

From the Heart of the Pastor

In youth group last night, I asked the youth what they wanted for Christmas, and then asked them, “What do you think Jesus wants this Christmas?” The answers included: happiness, justice, joy, love, for people to respect Him and follow His commandments, to experience His forgiveness, to repent from things that do not please Him, and peace. We talked about how we experience Jesus’ peace when we do not fight with one another. We also talked about how we need to forgive one another, and to repent of thoughts and actions hurtful to others, which leads our getting along. Jesus makes it possible.

The angels proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to me on whom His favor rests” (Luke 2:14). The favor of God does not grab us, but rests upon us like a butterfly may rest upon a person who is sitting still. The shepherds were resting, because at nighttime the sheep were resting. When is a time you can rest? When do your “sheep” (your responsibilities and obligations) rest? Rest is difficult to come by when the laundry needs to be done, loose ends need to be tied up, and food still has to get to the table. Even so, we can find rest knowing that we are the favored ones of God-and He wishes us peace that passes understanding. Rest is both a time of quiet and a quiet attitude.

Ellen Egger was a woman whom I knew many years ago. She was beloved by those who knew her, and always seemed to bring out the best in people. During my time at the parish she passed away, and I met with the family. They all agreed that she never said an unkind word about anyone. I found it difficult to believe that in the over 80 years of her life, she was not know to have said one bad thing about people. The family held fast to their statement, and I thought, “If anyone could do that it would be Ellen.” She was able to be patient and graceful with others, because of her deep love for Jesus. Ellen humbly understood she was a sinner, like everyone else, and that she was saved by the mercy of Jesus. Although she was not rich in possessions, she was wealthy in character and spirit. She was one upon whom God’s favor rested.

Ellen continues to be a beacon for me when I hear our desires for happiness, joy, peace, and all the other things we long to see and experience in our lives. As Paul states in Philippians 3:12, “Not that I have already attained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” Advent is remembering the presence of Christ I experienced in others. If we find a place of quiet in our lives we can experience His birth in a deeper way. It is a desire to receive God’s favor by resting in His truth, grace, and purpose, as well as living His peace. Ellen left a legacy of God’s favor and peace. What is Jesus legacy in your life?

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,

Pastor Wayne

Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
Dec 13, Love	Westwood Handbell Ensemble, Q	Westwood Handbell Ensemble, Q, Praise Team
Dec 20, Joy	Chancel Choir, Westwood Singers	Chancel Choir, Westwood Singers



Season Of Praise

Christmas Cantata, Sunday, Dec 20, 8:30 & 10:55 Services

A special musical offering for Christmas. Many gifts come at Christmas. We hope the congregation here at Westwood will not only appreciate this gift from the choir and their accompanist, Benjamin Quintel, but also remember to share this gift with friends and acquaintances who might appreciate that you have offered Christ to them at this moment in time.

The vocal group Blendings Presents "It's Christmas Once Again"

"It's Christmas Once Again", a program of sacred and secular music of the season, will be presented on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Westwood United Methodist Church. Featured will be a vocal presentation of the "Nutcracker Suite", often danced but seldom performed as a choral selection. Other selections include arrangements of familiar carols as well as jazz arrangements of "Winter Wonderland" and "Jingle Bells". There is no charge for admission, however donations are gratefully accepted.

Angel Figurines Wanted

On Sunday, December 13 we will feature angels in worship. We ask you bring angels to the sanctuary before Friday, December 11, so we can set them up around the sanctuary. You may want to bring them to worship on December 6, if you are not planning on being at church during the week. You may drop them off during the day when the church is open. We look forward to being blessed by a whole host of angels on December 13.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Advent devotional booklets, with daily devotions and testimonies written by your Westwood UMC family, were distributed following worship on Sunday, November 29. If you did not receive a copy, you may pick up a copy outside the main doors on the sanctuary. Our 2009 Advent theme is "Legacy" and Sunday worship services and the devotions will help you contemplate that theme throughout Advent.

Singing Advent Sunday School class

Tina Egan and Roxanne Frey are planning on singing Christmas Carols during the Advent season at the local nursing homes and retirement centers during the Sunday school hour (9:30 to 10:30). Please see Tina or Roxanne if you are interested in participating so that transportation arrangements can be made. All are welcome to participate. Minors will need a permission slip from their parent or guardian. We will return to the church at approximately 10:45 each Sunday.

