

The Westwind

Volume XXXVIII Issue 2 February 2009

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

First, from Pat and me, thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated, and we appreciate you.

What to write about in this "Ordinary Time" between Christmas and the beginning of Lent? That's right; Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 25th. There will be more to be said about that later.

I am writing this from Austin where I'm enjoying my latest Doctor of Ministry course. I took a hiatus so it's been over a year since the last course, and it is great to be back at it again. These two-week courses are intense but very rewarding. It's a pleasure to be with other pastors from all over the country as we study together under the wonderful professors here at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In the class discussion we discover how different each of our churches are, yet how similar they are as well.

God's people are God's people wherever we are planted.

We never stop learning, of course. Some of our learning is of the formal kind, such as the courses here at APTS. More commonly we learn by experience...the day-to-day learning we do just by living. Sometimes it's called the "School of Hard Knocks," but learning

can be more joyful as well. In our Christian life we refer to all of our learning of how God is at work in our lives and in the world around us as *sanctification*. It is a lifelong process by which we grow in Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Most often this learning occurs within our community of faith, where we are surrounded by the saints and where we help surround others. The Greek word for community is *koinonia*. The Scot's Confession calls the community the Kirk.

We learn by studying scripture. We learn in worship. We learn by watching others in our faith community. We learn by talking with one another. We learn over coffee. We learn during work days. We learn as we care for each other. We learn by listening. We learn by watching our children grow. We learn by turning our attention to God. What do the scriptures say? "Be still and know that I am God."

Speaking of learning, it's time for me to do some more reading so that I'm prepared for class in the morning.

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

Dates and Events to Remember!

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Fellowship/Celebration of Birthdays and Anniversaries will be Sunday February 1st. The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after worship, Sunday, February 15th and the Annual Congregational Meeting will follow.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY February 1, 2009
SOUPER BOWL of CARING is a nationwide effort to encourage people to give soup or money, on Super Bowl Sunday, that will go to a local charity. On February 1, 2009, soup and money will be collected after church in the Narthex. Both the soup and money will go to the Presbyterian Pantry. Thank you!

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

on Thursday, **February 26, 2009**,
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm, at
FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH in Abilene.

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 **Mary K Haffner & Jo Bright**.

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!

Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00AM in the library. Bible lesson #6 entitled: *Enemies Become Neighbors* will be presented. The monthly business meeting will follow the Bible Study lesson. All Westminster women and friends are invited to attend.

Notice about Westwind

+++ February 22nd — next due date! +++

If you have anything you wish to be included in the *Westwind*, **please** send the items by e-mail to office@wpcabilene.org **as soon as possible**, or put them in the office's *Westwind* mailbox.

February Birthdays

- 3 - Mark Diggs
Daniel Giddings
Mike Gozdanovic
- 4 - Curtis Johnson
- 6 - Betsy Brehm
- 8 - Charlie Parham
Ed Sartain
- 11 - Debra Winckler
- 24 - Wanda Garson
- 27 - Margaret Gregory
Jim Wallace
- 29 - Leona Armstrong

February Anniversaries

- 5 - Harroll & Barbara Backus
- 6 - Mark & Sheila Smith
- 14 - James & Janice Sullivan

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 February 1st. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

Missions/Stewardship/ News

2008 End of Year Financials

RECEIVED	Dec. 2008	2008 Final	2008 BUDGET
2008 Pledges	\$10,765.00	\$120,190.00	\$111,000.00
SS Offering	\$16.00	\$283.02	\$250.00
Plate Offering	\$1,195.06	\$5,642.94	\$6,000.00
Endowment Withdrawal		\$30,000.00	\$59,039.00
Interest Income	\$0.37	\$5.47	
Other Income		\$567.00	
Utility Reimbursement	\$610.53	\$2,295.38	\$1,800.00
INCOME	\$12,586.96	\$158,983.81	\$178,089.00
EXPENSE	\$14,196.83	\$156,044.98	\$178,089.00
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$1,609.87)	\$2,938.83	\$1,800.00

Budget Financial Summary
12/31/09

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$117,249.96
Collected: \$11,976.06	Actual Giving: \$126,115.96
Difference : \$2,205.23	Difference: \$8,866.00

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!

