

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 9 August 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Several of you have noticed that over time I've made a number of positive sermon references to the 12 Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous. That's because I think AA's 12 Step principle is the best, non-scriptural guide for leading the Christian life that you'll find anywhere. If you've never read them, they are printed in their entirety elsewhere in the *Westwind* [pg. 7]. You'll find the first six in bold print below. In between them, you'll find my thoughts on how each step speaks to all of us.

**1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.**

Let's be blunt. Something overpowers all of us. We may refer to it as generic sin, but that's a bit sanitary. If we're willing to push deeper and get "down and dirty", we can all be more specific.

**2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**

For us, the Israelite Shema of Deuteronomy 6 makes the point, "Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD alone." You can add on Exodus 20:3 for good measure, "you shall have no other gods before me."

**3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.**

We are fiercely independent people who think we should be strong enough to do everything ourselves. We aren't. We can't. We shouldn't try. The Holy Spirit didn't come just so we could wear red on one particular Sunday.

**4. Made a searching and fearless inventory of ourselves.**

In a culture where personal accountability seems to be a relic of the past, this one is easy to try to slide by. Few of us will say, "I am the greatest!" Then again, being made in the image of God tells us that we can't completely discount ourselves either.

**5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**

In worship, we do this during the *Prayer of Confession*, but we are forced to go deeper in our personal walk with Christ. We must get specific with God, honest with ourselves and detailed with someone else.

**6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

This is not the time to read another self-help book. Here we are forced to admit our weaknesses...and that, despite all our New Year's Resolutions, we continue to fail in correcting ourselves. Jesus didn't come because of our strength of character but rather for exactly the opposite reason.

I'm sure you've noticed that they don't get any easier as we go along. I'll stop here and perhaps comment on the others in a future *Westwind*.

Christ's Shalom,



## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

This month we will hold our Annual Ice Cream Social on August 24th at 5:30PM! Bring your favorite ice cream (homemade or store-bought) and toppings. The *Donation of the Month* will be any school supplies...crayons, scissors, pencils, wide-ruled lined paper, spiral notebooks, etc. These items are part of our Reagan Elementary Rally that are used throughout the year for students unable to afford the necessary supplies. Thanks for ALL you do!

We will have some special music that evening, as well, so come prepared to tap your feet and clap your hands!

### **Presbyterian Women News**

Presbyterian Women will not meet in August. They will start the new 2008-2009 Bible Study *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor* with lesson one, *Jesus Announces Jubilee*, on Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. Beverly Armstrong has graciously agreed to be giving all nine lessons. If you need a study book before the September meeting, please see Wanda Garson.

All women and friends of Westminster are welcome to join us.

There will be a  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
 (*Cursillo Ultreya*)  
 on Thursday, **AUGUST 28th, 2008**,  
 from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at the **FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 400 Orange, in **ABILENE**, Texas,  
 325-677-3501.

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 **Sue & Jim Sullivan**.

**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!

### 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 **August 10th**. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

### **August Birthdays**

- 3 - Gary Shanafelt  
Bonnie Walters
- 4 - Raymond Roberson  
Joyce Baughn
- 10 - Catherine Cathey
- 11 - Lloyd Presswood
- 12 - Jackie Serrault
- 13 - Kirk Garson  
- Janice Serrault
- 17 - Kyle Armstrong
- 27 - Vera Mae Mills
- 28 - Gerry Griffin
- 29 - Ryan Johnson

### **August Anniversaries**

- 6 - David & Carolyn Ainsworth
- 9 - Ray & Martha King
- 10 - Lefty & Andy Cleveland  
Jim & Pat Wallace
- 11 - Tom & Bonnie Walters
- 14 - Royse & Vicki Kerr
- 18 - Charles & Pat Russell
- 26 - Scott & Janice Serrault
- 31 - Farren & Grace Sadler  
Mike & Christy Gozdanovic

## Stewardship & Mission/Stewardship of Westminster

### Budget Financial Summary 6/30/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$58,624.98
Collected: \$14,334.51	Actual Giving: \$66, 863.89
Difference: \$4,563.68	Difference \$8,238.91

### YOU'RE THE KEY!

Recently, we ran out of spare keys to the church. The reason is that people are issued keys when they become session members or take on special tasks like locking up the building on Sundays. Then, when they end those activities, they forget to turn in their church keys so that they can be recycled to the next people. If you have a set of church keys that you're no longer using, please return them to the church office so that we can give them a new home. Thanks!

