

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 10 October 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

## From the Pastor's Pen...

I'm sitting at my desk on a Monday morning with Wanda waiting for me to write my article for this October Westwind. My desk is a mess...even worse than usual. There are extra things on my plate that I don't normally have to think about. I do have at least an idea for next Sunday's sermon, which is World Communion Sunday, but that doesn't help with what to write in this Westwind article. I do not understand how the columnists who write columns every week, and sometimes more often, do it. Or, for that matter, how the creators of the everyday "funny paper" strips keep it up. And it's just another day at the start of another week.

For all my whining above, I know that others in this congregation face much greater challenges than what to write in the Westwind. Quite frankly, I don't completely understand how you do it either. There are some very strong people in the Westminster family.

Well, I say I don't understand, but I do, at least partially. Your strength, while at times not as strong as you might want it to be, comes from your relationship with a triune God...one who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Talk about something difficult to understand.) The Psalmist writes, "Even if I go into the depths of Sheol, you are there." Jesus, said, "Lo, I am with you always." He set no limits on where that might be. That is such a wonderful promise. That is such a wonderful assurance to hold onto. That is a gift of hope that knows no bounds. That is why we give praise and thanksgiving to God!

The sermon idea, and that's all it is, is prompted by our celebration of World Communion Sunday. For whatever reason, the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" is bouncing round in my head. It is by no means a religious song. It comes from Oscar and Hamerstein's 1945 musical "Carousel." God is not mentioned in the lyrics, yet as a Christian the song has meaning because I can easily experience Christ in the lyrics.

World Communion Sunday reminds us the we, too, never walk alone. As Christians go to the Table across the globe, they go knowing that Christ is at the Table, wherever they might be and that fellow Christians are there beside them as well. In a very real sense, we all go to one Table, the same Table.

In the Reformed tradition, we place great emphasis on the reality of community. On Worldwide Communion Sunday we are reminded of exactly how large that community really is. I look forward to dining with all of them and especially with you on World Communion Sunday.

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual Stewardship Luncheon will be held after Worship, Sunday, October 19th.

The *Donation of the Month* will be Thanksgiving-type items for the Presbyterian Food Pantry, as they are in desperate need.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!



### **Presbyterian Women News**

Presbyterian Women will study Lesson #2, *The Poor Hear Good News*.

They will meet on Tuesday October 14 at 10:00AM in the church library.

Y'all come, bring a friend!

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

**October 20th— next due date! +++**

If you have anything you wish to be included in the next *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!

### Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your **birthday** or **anniversary** this month, please be sure to attend the after-worship coffee time on

**October 12th.**

Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

### **October Birthdays**

- 4 - Grace Sadler  
Cary Cooke  
Mark Smith  
Skyler Johnson
- 5 - Connie Gill
- 12 - David Chenevert
- 13 - Mary Lou Chappell  
Dante Thayer
- 15 - Carolyn Ainsworth  
Jean Losey
- 21 - Harroll Backus  
Jeff Armstrong
- 24 - Pat Wallace
- 26 - Morrigan Gozdanovic
- 27 - Connor Messersmith
- 28 - Crystal Leiter
- 29 - Jamie Tindall
- 31 - Joan Brooks

### **October Anniversaries**

- 11- Cary & Mary Alice Headstream
- 31- Burl & Pat Hambrick

### There will be a **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING** *(Cursillo Ultreya)*

on Thursday, **OCTOBER 16, 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 **Pat & Jim Molnar**.

**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!

**EVANGELISM**  
**really is the task**  
**and the responsibility of**  
**EVERYONE,**  
**and NOT just the task and**  
**the responsibility of the**  
***Evangelism Committee!***

**PANTRY NEEDS FOR OCTOBER:**

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!!!

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.

**“WILL’S WAR”**

by Janice Woods Windle

“Will’s War” is a novel based on a true legal episode in Texas history. The trial described took place in Abilene during 1917, at the height of World War I. Along with the expected characters, one of the most unexpected is the rabid, anti-German hysteria that played such an important role in the trial and in the background of the other characters.

This book has a legal story, a cultural story, a story of unions, a story of patriotism, and a story of family love and support.

“Will’s War” may be found in the church library in the Fiction Section. If you have not read it already, please stop by, check it out, and read it!

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 “That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with profit.”

(William Ellery Channing---1838)

If you have ever been interested in the life of St. Francis, then The Road to Assisi: the Essential Biography of St. Francis is the book for you. Paul Sabatier, a French theologian and pastor, dedicated the second half of his life to the study of St. Francis. The best selling biography was published in France in 1894. Jon Sweeny edited the book with comments that update the classic work for today’s reader.

The story begins with Francis’s childhood as the son of a wealthy textile merchant and continues with tales of his wild, reckless youth, his year as a prisoner of war, the years of his conversion and finally to his years of dedication to his vow of poverty. This is a fascinating portrait of a man’s dedication to serve God. It is, also, an interesting glimpse into the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

I would highly recommend this book. It is available in our very own Westminster Presbyterian Church library,

Submitted by: Nancy Diggs

### SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING NOTES

Robert Gaines, Mark Smith and Scott Serraut have served as volunteer custodians for many months, and we appreciate the many hours they have devoted to maintaining our facility. Scott served as volunteer custodian until his new job required time that he had previously devoted to the church. Then Robert and Mark assumed these duties, but have resigned due to their ever-increasing work loads. Westminster owes these three men a debt of gratitude. Please take time to thank them for all their work. The property committee is searching for alternative ways to cover this job, but due to budgetary shortages it will be difficult.

