

The Westwind

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Westwind for September 2007

This year's Stewardship Season theme, *Give Thanks!*, is both straightforward and appropriate. Stewardship Season is a time when we reflect on God's graciousness and on the means by which we express our thankfulness. The following poem is from *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* ©1941.

It is the voice of a senior adult reflecting on a lifetime of received blessings. It caught my eye, because of the approaching season and the fact that many of us here at Westminster are at least three-score and some much more.

At Eighty Three

Thank God for life, with all its endless store
Of great experiences, of hill and dale,
Of cloud and sunshine, tempest, snow and hail.
Thank God for straining sinews, panting breast,
No less for weary slumber, peaceful rest;
Thank God for home and parents, children, friends,
For sweet companionship that never ends:
Thank God for all the splendor of the earth,
For nature teeming with prolific birth:
Thank God for sea, and sky, for changing hours,
For trees and singing birds and fragrant flowers.
And so in looking back at eighty-three
My final word to you, my friends, shall be:
Thank God for life; and when the gift's withdrawn,
Thank God for twilight bell, and coming dawn.

Thomas Durley Landals

Giving thanks is, of course, not something we do only during Stewardship Season. It is a year-round vocation for all Christians. Giving thanks expresses in words our appreciation for all that God does, has done and will do out of love for us. Words are a

wonderful first-step, but not the final one. We act out our thanksgiving by using our time, talents and treasure in service to Christ's kingdom. We even go so far as to give away a portion of each.

This Stewardship season begin not with budgets to be met, responsibilities to live up to or percentages of this and that. These are all earthly things. Let us begin by reflecting again and again about how the Triune God is at work in our lives, and let us *Give Thanks!*

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

Notes from the August Session Meeting...

A balance of \$311 in the Noisy Offering Fund will be donated to the Presbyterian Children's Home in Amarillo. The \$821 remaining in the Talents Fund will be transferred to the General Fund. Palo Duro Presbytery has challenged each congregation to budget funds for NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphan Children). Westminster will include this request as the 2008 budget is developed.

The membership of Joann Nygard will be transferred to the First United Methodist Church in Fargo, ND.

Dates and Events to Remember!

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after Worship, Sunday, September 23rd.

The *Donation of the Month* will be for the Presbyterian Food Pantry.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

Notice about *Westwind*

September 17th— 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!



Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, September 11th at 10:00AM. The Bible study for the 2007 - 2008 year will be *Above and Beyond, Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*. The author is Carol M. Bechtel.

Peg Ruschmeyer will present lesson one: *Reading Jonah and Ruth for All They're Worth*. A business meeting will follow after the Bible Study. Anyone needing the new book can contact Margaret Gregory or Wanda Garson after Worship on Sunday.

All Westminster women and friends are welcome to attend the meetings.

September Birthdays

- 1 - Donnie Cozby
- 3 - Rosemary Walford
- 4 - Frances Evans
Al Windham
- 6 - JoAnn Peterson
Charles Russell
Vernon Glaze
- 8 - Josianne Mukantaganzwa
- 17 - Victoria Serrault
- 21 - Jewell Halford
- 22 - Burl Hambrick
- 24 - Bob Siltman
- 25 - Phyllis Core
Brian King
Martha King
Vivian Shelly
- 27 - Victoria Mukantaganzwa
- 30 - Brenda Goodwin

September Anniversaries

- 12 - Ed & Vivian Shelly
- 15 - Jack & Peg Ruschmeyer
- Jim & Jewell Halford
- 17 - Randy & Jackie Serrault
- 28 - Russ & Frances Evans

PLEASE COME

to the

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GATHERING

on **SEPTEMBER 27**, 2007,

from **6:30pm** – 8:30pm, at

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in **BROWNWOOD**, Texas, 325-646-8569.

YOU

are sure to **enjoy** the fellowship, food, music, praise, singing, inspiration, prayer, renewal, and lots of fun, at this *Cursillo* **ULTREYA!**

The hosts will be the “Brownwood Group”.

Come yourself. 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.

Odds and Ends & Thanks to you!

Budget Financial Summary 7/31/07

Budget Monthly: \$11,037.16	Budget to Date: \$77,260.12
Collected: \$14,283.10	Actual Giving: \$82,023.18
Difference: \$3,245.94	Difference: \$4,763.06

CURSILLO = RENEWAL!

CURSILLO = ENJOYMENT!

CURSILLO = INSPIRATION!

CURSILLO = ENTHUSIASM!

CURSILLO = RELAXATION!

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.

PANTRY NEEDS FOR September

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!!!