Gary Shanafelt, Moderator, Property Committee

### *From the Property Committee – Landscaping Westminster*

*One of the nicer features of our church is the green grass and trees in front of it, even though there have been occasional murmurs that we would look more like a church from the street if we weren't half hidden by forested landscaping. Since the shrubs along the front of the building were removed, however, there has been nothing right next to the actual building but an expanse of dirt. The grass beyond it was beginning to grow into the open area, but it appeared that it might take years before any of it actually reached the edge of the building.*

*So, a number of donors decided to give biology a push. They raised money to purchase two flats of Augustine grass and turned the money over to the Property Committee. On Wednesday, July 16, Melvin Barton picked up the sod in his trailer hitch and drove it to Westminster. A troop of volunteers was waiting for him. Over the next hour, the grass was unloaded, sod by sod, and placed along the wall. Scott Serrault then re-adjusted the sprinklers to reach it, since grass doesn't grow very well even outside West Texas without water. Now, it's up to the sod to respond to its new surroundings and give us a green carpet all the way to the edge of the church building.*

*Other Property Committee news: The Session has authorized the Property Committee to remove two trees from the front yard before the church. One is structurally unstable because of damage sustained in the July windstorm; the other is crowding out several adjacent trees.*

Gary Shanafelt, Moderator, Property Committee

### PANTRY NEEDS FOR August

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!!!

~ ~ July 10th Stated Session Meeting

Elaine Leiter, our church secretary, has enrolled in Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin Simmons University. This will require some changes in her work schedule. She will work with the pastor to ensure adequate coverage of the duties of the office. Changes will be listed in the *Westwind* and posted on the office door.

Two trees and the remaining trunk of a damaged tree need to be removed to protect our property. The Property Committee is soliciting bids for this job.

Albertson's Community Partners Program is *still* active. All members are urged to participate in this program, as it benefits our church.

The Session approved the pastor's annual 10% home loan forgiveness, which was an agreement approved when he accepted the call to Westminster eight years ago.

~ ~ ~ Martha King, Clerk

7-25-08

Dear Westminster Family,

I want to thank all of you for your monetary gift to help with my expenses to attend the annual Alleluia Music Conference at Baylor University. I have just returned from a wonderful week in Waco participating in master classes for both organ and piano, workshops for English hand-bells, conducting and composition and the sight reading of new choral music. It is truly impossible to give back to you as much as I received during that week. You have blessed my life and continue to do so in many ways. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity. May God richly bless you all.

Bonnie Walters

### LIBRARY NEWS

The books on the "Highlight Shelves" have been changed. There are now books by Philip Yancey (some are large print) and *Chicken Soup* books on several topics.

If you have read a book you think would be a good addition to the Church Library, write the name and author on a piece of paper and give it to someone on the C.E. Committee. We have some funds with which to buy new books.

***The person who does not read books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.***

Mark Twain

### SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

for  
JUNE 2008

In memory of  
**ALDEN CATHEY**  
by  
Ben & Melissa Pilcher

In memory of  
**JERRY VINCENT**  
by  
Ben & Melissa Pilcher

### BLOOD DRIVE

On June 1st the bloodmobile from Meek Blood Center was in Westminster's parking lot, thanks to Harroll Backus and Jim Halford making the arrangements. Those who made the effort to give the special gift of their blood that morning were caring folks who helped to add to the total for the Westminster account and who also helped someone immediately in need of that precious commodity. Unfortunately the total number was relatively small for the resources put forth to obtain them. In the future we will be reminding all members of Westminster who are able to go directly to the Meek Blood Center at 1150 N. 18th to donate rather than bringing the bloodmobile to our facilities.

