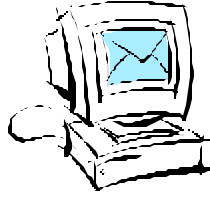


Visit West Hills On-Line!

- Join the **e-mail prayer chain!**
- Sign up for **e-mail updates** and **church news alerts!**
- Read *this newsletter* as well as newsletters from the *past five years*.

All this and **more** can be found at

[www.westhillsumc.com](http://www.westhillsumc.com)



## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the West Hills United Methodist Church is to be a living church, where we can learn about our Lord, love Him, worship Him, and serve Him. We want our church to emphasize fellowship with a sense of sharing one another's concerns and joys. We want our church to reach out to the needs of our youth, and encourage them to participate in our programs. We want our church to be actively involved in the world community, with outreach programs to help the needy and less fortunate, and to attract others in our community who are not currently attending worship service.



West Hills United Methodist Church

# Newsletter

Bruce Anspach, Pastor  
Paul Knorr, Newsletter Editor

November / December 2002

Church: 271-4474  
Parsonage: 423-1523

Located off of West Hills Road, across from the Walt Whitman High School  
A Little Church with a Big Heart!

West Hills United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 467  
One West Hills Court  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
[www.westhillsumc.com](http://www.westhillsumc.com)

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NY  
Permit NO. 61

## From The Pastor

### A Time To Die?

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die...” so speaks *qo-heleth*, usually called the “Preacher” or “Teacher”, in the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-2)

Fall is a season of dying. As the days get shorter and cooler, the leaves brighten for a brief moment and then fade, die and fall. Most of us feel a dampening of our mood as the daylight, which was so plentiful only a few weeks ago, seems stingy and increasingly scarce. We don our sweaters and coats and huddle together around places of warmth and worry about what the weather has in store.

Some of us who find our hair turning a little more the color of snow might even see a reflection of our own changing seasons in the slow waning of the of this bittersweet time. Not a few of us even experience what psychologists call “autumnal depression,” so tuned in are we to the life of the world around us.

Fall, I think, more than any other season, reminds us that we too have a limited time to spend in this place. While I always think of my own mortality in the fall, this year I found my mind going in two other directions as well. I recalled the great burden of grief we have all carried over the past year, both personal and collective. And over the past few weeks, I found my mind and heart wandering to thoughts and concerns of our church community here in West Hills.

We have so many challenges facing us as we review our finances and ministry for the coming year. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the resources to keep body and soul together. As primarily an aging congregation, we are facing difficulties both in meeting our monetary obligations and attracting the young who bring the promise of new life. Energy and time for service and

books; used books are fine.” If the congregation is interested I have the list and will be glad to hand out copies and keep track of those books we receive.

At this location, besides the school K-5 there is a unit for assisting single mothers and also a Christian radio station—quite an operation.

Any questions about my trip? Just Ask!

(Editor’s Note: **Not all the pictures could fit here** . To see all the beautiful pictures Harriett took in full color, go to the church web site at [www.westhillsumc.com](http://www.westhillsumc.com) and click on the “News” button on the left side. Also on the site is the **full book list** that Harriett refers to)



## The Navajo Missions School

Harriett Matus, April 19

I believe first, just about everyone knows my sister Judy and I went on a journey throughout the United States. It was a fabulous trip! Words cannot express the feeling one gets traveling through all the different parts of this country. From the bone dry tan desert areas to the snow drifts of the Rockies. Not to mention the white knuckle driving up, down and through some of the mountain passes. It was all wonderful! The people for the most part were also wonderful! Helpful, kind, gracious even curious! But that's another story.

One stop we highlighted was a stop in Farmington, New Mexico. Our plans included a visit with friends in Albuquerque so with a zig in our course we included Farmington—Our object? To visit the Navajo Missions School. We as a church have been supporting this mission for a great many years and since we were in the area-

It is not a large school, but looks neat and cared for. We met two of the teachers and an aide. The aide, Connie, gave us a tour, introduced us to the teachers and to Riona's house parents Terry and Steve Weiss, a very nice couple (I did not know Riona had gone back to Shiprock to be with her Auntie) They were in the process of packing; getting ready to move into a new housing unit. Bigger and nicer.

