

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 4 April 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

## *From the Pastor's Pen...*

Whew! Holy Week was extra special. It began with the dual celebration of Palm Sunday and Dr. Fane Downs' 20-years of ordained ministry. Well-attended Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Tenebrae services deepened our sense of the immensity of Jesus' sacrifice. We broke into shouts of "He is risen!" on Easter Sunday. Many people deserve our thanks. They include our youth for leading the sunrise service; worship committee for their hard work during Holy Week; fellowship committee for hosting the breakfast at Buffalo Gap; Presby Pickers for leading the music during the sunrise service; those who brought flowers for the Flowering of the Cross; volunteers who removed items from the sanctuary on Maundy Thursday and returned them on Easter; Bob and Bonnie and the choir; musicians Karla and Joe Mack Hill and those who I will remember to thank only after the Westwind has been printed.

Easter now moves, first, into recent memory and then out-of-sight as we head into the heat of summer and get on with our lives...or does it? March 23<sup>rd</sup> was the First Sunday of Easter, 2008, but it was not the last. At the top of your worship bulletins over the next several weeks you'll see, Second Sunday of Easter, then Third Sunday of Easter, and advancing numbers of Sundays of Easter until we reach Pentecost on May 11<sup>th</sup>. (By the way that is also Mother's Day. Now that Sunday should be some kind of celebration!) All of this is to remind us that Easter is more than one day. It is a season of seven weeks. Each Sunday during the season will have some particular emphasis on the Easter celebration. It will be very appropriate for us to greet each other with "Happy Easter!" all through the

season. And the reality is, of course, that Jesus' resurrection stands always at the center of Christian belief.

As an aside, Easter Sunday in 2009 is on April 12<sup>th</sup>. That's nearly three weeks *later* than it was this year. I'll bet I hear no complaints about that, nor will I complain myself..

Looking ahead...the upcoming graduation season will be of particular importance to our congregation. Three of our own, Gail Miller, Rob Leiter, and Brandon Merrill are members of the Class of 2008. Gail graduates from Midway High on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Rob graduates from Abilene High and Brandon from Cooper on May 31<sup>st</sup>. I don't remember much from my graduation, but I do recall our class motto, "We Finish to Begin." So it is with Gail, Rob and Brandon as they take a giant step into their futures. Congratulations to all of you!

I am getting ever more excited about being part of Palo Duro's June mission trip to Romania to work with the NOROC program, and there's a way you can symbolically go with me. Each member of the team is allowed two bags of 50 lbs each. The presbytery fills one of the bags with items already donated. The second is for our personal use. This will not be a working trip. We have been advised to pack lightly, which allows room to take items you may want to donate...up to the weight limit. You'll find a list of suggested items on page 6 in this *Westwind*. If you would like more information, please visit with me.

Happy Easter!

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship on April 27th.  
The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be any staples.  
Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

### **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!!!

### **Presbyterian Women News**

Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:00AM on Tuesday, April 8 for their Bible Study. Mary Cooke will give lesson #8 *In God We Trust*. Their monthly business meeting will follow.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to attend.

The Spring Gathering will be at First Presbyterian Church in Wichita Falls on Saturday April 19. If interested in attending call Wanda Garson.

### 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.

The **WELCOME HOME ULTREYA**  
for PDPC #21 will be held at the  
**FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
in Abilene, Texas, on  
**APRIL 24**, 2008, from **6:30pm** – 8:30pm.

**YOU** will **ENJOY** the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing, inspiration, prayer, renewal, and lots of fun; and  
**EVERYONE** is welcome at **Cursillo Ultreyas**,  
whether or **not** they have been to *Cursillo*, or even are Presbyterians.

