

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVI Issue 7 July 2007

Editor: Elaine Leiter

Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> members of the Palo Duro Presbytery Committee on Ministry met with your session for their Triennial visit. A bit of explanation may be in order here. First, the Committee on Ministry (C.O.M.), like all presbytery committees, is made up of elders and ministers from the various churches in the presbytery. C.O.M. is mandated by our *Book of Order* to help congregations maintain and strengthen “the mission and ministry of the particular church” (G-11.0502c). Second, the Triennial Visit is also mandated by our constitution. As the name suggests, this is a once every three years visit to “check-in” with the local session and pastor to see how things are going.

First Presbyterian Church Breckenridge pastor Andy Channer, along with Elder Ruth Ann Campbell and Rev. Howell Martin, both from Sweetwater, made up the visitation team. They started by asking the session members to share the positive things happening at Westminster. Items mentioned included our worship services, especially our music program; our volunteers who sit with Kyle on Sundays, the Tri-Church Vacation Bible School, the many members who volunteer at non-profits around the city, our caring for one another, and a lot more. It didn't take long for the elders to develop a lengthy list. (Your session members did the talking. I listened.)

Then Andy asked the elders to share their concerns. There were three quick responses... our shrinking numbers, advancing age of our members, and the lack of young families with children. I suspect none of those come as a surprise to you, but neither are they unique to Westminster. After listening for a good while, Andy made an interesting observation. He suggested that we might look to who we are already...mostly senior adults...

for where God may be calling us into future ministry. He asked what a church serving senior adults might look like, and if we could see ourselves in that role.

Following our meeting, Andy sent an email to our Executive Presbyter Rich Schempp and sent me a copy. I'd like to quote from his comments to Rich, “The church is very concerned about the future as it deals with declining enrollment and lack of youth. Yet there is much good going on in worship, fellowship, caring for each other, accepting who's different and communication (specifically the use of a Phone Tree).” Andy continues, “A statement from an observer was shared: **‘This is the most active, busiest, small congregation I have ever seen,’**” Andy added, “I agree with that assessment.” Andy concluded his comments with this, **“I believe the concern this church has now makes their future bright with possibilities as they consider their purpose in the years to come.”**

A person from the outside who is looking in often sees what those in the midst of things don't see. In our case, Andy and the other members of C.O.M. see some very positive things. I encourage all Westministerites to accept the pat-on-the-back with thanksgiving to God and with renewed energy for the future.

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship on July 22nd. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be any paper products.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!



### **Presbyterian Women News**

There will be no meetings during July and August. The new study will begin in September.

### **Notice about Westwind**

+++July 23rd— 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!

There will be a  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
 held at the  
**FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 in Abilene, Texas, 325-677-3501,  
 on **JULY 26**, 2007,  
 from **6:30pm** – 8:30pm.

**YOU**  
 are invited to this  
**Cursillo ULTREYA**,  
 where **YOU** will  
**enjoy** the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing,  
 inspiration, prayer, renewal, and lots of fun!

The hosts will be **Barbara Kelly & Rosemary Young**.

**Come yourself. Bring a covered dish** to share. Bring a **friend!**

**EVERYONE is welcome at Ultreyas, whether or not they have been to *Cursillo*, or even are Presbyterians.**

### **July Birthdays**

3 - David Shanafelt  
 4 - Lefty Cleveland  
 10 - Mary Frances Roberson  
 11 - Michael Kerr  
 16 - Elaine Leiter  
 17 - Evelyn Sullivan  
       Robert Gaines  
 18 - B.J. Mann  
 20 - Pam Veltkamp  
 22 - Tom Walters  
 25 - Frances Barnes  
 30 - Cecile Manter  
 31 - Mallory Gozdanovic

### **July Anniversaries**

6 - Cary & Mary Cooke  
 26 - Robert & Pat Gaines  
 30 - Gordon & Valerie Obert  
 31 - Don & Elaine Leiter

***A Short Course in Christianity***  
**APPLICATION FORMS** for  
 Palo Duro Presbyterian **CURSILLO #20** (PDPC #20),  
**October 25 –28, 2007**,  
 and **Cursillo INFORMATION HANDOUTS**,  
 are available in the **Narthex**, or from the **Church Office**.

Address Change:  
 Kreg A. Porter, 832128  
 Hughes Unit 7G2T  
 Route 2, Box 4400  
 Gatesville, TX 76597

**Missions/Stewardship/ Thanks to You**

**Budget Financial Summary  
430/07**

Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16	Budget to Date: \$55,185.80
Collected: \$12,0079.45	Actual Giving: \$58,724.08
Difference \$1,042.29	Difference \$3,538.28

**PANTRY NEEDS FOR July**

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!!!

**From the Session ~ ~ ~ NEWS from June 10th**

Westminster will continue to include A PRAYER FOR WESTMINSTER in the Worship Services through July, as we seek God’s will for our future. Session members will offer the prayers.

The Committee on Ministry of Palo Duro was held prior to the Session meeting. Rev. Andy Channer of Breckenridge, Rev. Howell Martin of Sweetwater and Elder Ruth Ann Campbell of Sweetwater led the meeting. A brief discussion was held by the Session, who felt this was a rewarding and encouraging experience.

Plans are underway for our Westminster Reunion on July 29. Details will be announced.