If you have questions about your eligibility, give the center a call at 670-2798.

It seems like better stewardship of resources and time to use the center directly, plus this will allow our members to decide the best time to share their gift of blood with others.

**PLEASE DONATE WHENEVER YOU CAN!**

The honor of YOUR presence is requested at Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo # 22.

This special weekend will be hosted by Canyon's Sally Brantley, the Moderator, by the approximately 525 people who previously have attended, and by a Wonderful Staff (currently forming) made up of Presbyterians from all over Palo Duro Presbytery and beyond.

Date: October 30 - November 2, 2008.

Location: The Mercy Center in Slaton, Texas.

Attire: Casual.

Cost: \$155.00 total; and scholarships may be available.

Attitude: An open heart and a sense of fun.

RSVP: by filling out an Application Form and mailing it to the listed registrar.

Application Forms (registration brochures) for PDPC #22 and Cursillo Information handouts are available from the church office, and can be downloaded from [www.paloduropresbytery.org](http://www.paloduropresbytery.org) ("Camps & Retreats").

Questions? Just ask anyone who previously has attended.

**“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!*

**Notice about *Westwind***

**+++August 18th — next due date! +++**

If you have anything you wish to be included, 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! Elaine Leiter, Editor

P.S. I realize this is **VERY** early but I start classes the normal production week. Crystal and family will be in town as well so I'll be taking a couple days off. Thanks!

Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study

If you would like a copy of the 2009 *Mission Yearbook of Prayer & Study* we will be ordering them by the 15th of August. Please contact the church office as soon as possible so we can make a group order to receive the discount. The cost will be \$5.50/copy.

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.

Special Notice!

Due to budget constraints, the phone line in the kitchen and education wing was removed. The number was listed in the front of your most recent directory. If you dial 692-3572, you will be told it is no longer in service.

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 12 STEP PROGRAM

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to that care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly ask him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all the persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of those steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Party! Party! Party!**

**Swim Night at Buffalo Gap will be held on Friday August 15th  
from 5:30PM to 8:00PM. This will be your last chance for  
2008!**

**Bring your picnic supper or take-out, swim gear, and pool toys**

Westminster Prayer List for August 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.

July 27th - Aug. 2nd: Mark & Nancy Diggs; and Tom & Laurie Giddings, Thomas and Daniel.

Aug. 3rd - 9th: Jim & Jewell Halford; and Lloyd and Katy Presswood.

Aug. 10th - 16th: Michael Kerr; Robert & Pat Gaines; and Russell & Joan Brooks.

Aug. 17th - 23rd: Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham; and Donnie Cozby.

Aug. 24th - 30th: Don & Elaine Leiter; Rob Leiter; Vera Mae Mills; and Melvin Barton.

Aug. 31st - Sept. 6th: Tom & Bonnie Walters; and James & Janice Sullivan, Evelyn and Amber.

**THANK YOU!**

The summer 2008 Tri-Church Fellowship **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was a great success. Staff -- young, old, and in-between -- served a large number of children, ages 3 years through the fifth grade. A grand time was had by all.

The Christian Education Committee wants to thank all of the persons who supported this VBS in many ways, including prayers. Special thanks go to: Pam Veltkamp, Nancy Diggs, David Shanafelt, Ruth Cranor, Gary Shanafelt, Brandy Williamson, Kristi Lee, Jewell Halford, Farren Sadler, Elaine Leiter, Janice Serrault, Cary Cooke, Sheila Smith, Victoria Serrault, JoAnn Peterson, Margaret Gregory, Catherine Cathey, Jim Wallace, and Mary Cooke.

**THANK YOU!**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

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