

# The Westwind

Vol

Editor: Elaine Leiter

## Thoughts from Worship Committee

That big gust of wind that blew through Abilene Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, was not just another spring wind; but a huge collective sigh of relief from the Worship Committee -- we made it through Holy Week. And not only did we “make it through the week”; Westminster Presbyterians celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with vigor with a renewed hope for the future. The observances throughout the week would have not been possible without the efforts of many people. From the readings on Palm Sunday to the last Alleluia on Easter morning, the members of WPC stepped up during this time of transition. The list of names is long—from those who read, those who helped with stripping and redecorating the sanctuary, those who provided the music, lights, and sound, those who made the sunrise service happen, those who preached, those who added flowers to the cross, and those who attended the services. The list is even longer when we include those who prayed for God’s hand to lead us in each and every part of these worship services. THANK YOU TO THE WPC COMMUNITY!!

## Top 10 Reasons I Don’t Eat

10. I was forced to eat as a child.
9. People who eat are hypocrites; they aren’t really hungry.
8. There are so many different kinds of food; I can’t decide what to eat.
7. I used to eat, but I got bored with it and stopped.
6. I only eat on special occasions like Christmas and Easter.
5. None of my friends will eat with me.
4. I’ll start eating when I get older.
3. I don’t really have time to eat.
2. I don’t believe that eating does anyone any good—it’s a crutch.
1. Restaurants and grocery stores are only after your money.

Everybody has an excuse when it comes to not attending church. If we take those excuses and apply them to other things we do (or don’t do), it might look like this Top Ten list. Sounds silly doesn’t it? Church attendance for the Christian is just as important as regular, balanced meals. Come join us at worship services at WPC! (Thanks to THE MESSENGER, newsletter from Elmwood West United Methodist Church, for these words.)

### Servant Leadership Camp June 14-16

Grades 9, 10, or 11 completed. Sign up by May 25, 2009

### Mini-Camp June 16-19

Grades 1, 2, or 3 completed. Sign up by May 27, 2009

### Elementary Camp June 21-26

Grades 4 or 5 completed. Sign up by June 1, 2009

### Middle School Camp June 28-July 3

Grades 6, 7 or 8 completed. Sign up by June 8, 2009

Camp Application  
Forms Now Available  
in the Nathex

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned meat (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.), 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!!!

### The President, The Faculty and The Graduating

Class of Austin College  
announce

David W. Shanafelt  
is a candidate for the degree of  
Bachelor of Arts  
in  
Biology

with a Minor in Mathematics  
Sunday, May seventeenth  
Two Thousand Nine  
eight-thirty in the morning  
Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court

YOU are invited to the

### SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING

(*Cursillo Ultreya*) on Thursday,

May 21, 2009, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm,

at Abilene's FIRST CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Enjoy the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing, inspiration, prayer, renewal, and fun.

The host will be **Rosemary Young.**

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!



### Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet  
Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00AM

in the church library. Lesson #9, "*The Mighty are Brought Down, The Lord is Lifted Up*". This is the last lesson for 2008-2009. There will be **no** meetings in June, July and August.

The Birthday Offering will be celebrated

with a salad potluck luncheon after the Bible Study and business meeting. The Bible Study for 2009-2010 will be

"*Joshua: A Journey of Faith*".

All Westminster women and friends are invited to the Bible Study and/or luncheon.

### 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 May 3rd. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

### May Birthdays

- 2 - Peg Ruschmeyer
- 4 - Melvin Barton
- 10 - Farren Sadler
- 16 - David Ainsworth
- 17 - Ray King
- 24 - Shelby Peaton

### May Anniversaries

- 15 - Curtis & Lauren Johnson
- 23 - Mike & Nancy Brehm
- 27 - Jim & Sue Sullivan

## Miscellaneous

EVERY person at WESTMINSTER --  
that means ALL of us, including YOU --  
NEEDS to be PRAYING about EVANGELISM,  
to be COMING-UP with IDEAS for EVANGELISM,  
and to be DOING EVANGELISM!

Notice about Westwind

+++ May 25th — 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](mailto:office@wpcabilene.org) or put them in the **Westwind box**. **Thanks!**

**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!**

Happy April Birthdays (with young man who was training in Lubbock on his March birthday!)

**2009 Monthly Financial Report**

<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>2009 BUDGET</b>
2009 Pledges	\$14,952.00	\$36,442.00	\$91,000.00
SS Offering	\$25.00	\$85.05	\$250.00
Unpledged/Plate Offering	\$3,805.00	\$6,470.00	\$6,000.00
Endowment Withdrawal		\$0.00	\$68,510.00
Interest Income	\$0.36	\$1.09	
Other Income	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Utility Reimbursement	\$298.90	\$750.09	\$3,125.00
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,481.26</b>	<b>\$44,148.23</b>	<b>\$178,089.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>(\$13,030.49)</b>	<b>(\$39,004.22)</b>	<b>\$178,089.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$6,450.77</b>	<b>\$5,144.01</b>	

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!

## Report from the Stewardship Committee:

In May, the emphasis for designated offerings will be NO-ROC, an acronym for an organization in Tulcea County, Romania. Noroc is a Romanian word meaning "God Bless" and was adopted because it is reflective of the organization's Mission Statement. The full name is New Opportunities for Romanian Adopted Children.

