

The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 1

January 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

A Few Thoughts at the Year's End...
or is it at the Year's Beginning?

Do you know what the following people have in common? Jamie Tindall, Beverly Armstrong, Joyce Baughn, James and Janice Sullivan and daughters Evelyn and Amber, along with Rick and Debra Winckler. Answer? They have all formally joined Westminster over the last few months. These folks have determined that Westminster Presbyterian is the church home for them. And we say, welcome! I urge you to do two things. First, if you haven't already, introduce yourself and get to know them better. Second, ask them why they decided on Westminster. After all, there are certainly plenty of other options in town! I think you'll be surprised by their responses. There will undoubtedly be some common themes, but each will have a reason that is unique to them. By listening to their answers, your own allegiance to Westminster will be reinforced. You'll also hear a bit of good news about Westminster that is worth sharing with someone you know who is not a church-goer.

We had a great turnout of Christmas carolers this year. While listening to them as we moved from one location to another on December 16 I heard the following comment, "I don't know who is blessed the most...the person we're singing to or we who are singing." I won't try to rank them, but it is certain that all the parties involved were blessed. It was easy to notice that the carolers were not the only ones singing. Also, there were tears unashamedly shed...on both sides.

We don't "do good" for others to benefit ourselves, but we always benefit in the doing.

We will be ordaining and installing our new elders, the Class of 2010, on Sunday, January 20th. Pam Veltkamp will be ordained. Nedra Black, Nancy Diggs and Royse Kerr have all served on the session in the past and will be installed. I join with the continuing session members in welcoming them into this office of servant-leader. I also urge everyone who will be in worship on the 20th to pay particular attention to one of the questions asked of the congregation during the ordination and installation service, "Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?"

I want to thank retiring elders Nancy Brehm, Jewell Halford, Abby Parham and Mark Smith for their service. They have been a wonderful group with which to work and will be missed. They have served you well, and I urge you to extend your appreciation to them.

2007 is giving way to 2008 as time seems to move ever and ever faster. There is, however, one "timely certainty" to which we cling and that is that God is the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow. As God has been with us in the past, God most certainly is today and assuredly will be tomorrow. That is the hope in Jesus Christ to which we cling.

Christ's Shalom and Happy New Year!



Jim

Dates and Events to Remember!

January Birthdays

3 - Mary Cooke
 4 - Barbara Backus
 5 - Royse Kerr
 6 - Gretchen Tucker
 8 - Jim Halford
 11 - Margie Dawley
 14 - Sheila Smith
 20 - Janice Sullivan
 23 - Larry Black
 24 - Rebecca Merrill
 27 - Brandon Merrill
 28 - Abby Parham

January Anniversaries

1 - Russell & Joan Brooks
 1 - Charlie & Abby Parham
 4 - Mark & Nancy Diggs
 25 - Bob & Sue Siltman



Presbyterian Women News...

Presbyterian Women will start the New Year of 2008 on January 8th at 10AM.

The Bible study will be lesson #5 titled: God's Extravagant Grace . Bobbie Core will present the study lesson, followed by the monthly business meeting.

As always any and all Westminster women are invited all meetings.

Notice about Westwind

+++ **January 21st**— 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 Thursday the 24th at 1:00PM...we always can use your help! Thanks, Elaine

There will be a
CURSILLO ULTREYA
 (*Spiritual Renewal Gathering*)
 on **JANUARY 24, 2008,**
 from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at **FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** in **ABILENE**, Texas, 325-677-3501.

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 the **Rosemary Young** and **Barbara Kelly**.

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!**

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 27th.

The theme will be "Western Day" and the *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be beans, cornbread mixes and canned beef stew.

Thank you for the continued support of this mission!

Committee/Session News**News from the Session**

At the December 9 Session meeting we had the opportunity to examine Nedra Black, Nancy Diggs, Royce Kerr and Pam Velcamp, incoming Session members of the class of 2010. We look forward to working with these Elders. Pam will be ordained and installed on January 20.

Westminster has received gifts from Mary Erwin, James Krejci and Sherrill Adams, daughter of Peggy Hawes. These gifts will be deposited in the General Fund.

The Session discussed the results of the recent Stewardship Campaign, and it appears Westminster will be working with a tight budget during 2008. This did not come as a surprise because of increases in utility and other costs.

Farren Sadler will be our pulpit supply on December 30th in the absence of the pastor.

The Session will have the annual retreat on January 19 at Buffalo Gap from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This is an important day for Session members, as plans are made for next year.

