

The Westwind

Vol

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

It does not seem but yesterday that we were staring into the face of the new millennium as we moved from the century familiar 19-hundreds to the ominous 2-thousands. There was near national hysteria as we wondered if our computers would continue to work. People made sure they were not on an airliner as the new century rang-in, because they feared that the plane would forget how to fly. We lived through all that with relative ease. Computers worked and planes stayed airborne. All that anxiety expended and nothing happened.

We did not, of course, know what was coming on September 11, 2001. This time planes did crash. Deliberately flown into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. A fourth plane failed to reach its target because of the heroics of passengers on that flight.

This time there was manifest fear that was real. Would another attack come? If so, when? We began to learn about different colored alerts, which warned us of *possible* threats against our security. As Dr. Richard Restak puts it,

This is "maybe the only time in our history when we are not only warned that we should be afraid, but told exactly how afraid we should be (red, orange or yellow alert), and yet, regardless of how afraid we should be, we are given no advice about what to do, except perhaps be wary of strangers and stock up on duct tape and bottled water."

As we enter into 2009, we are faced with new fears. This time it's the economy. Many people who should know such things tell us that it's going to get worse before it gets better. Who would have ever imagined it possible that one day General Motors would be near bankruptcy? Facing a new day, let

alone a new year, seems to be getting harder and harder.

Perhaps now is the time to remember an old reality. Gathering more and more stuff...banking more and more money...all to protect us from an unknown tomorrow just doesn't work and never has. Remember the biblical farmer who was doing so well that he decided to build even bigger barns?

I'm reading *Be Not Anxious* by Allan Hugh Cole Jr. in preparation for my January Doctor of Ministry course. Cole talks about how we spend much of our lives anxiously waiting for the other shoe to drop. He includes this quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

"The way to misuse our possessions is to use them as an insurance against the morrow. Anxiety is always directed to the morrow, whereas goods are in the strictest sense meant to be used only for to-day. By trying to ensure for the next day we are only creating uncertainty to-day. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. *The only way to win assurance is by leaving to-morrow entirely in the hands of God and by receiving from him all we need for to-day.*" (Italics added)

I wonder if we can possibly do that? I know it is going to be one challenging New Year's resolution.

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

Dates and Events to Remember!

Notice about *Westwind*

+++ January 19th — 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.

NEW BOOKS in the LIBRARY

The Shack

by Wm. Paul Young

Same Kind Of Different As Me

by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

3.16

by Max Lucado

The Bible Jesus Read

by Philip Yancey



Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will begin 2009 on January 13th with Lesson #5: *The Dead are Raised* of their study of Luke. Their monthly business meeting will follow the study.

All Westminster women and friends are welcome to all meetings.

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 January 11th. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

There will be a
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING
(Cursillo Ultreya)
 on Thursday, **JANUARY 22, 2009**,
 from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm, at
FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH in Abilene.

There will be great **fellowship**, good **food**, grand **music**, sincere **praise**, joyous **singing**, wonderful **inspiration**, thoughtful **prayer**, genuine **renewal**, and much **fun**

The hosts will be **Becky & Robert Laird**.
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!

January Birthdays

- 3 - Mary Cooke
- 4 - Barbara Backus
- 5 - Royse Kerr
- 6 - Gretchen Tucker
- 7 - Walter Christen
- 8 - Jim Snelgrove
- 11 - Margie Dawley
Beverly Hollowell
- 14 - Sheila Smith
- 18 - Tom Giddings
- 20 - Janice Sullivan
- 23 - Larry Black
- 24 - Rebecca Merrill
- 27 - Brandon Merrill
- 28 - Abby Parham

January Anniversaries

- 1 - Charlie & Abby Parham
- 4 - Mark & Nancy Diggs
- 19 - Jake & Beverly Armstrong
- 25 - Bob & Sue Siltman

Committee/Session News

Giving to Mission at Westminster PC(USA)

The Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to explain the new way that we will promote giving to various mission causes. Previously, part of Westminster’s budget has been designated for various missions. While this form of giving by members of Westminster through pledges is laudable and convenient, it also has the drawback that the mission causes that were in the budget tended to become somewhat “invisible”. Therefore, the Stewardship Committee has decided to remove the mission causes from the budget and instead promote giving to these causes—one each month—during 2009. We will be informing the congregation in various ways throughout each month about that month’s mission. We will encourage you to support that mission financially by placing a gift designated for that cause in a Sunday offering during that month. (Of course, I’m sure that these agencies will not turn down volunteer help, either!) Undesignated offerings (the so-called “plate offering” or “loose offering”) will still continue to go toward the general operating fund of Westminster. It should be understood that gifts to these monthly missions is over and above the pledge you have made, so your gifts in support of your pledge should be designated as such.

With that in mind, we’d like to introduce our first mission emphasis of 2009. The Presbyterian Medical Care Mission (PMCM) here in Abilene was begun in 1983 by Dr. Fred White, of First Central Presbyterian Church, who saw the need for reliable, low cost care for low-income uninsured families in the city. From its simple beginnings of a few physicians providing volunteer care, the mission has grown to two full-time physicians and three medical assistants providing care to the poor in a 22-county region. The PMCM provides care with nominal fees based on family income, but no one is ever turned away because of an inability to pay. A typical office visit costs \$41.75, but the average patient pays only \$10.00. The rest is made up from a grant (\$14.19) and gifts from a wide variety of supporters, such as churches (\$17.56). Westminster has long supported the PMCM, and the Stewardship Committee desires to do so again through our designated giving during the month of January. More information about PMCM will be given throughout the month during Minute for Mission in the worship services and bulletin inserts. We encourage you to consider how you can help support this worthy cause.

The designated causes for the rest of 2009 are as follows:

- February Palo Duro Presbytery
- March Buffalo Gap Ministries
- April One Great Hour of Sharing
- May Presbyterian Children’s Homes
- June PMCM-Dental
- July Meals on Wheels
- August Buffalo Gap Ministries
- September NOROC
- October Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- November Presbyterian Food Pantry
- December Joy Gift Offering

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!

Budget Financial Summary

11/30/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$107,479.13
Collected: \$9,525.00	Actual Giving: \$114,139.90
Difference : (\$245.83)	Difference: \$6,660.77

Celebrations/Thanks to You/Miscellaneous

Dear Westminster Members,

Thanks to your generosity the Presbyterian Food Pantry continues to be well stocked after giving 106 turkeys and all the fixin's on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We are busier than ever, and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Frances Buzard

Thank You

Thank you so very much for all your kind expressions of sympathy, your cards, but most of all for your prayers at the death of my sister.

Donnie Cozby

The church food pantry has had a very busy year! One thousand seventy three families (3183 people) received food for a week, One hundred seven families received a turkey and all the fixin's for Thanksgiving. One hundred forty two children received toys at Christmas. I wish you could have seen "Mrs. Santa" (Jewell Halford). Turkeys were also given. All of this was made possible by the generosity of First Central and Westminster members, students and teachers of Providence Classical Academy, and the dedication of the volunteers.

Frances Buzard

Dear Westminster Family,

Thank you for the flowers, and cards while I was in the hospital. I also appreciate the on-going prayers for me and my family as I once again undergo chemo treatments. The traveling to Lubbock and back for three out of four Monday treatments is a bit rough, but God has given us the strength to manage.

In Christ, Elaine Leiter

Thank You

A Special "Thank You" to the students and teachers of the Providence Classical Academy for their donation of toys (over 35 items) for the Presbyterian Food Pantry to give to needy families.

Dear Friends and Family of Westminster,
THANK YOU!!

From the bottoms of our hearts.

In the time since our fire, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our church family and our community.

So many have given so much in so many ways.

Thanks to those who helped us with the Clean Out Party!

My, what a group of motivated folks can do.

Thank you to the many who have given so generously to the Fire Fund.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Thank you for being our church family.

Sincerely,

James, Janice, Evelyn and Amber

As a side note, we had 50+ Saturday the 6th for our cleanout party!