The NOROC story begins with members of First Central Presbyterian Church of Abilene who wanted to introduce The Big Hearted Grannies to Romania. It is an idea that had its origins in America where retired women were hired by institutions like Abilene State School to give companionship to residents who had no family or friends, and also provided some income for the women.

Romania has a large population of orphans because of some misguided social policies and little concern on the part of the citizens, and was a fertile field for such a program. In addition to the Grannies, NOROC has gone much further by establishing a school for the orphans, including Christian Instruction, recreation opportunities and now Summer Camp!

The Camp will be in June this summer, and that explains our timing of the May Offering for NOROC. There are some local young people from West Texas going to serve as staff at the camp, but our offering will be to the camp itself for supplies and food.

The best information I can give you to enable you to learn the rest of the story is the website: [noroc.org](http://noroc.org).

Ray King, co-moderator of the Stewardship Committee

**SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS**

for

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009**

In honor of  
**ROSEMARY WALFORD**  
by Dianne Nicklas

In memory of  
**STEVEN WILLS**  
by the Russell Evans Family

In memory of  
**BILLY LATTA**  
by  
Russell & Fran Evans  
Nedra & Larry Black

In memory of  
**JACKIE McLEAN**  
by  
Mary Erwin  
Burl & Pat Hambrick

### Adult Sunday School

Have you ever thought about joining a Sunday School class? We have two lively adult classes, and there is room for you!

The *Inquirer's* Class is taught by Farren Sadler. This class uses a curriculum Bible Study which changes to a new study every three months. The spring 2009 study has taken passages in Ezekial, Luke, and Ephesians and is centered on the topic "New Creation in Christ".

The *Sunday Morning Live* class led by Beverly Armstrong is in the midst of a study by Jim Cymbala on Prayer. The format is an in-depth discussion aided by video segments which are accompanied by a workbook. They have just concluded a discussion on "God's Heart for Prayer" and are beginning a study of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Now is the time—Come join a class at 9:30AM each Sunday morning!

### SESSION NOTES

Our second meeting with our moderator, Rev. Trey Little who is pastor of Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church in Albany, was April 28. We are so pleased to be working with Rev. Little and appreciate the skills and gifts he is bringing to us.

Our mission emphasis for March was Buffalo Gap Ministries and a total of \$1,690.00 was given by the congregation. Wow!

A former church member, Jim Krejci, named Westminster as beneficiary of his \$10,000.00 veteran's life insurance policy. The money will be deposited in equal amounts in the church's two endowment accounts.

The church's subscription to the devotional booklet "These Days" is being discontinued. Individuals are encouraged to subscribe individually if they wish.

A new contract with the Providential Classical Academy will include a monthly charge of \$800.00 for use of the building.

Martha King is organizing prayer groups to intentionally pray for our church. She will be inviting the congregation to participate through the Phone Tree and at worship on Sundays. The session is convinced of the power of prayer and encourages each of you to be a part of this conversation with God about our church and its future. The session expressed it's thanks to Martha.

We will be co-hosting with First Presbyterian Church, Sweetwater, the October presbytery meeting at Westminster. Mary Cooke has graciously volunteered to be the coordinator. If you are asked to help, please say "Yes."

Beverly Armstrong will be serving Westminster up to 20 hours per week with compensation in the amount of \$1200.00 per month until pastoral leadership is secured. Her title is Worship and Pastoral Care Coordinator and her duties are as follows:

- (1) Lead and work with Worship Committee to coordinate all worship services
- (2) Communicate with and support guest speakers
- (3) Pastor care for members of the congregation, some functions coordinated with Diaconal Care Committee
- (4) Approval of the church bulletins
- (5) On call for member emergencies and concerns, and coordinate with church secretary if not available
- (6) Oversee church secretary duties and hours
- (7) Serve in the pulpit once a month

Beverly will also serve as the Phone Tree contact and/or trainer.

Nedra Black's resignation from the session because of an extended temporary move to Ohio was accepted with reluctance and grace.

The next session meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 6:30 pm.

Nedra Black, Clerk of Session

Westminster Prayer List for May 2009

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.

Apr. 26th - May 2nd: Al Windham; Ray & Connie Gill; and Luther & Beverly Hollowell.

May 3rd - 9th: Rosemary Walford; David Shanafelt; Peg Ruschmeyer; and Lefty & Andy Cleveland.

May 10th - 16th: Gerry Griffin; De Nicklas; and Patrick Messersmith, Kristi Lee, and Connor.

May 17th - 23rd: Jake & Beverly Armstrong; Eric & Tracy Pierce; and Walter Christen.

May 24th - 31st: Gary & Nancy Shanafelt; Pam Veltkamp; and Larry & Nedra Black.

SHOULD WE BE TROUBLED?

We the people of Westminster should be waiting for God's leadership as we plan for the future of Westminster. Several months ago I found I was depressed about our future, yet I knew God was fully aware of our concerns. The Session had spent many hours over the past three years seeking the answer, but no decision could be reached.

One day a Bible verse came to mind. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5). I realized I needed to be reminded of God's limitless power and to think on all the assurances found in the scriptures. We know Westminster is in a time of change, but we can be positive instead of negative if we claim God's promises.

I am planning for some periods of meditation and prayer while we await God's leadership. These meditation and prayer times will be announced through the phone tree and Sunday bulletins and will last 30-45 minutes. Please join me as we ask for God's guidance. ~ ~ ~ Martha King



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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