

Westminster Weekly Window

May 5, 2024

Today's Message

"Aged To Perfection"

Scripture Readings

Today: Lev 19:32, Ps. 71:9, I Peter 5:1-5, John 15:15

May 12, 2024: Ps. 98 or Gen. 25:9-15 Ps. 101; 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Serving This Morning

Usher – Jacksons
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Open

Serving Next Sunday - May 12

Usher – Abbie Alexander
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Open

Happening This Week - May 5-May 12, 2024

Men's Coffee Group at Panera's at Westlake at 7:30a on Wednesday of every week

May 5 - Coffee Fellowship 10:00a - Sunday Worship 10:30a - Please be seated at the sound of the chime

May 5 - Violin and Viola Recital from 1-4p

May 6 - WM Food Pantry Open 9-11a

May 9 - Choir Rehearsal 6p

May 11 - WestMark Food Pantry Fundraiser, BINGO! - Fellowship Hall from 6-9 PM - For All Ages

May 12 - Coffee Fellowship 10:00a - Sunday Worship 10:30a - Please be seated at the sound of the chime

Looking Ahead

May 13 - Greenway Monthly Meeting, Parlor at 7p

May 20-31 - WICC Sale Set Up - Fellowship Hall, Parish House Foyer, Library; Time – As Needed

May 23 - Foster Parent - Relative Caregiver Support, Fellowship Hall from 6 – 8 PM

May 27 - Church Office closed for Memorial Day

June 1 - WICC Sale Drop Off – Fellowship Hall from 9a - Noon

June 2 - Polly Brecht Organ and Harpsichord all Bach Program at 4p
(Part of the Iben Series and kicks off the Bachfest)

June 3-7 - WICC Sale Set Up - Fellowship Hall – Foyer, Monday-Friday from 9a-3p

June 3-7 - BACH FEST; Mon-Fri at 12:05 PM; Fri - Festival Concert at 7:30 PM

June 8 – WICC/Moss Avenue Day Sale, Parish Hall from 7a-4p

May Birthdays

2	Stephanie Ashton	14	Susan Leighty	17	Bill Allen
2	Megan Walker	14	Jerrie Ruck	26	Alice Nash
7	Jack Allen	15	Elizabeth Muir	26	Marilyn Luman
8	Ashley Foster	16	Jeff Case		

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours

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We Can't Take It with Us, But We Can Curtail Greed

Theological Truth: *Greed is idolatry—the replacing of God with material things. It destroys our relationship with God and one another.*

In New Orleans, one of the city's largest cemeteries lies right alongside the interstate. While driving by it one afternoon, an ostentatious and incongruent collection of things almost caused me to drive off the road. There, at the very edge of a recently prepared grave, stood a collection of gleaming motorcycles, enormous speedboats, and expensive sportscars. I remembered that Al Copeland, the flamboyant and wealthy founder of Popeye's Fried Chicken fame had recently died. It was his grave, surrounded by his toys. No people were present. No grieving family or tearful friends. Only Al's things were —*close* to their previous owner—but *clearly* not going with him. The roadside tableaux proved for everyone passing by that the adage is true: You can't take it with you.

Some folks are so enamored by material things that they become obsessed with getting more. Fr. AJ Heine writes that "things" aren't necessarily bad. **But** when we go from *appreciating* them to *possessing, accumulating, coveting, and endlessly acquiring* more than we need despite the effect on others and the earth, then an appropriate love of things becomes disordered, disrupting healthy relationships with not only material things, but also our relationships with others, and even our God." Greed erupts into idolatry.

Richard Rohr's way of understanding idolatry is helpful. He says, "Our god is whatever we can't get enough of." Since greed, by definition, is the endless desire to acquire and possess more material things, when we can't get enough "stuff," and all we think about is getting or keeping that stuff (mammon, wealth, possessions, toys, etc.), then that stuff has become our god, corrupting our relationship with things, with each other, and with God.

So how can we curtail greed and maintain a proper and healthy relationship with our God and the things of this world? Honestly, it's difficult. Especially given the state of our economy and the understandably concerning effects it has on our retirement plans. But even if we don't think of ourselves as wealthy, compared to the other 8 billion people on Earth, we are. Our country is, and our Church is. To prevent our relationship with this abundance from corrupting our relationship with our community, our world, and our Lord, we must intentionally practice *giving* rather than getting. We must focus on *stewardship* rather than ownership.

Stewardship can be a remedy for greed, asserts Episcopal Priest and author William Stafford. He adds, "We urgently need Christians who deliberately choose to live in the midst of this world as if God really were the Lord and creator of it all. We are not the owners and makers of all things: God is. What one has, one holds in trust from him and on behalf of others. Our creativity is to mirror his, our generosity his own."

We want future generations to join us in making Westminster their spiritual home.