

The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 3 March 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

Just some thoughts hither and yon...

As in past years, I urge you to be part of this year's Westminster Holy Week services, which include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday's Tenebrae service, Easter Sunrise service at Buffalo Gap and Easter Sunday service in the sanctuary. Many folks worship on Palm Sunday and then don't return until Easter Sunday. To do so is to move from mountain top experience (Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem) to mountain top experience (Easter Sunday's resurrection celebration). If we do that, we miss Christ's misery in-between. If we do that, we fail to fully appreciate Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

An additional Holy Week highlight this year will be on Palm Sunday. The Reverend Doctor Fane Downs will be with us to lead worship as together we celebrate the 20th anniversary of her ordination! For those who don't know Fane, she was a professor at McMurray University and member of Westminster when she answered God's call to ministry. Her Service of Ordination was conducted here at Westminster. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

I'm excited to see that under the direction of librarian Nancy Shanafelt our Christian Education committee members are in the process of updating our church library. Westminster has an excellent library with books covering a wide range of topics. You'll also be hearing soon about new books being added to our collection. The library is there for the benefit of our members. Some, but not enough, of us make frequent use of its offerings. I hope you'll take time to step in and look around. I know you'll find something that will peak your

interest, and while you're at it, say thank you to those working so hard to benefit you.

In July Palo Duro Presbytery Cursillo will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Literally hundreds of West Texas folks have experienced this wonderful celebration. I did a quick count of the number of Westminsterites who have been to Cursillo and came up with a total of at least 28. I believe Cary Cooke told me that's the highest percentage of membership of any congregation in the presbytery. The next Cursillo will be April 10-13 at Ceta Canyon. I urge you to sign-up today. Several Westminster members will be serving on the staff. I'm excited to be one of three spiritual directors for this Cursillo. It would be great to look out over the participants on that opening Thursday night and see a bunch of familiar faces among them. I urge you to consider being part of PDPC #21. We had a record 11 members attend Cursillo #9. I wonder if we could beat that record this time. Wouldn't that be fun!

I leave you this month with this question, "Isn't it great to be a follower of Christ?"

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

Dates and Events to Remember!

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship, Sunday, **March 30th**. We will have a couple of guest speakers from Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be specified at a later date.

PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH

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

Presbyterian Women will meet for their regular Bible Study and business meeting on the second Tuesday, March 11th at 10:00AM. Catherine Cathey will give lesson #7, *Back from the Brink*.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to attend.

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 March 9th. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

There will be a

CURSILLO ULTREYA

(Spiritual Renewal Gathering)

on Thursday, MARCH 27, 2008,

from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at **FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 400 Orange St., 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 hostess will be the **Diane Keeble**.

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!**

March

Anniversaries:

- 9 - Luther/Beverly Hollowell
- 10 - Tom/Laurie Giddings
- 31 - Ray/Connie Gill

Birthdays:

- 1 - Rob Leiter
- 2 - Bobbie Core, Randy Serrault
- 4 - Terry Carpenter
- 7 - Jake Armstrong
- 9 - Pat Gaines
- 11 - Gordon Obert
- 13 - Andy Cleveland
- 14 - Billy Latta
- 16 - Ray Gill
- 24 - Dorothy Murtha
- 25 - Mike Brehm
- 26 - Rev. Dr. Fane Downs
- 27 - Katy Presswood
- 28 - Sydney Rene Smith
- 29 - De Nicklas

Thanks to You and Miscellaneous, too!*Thank You Notes...*

Westminster has recently received notes of appreciation from Meal on Wheels, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and the Presbyterian Food Pantry.

Dear Westminster Family,

Over the past months many of you have written, called, or visited Michael and I. This has meant a great deal to both of us. It is your support and out-pouring of love that is helping to make a difference in my recovery. Again, Thank You.

Yours in Christ,
Nancy & Mike Brehm

Make plans now to attend all Holy Week Services:

March 16th: 10:55AM Palm/Passion Sunday
 March 20th: 7:00PM Maundy Thursday/Lord's Supper
 March 21st: 7:00PM Good Friday/Tennebrae
 March 23rd: 6:00AM Easter Sunday at the Labyrinth
 7:00AM Easter Sunrise at Buffalo Gap Encampment/Breakfast
 10:55AM Easter Worship/Lord's Supper/Flowering of the Cross

From the Session ~ ~ ~ ~

On January 19, 2008 the Session had an all day retreat at Buffalo Gap Camp.

The Session accepted with regret the resignation of Terry Carpenter from the Session, due to ongoing health problems. Terry was serving as Moderator of the Property Committee, a position which will have to be filled.

Much time was spent on the proposed budget, how to most effectively present the information at the Annual Congregational Meeting, and the best way to inform the congregation of the continued use of endowment funds for operational costs.

It was also agreed that the congregation should be informed of the difficulty in maintaining the Session size at twelve Elders. Several alternatives were discussed.

The Session held the stated Session meeting on February 17, 2008. The Congregational Meeting was reviewed, and the consensus was that the members now realize the financial situation now facing Westminster. The Session appreciated the many suggestions made by those in attendance.

The 2008 Officer Nominating Committee consists of Martha King, Moderator, Jewell Halford, JoAnn Peterson, Mark Smith, Abby Parham and Gary Shanafelt. We currently need two additional Elders to have a full twelve member Session.

