

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry He proclaimed His mission in His hometown synagogue:

18" 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,  
19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
Luke 4:18-19

The disciples were invited by Jesus to join His mission a short time later. Perhaps they responded to the invitation because of Jesus' charisma, His authority, or perhaps because of the distinctive vision they found in His words. Jesus brings good news to impoverished people (physically, emotionally, and spiritually), He proclaims freedom to prisoners, recovery for those who stumble in darkness, and release to those who feel enslaved. I wonder if the disciples responded so quickly and decisively to the call, because they felt weary from their poverty, contradictions, constrictions, and confusion. Good news? Freedom? Recovery? Release? The Lord's favor? Sign me up!!!

Such transformation did not happen to the disciples as soon as they left their boats, tax collector's booth, and other aspects of their lives. For three years they were personally guided by Jesus, and on the night of Jesus' arrest they still did not understand much of the time. Not until they experienced the resurrection did they begin to grasp God's vision for humankind.

In the past, many of you have read the New Testament, and perhaps the whole Bible. It can become like a familiar acquaintance. Yet, it is not just a passing friendship. Jesus always brings the transforming vision into our lives, in even deeper ways. The word "disciple" shares the root of the word "discipline," and it denotes a life lived intentionally toward a goal. We forsake other behaviors and thoughts, so that we might live into the vision of Jesus. The Word becomes the Living Word when we go from reading to incorporating.

For instance, "patience" usually means being willing to wait for something. A wise Christian who lived it defined it this way, "...you respond in a positive way to a negative situation...rather than being restless and demanding, love helps you settle down and begin extending mercy to those around you." The more we dwell in Scripture the deeper we live the full meaning of Jesus' words and vision, beyond common definitions to the peace and love Jesus offers. I encourage you to let the Word transform your life.

Gratefully serving with you,

Pastor Wayne



## The Alpha Course

What is the point of **life**?

What happens when you **die**?

Is **forgiveness** possible?

What relevance does **Jesus** have for 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.

### What's involved?

The Alpha course consists of a series of talks looking at topics such as "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and how do I pray?" After each talk we divide into small groups for a time of discussion.

### 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.

### What will it cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course, although you will be asked to contribute towards food.

### Spring 2009 Alpha Graduates

Will Arbogast, Diane Lewis, Jayson Miller, Chris Pomeroy and Deidre Sweet  
Spring Alpha Team Members

Coral Damon-Brown, John Chamberlin, Aurelio Flores, Mary Grant, Stephanie & Matt Knewtson, Phyllis Lubbert, Sally Mahieu, Tara Pomeroy, Jo & Mike Turner, Nancy VandenBrink.  
Special Table Decorations- Beth Shirley

Thank you to all!

The Next Alpha course @ WWUMC begins **Tuesday September 8, 2009.**

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your support of the Alpha course over the past eight years. Many of you have taken the course, invited others to the course and/or worked on an Alpha team. Thank you, thank you and thank you.

I have told many about the **Alpha Invitation** in which we have joined forces with the First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek to help increase the number of churches running Alpha in our community. This effort started in February with the Taste of Alpha luncheons where we invited pastors from around the area to hear about the Alpha course. Then at the end of May we ran a training event for first time courses at Westwood which was well attended. We expect to have six new courses for a total of eleven in the area

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a prayer meeting for the Alpha Invitation at First Presbyterian from 6-8 PM where all the churches that are signed up will join together in prayer about this venture. Please pray for us all if you will.

The next step in the Alpha Invitation is to raise money to advertise the Alpha course. You see it's been proven that mass advertisement helps to "brand" the Alpha course in an area and it improves the ability of the churches running Alpha to get acceptance from invitations to non-Christians and seekers.

Our advertising budget for the fall is \$15,000. We need to raise the money this month as we need to start the ad campaign in August. The Westwood Foundation and the Westwood Memorial Fund have already donated towards the Alpha Invitation and we are very thankful for that. What can you do?

- 1) Donate money by writing a check to Westwood UMC with Alpha Invitation #320 in the memo area. We have already raised \$2000 towards the ad budget.
- 2) Purchase a yard sign and/or a car magnet to display during August and early September. See me or call me at 207-6150 for ordering.
- 3) Pray that the Alpha Invitation will be the beginning of a revival in our community.
- 4) Invite those you know (even if you have already, as a "no" does not mean "no" forever) to the Alpha course beginning with the Introductory Dinner September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and thank you again for your support of the Alpha course which is spreading the Gospel here in the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo area.

Blessings,

Mike Turner, Alpha Course Administrator



## **CROP Walk Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk on May 3 as a walker or a sponsor! People of faith in our community, from many traditions, have come together in this event every year for 34 years to raise awareness of hunger as well as funds. Your support helps to provide food, self-help opportunities, and dignity to people locally and around the world who are hungry or food insecure. Our CROP Hunger Walk supports 9 local agencies (such as Ministry with Community, the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, and Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes) and many programs of Church World Service which address hunger and poverty around the world. This year's Walk was a big success, with over \$25,000 collected on Walk day alone. The total raised is anticipated to be over \$44,000. All of us together really can make a difference!