- - - Martha King, Clerk of the Session

JESUS gave all of US *The Great Commission*:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”
Matthew 28:19

Accordingly, NOW is the time for YOU to INVITE someone YOU know
-- or meet -- to come with YOU to WESTMINSTER for worship!

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS
for September – November 2007

In Memory of Clara Brown
by Mary and Cary Cooke

In Memory of Mary Charles Dixon
by Pat and Burl Hambrick

Budget Financial Summary
11/30/07

Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16	Budget to Date: \$121,408.76
Collected: \$10,109.00	Actual Giving: \$120,809.10
Difference : (\$928.16)	Difference: (\$599.66)

From the Food Pantry...

Our church food pantry out-did itself in November and December with the giving of food and toys. This was made possible through the generosity of your church members. Thank you!

Frances Buzard

New Studies Starting in January

The *Sunday Morning Live* class begins a new study on January 6th during the Sunday School hour, and you are invited! The class will be studying N.T. Wright's book, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*. In his book, Wright takes a provocative look at our faith, beginning with some very basic understandings and moving on from there. The *Sunday Morning Live* class is discussion based, and your input is needed.

On January 7th the Monday evening *Pastor's Bible Study* class begins a study of Paul's letter to the Romans. The one-hour class begins at 7p.m. each Monday. Commentator William Barclay described "Romans" as the Queen of the Epistle's. *The People's New Testament Commentary's* puts it this way, "Romans is indeed the premiere Pauline letter, for in the history of the church it has had the most influence, contains the longest sustained argument of any Pauline letter, and comes closest to being a summary of Paul's faith. You do not have to be a biblical scholar to join the class, so come join us!

THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC MAKERS!

All year through we at Westminster are blessed by those who share their musical gifts with us.

They are the members of the Chancel Choir...Ju-Bell-ee Ringers...and Presby Pickers:
Beverly Armstrong, Joyce Baughn, Larry Black, Nedra Black, Mary Lou Chappell,
Cary Cooke, Mary Cooke, Donnie Cozby, Pat Gaines, Robert Gaines, Cary Headstream,
Luther Hollowell, Martha King, Ray King, Betty Kruger, Don Leiter, Elaine Leiter,
Abby Parham, Charlie Parham, Rodney Price, Grace Sadler, Janice Serrault, Gary Shanafelt,
Nancy Shanafelt, Sue Siltman, Mark Smith, Sheila Smith, Pam Veltkamp and Bonnie Walters.

Lead by Bob Siltman and accompanist Bonnie Walters,
the music makers of Westminster bless our lives....
and to them we say

Thank You!

To: Members and Friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church...

Greetings to you all this Epiphany season! Our hope for you all is that Advent and Christmas last year had much significance in your lives--in your church family and in your particular homes. Several times I have intended to respond following our delightful visit to WPC for your celebrative gathering the last week-end in July. But being the procrastinator that I am, it took a new year to get this note off to you!

Indeed, it was a special joy to be among so many old friends, as well as some new ones, last July--especially for worship and the sharing of a festive meal together. The blessings of Christ's Church are mediated to us through the relationships which we share in Him. It is my conviction that as Christians we are always among friends in worship, wherever we come together. Robbin and I experienced this twenty years ago last summer when we journeyed to England, and especially to Scotland--in response to your suggestion--and with the help of your parting gift to us after seventeen years as your pastor.

We cherish the family we left behind in Abilene, and we are reminded of those ties each Advent season as we receive cards and messages from many of you, giving us reports on your family joys, sorrows and concerns. It is very good that we remember and pray for each other in our common faith.

Again, we thank you for your welcome home, and we will not wait for a special invitation to return and see your faces again--to use the image of some folks from rural Louisiana who stop by 'just to see your face.'

Grace and Peace, Grantland, Robbin and Randy

Westminster Prayer List for January 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.

Dec. 30th - Jan. 5th: Bob & Sue Siltman; and Gordon & Valerie Obert.

Jan. 6th - 12th: Mike & Nancy Brehm; and Brenda Goodwin.

Jan. 13th - 19th: Julia Wells; and Phyllis Core.

Jan. 20th - 26th: Jim & Sue Sullivan; Tanner Walters and Rebecca Blankenship

Jan. 27th - Feb. 2nd: Margaret Gregory; and Jerry & Carla Vincent.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that this list is open to members and regulars. Contact the church office or the Shepherd's Committee and we'll get you on the list!

