

The Westwind

Volume XXXVI Issue 12

December 2007

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen and yours... Remember the November 4th sermon...the one where we looked at some of the blessings you identified on the *Blessing from God* receipts? Someone suggested that since we weren't able to read all of them, we might do well to include them in the Westwind. Good idea! Here they are in no particular order:

I hereby gratefully acknowledge the following blessing from God:

Dear friends, old and new...My children, grandchildren and son-in-law...My wife of 47 years...God's gift of grace, snoring in the recliner—loving and being loved...My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...My family, my job, my church family... I am grateful for the health of my family... Westminster Presbyterian Church, Abilene...My health, our church family, our home...To share your love...My blessing is the gift of good physical and mental health...To hear God's word...My children...The gift of sight and the ability to read. How my life has been blessed by this communication, education, pleasure, so very much...Family, friends, healing, worship, joys...My Westminster family, my health, my faith, my personal family, the ability to card, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, friends...Rest within grief... Born in America...Westminster...For the most wonderful wife a man could hope for and my best friend...Family, even when things are not great... My home, my husband, my children & my grandchildren...The love of this group of God's people...Family (wife and children), good health, freedom to worship...My church family...Faith and Love...My health, family, church family, job & all my friends. For my success in life...The love of God in our hearts...My son, David, Church family at Westminster, the opportunity to contribute as part of the McMurry community...The community of

faith...My family that is so good to me...All the patriots and military who formed & maintained our country which I love...My husband...The ability to forgive...Jim & Pat Wallace...Greeting friends on Sunday morning...Westminster Presbyterian Church and its members...For sunrises...Problems that have solutions...A wonderful family, grace which I don't deserve...I am blessed with my faith and family... My family—their love and support, their lives and the people they are...Wonderful children...Living in the USA in freedom...Forgiveness of sins...My recovery from illness...For the love of family and friends. Thank You, God!...Friends...I am so thankful for God's presence in my life, and the life he has let me live...Underserved love...Faith and love...His loving comfort throughout my life, especially the tough times, and especially His gift of His Son and eternal life...For all that is good in my life, I give thanks. I give thanks for the people in my life who encourage me and were examples in my young life...For all His bounty—a lovely roof over my head & enough resources to live comfortable, family, friends, a profession I love & education to do that & so many other things...His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. My thanks for the blessing of my Westminster family, for Jim, our pastor and his wife Pat...My dear friends who keep me upbeat and looking up...My church family...We are thankful for all the blessings we (family) have received... Cursillo, for the weekend that put smiles back into my heart...My granddaughter Audrey who was born healthy...the love of my husband and children...my health...To see & hear the joy in my granddaughter's voice when I speak with her. Her love is unconditional...My retirement and investments that help me be comfortable as a senior. My sight—successful eye surgery. My health & that of my family. My daughter went to church today... the wonderful opportunities we have to study the Bible and to worship here at Westminster...(pg.2)

...My husband, my children, my grandchildren... JESUS...My wife... Health, family, friends and my faith in God's healing power...20 years of marriage to my best friend and for all the memories of our time together...Cursillo...Financial freedom, health and love...The gifts of God's grace and love...My life and my husband and family...Our family and everything good that comes from God...Family members with whom I've shared my life and who have enriched me as I've lived it...The wonderful loving God and his guidance in my life and the joy and laughter in my heart today and everyday... Health...Beautiful weather...Forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ...(1) Children (2) operation Smile (3) Good health to help others...Healthy children and grandchildren, good health, freedom to worship...my family...My church and church family, not only here at Westminster but throughout my life...I am thankful for God never giving up on anyone—especially me... Another good year with family and friends...A temporary solution to an ongoing problem...My friend, ?, who has shared her faith and love of God with me for over 50 years and for her recovery from massive health challenges this past year...His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord & Savior, and love and grace.

Now we move into Advent preparing for the celebration of God's wondrous gift of the Christ child. Given because "God so loved the world..."

Christ's Shalom,

Jim

- December Birthdays**
- 2 - Nancy Brehm
Don Hamilton
 - 3 - Gail Miller
Jim Sullivan
 - 4 - Nancy Shanafelt
 - 6 - Pat Hambrick
 - 8 - Jim Halford
 - 14 - Pete Peterson
Rodney Price
 - 15 - Vicki Kerr
 - 17 - Jerry Vincent
 - 24 - Ruth Cranor
Russell Brooks
Beverly Armstrong
 - 26 - Sue Siltman
 - 28 - Tanner Walters (Mary Ann's Son)
Maggie Peaton
- December Anniversaries**
- 23 - Lloyd & Katy Presswood
 - 31 - Jeff/Leona Armstrong

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 December 2nd. Starting this month, the Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

Coming Soon!

