

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

All of us give our allegiance to something. On Sunday I asked, "Do you give your allegiance to earthly kingdoms and temptations, or to the Kingdom of God?" Every kingdom requires something from you. Governments require taxes, and sin requires your freedom. If we intend to live faithfully with Jesus we need to make a declaration of independence from the taxing forces of sin, much as the Continental Congress made their Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. We celebrate our national sovereignty every July 4 remembering the fateful day in 1776. However, it took months for the members of congress to sign the document, and years to achieve independence.

George Washington is hailed as the victorious hero of the campaign, with many depictions of his bold leadership and courage. History recounts a more arduous struggle of over five years, in which Washington won only three of his nine battles, often outmaneuvered by the opposing generals. George Washington and the troops were embarrassed in New York, and despondent in Valley Forge. Despite the setbacks, miscalculations, and ill-supplied forces Washington was tenacious and opportunistic. Washington rallied meager troops, surprising the British forces in Trenton on Christmas morning, and ultimately subduing the enemy at Yorktown in 1781. The decisive victory in Yorktown was only the beginning of an ongoing exploration of what it means to be a nation living in liberty.

Living the independence of the Kingdom of God is a daily campaign, in which we, like Washington, sometimes seem to win one third of our battles. We can find ourselves outmaneuvered by sin, bitter memories, or resignation. The battles are not always simple or easy, and are lived day by day, hour by hour. The apostle Peter encourages us, "**For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love**" (1 Peter 1:5-6). Peter wrote these words a number of years after Jesus' death and resurrection. He had many years of experience, learning, and maturity. He understood we needed faith, knowledge, **self-control and perseverance**, as well as godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Just as Washington's tenacity was one reason we celebrate our independence as a nation, if we combine daily self-control with perseverance we will experience more of God's liberty in Jesus.

In the next week, choose a short Scripture to pray four times a day, so that you are able to stay focused on the liberty and love of the Kingdom of God. You will need self-control and perseverance. If you do, our Lord will ease the wage you pay to worldly things, and increase your liberty to love. Remember Jesus' promise of kingdom living, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. **He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners** and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:17-19) Enjoy the goodness of Jesus freedom and spread it to others!

Gratefully serving Jesus with you,

Pastor Wayne

P.S Please remember to register with Kalamazoo FUMC as we join with them for the "Good All the Good You Can Do" day Saturday, September 26.

## **Financial Peace University Last Call for 2009 Class!**

Yes, you can still come to Financial Peace this Thursday @ 7PM (in the theatre) but this is your last chance for this course until next year.

For those of you who missed Jean Whitcomb's powerful testimony this past Labor Day week-end, you have another opportunity. I really think Jean hit the nail on the head in terms of what the class is all about, so I wanted to make sure you got her message.

Read on.....

Jo Turner [ph: 207-6151]

I want to talk to you this morning about my journey toward financial peace. Clint and I took the class last fall when it was first offered here at Westwood. By that time, we had been following Dave Ramsey's program for over six months. When Jo first announced that the class would be offered here at the church, Clint was very excited about it. Me?....not so much.

Clint had been a Dave Ramsey fan for over a year by then. He had stumbled upon Dave's radio show one day at work and was intrigued. He bought one of Dave's books, quickly read it from cover to cover, and wanted me to read it as well. But I kept putting it off (that's what I do). When Sue White gave her testimony, she told us how her kids have come to hate Dave. Well, I can relate to that. Almost every day, I would come home and hear "You gotta hear about this caller today on the Dave Ramsey show", or "you gotta read this book, it tells us everything we're doing wrong and how we can fix it."

Clint was very focused on using this information to straighten out our lives and improve our future. Dave Ramsey calls it "gazelle intensity, but at the time I called it "drinking the Kool-Aid". Now, with the wisdom of experience, I realize it's because Clint saw something in Dave's model for financial peace that spoke to him - something authentic and true – but I just felt like Dave was one more person telling me what was wrong with me, so I put up a wall (that's what I do). Eventually Clint realized this and backed off. Then I did pick up the book and read it and began to understand what Clint saw.

Dave's model is simple: Spend less than you make, live within your means, and save for your future. If you live like no one else now, later you can truly LIVE LIKE NO ONE ELSE. It isn't a knee-jerk reaction to the current economic situation; it's a timeless set of strategies, biblically based, that can help you be a better steward of what God has given you. What Dave offers are not new ideas. This is how our parents and grandparents lived before society convinced us that debt is normal and that we are somehow entitled to everything we want, whether we can afford it or not.

So Clint and I began putting this model in to practice. I said earlier that this program is simple, but it is not easy. For a lot of people, it requires a total shift in how you view money. It involves concepts like sacrifice, delayed gratification, and thoughtful stewardship; concepts that are familiar to us as Christians, but as human beings living in 21<sup>st</sup> century America, seem very foreign to us.