The Story of our Crèche

A few years ago Laura Anderson contacted a friend, Marietta Myers to help her search for a nativity scene appropriate for our Altar. Much to Laura's surprise, Marietta offered to make the figures — for free.

After several weeks work, the project was completed. Marietta calls herself a "sculptor" because she works with wet clay and begins most figures on a potter's wheel — Mary and the baby Jesus, Joseph, two shepherds, three wise men, a camel, a donkey, a cow and two sheep. The tallest figure measures about twelve inches high. There are also a few sleeping chickens, lambs and doves.

The late Norm Anderson crafted the stable with lumber from Marietta's barn. Laura feels God answered our church members' prayers guiding her to Myers, who does not attend our church. "It was God's guidance all the way," Laura says, "a real Christmas gift."

Please be sure this Advent Season, to take time to go to the Altar for a close-up view of our lovely crèche.

Get Mugged!

The Westwood United Methodist Church Communication Team is selling the "Love Mug" for \$5. This would what a wonderful Christmas gift. We love because He first loved us! Please contact Roxanne Frey to make a purchase.

Disciple II

Jim Jameson will be teaching Disciple II beginning Wednesday, January 13th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please call Jim at 271-0839 if you are planning to take Disciple II so books can be ordered.

Kingdom Kids Advent Activities

We're getting ready for Christ's coming and you won't want to miss out! Come every Sunday to the Marketplace (Room 10) at 9:30 a.m. as we learn about the birth of God's promised Savior. Kingdom Kids Sunday School is for children 4 years old through fifth Grade.

Dec. 13: Our Kingdom Kids workshops will focus on the Promised coming of the Messiah!

Dec. 20: Las Posadas—Come along as we recreate a popular Mexican tradition. Mary and Joseph are traveling from inn to inn looking for somewhere to stay. Who will make a place for them? Our journey will take us all over the church.

Dec. 27: A King is Born! We'll see a movie that tells us the story of that special night Jesus came into our world.

Jan. 3: All Church Game Day – Adults and kids will join in games from Candyland to Yahtzee. All ages are invited to Simpson Hall for the fun!

Westwood Ding-a-lings

The Westwood Ding-a-lings are back this season, and will be ringing at three locations on Saturday December 12th from 10:00 am until 5:00 p.m. There are still slots available for Wal-Mart (West Main/9th Street location) and K-Mart (Stadium Drive location). The sign up sheets are posted in the Narthex. Please contact Doug or Pam Phillips at 344-5466 or pdphillips@chartermi.net Please sign up and help a wonderful cause in the Salvation Army!

Doug Phillips

Irving Cumming
Born January 26, 1940 in Marshfield, Wisc.
Graduated Muskegon HS 1958
BS, 1968, MA 1970, WMU

Alberta Cumming
Born December 16, 1939 in Mikado, Mich
Graduated Central Lake (MI) HS 1957
Muskegon C. C. Accounting program 1958

Married June 16, 1962 in Muskegon
Children Karen (Jeff) Hydar of Fishers, Ind; Gary (Carrie) of Kalamazoo
Grandchildren, Courtney, Alexis, Sarah of Fishers; Nicole, Michael of Kalamazoo

Raised in small farming communities in northeast lower Michigan, Alberta began her formal education at age four, attending four different one-room country schools during her first three years. Fortunately her education continued smoothly since her teacher was also her father. The frequent moves continued until her junior year, graduating after spending two years in the same high school. Following graduation, she moved to Muskegon to attend community college and completed the accounting program. It was in Muskegon, 1959, when Alberta met Irv, who had lived in Muskegon since the age of three. They were married about a year when Irv began a stint in the Army, serving mostly in Okinawa. Following his return in 1965, he attended college, first at Muskegon CC, then moving his family to Kalamazoo in 1967 when daughter Karen was just three months old, so Irv could attend WMU. First living on the east side, they attended Milwood UMC until moving to the west side in 1969. Many of their neighbors came to Westwood, and the Cumming family joined too.

Over the years, their involvement has included the New Adventurers and Disciple Bible Study. Irv had also served on the finance committee and currently is chair of the staff-parish relations committee. Alberta has served on the nominating committee and currently serves with the memorial committee and is a member of Early Eves. Both retired in 2000, Irv worked 32 years in Michigan Public Schools. First teaching in Portage, he moved to administration at Comstock and ended his career as Assistant Superintendent for Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency. Alberta held a variety of positions over the years, beginning at the Clock Funeral Home in Muskegon (1958-1967) and retiring as the administrative secretary of the WMU history department.

