

**Worship Celebrations at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.**

Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.

**Worship hours change to the summer schedule beginning May 25, 2008.**

**Worship Celebrations at for the summer are at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

### Peace with Justice Sunday

A special offering will be taken on May 18 for Peace with Justice Sunday which will support peacemaking ministries and programs in West Michigan, in the United States, and around the world. Your gift gives the United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for those who struggle with violence, injustice, pain, and suffering. Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet or will be available in the May 18 worship folder.

### ASP Fun at the Potato Bar & Silent Auction



The Annual ASP Silent Auction and Potato Bar is Sunday, May 18 following the 10:55 service. Don't miss the great food, great fun and great finds! Bring a friend for all the fun!

If you would like to donate ANYTHING, please see Kim Wood or Emily Strong.

### *A Word from ISAAC*

*ISAAC is an interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community. Westwood is an ISAAC partner congregation.*

### **KALAMAZOO RIVER CLEAN-UP COALITION Progress Made**

An unprecedented meeting was held with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to discuss the draft of the remedial investigation report for the Portage Creek/Allied Disposal Site. The EPA committed to connect the Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition with the Redevelopment Coordinator regarding plans for returning the site to productive use. This is remarkable because the EPA is only required to clean up the site, not return it to use. ISAAC United Region Task Force leaders have been active members of the Coalition for the past year, working for the conversion of creek and river brownfields into productive, people-friendly use.

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#### *Upcoming Messenger Deadlines:*

May 14, for publication May 19  
 May 28, for publication June 2  
 June 11, for publication June 16

## The Story of Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry—where did it all begin? It dates back to 1974 when Ken-neth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, was pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Fresh out of seminary, his strengths and heart were in care giving ministry, and he was looking forward to making a positive impact on his congregation and community by providing pastoral care to all those experiencing divorce, grief, hospitalization, discouragement, and other life difficulties.

Very quickly, though, he found that the needs for care by far exceeded that which he alone could provide. He faced one of a pastor's greatest frustrations: seeing people slipping through the cracks because their urgent needs were going unmet. In November of 1974, he discussed the situation with two seminary friends over a cup of coffee. The conversation turned to

Ephesians 4 and "equipping the saints for the work of ministry." Haugk realized that God didn't intend for pastors to monopolize ministry. Rather, God gave all his people gifts for ministry and one of his roles as pastor was to equip others to use their gifts in ministry.

Haugk returned to St. Stephen's with a plan. In the coming months he recruited nine lay people who had the gifts and heart to do caring ministry. He then used his combined backgrounds in the-ology and psychology to develop a training program in Christian caregiving. By March 1975 the nine were com-missioned as "Stephen Ministers." Their first care receivers included a widower, a blind person, a young woman with cancer, a truck driver forced to retire early, and an inactive member strug-ling with faith issues.

The impact was immediate. People be-gan receiving the focused Christian care they needed. Fewer people were slipping through the cracks, and Haugk found he had more time to perform his other pas-toral duties. The Stephen Ministers were surprised by the spiritual growth they encountered as they saw God working through them to bring love and healing to others.

The story would have ended there, had not two of the Stephen Ministers cor-nered Haugk on a hot May morning af-ter worship services. "This is good stuff," they said to him. "We're not going to let you go until you promise to bring this ministry to other churches!" Still wearing his vestments and perspiring from the heat, Haugk gave in and agreed to find a way to bring Stephen Ministry to other churches.

In November 1975 Haugk and his wife Joan founded the not-for-profit Stephen Ministries organization and began bringing Stephen Ministry to other con-gregations. It spread like wildfire. Westwood United Methodist Church is one of more than 10,000 congregations from more than 150 Christian denominations that now has Stephen Ministry. Over a quarter mil-lion people have been trained as Ste-phen Ministers, a number that grows by tens of thousands each year. More than a million people across the United States, Canada, and the world have been touched by God's love through a Stephen Minister. And that is the mark of God's doing, because finally the story of Stephen Ministry is a million stories and more of caring ministry.

If you feel the need of a Stephen Minister or would like to know more about Stephen Ministry please contact Stephen Leader, Phil Bowman, 375-9580.

## Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 18, 2008	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
9:45 AM	Adult Bible Classes
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
12:30 PM	ASP Silent Auction & Potato Bar
2:00 PM	People to People
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups
Monday, May 19, 2008	
12:00 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive
6:00 PM	Spiritual Formation Team
7:00 PM	Staff Parish
7:00 PM	Missions
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	BSA
7:15 PM	Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 20, 2008	
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
6:30 PM	Early Eves
6:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance
6:30 PM	United Methodist Women Combined Circles
7:00 PM	Alpha Small Group
Wednesday, May 21, 2008	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
12:30 PM	Prayer Group
1:00 PM	United Methodist Women
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q" Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
Thursday, May 22, 2008	
11:45 AM	4th Day Men (Hunan Gardens)
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, May 23, 2008	
6:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, May 24, 2008	
12:00 PM	Wedding and Reception

## United Methodist Women

All women are invited to the United Methodist Women meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Simpson Hall. This is an all circles meeting. Spagetti will be prepared by Marian Burkey; daytime circle members are asked to bring a salad; Early Eves members a dessert. Janet Clawson will talk about her experience, including photos, on a medical mission trip to Sierre Leone, Africa earlier this year. Hear and see one example of how the United Methodist church is in mission!

## Summer Messenger Schedule

(Subject to change with notification)

The bi-weekly schedule for the *Messenger* begins May 19, 2008.

The schedule follows:

Deadline	Publication Date
May 14, 2008	May 19, 2008
May 28, 2008	June 02, 2008
June 11, 2008	June 16, 2008
June 25, 2008	June 30, 2008
July 09, 2008	July 14, 2008
July 23, 2008	July 28, 2008
August 06, 2008	August 11, 2008
August 20, 2008	August 25, 2008
September 03, 2008	September 08, 2008
Resumes Weekly Schedule:	
Deadline	Publication Date
September 10, 2008	September 15, 2008

## April Financial Snapshot for Westwood UMC's Operating Budget

	Actual Income	Budgeted Income	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
April	\$ 23,412	\$ 26,984	\$ 22,245	\$ 27,422
Year to Date	\$ 92,295	\$ 107,936	\$ 101,862	\$ 109,690

For the first four months of 2008, actual income has been below budgeted income. While actual expenses have also been below what was budgeted, they have exceeded actual income.



**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 sknewton@sbcglobal.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, comments or complaints, address them to the editor or call Stephanie Knewton at 349-5603.

**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)**

**Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers**

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**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.