

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 11 November 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

You probably know that we Presbyterians celebrate two sacraments...The Lord's Supper and Baptism. Do you know why only two while other traditions have several more? What makes a sacrament a sacrament? Let's see if I can answer those and some other questions.

"Sacrament" comes from a Latin word that classically meant something sacred. In the third century, Augustine described sacraments as "visible signs of an invisible grace." This rather broad definition led the church in the Middle Ages to list as many as thirty different sacraments. In the thirteenth century, the church set the number at seven. In the sixteenth century, the Protestant Reformers argued that there are two...Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which had been, as our *Directory for Worship* puts it, "instituted by God and commended by Christ." Today you'll often hear sacraments described as "signs and seals." Again from the *Directory for Worship*, they are, "signs of the real presence and power of Christ in the Church, symbols of God's action. Through the sacraments, God seals believers in redemption, renews their identity as the people of God, and marks them for service."

In our Reformed tradition, we emphasize that, although there are narrowly defined exceptions, both sacraments are public acts and are celebrated within the community of faith at worship. Baptism is a one-time act, as in the Nicene Creed, "We acknowledge one baptism..." For that reason we honor baptisms from other traditions with the caveat that the baptism made use of water and included the Trinitarian formula, "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

The Lord's Supper, however, is to be celebrated in the words of our *Book of Order*, "regularly and frequently enough to be recognized as integral to the Service of the Lord's Day." The minimum requirement is at least once a calendar quarter, but it can be celebrated as often as every Sunday. That was John Calvin's desire.

You'll notice that we never celebrate either of the Sacraments without the proclamation of the word. Baptism and the Lord's Supper, then, are "dramatizations (sometimes called "sign acts") of the Word that is proclaimed, appealing to sight, touch, and taste as well as sound. It is possible to hear the Word of God without the sacraments, but there are no sacraments apart from the Word that gives them meaning" (Donald K McKim, *Reformed Theology*).

The atmosphere at the Lord's Supper is often somber, while baptisms are just the opposite. Actually it is fitting for both to be joyous in nature. In baptism we rejoice at the introduction of another member of the household of God. At the Lord's Supper, we can also rejoice in the reconciling act that leads us away from the Table refreshed and feed, ready to serve the risen Lord! It is proper to say that we *celebrate* the sacraments as the people of God in Christ, sustained by the Holy Spirit!

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

### Dates and Events to Remember!

Greetings from beautiful Buffalo Gap!  
Once again the Sullivan Family plans to host our ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK LUNCHEON AT THE PRESBYTERIAN ENCAMPMENT!  
As always, we will furnish the turkeys, dressing and giblet gravy. Please plan to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you would be willing to bring paper goods, please let me know (by phone or e-mail listed below). The proceeds from THE SILENT AUCTION go to support the camp. We are blessed to be able to continue using the camp since I retired this year. Please be generous with you auction items and your money.

We will begin gathering at 11:00 AM and eat Lunch at 1:00 PM.

Your RSVP will help us have the appropriate amount of food...there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

We very much look forward to being with you again!

Christ's love and our too,

THE SULLIVAN'S

Jim's cell: 669-1732 or e-mail: BGPMI@AOL.COM

P.S. from Elaine: Please pass this information along to family and friends as all are invited to attend...just be sure that you sign them up on the sheet in the Narthex so we'll know how many to expect and what they'll be bringing!

### Presbyterian Women News

On Tuesday, November 11th Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:00AM in the church library. They will study Lesson #3, *Debts are Forgiven*.

The Thank Offering Potluck Luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the Bible Study and business meeting.

Hostesses for the luncheon are Margaret Gregory and Abby Parham.

All women and friends are invited to attend either or both the Bible Study and luncheon.

### Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your **birthday** or **anniversary** this month, please be sure to attend the Monthly Potluck Luncheon on **November 16th**.

Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of the Fellowship Time!

There will be a  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
(*Cursillo Ultreya*)  
on Thursday, **NOVEMBER 13, 2008**,  
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,  
at the **FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 400 Orange, in **ABILENE**, Texas,  
325-677-3501.

There will be great **fellowship**, good **food**, grand **music**, sincere **praise**, joyous **singing**, wonderful **inspiration**, thoughtful **prayer**, genuine **renewal**, and much **fun**

The hosts will be **Janice & Gene Six**.

**ALL** persons are **welcome** at Ultreyas, whether or **not** they have been to *Cursillo*,

**or** even are Presbyterians; **so**  
**COME YOURSELF**, **invite a friend**,  
and **bring a covered dish** to share!

### Birthdays

- 1 - Lexi Cruce
- 4 - Kelly Tindall
- 6 - Casey Tindall  
David Tindall
- 8 - Rett Fuller
- 12 - Russ Evans
- 13 - Mary Alice Headstream
- 15 - Nancy Diggs
- 17 - Jade Marie Thayer
- 20 - Betty Kruger  
Pat Russell
- 21 - Kreg Porter
- 24 - Sue Sullivan  
John Headstream  
Valerie Obert

### Anniversaries

- 1 - Gary & Nancy Shanafelt
- 22 - Jim & Marie Snelgrove

Missions/Stewardship/Miscellaneous

**PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER**

Jelly, canned meats (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.),  
flour, sugar 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!!!