The Session accepted the resignation of Mary Lou Chappell, who is in the process of selling her home and moving closer to her daughters on the east coast. Her resignation was accepted with appreciation for her service and regrets at her resignation. She has served as Moderator of the Stewardship Committee, which has been challenging due to a very tight budget. Pam Veltkamp will now head the committee.

The proposed budget for 2009 was approved by the Session and will be presented to the congregation at our Stewardship Luncheon on October 19. This is a *bare bones* budget and includes only salaries and essential operational costs. We are at the critical point where Westminster is forced to cut gifts to missions from the budget. This includes the Medical Care Mission, Meals on Wheels, Presbyterian Food Pantry, Presbyterian Children's Homes and other worthy causes we have previously supported. This is a *critical time* for our church.

We recently withdrew an additional \$10,000 from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation to cover operational costs, in addition to \$20,000 we withdrew in April. In less than six months we have withdrawn \$30,000. Westminster is at the point where we meet our expenses by withdrawing from our savings, and the Session is gravely concerned. The Session's concern is that the congregation may not be aware of the present situation. Be in prayer for our church and the future.

Martha King, Clerk of Session

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT as of 8/31/08

| RECEIVED               | AUGUST              | 2008 YTD            | 2008 BUDGET         |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2008 Pledges           | \$10,281.00         | \$79,897.00         | \$111,000.00        |
| SS Offering            | \$26.00             | \$174.01            | \$250.00            |
| Plate Offering         | \$216.00            | \$2,863.88          | \$6,000.00          |
| Endowment Transfer     |                     | \$20,000.00         | \$59,039.00         |
| Interest Income        | \$0.76              | \$4.02              | \$1,800.00          |
| Other Income           |                     | \$567.00            |                     |
| Utility Reimbursement  |                     | \$1,684.85          |                     |
| <b>INCOME</b>          | <b>\$10,523.76</b>  | <b>\$105,190.76</b> | <b>\$178,089.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>         | <b>\$11,701.64</b>  | <b>\$102,830.00</b> | <b>\$178,089.00</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b> | <b>(\$1,177.88)</b> | <b>\$2,360.76</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       |

### PRAYER REQUESTS

*Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo # 22 – or PDPC # 22 -- will be held at the Mercy Center in Slaton, Texas, on **October 30 – November 2, 2008**. Presbyterians from throughout Texas will be attending this **Short Course in Christianity** as Staff and as Participants. The people serving on Staff at PDPC # 22 will include Cary Cooke, Mary Cooke, Betty Kruger, Elaine Leiter, Janice Serrault, Jim Sullivan, and Sue Sullivan. Catherine Cathey, and hopefully some other folks from Westminster, will be attending as a Participants.*

*Please be in on-going prayer:*

- that all aspects of **Cursillo** will be done in accordance with God's Will;*
- that the Lord will be with, and will keep safe, each and every person who will go to this **Cursillo** weekend;*
- that all persons involved with **Cursillo** always, and only, will rely on Jesus Christ;*
- that the Holy Spirit will guide everything that happens at **Cursillo**; and*
- that **ALL** of the people called by the Lord God to attend PDPC #22 as **Participants** will answer this call.*

*Thank you; and De Colores!*

*Yours in Christ,*

The Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo Community

The Anniversary and  
 Birthday September  
 photograph will be  
 published in the  
 November issue of  
 the Westwind.

*Elmwood West Methodist Church  
 Presents*

### *Holiday Extravaganza an Arts and Crafts Bazaar*

*Spice up your holiday shopping with  
 An exclusive, Handmade Art & Craft  
 Show in the Big Country*

*October 24th-25th  
 Friday 1 pm—5 pm  
 Saturday 9 am—5 pm*

*1302 South Pioneer Drive  
 Call 325/692-1173*

Westminster Prayer List for October 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.

Sept. 28th - Oct. 4th: Terry Carpenter; Mark and Sheila Smith; and Mary Lou Chappell.

Oct. 5th - 11th: Royse and Vicki Kerr; Harold and Barbara Backus; and Rodney Price.

Oct. 12th - 18th: Cary and Mary Cooke; Russ and Fran Evans; and Don Hamilton

Oct. 19th - 25th: Al Windham; Ray and Connie Gill; and Luther and Beverly Hollowell.

Oct. 26th - Nov. 1st: Rosemary Walford; David Shanafelt; and Lefty and Andy Cleveland

**2009 APPOINTMENT CALENDARS**

The theme for this calendar is "God's Creation." This calendar is beautiful to look at, as well as useful in helping to plan and organize schedules. Each day has ample space to write appointments and special event. Each week has a specially-selected Scripture Verse for memorization or meditation. The cost of each calendar will be \$7.00, and the proceeds will benefit Westminster's Youth Fund. In 2008 this Fund has been used to send youth to the Buffalo Gap Camp and to the Celebration weekend. If you will be interested in ordering one or more of these calendars for yourself, and/or as gifts, please sign-up on the sheet – located next to the example of the calendar – on the counter in the front of the Church Office. The calendars will have to be ordered in early November.



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

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