

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVIII

Issue 8

August 2009

Editor: Sue Siltman

## From the Session:

Here we are—in the middle of a hot, hot summer. I am sure some of you love the heat and just wait for the warmth of summer days. For others of us, the heat is not so welcome, and we are just waiting (with frequent complaints) for cooler days.

The changing of the seasons. Whether we like it or not, summers—and winters—come and go, just like the seasons of change we necessarily experience throughout our lives. Just like the seasons of change that come and go in the life of our church.

Change, it seems, is inevitable. Mental health professionals tell us that it is not what comes into our lives to impact us that really matters; rather, what really matters is how we respond to whatever comes our way. We may not welcome changes, like changes in the weather we do not care for, but we can embrace those changes with courage and curiosity and as opportunities to learn new things and grow through them.

And what about the current winds of change at Westminster? Where we go from here as a church really depends upon us, its members. There are certain realities we must face and grapple with, it is true. And these realities are both negative and positive. Our membership has declined, and with a decline in membership comes a decline in the giving that sustains church operations. But look around at our strengths. Our resources. At God's blessings that we enjoy. At our potential to be a strong and viable witness for Christ. And ask yourself, "Where do I fit in at this critical time for us?"

We need to know that there are many, many churches in the boat with us. But most of all, we need to know and believe in the Christ in whose name we are church.

The hot summer days will eventually give way to cooler ones. Winter does not last but for a season. The rains always come to quench the thirst of a dry land. We will, with God's help, find the right leadership for us. But in the meantime, we find creative ways to wait, trusting in God's wisdom and providence. And finding comfort and joy in the presence of Christ among us.

May God's grace be large among us in our waiting and our hoping in this season.

Submitted by Beverly Armstrong

### *In the Pulpit in August*

<i>2nd</i>	<i>Beverly Armstrong</i>
<i>9th</i>	<i>open</i>
<i>16th</i>	<i>Rev. Mike Patrick</i>
<i>23rd</i>	<i>open</i>
<i>30th</i>	<i>Rev. Bill Libby</i>

**DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER!**

**YOU will ENJOY**  
The wonderful fellowship, music,  
prayer, food, worship,  
fun, singing, and communion at  
the Palo Duro Presbyterian  
**CURSILLO #23**  
on November 5-8, 2009.

**APPLICATION FORMS are available**  
in the Narthex and from the  
**Church Office.**

**Presbyterian Women News**

**No August meeting.**  
**See you in September.**

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your birthday or anniversary this month, please be sure to attend the 2nd Sunday fellowship. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of the fellowship time!

*WESTWIND DEADLINE*

+++ **August 17th** — next due date!  
12:00 noon+++

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

**August Birthdays**

- 3 - Gary Shanafelt  
Bonnie Walters
- 4 - Joyce Baughn
- 10 - Catherine Cathey
- 11 - Lloyd Presswood
- 12 - Jackie Serrault
- 14 - Sally Carthel
- 13 - Kirk Garson  
- Janice Serrault
- 26- Arthur & Leo Murillo
- 27 - Vera Mae Mills
- 29 - Ryan Johnson

**August Anniversaries**

- 6 - David & Carolyn Ainsworth
- 9 - Ray & Martha King
- 10 - Lefty & Andy Cleveland
- 11 - Tom & Bonnie Walters
- 14 - Royse & Vicki Kerr
- 18 - Charles & Pat Russell
- 26 - Scott & Janice Serrault
- 31 - Farren & Grace Sadler

**Everyone**  
is invited to the  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
(*Cursillo Ultreya*)  
on Thursday, **August 27th, 2009,**  
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,  
**FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**  
ABILENE, TX.

**OUR HEARTFELT THANKS**

We owe a big THANK YOU to Elaine Leiter who served as our church secretary for the past 6 years. A secretary is never truly appreciated until she has resigned and is no longer in that position. Then we realize what the secretary knows and does automatically that no one else is aware of. Thank you, Elaine, for keeping us on track for the past few years. Your daily presence is missed. Our prayers and love go out to you. God bless.

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**CHANGES IN THE WIND**

Westminster has a new secretary. We are so pleased that Sue Siltman has agreed to be our new secretary. Sue is already a familiar face and a good friend of the church. As you know, Sue is the wife of our Music Director, Bob. Sue is also very active in the music program. She has filled in on numerous occasions at the organ for Bonnie Walters. Sue also leads our "renowned" Presby Pickers. That same capable leadership and efficiency carries over into the various office duties and organization of the church office.

Welcome, Sue. We are happy to have you taking care of the many necessary details that we so often take for granted.

Our organist, Bonnie Walters, is taking a six-week leave of absence the last half of the summer, and we are happy to have James Steel and Vance McCracken fill in for her while she is gone. Vance is a member of First Central Presbyterian Church. James has been interim organist at First Baptist Church. Their expertise at the organ is a blessing to our worship service.

