

The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 6 June 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

I have a wonderful story to share with you. On Thursday, May 22nd I received a phone call from former member Melissa Pilcher. She and her husband Ben now live near Austin. Melissa called to tell me that she had just talked with Mila Karamushka. For those of you who have not met Mila, she was our organist prior to Bonnie Walters.

Some history will be valuable for those who do not know Mila. We first met Mila when Westminster was without an organist. Mila was an accomplished classical pianist, but she did not play the organ. She was also unfamiliar with church music. Mila was hired with the understanding that she would learn to play the organ. We agreed to pay for some lessons. At first, Mila played only the piano, but as time went along she gradually began playing more and more of the liturgy and some of the hymns on the organ. Initially she played only the keyboards. After a while, she began adding the foot pedals. When she left to be near her son, Mila was really starting to get "the hang of it."

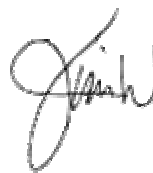
Anyway, back to the phone calls. Mila told Melissa she is now the organist for a 600-member United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she plays for three services every Sunday morning. Quite a ways from those first hesitant melodies on Westminster's organ!

Besides being an interesting update, there's more to be gleaned from this story. We often do not know how we affect the lives of other people. We don't know the legacy we may have provided others. With this story, we do. Westminster needed an organist, that's true, but this congregation's willingness to offer Mila an opportunity has led to a

fine career for her, and she remains thankful for it. I wonder how many other lives have been touched by this congregation in its thirty-year history. Perhaps you think of yourself and your relationship with the others of Westminster. Perhaps your children have stories to share. Perhaps Westminster's legacy includes touching the lives of numerous folks who were a part of this community for a time, but whose life's journey has taken them from Abilene.

In community, God moves through us in remarkable ways, many of which we are unaware. Continually living out Jesus' mandate to love God and our neighbor means touching the lives of others in wonderful ways. Think about the opportunities for service given us by the Triune God and give thanks for them. I wonder...whose life has Christ changed through you today?

Christ's Shalom,



Jim W

Dates and Events to Remember!

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship at Buffalo Gap on Father's Day, June 15th. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be any men's products...soaps, razors, shampoo, deodorant, aftershave, etc.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

There will be a
CURSILLO ULTREYA
(*Spiritual Renewal Gathering*)
on Thursday, **JUNE 26, 2008**,
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at the **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 1001 Willis, in **SANTA ANNA**, Texas.
1-325-348-3770

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

The hostess will be **Kathy Monroe**.

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!

PANTRY NEEDS FOR JUNE

Peanut butter, jelly, canned meat (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.), bath soap, 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!!!

Presbyterian Women News

There will be no meetings during June, July and August. The new study will begin in September.

Notice about Westwind

+++June 23rd— next due date! +++

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

June Birthdays

- 2 - Evelyn Sullivan
Rick Winckler
- 5 - Christy Gozdanovic
- 9 - Nedra Black
- 10 - Lauren Johnson
Patrick Messersmith
- 15 - Cary Headstream
- 20 - Joseph Che
Ashley Brehm-Peaton
Nathan Gozdanovic
- 25 - Scott Serrault
- 28 - Brenda Merrill

June Anniversaries

- 2 - Rick & Debra Winckler
- 9 - James & Rebekah Chenevert
- 13 - Pete & JoAnn Peterson
- 19 - Larry & Nedra Black

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 June 1st. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

Stewardship & Mission and Miscellaneous

Budget Financial Summary 4/30/08

Budget Monthly: \$9, 770.83	Budget to Date: \$39,083.32
Collected: \$8,744.00	Actual Giving: \$43,246.38
Difference: \$1,026.83	Difference: \$4,163.06

DON'T WORRY! BE HAPPY!

Remember this Bobby McFerrin song from years ago? Don't we wish it was this easy to get happy? When we are anxious and worried, there is hope for us. Perhaps a better song at these times would be "His Eye is on the Sparrow and I know he watches me". That was a favorite of my father, who had many tragedies in his life time.

There is biblical basis in that great old spiritual. In the sixth chapter of Matthew when Jesus is teaching on a mountainside, we find these words, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life—about your body. Look at the birds of the air. Are you not more valuable than they?" Jesus continues "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink' or 'What shall we wear?' (Matthew 6:25-27, 32). We can assuredly apply this promise to more than food, drink or clothes. He cares about our anxieties and worries and assures us, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him". (Matthew 6:8)

He knows our concerns, but we are repeatedly instructed in scripture to ask, and to pray without ceasing. The very act of praying makes us aware of God's presence.

My favorite verse on worry is in Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Further Insight. Thoughtfully read Matthew 6: 25-33, Philippians 4:19 and Psalm 91.

With God's help maybe we can say "Don't Worry Be Happy"

Martha King

From the Session ~ ~ ~ NEWS from May 20th

SESSION MEETING REPORT

Your Session continues to face the challenge of a budget shortfall. This is a major concern of the Session, as well as the congregation. Last month we were forced to withdraw \$30,000 from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation to meet operating expenses. This is in addition to the \$22,000 we withdrew in October 2007.

The Session is postponing repairs that are not absolutely necessary. We regularly review cost saving possibilities, but at this time we have cut everything we feel is feasible.

We appreciate **Robert Gaines** and **Mark Smith** volunteering for janitorial duties. This represents a saving for our church.

On the church calendar, we will again have the Fathers Day service at Buffalo Gap. Our next Sunday Fellowship Luncheon will be on June 1. Our graduating seniors will be presented Bibles in the service on May 25.

