

The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 2

February 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the pastor's pen...

First of all...thank you from Pat and me for your many gestures of love shown us during this past Advent and Christmas season. Thanks for the Christmas Eve monetary gift. Most of all, however, thank you, Westminster, for being you. You are a joy to serve and to serve Christ with.

Recently I was reading an article titled *Sizing Up the Shape of the Church* in preparation for a January presbytery retreat. It spoke of challenges facing the mainline churches of which Presbyterians are a part. I was struck by the following:

“[W]e Protestants have inherited a particular view of the church—the right preaching of the gospel, the right administration of the sacraments, and the exercise of church discipline—have bequeathed to us an understanding that the church is *a place where certain things happen.*” However, in this century this view has been changing. The fruits of the missionary movement and the emergence of a global church have led us to see that the church is essentially *a body of people sent on a mission.*”

There's a lot to that. We speak of church as, “I'm going to church.” We ask, “Where is your church?” It's as if we're talking about a building or an institution with all its encumbrances. We tend to see churches as “vendors of religious goods and services” You know—worship at eleven on Sundays, Bibles studies on Monday nights, committee meetings to plan out what we are going to offer next, space for other organizations, and counseling services. A church offers “stuff” for ourselves and for others who might venture inside with us. In other words, “The mission of the *church* is to nurture its *members.*”

That is, of course, not all wrong. We take caring for one another very seriously. However, the article points to an emerging understanding of church as noted in the quoted paragraph above, “a body of people sent on a mission.” Remember the “hand thing” we learned as kids. “Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open it up and see all the people!”

Christ's “church” has been and always will be the people. Paul speaks eloquently of our varying gifts that working together make up Christ's body. The challenge may be that as a body we have grown too comfortable snuggled warmly inside the building we call church. The emerging image of church is people *doing* mission. Whatever that mission might be for that particular body of believers. Mission requires going out for Christ. Perhaps it's time Westminster and others like us quit worrying about what will draw people in and begin to focus on Christ sending us out. What do you think?

If you would like to read and consider the entire article, copies are available in the church office. (There's considerable irony in the previous sentence, I think.)

See you...in Worship.



Dates and Events to Remember!

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship, Sunday, February 24th. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be basic staples. Theme: *Golden Oldies*. Thank you for the continued support of this mission!

Super Bowl Sunday

Since there are not enough teens to collect soup on Super Bowl Sunday, money will be collected for the Presbyterian Food Pantry on Sunday morning, February 3, 2008. The ushers will have baskets at the doors of the Sanctuary at the end of the Worship Service to collect the donations for the Pantry. Thank you very much! — The CE Committee

There will be a
CURSILLO ULTREYA
(*Spiritual Renewal Gathering*)
on Thursday, **FEBRUARY 28, 2008**,
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 4515 South 14th**, in **ABILENE**, Texas.

Please **COME** -- and **ENJOY** -- great fellowship, good food, grand music, sincere praise, joyous singing, wonderful inspiration, thoughtful prayer, genuine renewal, and much fun.

The hosts will be **Nedra & Larry Black**.

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

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, February 12th at 10:00AM in the library. Bible lesson #6 entitled: *Love That Goes Above and Beyond the Call of Duty* will be presented by Abby Parham. The monthly business meeting will follow the Bible Study lesson. All Westminster women and friends are invited to attend.

Notice about Westwind

+++ **February 18th** — next due date! +++

If you have anything you wish to be included in the *Westwind*, **please** send the items by e-mail to office@wpcabilene.org **as soon as possible**, or put them in the office's *Westwind* mailbox. Production will be **Friday the 22nd at 1:00PM**...we always can use your help! Thanks, Elaine

February Birthdays

- 3 - Mark Diggs
Daniel Giddings
- 4 - Curtis Johnson
- 6 - Betsy Peaton
- 8 - Charlie Parham
- 11 - Debra Winckler
- 24 - Wanda Garson
- 27 - Margaret Gregory
Jim Wallace
- 29 - Leona Armstrong

February Anniversaries

- 5 - Harroll & Barbara Backus
- 6 - Mark & Sheila Smith

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your birthday or anniversary this month, please be sure to attend the after-worship coffee time on February 10th. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

Missions/Stewardship/ News

Please say the following words to people you know and meet:

***I really would like for you to come to church
with me at Westminster on next Sunday!***

Please also always remember that:

**EVANGELISM is the task and the responsibility of *EVERYONE*, and
that includes YOU!**

Because, it really is true that:

**“The law of any church is, and always will be,
evangelize or fossilize.”**

George E. Sweazy in *Let's March Abreast*

Budget Financial Summary
12/31/07

Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16
Collected: \$14,628.25
Difference : \$3,591.09

Budget to Date: \$132,445.92
Actual Giving: \$135,737.35
Difference: \$2,991.43

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.

Thanks!

PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Jelly, canned meats (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.), flour, sugar 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!!!

Because of budgetary restrictions and limited utilization, it is no longer possible for Westminster to have paid Nursery Attendants. Therefore, volunteer Nursery Attendants will be needed for Sunday mornings during Worship Services. In the Narthex there is a sheet on which you can sign up to serve—when needed—as one of the two volunteer Nursery Attendants during one or more of the listed months. Your help really will be appreciated.
Thank you!

