

The Westwind

Volume XXXVIII Issue 9 September 2009

Editor: Sue Siltman

In many ways, the month of September seems to be a month of new beginnings. Maybe even more so than the official New Year in January. This is largely due of course to the fact that so many of our lives revolve around or are affected by the school calendar. And, of course, as summer and vacation time winds down, this is an apt time to begin or renew our interests and activities.

Whatever the reason, though, there is excitement and anticipation and not a little anxiety as teachers begin a new year with a new group of students. Parents adjust to new schedules, and in some cases the quietness of a household after one of its members has “graduated” and moved on to a life elsewhere. Students grow into new experiences and new surroundings. Graduates face new career decisions and hopes for job opportunities. New life styles. New responsibilities. New realities. So many daunting changes.

We are reminded through all these life experiences, and rejoice, that the God we worship and serve and in whom we have our being is a God of new beginnings. God is always there, ahead of us. We mess up and God is always ready to take us in again and again and again. Life changes, and when it does God is there to comfort and give strength as we shed the old and take up the new. Spirits flag, and God’s Spirit is there to give new direction and energy. Even death is not simply an ending but is the beginning of new life.

I pray that as we start a “new year” that the God of Life and new beginnings will infuse our particular body of Christ with new hope, energy, and enthusiasm.

God be with all of you in all your new beginnings, especially in this month of new and changing things.

Love and Peace,

Beverly Armstrong

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after Worship, Sunday, September 27th.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. The 2009-2010 Bible study is *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*. Sally Carthel will present lesson one, *Who is the God of Joshua?* A business meeting will follow the study.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to the Bible study and/or business meeting.

Notice about Westwind

September 21st— next due date!

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

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 **September 13th**.

There will be a
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING
(*Cursillo Ultreya*)

on Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**,
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at the **UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 700 Fisk, in **BROWNWOOD**, Texas,
325-646-8569.

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

The hosts will be “**the Brownwood Group.**”

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!

September Birthdays

- 1 - Donnie Cozby
- 4 - Frances Evans
Al Windham
- 6—Charles Russell
Vernon Glaze
- 17 - Victoria Serrault
- 21 - Jewell Halford
- 24 - Bob Siltman
- 25 - Phyllis Core
Brian King
Martha King

September Anniversaries

- 15 - Jim & Jewell Halford
- 17 - Randy & Jackie
Serrault
- 28 - Russ & Frances Evans



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Hinds' Feet on High Places by Hannah Hunard
is the beloved story of Much-Afraid (a girl) and her exciting journey,
guided by the Shepherd, to High Place.
You have to read it to understand.

And the Angels Were Silent by Max Lucado
is about the last week of Jesus' life as he sets his face toward Jerusalem.

Everybody's Suspect in Georgia by Cecil Murphy
is a Christian mystery of two people who always find themselves
in the wrong place.

Texas Monthly Highlights Texas Women
is a collection of articles that have appeared in *Texas Monthly* magazine.
The women featured are modern day women as well as women of days gone by.

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”
Henry Ward Beecher.

PRESBYTERY IS COMING!

The 114th stated meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery is on October 16 & 17, 2009, here at Westminster. First Presbyterian Church of Sweetwater is co-hosting the event.

We are planning for 100+ people to attend this meeting, so we will need all the help we can get. It would be really great if the whole congregation, those who are able, would participate in Presbytery by helping when they are called upon.

My prayer is that all will be done to the glory of God.

Mary Cooke

CHECK OUT THE CHURCH WEB PAGE

Royse Kerr has updated the church web page with pictures, sound and new information. In case you missed the sermon, you can now HEAR it on your computer with the pod-cast link. Be sure to check out the web site:

www.wpcabilene.org

When you have successfully entered the web site, you can click on several links located on the left. To hear the sermon, click on “pastor” then the sound icon of the sermon you wish to hear.

THANKS, ROYSE!



CHOIR DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES FALL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We are pleased to have the following students sing in our choir for the fall semester: Jason Pearce (H-SU Graduate Assistant), Jenna Preston (H-SU 5th-year Senior), Kate Dannheim (ACU), Jennifer Mendes (H-SU), Samantha Clark (CJC), Daniel Pamplin (ACU), and Jimmy Phillips (H-SU).