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## **Update from Paul Webster**

Paul Webster, our missionary in Zambia, continues news regarding the agriculture project: "By March we had our four ton truck repaired and returned to Mujila Falls. It delivered cement and steel so that we could resume the construction of a missionary house and other buildings. We weeded our crops and planted some pasture grasses and potatoes.

In April we hosted a Farmer's Field Day at our site that brought more than 200 farmers and local leaders together for a day of exhibition and discussion of our methods. Again, our project fed everyone with goat meat, fish, bananas, cabbage, milk, eggs, lemonade, etc."

## **Father's Day Pancake Breakfast**

Join your church family on Sunday, June 21 for a pancake breakfast (pancakes ala Larry Oppliger's recipe) with sausage and fresh fruit. Breakfast will be served between 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. so you may come after 8:30 worship or before 10:00 a.m. worship. Cost is a donation to the Russia Initiative Fund (our annual financial commitment is \$6,000 and we have sent in only \$1,000 to date). Treat Dad, Grandpa, or your husband as this is Father's Day!



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## **New Adventurers Planning Potluck**

The New Adventurers will meet at the Heysteks' for the annual planning potluck. Bring a dish to pass...no theme this year, so we may all be eating desserts or all salads! But we never seem to go hungry, so bring your favorite dish to pass for a true "potluck"! We'll discuss and plan events and set dates for the coming year. Please give a call to let us know you are coming!

Planning Potluck  
Saturday, June 27th  
6:00 p.m.  
Doug and Margo Heystek  
530 Woods Drive  
372- 1099



**Experience and Discover God  
Everywhere!**

Family Vacation School, 2009  
June 15-19, 2009, 5:30 Dinner, 6:00-8:00 Program  
**Westwood United Methodist Church**

**Join us there!**

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**Family Vacation Bible School – The  
E.D.G.E.**

Our mission for the FVBS will be to raise funds for the Stockbridge United Methodist Church VBS, which experienced loss of funds through some thefts. Not only will we be raising monetary gifts, but we will also be collecting donations of healthy snacks (juice boxes, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.) for their VBS. Additionally, the loose coin offering on Sunday, June 21 will also benefit this mission.

Thanks for your help!



**Come Walk Our Labyrinth!**

We will have a labyrinth on the church lawn between the parking lot and West Main during the week of Vacation Bible School (June 14-20). Labyrinths have been used by Christians since the Middle Ages as a tool for prayer. You are invited to walk our labyrinth any time during the week. Information sheets will be in the church office but you can walk the labyrinth without them. You might want to think about how the labyrinth is like life. Or you might just let the Spirit lead. Children usually need no instruction and running and dancing are forms of prayer too! Laurel Andrews will be giving overviews to the labyrinth during Vacation Bible School or you can contact her anytime with questions (375-6831 or laurelkazoo@yahoo.com).

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**Calling all Quilters and Crafters**

You are invited to join us!! We meet in the Wesley room on the 4th Tuesday of the month for a couple of hours of fellowship, and quilting, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, etc. once a month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a snack to pass and share in this fellowship time. If you have any questions, please contact either Carrie Rouse or Kim Longstroth.

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**Faith-Hope Circle**

Note new time. Faith-Hope Circle will be meeting on June 17 at 11:30 at Colonial Kitchen on Drake Road for lunch.

Jeanette Jupp

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**Early Eves**

There will be no Early Eves this month because of Vacation Bible School.

Thank you

## Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
June 21	Ben Quintel Dani Sturdy	Ben Quintel Dani Sturdy
June 28	Hymn Sing	Praise Team
July 5	Beth Mitchell	Beth Mitchell
July 12	Thom Andrews	Thom Andrews / Praise Team

## Check Out That Star!" Summer Musical "Camp Westwood"



Volunteer opportunities for August  
Meeting scheduled

1. The next scheduled meeting for Camp Westwood is **Tuesday June 29 – 5:30-7PM**
2. Helpers needed: We need helpers with recreation, snacks, and missions. Please call Jane Wright – 344-7165 Ext 205 if you have an interest. If you can do even a few days, we would appreciate it.
3. Camp Westwood is for Kids entering grades 1-9. Dates: August 3-13 with presentations on August 13 (Thursday evening at 7 PM) and Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service, August 16
4. Registration forms: are available on the Worship and Music Bulletin Board, and on the back table in the narthex, and posted in the newsletter occasionally. You will also be able to download at the Westwood UMC web site.
5. Please help spread the news about this event to your neighborhood and people you know!!

## Westwood Singers Trip To North Carolina

Please pray for the members of the Westwood Singers, for Karen Bowman, Jane Wright and Kim Longstroth who will accompany them to the Lake Junaluska Liturgical Arts Week in North Carolina. The trip begins Saturday morning, June 20 and we will return on Friday, June 26. We pray for safe travel, for a wonderful experience for all, good weather as we walk outside all week, good health so everyone can attend all of their classes and events with enthusiasm! And – God's blessings on the entire trip. Thanks for your helpful prayers!!