EVANGELISM

**really is the task
and the responsibility of**

EVERYONE,

**and NOT just the task and
the responsibility of an
*Evangelism Committee!***

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

for

DECEMBER 2008

In honor of

JIM and PAT WALLACE

by Anonymous

In memory of

DEBORAH JACKS

by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ruschmeyer

In memory of

BILLY LATTA

by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ruschmeyer

Miscellaneous**SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME****By Ron Hall and Denver Moore****Reviewed by Jim Wallace**

Denver Moore is a black man reared in the plantation life of southern Louisiana. After ten years at the infamous Angola Prison, he finds himself homeless on the inner-city streets of Ft. Worth. A hardened stare and a mean streak necessary for survival intimidate everyone who comes near him. Everyone, that is except for Miss Debbie.

Miss Debbie is the wife of Ron Hall. Ron is a successful international art dealer accustomed to moving in the fast lanes of the rich and famous. Ron meets Denver because Miss Debbie insists that God wants her to reach out to the poor of their city and Ron should go there with her.

***Same Kind of Different As Me* is the true story of how and why these two men become friends, very good friends. In brief chapters, Ron and Denver alternate telling the story in the first person. It is a story that will make you laugh, cry and marvel at how God works through imperfect humanity. It is one of the strongest books I have read in a good while, and I heartily recommend it to you. You will be better for having read it. It is now available in our church library.**

Westminster Prayer List for February 2009

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.

Feb. 1st - 7th: Jim & Jewell Halford; Lily Lewis; and Lloyd & Katy Presswood.

Feb. 8th - 14th: Michael Kerr; Robert & Pat Gaines; and Russell & Joan Brooks.

Feb. 15th - 21st: Cecile Manter; Charlie & Abby Parham; and Donnie Cozby.

Feb. 22nd - 28th: Don & Elaine Leiter; Vera Mae Mills; and Melvin Barton.

Have you never seen your name here? Remember that this list is open to all. Just contact the church office and we'll get you on the list!

A Song For Lent:

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

Isaac Watts was a pastor, teacher and hymn writer. In his 1797 hymnbook there was a hymn first called "Godly Sorrow Arising from the Sufferings of Christ," now known as "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed." This hymn played a major role in the conversion of a great American hymnist. In 1851 Fanny Crosby attended a revival service in New York. The congregation began to sing this grand old hymn. When they reached the third line of the fifth stanza, Fanny, who was blind, said: "My very soul was flooded with celestial light."

Long after Watts' death, his hymn played a part in winning to Christ the author of a new generation of hymns and gospel songs!

From *Then Sings My Soul*,
compiled by Robert J. Morgan



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FEBRUARY MISSION SPOTLIGHT: PALO DURO PRESBYTERY

Westminster's stewardship efforts will be directed to Palo Duro Presbytery during the month of February. As previously explained, the Stewardship Committee did not include mission monies in the structuring of the approved budget for 2009; instead we will be spotlighting one particular entity each month to receive our congregation's monetary mission gifts which are in addition to our pledges and gifts.

The *Book of Order* which governs PC(USA) tasks the presbytery with responsibility for mission and government of the churches throughout its geographical district. For PDP that area stretches from the Panhandle south to Abilene, Brownwood and Coleman, east towards Bowie and West to Midland, a huge chunk of real estate. While our church annually contributes a set amount of money for each member in the congregation to PC(USA), no such assessment exists for the presbytery, something which is often misunderstood.

In order to do its work the Palo Duro Presbytery has three full time and three part time employees. Each church in PDP is asked to direct some of its benevolence to the presbytery in order to support its mission efforts and the functions it performs for the churches throughout the presbytery. For example, the Celebration Scholarship Board which provides college scholarships to our youth uses PDP's website for its application process and publicity. Rich Schempp, Executive Presbyter, will be in worship with us on February 8 and will be available for any of your questions regarding Palo Duro Presbytery.

Prayerfully consider how you can support our presbytery to fulfill its mission for God's church and designate "Palo Duro Presbytery" on your check's memo line this month.

Christmas 2008 *Joy Offering* Report— Our spotlighted recipient for this year's Christmas tree was the *Joy Offering* of PC(USA) which supports retired church workers and minority education efforts of our denomination. The total received and forwarded to PC(USA) was \$320.00