

# The Westwind

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Editor: Elaine Leiter

On Thursday evening, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Pat and I had the privilege of attending the annual Just People banquet. Just People is one of many Christian based organizations serving the needs of people in and around Abilene.

The guest speaker was Quinton Peeples who grew up in Abilene and has since had a successful career as a television and movie screenwriter in Los Angeles. I expected a standard after dinner speaker with a few jokes, some interesting stories, and a short moral point at the conclusion. What those gathered heard was far more.

Peeples told of how his life in the fast lane changed forever on the day his daughter was diagnosed with autism. That hit close to home, because we at Westminster witness first-hand Jeff and Leona dealing with Kyle's autistic challenges. Also, our grandson, Tristan, has Aspergers Syndrome, which is a form of autism. Peeples spoke of his initial despair at the news, and of how he and his wife dealt with the reality. He went looking for the top doctors, support people, and therapists. She turned to prayer. He said at first that angered him. He felt he was doing all the work, but Peeples' view slowly changed. To shorten the story, Peeples, an Episcopalian, turned to God and became the cofounder of Thad's, "a community dedicated to bringing the love of Jesus to the lives of people in positive, practical and transformative ways" in L.A.

Peeples began his talk by asking each of us to write down a place where missionaries go to serve Christ. Most identified some continent or distant city. He then told us to write down our address. Peeples then went on to encourage his listeners to consider their homes to be the starting point for

missionary work. He said home is the first place to show God's love. He assured us that the rest would follow. I think he's right. Showing Christ's love to the ones dearest to us by "doing" for them enables us to share that love by "doing" for an ever widening circle of family, friends, coworkers, and others we don't even know by name.

Peeples made several other points that rang true. One concerned his response when people asked him about some of the hot button issues facing the church today; such as the place of homosexuals in our churches, gay marriages, abortion, etc. Peeples said he responds this way, "Are all the poor fed? Are all the homeless sheltered? Is the world free of injustice? When all of that is taken care of, I'll be happy to talk about \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)." I think his point is well made.

Finally, Peeples asked us to write down this affirmation, "I am an eternal spiritual being with a divine destiny in God's great universe." That too is worth remembering, because we are.

Christ's Shalom,



## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship May 27th. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be any woman's products...soaps, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!



### **Presbyterian Women News**

This will be the last Bible lesson for the 2006 - 2007 year. The new study will begin in September. There will be no meetings during June, July and August.

On May 8th at 10:00AM, Lesson #9 *Perspectives on Providence - Joseph* will be given by Martha King. After the business meeting we will celebrate the Birthday Offering with a salad potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

All women and friends are invited to attend.

### YOU

are **INVITED** to the  
***SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING***  
that will be held at

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
in , Texas, 325-692-3544,

on **May 24, 2007,**  
from **6:30pm** - 8:30pm.

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

The hosts will be **Janice Serrault & Betty Kruger.**

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

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

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

### **Notice about Westwind**

+++ **May 21st** — 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!

### **May Birthdays**

- 2 - Peg Ruschmeyer
- 4 - Melvin Barton
- 5 - Ed Shelly
- 10 - Farren Sadler
- 16 - David Ainsworth
- 17 - Ray King
- 24 - Shelby Peaton

### **May Anniversaries**

- 15 - Curtis & Lauren Johnson
- 23 - Mike & Nancy Brehm
- 25 - Cade & Charlotte Smith
- 26 - Raymond & Mary Roberson
- 27 - Jim & Sue Sullivan

Missions/Stewardship/ Thanks to You

Thanks so much for your love and support during our time of grief at the loss of my beloved mother, Dorothy Singer. Pat & Robert Gaines

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

March of 2007

In memory of James Dawley by Margie Dawley

In honor of Betty Kruger by Farren & Grace Sadler

From the Session ~ ~ ~ ~ April 1, 2007

The pictorial directory is finally ready to go to the printer. The church now has a color copier, and with additional software, could print future directories. The Session is requesting Special Gifts purchase the necessary software, which is not expensive.

In another action, after learning how the Presbytery is funded, the Session voted to send Palo Duro Presbytery \$1000.00 to assist in operational expenses.

The Session again discussed the need for future planning for Westminster, and a prayer and meditation service is planned for April 29 at 6 p.m. Everyone is urged to join in this time of discerning God's will for our church.

Spring Work Day is scheduled for Saturday morning May 19th, and workers are always needed for this project.

Martha King Session Clerk

PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

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!!!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, meals and cards while I was recovering from my surgery. I want to thank Jim Wallace for being at the hospital before my surgery with comforting thoughts...I am feeling better, but not 100% just yet. It is very comforting to know everyone thinks about you, even though I haven't been able to attend. I have felt the prayers and feel very blessed to be a member of such a wonderful Church family.

Peace, Vicki Kerr

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Tri-Church VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
Sunday July 15 - Thursday July 19, 2007,  
Pre-K thru 5th Grade, here at **Westminster**.

Since the theme is *Western*, we need western-type items for decorations (be sure to put your name on each item you lend): boots, hats, ropes, and anything western (NO hay).

We also need lots of volunteers: to help in the kitchen;  
to help with crafts; and just to help out in general.

Please save small Pringle cans. We also need donations of money and paper goods.

Please contact Jewell Halford or Mary Cooke: if you have any western items to lend;  
if you can make any donations; if you will serve as a volunteer;  
and/or if you have any questions about this VBS.

**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.

Westminster Prayer List for May 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.

April 29th - May 5th: Al Windham; Ray & Connie Gill; Luther & Beverly Hollowell; and Rodney Price.

May 6th - 12th: Rosemary Walford; David Shanafelt; and Lefty & Andy Cleveland.

May 13th - 19th: Joseph Che; Gerry Griffin; and De Nicklas.

May 20th - 26th: Tish Hunter; Bob & Sue Siltman; and Brenda Merrill, Brandon and Rebecca.

May 27th - June 2nd: Gary & Nancy Shanafelt; Pam Veltkamp; and Larry & Nedra Black.

**Summer Camp is Coming! Sign Up Now!**

**Camp dates:**

Servant Leadership Camp (Grade 9, 10, or 11 completed) -- June 3-6, 2007

Mini-Camp (Grade 1, 2, or 3 completed) -- June 6-9, 2007

Elementary Camp (Grade 4 or 5 completed) -- June 10-15, 2007

Middle School Camp (Grade 6, 7, or 8 completed) -- June 17-22, 2007