Remember that the Thanksgiving bags are also available.

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. Thanks!

**Notice about Westwind**

**Next due date! +++ November 17th at 3:00PM +++**

If you have anything you wish to be included in the Westwind, please send the items by e-mail to the church office: office@wpcabilene.org or put them in the Westwind box. This is early due to Thanksgiving!



**Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo #23**



**will be held on November 5-8, 2009,**



**at Camp Butman, near Merkel, Texas.**



POINSETTIA TIME!!!

Guess what Westminster? I know it seems very early, but it's getting to be that time of year when we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! Once again you will have the opportunity to purchase a Poinsettia plant. It is always a joy to see these lovely flowers as they adorn our sanctuary during the Christmas Season! Moreover, it's a joy to be reminded of our loved ones, especially during this blessed time of year!

If you would like to order a Poinsettia plant for a loved one, in memory of a loved one, or simply for the Christmas holiday beatification of your own home, please complete the order form and return it with your cash or check to the church office, or offering plate. Be sure to reference "Poinsettia order" on your check.

Orders must be in by November 30th!

Cost per 6 ½ baskets & bow Poinsettia.....\$10.00

Poinsettias for the Advent Season may be ordered for the church sanctuary through November 30th.

Please enclose the following information along with \$10.00 per plant. Send to the church office or leave in the offering plate.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Plants \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** as of 9/31/08

<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>2008 YTD</b>	<b>2008 BUDGET</b>
2008 Pledges	\$10,606.00	\$90,503.00	\$111,000.00
SS Offering	\$58.01	\$232.02	\$250.00
Plate Offering	\$377.00	\$3,240.88	\$6,000.00
Endowment Transfer	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$59,039.00
Interest Income	\$0.35	\$4.37	
Other Income		\$567.00	
Utility Reimbursement		\$1,684.85	\$1,800.00
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,041.36</b>	<b>\$126,232.12</b>	<b>\$178,089.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$14,865.92</b>	<b>\$117,695.92</b>	<b>\$178,089.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$6,175.44</b>	<b>\$8,536.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Budget Financial Summary**  
9/30/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83    Budget to Date: \$78,166.64  
 Collected: \$11,041.01    Actual Giving: \$93,975.90  
 Difference: \$1,270.18    Difference: \$15,809.26

Property Committee News

The Property Committee has contracted the services of Teresa Clifton and her husband Keith to carry out basic cleaning of the church (sweeping, mopping, cleaning the restrooms) once a week. They will come in either Friday afternoon or Saturday, so that the church will be ready to go on Sunday. The expense will be split between us and the Classical Academy. Their supervisor is Gary Shanafelt, Moderator of the Property Committee, so if something appears amiss, he is the person to contact.

Directory Changes or Additions

James, Rebekah and David Chenevert  
 5625 Yellow Brick Road  
 Abilene, TX 79602

Patrick Messersmith, Kristi Lee and Conner  
 3717 Trinity Lane  
 Abilene, TX 79602

Katherine Flanary  
 1247 Vine  
 Abilene, TX 79602

**YES, there are folks who are waiting  
 for **YOU**  
 to invite them to **Westminster!****

Westminster Prayer List for November 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.

Nov. 2nd - 8th: Gerry Griffin; De Nicklas; and Patrick Messersmith, Kristi Lee, and Connor.

Nov. 9th - 15th: Brenda Merrill, Becca; Brandon Merrill; Tracy Pierce; Katherine Flanery; and Walter Christen.

Nov. 16th - 22nd: Gary & Nancy Shanafelt; Rudy Murillo, Arthur, Leo; and Larry & Nedra Black.

Nov. 23rd - 29th: Bobbie Core; Vernon Glaze; and David & Jamie Tindall, Casey, and Kelly.

Nov. 30th - Dec. 6th: Pam Veltkamp; Holley Moysenko, and Chanuis Moysenko-Shaw; and Hyunshun Shin.

**Having Our Say,  
the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years"**

by Sarah & Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth

This is the story of two sisters born before 1900 to a father who was born into slavery and a mother of mixed race who was born free and could have "passed" for white. Both were educated, along with the other 8 children in the family, and had careers as dentist and teacher. By choice neither sister married, but spent most of their years living together as family and best friends.

The book isn't really a biography but is compilation of history and reminiscences of the family and what it meant to be "colored" in the late nineteenth century in the South. A thoroughly delightful book found in the biography section of our library --- from lack of a better place for it!

Elizabeth "Bessie" died at 104 in 1995. Sarah "Sadie" died at 109 in 1999.

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*"Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul"*

Inscribed beneath the bust of Mark Twain in the Hall of Fame



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**