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I will confess, we had a slight advantage. God blessed me with an uncanny ability to remember trivial information that would seem to have no value whatsoever, and then he blessed me with a venue in which this ability could actually make me some money. Were it not for the good people at Sony Pictures, who produce the TV game show Jeopardy, we wouldn't be nearly as far along in the baby steps toward Financial Peace that Dave outlines.

But we would still be doing it, because it works. I'll tell you how I know it works. When Clint had been unemployed for over a year, we were probably in the best financial shape of our entire marriage. That's because we were paying attention to what we were doing and we were following these time-honored strategies. So when Jo announced the class, Clint immediately wanted to sign up. But I thought, since we're already doing this and it's working for us, why do we need to go to class and share our business with a bunch of other people?

Since it was obviously important to Clint, I said I'd give it a try. I even thought the title was a little hokey. "Financial Peace".....just a line to get people to feel all warm and fuzzy about talking about money and budgets. Guess what? It really is much more peaceful when you don't have to give away almost everything you make to someone else. When you can tithe and pay all your bills and still have money left over, it really is "Financial Peace".

Let me tell you what the class isn't. No one is ever asked to open up their checkbook or their bank statements, pass their budget around the class to be examined, declare out loud the amount of your debt. We watched a video of Dave discussing the focus for that week (and you will enjoy the video as Dave is very funny). After the video, we talk in small groups, and you need only share what you are comfortable sharing. The reason I'm glad I took the class, rather than just read it on my own, is that sometimes when you're struggling with these issues, you feel alone, and you feel hopeless. Taking this class and discussing these issues with other people shows you that you're not alone, and hearing how other people have handled similar situations does give you hope. Who better than your church family to share your struggles with?

Most of us view money emotionally, even if we're not aware of it, and you will learn how to change that view. One huge benefit of this program for us, and I've heard it echoed by several other couples who've participated, is that for the first time, we are able to discuss money in a civil and rational manner and make rational discussions that we both agree on. What a difference that has made in our lives!

One of the great things about this program is that Dave comes at these issues from a biblical perspective. There are verses that speak specifically to how we should handle our money, and as Dave says every day on his radio program, ultimately, the only way to financial peace is to walk daily with the Prince of Peace. And I won't tell you that Dave has all the answers and is always right. There are some things I still don't agree with him about. But his basic model is straightforward and, most importantly, it works!

If you're interested in being part of this program, please contact Jo and reserve your spot. And if you're sitting there thinking, "Hmm, I wonder if I really need this program. She's talking to other people; she's not talking to...me...is she?" If you have even an inkling that you might benefit from this program, listen to your instincts and go for it. It could change your life.

Jean Whitcomb

## **Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**

Last Spring Westwood hosted two “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” video mini-seminars. Over 80 members and friends attended the Friday evening/Saturday morning fun filled and enriching events. Some folks have asked, “Why don’t you do that marriage laughing seminar thing again? We couldn’t make it last time and missed out on all the fun”. To which we have replied, “Okay! Let’s do it again!!”

If you are looking to:

- Achieve insight into yourself and your spouse...
- Improve your marriage...
- Learn how to respect and be sensitive to each other...
- Eat great food...
- Have a blast...

***You won’t want to miss this free seminar!!***

Beginning on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the York Theater we will begin viewing the video series, starting with “A Tale of Two Brains”. We will have a snack break and end around 10:00 pm (way before your bedtime).

Come back at 9:00 am on Saturday for a light breakfast and continue with the series, including, “How to Stay Married and Not Kill Anybody”. We’ll have you out of there no later than 1:00 pm, ready to enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Please call us to:

- Sign up for the seminar
- Ask any questions
- Sign up for free babysitting

Bob and Karen Strobel 342-8816  
Thom and Laurel Andrews 375-6831



## The New Adventurers are going to the New Vic Theatre

Saturday, September, 26  
Dessert & Theatre

The New Adventurers are going to the "New Vic Theatre" on Saturday, September 26 to the "The Best of Times". This is a musical odyssey of the popular folk music era of the 60's and 70's. We will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. for dessert before going to the musical. Please call Joyce Branch at 372-7688 for information or reservations. Tickets are \$25.00. Deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## New Bull Bought for Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre

Our missionary agricultural specialist in Zambia, Paul Webster, writes, "In late May we discovered that our old bull had been failing to breed our cows for several months. We made an emergency trip to Ndola where we searched for a week for a new bull of some quality. We were disappointed to find that most were very poor and very high priced. God rewarded us for our patience because after a week we got a tip that there was a Danish mission station that would sell us a very high quality breeding bull at slaughter animal prices. This saved us \$400 on the price. The bull rode the 12 hour trip over very bad roads without mishap and within two days was hard at work. We believe almost all of our open cows are now bred."