The hand of God.

Halleluiah!

What is Palo Duro Presbytery's Presbyterian CURSILLO?

www.paloduropresbytery.org

CURSILLO is a "Short Course In Christianity."

It is a three-day weekend that is intended to impact the life of the Participant in a specific, identifiable way. This retreat is organized around a series of talks given by both clergy and lay people who serve as Staff for the weekend. In addition to these talks, and the responses to these talks, there are opportunities for worship, celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, devotional moments, small group participation, and community building.

DAY ONE IS FOCUSED ON LIBERATION.

*The concept of liberation means being set free to live a new kind of life in Christ. It seeks to unmask both moral and psychological obstacles to living a life of grace. **Cursillo** seeks to be a particular time of heightened awareness of God's call and command.*

DAY TWO IS FOCUSED ON CHRIST.

*It seeks to lead the participant to experience the coming to life of the truth of Christianity, which is Christ. The message of **Cursillo** is to encounter Christ, the Living Lord.*

DAY THREE IS FOCUSED ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. *It offers not a methodology for living but a backbone for life. **Cursillo** seeks to give shape, strength, and resilience to Christian persons, who then are challenged to shape their world after the Kingdom of Christ.*

DAY FOUR IS FOCUSED ON PERSEVERANCE.

*It is the rest of one's life. **Cursillo** encourages Participants to form themselves into small groups in which they reaffirm and reinforce their Day One, Day Two, and Day Three, so that Day Four will be continues throughout life as they faithfully seek to transform their world for Christ.*

Cursillo offers itself as part of the life pilgrimage of the Participant. It is neither the beginning nor the end of one's faith journey. It is neither essential to, nor exclusive of, the other parts of one's faith journey. It is one way of growing in faith. It is offered as one way that the Church can equip, encourage, and empower its members to live in all of their life environments as personal agents of Christ.

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

APPLICATION FORMS
for **November 5-8, 2009,**
at **Camp Butman, near Merkel,**
are available in the **Narthex.**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

as of 11/30/08

RECEIVED	NOVEMBER	2008 YTD	2008 BUDGET
2008 Pledges	\$9,136.00	\$109,425.00	\$111,000.00
SS Offering	\$19.00	\$267.02	\$250.00
Plate Offering	\$370.00	\$4,447.88	\$6,000.00
Endowment Transfer		\$30,000.00	\$59,039.00
Interest Income	\$0.34	\$5.10	
Other Income		\$567.00	
Utility Reimbursement		\$1,684.85	\$1,800.00
INCOME	\$9,525.34	\$146,396.85	\$178,089.00
EXPENSE	\$12,215.89	\$141,848.15	\$178,089.00
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$2,690.55)	\$4,548.70	\$0.00

“SILENT NIGHT”

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for the evening's planned music. It came to Father Joseph's mind to write a song, one that could be sung without an organ. Hastily he wrote "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." He took the words to the organist and asked him to compose a simple tune.

That night, December 24, 1818, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time, accompanied by a guitar, at the Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

But for a broke organ, there would never have been a "Silent Night."

From "Then Sings My Soul,"

compiled by Robert J. Morgan.

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. 28th - Jan. 3rd: Bob & Sue Siltman; Ed Sartain; and Gordon & Valerie Obert.

Jan. 4th - 10th: Mike & Nancy Brehm; David & Carolyn Ainsworth; and Frances Barnes.

Jan. 11th - 17th: Julia Wells; Margie Dawley; and Phyllis Core.

Jan. 18th - 24th: Jim & Sue Sullivan; Margaret Gregory; and Betty Kruger.

Jan. 25th - 31st: Mark & Nancy Diggs; and Tom & Laurie Giddings, Thomas and Daniel.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that this list is open to members and regulars. Contact the church office (692-3544) and we'll get you on the list!

JESUS gave each of us *The Great Commission*:

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

Therefore, **NOW** is the time for **YOU** to **INVITE someone** **YOU** know
-- or meet -- to **COME with YOU**
to **WESTMINSTER for WORSHIP!**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