In the new year, the weekly bulletins will carry a "Birthdays and Anniversaries of the Week" section in with the prayer list. Please make sure that your shepherd has your special date(s). Don't know your shepherd? Call the church office during the week for that information. Office Hours are M - Noon and 1PM - 3PM, Monday - Friday. Thanks!

**Christmas Luminary Service
at Elmwood Funeral Home & Memorial Park**

We extend to you a special invitation to our service. This is the first event of its kind and we hope to start what will become an honored tradition in years to come. Elmwood will be lining the streets and decorating all of the cemetery features and the funeral home with thousands of luminaries.

Dates and Events to Remember!

Inquirers Class

During December, January, and February, the Inquirers Class will be studying portions of the Gospel According to Luke. Lessons follow the International Sunday School Lesson series and are published in *The Present Word* by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). From the First Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, the scriptural basis for the lessons is the first two chapters of Luke. Selected passages from the remainder of Luke provide the basis for the lessons through the Second Sunday of Lent. The broad theme of the lessons is God's call to the community of faith to live out the purpose for which it was created. The Inquirer's Class meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings at the far left classroom of the education wing. All are welcome and encouraged to attend on a regular basis, an irregular basis, or as a visitor.

A Great Idea!

When you are making out your Christmas cards this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Hospital
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday December on Tuesday the 11th at 10:00AM. Bible study lesson #4, *Once More, with Feeling?* Will be an open discussion so be sure to read the lesson before the meeting.

Again this year, please bring paper products (paper towels, facial tissue, toilet tissue, paper plates, cups, etc.) for Hope Haven.

Also bring a small plate of cookies for a fellowship time after the study and business meeting. (We have moved to the library for easier access for all.) Remember all women are welcome!

Notice about Westwind

+++ December 17th — 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: office@wpcabilene.org or put them in the *Westwind* box. Remember, elders, that I won't chase you down for articles...I can run fast again!

Thanks! Elaine

Second Annual Card Wall

In an effort to again help you to save on postage and on the cost of Christmas cards for your church family, we will again have the red cloth in the Narthex. Hang **one** card for **all** members and friends!

Let's fill it this time!



Missions/Stewardship News/Celebrations!

**YOU are INVITED to the
CHRISTMAS SEASON
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING**

from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm, on

DECEMBER 13, 2007, at

**FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** in **ABILENE**, Texas, 325-677-3501.

At this *Cursillo* **ULTREYA**, **YOU** will experience great fellowship, good food, grand music, sincere praise, joyous singing, wonderful inspiration, thoughtful prayer, genuine renewal, and much fun.

The hosts will be the **Bev and Don Wright**.

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

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

Position Available

We are again seeking a volunteer to fill the position of Pledge Secretary. Currently we are having to pay Marie Snelgrove \$125/month to complete these tasks apart from her position as Treasurer. Please help us with this cost-cutting measure.

Youth Fund-Raising

If you would like to reserve your Christian Photo Calendars from the annual Youth Fund-Raiser, contact the CE Committee by calling the church office. Remember that the calendars make a great gift for friends or family, and our own youth will benefit from your generosity. Thanks!

Budget Financial Summary

11/30/07

Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16	Budget to Date: \$110,371.60
Collected: \$8,470.42	Actual Giving: \$110,700.10
Difference: (\$2,566.74)	Difference: \$328.50

Christmas Gift Tree 2007

This year the Stewardship and Mission Committee has designated New Opportunities for Romanian Orphan Children (NOROC) as the recipient for our Christmas Gift Tree. It is interesting that the acronym is the Romanian word for “God Bless.”

Rev. Mary Ferris, a full-time missionary, works with older youth in the “Big-hearted Friends” program. She is in her sixth year of living in Tulcea, Romania.

For more information, please read the insert about NOROC as well as “Dragos—NOROC Success Story”. Each donation that you make goes directly to this mission. There are little or no administration or fund-raising costs.

Won't you be generous at this blessed season and make a difference in the life of a needy child? Checks can be made to NOROC.

***I really would like for you to come to church
with me at Westminster on next Sunday!***

Please just try saying these words to people you know and meet.

