

The Westwind

Volume XXXXII Issue 6 June, 2013

Pastor: Reverend Chris Turner

Editor: Sue Siltman

Scribblings and Reflections from the Pastor's Perspective:

According to a plaque in the narthex, Westminster Presbyterian Church is forty-five years old this year. I realize our church is descended from at least two churches which have changed names over time, and we came into existence as Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1968. At forty-five years old, we are a very young church. As a church which is just entering the mature stage, we are presented with both challenges and opportunities.

I was reading the plaque after an evangelism committee meeting in which we are actively examining the church rolls. It is said of mainline churches and Presbyterian churches that it is easy to become a member but very difficult to be removed from the membership rolls. Interestingly, the strongest churches seem to be ones in which membership is valued very highly and people work to maintain it. I believe it is vital that the pastor, if possible, contact and meet every member. Likewise, I believe every member should have a general idea of every other member in the church and pray for them at least weekly. Having a well-defined sense of what membership means is one of the challenges of our congregation.

In many ways, I think our church is at a tipping point. We have new members, a growing number of children attending on Sunday, and in some respects, a new sense of vitality. Of course, there are many challenges ahead. We must, must, get our financial house in order. We are also missing two key demographics, teenagers and young adults.

Fortunately, we worship a God of hope. As we contemplate our 50 year anniversary, we should look discerningly at what God has blessed us with and what our potential is in the new century. To spark the discussion process, it seems our five year plan should include at a minimum: financial security, a membership of at least 100-125 solid members, and an average Sunday attendance of around 75. The actual goals or numbers are not as important as realizing we need to plan ahead and see where God leads us.

In all things, our church must never forget that God is forever in control, and all we can do is live out God's will for our lives each and every day. If it is God's will for our church to grow, people will step up to do the work. I pray that God guides us to be a congregation in which the Gospel is proclaimed in word and deed, and we help each other be better disciples of the way of Jesus Christ.

Check out these dates and join us for all the activities.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will not meet in June, July and August. Have a great summer and join us again for an exciting year beginning September 17th.



MEN AND WOMEN'S BREAKFAST will not meet in June, July, and August. Plan now to attend the second Saturday in September—the 14th.

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your **birthday** or **anniversary** this month, please be sure to attend the fellowship on **June 9th** immediately after church. Your Westminster family will celebrate with you as part of the Fellowship Time!

Your DONATIONS of MONEY always are put to very good use by the **PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY!** Just put your CASH in the **JAR** in the grocery cart in the NARTHEX; or make your CHECK out to "Westminster," write "Food PANTRY" on the memo line, and put your check in the Offering Plate.

STEWARDSHIP:

is the Christian's **RESPONSE** to God's greatest gift in Jesus Christ;
is being in **RELATIONSHIP** with God;
is learning how to **FULFILL** our potentials as Children of God; and
is showing God's **LOVE** for all people.

Give THANKS!

AN EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

Don't just go to church....BE the church!

June Birthdays

- 2—Evelyn Sullivan
- 5—Christy Gozdanovic
- 6—David Samuelson
- 9—Nedra Black
Alex Hall
- 10—Lauren Johnson
Patrick Messersmith
- 12—Harmon Plantier
- 15—Cary Headstream
- 20—Ashley Peaton
Nathan Gozdanovic
- 22—Peggy Prevost
- 25—Scott Serrault

June Anniversaries

- 7—Joe & Sara Cook
- 19—Larry & Nedra Black
- 20—Rodger & Su Hiatt
- 29—Chris & Amy Turner

Give THANKS!

"I will THANK you forever because of what you have done ."
Psalm 52:9

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

as of May 5, 2013

Texas Presbyterian Foundation = \$135,358.03

New Covenant Growth Fund = \$103,543.67

TOTAL = \$238,901.70

2012 Withdrawals = \$20,000.00

2013 Withdrawals = \$30,000.00

Total (2-Year) Withdrawals = \$50,000.00



Total Above & Beyond
contributions: \$18,835.05

BUDGET REPORT

As of **April 30, 2013** (for the month):

income = + \$11,015.22

expenses = - \$14,474.56

NET balance for the month = **minus** \$ 3,459.34

For the calendar **YEAR** 2013 thru April 2013:

income = + \$66,847.42

expenses = - \$53,292.46

gross balance = + \$13,554.96

minus income from Endowment

Fund withdrawals in 2013 = - \$30,000.00

NET balance for the year = **minus** \$16,445.04

“The 2013
GIVE THANKS!
OPPORTUNITY
at & for a grateful
WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH”

REPORT on DONATIONS

In the month of **May** 2013, Westminster will give donations of:

\$125.00 to the One Great Hour of Sharing;

\$180.00 to the Buffalo Gap Presbyterian
Encampment; and

\$145.00 to the Presbyterian Food Pantry; for

\$450.00 TOTAL .

The donation of \$180.00 to the Buffalo Gap Camp will constitute a partial payment of Westminster’s 2013 “per capita payment” to the camp.

As of March 31, 2013, Westminster now has \$430.00 available to donate to Palo Duro Presbytery, in addition to -- or to supplement -- the 2013 “per capita payment” to the Presbytery.

