

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVIII Issue 7

July 2009

Editor: Elaine Leiter

As I was pondering what to write for this month's front page of the Westwind, my mind kept going back to Pentecost Sunday, May 31. You may remember that Dr. Mark Waters was in the pulpit that day; he brought a very encouraging message to our congregation.

One of the Scripture passages that day was Acts 2, which is the story of how the Holy Spirit came as wind and flame to Jesus' disciples, enabling them to speak in other languages and proclaim the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Another passage was Ezekiel 37: 1-14, which is the story of Ezekiel's vision of a valley full of dried up human bones. I recall that I was amazed at the reading of the Ezekiel passage on Pentecost. Of course, I've read and heard that passage before, and I have heard sermons on it, but somehow I had not really connected Ezekiel's vision with the Holy Spirit's activity on Pentecost. I also had the strong recognition that Ezekiel's vision could apply to us at Westminster, too.

Not that Westminster *is* a heap of dry bones. But I suspect that sometimes more than one of us wonders how much life is left in that body called Westminster Presbyterian Church. We may not look like a dried up skeleton, but we wonder how much longer that body can keep tottering along.

The Good News for me that Pentecost Sunday was that God's Spirit breathes life into dry bones. In the vision, God asked Ezekiel whether the dry bones could live. To Ezekiel, things didn't look very positive—the obvious answer seemed to be a resounding “No!” However, it was God who was asking the question. Ezekiel replied, “O Lord, you know.” He handed the question back for God to answer. And God's answer was “Of course, these bones can live!”

But I find something very interesting in the vision here. God didn't just “snap his fingers” to cause all the skeletons to come to life. God commanded Ezekiel to speak to the bones and tell them to listen to God's Word. When Ezekiel did, the bones became reconnected to each other and the skeletons became covered again with muscles and skin. But the bodies still weren't breathing, so God commanded Ezekiel to speak to the wind, so that it would blow life into the bodies. This time, they did come to life! Life came through the speaking and listening to God's Word.

And now let me connect this to the story in Acts 2. What were Jesus' followers doing that day before the Holy Spirit came? Were they wringing their hands, fretting about what was to become of their small group? Possibly, but not likely. The Bible says in Acts 2:1 that “they were all together in one place.” That band of disciples was meeting together. In Acts 1, we read that Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. During their 10 days of waiting, Acts 1:14 tells us that they devoted themselves to prayer. They also studied Scripture, as indicated by Acts 1:15 – 17, 20 – 22.

(Cont. on Pg 2)

## In the Pulpit in June

5	Dr. Thomas Kim
12	Farren Sadler
19	Rev. Ed Cooley
26	John Miller

## Cont from Pg 1

And then the Holy Spirit came, breathing new life into that band of disciples, transforming them into a vibrant, living community, dramatically fulfilling Ezekiel's vision!

Can this body called Westminster live again? Your Session believes that it can—after all, it is God who is asking the question and we dare not say “No!” Each week, God sends us “Ezekiels” who speak the Word of God to us. Our proper response is to be faithful in meeting together, listening to God's Word as it is spoken to us, studying the Scriptures, and being devoted in prayer as we eagerly wait for God to send His Spirit among us. I believe that when we respond in this way, Westminster can also be transformed into a vibrant, living community of faith. Will you join me in this active waiting for God's life-giving Spirit?

Your Session

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## Prayer List for July

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.

June 29 – July 5    Bob & Sue Siltman; Ed Sartain; Ray & Martha King; Gordon & Valerie Obert  
June 6 – 12        Mike Brehm; David & Carolyn Ainsworth; Frances Barnes  
June 13 – 19        Julia Wells; Margie Dawley; Rudy Murillo, Leo & Arthur; Phyllis Core  
June 22 – 28        Jim & Sue Sullivan; Rick & Debra Winckler; Margaret Gregory; Betty Kruger

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## Report from Your Stewardship Committee

The sustained support of the congregation in giving to the Budget and also the Mission Emphasis each month has been consistent and generous. It has also been enough to more than meet our financial needs. Last month's offering for NOROC's Summer camp was \$156.00, an amount that enhanced the Camper's experience by adding abundance to necessities.

Year to date budget gifts are ahead of spending. The Endowment has not been used this year, and is recovering in value as the general Market recovers. No attempts are being made to add risk to the funds in order to “catch up”. Currently the value of the Endowment Investment Accounts is just over \$180,000.00.

Pam Veltkamp and I welcome anyone who has an interest Missions and Stewardship to join us as members of the Stewardship Committee.

Submitted by Ray B King, Co-Moderator of the Stewardship Committee

### FLOWER SEED PACKETS

are available in the Narthex. Please use them as gifts to **INVITE** people to come to worship at **WESTMINSTER**.

**HAND** them out to friends and neighbors;  
**PUT** them on the check-out counters at stores;  
**LEAVE** them on the tables at restaurants; etc.

**EVERYONE**  
is invited to the  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
(*Cursillo* Ultreya)  
at 6:30 pm, on **JULY 23rd**,  
at **WESTMINSTER Presbyterian Church** in  
Abilene, TX.

## July Anniversaries:

6 - Cary/Mary Cooke  
26 - Robert/Pat Gaines  
30 - Gordon/Valerie Obert  
31 - Don/Elaine Leiter

## Birthdays:

3 - David Shanafelt  
4 - Lefty Cleveland  
10 - Mary Frances Roberson  
11 - Michael Kerr  
14 - Peggy Hawes  
16 - Elaine Leiter  
17 - Amber Sullivan  
    Robert Gaines  
18 - B.J. Mann  
20 - Pam Veltkamp  
24 - Elaine Murphy  
25 - Frances Barnes  
30 - Cecile Manter

Thanks for the prayers, cards, transportation to appointments and errands during my surgery healing. Westminster is a truly caring church. Thanks again.

Wanda Garson

**Be heightened in YOUR joy,  
be deepened in YOUR faith, and  
be invigorated in YOUR life for  
Christ**

**at Palo Duro Presbyterian  
*CURSILLO.***

**Application Forms for November 5-  
8, 2009,**

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

**P**resbyterian Women will not meet during the months of June, July, and August. If you want to keep up your pledges during those months put them in the collection plate, marked for Presbyterian Women or put them in the box marked for Presbyterian Women in the office.

Have a great summer!

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## SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS MAY & JUNE 2009

In memory of  
JACK RUSCHMEYER  
by Polly Porter

In memory of  
NANCY BREHM  
by  
F.W. and M.E. Williams  
Jim and Sue Sullivan  
Bert and Pauline Rains  
Perry Hunter Hall Ins.  
Brookhollow Animal Clinic  
J. Lynn Lawhon  
Natalie M. Mathews  
James and Jewell Halford  
Russell and Frances Evans  
Mary and Cary Cooke  
Mrs. J. R. Ruschmeyer  
Frances Buzard  
Polly Porter  
Flexospan Steel Bldgs., Inc.  
Upshaw Ins.  
Abby and Charlie Parham