

# The Westwind

Volume XXXXII Issue 11

November 2013

Pastor: Rev. Chris Turner

Editor: Sue Siltman

## *Scribblings and Reflections from the Pastor's Perspective:*

Politics. With the recent shutdown of the government, politics has been at the forefront in the minds of many people. I have lost count of the number of conversations I have had with people over the past few weeks regarding our politicians and our government. The fear and anger was apparent from these conversations. As a pastor, it is important to be pastoral and comforting in these situations without resorting to partisan politics.

Pastors who preach politics tend to fall into two camps: either very liberal or very conservative. The preachers who are very conservative and preach politics tend to be more numerous according to my admittedly personal observations.

I decided early on to not preach politics and to focus on the Gospel and Christ crucified. Some would say this is the easy way out. By avoiding topics like abortion, homosexuality, home schooling, gun control, welfare, and so on, I have been accused of not being true to the implications of the Gospel. I am also taken aback by the arrogance of preachers who claim to know what Jesus would do during this period in history. To most people who say these sorts of things, I often respond that they don't understand the make-up of a typical Presbyterian congregation. As far back as the founder of our particular theology and government, John Calvin, we have placed a huge emphasis on education and literacy. (Of course, the reason I am a Calvinist is because I believe Calvin's systematic understanding and exposition of the Bible is the true theology of the Bible.) Presbyterians are a small minority in our culture, but exert an enormous influence in business, politics, and education when compared to their relatively small numbers. Aside from those Presbyterian congregations which claim a decidedly liberal or conservative stance, the make-up of most congregations encompass individuals from across the political spectrum.

I do believe that as Christians we are called to help the least and the disenfranchised of our society, but I do not believe that either political party is the answer to the ills of our society. Ultimately, our greatest legacy from Calvin, who ascertained from Scripture that God alone is sovereign of the universe. With this in mind, I will preach Christ crucified and a reliance on the Holy One of Israel. We are all called individually to renew our minds and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. As a preacher, I am called to present the truth of the Gospel and the knowledge that God alone controls history, not politicians, not pundits, not preachers. Search Scripture, pray, talk to other Christians, and then vote your conscience.

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



**Presbyterian  
Women News**

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday November 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the church library to study *Set Free by God*.

Please bring your “thank offering.”

**All women of the church and friends are invited.**

**OUR financial contributions to God’s Church support Westminster’s PERSONNEL -- the dedicated STAFF with which God has blessed us.**

**Give THANKS!**

The Men’s and Women’s Breakfast was enjoyed by nearly twenty people on Saturday, October 12th. We had the traditional fried eggs, hash browns, biscuits and gravy and other treats. Jewell Hallford brought a meaningful devotional.

The Breakfast is possibly into its 25th year of organization. The Men’s Breakfast was originated during the time that Murray Travis was minister at Westminster from 1989 to 1995. From the beginning, the men cooked their own meal. At the same time, the women met at a variety of restaurants for their breakfast.

Over the years the places and people have varied, and there have even been some years when the breakfast was not held. However, today we are usually about twenty in attendance and enjoy food, fellowship, and a devotional. The men continue to cook for everyone, and it would be wonderful if you would join us.

We meet at 8:00 on Saturday morning at the church. This month we will meet on the second Saturday which is November 9th.

**SHARE your FAITH!**

**SOW the seeds of YOUR faith in**

**JESUS CHRIST!**

**Tell someone about one**

**BLESSING that YOU have**

**had this past week.**

**S p r e a d the GOSPEL!**

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

If you are celebrating your **birthday** or **anniversary** this month, please be sure to

attend the fellowship on **November 10th**,

immediately after church.

Your Westminster family will celebrate

with you as part of the Fellowship Time!

**Birthdays**

- 1—Lexi Cruce
- 4— Kelly Tindall
- 5—Jennifer Plantier
- 6—Casey Tindall, David Tindall
- 24—Valerie Obert

**Anniversaries**

- 1—Gary & Nancy Shanafelt

Rev. Grantland Groves sent a “newsy” letter to the Westminster Family. There is a copy on the table in the Narthex, if you are interested in reading it.

### Notice about *Westwind*

Next due date! +++ **December 16th at Noon** +++

If you have anything you wish to be included in the *Westwind*, please send the items by e-mail to the church office: [office@wpcabilene.org](mailto:office@wpcabilene.org) or put them in the *Westwind* box.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS!

Be sure to check out the bulletin board in the Narthex honoring our Westminster Veterans.

Thank you Gretchen Tucker and Sally Carthel.



### TIME CHANGE

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. Set your clock back one hour before you go to bed to Saturday evening.

**REMEMBER: Fall back—**

**Spring forward**

### ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

as of **October 3, 2013:**

Texas Presbyterian Foundation = \$135,689.95  
New Covenant Growth Fund = \$110,427.50  
**TOTAL = \$246,117.45**

2012 Withdrawals = \$20,000.00  
2013 Withdrawals = \$30,000.00  
**Total (2-Year) Withdrawals = \$50,000.00**

### BUDGET REPORT

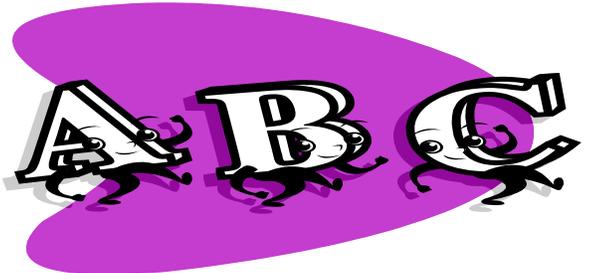
As of **SEPTEMBER 30, 2013** (for the month):

income = + \$ 9,608.00

expenses = - \$13,708.44

**NET balance** for the month = **minus \$ 4,100.44**

**Total Bank Balances** = \$62,751.55



**Above & Beyond Total:**

**\$22,625.05**

## Greetings from The Sullivans!

Once again the Sullivan Family plans to host our ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK LUNCHEON AT THE PRESBYTERIAN ENCAMPMENT!

As always, we will furnish the turkeys, dressing and giblet gravy. Please plan to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. If you would be willing to bring paper goods, please let me know (by phone or e-mail listed below).

Also, please plan to bring your items for the silent auction. The proceeds from the auction go to support the camp. We are blessed to be able to continue using the camp since I retired. Please be generous with your auction items and your money.

We will begin gathering at 11:00 AM and eat Lunch at 1:00 PM. Your RSVP will help us have the appropriate amount of food.

We very much look forward to being with you again!

Christ's love and ours too, THE SULLIVAN'S— Jim's cell: 669-1732 or e-mail: BGPMI@AOL.COM

James's cell: 669-7254 or email: poppyone@taylortel.net

**OUR financial contributions to God's Church support Westminster's MISSION. This church's MISSION is to proclaim God's WORD to the church's members, to the surrounding community, and to the world. OUR financial contributions also support this church's PROGRAMS, and these PROGRAMS truly are an investment in eternity. Give THANKS!**

**"Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise.  
Give THANKS to him, bless his  
name. For the Lord is good; his  
steadfast love endures forever, and  
his faithfulness to all generations."**

***Psalm 100:4 & 5***

Westminster's  
**MISSION EMPHASIS**  
for November is the  
**PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY,**  
*which we will be restocking after Thanksgiving.*

Each **Sunday** in November the ushers will be handing-out **paper sacks** and **plastic bags**. Please **take** these sacks and bags home, **fill** them with non-perishable **FOOD** items, **bring** them back to the church, and **put** them at the front of the Sanctuary. All of these filled sacks and bags will be delivered to the **FOOD PANTRY** on December 3rd, just in time for the Christmas Season.

We also will be collecting **TOYS** for the Food Pantry to give to children for **Christmas**. Please put your donations of **TOYS** in the grocery card in the Narthex, or under the church's Christmas tree.

Of course you always can to put **YOUR** donations of non-perishable **FOOD** items, **CASH** money, **TOILETRY** items, usable cooking **UTENSILS**, usable eating & serving **UTENSILS**, and small kitchen **APPLIANCES** that still work in the grocery cart in the Narthex on each and every Sunday.

**GIVE THANKS!**

**REPORT on DONATIONS**

In the month of OCTOBER 2013, Westminster gave donations  
of:

\$165.00 to Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services;

And

\$ 20.00 to the Presbyterian Food Pantry; for

\$185.00 TOTAL

## **GIVE THANKS!**

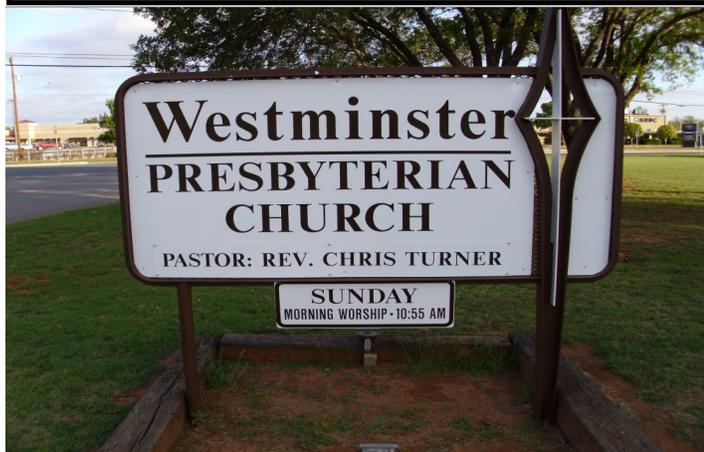
The Stewardship Committee is pleased and blessed to announce the continuation of the

**“The 2013  
GIVE THANKS  
OPPORTUNITY  
at and for a grateful  
Westminster Presbyterian Church**

This is your “**Call to Faith;**” and it provides all of **YOU**, as grateful disciples of the Lord God, with the **OPPORTUNITY** of faithfully making **YOUR** pledges of time, talents and money in support of the life and work of **YOUR Westminster Presbyterian Church.**

Time and Talents sheets and Pledge cards have been distributed. Using these sheets and these cards, **YOU** joyfully can **Praise the Lord** as **YOU celebrate and support Westminster** and all that it does, that it can do, and that it can do better to promote the **Kingdom of God** on this earth.

**GIVE your THANKS!**



### **NEW SIGN**

**We hope you have noticed the new sign for Westminster. Thank you, Property Committee and Abilene Constructors.**

Westminster Prayer List for November 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.

Oct. 27th—Nov. 2nd: Joy Shin; Rev. Chris and Amy Turner

Nov. 3rd—Nov. 9th: David & Candace Samuelson; Cherie Bishop & Margaret Johnson

Nov. 10th—Nov. 16th: Joe & Sara Cook; Curtis & Lauren Johnson, Skylar & Ryan

Nov. 17th—23rd: Bob & Sue Siltman; Gordon & Valerie Obert

Nov. 24th—30th: David & Carolyn Ainsworth; Brian & Lina Hall & Alex

**USHERS AND GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER**

**USHERS: Jewell Halford, Jim Halford (head), Kirk Garson**

**and Al Windham**

**GREETERS: Wanda Garson and Jamie Tindall**



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**