

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVI Issue 3

March 2007

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As was mentioned during our Ash Wednesday service, Lent is in many ways a far better time for deepening our spirituality, both personally and communally, than is Advent. The season is simply not as hectic, especially in the secular world. The parties occur before Lent not during as in Advent. Lent is not a time spent hurrying around spending too much money on too many gifts. That's why I encourage all of us to invest time during Lent in an intentional effort to strengthen our relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God continually reaches out to us, but we too often fail to return God's reach. Lent is a wonderful time for us to grasp God's hand more tightly.

You've already heard about several of the planned Lenten activities. The Lenten study series, *Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem*, began 2/25 at Elmwood and will alternate between there and Westminster every Sunday evening through Palm Sunday, 4/1. Pastor Sammie Ellis and I will alternate leading the lessons with each of us upfront at the other's church.

Holy Week services this year will involve all of the Tri-Churches. Wednesday (4/4) all three churches will participate in a Service of Healing and Wholeness at Grace Lutheran. This is a new service for us but is very much part of our Presbyterian heritage. Our joint Maundy Thursday (4/5) service will be here at Westminster, and a combined Good Friday (4/6) Tennebrae service will be held at Elmwood Methodist. All three services begin at 7:00 p.m.

As in past years, I strongly encourage you to attend all of the Holy Week services. Going from the high of Jesus riding victoriously into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday straight to the Easter resurrection celebration results in failing to experience the lows of the days in-between. Witnessing these lows is a very necessary step in fully comprehending the marvelous reconciliation

event of Easter.

All three churches will have their own Easter Sunday services. We will follow the same schedule as in past years: 6:00a.m. at the Labyrinth, a 7:00a.m. Sunrise service at Buffalo Gap, and 10:55a.m. in the sanctuary.

A totally new Lenten event will be held Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. here at Westminster with the Tri-Churches and the entire community invited. The title of the program is *Christ in the Passover*. It is presented by an organization called Jews for Jesus. Its members are Jews who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah. They work to spread the Gospel to other Jews as well as helping members of traditional Christian churches become more familiar with their Jewish roots.

More than 3,000 years ago, the Hebrew people were instructed by God to celebrate the Passover. That's the meal Jesus was eating with his disciple's in the upper room on the night before his death and is where we were given the Lord's Supper. The Passover meal, or Seder (say'-der) is still observed today by the Jewish people and in a slightly revised form by some Christians.

Bruce Rapp will be our presenter on March 24<sup>th</sup>. He will share with us the historic remembrances represented in the elements of the Seder meal and their spiritual meaning. It is sure to be an informative and inspiring evening. I urge you to attend this special event.

Again, during this Lenten season, please take heed of the words of this old hymn,

“Take Time to be Holy”

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship, Sunday, March 25th. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be canned fish, and the "fixin's" that go with it...tartar sauce, hush-puppy mix, cornbread mix, etc.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

### **PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH**

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!!!

### **A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**

will be held

at **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**,  
4515 So. 14th in **Abilene**, Texas, 325-692-3544.

on **March 22**, 2007,  
from **6:30pm** - 8:30pm.

**EVERYONE** is invited to this  
***Cursillo*** **ULTREYA!**

The hosts will be **Mary & Cary Cooke**

**COME yourself**. 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 Ultreyas, whether or **not** they have been to *Cursillo*, or even are Presbyterians.



### **Presbyterian Women News**

Presbyterian Women will meet for their regular Bible Study and business meeting on the second Tuesday, March 13 at 10:00AM. Catherine Cathey will give lesson #7 *Perspectives on Matriarchs - Rebekah, Leah, Rachel*.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to the meetings.

### **Notice about *Westwind***

+++ **March 19th** — next due date! +++

In an effort to distribute the newsletter on the last Sunday of each month, we are asking that all articles be submitted to the office at least a week in advance. Please send the items by e-mail to the church office: [office@wpcabilene.org](mailto:office@wpcabilene.org) or put them in the *Westwind* box. Thank you!

### **March Birthdays**

- 1 - Rob Leiter
- 2 - Bobbie Core  
Randy Serrault  
Desire M.
- 4 - Terry Carpenter
- 9 - Pat Gaines
- 11 - Gordon Obert
- 13 - Andy Cleveland
- 14 - Billy Latta
- 16 - Ray Gill
- 24 - Dorothy Murtha
- 25 - Mike Brehm
- 26 - Rev. Dr. Fane Downs
- 28 - Sydney Renee Smith
- 29 - De Nicklas

### **March Anniversaries**

- 15 - Jerry & Carla Vincent
- 31 - Ray & Connie Gill

**BOOK OF ORDER**

In the section entitled, "The Head of the Church,"  
the *BOOK OF ORDER* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), declares:

"In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God."

