

From the Heart of the Pastor

I am encouraged by all the people who are steadfastly reading through the New Testament. Some people have told me they are not keeping current, yet still making the effort. Even if you are behind in the reading, do press on, God may be preparing a specific passage of Scripture for a specific time. John Wesley believed that God wants to connect with us, and Scripture is one of those ways He speaks to us. If we open our Bible, God has an opportunity to speak! I rejoice because so many of you have experienced God's blessings through the riches of His word this summer.

On another subject, our family has been traveling quite a bit this summer. Katrina had less than 24 hours at home between her trips. As we sat at the table together for the first time in over two weeks, I marveled at God's goodness we experience in each member of the family being present. God has blessed us with wonderful people and each person matters to Jesus and to us.

We want as many people as possible to be present at our Westwood Celebration picnic on August 16 at 11:00. On that morning we will have one worship service, (at 10:00), featuring the Camp Westwood musical! Immediately afterwards we will enjoy games for the children, games for adults, music, and great food. Invite your friends to the musical, and join the fun!

May our Lord continue to bless all of you, and in the words of Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Gratefully serving with you,

Pastor Wayne

New Church Directory Planned

Get ready to smile! The pictures for the new directory will be taken by Lifetouch on Sept. 24 – 26 and Oct. 12 – 14. Details on scheduling will be available in late August.

Connect With Westwood United Methodist Church

A booklet that the Communication Team created to help you Connect with Westwood United Methodist Church will be sent out this week, either with the Messenger or in a separate mailing (for those of you receiving it electronically). It is a brief overview of the groups and the opportunities available to you here at WUMC. **Please keep this book** and use it to find out where and how you can Connect!

Thanks,
The Communication Team

Westwood Celebration Picnic

Please join your church family on August 16th for one service at 10:00 a.m. (featuring the Children's Summer Musical) and then for a special church picnic from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.. The church will provide the meat for grilling, and we ask that everyone bring a dish to pass. There will also be special games to play.

Please save the date and we'll see you there!



**Westwood
Celebration Picnic**

The Alpha Course



What is the point of **life**?

What happens when you Die?

Is forgiveness possible?

What relevance does **Jesus** have in our lives today?

What is Alpha? The course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over ten, thought provoking weekly sessions. There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other. Listen, learn, discuss and discover. Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for everyone, especially:

- Those wanting to investigate Christianity.
- New Christians.
- Newcomers to the church.
- Those who want to brush up on the basics.

An Alpha Invitation Update

Your next opportunity to support spreading the Gospel in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Area starts Sunday August 1st. We will be offering yard signs and car magnets that will help to Brand the Alpha course in our community. By purchasing these and displaying them in August and September you will add to the effort of the other advertising going on. There will be billboards on I-94 & US 131. Local billboards will be on West Main, Stadium Drive & Kings Highway. Local print and internet will be used ads as well as public service announcements in the area. These things will all add up to great support when you ask someone to come to Alpha. Remember to ask and remember that if you have asked someone before and gotten a refusal that no does not mean no forever.

Participating Churches

Almena UMC, Battle Creek 1st Presbyterian, 3rd CRC, Garrison Hills Wesleyan Church, Haven of Rest (Battle Creek), Hope Church of the Nazarene, Lawrence UMC, Riverwalk Community Church, Schoolcraft UMC, Simpson UMC(Bangor), Wakeshma Community Church, Westwood UMC.

Our next Alpha Course begins September 8, 2009 with the introductory Dinner at 6:00 PM in Simpson Hall. Please invite someone.

Kingdom Kids Invitation

LOW time investment—HIGH return for growing in faith

With grateful hearts and enthusiasm the Kingdom Kids Task Force is embarking on its third year of programming. We strive to make each child feel welcome and supported, learning about the Bible in ways that are interesting and engaging, and we have found that content is meaningful to kids *and* to leaders. Over the last two years more than 75 people have shared their gifts and blessed our children. What a great program for these kids as they interact with the rest of our congregation while they learn!



This September our children will begin exploring this year's theme which is the Covenants God has made with us, beginning with the Exodus out of Egypt, the Ten Commandments, and Isaiah preparing the way for the Christ Child.