## \*\*\*Don't Forget To Read Your Bible This Summer!\*\*\*

Each week in worship, the sermons will be gleaned from the readings of the week. The schedule of reading can be found in the narthex in case yours becomes misplaced.

## Job Board At Westwood UMC

Got a Job? Need a Job?

We thought it would be a good idea if we, the congregation of Westwood, began to network with one another regarding available jobs and the need for jobs within our community. If you, or someone you know, needs a job, be sure to visit the job board – near the elevator entrance next to ALPHA. There are cards to fill out and post on the board. If you know about a job that is available, fill out the same card and post that as well. If you don't need a job and don't know about any right now – please visit the board and find out who does need a job and also become aware of what job postings you see there. Keep your eyes and ears open for jobs around the area, and keep others in mind as you go through your week. Pray for jobs to become available for those who need them, and if you hear about something, contact someone on the board with information, and also post the information on the board. Together, we can change lives and make a difference! Thank you.



**Maddison Molly Hagland  
Begins Her Life long Journey of Faith  
at Westwood United Methodist Church**

*Brothers and sisters in Christ:  
Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated  
into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into  
God's mighty acts of Salvation and given new birth  
through water and the Spirit. All of this is God's gift,  
offered to us without price.*

May 31, 2009, was a very special day in the life of Westwood United Methodist Church. As we celebrated Pentecost, the birth of the church, we also witnessed Maddison Molly Hagland receive her baptismal vows before her loving parents, Christopher and Elizabeth Hagland and godparents Brandon Hagland and Anna Toth.

Maddison was smiling as Reverend Dr. Wayne Price held her and gracefully sprinkled holy water on her head during the baptism process thus signifying our commitment as her church family to nurture Maddison in Christ's holy church. On this holy occasion, Madison's baptismal dress was made from Christopher's grandmother's 1948 wedding gown." Then my mother wore it for her wedding in 1969. When my sister was born, my grandmother made it into a baptism dress for her in 1976. Now we have our daughter wearing the dress for her baptism in 2009. We feel very fortunate to have found a church full of wonderful and caring individuals" said Christopher Hagland.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey in the nurturing fellowship of the caring, learning, worshipping, serving congregation at Westwood UMC.



## Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

*Prayers for comfort, healing and strength*

### Homebound

Pauline Hannon, 1700 Bronson Place #222, Kalamazoo, 49009

### 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

Edna Mae Beck, 2603 Ayrshire, Lansing, 48911

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

Susan Clapp, 1974 Dunlin Court NE, Grand Rapids, 49505

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, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49006

Elizabeth Dye, 5145 Old Colony Road, Portage, 49024

Bob Eschliman, 25052 Silver Oaks Blvd., Mattawan, 49071

Norma Fort, 5700 Vintage Lane, Apt. 101, Kalamazoo; 49009

Vicki Hale

Cena Herder, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Room #E-232, 601 John St., Kalamazoo; 49007

Helen Lancaster

Bob Mark

Steve Nuyen

Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004

Mary Penn

Jean Marie Peters

John and Betty Pick, 4662 Weston, Kalamazoo, 49006

Patricia Smith

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

Betty Thompson, Step Down Unit – North 3824, Bronson

Methodist Hospital, 601 John St.,

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Nancy Wallus, The Springs, Room #219,

1451 Bronson Way, Kalamazoo; 49009

### Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Stephen Breisach

Anthony Earl

Nicholas Heystek

Neil McKenna

John Moser

Carl Williams

Christopher Wilson



### **Summer Reading of the New Testament**

#### **June 14-June 20**

M	Mark 1-3
T	Mark 4-6
W	Mark 7-9
T	Mark 10-12
F	Mark 13-14
S	Mark 15-16

#### **June 21-June 27**

M	Luke 1-3
T	Luke 4-7
W	Luke 8-10
T	Luke 11-13
F	Luke 14-16
S	Luke 17-19




## Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, June 21, 2009</b>	
	<i>Father's Day</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Praise Team
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
<b>Monday, June 22, 2009</b>	
6:00 PM	Spiritual Formation
7:00 PM	Courters
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2009</b>	
6:30 PM	Quilters & Crafters
<b>Wednesday, June 24, 2009</b>	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
1:00 PM	Prayer Fellowship
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
<b>Thursday, June 25, 2009</b>	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
<b>Friday, June 26, 2009</b>	
	No events scheduled.
<b>Saturday, June 27, 2009</b>	
	ASP Returns
<b>Sunday, June 28, 2009</b>	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Praise Team
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
<b>Monday, June 29, 2009</b>	
7:00 PM	Church Council
7:00 PM	Courters
<b>Tuesday, June 30, 2009</b>	
9:30 AM	Worship Team
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
<b>Wednesday, July 01, 2009</b>	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
<b>Thursday, July 02, 2009</b>	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
<b>Friday, July 03, 2009</b>	
	No events scheduled.
<b>Saturday, July 04, 2009</b>	
	<i>Fourth of July</i>
<b>Sunday, July 05, 2009</b>	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Praise Team
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration

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



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 Wednesday prior to publication.

*Upcoming Publications:*

*June 29  
July 13  
July 27*



**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](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**

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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.