Because, it really is true:

“The law of any church is, and always will be, evangelize or fossilize.”

George E. Sweazy in *Let's March Abreast*

What Is Palo Duro Presbytery's **Presbyterian Cursillo?**

CURSILLO is a “*Short Course In Christianity*.” It is a three-day weekend that is intended to impact the life of the Participant in a specific, identifiable way. This retreat is organized around a series of talks given by both clergy and lay people who serve as Staff for the weekend. In addition to these talks, and the responses to these talks, there are opportunities for worship, celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, devotional moments, small group participation, and community building.

DAY ONE IS FOCUSED ON LIBERATION. The concept of liberation means being set free to live a new kind of life in Christ. It seeks to unmask both moral and psychological obstacles to living a life of grace. **Cursillo** seeks to be a particular time of heightened awareness of God's call and command.

DAY TWO IS FOCUSED ON CHRIST. It seeks to lead the participant to experience the coming to life of the truth of Christianity, which is Christ. The **message of Cursillo** is to encounter Christ, the Living Lord.

DAY THREE IS FOCUSED ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. It offers not a methodology for living but a backbone for life. **Cursillo** seeks to give shape, strength, and resilience to Christian persons, who then are challenged to shape their world after the Kingdom of Christ.

DAY FOUR IS FOCUSED ON PERSEVERANCE. It is the rest of one's life. **Cursillo** encourages Participants to form themselves into small groups in which they'll reaffirm and reinforce their Day One, Day Two, and Day Three, so that Day Four will be continued throughout life as they faithfully seek to transform their world for Christ.

Cursillo offers itself as part of the life pilgrimage of the Participant. 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. It is one way of growing in faith. It is offered as one way that the Church can equip, encourage, and empower its members to live in all of their life environments as personal agents of Christ.

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

APPLICATION FORMS
for APRIL 10-13, 2008,
are available in the NARTHEX and from the CHURCH OFFICE.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

JAIME TINDALL

Jaime joined us on transfer of letter from Brookhollow Christian Church. Jaime and husband, David, reside at 701 Briarwood with their two children, Casey and Kelly. She teaches computer science at Abilene High School. Jewell and Jim Halford, her parents, are faithful members of Westminster. You can locate Jaime on Sundays sitting with the Halford, Backus, Fuller families. Welcome Jaime!

JOYCE BAUGHN

Joyce joined on reaffirmation of faith. A native of Sweetwater, Joyce lives at 2833 Gilmer. Joyce and her husband, Bill, were married 35 years before his death. She is already a member of the choir, attends Sunday school and Bible study.

When Joyce was a first grader in Sweetwater, she fell under a train and suffered the loss of both hands. Her ability to live an active life is an inspiration to all of us. Welcome Joyce!

BEVERLY ARMSTRONG

Beverly is another new member who was previously introduced in the August *Westwind*.

Westminster Prayer List for November 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.

Dec. 2nd - 8th: David & Jaime Tindall, Casey, and Kelly; Cecile Manter; and Ed & Vivian Shelly.

Dec. 9th - 15th: Brenda Merrill, Brandon and Rebecca; Don Hamilton; and Burl & Pat Hambrick.

Dec. 16th - 22nd: Gary & Nancy Shanafelt; Pam Veltkamp; and Pete & JoAnn Peterson.

Dec. 23rd - 29th: Betsy Peaton, Ashley, Shelby, and Maggie; and Wanda Garson.

Dec. 30th - Jan. 5th: Bob & Sue Siltman; and Gordon & Valerie Obert.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that this list is open to members and regulars. Contact the church office or the Shepherd's Committee and we'll get you on the list!

SESSION MEETING REPORT ~ ~ ~ November 11, 2007

For three months the Session has spent considerable time discussing the AC/heating systems at our church. The Property Committee received five bids and after careful consideration, recommended accepting the bid of \$18,845.22 from Air-Tech. This included two new units for the education wing and a new heat pump system for the administrative wing. The two units in the education wing were 1960 models, and parts are no longer available. One unit was inoperable for seven months and the other was partially operating.

The aging administrative wing unit was inefficient and did not adequately provide heating and cooling for the copier room, the treasurer's office and the two rest rooms. The replacement unit is more efficient replacement and reduces utility costs.

In order to pay the contractor and to cover some continuing operating costs, the Session voted unanimously to withdraw \$22,000 from the Endowment Account. The need to withdraw funds from endowments is a serious concern of the Session.

Martha King, Clerk of the Session



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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED
