

The Westwind

Volume XXXVII Issue 9 September 2008

Editor: Elaine Leiter

From the Pastor's Pen...

In the August *Westwind*, I offered AA's 12 Step program as a wonderful resource for our daily Christian walk, just as it is for those battling alcohol addiction. Last month's article covered the first six steps. This month comments address steps 7 through 12. You'll find all twelve steps...along with a couple of corrections of my typing...elsewhere in this month's *Westwind* [pg. 4].

7. Humbly ask him to remove our shortcomings.

As much as we might try to correct our humanness, all of our efforts are futile without "God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's power." In Step 7 we can hear Micah's instruction to "...walk humbly with your God."

8. Made a list of all the persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

We live in a culture that denies personal accountability by blaming others for what goes wrong in our lives. Step 8 challenges us to "own up" to the ways we have hurt others and urges us to go beyond a simple admission of guilt.

9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

With step 9, our willingness to make direct amends is turned into action. Did you know that our Passing of the Peace during worship was originally intended to be an opportunity to go to others in the congregation to seek their forgiveness for a hurt we caused? For that reasons many congregations Pass the Peace immediately after the Prayer of Confession.

10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

None of this is a one-time thing. Walking the walk of sobriety and walking with Christ require constant diligence. We are human. We mess up. Admitting our mistakes and doing something about them is a necessary step along "The Way."

11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Prayer is one way of acknowledging our weakness and need for God in our lives. Meditation... listening quietly for the voice of God...is a step towards understanding God's will for us. Christ taught his disciples to pray. Paul urges us to "pray without ceasing."

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of those steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

And finally, Christianity inevitably involves evangelism. Just as the recovering alcoholic is charged with sharing the good news of what the 12-Steps can help accomplish, so too are recovering sinners directed by Christ to "Go therefore and make disciples..." Where someone is hurting, there the good news of Jesus Christ brings healing.

Christ's Shalom,



Jim

Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after Worship, Sunday, September 28th.

The *Donation of the Month* will be for the Presbyterian Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

We will be having a special program after the potluck on the 28th. Pastor Jim will be sharing his photos and reminisce about his June mission trip to Romania. Come one and all!



Presbyterian Women News

Presbyterian Women will start the new 2008-2009 Bible Study *Jubilee!* *Luke's Gospel for the Poor* with lesson one, *Jesus Announces Jubilee*, on Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. Beverly Armstrong has graciously agreed to be giving all nine lessons. If you need a study book before the meeting, please see Wanda Garson or call the church office.

All women and friends of Westminster are welcome to join us.

Notice about Westwind

September 22nd— 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!

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 **September 14th.**

Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of this fellowship time!

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

on Thursday, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008,
from **6:30 pm** – 8:30 pm,

at the **UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 700 Fisk, in **BROWNWOOD**, Texas,
325-646-8569.

Please COME -- and **ENJOY** -- great **fellowship**, good **food**, grand **music**, sincere **praise**, joyous **singing**, wonderful **inspiration**, thoughtful **prayer**, genuine **renewal**, and much **fun**.

The hosts will be **“the Brownwood Group.”**

ALL persons are welcome at Ultreyas, whether or **not** they have been to *Cursillo*, or even are Presbyterians; so bring a covered dish to share, **and bring a friend!**

September Birthdays

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

September Anniversaries

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

Educating the Children at Providence Classical Academy

We had a tremendous inaugural year at Providence Classical Academy. Last year we taught grades 1-7 with three full-time teachers and part-time help. For the 2008-2009 school year we have increased to 27 full-time students in addition to seven part-time students, for a total of 34. Our four full-time teachers will teach grades K-8, and again, we are blessed with part-time help too. Charlotte Longley has joined our staff as the 4-5th grade teacher and her five children attend PCA. We are also blessed with Lisa Carroll as our K-1st teacher and two of her seven children attend PCA. Stacy Willhelm will continue as our 2-3rd grade teacher, and Deirdre Salmon will be the 7-8th grade teacher. We have a lone sixth grader who has an individualized program and yes, we are thrilled to let you know that we have gender equality. The number of female students is one more than the number of male students enrolled. Our seven part-time students are home-schooled most of the week, and will join PCA on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Latin.

We can't tell you how very much we appreciate Westminster Presbyterian Church. The facilities fit us to a tee and the staff and membership are very friendly and helpful. Thank you for your generous spirit in helping our school begin and educate children in Abilene to the glory of God.

AN AMAZING HYMN STORY ~ "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

Horatio Spafford had been a successful attorney in Chicago. He and his wife had four daughters, an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and supporter of Dwight L. Moody, a well known evangelist (1837-1899).

In 1873, Mr. Spafford planned to join Mr. Moody in Great Britain for an evangelistic campaign and decided to take his family with him, but he was detained by urgent business. He sent the family ahead on the *S. S. Ville du Harve*, planning to join them later.