Please check out the Signup Board in the Narthex for the 2009-2010 program year—SO MANY CHOICES! The kids LOVE the storytellers who visit them during Gathering Time on Sunday mornings. This is a special and fun way to spend just 5-10 minutes each Sunday (for a short, defined number of weeks) to bring the story to life for the children, as they learn through the Bible verses and activities in the workshops!

Ways to Be Involved on Sundays:

- Storytellers for the Gathering (each week for 4-6 weeks) from 9:30-9:45am
- Workshop Leaders (2 weeks in the area of your choice) 9:30-10:30 am

Ways to Be Involved "Behind the Scenes:

- Paint Kingdom Kids (Ed wing) hallway in August—help us decide when
- Prayer partners (your own devotional time)
- Administrative Jobs: copying, compiling notebooks, making Bible verse cards and more—your convenience

Join the Task Force:

1st Tuesday of the month (usually) at 7:00 pm

Contact Karen Bowman to sign up for your "low investment" of time for the "high return" of kids' (and your own) growth in faith!

Again, **thank you** all for being the life and heart of this program!



Kingdom
Kids

From my E-mail . . .

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.'

The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?'

'Yes' he replied.

'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard — and remember — You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

God bless you; I hope you are having a wonderful day!

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not PROTECT you...
Stay FAITHFUL and Be GRATEFUL!

God doesn't answer email, He answers Knee Mail!

News from Paul Webster

Our missionary in Zambia, Africa, writes: "While the economic recession (depression?) hits hard in the U.S. realize that the old saying "when the U.S. catches cold, the rest of the world catches pneumonia", is still true. The Copper mines are closed and people are going back to the villages to try to find food. Unemployment insurance and welfare are unheard of here.

Helping people to make a living through farming is the only answer to their family income needs.

Our appropriate technology and low-input model of agriculture can pull many out of poverty even in these tough times. We ask that your prayers and continued financial support be with us as we show people better ways to produce food for their families and communities."

Operating Fund Financial Picture

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$29,314	\$154,656
Total Expense	\$24,737	\$160,459
Net Income/(Loss)	\$4,577	(\$5,803)
Operating Fund Balance as of 6/30/09: (\$3,433)		

Thanks for the Long Distance Prayers

Jean Marie (Pastor Wayne's sister) wishes to thank all of those who have prayed for her during this difficult time. She has had her first chemo treatment, and will have additional chemo treatments in August.

Thank you WUMC!

Camp Westwood Items Needed:

If you can help supply any of the items below for use at Camp Westwood, we would really appreciate it!!!!

Decorations – mark with your name for return to you:

1. Christmas décor – wreaths, large pictures, instruments, carolers, yard type ornaments that we can set around.
2. Beach items, Hawaiian items – palm trees, beach towels, colored buckets, large flower prints (cardboard or cloth)
Large flowers – paper or cloth.
Fruit decorations – pinapples, etc.

Craft Items – for donation

1. Craft Glue bottles & glue sticks
2. Colored paper
3. Permanent colored markers
4. Beads for stringing
5. fabric paint

Cash Donations: to Music Ministries designated fund #329. **THANK YOU!!!!**

Summer Reading of the New Testament

July 26-August 1

- M Romans 12-14
- T 1 Corinthians 1-2,
Romans 15-16
- W 1 Corinthians 3-5
- T 1 Corinthians 6-8
- F 1 Corinthians 9-11
- S 1 Corinthians 12-14

August 2 – August 8

- M 1 Corinthians 15-16
- T 2 Corinthians 1-4
- W 2 Corinthians 5-7
- T 2 Corinthians 8-10
- F 2 Corinthians 11-13
- S Galatians 1-3

Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

Prayers for comfort, healing and strength

Homebound

James A. MacGregor, Bickford Cottage, Rm 216, 4707 W. Milham, Portage, 49024-1020, Ph. 381-8172, Email is macgregorj@sbcglobal.net

Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004
Gary Babbitt, 47040 24th Street, Mattawan, 49071
Pat Bailey, 1855 Quail Cove, Kalamazoo, 49009
Edna Mae Beck, 2603 Ayrshire, Lansing, 48911
Thom Carrington, Sojourner House, 1490 E. Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, 49506
Jolie Ann Corda, 617 Flamingo Avenue, Portage, 49024
Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004
Lois and Arlo Dunkelberger, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49009
Irene Dutton, 918 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, 49006
Elizabeth Dye, Sojourners House, Room # 129, 5364 Green Meadow Dr., Kalamazoo, 49009
Herb Ellinger, Friendship Village #191, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Kalamazoo, 49006
Bob Eschliman, 25052 Silver Oaks Blvd., Mattawan, 49071
Norma Fort, Life Care Center-Plainwell, Room 123, 320 Brigham, Plainwell, 49080
Lynn (Ethlyn) Graebner, Upjohn Community Care Center, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, 2400 Portage, Kalamazoo, 49008
Vicki Hale
Fran Hargie
Thomas Kasdorf
Julie Lancaster, 1629 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, 49006
Reverend Jerry Lewis (*Pastor of Westwood Church of God*)
Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004
Mary Penn
Jean Marie Peters (*Pastor Wayne's sister in California will undergo further treatment for cancer.*)
John and Betty Pick, The Fountains at Bronson Place, 1700 Bronson Way, Kalamazoo, 49009
Betty is at the Springs.
Patricia Smith
Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006
Betty Thompson, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 189, Kalamazoo, 49006
Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghai

Stephen Breisach
Anthony Earl
Nicholas Heystek
Neil McKenna
Ryan Mitchell
John Moser
Carl Williams
Christopher Wilson



Calendar of Events




Sunday, August 02, 2009	
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
Monday, August 03, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
7:00 PM	Spiritual Partners
7:00 PM	Courters
	Russia Team Leaves
Tuesday, August 04, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
1:00 PM	Staff Meeting
7:00 PM	Kingdom Kids Meeting
7:00 PM	KAL IPMS
Wednesday, August 05, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
7:00 PM	BSA District Meeting
Thursday, August 06, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
7:00 PM	BSA Commissioners
Friday, August 07, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
Saturday, August 08, 2009	
	No events scheduled.
Sunday, August 09, 2009	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Praise Team
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
Monday, August 10, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
12:00 PM	Camp Westwood Cookout for Kids in Musical
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Communications
Tuesday, August 11, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
7:00 PM	Stephen Ministry
7:00 PM	Compassionate Friends
	Staff Meeting (TBD)
Wednesday, August 12, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, August 13, 2009	
9:00 AM	Camp Westwood
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
4:30 PM	ISAAC Meeting
7:00 PM	Camp Westwood Musical
Friday, August 14, 2009	
	No events scheduled.
Saturday, August 15, 2009	
	No events scheduled.
Sunday, August 16, 2009	
	One Service Today
10:00 AM	Camp Westwood Musical Presentation
11:00 AM	Westwood Celebration Picnic

**Worship Celebrations at
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**
Nursery care is provided
during both celebrations.



connec
There really is more to life!

At Westwood United Methodist Church, we seek to connect:

-  with God, seeking a spiritual center for our lives
-  with each other, creating friendships that last
-  with our community, serving the needs of our neighbors

Come and see!

Messenger Deadlines:

The Westwood Messenger is published weekly (bi-weekly from June through September). Deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

Upcoming Publications:

Aug. 10

Aug. 24

Sept. 7



**Westwood
United Methodist
Church**

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Westwood Messenger articles relate to the activities of Westwood United Methodist Church. Any member or constituent may submit articles for publication. Place articles, with your name and phone, in the *Messenger* mailbox outside the church office or send an e-mail to betharbogast@charter.net by Wednesday of the week before it should appear. Your name may be used in the article. The *Messenger* is mailed Tuesday. Subscribers do not receive it before Wednesday. Articles must be submitted two weeks before events. All articles are edited to correct errors and conform with postal regulations. Due to space constraints, some articles are abbreviated or postponed at the discretion of the editor. If you have any questions or comments, address them to the editor: Beth Arbogast at 343-3937.

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Subscribing to the *Messenger*

The *Westwood Messenger* is a newsletter published weekly by the members and friends of Westwood United Methodist Church. There is no subscription fee. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, call the church office at 344-7165.

Westwood UMC supports **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

For general information or if you are unsure where to direct your question, please email info@westwood-umc.org and your inquiry will be forwarded appropriately.

Note to Subscribers: If you will be out of town and chose not receive your 3rd class mail, please contact the church at 344-7165 to have your *Messenger* temporarily stopped. If it is not stopped, the church pays for the original postage, plus a fee when it is returned. Please help us save costs and contact us as soon as possible.