The hosts for this  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**  
will be **Jo Bright & Mary K Haffner**

**Come yourself; bring a covered dish to share; invite a friend; and have a GREAT time!**

### 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 April 13th. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

### April Birthdays

15 - Julia Wells  
17 - Don Leiter  
22 - Jack Ruschmeyer  
24 - Bob Prentice  
- Luther Hollowell  
29 - Polly Porter

Celebrations/Miscellaneous Information/Thanks to You!

Celebration!

Gail Miller, daughter of Polly Porter and granddaughter of Charlie & Abby Parham recently completed training and has earned her Life Guard Certification. She is enjoying her job at Sonic and hopes to be hired as a Life Guard at the YMCA.

A Special "Thank You"

Thank you to Joyce Baughn and Dorothy Murtha for making sure the birthday/anniversary cakes get ordered, picked up and delivered to the church each month. Also thanks to JoAnn Peterson who has sent out reminder cards and to Phyllis Core who is now assuming that task.

To the Westminster family:

Thanks you so much for all of the cards and your concern following the loss of my brother.

Your love and support helped a great deal.

Sincerely, Pat Wallace

**CHURCH LIBRARY**

Because so many books, videos, etc., have been lost from Westminster's Library, the Christian Education Committee is going to begin a new system of follow-up. If you have a book, video, etc., checked-out for 6 months, or longer, you will receive a postcard in the mail. Please return this book, video, etc., to the Library. If you need to keep the item longer than 6 months, there will be someone in the Library to assist you after the Worship Service on the first Sunday of each month.

Please also do the Library a favor and check to see if any of the books, videos, etc., that are in your home library are stamped on the inside with the name "**Westminster Presbyterian Church Abilene.**" If so, please return them.

Your help will be greatly appreciated!

— The Christian Education Committee

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Palo Duro Presbyterian Cursillo # 21 – or **PDPC # 21** -- will be held at the Ceta Canyon Camp, near Happy, Texas, on **APRIL 10 - 13, 2008**. The people serving on Staff at PDPC # 21 will include:*

*Cary Cooke; Elaine Leiter; Janice Serrault; Jim Sullivan; Sue Sullivan; and Jim Wallace.*

*Presbyterians from throughout Texas will be attending this **Short Course in Christianity** as Staff and as 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 #21 as **Participants** will answer this call.*

*Thank you; and De Colores!*

*Yours in Christ, The Palo Duro Presbyterian **Cursillo** Community*

**Budget Financial Summary**

2/29/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$19,541.66
Collected: \$14,519.30	Actual Giving: \$22,711.35
Difference: \$4,748.47	Difference: \$3,169.69

Notice about *Westwind*

+++ **April 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!



# YOU Should Attend Palo Duro PRESBYTERIAN CURSILLO As A PARTICIPANT!

**If YOU** are a member of a congregation (Westminster) or a presbytery (Palo Duro) belonging to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), **if YOU** already have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as **YOUR** Lord and Savior, and **if YOU** would like:

- +to seek continued growth in YOUR faith and in YOUR commitment;*
- +to share Christ with other Presbyterians;*
- +to develop as a Christian in YOUR local church and in YOUR community;*
- +to enjoy a fun-filled weekend with other Christians;*
- +to renew YOUR faith;*
- +to hear from real people inspirational stories that illustrate central Christian beliefs;*
- +to experience a wonderful time of mutual refreshment with YOUR spouse;*
- +to get away from the pressures and distractions of every day life;*
- +to be guided into an ever closer and more personal relationship with Christ;*
- +to engage in social interactions that lead to deep friendships and strong support systems;*
- +to be heightened in YOUR joy;*
- +to be deepened in YOUR faith;*
- +to become more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit;*
- +to be invigorated in YOUR life for Christ;*
- +to create, strengthen, and maintain old and new relationships in very special ways;*
- +to be filled with the love that God and other Christians have for YOU;*
- +to be filled with the love that YOU have for God and for other people;*
- +to better learn how to care about God, about YOURSELF, about other people, and about the world around YOU;*
- +to be enriched in YOUR faith and life;*
- +to affect in a Christian manner the environments in which YOU have influence;*

### AND/OR

- +to take back to -- and to put into practice in -- YOUR local congregation and YOUR town what YOU learn and share as a member of a small Christian community during three days of worship, study, and communication;*

then, **YOU** should ATTEND Palo Duro Presbyterian CURSILLO # 21, at the Ceta Canyon Camp , near Happy, Texas, as a PARTICIPANT.

