

The Westwind

Volume XXXVI Issue 1 January 2007

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Merry Christmas! Yes, it's still okay to be wishing Christmas greetings even after Christmas Day. That's because, just like Easter, Christmas is a *season* of the church year. The season of Christmas extends from Christmas Day through Epiphany on January 6th, which is where we get the Twelve Days of Christmas and the carol that celebrates it. Here, at Westminster we'll observe Epiphany, the traditional day of the Magi's visit to the Christ child, on Sunday, January 7th. With that, Christmas will be officially behind us, and it won't be long before we will be looking forward to Easter.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves, there's a lot of Christian living between then and now as well as for all of 2007. I can remember as a youngster in the 50's looking towards the magical year 2000 and trying to imagine what it would be like. It seemed so far away, and now we're seven years past that milestone!

So what will 2007 bring? We don't know, of course, but we're about to find out. It's in Christian hope that we are able to move forward with confidence to whatever life brings us. Christ is always with us... there to celebrate the good times with us and there to support us in the bad times.

I wonder about Westminster in 2007. How will God bless us? How will God call upon us to bless others? How will we reach out to Abilene and the world around us? Again, we don't know exactly, but in Christ's love we are able to look to 2007 with confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us.

The other day I was going through some old notes taken during a class or something. Among the jottings was this, "each one...reach one." I don't know where it came from, but it reached off the page and grabbed me. What if that were to become the rallying cry of Westminster in 2007? It's already been expressed in other ways around the church. It was noted at our congregational gathering last year when we talking about Westminster's future.

The "Priesthood of All Believers" has long been a catch phrase of Reformed churches. It points to the fact that while some are called to a particular office within the church, all are ministers in service to Christ.

Each One...Reach One is a call to action that is not overwhelming. It's a simple call for each of us to bring one...only one...person to Christ, whether that be for the first time or be it bringing someone back to Christ. Can we do that? Would we be willing to try? With God's help can we make it a reality? I can't positively answer the first two, but the third can only be answered with a resounding, "Yes!" With God's help all things are possible!

Each One...Reach One,

Jim

Dates and Events to Remember!

January Birthdays

3 - Mary Cooke
 4 - Barbara Backus
 5 - Royse Kerr
 6 - Gretchen Tucker
 8 - Jim Halford
 11 - Margie Dawley
 14 - Sheila Smith
 17 - Jerry Vincent
 23 - Larry Black
 24 - Rebecca Merrill
 27 - Brandon Merrill
 28 - Abby Parham

January Anniversaries

1 - Russell & Joan Brooks
 1 - Charlie & Abby Parham
 4 - Mark & Nancy Diggs
 25 - Bob & Sue Siltman



Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will start the New Year of 2007 on January 9th at 10AM.

The Bible study will be lesson #5 titled *Perspectives on the Outsider, Hagar*.

Grace Sadler will present the study lesson, followed by the monthly business meeting.

As always any and all Westminster women are invited all meetings.

Notice about Westwind

+++ January 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

or put them in the *Westwind* box.

Thanks, Wanda and Elaine

YOU ALL
 are invited to the

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING *(Cursillo ULTREYA)*

on January 25, 2007,
 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm,

at FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
 in Abilene, Texas, 325-677-3501.

The hosts will be Margaret and Mark Beasley.

Bring a covered dish to share. Bring a friend!

Enjoy the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing,
 inspiration, prayer, renewal, and lots of fun!

Everyone is invited to Ultrayas, whether or not they have been to *Cursillo*, or even are Presbyterians.

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Supper will be held on Sunday, January 28th at 5:30PM. The theme for the evening will be "Western Night" and the Donation of the Month for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be beans, cornbread mixes and canned beef stew.

Thank you for the continued support of this mission!

CHURCH OFFICE GETS UPDATE

Your session has approved updates for the church office that will make things run far more efficiently.

First, numerous software updates will enhance office operations. The current system dates from 2000. We will update to Microsoft XP, which is faster and more dependable than the old Windows 98 that is currently in place. We will still be using the same computers, but added memory and updated office networking will improve efficiency. We currently use a dial-up Internet service, which is very slow by today's standards. This is being replaced with a high-speed wireless service. Currently our three office computers and fax machine share a line so only one can operate at a time. The new system will have no such limitations.

A major portion of the office update is being financed by Mary Lou Chappell's dedication of the memorial funds received in honor of Al Chappell. Mary Lou explains, "As a businessman, Al believed in the value of properly equipping the staff to function efficiently and effectively. He also came to love Westminster, its people, and its mission in the short time he was a member, so I believe this is the perfect memorial project that can help this church while also honoring the memory of Al's life." The rest of the project will be paid for with monies remaining from the Capital Campaign Fund. Our own Don Leiter is in charge of obtaining and installing the new system.

Second, a new copier will be in place in early January. The current copier was purchased in 2000 and has made nearly a half million copies. Those who have recently attempted to make copies know how cantankerous it can sometimes be. Because of its age, repair parts are also becoming hard to find. Recently parts have been obtained on-line.

Lease payments on the new Xerox copier are actually less than those for the old machine. Per copy costs are also less. Even with the lower costs, the new copier is far more sophisticated. The most dramatic new feature is full color copying. It will also be directly connected to the office computers to save time and money. Faster copy speed and greater dependability will be of great benefit.

Lunch with the Pastor

**Meet after church at Enrique's...reservation is for 12:30PM,
Sunday January 7. Dutch treat.
See you then! Jim & Pat**

Missions/Stewardship/News

Westminster's Stewardship Campaign has yielded \$113,686.00 in pledge commitments as of this writing. This figure is above last year's final total of \$112,000.00. Thanks to all committed pledgers. If you have delayed submitting your pledge or "Time and Talent" sheet, please do so as soon as possible, as the Stewardship Committee would like to have a final tally for the February Congregational Meeting.

Westminster folk are so
"talented"!

As of this date, a total of
\$742.06

Has been received from the
challenge issued by Elmwood
Pastor Sammie Ellis.

Way to go, gang!
And there is more to come;
Stay tuned for details.

Budget Financial Summary
11/30/06

Budget Monthly: \$10,350.00	Budget to Date: \$113,850.00
Collected: \$9,734.00	Actual Giving: \$130,349.78
Difference: (\$616.00)	Difference: \$16,499.78

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

October and November of 2006

In honor of Farren and Grace Sadler
by
Peggy Hawes

In honor of Sue Siltman
by
The Thursday Forum Study Club

WHAT? "A Short Course in Christianity."

NAME? Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo #19.

WHERE? Ceta Canyon Camp, Happy, Texas.

WHEN? April 12-15, 2007.

WHY? To be renewed and enriched in YOUR
faith.

HOW? Applications forms are in the Narthex.

WHO? YOU !

Westminster Prayer List for January 2007

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.

Dec. 31. - Jan. 6: Bob & Sue Siltman; Gordon & Valerie Obert; Wanda Garson.

Jan. 7 - 13: Mike & Nancy Brehm; Brenda Goodwin.

Jan. 14 - 20: Julia Wells; Phyllis Core; Bobby & Olivia King, Kierra and Jadeyn.

Jan. 21 - 27: Jim & Sue Sullivan; Tanner Walters and Rebecca Blankenship

Jan.28 - Feb. 3: Margaret Gregory; Jerry & Carla Vincent.



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