Many thanks to all who had a part in making “Reunion Sunday” such a big success. Janice, the tables and decorations were so attractive. Right here I need to give credit to those who made our pretty new blue tablecloths possible: Thanks to Ruth Cranor, Don Hamilton, Mary and Cary Cooke, Martha and Ray King, Melvin Barton, Nancy Diggs, Janice and Scott Serrault, Margie Dawley, Jack and Peg Ruschmeyer, Russ and Frances Evans, Farren and Grace Sadler, De Nicklas, Mary Lou Chappell; and to Pete Peterson for keeping me out of the hole since I had already paid for them before asking for donations. The music (all of it) was so great — we have a bunch of folks that give of their talents and time so that all of us can be enriched and have fun along the way. I’m so thankful to have such a great church family— like Jim said in a recent sermon— if we were all “Marys” last Sunday would never have happened. Thanks to all who had a part in making our Church Reunion such a success.

JoAnn Peterson

A Big “Thank You” to Westminster

The office staff at Reagan Elementary would like to thank Westminster for the large box of school supplies and monetary donation we provided. They were especially thrilled to be able to provide items to some new students who didn’t have school supplies on Friday. (Aug. 31) They want to make sure that the congregation knows how much they have appreciated being our “Mission Project” every year.

ABILENE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Abilene Medical Center Volunteer Service Department is looking for dedicated Christians to participate in the hospital Chaplain Program. If you feel our Lord is asking you to serve Him in the way and would like more information, please contact: M. K. Warren (325)-201-3282 or Julie Bell, ARMC Volunteer Coordinator (325)-428-4953.

Thank you and God Bless You, M. K. Warren

Westminster Prayer List for September 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.

Sept. 2nd - 8th: Scott & Janice Serrault and Victoria; Mark & Sheila Smith; Tom & Bonnie Walters.

Sept. 9th - 15th: Margie Dawley; Mark & Nancy Diggs; and Lloyd & Katy Presswood.

Sept. 16th - 22nd: Ray & Connie Gill; Luther & Beverly Hollowell; and Bobbie Core.

Sept. 23rd - 29th: Don & Elaine Leiter and Rob; Jean Losey; and Vera Mae Mills.

PRAYER REQUEST

Palo Duro Presbytery's **Presbyterian Cursillo #20** (or PDPC #20) will be held on **October 25-28, 2007**, at the Big Country Baptist Assembly Camp, at Lueders, Texas, which is very **near** to Abilene. Serving on **Staff** at this wonderful "Short Course in Christianity" will be Presbyterians from many of Palo Duro Presbytery's churches, including Westminster and First Central in Abilene. Please be in on-going **prayer** for all of the folks who have been selected to be on Staff for this spirit-filled weekend. At this time, God is calling Presbyterians from throughout north-west Texas to attend PDPC #20 as **Participants**. Please also be in **prayer** that all of these people will hear God's call, will answer God's call, and will come to His *Cursillo*.

A Short Course in Christianity
APPLICATION FORMS for
 Palo Duro Presbyterian *CURSILLO* #20 (PDPC #20),
 October 25 –28, 2007,
 and *Cursillo* **INFORMATION HANDOUTS**,
 are available in the **Narthex**, or from the **Church Office**.

THIS time,
NO more **excuses**,
not to go to
C U R S I L L O !
 The **CAMP** is nearby.
SCHOLARSHIPS are available.
RIDES can be arranged.

Inquirers Class

During September, October and November, the Inquirers Class will be studying portions of the Book of Genesis. Lessons follow the International Sunday School Lesson series and are published in The Present Word by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Topics this quarter will include God's work in The Creation and God's work in the lives of ancient people. Persons involved are Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph, and others.

The Inquirers Class meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Education Wing.

It continues to be the hope, and the prayer,
 of the Evangelism Committee
 that each member, and every friend, of
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 regularly and routinely will say to other people:
"I would like for you to come with me to Church on Sunday!"
 "The law of any church is, and always will be,
evangelize or fossilize."
 George E. Sweazy: *Let's March Abreast*

Pastor's Monday Evening Bible Study to Resume — with a Twist...

The Pastor-led Monday Evening Bible Study will begin on September 10th at 7:00PM.

For the first four weeks, the class will be different in both format and content. The four-part PBS series *The Saga of the Israelites* will be shown. The series addresses the formation of the people Israel, their religious practices and institutions, their struggles with foreign invaders, their internal conflicts, their adaptations to changed circumstances, and their contributions to the world.

The parts are: By the Rivers of Babylon [Formation to Exile in 587 BC]
 The Book and the Sword [Persian Period, Greek Period, Maccabean Period]
 The End of Days [Roman Period to 70 AD]
 The Gifts of the Jews [Roman Period after 70 and Beyond]