

# The Westwind

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April 2009

Editor: Elaine Leiter

## From Your Session:

As we bid farewell to Jim and Pat Wallace, we thank them for the blessing they've been to us and thank God for letting them be a part of our lives, and for letting us be a part of theirs. Westminster has always been a family, and it's never easy to let a brother or sister go. It's not exactly a death in the family, but it's a bit like a brother leaving for college, or getting married and moving to another state. They will be missed.

The first question on everybody's mind at a time like this is, "Where do we go from here?" Believe us, you are not alone. More importantly, we are not alone. As a family we are part of a much larger family, God's family. As surely as God does not abandon any individual, He will not turn his back on us as a congregation. God has a plan for Westminster, and we're asking for your prayers as we seek to understand His plan.

At every point in Westminster's history when we were seeking new pastoral leadership, God has answered our prayers, and sent us exactly the servant we needed for that exact phase of our journey. We don't expect this time to be any different.

As we enter a season of uncertainty it's natural to feel uneasy. It's also natural to have many questions. Again, be assured you're not alone. We, as your session, are asking the same questions. Fortunately, we have a loving God who has the answers, and is anxious to share them with us. We also have the care and support of our sister and brother congregations in Palo Duro Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church USA. Everyone in this connectional denomination is willing and eager to help us in our journey, and your session is eagerly seeking their wisdom and advice.

We especially wish to thank Rev. Trey Little, pastor of Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church in Albany for agreeing to serve as Moderator of our session, and the Palo Duro Presbytery's Committee On Ministry for all the help, guidance and direction they will be giving us over the coming months. Again, we are not alone. Are you starting to see a pattern here?

As Jim and Pat set off on the next phase of their life together, and the next steps in their walk with God, one can imagine they must be feeling at least a little bit of excitement. Not knowing exactly what God has in store for them, they trust in His wisdom, love and care. We should be feeling the same feelings as a congregation. Just imagine what wonders God has in store for us!

## Dates and Events to Remember!

Notice about *Westwind*

+++ **April 20th** — next due date! +++

If you have anything you wish to be included in the *Westwind*, please send the items by e-mail to the church office **as soon as possible**: office@wpcabilene.org or put them in the *Westwind* box. Thanks!

### PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL

Jelly, canned meat (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.), bath soap, and money—Thanks!

Your help is very much appreciated!

Please REMEMBER that the FIRST Sunday of every MONTH is PANTRY DAY. Come to worship and bring with you, FOOD (non-perishable items) and/or MONEY (cash or checks) for the PANTRY. The hungry people of Abilene will THANK YOU!!!



### Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:00AM on Tuesday, April 21st for their monthly Bible Study. Lesson #8 is entitled *All are Invited*.

Their monthly business meeting will follow.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to attend.

### Aluminum Cans

Please save your aluminum cans for Jim Sullivan. Money raised will go to benefit the Encampment. You may drop them off at the church office at any time.

### Happy Birthday!

If you are celebrating your birthday this month, please be sure to attend the after-worship coffee time on April 5th. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

## YOU are invited to the **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**

(*Cursillo Ultreya*) on Thursday,  
**APRIL 23**, 2009, from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,  
at Abilene's **WESTMINSTER**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

**Enjoy** the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing, inspiration, prayer, renewal, and fun.

The hosts will be **Mary & Cary Cooke.**

**ALL** persons are **welcome** at Ultreyas, whether or **not** they have been to *Cursillo*, **or** even are Presbyterians; **so COME YOURSELF**, **invite a friend**, and **bring a covered dish** to share!

### April Birthdays

- 15 - Julia Wells
- 17 - Don Leiter (the Big 5-0)
- 21 - Marie Snelgrove
- 24 - Bob Prentice
- Luther Hollowell
- 26 - Eric Pierce
- 29 - Polly Porter

## Celebrations/Miscellaneous Information/Thanks to You!

### Celebrations!

Rob Leiter recently completed training with Cash Register Services...the same company where his dad , Don, works...in Lubbock. Rob is now the Remote Service Technician for the Midland/Odessa area. His new address is: 2950 Pleasant Ave, #127, Odessa, TX 79764

Rob proposed to Jewel Danielle "Dani" Dickinson on Valentine's Day and their wedding is set for April 17, 2010 at Westminster.