In other choir news student accompanist-alto Abigail Payne (UNC-Arts) will return to North Carolina for a second year of advanced keyboard study. She is concluding her second summer in the choir. Student advisor to the choir is William Mouat, D.M.A. (H-SU professor). The occasional guest flautist is David Bradshaw.

Scholarships are funded by church budget and special gift contributions from individuals made payable to the Church and designated "Choir student scholarships". The director appreciates all who have and will contribute in support of this program to sustain the level and quality of music in our worship services.

Bonnie Walters will be returning to the organ on September 13th. Many thanks to James Steel and Vance McCracken for substituting during her absence.

REPORT FROM THE SESSION

The Session met with Dave Wilson, our liaison to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery on August 9. We are in the preliminary stages of putting together a Pastor Nomination Committee to begin an intensive process of finding pastoral leadership for our church. We have been advised that the process is first of all, thorough. Secondly, in order to find the right person for our church, the process takes time.

In the regular Stated Session Meeting on August 16, the Session voted to accept the gracious offer of Rev. Kristine Brantley-Gearhart to be our pulpit supply for the months of September and October. This time of stability in our worship services will give us time to make the necessary decisions for pastoral leadership while we are looking for a permanent pastor.

In the meantime, Beverly Armstrong remains available for pastoral care and helping to coordinate worship and whatever comes up that needs attention. Sue Siltman is our efficient secretary and is also in the office from 9 to 12 each weekday for office support. Please call with concerns or whatever you may need. Help is available.

We are working to update the database on the PhoneTree. If you are (still) not receiving the church messages over the phone, or if you wish NOT to receive these messages, please notify Sue or Beverly in the office so that it can be corrected. We are aware that the Phone-Tree system is very helpful, but there are flaws and it is not always perfect. Just let us know of problems you are having and we will correct them to the best of our ability.

WHAT? "A Short Course in Christianity."

NAME? Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo #23.

WHERE? Camp Butman, near Merkel, Texas.

WHEN? November 5-8, 2009.

WHY? To be renewed and enriched in YOUR faith.

HOW? Application Forms are in the Narthex.

WHO? YOU !!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo #23 -- or PDPC #23 -- will be held at the Camp Butman near Merkel, Texas, November 5-8, 2009. Presbyterians from throughout Texas will be attending this **Short Course in Christianity** as Staff and as Participants.

Please be in on-going prayer:

- that all aspects of **Cursillo** will be done in accordance with God's Will;
- that the Lord will be with, and will keep safe, each and every person who will go to this **Cursillo** weekend;
- that all persons involved with **Cursillo** always, and only, will rely on Jesus Christ;
- that the Holy Spirit will guide everything that happens at **Cursillo**; and
- that **ALL** of the people called by the Lord God to attend

PDPC

#23 as **Participants** will answer this call.

Thank you; and De Colores!

Yours in Christ,

The Palo Duro Presbyterian **Cursillo** Community

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS for JUNE & JULY 2009

In memory of
NANCY BREHM
by
Ruth Cranor
Nick and Lynette Leber
Betty and Dan Rucker

In memory of
BURL HAMBRICK
by
Mrs. R. J. Ruschmeyer
Cary, Mary, Buckner, and Gail
Cooke
Nancy and Mark Diggs
James and Jewell Halford
Melissa and Benjamin Pilcher
Jim and Sue Sullivan

In memory of
MAUDE CLOAKEY
by Sally Carthel

In memory of
MARY RUTH
KIRKPATRICK
by Russell and Frances Evans
and Family

JESUS, THE EXACT, PERFECT IMAGE

A few years ago in the Sunday Morning Live Bible Class, we were using videos and slide presentations in our classes. Through these presentations we heard people like Tony Campolo and others, almost as if they were with us in person, discuss particular Bible texts, Christians living in an alien culture, prayer, and their own Spiritual Journeys.

