

# The Westwind

Volume XXXXII Issue 9 September 2013

Pastor: Rev. Chris Turner Editor: Sue Siltman

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

The end of the first year for a pastor at a new call is an important time. Conventional wisdom states that the first year of a pastor at a new church is a time for observation, prayer, and discernment. I was told in seminary that a common mistake was to begin with making too many changes to the life of the church. A pastor should take seriously the traditions that play a central role both in the present time and in the history of the congregation. By looking at such traditions and examining the present life of the church, some observations can be made.

Some observations and comments:

-The people of the church placed great faith in God by calling a full-time pastor and looking to the future instead of thinking of "what use to be."

-God has blessed Westminster with a truly remarkable sacred space: the sanctuary. The very architecture and layout focuses worshippers on the glory of God.

-Many of the traditions of our church are spiritually significant to many of our members.

-Our congregation is diverse in many ways. The wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and talents is a testament to the idea of the body of Christ be composed of many different parts.

-A dedicated music program which helps us experience the Glory of God.

-Our facilities function and can support a wide range of activities and projects.

-Parking and location is excellent. (Oddly enough, many studies claim excellent parking to be a necessity for any significant church growth.)

-Staff and volunteers who truly care about the church.

-We are challenged to examine the financial aspect of the church to find a way to ensure a solid future which can be based on worship and mission.

-Having a growing congregation is both a practical and a spiritual concern.

-Increasing attendance of programs outside of our worship.

It may be our greatest challenge to always remember and always act in accordance with the observation that all signs point to our church having a vigorous future in our community and in our common calling to spread the Gospel to those outside the church and to tend to the needs of the people of God in the church. **May God bless our church and let us be a beacon of hope in this world.**



# GET READY FOR FALL

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



## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday September 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the church library for the first meeting of the 2013-2014 year.

**All Westminster women and friends are invited to join in the study.**

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Church Potluck Luncheon will be held after Worship, Sunday, September 22nd.

### 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 8th.**

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

### MEN AND WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

**8:00 AM, September 14th**

Join us for great food, fellowship, and devotion in the Westminster fellowship center.

### SHARE your FAITH!

In 2013 the **PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY** really does **NEED your** continuing **DONATIONS** of non-perishable **FOOD** items, cash **MONEY**, **TOILETRY** items, usable cooking **UTENSILS** (pots, pans, skillets, etc.), usable eating & serving **UTENSILS** (knives, forks, spoons, etc.), and small kitchen **APPLIANCES** that still work.

**Give THANKS & Feed the HUNGRY!**



### September Birthdays

- 1 - Donnie Cozby
- 4 - Frances Evans  
Al Windham
- 11 - Bright Attipoe
- 21 - Jewell Halford
- 24 - Bob Siltman
- 25 - Phyllis Core  
Rev. Chris Turner

### September Anniversaries

- 15 - Jim & Jewell Halford



**CHURCH SCHOOL EACH SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM  
COME ONE, COME ALL THIS FALL!**

We would like to extend an invitation for anyone and everyone to join us for Church School each Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Pastor's office. We are systematically studying through the books of the Old and New Testament, as taught by Pastor Chris.

Anyone is welcome to join in at any time. Do not feel like you had to start at the beginning. Coffee is available and ANYONE is welcome to bring donuts.

**CELEBRATE!**

**STEWARDSHIP is a Way-Of-Life deeply rooted in JESUS CHRIST, who -- by His example -- taught us how to live. He came not to do His own will, but to do the WILL of the One who sent Him. He came not to be served, but to SERVE. God has given EACH of us something to do that no one else on the earth can do. Through STEWARDSHIP, Jesus makes clear to EACH of us our individual MIS-SION in the Church, giving us the grace to live STEWARDSHIP as a Way-Of Life -- as a way of holiness and spirituality. As we recognize the presence of God in our lives, we set out to live the spirituality of STEWARDSHIP in terms of our TIME, our TALENTS, and our TREASURE (money).**

**Give THANKS!**

Thank you note:

*Thank you for the many phone calls and cards I received when my grandson-in-law died in a tragic auto crash.*

*My thanks to Pastor Chris and Amy for their prayers of comfort.*

*Dorothy Murtha*

**Give THANKS!**

**“OFFER to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving (make thanksgiving your sacrifice to God), and pay your vows (say your prayers) to the Most High (God).” Psalm 50:14**

**CELEBRATE!**

## **PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SERVICES**

Every year the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s general assembly invites Presbyterian congregations to appoint their Pentecost offering to meet the needs of children at risk. Congregations are encouraged to designate 40% of the offering for this purpose. If you plan to make the Pentecost offering a part of worship in your church, we invite you to put aside 40% of your offering to our mission serving at-risk children.