**Presbyterian CURSILLO**, a "Short Course in Christianity,"  
emphasizes, focuses on, and encourages, this **freedom**  
to live in the **lively, joyous** reality of the grace of God.

***Application Forms for April 12-15, 2007, are in the Narthex and the Church Office.***

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Palo Duro Presbytery's Presbyterian Cursillo #19 (or PDPC #19) will be held on April 12-15, 2007, at the Ceta Canyon Camp near Happy, Texas. Serving on Staff at this "Short Course in Christianity" will be Mary Lou Chappell, Cary Cooke, Elaine Leiter, Jim Sullivan, Sue Sullivan, and Jim Wallace. Please be in ongoing prayer for all of the folks who have been selected to be on Staff for this spirit-filled weekend.

At this time, God is calling Presbyterians from throughout north-west Texas to attend PDPC #19 as Participants. Please also be in prayer that all of these people will hear God's call, will answer God's call, and will come to His *Cursillo*.

**Deadline March 28th**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies at a cost of \$13.50 each.

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

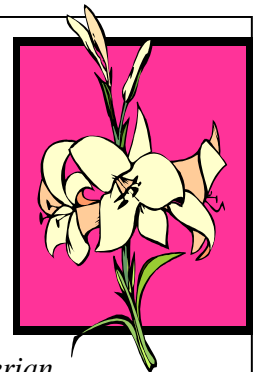
\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (cash)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check) made out to Westminster Presbyterian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put your order and cash/check in the offering plate or send to the church office.*



## Thanks to You and Miscellaneous, too!

December of 2006 and January of 2007

In memory of **Peggy Hawes**

by

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Bergquist

Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Evans

Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Powell

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Pilcher

Elizabeth E. Kruger

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ruschmeyer

Mary Lou Chappell

Mr. and Mrs. Ray B. King

Presbyterian Women of Westminster

Mary and Cary Cooke

Murray and Jane Travis

Ruth Cranor

Fane Downs

In memory of **Marilynn Cox**

by

Virginia Cox

Virginia Curry – Jim Jr.

Cindy Curry Hendricks

### **THANK YOU NOTES...**

The church has recently received notes from the sister of Marilynn Cox, whose memorial service was at Westminster on January 20, 2007.

The daughter of Peggy Hawes, who died on December 28, 2006, sent a note of appreciation for Westminster's support during her mother's illness and death

A note of appreciation was received from the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services for Christmas gifts.

First Central Presbyterian Church sent a note of acknowledgement for the \$2,869.25 Westminster contributed to the Presbyterian Food Pantry.

Thank You...

Many thanks for all the phone calls, cards and notes I received while sidelined with a broken arm. They brightened an otherwise cold and gloomy January. Westminster folk are the greatest!

Grace Sadler

To all,

I'd like to thank the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church for the use of the building on Saturday, January 20, for Marilynn Cox's memorial service. A special thanks goes to Larry Black for leading the service, Bonnie Walters for playing the special music, and Elaine for organizing and printing the bulletin. Thanks to all who gave their time and effort in making Marilynn's service a special one.

Sincerely, Virginia (Jinny) Cox

### **From the Session~~~~**

**At the stated Session meeting on February 11, 2007, approval was granted to withdraw \$15,000 from Westminster's account with the Presbyterian Foundation. These endowment funds will be used for operational expenses.**

**Mary Cooke was our delegate to the Palo Duro Presbytery meeting held in Canadian, Texas on February 23rd & 24th.**

**The annual Session retreat will be held on March 11, 2007, after the worship service.**

**Brandon and Becca Merrill will represent our congregation at the 2007 Youth Triennium to be held at Purdue University in July 2007.**

Westminster Prayer List for March 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.

February 25th - March 3rd: Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham; and Donnie Cozby

March 4th - 10th: Don & Elaine Leiter; Rob Leiter; Jean Losey; and Vera Mae Mills.

March 11th - 17th: Frances Barnes; Dan & Myong Shippy; and Tom & Bonnie Walters.

March 18th - 24th: Alden & Catherine Cathey; Ruth Cranor; Lexi Cruce; and Robert & Pat Gaines.

March 25th - 31st: Rett Fuller; Kirk Garson; Margie Dawley; Lloyd & Katy Presswood; and Betty Kruger.

What determines the date Easter Sunday falls on or when Lent begins? The Council of Nicea, in 325 A.D., determined that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. To determine the beginning of Lent, count back six Sundays before Easter. The Wednesday before the first of these Sundays is Ash Wednesday.

**Thanks to Cary Cooke for finding the following information on-line...**

There are traditionally forty days in Lent which are marked by fasting, both from food and festivities, and be other acts of penance. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are: (1) prayer (**justice** towards **God**); (2) fasting (**justice** towards **self**); and (3) almsgiving (**justice** towards **neighbor**). Today, some people give up something they enjoy, and often give the time or money spent doing that to charitable purposes or organizations.