Halfway across the Atlantic, the ship was struck by an English vessel and sank in 12 minutes. All four of the daughters drowned, and his wife was one of the few survivors. Mr. Spafford stood hour after hour on the deck of the ship carrying him to rejoin his sorrowing wife in Wales. It was during this time he wrote the words of this hymn:

*"When sorrows like sea billow roll...It is well with my soul'
When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul."*

I find this a very moving old hymn, which is no longer included in our hymnal. Martha King

A Foreign Devil in China

by John Pollock

I heard about this book and checked it out of the Abilene Public Library. Then I discovered that it is in the Westminster Library. **BUT NO ONE HAS EVER CHECKED IT OUT!**

The book is about the extraordinary life of Dr. Nelson Bell, Billy Graham's father-in-law. Dr. Bell and his wife went to China in 1916 for the Southern Presbyterian Mission Board as medical missionaries. They spent 25 years fighting ignorance, diseases, bandits, Communists, and Japanese. A friend said of Dr. Bell: "He saw every patient as in need of bodily healing, and also in need of the grace of God in Christ."

This book can be found in the *Biography* section in the Westminster Library.

"Libraries – the medicine chest of the soul"

-- an inscription over the door of the Library at Thebes.

Mary Cooke

NOTE: When preparing the following for publication in last month's "Westwind" I left out two important words. They are highlighted in bold type below. Jim W.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 12 STEP PROGRAM

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to that care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless **MORAL** inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly ask him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all the persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made **DIRECT** amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of those steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Inquirers Class to Study the New Testament Community:

During the months of September, October, and November, the Inquirers Class will be studying the New Testament Community—better known as the church. Lessons follow the International Sunday School Lesson Series and are published in The Present Word by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

In September, the lessons are based on selected portions of Mark's and Matthew's Gospels and address the birth and beginning of the new community.

For October, the development and work of the new community are considered using selected passages from Acts.

During November, the challenges of a growing and maturing new community are explored using portions of the New Testament letters.

The Inquirers Class meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the last classroom on the right-hand side of the education wing. All are welcome and encouraged to attend on a regular basis, on an irregular basis, or as a visitor.

NEWS FROM AUGUST 17 SESSION MEETING

At August 12 after church coffee we were unable to use the fellowship hall because of lack of air conditioning. The welcome news is only Freon was needed to correct the problem. Another property concern has been removal of some trees, and this has been completed. A leak has developed over the sound system, which will have to be fixed. Gary Shanafelt and his Property Committee have been kept busy.

The calendars which members have previously been able to purchase will again be available for 2009. Contact Mary Cooke if you want to purchase one. Proceeds go to support youth activities.

Evelyn Sullivan, Victoria Serrault and Becca Merrill, along with two friends, attended the Celebration event near Tyler. This is a youth version of Cursillo. Janice Serrault and Brenda Merrill accompanied them.

Martha King, Clerk of the Session

Please SAY the following words to people YOU know and meet:
***I really would like for you to come to church
with me at Westminster on next Sunday!***

Please also always remember that:
**EVANGELISM is the task and the responsibility of *EVERYONE*,
and that includes YOU!**

Because, it really is true that:
**“The law of any church is, and always will be,
evangelize or fossilize.”**
George E. Sweazy in *Let’s March Abreast*

2009 APPOINTMENT CALENDARS

The theme for this calendar is “God’s Creation.” This calendar is beautiful to look at, as well as useful in helping to plan and organize schedules. Each day has ample space to write appointments and special event. Each week has a specially-selected Scripture Verse for memorization or meditation. The cost of each calendar will be \$7.00, and the proceeds will benefit Westminster’s Youth Fund. In 2008 this Fund has been used to send youth to the Buffalo Gap Camp and to the Celebration weekend. If you will be interested in ordering one or more of these calendars for yourself, and/or as gifts, please sign-up on the sheet – located next to the example of the calendar – on the counter in the front of the Church Office. The calendars will have to be ordered in early November.

SPECIAL GIFTS DONATIONS

for
AUGUST 2008
In honor of the
**WESTMINSTER CHURCH
FAMILY**
by
Doris Horowitz, and
Luther and Beverly Hollowell

Dear Westminster,

Thanks so much for giving Mom such a special celebration on her 101st birthday. She really enjoyed singing her favorite hymn, it's been years since she heard it and was truly moved. Also, thanks for the lovely cake, pink just happens to be "her" color.

Special thanks to Jim for seeing that she got to church and home again! So, on her behalf, thank you all again.

*God Bless
De Nicklas*

Dear Pastor Jim, and Westminster Congregation,

Your thoughts and prayers for a very dear friend, Lillian Denton is most appreciated by the Denton Family and me. She was 100 years and 23 days old.

Walter Christan

Dear Westminster,

THANK YOU, thank you for your prayers, love, cards, calls, visits, flowers, and food. All very much appreciated. I've missed you and I hope to be back on track in a few more weeks.

Abby (and Charlie) Parham.

Through the eyes of a child: *The Children's Bible in a Nutshell*

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.'