PCHAS is an independent ministry governed by an 18-member, volunteer board of trustees and is in a covenant relationship with the Synod of the Sun. This synod is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We do not receive monies from them, but are dependent on gifts from individuals within the membership.

PCHAS Christ-centered ministry encompasses children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned with love and support. Our care includes group homes for children, foster care, education, adoption. Also, a family preservation program that prevents families in crisis situations from breaking apart; and a single parent family program that provides a timely safety net to single mothers who would otherwise be homeless.

In 2011, volunteers provided 7,957 hours of service. Ten supporting organizations with a total of 205 volunteers and another 246 individuals participated in volunteer ministry. There are a plethora of volunteer opportunities at PCHAS, ranging from one-time experiences to a year-long commitment for individuals, families or groups. These opportunities include office work, outdoor maintenance, mentoring or sharing a skill with our children.

Many of the children we serve have never known the unconditional love of God. Because PCHAS is a faith-based agency, we prefer to employ individuals who have a Christian commitment and concern for the children and their families. Christian nurture is provided through prayer, Bible study and participation in a local Presbyterian congregation. Our specialists blend faith into their practice with the families, helping them get in touch with their beliefs and encouraging them in their spiritual development.

The ultimate goal of our residential programs is to reunite children with their families. Sometimes this is a biological parent, but often it is an aunt, uncle or grandparent. About 40% of the children who come into our homes live with us until they graduate from high school. After high school, many of our children partake of our advanced education/aftercare program which provides scholarship to attend a university, college or technical school.

If you wish to make a donation please make your check out to Westminster and put PCHAS in the "For" blank.

**When you have done it unto one of the least of these....**

Candace Samuelson

**ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT**

as of August 5, 2013:

Texas Presbyterian Foundation = \$133,463.28

New Covenant Growth Fund = \$108,494.76

TOTAL = \$241,958.04

2012 Withdrawals = \$20,000.002013 Withdrawals = \$30,000.00Total (2-Year) Withdrawals = \$50,000.00**DONATIONS REPORT**

Donation for the month of July are as follows:

\$135.00—Presbyterian Medical Care Mission—Dental Clinic

258.25—Buffalo Gap Presbyterian Encampment

30.00—Presbyterian Medical Care Mission

120.00—Presbyterian Food Pantry

\$543.25 TOTAL

**BUDGET REPORT**

The Session is working diligently on the current budget and the budget for 2014. A full report will be forthcoming.

**Each of you much give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

Westminster receives a check from **Albertson's Grocery Store** each quarter. The total for this year at the current time is \$62.68. If you shop at Albertson's and don't have a Community Partners Program card, please pick one up from the table in the Narthex. Just have them scan the card before you pay. All monies received from this program are put into the **Youth Fund**.



The Ju-BELL-ee handbell choir would love to have YOU join them. The first rehearsal will be at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11th. Please contact Travis Lowery, choir director, @325-280-0333 or [travisraylowery@gmail.com](mailto:travisraylowery@gmail.com).

### REMINDER TO TAKE YOUR MEDICINE

There are many “pills” that have not been taken from the basket in the Narthex. Inside the capsule is the name of a member or friend of our church family. On the back of the card is a suggestion list of things you might do for that named person. Certainly you might choose to do something else. Be creative!



Westminster’s Diaconal Care and Evangelism committees desire that Westminster be one of the “healthiest” communities in Abilene.

**Let’s work together to make that happen.**

***SHARE your FAITH!***

***Count YOUR blessings;  
and – thereby --  
be a BLESSING to another person!***

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

Deadline for October *Westwind* is  
Monday,

**Westminster Prayer List for September 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.

Sept. 1st-7th: Royse & Vicki Kerr; Harroll & Barbara Backus; and Rodney Price

Sept. 8th-14th: Cary & Mary Cooke; Fran Evans; Don Hamilton; and Rodger & Su Hiatt

Sept. 15th-21st: Al Windham; Ray & Connie Gill and Jennifer & Keith Plantier, Moira & Harmon

Sept. 22nd-28th: Peg Ruschmeyer: David Shanafelt; and Lefty & Andy Cleveland

Sept.. 29th-Oct. 5th: Patrick Messersmith, Kristi Lee, and Connor and Scotty

**USHERS AND GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**USHERS: Bryan Hall (head), Rodger Hiatt, Su Hiatt, Lloyd Presswood**

**GREETERS: Katy Presswood, Ruth Cranor**



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**4515 SOUTH 14TH STREET**

**ABILENE, TX 79605-4736**

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**SEPTEMBER 2010** MISSION: Presbyterian Children's Home & Services