Providence Classical Academy is seeking a few volunteers to read with our first graders. We have four first grade boys who need opportunities during the day to read aloud to an adult. We were wondering if any of WPC's members would want to come read with our little ones. It would be perhaps a once a week or once every two weeks commitment, a half hour or an hour at a time. The adult would simply sit on the sofa and listen to the child read, helping him with the hard words, telling him to sound things out, defining any words that are outside of his vocabulary. They have most of the phonetic sounds down...they just need practice. Thank you. Deidre Salmon

Misc./Celebrations!/Thanks to You!Position Available

We are again seeking a volunteer to fill the position of Pledge Secretary. Currently we are having to pay Marie Snelgrove \$125/month to complete these tasks apart from her position as Treasurer. Please help us with this cost-cutting measure.

Dr. Fane Downs
206 Red Oak
Ingram, TX 78025
phone 830/367-2126

Celebrations!

Rob Leiter has been officially accepted into the Fall '08 Semester of the **Motorcycle Mechanics Institute** in Phoenix, Arizona. Rob will be studying the mechanics of Honda and Kawasaki motorcycles during his 18-month course of study. He continues to work at Max's Kawasaki as he finishes high school at Abilene High.

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The documentary film, **Mexiphobia**, created by **Buckner Cooke**, son of Cary & Mary Cooke, And Nevie Owens, Buckner's partner at **rED fFRAME pRODUCTIONS**, in Austin, Texas, has been selected to be shown at the **Big Sky Documentary Film Festival** which will take place in Missoula, Montana on February 14-20, 2008. It will be shown in the "World Premiere" category. Created in 2004, the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival is an internationally recognized venue for showcasing innovative, contemporary and classic nonfiction works. You can check out **Mexiphobia**, and the other World Premiere entries at the website:

http://bigsky.bside.com/?country=All&_view=_films&category=World+Premiere

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rick and Debra Winckler joined our church on December 23, 2007, on transfer of letter from First Central Presbyterian in Abilene.

They live in Lawn, where Rick does custom farming and also construction. Debra is a registered nurse at Abilene Regional Medical Center and works as a surgical nurse in the open heart surgery unit.

The Wincklers provided a horse for children to ride during Vacation Bible School last summer, and this was a big hit.

The rest of the family are two married sons, who live in Abilene.



Presbyterian **CURSILLO**



Palo Duro Presbytery's **PRESBYTERIAN CURSILLO # 21** will be held at the Ceta Canyon Camp, near Happy, Texas, from 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, **APRIL 10**, until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, **APRIL 13**, 2007. There are only **two CURSILLO** weekends a year -- in October and April.

N O W is the time for **Y O U** to apply to attend this wonderful weekend. Please join in **SHARING CHRIST** with other **Presbyterians** from all over North-West Texas. Information sheets and **APPLICATION FORMS** are available in the **Narthex**, and from the **Church Office**.

The cost of this **SHORT COURSE** in living the Christian faith is \$155.00; and **SCHOLARSHIPS** may be available. Depending on the number of people from this area who will be attending as participants, it also is possible that **RIDES** to and from the campsite might be arranged.

Come to **CURSILLO** -- and be guided into an ever **CLOSER** and more **PERSONAL** relationship with Christ, be heightened in **YOUR** joy, be deepened in **YOUR** faith, and be invigorated in **YOUR** life for Christ.

Questions about **CURSILLO** ? Just ask Pastor Jim Wallace or anyone else who has been to a **CURSILLO**.

A ***Cursillo*** is ONLY three days long, but it lasts a LIFETIME!

www.paloduropresbytery.org ("Camps & Retreats")

Westminster Prayer List for February 2008

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.

Jan. 27th - Feb. 2nd: Margaret Gregory and the family of Jerry Vincent.

Feb. 3rd - 9th: Mary & Nancy Diggs; Tom & Laurie Giddings, Thomas, and Daniel; and Betty Kruger.

Feb. 10th - 16th: Jim & Jewell Halford; Lloyd & Katy Presswood; and David & Carolyn Ainsworth.

Feb. 17th - 23rd: Michael Kerr; Robert & Pat Gaines; and Russell & Joan Brooks.

Feb. 23rd - Mar. 1st: Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham; and Donnie Cozby.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that this list is open to all. Contact the church office and we'll get you on the list!

You are invited to visit Abilene's newest private school to learn about classical Christian education and meet the Board, teachers and families involved.

Thursday, February 21, 2008 – 7:00 - 8:30pm

At Westminster Presbyterian Church

4515 South 14th Street, Abilene, Texas

Featured Speaker: Marlin Detweiler of Lancaster, PA

Co-founder of Veritas Academy (Lancaster, PA 1996) and The Geneva School (Orlando, FL 1992),

Co-founder of Veritas Press, permanent Board member of Association of Classical & Christian Schools

For more information visit: www.providenceclassical.net or call Kevin Willhelm at 325-692-0900



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