An especially high point of these was a series of classes devoted to listening to the videos of sermons by William Barkley, the incomparable writer of the Daily Bible Study Series that so many of us use as aid to understanding and absorbing the New Testament. William Barkley was a hero in Scotland where he earned fame as a soccer player before he became an even better know preacher and writer in the Church of Scotland after World War 11. BBC-TV ran a weekly Sunday Night Series in the '70s featuring live broadcasts of Barclay preaching and it became their highest rated broadcast. Several of these taped sermons are in our Church Library.

About the time Jim Wallace came to Westminster, we were using Barclay's Sermon on the Epistle of Colossians as the basis of a series of lessons. In his introductory remarks he makes the statement that even though the city Colosae was of very little consequence in the Roman world, and has been totally wiped off the face of the world by earthquakes since, it gives its name to one of the most important, if not the most important Epistles.

That got our attention, of course, but he let us find out why as the sermon continues. The great discovery we made was that the message of the book is simply that Jesus is the perfect image, the perfect picture of God. An astounding statement and discovery that we already thought we knew, but hearing it again and realizing only in the Epistle of Colossians do we find it in writing was truly an epiphany. If we want to know what God is like we must look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of Our Faith.

Shortly after that when we went to Tyler for Jim Wallace's Ordination Sermon, Colossians was part of the Liturgist's reading. Joe Kruger was sitting next to me and he leaned over and whispered, "That's our Book!" He was right, we could claim ownership because of that sermon in that class and I always put those events together when Colossians is read, or that Christ is the perfect and true image of God.

Submitted by Ray King.

PRAYER REQUEST

Palo Duro Presbytery's **Presbyterian Cursillo #22** (or PDPC #22) will be held on **Oct. 30 – Nov. 2, 2008**, at the Mercy Center in Slaton, Texas. Serving on **Staff** at this wonderful "Short Course in Christianity" will be Presbyterians from many of Palo Duro Presbytery's churches, including Westminster and First Central in Abilene. Please be in ongoing **prayer** for all of the people who have been selected to be on Staff at this spirit-filled weekend.

At this time, God is calling Presbyterians from throughout north-west Texas to attend PDPC #22 as **Participants**. Please also be in ongoing **prayer** that all of these people will hear God's call, will answer God's call, and will come to this **Cursillo**.

THANK YOU!

Please be in ongoing PRAYER for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for the Synod of the Sun, and for Palo Duro Presbytery and its churches, including Westminster.

PANTRY NEEDS FOR September

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

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.

Budget Financial Summary

7/31/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$68,395.81
Collected: \$5,548.00	Actual Giving: \$72,411.89
Difference: (\$4,222.83)	Difference \$4,016.08

Westminster Prayer List for September 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.

Aug. 30th - Sept. 5th: Don & Elaine Leiter; Vera Mae Mills; Gretchen Tucker; & Melvin Barton

Sept. 6th - 12th: Tom & Bonnie Walters; and James & Janice Sullivan, Evelyn and Amber.

Sept. 13th-19th: Catherine Cathey; Ruth Cranor; Lexi Cruce; and Bob Prentice.

Sept. 20th - 26th: Rett Fuller; Kirk Garson; Rob & Dani Leiter; and Joseph Che.

Sept. 27th - Oct. 3rd: Scott & Janice Serrault, and Victoria; and Farren & Grace Sadler.

COME and MEET with NEW and OLD FRIENDS in CHRIST!

A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP (Cursillo Reunion Group) meets in the Library at Westminster Presbyterian Church 4515 South 14th Street, Abilene, Texas, telephone 325-692-3544, every Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

At this SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP new and old friends in Christ have the opportunity to reinforce one another and to share the Christian life.

Everyone is welcome at this SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP, regardless of whether or not they attend Westminster, have been to Cursillo, or even are Presbyterians.

This SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP is a "battery-charger:" the people in attendance listen to, accept, support, congratulate, affirm, re-assure, guide, encourage, and comfort each other; they share in each person's joys and sorrows; and they pray with, and for, the folks who are there, for other people, and for specific concerns.

YOU most heartily are invited to start coming to the "Tuesday Noon with the Lord" SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP at Westminster. *By doing so, YOU will greatly benefit yourself and other people.*



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736

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 Oct. 30 – Nov. 2, 2008, at the Mercy
 Center in Slaton, Texas, are available in the
 Narthex and from the Church Office.