Thank you notes:

Many thanks for the prayers and cards. A very special thank you to those who helped with my moving to University Place. I have a very comfortable apartment.

I especially thank Sally Carthel and Jewel Halford for the organizing, planning, packing, unpacking and the garage sale. They even came and hung my pictures. Thanks to everyone.

Wanda Garson

Special thanks to Gretchen Tucker and Sally Carthel for the beautiful work on all the bulletin boards throughout the church.

MISSION FOR JUNE: MEDICAL CARE DENTAL MISSION

David had not seen a dentist in 10 years when a friend told him about the Medical Care Mission's dental clinic. "Before I came here, the pain was so bad I was going to use food money to pay another dentist in town," he said. "I would've starved; it's a miracle I found this place."

David says he picks up applications for the clinic's services every time he comes in for an appointment so his friends will have the chance to receive the same type of care that Dr. Shelhamer and the staff offer. "The people I know can't afford to pay out-of-pocket at a private dentist's office," he said. "They go through all kinds of pain."

Dr. Shelhamer started volunteering on Fridays in 1999, 11 years ago, and has been full-time at the Mission since 2005. After 36 years of practice in Stamford, I was ready for a new challenge, and at the Mission I found it. We see 20-25 patients each day and are sometimes removing multiple teeth. Of course, our goal is to save and restore teeth, which many times, we are able to do. But all too often, we see the patient when the teeth are beyond help. Some of our patients have not seen a dentist in several years, and, again, have many teeth beyond repair. Unfortunately, the dental problems these people have are affecting their overall health.

We see many patients who also struggle with diabetes, hepatitis, malignancies, respiratory disease and an array of other debilitating conditions. Often, the Mission is the last resort for the serious dental needs complicated by their difficult financial situation. Due to a weakened economy, unemployment and disabilities, there appears to be a growing need for our services. Regrettably, we find ourselves booking patients several weeks in advance due to the great number of patients who need services.

Our clinic runs smoothly because of our program director, Lou Ann Stevens. She has excellent people skills and is able to repair broken equipment in a pinch. And I really enjoy working here. It's like the old TV show, "Marcus Welby, M.D.," and I am able to take the time needed with a patient and not worry about insurance coverage or patient co-pay. We just do what needs to be done without the "money concern," which would not be realistic or practical in a private practice. Sometimes we fret over tackling some of these difficult cases, but eventually, we know that if we don't take care of the problem, we don't know who else will.

If we were to have a wish list, it would probably include a part-time hygienist, a second dentist and replacements for worn-out equipment. I do realize that this clinic and our staff are here because of the generosity of our donors, and without you, we wouldn't exist.

New mailing address for James & Rebekah Chenevert, David & Joseph:
16 Walters Dr., Hurlburt Field, FL 32544
Rebekah said to tell everyone at WPC hello.

**WHO WILL BE THE LUCKY
ONE THIS YEAR?**



**IT IS TIME FOR OUR GOLDEN SLIPPER BENEFIT
FOR BUFFALO GAP PRESBYTERIAN CAMP.
PLEASE START LOOKING AROUND THE HOUSE FOR
ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED!
PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESS FOR A
MOST WORTHY CAUSE!
SO MARK THE DATE, JUNE 16TH, RIGHT
AFTER THE POTLUCK DINNER.**

(A box will be in the Narthex for auction donations beginning in June.)

Ryan Johnson helped with Children's Church when we studied the 23rd Psalm. Ryan dressed as a shepherd and explained why he wore the clothes that he did and how he used a staff. The children enjoyed having a talk about what a shepherd does. In the class were Brooklyn Johnson, Conner Messersmith, and Alex Hall.

Members of the congregation who helped in Children's Church during the month of April were Bobbie Core, Connie Gill, Jewell Halford, and Sally Carthel.

SHARE your FAITH!

"The law of any church is, and always will be, EVANGELIZE or fossilize." George E. Sweazy in *Let's March Abreast*

THEREFORE, it is the most earnest REQUEST of the Evangelism Committee that ALL the members and friends of Westminster SAY to folks that YOU know and meet:

"I really would like for YOU to COME to church with ME at Westminster on NEXT Sunday!"

S p r e a d the G O S P E L!

BIBLICAL HUMOR

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a Little prophet.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible:

A. Noah—He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Westminster Prayer List for June 2013

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.

May 26—June 1: Bob & Sue Siltman; and Gordon & Valerie Obert

June 2—8: David & Carolyn Ainsworth; and Brian & Lina Hall & Alex

June 9—15: Julia Wells; Margie Dawley; and Phyllis Core

June 16—22: Margaret Gregory and Donnie Cozby

June 23—29: Tom & Laurie Giddings, Thomas & Daniel.

June 30—July 6: Jim & Jewell Halford; and Lloyd & Katy Presswood

USHERS AND GREETERS FOR JUNE

USHERS: Charlie Parham (head), Bryan Hall, David Ainsworth,
and Rodney Price

GREETERS: Dorothy Murtha and Abby Parham



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