Retirement has afforded them the opportunity for more outdoor activities which often means time at their cabin near Hart. Irv enjoys fishing and bow hunting— after ten years of trying, 2009 marks the year he bagged his first deer, a 6-point buck!! Irv also enjoys woodworking and “puttering” and did much of the work on the cabin himself, he refers to it as “a labor of love.” While also enjoying the cabin, Alberta spends some free time indoors sewing and other crafty things. She enjoys baking, especially making cookies for her grandson, Michael. They have a secret ingredient that she puts in many creations from her kitchen (shh—don’t tell but it is chocolate chips!)

Travel is also a favorite activity for them from New Zealand to Mexico to Nova Scotia. They have traveled Route 66 and the Great River Road, camping along the way, and have been in many countries and most of the states. Camp food and home cooking seems to agree with both of them, while they do eat out they have no favorite restaurant.

Relax time at home may find Alberta watching “NCIS” or “The Mentalist,” Irv may select “Law and Order” or movies starring Paul Newman. He also likes to read John Grisham, Philip Yancey or Max Lucado. Musically Irv enjoys 50s rock and roll, especially Elvis. They each have a favorite hymn, for her it is “In the Garden” and for him “I Love to Tell the Story.”



A Note From Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Dear Members and Friends of Westwood,

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) of Westwood United Methodist Church would like to provide you with an opportunity to participate in Christmas gifts for the pastor and regularly employed staff of the church. Christmas offers an opportunity for us to model God's gift-giving to us by sharing gifts with those we care about. We cannot equal God's gift of His Son, but we can demonstrate our love and appreciation for the church staff's hard work throughout the year.

The church staff includes our full-time staff (Pastor, Administrative Assistant, and Director of Fine Arts Ministry) as well as our equally dedicated part-time employees who serve as accompanist, organist, custodians, and child care (nursery) workers. The Christmas gift that is provided by the church family is divided proportionally among these regularly employed staff of the church.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee encourages you to make a generous gift to show our appreciation for the hard work of the staff.

Please make your check payable to **Westwood United Methodist Church** and label it "Christmas Gifts." Please note that since this is a non-taxable gift to the members of our staff, it will not be shown on your charitable giving statement from the church.

Please do not mail your contribution to the church address!

In addition, in order to keep the gifts separate from your regular giving, please use one of these options for getting your gift to SPRC:

- Mail it to:
Irv Cumming
6433 Old Log Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
- Give it to one of the Staff-Parish members at either the 8:30 or 10:55 service. Our 2009 members include: Phil Bowman, Irv Cumming, Doug Heystek, Jim Jameson, Kevin Secord, Bob Strobel, Emily Strong, Jo Turner, Jean Whitcomb, and Sue White.
- Place your gift (in an envelope, if possible) in the SPRC mailbox.

We will appreciate receiving your gifts by Sunday, December 20, 2009.

Advent Mission Projects for 2009

Each Sunday in Advent, the Missions team invites you to support a local project in need of items to help their clientele and make a difference right here in Kalamazoo County. Your donations may be dropped off in the collection area in the elevator annex at the top of the stairs.

December 13, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes: Non-perishable food items are needed such as peanut butter, canned fruit, vegetables, meats, stew, and hearty soups, pasta, rice, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese.

December 20, Ministry with Community: Personal care items needed are soap, shampoo, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, combs and brushes.

Early Eves

Early Eves will meet on December 15 for dinner at the University Road House at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you!

Barbara Hunt

Church Women United

Thank you to all who provided cookies for Church Women United or helped pack them. At the January meeting, they are going to discuss whether to continue this project. If you have any opinions one way or the other, please let me know.

Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833 or
jupp.jeanette@yahoo.com

Community Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 20 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., the 5th annual community Christmas dinner for persons in need will be held at two locations in Kalamazoo, one of which is Stockbridge Ave. UMC. Coats and other winter wear, blankets, toys, etc. will also be available for guests to choose from. Over 200 volunteers are needed to help set up, serve guests, and clean up that day. If you would like to volunteer, please call Stockbridge Ave. UMC between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 385-8919.

Library News

Be sure to look in the Library for Christmas and Advent books and movies.



Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

You may share in glorifying God by filling our sanctuary with poinsettias in December. These may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office with your check payable to Westwood United Methodist Church. Note on the memo line "Altar." Any cash orders should be put in an envelope marked "Altar." The cost per plant is \$8.00.

Name: _____

Color Preference: Red _____ White _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Plants may be picked up following the 10:55 service, December 20. Orders must be in the church office by December 13.