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.') During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

~ ~ ~ ~ Submitted by JoAnn Peterson

PRAYER REQUEST

Palo Duro Presbytery's **Presbyterian Cursillo #22** (or PDPC #22) will be held on **Oct. 30 – Nov. 2, 2008**, at the Mercy Center in Slaton, Texas. 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 ongoing **prayer** for all of the people who have been selected to be on Staff at this spirit-filled weekend.

At this time, God is calling Presbyterians from throughout north-west Texas to attend PDPC #22 as **Participants**. Please also be in ongoing **prayer** that all of these people will hear God's call, will answer God's call, and will come to this **Cursillo**.

THANK YOU!

Please be in ongoing PRAYER for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for the Synod of the Sun, and for Palo Duro Presbytery and its churches, including Westminster.

PANTRY NEEDS FOR September

Peanut butter, jelly, canned meat (Spam-type, tuna, chicken, etc.), toiletries, 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!!!

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.

Budget Financial Summary

7/31/08

Budget Monthly: \$9,770.83	Budget to Date: \$68,395.81
Collected: \$5,548.00	Actual Giving: \$72,411.89
Difference: (\$4,222.83)	Difference \$4,016.08

Westminster Prayer List for September 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.

Aug. 31st - Sept. 6th: Tom & Bonnie Walters; and James & Janice Sullivan, Evelyn and Amber.

Sept. 7th - 13th: Catherine Cathey; Ruth Cranor; Lexi Cruce; and Bob Prentice.

Sept. 14th - 20th: Rett Fuller; Kirk Garson; Frances Barnes; and Joseph Che.

Sept. 21st - 27th: Scott & Janice Serrault, and Victoria; and Farren & Grace Sadler.

Sept. 28th - Oct. 4th: Jim & Pat Wallace; Cary & Mary Alice Headstream; and Wanda Gray.

COME and MEET with NEW and OLD FRIENDS in CHRIST!

A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP (Cursillo Reunion Group) meets in the Library at Westminster Presbyterian Church 4515 South 14th Street, Abilene, Texas, telephone 325-692-3544, every Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

At this SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP new and old friends in Christ have the opportunity to reinforce one another and to share the Christian life.

Everyone is welcome at this SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP, regardless of whether or not they attend Westminster, have been to Cursillo, or even are Presbyterians.

This SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP is a "battery-charger:" the people in attendance listen to, accept, support, congratulate, affirm, re-assure, guide, encourage, and comfort each other; they share in each person's joys and sorrows; and they pray with, and for, the folks who are there, for other people, and for specific concerns.

YOU most heartily are invited to start coming to the "Tuesday Noon with the Lord" SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP at Westminster. *By doing so, YOU will greatly benefit yourself and other people.*



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET

ABILENE, TX 79605-4736

Presbyterian *Cursillo*

What IS *Cursillo*?

It is a Short Course in Christianity.
 It is definitely Presbyterian.
 It is quite well done.
 It is very well organized.
 It is a camp-like experience for all adult
 Presbyterians regardless of age.
 It is a wonderful weekend.
 It is really enjoyable.
 It is amazingly energizing.
 It is truly enriching of faith and life.
 It is one way of growing in faith.

What does *Cursillo* HAVE?

It has great people.
 It has good food.
 It has comfortable accommodations.
 It has numerous fun times.
 It has wonderful music.
 It has inspiring worship services.
 It has spirited singing.
 It has meaningful talks given by pastors
 and lay persons.

What does *Cursillo* PROVIDE?

It provides spiritual renewal and
 spiritual growth.
 It provides wonderful fellowship.
 It provides the opportunity to meet, and
 to get to know, people from many
 Presbyterian churches.
 It provides a special time of relaxation
 and reflection away from the cares,
 concerns, pressures, deadlines, and
 distractions of everyday life.
 It provides an increased awareness of
 the richness, fullness, and joys of
 one's faith.

What is *Cursillo* NOT?

It is not a substitute or replacement for
 worship and work at the local church.
 It is not boring, dull, or uninteresting.
 It is not ever demanding of public expressions
 of personal thoughts or feelings.
 It is not touchy-feely.
 It is not a playing-on of emotions.
 It is not ever humiliating, or demeaning.
 It is not confrontational.
 It is not pushy or coercive.
 It is not in-your-face.
 It is not essential to, or exclusive of, the
 other parts of one's faith journey.

From what does *Cursillo* RESULT?

It results from the enthusiastic support
 of Palo Duro Presbytery.
 It results from the on-going prayers of
 many people.
 It results from the hard work of a large
 and dedicated staff.
 It results from the tremendous
encouragement of other *Cursillo* and
 related groups in the United States
 and around the world.

**Most of all *Cursillo* results from the
guidance and direction of the
HOLY SPIRIT!**

APPLICATION FORMS
 for Oct. 30 – Nov. 2, 2008, at the Mercy
 Center in Slaton, Texas, are available in the
 Narthex and from the Church Office.