Cursillo is one way of growing in faith. It is neither the beginning nor the end of one's faith journey. It is neither essential to, nor exclusive of, the other parts of one's faith journey.

**APPLICATION FORMS for APRIL 10-13, 2008, are available in the NARTHEX and From the CHURCH OFFICE (or, [www.paloduropresbytery.org](http://www.paloduropresbytery.org) – "Camps & Retreats")**

**A Cursillo is ONLY three days long, but it lasts a LIFETIME!**

Westminster Prayer List for April 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.

Mar. 30 - Apr. 5th: Scott & Janice Serrault and Victoria; Farren & Grace Sadler; and Royse & Vicki Kerr.

April 6th - 12th: Jim & Pat Wallace; Cary & Mary Alice Headstream; and Harroll & Barbara Backus

April 13th - 19th: Terry Carpenter; Mark & Sheila Smith; Mary Lou Chappell; and Donnie Rinn.

April 20th - 26th: Cary & Mary Cooke; Russ & Fran Evans; and Don Hamilton.

April 27th - May 3rd: Al Windham; Ray & Connie Gill; Luther & Beverly Hollowell; and Rodney Price.

**JESUS gave each of us *The Great Commission*:**

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . . .” *Matthew 28:19***

**Accordingly, NOW is the time for **YOU** to **INVITE**  
someone **YOU** know -- or meet -- to come with **YOU**  
to **WESTMINSTER** for worship!**



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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Items for Romania

Here is a list of some of the possible items Jim can take with him to Romania. For more details see Jim's article on the front page of the *Westwind*.

Children's chewable vitamins; Ibuprofen and Advil or generic brands; Band-aids...all shapes and sizes; Acne medicine; Beanie Babies; Elmer's glue; Eye glass cases, new or used; CDs of American music, new or used; CDs of computer games; small toys like what you buy in multi-packs for birthday parties; T-shirts, good used or new ones of all sizes—promotional ones are fine. The kids love American T-shirts; Socks and underwear—boys' and girls'—all sizes except XL or XXL as most of the kids are relatively small; Pajamas—the kind you can wear to the

hospital; Clothes for small children, not baby clothes; Games—all kinds except jacks and checkers—Backgammon is the game of choice; Water balloons, regular balloons.

*Living Beyond Cancer* - a free seminar

If you or someone you know has cancer, this group is for you. *Living Beyond Cancer* teaches you ways to help yourself and your family. You, your family, and friends are welcome to attend this group, which will meet once a week for six weeks. There is no cost, but please register by calling Cancer Services Network at 672-0040 or e-mail at [acolle@cancerservicesnetwork.org](mailto:acolle@cancerservicesnetwork.org) Meetings will be Thursdays, March 27th to May 1st from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the Church of Heavenly Rest, 6th & Meander, Abilene. Light meal included.

CELL PHONE vs. BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think, "Where are my priorities?"

And no dropped calls!



Thank You Notes from Providence Classical Academy Students:

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Thanks you for letting us have our school in your Church building. We've loved your playground and gym. It is a blessing to us all.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Dillon Wilhelm, 4th Grade

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Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for letting us have our school in your Church building. I have enjoyed playing in the gym. I also enjoy art and music. I appreciate all of you very much.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Evans, 2nd Grade

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Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for letting us have our school in your Church building. We have loved your gym and playground. I do not think we could have had our school in any other place. I hope we can write to you again.

Love,  
Caleb Salmon, 2nd Grade