Abby Parham  
Acting Clerk

**C**hristianity  
**U**plifting  
**R**enewal  
**S**piritual  
**I**nspiration  
**L**ove  
**L**iberation  
**O**pportunity

**R E M I N D E R**

Vacation Bible School

will be at

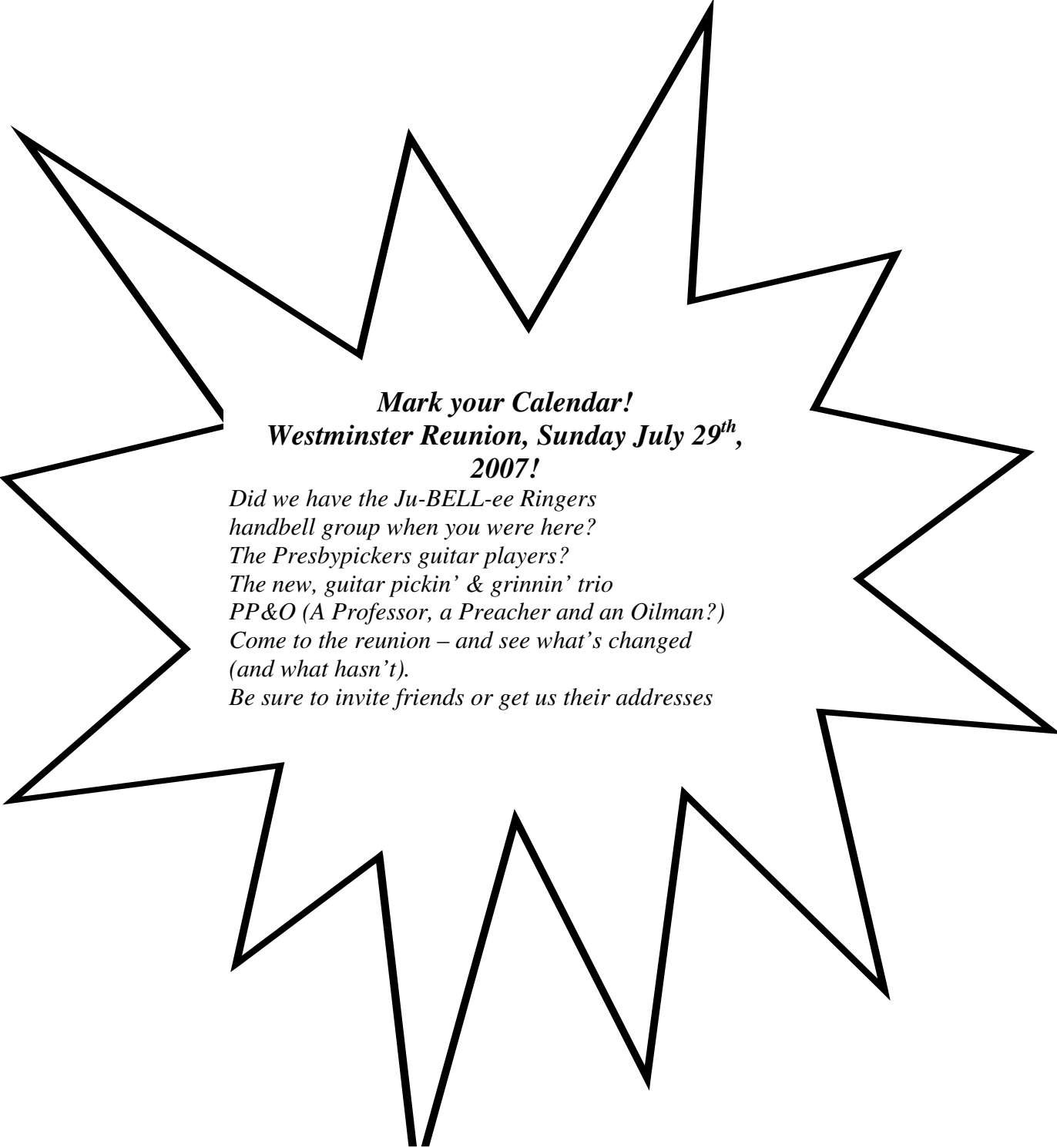
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
on July 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>,  
from 6pm -8pm.

Please bring CHILDREN --  
Ages 3 years thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!

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.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help.  
Sign-up in the Narthex.



**Mark your Calendar!**  
**Westminster Reunion, Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>,**  
**2007!**

*Did we have the Ju-BELL-ee Ringers  
handbell group when you were here?  
The Presbypickers guitar players?  
The new, guitar pickin' & grinnin' trio  
PP&O (A Professor, a Preacher and an Oilman?)  
Come to the reunion – and see what's changed  
(and what hasn't).  
Be sure to invite friends or get us their addresses*

We will be sending invitations to the Reunion. If you are concerned that we'll miss someone, please send their mailing address to:

JoAnn Peterson  
6 Turnberry Cr.  
Abilene, TX 79606

Westminster Prayer List for July 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.

July 1st - 7th: David & Carolyn Ainsworth; Frances Barnes; and Phyllis Core.

July 8th - 14th: Robert & Pat Gaines; and Mike & Nancy Brehm.

July 15th - 21st: Jim & Jewell Halford; and Brenda Goodwin.

July 22nd - 28th: Jerry & Carla Vincent.

July 29th - Aug. 4th: Tanner Walters and Rebecca Blankenship; and Margaret Gregory.

Abilene Community Band Annual Patriotic Concert

Church of the Heavenly Rest will present the Abilene Community Band Annual July 4th Concert and Picnic. The Annual Patriotic Concert by the Abilene Community Band, Joe Stevens, Conductor on Wednesday, July 4th at 7:00PM on the Shady East Lawn at South 6th and Meander.

Come bring a picnic basket, lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the hour-long concert beginning with the National Anthem sung by Dr. Jayne Middleton, HSU voice professor. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Rep. Susan King.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**  
**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

---