The A-B-C's of Family Love

A-Authority, John 13:34-"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

B-Benefit, 1 John 4:18-"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear".

C-Christ-like, Ephesians 5:25-"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

D-Dutiful, Proverbs 31:27-"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

E-Everlasting, Song of Solomon 8:7-"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it."

F-Forgiveness, Colossians 3:13-"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another."

G-Generosity, Proverbs 15:27-"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."

H-Honor, 1 Peter 3:7-"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

I-Instruction, Proverbs 22:6-"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

J-Joy, Proverbs 5:18-"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

K-Kindness, 2 Peter 1:7-"And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

L-Loyalty, Genesis 2:24-"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."

M-Mercy, Proverbs 11:17-"The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh."

N-Nurture, Ephesians 6:4-"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

O-Obedience, Ephesians 6:1-"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for it is right."

P-Patience, James 1:4-"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting for nothing."

Q-Quietness, Proverbs 17:1-"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife."

R-Religious, 1 Timothy 5:4-"Learn first to shew piety at home."

S-Strength-Song of Solomon 8:6-"Love is strong as death."

T-Testing, 1 Kings 3:26-"Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other side, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."

U-Understanding, Romans 15:1-"We then are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak."

V-Veracity, Romans 12:9-"Let love be without dissimulation."

W-Wisdom, Proverbs 10:1-"A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."

X-X-ray, 1 Peter 1:22-"Love one another with a pure heart."

Y-Yielded, 1 Corinthians 7:4-"The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband; and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."

Z-Zealous, John 15:13-"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

Prayers for comfort, healing and strength

Homebound

Harriet Lou Warburton, Director's Hall, 600 Golden Drive, Kalamazoo, 49001

Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24th St., Mattawan, MI 49071

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

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

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Judy DeHaan, 612 Jenks Blvd., Kalamazoo, 49006

Irene Dutton, 918 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, 49006

Shirley Greene

Betty Georgeau, Tendercare Kalamazoo, 1701 S. 11th, Kalamazoo, 49009

Dale Griffith, 6118 Ormada, Kalamazoo, 49048

Dale had open heart surgery at Borgess on Tue., Nov. 24, and is in the Cardiac Surgery Unit.

Vicki Hale

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

Erica Jenkins, 28047 Wellington Rd., Kalamazoo, 49008

Jack Lancaster, 1629 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, 49006

Bud Mahieu, 1433 Barney Rd., Kalamazoo, 49004

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

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

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

Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Our Community Partner

King Westwood Elementary School Staff

Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Toby Brown

Anthony Earl

Carl Williams

Year of the Neighbor

Pray for our Westwood Neighborhood



Calendar of Events




Sunday, December 13, 2009	
	<i>Membership Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
3:00 PM	Blendings Concert
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups - KSP
6:00 PM	Compassionate Friends Candlelight Ceremony
Monday, December 14, 2009	
6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Court of Honor
7:00 PM	Communications
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America
Tuesday, December 15, 2009	
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
12:30 PM	Lay Ministers/Staff
6:30 PM	Early Eves
7:00 PM	Compassionate Friends
Wednesday, December 16, 2009	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
1:00 PM	UMW
6:00 PM	Disciple IV
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:00 PM	High School Choir
6:00 PM	Companions in Christ Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q"
7:00 PM	WHBE
8:00 PM	Praise Team Rehearsal
Thursday, December 17, 2009	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
7:00 PM	Stewardship & Finance
7:00 PM	Foundation
Friday, December 18, 2009	
7:00 PM	Civil War Roundtable
Saturday, December 19, 2009	
9:00 AM	Cantata Rehearsal
Sunday, December 20, 2009	
	<i>Cantata Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
	No Youth Groups



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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:

Dec. 14
Dec. 21
Dec. 28

***Note: The deadline for the Dec. 21 publication will be Dec. 17th at noon.**



**Westwood
United Methodist
Church**

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

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Permit No. 811

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.

Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

- Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Price 762-4787
E-mail: pastorwayne@westwood-umc.org
- Director of Worship and Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright 544-2390
E-mail: jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net
- Organist,
Church/Staff Admin. Assistant, Lois Moeller
E-mail: lmoeller@sbcglobal.net
- Child Care Staff
- Custodial Staff: Dan Malseed, Nicole Malseed, Ash Norton, Bill Urfer, Stephanie Knewtson, David Knewtson
- 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
E-mail: betharbogast@charter.net

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.