North Texas Celebration, a youth version of Presbyterian Cursillo, will occur in August at Camp Gilmont near Tyler, Texas. Janice Serrault has the details on this opportunity.

Martha King, Clerk of Session

OUR APOLOGIES

Apologies to those with May Birthdays or Anniversaries.

Due to camera "issues" we were unable to get a group photo.

Tri-Church VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HELP WANTED!

If YOU would be willing to help with VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, please contact Jewell Halford or Mary Cooke. Vacation Bible School will be on July 7th through July 11th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at Elmwood West United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Pioneer.

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

APRIL and part of MAY, 2008

In memory of
Tom Houghton
by Nedra & Larry Black

In memory of
Ben Dugger
by Nedra & Larry Black, and
Frances & Russ Evans

In memory of
Alden Cathey
by Murray & Jane Travis,
De Nicklas,
Paul Graham,
Frances & Russ Evans,
Jack & Peg Ruschmeyer,
Shirley Stephenson,
James & Jewell Halford,
Mary & Cary Cooke,
Patsy Lacy, and
Ruth Cranor.

-- FLASH --

Some people of Westminster are under the impression that the **Library** has only books on religion. The Library does have wonderful Biblical commentaries, Bible study series, and books about grace, love, sorrow, and many other topics pertaining to the Bible. **But**, the Library also has biographies, fiction, series of books by Jan Karon, *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, series by Beverly Lewis, large-print books, and many more.

Beginning in **June**, different series and topics will be highlighted. The two displays will be changed each month.

COME IN and BROWSE! Look at the books on the north wall of the Library.

Blood Drive

The Meeks Bloodmobile will be at the Westminster Parking lot to accept donations June 1st from 9AM to Noon. Anyone having questions about their eligibility to donate can call Meeks Blood Center at 670-2798 for more information.

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. Thank you for your continued support!

YES – YOU – CAN --

**invite someone to COME and WORSHIP
with YOU at Westminster!**

Directory Address Correction:

Buckner Cooke
11728 Running Fox Trail
Austin, TX 78759

APPLICATION FORMS for Palo Duro Presbyterian *CURSILLO* #22 (PDPC #22), **October 30 – November 2, 2008**, and *Cursillo* **INFORMATION HANDOUTS**, are available in the Narthex, or from the **Church Office**.
A Short Course in Christianity

Congratulations and Thank You Notes

High School Class of 2008

Gail Miller graduated from Midway High School on May 30th.
 Rob Leiter graduated from Abilene High School and Brandon Merrill from Cooper High School on May 31st.
 Their announcements are on the Shepherd's Board in the Narthex.
 Gary Miller, grandson of Julia Wells, graduated from Cooper High School on May 31st.
 Jack McLean, grandson of Phyllis Core, graduated from Abilene High on May 31st. He received the Presidential Award for maintaining an "A" average for four years. He will be attending the University of Oklahoma this fall, majoring in Meteorology. He was recently named Outstanding Senior for the Band.
 Our heart-felt "Congratulations!" go out to all members of the Class of 2008!

CONGRATULATIONS

Cathy Puzan, daughter of Phyllis Core, has been selected Teacher of the Year for her individual school and the City School System of Sperry, Oklahoma. Her name will now be entered in the state competition for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

May 2008

*Dear Westminster Presbyterian,
 Thank you so much for your contribution to Madison Middle School's "Extreme Makeover" fundraiser! The generosity of your church is legendary, and we thank you for your heartfelt gift.*

*Thanks again,
 Madison Middle School
 Phil. 2:1-4*

*Catherine Cathey and family have expressed their appreciation of all the food, cards, love and prayers that they have received during Alden's illness and at the time of their loss. They have received so much from all of you over the years including donations in memory of their daughter, Cristy Seago, and those made recently for Alden. June 2nd would have been Alden and Catherine's 61st Wedding Anniversary.
 Thank You.*

*Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,
 On behalf of the families of B C H E (Big Country Home Educators) thank you For allowing us to use your lovely facilities for achievement testing - in conjunction with Providence Classical Academy - in April. Please accept the enclosed offering to help defray any utility or other costs incurred during our three mornings in the building.*

*Sincerely,
 Marcy Toppert*

Westminster Prayer List for June 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.

June 1st - 7th: Jeff & Leona Armstrong and Kyle; Bobbie Core; and David & Jamie Tindall, Casey, and Kelly.

June 8th - 14th: Burl & Pat Hambrick; Wanda Garson; and Ed & Vivian Shelly.

June 15th - 21st: Betsy Brehm-Peaton and Ashley, Shelby and Maggie; and Pete & JoAnn Peterson.

June 22nd - 28th: John Headstream; and James & Rebekah Chenevert and David.

June 29th - July 5th: David & Carolyn Ainsworth; Frances Barnes; and Gordon & Valerie Obert

INQUIRERS CLASS TO STUDY IMAGES OF CHRIST

During the months of June, July, and August, the Inquirers Class will be studying various images of Christ as presented by selected New Testament writers. Lessons follow the International Sunday School Lesson series and are published in The Present Word by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In June, the lessons are based on the Letter to the Hebrews and build upon Early Church faith statements applied to the person of Jesus. For July, stories from the four Gospels give the disciples' perception of who Jesus is. During August, the Letter of James explores the images of Jesus through life in the early Christian community.

The Inquirers Class meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the last classroom on the right-hand side of the education wing. All are welcome and encouraged to attend on a regular basis, on an irregular basis, or as a visitor.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736