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## Pasty Sale – Saturday, October 3

Due to increased demand, pasty sales this season will be held three times instead of two. Other sales will be held in mid-January and mid-March. However, in an effort to make the amount of pasties produced more doable, **a maximum of 750 pasties will be made**. Since two more pasty sales are planned, please consider reducing the amount you order on this first sale so that all orders may be filled. Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Contact Nancy VandenBrink at 344-6945 if you have questions.

Please return your order to the church office by Monday, September 28.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity desired:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked (\$2.75 each)                      \_\_\_\_\_ Unbaked (\$2.25 each)

Please indicate the time you will pick up your order:  
(for unbaked orders, morning is best)

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 a.m.                      \_\_\_\_\_ 12:30 p.m.                      \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 p.m.

Checks should be made payable to Westwood United Methodist Women.  
(orders can be prepaid or pay at time of pick-up)

## Westwood Singers News

During the next several weeks, your Westwood Singer families will be working hard to raise money for our choir program and activities. We are offering a collection of excellent merchant coupons from local businesses. These **Peel It Cards** will cost only \$10. They represent an incredible value and may be used through the end of 2010. Some are for unlimited use through 2010. Unlimited use coupons (through 2010) include Arby's, Bennigans, Big Apple Bagel, Dunham's Sports, and Family Video. See any Westwood Singer for yours!

The merchants include:

### **Restaurants**

The Craftsman Chop Co.  
TGIFridays  
Ground Round  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Big Boy  
Old Country Buffet

### **Entertainment**

Celebration Cinema  
Rave Motion Pictures  
Lazer Land  
Video Hits  
Kalamazoo 10  
Airway Lanes

### **Stores**

Best Buy  
MC Sports

### **Subs**

Quiznos  
Lenny's  
Blimpie

### **Fast Food**

Burger King  
Taco Bell  
Fazoli's  
Taco Bob's  
Lee's  
Big Apple Bagel  
Noodles Co  
Checkers

### **Ice Cream/Coffee**

Dairy Queen  
Coldstone Creamery  
Biggby Coffee

### **Pizza**

Godfather's Pizza  
Hungry Howie's  
Cottage Inn Pizza  
Domino's Pizza Cottage Inn Pizza  
Samuel Mancinos  
Papa Johns

### **Auto**

Lentz

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## Church Directory Pictures Start This Week

The photos for the pictorial directory will be taken on Sept. 24 – 26 and Oct. 12 – 14.

Please contact Beth Arbogast at 343-3937 to schedule, or pick up a scheduling form by the church office, fill it out, and turn it in to the Messenger mailbox (outside of the office). If you would like a sitting of extended family in addition to your directory photo, you are more than welcome to do so. If you have any questions about scheduling or your photo sitting, please contact Beth Arbogast at 343-3937.

# *Golden Gazette*

Newsletter of the OLDER ADULT COUNCIL

Sallie Platt, Editor

## 55 Plus

On Wednesday, October 7, we will be joined by the troupe of Prime Time Players for lunch at noon in Simpson Hall. They will perform after the meal, being prepared and served by Jim Jameson's crew. Thanks to a grant from the WUMC Foundation and the contribution from the Harold and Virginia Hayman and Ferrell and Dorothy Fry memorial funds, there will not be a free will offering taken. Come and enjoy the fellowship and entertainment. Two Westwood members are part of the Prime Time Players. We request that you make reservations. Turn in the form below to the church office by October 4.

## New Addresses:

John and Rose Marie Kohl, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 194, Kalamazoo, 49006  
Virginia Martin, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 378, Kalamazoo, 49006

## **Golden Birthdays Send a Card - Make a Call - Say a Prayer**

- 10/3 Sally Mahieu, 1433 Barney Rd., 49004, Ph. 349-4562
- 10/5 James Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, 49004, Ph. 342-9152
- 10/5 James Frey, 1260 North 5th St., 49009, Ph. 372-5780
- 10/7 Richard Haw, 116 Manadalay Dr., 49009, Ph. 375-7019
- 10/12 Jane Waite, 5733 Canton Dr., 49004, Ph. 344-8212
- 10/13 Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, 49006, Ph. 343-5297
- 10/13 Linda Ridderbos, 1316 Jupiter, Plainwell, 49080, Ph. 685-2110
- 10/14 Bruce Kroeze, 6105 Old Post Road, 49009, Ph. 375-1508
- 10/14 Thomas McGaw, 819 Landsdowne, Portage, 49002, Ph. 324-5713
- 10/15 Louise Sepanik, 4601 Stonebrook, 49009, 343-2122
- 10/15 Ellen Griffith, 430 Parkdale, Parchment, 49004, Ph. 343-2035
- 10/17 John Chamberlin, 35247 Canterbury, 49006, Ph. 344-1655
- 10/25 Karen Bowman, 6456 Torrington Rd., 49009, Ph. 375-9580
- 10/26 Nancy Stern, 4126 Grand Prairie Rd., 49006, Ph. 388-3742
- 10/28 Elizabeth Dye, 5145 Old Colony Rd., Portage, 49024, Ph. 342-6142
- 10/28 Lloy Haw, 116 Manadalay Dr., 49009, Ph. 375-7019
- 10/28 Barbara Hunt, 3409 Meadowcroft, 49004, Ph. 49004, Ph. 344-6293

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## **Reservation Form 55 Plus, October 7, 2009**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to the church office by October 4.

## Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

*Prayers for comfort, healing and strength*

### Homebound

Julian Blair, 22979 Canary Ave., Mattawan, 49071

### Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattawan, 49071

Pat Bailey, 1855 Quail Cove, Kalamazoo, 49009

Don Bertch, Rose Arbor Hospice residence, #9, 5473 Croydon Avenue, Kalamazoo, 49009

Thom Carrington, Sojourner House, 1490 E. Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, 49506

Judi Clapp, 1974 Dunlin Court NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49505

Jolie Ann Corda, 617 Flamingo Avenue, Portage, 49024

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Judy DeHaan, 612 Jenks Blvd., Kalamazoo, 49006

Lois and Arlo Dunkelberger, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49004

(Lois will be going to Hospice Care in Bloomingdale, MI)

Irene Dutton, 918 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, 49006

Lynn (Ethlyn) Graebner, Upjohn Community Care Center, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo,  
2400 Portage, Kalamazoo, 49001

Vicki Hale

Dick Harrison, 3908 Iroquios, Kalamazoo, 49006

Samuel Jennings

Sally Krohn

Mabel Hillis, 3014 Winter Wheat, Kalamazoo, MI, 49004

Julie Lancaster, 1629 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, 49006

The MacGregor Family (Jim MacGregor died on Sept. 10)

Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004

Mary Penn, 550 Chadd's Ford Way, Oshtemo, 49009

Jean Marie Peters (*Pastor Wayne's sister*)

Betty Pick, Bickford Cottage, Merry Bee, 4704 W. Milham Ave., Portage, 49024

John Reid, 1205 Bunkerhill, Kalamazoo, 49009

Mike Roush, 522 Cherokee #212, Kalamazoo, 49006

Patricia Smith

Norma Stafford, 1400 N. Drake Rd., #408, Kalamazoo, 49006

(Norma is at Friendship Village for rehab.)

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

Betty Thompson, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 189, Kalamazoo, 49006

Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Jane & Gary Waite and Carolyn and Jim Parker

(Florine Batchelor, Jane & Carolyn's mother, died this week.)

### Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Toby Brown

Anthony Earl

Nicholas Heystek

Neil McKenna

Carl Williams

Christopher Wilson



## Calendar of Events




Sunday, September 27, 2009	
	Missions Basket Fundraiser
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups
Monday, September 28, 2009	
7:00 PM	Courtiers
7:00 PM	BSA
7:15 PM	Church Council
Tuesday, September 29, 2009	
9:30 AM	Worship Team
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
6:00 PM	Alpha
Wednesday, September 30, 2009	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:00 PM	Disciple IV
6:00 PM	Companions in Christ Bible Study
6:00 PM	High School Choir
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q"
7:00 PM	WHBE
Thursday, October 01, 2009	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
Friday, October 02, 2009	
Saturday, October 03, 2009	
Sunday, October 04, 2009	
	Communion Sunday
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups



# 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!**

**Worship Celebrations at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.**  
Nursery care is provided  
during both celebrations.

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.westwood-umc.org/>

*Messenger Deadlines:*

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

*Upcoming Publications:*

Sept. 28

Oct. 5

Oct. 12



**Westwood  
United Methodist  
Church**

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Kalamazoo, MI 49006-2946  
(269) 344-7165

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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](mailto: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.

**Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers**

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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E-mail: [pastorwayne@westwood-umc.org](mailto:pastorwayne@westwood-umc.org)
- Director of Worship and Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright ..... 544-2390  
E-mail: [jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net)
- Organist,  
Church/Staff Admin. Assistant, Lois Moeller  
E-mail: [lmoeller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmoeller@sbcglobal.net)
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- Lay Leader, Bob Strobel ..... 342-8816
- Lay Minister of Spiritual Formation, Louise Jameson ..... 382-3463
- Lay Minister of Worship, Matthew Knewtson ..... 349-5603
- Staff-Parish Chairperson, Irv Cumming
- Wesley Foundation Director, Lisa Batten ..... 344-4076  
Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College (Office)
- Westwood Messenger* Editor, Beth Arbogast ..... 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](mailto: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.