Martha King, Clerk

Presbyterian *Cursillo*

What IS *Cursillo*?

It is a Short Course in Christianity.
 It is definitely Presbyterian.
 It is quite well done.
 It is very well organized.
 It is a camp-like experience for all adult
 Presbyterians regardless of age.
 It is a wonderful weekend.
 It is really enjoyable.
 It is amazingly energizing.
 It is truly enriching of faith and life.
 It is one way of growing in faith.

What does *Cursillo* HAVE?

It has great people.
 It has good food.
 It has comfortable accommodations.
 It has numerous fun times.
 It has wonderful music.
 It has inspiring worship services.
 It has spirited singing.
 It has meaningful talks given by pastors
 and lay persons.

What does *Cursillo* PROVIDE?

It provides spiritual renewal and
 spiritual growth.
 It provides wonderful fellowship.
 It provides the opportunity to meet, and
 to get to know, people from many
 Presbyterian churches.
 It provides a special time of relaxation
 and reflection away from the cares,
 concerns, pressures, deadlines, and
 distractions of everyday life.
 It provides an increased awareness of
 the richness, fullness, and
 joys of one's faith.



What is *Cursillo* NOT?

It is not a substitute or replacement for
 worship and work at the local church.
 It is not boring, dull, or uninteresting.
 It is not ever demanding of public
 expressions of personal thoughts
 or feelings.
 It is not touchy-feely.
 It is not a playing-on of emotions.
 It is not ever humiliating, or demeaning.
 It is not confrontational.
 It is not pushy or coercive.
 It is not in-your-face.
 It is not essential to, or exclusive of, the
 other parts of one's faith journey.

From what does *Cursillo* RESULT?

It results from the enthusiastic support
 of Palo Duro Presbytery.
 It results from the on-going prayers of
 many people.
 It results from the hard work of a large
 and dedicated staff.
 It results from the tremendous
encouragement of other *Cursillo* and
 related groups in the United States
 and around the world.

**Most of all *Cursillo* results from the
guidance and direction of the
HOLY SPIRIT!**

Application Forms for APRIL 10-13,
 2008, are available in the **Narthex**
 and from the **Church Office**.

www.paloduropresbytery.org – "Camps & Retreats"

SPRING STEWARDSHIP SAVVY

Stewardship is a year-round effort at Westminster. There are two opportunities on our calendar in the next two months for our members, as well as other on-going ones. On Easter Sunday, March 23, we will dedicate our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and

resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36 percent of undesignated **One Great Hour of Sharing** gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](#) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) each receives 32 percent. More information will be coming in the weeks preceding Easter as you contemplate how you will participate.

Presbyterian Children's Home has been another designated mission effort by Westminster both as a church and individually. On April 24th our church will host a table at Abilene Country Club for an informational luncheon from 12 noon to 1 PM. If you would like to join us to find out more about this program and to have an opportunity to contribute to its efforts, please contact Mary Lou Chappell at 572-5785 or buffgapgal278@yahoo.com. We can seat only 10, so please reserve promptly.

Food Pantry Report for 2007 - Our congregational cash contributions to the Presbyterian Food Pantry totaled \$ 1,806.11, in addition to the sacks of food contributed each month. Your efforts help to make a difference here in Abilene every

Inquirers Class

During March, April and May, the Inquirers Class will be studying God's Covenant with the people of Israel. Lessons follow the International Sunday School Lesson series and are published in *The Present Word* by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

During March, the emphasis is on Covenant during the Kingdom Period with scriptures selected from 1st and 2nd Chronicles. For April, Covenant in Exile is explored using selections from Daniel. In May, Covenant renewal in the Post-Exile Period is considered using selections from Haggai and Nehemiah.

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

PRAYER REQUEST

Palo Duro Presbytery's Presbyterian Cursillo #21 (or PDPC #21) will be held on **April 10-13**, 2008, at the Ceta Canyon Camp, near Happy, Texas. Serving on Staff at this "Short Course in Christianity" will be Cary Cooke, Elaine Leiter, Janice Serrault, Jim Sullivan, Sue Sullivan, and Jim Wallace. Please be in ongoing **prayer** for all of the folks who have been selected to be on **Staff** for this spirit-filled weekend.

At this time, God is calling Presbyterians from throughout north-west Texas to attend PDPC #21 as **Participants**. Please also be in **prayer** that all of these people will hear God's call, will answer God's call, and will come to this *Cursillo*.

Westminster Prayer List for March 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.

Feb. 24th - March 1st: Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham; and Donnie Cozby.

Mar. 2nd - 8th: Don & Elaine Leiter and Rob; Jean Losey; Vera Mae Mills; and Melvin Barton.

Mar. 9th - 15th: Tom & Bonnie Walters; and James & Janice Sullivan, Evelyn and Amber.

Mar. 16th - 22nd: Alden & Catherine Cathey; Ruth Cranor; Lexi Cruce; and Bob Prentice.

Mar. 23rd - 29th: Rett Fuller; Kirk Garson; Margie Dawley; Frances Barnes; and Joseph Che.

Mar. 30th - Apr. 5th: Scott & Janice Serrault, and Victoria; Farren & Grace Sadler; and Royse & Vicki Kerr.

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

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

Therefore, it is the most earnest request of the Evangelism Committee that all the members and friends of Westminster say to folks that you know and meet:

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



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736