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**SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED for REAGAN RALLY**

Each year Westminster brings school supplies for Reagan Elementary School. The first day of school is August 24th. Please bring any school supplies that you can share to the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 23rd at 5:30 p.m. There will be a box in the Narthex for school supplies any time that you are able to bring them.

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**Special thanks** to Elaine Leiter and Wanda Garson for helping Sue with the Westwind.

## **NEW PRAYER AND MEDITATION ROOM**

The Sunday Morning Live Adult Sunday School class which meets in the Susan B. Evans Parlor in the education wing has for several months been watching/studying a video/lesson series on prayer and the importance of prayer for our church and for each other. Through this study, the class has been stirred to encourage the practice of prayer in all our lives and in the life of our church. It seems that a logical beginning is to provide a place for prayer.

We are doing a little rearranging of seating in the classroom so that we can provide a space where anyone can come and find a place of sanctuary and quiet and offer prayers of the heart, or simply sit in a quiet space, away from the noise of the world outside.

In addition to the space, the class is providing some meditation materials and a log book where anyone can leave their own prayer requests or a verse of scripture or whatever has been meaningful and helpful for them and would like to pass it on to others. There will also be a list of prayer concerns for our own members and others who need our prayers.

If you have a key to the church you may enter by the south door. Arrangements can also be made through the church office for access to the room when no one is around.

The class intends this room for church use. Please feel free to use the room at any time.

## **SESSION REPORT**

The Session of Westminster is aware of a growing impatience in filling our pulpit on a regular basis. We are so grateful that we have had such a rich supply of speakers Sunday after Sunday. But we are working diligently to find someone to fill the pulpit on a regular basis.

The Session also continues to weigh our options for a Pastor. In this ongoing effort, there will be a meeting of the Session with Dave Wilson, our Committee on Ministry liaison, on Sunday, August 9. We expect to push forward and begin a more deliberate search process.

We want and need the input of all the congregation. We need to know your hopes and dreams for us and your ideas on how to push forward. Please give any session member your thoughts. And, as always, we need your prayers.

We are so thankful and blessed to have Rev. Trey Little of Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church in Albany as our Moderator during this time. His leadership to us is invaluable.

The Session  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

## 2010 Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study

If you would like a copy of the 2010 Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study, we will be ordering them by the 23rd of August. Please contact the church office as soon as possible so we can make a group order to receive the discount. The cost is \$5.50 and includes shipping. Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and put Mission Yearbook in the memo line.

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Dear Westminster Family,

Don and I would like to thank you for all the cards, visits, phone calls, flowers, plants, and meals that you so graciously provided. My hospital stay was a long one and you were ever faithful praying for us as you have been since all this began in 2000. We still don't know where I'll have to go to be evaluated for the next round of chemo, but we are hoping I can receive the actual treatments locally.

We will keep you informed of any changes in all this. Thanks again!

Love in Christ,  
Elaine and Don Leiter

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### NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank you, the readers of this newsletter, for your continued generosity toward the various missions that our church is emphasizing each month. Especially we thank you for the \$200 that was collected during the month of June for the dental aspect of Presbyterian Medical Care Mission.

During the month of August, we will turn our attention again to Buffalo Gap Ministries, located at the Presbyterian Encampment. This is a ministry that is supported by Palo Duro Presbytery, and available to all the churches in our presbytery. Probably the most well-known ministry is the series of summer camps held in June for children in grades 3 through 8. Westminster has often used the facilities at the camp for special worship services, also.

There is always a need for financial gifts to make ongoing repairs. Even though each church in the presbytery is asked to contribute to the ministry's finances through a per member assessment, the financial needs of Buffalo Gap Ministries are greater than this support supplies. Our gifts to Buffalo Gap Ministries during the month of August will help the camp to move forward through this financially tight time of the year.

Thank you for supporting Westminster's mission causes this year! (Remember, if you would like to support this mission, or any other one throughout the year, please designate that cause on your gift.) Thanks!

### Westminster Prayer List for August 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.

Aug. 2nd - Aug. 8th: Mark & Nancy Diggs; and Tom & Laurie Giddings, Thomas and Daniel.

Aug. 9th– 15th: Jim & Jewell Halford; and Lloyd and Katy Presswood, Tom & Bonnie Walters.

Aug. 16th - 22nd: Michael Kerr; Robert & Pat Gaines; and Russell & Joan Brooks.

Aug. 23rd - 29th : Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham, Dorothy Murtha and Donnie Cozby.

Aug. 30th - Sept. 5th: Don & Elaine Leiter; Rob Leiter; Vera Mae Mills; and Melvin Barton,  
James & Janice Sullivan, Evelyn & Amber

### **PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY**

The Presbyterian Food Pantry serves hundreds of Abilene families every year.

Donations of **non-perishable food items and cash** are needed and greatly will be appreciated.

Each and every Sunday **YOUR** donations can be placed in the **grocery cart** located in the Narthex.

The Pantry is located in the Edgar Building, at the corner of Orange and North 4th.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED**

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