New Members:

The Sullivan Family: Jan works at Abilene Regional in the Progressive Care Unit. James is working for *Your Way Consulting* with computers. The girls are in the Jim Ned School District. Amber is in 7th grade and plays French Horn in the band. Evelyn is in 9th grade and she plays Tenor Trombone and Base Trombone in the High School Band.

The Wincklers: Rick & Debra Winckler joined on December 23 on transfer of letter from First Central Presbyterian. They have been attending Westminster in recent months, so they are known to our members. Watch for more information on the Wincklers in the next WESTWIND.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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!



Presbyterian CURSILLO

PRESBYTERIAN **CURSILLO** is a purposefully designed method for renewing the faith of individuals and, through these individuals, the environments in which they live and work. "**CURSILLO**" means a short course in living the Christian faith and is designed to provide a framework for the development of Christians in their local Presbyterian churches and in the world.

During the three days of a **CURSILLO** weekend participants form a small Christian community, worship and study together, and communicate with one another in order to gain a personal living awareness of their faith and of the joys and responsibilities that such faith brings. The weekend itself is centered around talks given by lay people and pastors. In small groups after each talk the participants and staff discuss the presentation.

The **CURSILLO** weekend is intended for Presbyterians who already have faith and who seek continued growth in that faith and its commitments. The goals of **CURSILLO** are to guide participants into an ever closer and more personal relationship with Christ, to heighten their joy, to deepen their faith, and to invigorate their lives for Christ.

CURSILLO intends for participants to return to all of the environments in which they have influence and to affect those environments in a Christian manner. Singles and married couples are welcome; and, because **CURSILLO** seeks to enrich family life, married couples are encouraged to attend together. Staff members are lay-persons and pastors who previously have attended a weekend and who have been trained to serve in their leadership roles.

The **CURSILLO** weekend is only a beginning. It is intended that what is learned and shared during the weekend will be taken back and put into practice in local congregations and communities. In the Abilene area former participants and other interested persons meet weekly in small groups to share the Christian life and to support and reinforce each other. They also meet once a month as a larger group to share the joy and to inspire, challenge, and equip each local church member for Christian action in the church, home, place of work, and community.



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

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

APPLICATION FORMS for APRIL 10-13, 2008, are available in the NARTHEX and the CHURCH OFFICE.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

There are number of ways by which we mark time. One is the regular calendar, which we follow, in our everyday lives. Another is the liturgical calendar, which we observe here at Westminster. It helps us mark time through the church year.

The church year began back on the first Sunday in December as we entered into the initial season of the year, Advent. For four weeks we anticipated the coming of our Lord in human form as well as his Second Coming in full glory. The liturgical color for Advent is purple which signifies royalty and repentance. In some churches blue is used in Advent. You may have noticed that we include both colors between the paraments (the cloths on the pulpit and Communion table) and my stole (the colored cloth around my neck).

December 25th marked the first day of the Christmas season, which continues through Epiphany on January 6. Typically radio stations stop playing Christmas music sometime on Christmas Day, when in reality, that is the when our church calendar says we should begin singing them! The twelve-day Christmas season is also the reason why our hymns on the two Sundays following Christmas Day are Christmas carols. The liturgical color for the season is white which signifies purity. Epiphany recognizes the revelation of Jesus Christ to the entire world as represented by the Wise Men coming to worship the Christ child.

We enter Ordinary time on January 7th. The liturgical colors are green signifying spiritual growth. Careful, there is nothing “ordinary” about any part of the Christian year. Ordinary time is simply those periods when we are not marking a particular Christian season or event.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which will be February 6th in 2008. Lent always includes the six Sundays before Easter. The liturgical color is again purple with the emphasis on the suffering of Christ and our repentant response. We refer to the final week of Lent as Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday. We typically observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with special services. The liturgical color for Holy Week is red symbolizing the blood of Jesus Christ shed for us.

Easter Sunday is one day, but the Easter season, which always includes seven Sundays, continues until Pentecost exactly 50 days after Easter Sunday. Throughout the season we celebrate the wonderful gift of a Risen Savior. The liturgical color is again white signifying the purity of Christ.

The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples on Pentecost Sunday and is marked by the appearance of red as the liturgical color.

On the following Sunday we return to Ordinary time. The familiar green liturgical colors, except for Christ the King Sunday when the paraments are white, will remain in place until we begin Advent and a new Church year on the first Sunday of December.

There are a couple variances in the colors for each part of the church year. We customarily use white when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, baptisms and weddings. We use red on the Sunday when we ordain individuals as deacons, elders or ministers of Word and Sacrament.