Thank you to all our Westminster family for your support, your tears, your many kindnesses as we grieve the loss of our daughter and sister. Your cards, visits, and food items have sustained us when we were unable to do it for ourselves.

We ask that you continue to keep the Cores and McLeans in your prayers. Likewise, we continue to keep our faithful Westminster family in ours. Our pain is deep, but our love for each of you will help heal us.

Phyllis and Bobbie Core

### OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

A number of books belonging to our Church Library are missing. These books are listed in the Card Catalog, but are not on the shelves, nor have they been checked out. Please look through your private libraries and see if you have any books stamped "Westminster Presbyterian Church" on the front, back, or along the sides. Church Library books also have a white sticker with a number on the spine. If you find any of these books, please return them to the Church Library.

Listed below are some of the books that are missing and that have been requested;

*The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel;

*Fatherhood* by Bill Cosby;

*The Bible Makes Sense* by Walter Brueggemann;

*Where Miracles Happen* by Joan Anderson; and

*Leap Over A Wall* by Eugene Peterson.

The video of the *Prince of Egypt* also is missing.

Thank you!

The Christian Education Committee

### **ABRAHAM**

by Bruce Feiler

*Abraham* is a powerful story. God chose him to be His partner. Abraham is the shared ancestor of three world religions: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. This is an excellent book for our world today as we ask: "Can these three religions get along?"

The Christian Education Committee

### ALL ARE INVITED!

Westminster has two excellent adult **CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES** that begin at **9:30 am** on each **Sunday**. These two classes are (1) Farren Sadler's *Bible* Study class and (2) Beverly Armstrong's class on "When God's People Pray."

PLEASE JOIN US!

**News from the Stewardship Committee...**

This article is being written while we are in the church season of Lent. That reminds us that we are moving toward Palm Sunday and Easter, and for those who are long-time members of Westminster, that may remind you we are nearing the time of our annual offering called One Great Hour of Sharing, which we usually collect at Easter time.

For those who are unfamiliar with this offering, and for those (like me!) who need a refresher, One Great Hour of Sharing is an annual, non-denominational offering collected by many denominations for the purpose of disaster relief and refugee assistance.

The following material comes from the PC(USA) website ([www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)) describing this offering:

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Immediately following World War II, U.S. Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal for support of the separate campaigns of their churches. Their joint statement in support of this effort remains remarkably contemporary:

"This nationwide, united effort by America's Christians has an importance far beyond the practical goal of fund-raising. For this great joint program will not only strengthen the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas, but it will also prove to all the world how great is the power generated when Christians unite in a common cause."

From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Currently the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises nine Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls its offering Week of Compassion. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid, and each denomination does a significant portion of those ministries through Church World Service. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada. In recent years Presbyterians have given about \$10 million annually, and the other denominations together have received a similar amount.

During the month of April, our mission emphasis will be One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Information about the individual causes supported by the offering will appear in each week's bulletin. In addition, special envelopes will be provided in the pews or the bulletins into which you may put your offering before placing it in the offering plate—or you may simply put your OGHS offering directly into the plate. Please remember to put the initials OGHS on the memo line so that we can assure that it will go to the right place. If you have internet access and would like to read more about OGHS, you can go to [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs).

Thank you for supporting Westminster's mission causes this year!

Westminster Prayer List for April 2009

Each week we will be praying specifically for several of our WPC families. We invite you to join us as we ask God's blessings upon our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Mar. 29th - April 4th: Jim & Pat Wallace; Cary & Mary Alice Headstream; and Wanda Gray.

April 5th - 11th: Terry Carpenter; Mark & Sheila Smith; Mary Lou Chappell; and Su Johnson.

April 12th - 18th: Royse & Vicki Kerr; Harroll & Barbara Backus; and Rodney Price.

April 19th - 25th: Cary & Mary Cooke; Russ & Fran Evans; Don Hamilton; and Rodger Hiatt.

April 26th - May 2nd: Al Windham; Ray & Connie Gill; and Luther & Beverly Hollowell.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that the list is open to members and regulars.

Contact the church office at 692-3544 and we'll get you on the list!

**Make plans now to attend all Holy Week Services:**

April 5th: 10:55AM Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9th: 7:00PM Maundy Thursday/Lord's Supper

April 10th: 7:00PM Good Friday/Tenebrae

April 12th: 7:00AM Easter Sunrise at Buffalo Gap Encampment/Breakfast  
(No Church School Classes This Morning Only)

10:55AM Easter Worship/Lord's Supper/Flowering of the Cross

Details on the *Flowering of the Cross* inside on page 7.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SESSION

A called congregational meeting on March 8, 2009, dissolved the pastoral relationship between the Rev. James W. Wallace and Westminster Presbyterian Church at his request effective March 27, 2009.

The regular stated meeting was held Sunday afternoon on March 8, 2009.

- The membership of Royce "Pete" and JoAnn Peterson was transferred to First Central Presbyterian Church, Abilene, Texas.
- Deirde Salmon from Providential Classical Academy, which is housed in WPC's building, met with the session. Discussion included growth of the school, problems the church has experienced, and the need for a new contract and payment formula.
- The session will inform presbytery that we cannot host the October presbytery meeting.

A called meeting was held on March 23, 2009, with the newly appointed moderator Trey Little, pastor of Matthew Memorial Presbyterian Church in Albany. The session accepted Beverly Armstrong's offer to serve up to 20 hours per week coordinating worship, filling the pulpit as needed, and supporting the church secretary. The Personnel Committee will meet with Beverly to discuss duties and compensation.

Nedra Black, Clerk

**On Saturday , APRIL 18, 2009, at 12:00 noon, YOU are invited to the *Cursillo* Presbytery-wide **ULTREYA** and **SPRING CLEANING** in Lubbock, TX, at **COVENANT** Presbyterian Church, 4600 48th St. (48th at Salem), telephone 806-792-6124.**

**First there will be a Potluck Lunch; so bring a covered dish to share. Then, there will be a short Business Meeting, the Singing of some Songs, and a Worship Service. After the Closing, **EVERYONE is WELCOME to stay and help CLEAN and ORGANIZE the *Cursillo* trailer****

Palo Duro Presbytery Cursillo is hosting a  
**4<sup>th</sup> DAY RENEWAL WEEKEND** on **May 1-3, 2009**, at  
The Big Country's Camp, Lueders, TX. This follow-up weekend is for **ANY** member of a PC(USA) church who has ever participated on a *Cursillo*, *Walk to Emmaus*, or a similar 3-day weekend. It will take-up where the participant/pilgrim weekend left off. New talks/rollos will offer food for thought and discussion. There will be even more time around the table to renew friendships, to reflect, to sing, and, of course, to feast.

Each day the Family of God, united in Jesus Christ, will worship as the community of faith and celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Registration Forms are in the Narthex & can be downloaded from [www.paloduropresbytery.org](http://www.paloduropresbytery.org).

**SURPRISES? COME and SEE!**

## MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Beginning on Monday, March 30, 2009, the Monday Night Bible Study Class at Westminster will be taught by Susan M. Pigott, Ph.D. Dr. Pigott is a Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin Simmons University. She was highly recommended to teach this class; and her doing so is an answer to prayer.

This class meets on Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Library for about an hour. Since Dr. Pigott has asked that class members suggest to her topics that might be taught, the first subject to be studied has not yet been determined. As some possibilities, she has mentioned a book in the Bible, characters in the Bible, or women in the Bible.

All of the members and friends of Westminster are invited to attend this class. Indeed, they are encouraged to join this class. So, come yourself, and invite some other people.

All that is needed for this class is a Bible -- and Bibles are available in the Library and in the Sanctuary.

The Christian Education Committee

**EVERY person at WESTMINSTER --  
that means ALL of us, including YOU --  
NEEDS to be PRAYING about EVANGELISM,  
to be COMING-UP with IDEAS for EVANGELISM,  
AND to be DOING EVANGELISM!**

**The Evangelism Committee earnestly REQUESTS that  
ALL the members and friends of Westminster  
SAY to folks that YOU know and meet:**

***I really would like for YOU to COME to church  
with ME at Westminster on NEXT Sunday!***

### The Flowering of the Cross

Again this year the *Flowering of the Cross* will be part of our Easter celebration. You are urged to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter Sunday morning to place on the stark bare wood in the "chicken wire" so that you can easily attach your flowers to the cross. As flowers are added and the cross "blooms" in an explosion of color we will be reminded of the beauty of new life made possible for us in Christ's Resurrection!