

# The Westwind

Volume XXXVI Issue 4 April 2007

Editor: Elaine Leiter

It doesn't seem possible, but the Lenten season is almost over. I pray you've had the opportunity take some time for reflection in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, marks the beginning of Holy Week. In the past we called this particular Sunday, Palm Sunday, but today we, along with many other congregations, refer to it as Passion/Palm Sunday. Here's the difference. Previously our lectionary texts focused only on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Now our readings begin with the Palm Sunday account but do not stop there. We continue by reading the entire Holy Week story; stopping with Jesus' burial.

The most significant benefit of this new method is that worshipers hear the entire passion story in one sitting; an opportunity that is not otherwise available. It also prevents us from moving directly from one high, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to another high, the resurrection celebration of Easter Sunday. Our Holy Week observance is not complete without the low moments of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

This year we are joining with the other members of the Tri-Church Fellowship, Grace Lutheran and Elmwood Methodist, for our various Holy Week services. We begin Wednesday, April 4th, at Grace Lutheran with a Service of Healing. This is a new worship experience for us, but it is not unfamiliar to the Presbyterian tradition. In fact, our *Book of Common Worship* includes a liturgy for such a service. This is a service that is reflective in nature. It is a time of prayer for both physical and spiritual healing. For those who wish, we pastors will be available for prayers with individuals, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil. Those who have attended a Cursillo weekend are familiar with this service, which begins at

7:00PM Wednesday. A special note, Grace has extended an invitation to those who wish to come at 5:30PM for a fellowship supper.

Westminster will host our traditional Maundy Thursday service the next evening. This will include Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Sanctuary.

Friday evening we move to Elmwood Methodist for a Tennebrae service. This will be similar but not exactly like what we have done in the past.

Saturday everyone takes a deep breath and prepares for Easter Sunday celebrations at our respective churches. Our services begin early with a 6:00AM labyrinth walk behind the sanctuary. Our Easter Sunrise service begins at 7:00AM at the Buffalo Gap's Trinity Tree with a light breakfast to follow in the dining hall. At 11:00AM the black cloth will be ripped from the cross, the lights will come on, and the organ will lead us in the joyful strains of *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!* Oh, don't forget to bring cut flowers for the Flowering of the Cross!

Another reminder, Easter Sunday is just the beginning of a six-week long celebration of the Easter season that culminates with Pentecost Sunday.

May you have a blessed Holy Week and wonderful Easter Sunday celebration!

Christ's Shalom,

*Jim*

## Dates and Events to Remember!

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship, Sunday, April 22nd. The *Donation of the Month* for the Presbyterian Food Pantry will be specified at a later date.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

### **PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL**

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!!!

### YOU

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

the **PRESBYTERIAN ENCAMPMENT**  
in **Buffalo Gap**, Texas, 325-572-3790,

on **April 26**, 2007,  
from **6:30pm** - 8:30pm.

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

The hosts will be **Jim & Sue Sullivan**

**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



### **Presbyterian Women News**

Presbyterian Women will meet for their regular Bible Study and business meeting on the second Tuesday, April 10th at 10:00AM. Grace Sadler will give lesson #8 *Perspectives on Righteousness - Tamar*.

All Westminster women and friends are invited to the meetings.

### **SPRING GATHERING**

On Saturday, April 21, all Presbyterian Women are invited to attend the Spring Gathering at First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene. The guest speaker will be Phyllis Rousch. Registration is at 9:30AM and the meeting will start at 10:00AM. The deadline for a reservation is April 17th. Call Margaret Gregory

### **Kiwanis Pancake Day** **Saturday April 28th** **Civic Center**

We will meet at 11:50 a.m. inside at the entrance to the event. See Ray King for \$4.50 advance tickets.

### **April Birthdays**

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

## Missions/Stewardship/ News

### Budget Financial Summary 11/30/06

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16 | Budget to Date: \$22,074.32 |
| Collected: \$ 15, 631.00    | Actual Giving: \$24,686.00  |
| Difference : \$4, 593.89    | Difference: \$2,611.68      |

### 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.

### Notice about *Westwind*

+++ April 23rd — 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](mailto:office@wpcabilene.org) or put them in the *Westwind* box. Thanks!

### January of 2007

A bequest from **Peggy Hawes**

### February of 2007

In memory of **Marilynn Cox**  
by  
Murray and Jane Travis

### THANK YOU!

As regards the

### “REMEMBRANCE BOOK”

That is in the Narthex,  
the Special Gifts Committee expresses  
its deepest appreciation and its sincerest thanks to

**WANDA GARSON**  
for her **calligraphy**

And

**H. V. CHAPMAN**  
for the **assembly**.

### From the Session ~ ~ ~ ~ March 11, 2007

Several routine matters were discussed at the meeting:

- Mary Cooke reported on the Palo Duro Presbytery meeting in Canadian.
- Approved the request of \$383.00 for new tablecloths. This will be presented to the Special Gifts Committee.
- April Session meeting was changed to April 1 due to conflicts.
- Parking lot repairs estimate is \$5,875.
- Approved purchase of a new chair for pastor

In addition, the Session decided to mail a letter to Westminster members stressing our declining membership and the implications this may have on Westminster's future. The Session has spent hours over the past months searching for ways to address this serious issue. But, it is not just an issue for the Session; this involves the entire church. Pray that God's guidance for our church.

Martha King, Clerk of the Session

Westminster Prayer List for April 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 1st - 7th: Scott & Janice Serrault and Victoria; Farren & Grace Sadler; and Royse & Vicki Kerr.

April 8th - 14th: Jim & Pat Wallace; Cary & Mary Alice Headstream; and Harroll & Barbara Backus

April 15th - 21st: Terry Carpenter; Mary Lou Chappell; Mark & Sheila Smith; and Wanda Garson.

April 22nd - 28th: Cary & Mary Cooke; Russ & Frances Evans; Don Hamilton; and Melvin Barton.

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