a surprising event for me, as was this one. I realized I was past due and didn't have an idea, so I had my little talk with God, saying, "God, you always come through for me with something... pause," and there it was. I realized that my mind had been dwelling on a sermon that Ernie and I had zoomed on Sunday, Jan 14, when we didn't attend WPC because of the extreme cold. It was an Armenian church in Fresno, CA that was home to us when we used to visit family there.

The topic for the sermon was that every decision we make has consequences or benefits. The pastor based his sermon on the passage in Matthew 24 through 27 about building your house on sand or on a rock. He pictured that many homes are built with basements and many without, but once a home is built, you can't see the foundation. And if you watch the news you have seen numerous homes being washed off their foundations by flood waters or blown off by strong winds. Of course, he continued, Jesus wasn't talking about our physical home that we live in, but rather **our internal spiritual home that lives in us.**

I began thinking about how this internal home was developed in myself and all the many building blocks that formed its foundation. Starting as a young child, I remember going to Sunday school, joining the children's choir, and attending VBS. More blocks were added to the foundation as a middle school and high school student through youth group, junior choir, choir camp, Sunday school classes and confirmation class.

Along the way, I made some wrong choices (which had consequences) and was disciplined for them (which became benefits). Most of these building blocks of my foundation were put before me by my family. It wasn't until I went off to college that I chose my own blocks. After my freshman year I moved off campus and found three wonderful friends living in my house who were Christians. This also put me in close walking distance to a church that we chose to attend most Sundays. The pastor was wonderful and delivered great sermons.

Skipping a few years after Ernie and I were married, his mother convinced us to join a church, and I'm thankful she did. We visited a few and decided on WPC. It seemed like that was the final block of my foundation and now the house could be built. A few years later, we started a family and began the process all over again with our children.



But here's the catch. It doesn't matter **how** your foundation was built, although at first, I thought it really was important and that everyone did it the way I did. But more importantly, how strong is your foundation? There are many paths that arrive at the same destination.

Whether you walk, ride a bike, drive, or fly, you'll get there, some sooner than others. Just don't give up, "Keep on truckin'." Just like homes that need repairs or cars that need tune-ups, our internal spiritual foundation needs to be kept strong through a constant diet of prayer, worship, Bible study, and connections with good Christian friends. Are you in need of a tune-up? Is your foundation strong enough to withstand the storms of today's world? Need help? Find it here at WPC.

Thankful to God for His inspiration,  
Dian Poochigian  
Prayer Deacon

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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE- FEBRUARY 14TH

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 14th. We will have a quiet, contemplative service, with the imposition of ashes, at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

In accordance with the by-laws of the church and according to the established polity of A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), the Session has called a meeting of the congregation and corporation for **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, immediately following the 10:30AM worship service in the Sanctuary of the church.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the annual reports and the financial reports of the corporation, remember in prayer those members of the church who died in 2023, and pray for the needs of the church and other businesses that may properly come before the meeting.

All active covenant partners of the congregation are eligible to speak and vote at this meeting, regardless of their age.

A copy of the Annual Report will be available after the service on January 28th.

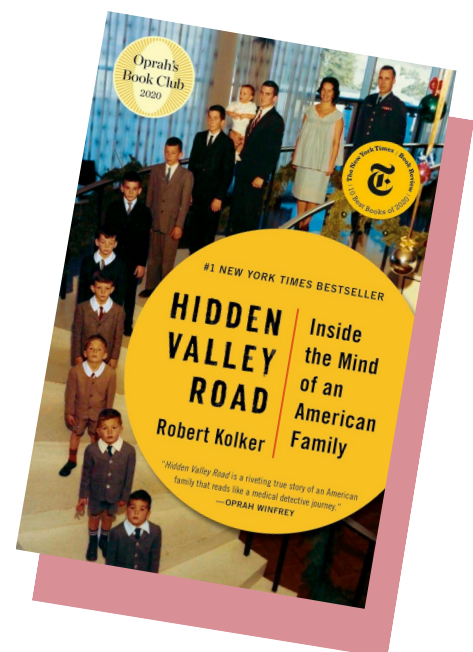
## FEBRUARY WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 20th, at 1:30 PM in the West Conference Room. Our book for discussion will be *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family* by Robert Kolker. Oprah Winfrey states, "It reads like a medical detective journey and sheds light on a topic so many of us face: mental illness." With clarity and compassion, bestselling and award-winning author Robert Kolker uncovers one family's unforgettable legacy of suffering, love, and hope. A copy of the book can be picked up in Shelia's office at the church so that you can read the book ahead of the meeting. All are welcome to attend the meeting for the discussion.

"The heartrending story of a mid-century American family with twelve children, six of them diagnosed with schizophrenia, that became science's great hope in the quest to understand the disease.

Don and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American dream. After World War II, Don's work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their twelve children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. In those years, there was an established script for a family like the Galvins--aspiration, hard work, upward mobility, domestic harmony--and they worked hard to play their parts. But behind the scenes was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, hidden abuse. By the mid-1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys, one after another, were diagnosed as schizophrenic. How could all this happen to one family?

What took place inside the house on *Hidden Valley Road* was so extraordinary that the Galvins became one of the first families to be studied by the National Institute of Mental Health. Their story offers a shadow history of the science of schizophrenia, from the era of institutionalization, lobotomy, and the schizophrenogenic mother to the search for genetic markers for the disease, always amid profound disagreements about the nature of the illness itself. And unbeknownst to the Galvins, samples of their DNA informed decades of genetic research that continues today, offering paths to treatment, prediction, and even eradication of the disease for future generations." (Amazon.com)





# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

6 Jack Weissenborn

7 Char Michael

8 May Keenan

9 Monica Cruz

10 Steve deChaud

11 JoAnn Girls



15 John Kirhofer

25 William Peterson

26 Fred Lemmerhirt

26 Fred Weidner

27 Fran Clemans

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COME SEE THE KIDS!

Do you remember hearing about or participating in Pine Box Derby races? On Saturday 17th, Cub Scout Pack 326 will be having their annual Pine Box Derby in our Family Life Center. It is starting around 11:00am. They have invited us to stop by, say hello, and watch the fun. Let's get a crew there to cheer on our troop!!



## LOVIN' WPC

### FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

Keep your eyes on the bulletins and weekly updates for sign-ups for our February Fellowship Potluck coming up on February 18th following the church service.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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