On our tour through the classrooms we noticed a small book case. One of the teachers told us of how the first and second graders had read and re-read the available books.

"A-Ha!" my mission committee self said—this could be a church project in the fall—so I asked if there were any special books they needed. I was told they did have a list of books they would like to have. I quote "We do not need to have brand new

fund raising seem as scarce as green leaves in November. And since I am a worrier; I worry.

I worry that this wonderful community that I have come to know and love is in the late fall of our life as a community of God's people. I worry that we will be able to find our way at a time when I think this church in this place is so needed. Now is, perhaps, our greatest opportunity of ministry with which we have ever been challenged. I worry that we will be able to meet the challenge.

Since I was a kid, I've always delighted in seeing the buds that form on the trees and bushes in the fall. Just before the sap retreats to the roots for the winter, the plant life around us prepares for spring by forming the buds that will be the leaves after the cold has gone.

Maybe, I thought, the pulling in and back that we see in our church, right now, is the budding for new life. Ours is a faith of resurrection. I know that as surely as I know anything. I wonder what God is preparing us for. I wonder if we will open ourselves and respond to what God is calling us to...now...and in the "spring"?

Years ago Pete Seeger put the words of *qoheleth* to music in that song I'm sure most of us know by heart. The refrain for "To Everything There Is A Season" is "Turn, turn, turn". Isn't that the gift that God's presence offers each one of us? Or as the last line of that song goes: "A time of peace...I swear it's not too late."

Let's each one of us prayerfully consider what she or he can be and do to make that true!

Bruce Anspach, Pastor

## PERSON TO PRAISE

### MARION STEWART

No matter whether you call Marion Stewart “Marion” or “Miss Marion” she is well known by everyone at West Hills. Marion and Richard joined the church when they moved to Huntington Station in 1960 making them long time members. It would be difficult to think of a church activity or church program that has not had Marion’s participation.

In the early days of the church Marion was a member of the Women’s Society, and participated in the annual Strawberry Festival held in the barn on the grounds. The migrant program run by the church was of great interest to Marion and she often went out of her way to help the workers. She was instrumental in making arrangements for one worker to get his driver’s license so he could drive to work.

West Hills participated in a Mission Commission with the Green Avenue Church in Brooklyn. Arrangements were made to welcome city youth into West Hills family homes and Marion was always there to take one of the children.

Marion was a member of the Adult Choir for many years and assisted with the Children’s Choir. She participated in the Adult Bible program held every Sunday morning. She was always a volunteer worker for the Men’s Monthly Luncheon. In 1964 the Sunday School had an enrollment of 100 boys and girls. Marion was active as a Sunday School teacher and helped in the Church Nursery. She just volunteered this Fall to serve as a substitute Sunday School teacher maintaining her ties to the Sunday School!.

Marion had been working as a nursery school teacher for a local nursery school when West Hills started the Nursery School program. Marion was hired as a teacher in 1972 and served as a



Christ Caring  
for People  
through People

Stephen Ministers are trained lay people who are commissioned by our congregation to serve a one-on-one confidential caring ministry. The ministry is in response to Christ’s instructions “to love one another as I have loved you.” It is a committed relationship focusing on the unique needs of the person for in-depth caring.

Stephen ministers provide effective care to those who are experiencing hospitalization, terminal illness, being homebound, job loss, some life transition, separation or divorce, birth or adoption, loneliness and depression, grief, struggle with God and many other difficulties that one can face in life.

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a crisis or tough time. They are not counselors, but trained caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not to give advice or counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver’s need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens, they work with care receivers to help them receive the level of care they really need.

Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Trust is essential to a caring relationship. Confidentiality is one of the most important principals of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

The Pastor’s role will always be primary, but there is no way the pastor can meet all the caring needs of the congregation. God has called all of us, not just the pastor, to minister to one another. Stephen Ministry enables lay people to work with the pastor.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to the pastor—Pastor Bruce, or our Stephen Leaders, Marge Klein or Bette Ann Watson. Remember, if you are going to recommend someone, you must ask their permission first.

Christ Caring for People Through People—Caring nurtures the seed of God’s love—in the care receiver’s heart and yours.

## United Methodist Women and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

During the April, 2002 Spring Board meeting; the Women's Division joined the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Every day in our nation:

- 5,000 kids, under the age of 18 try their first cigarette
- 2,000 kids become regular daily smokers
- One third will die prematurely as a result of tobacco caused diseases
- Approximately 1 out of 5 pregnant teenagers pass the risks of smoking on to their babies directly or through exposure to second-hand smoke.

One of the most effective ways to reduce smoking, particularly among adolescents, is to raise the price of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products through tax increases. Studies show that for every 10 percent increase in price youth smoking decreases by seven percent.

The Women's Division and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids is urging states to discourage kids from smoking by substantially increasing their excise taxes on cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products.

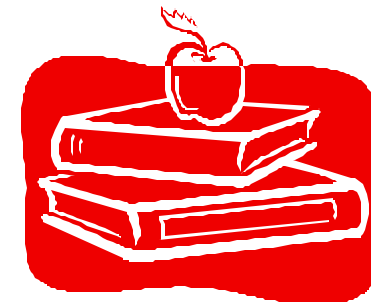
We encourage United Methodist Women to be active within their states encouraging states to increase their excise taxes on tobacco products as another way to discourage our kids from smoking and encouraging a healthier life.

Be alert to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids in your state and watch for more information coming soon. For more information on cigarette excise taxes please visit the web site at [www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/prices](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/prices); to find out more information on the campaign within your state and any other questions please contact Joe Spivak at (202) 296-5469.

teacher for 3 and 4 year Olds and as Director of the School. Even after retiring, Marion continues to serve on the Nursery School committee. She is fondly known as “Miss Marion” by many of the youth and young adults in the church. At the same time she was teaching nursery school she also volunteered to serve as the church secretary, a position she held for many years. She is still active on various church committees, is the Membership Chairperson, and active in the United Methodist Women.

Marion and Richard are original members of the Couples Club and have frequently hosted these events. They are the parents of two children, daughter Jolaine and her husband Doc Watson and son Michael and his wife Kathy. They are also very busy grandparents who play a big part in the lives of their 6 grandchildren. If Marion and Richard are not in church on Sunday morning they are often at an event involving their grandchildren.

West Hills is lucky to have an active member like Marion Stewart who is always willing to take on a task and give it her best.



## Mission Committee

After the long Summer hiatus, the Mission Committee met on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

- We have received information on Marsha, our 14 yr. Old Navajo girl. There is a picture of Marsha on the Mission Bulleting Board for all to see plus a short biography of her.

- We sent donations to:

Helping Hand Mission - \$100

Family Service League - \$50

Heifer Project - \$50

Habitat for Humanity - \$50

We thank our wonderful congregation for their weekly “coins” that help us reach out to various Mission projects. We are all missionaries doing God’s work.

- We were very fortunate to have Henry Berleth of the Gideons (Gideon Bibles) speak to us on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This great organization was founded in 1899 and is the oldest Christian business and professional men’s association in the U.S. An international board of distinguished Christian laymen supervise the world-wide Gideon ministry, ensuring an efficient, economical operation in over 170 countries. A non-profit organization, the Gideons-international is generously supported by individuals and churches who realize that an indispensable element in winning people to Christ is to present them with the gospel message. Every dollar contributed is used to make it possible for others to have their copy of God’s Word.

The Gideons not only supply hotel and motels with Bibles, they are very active in ministering to people in prisons, hospitals, aids victims, nursing homes, etc. They reach out to Americans as well as those in foreign lands. This is truly a Global Mission. Their motto is a very simple one: “That all the people of the Earth may know...” 1 Kings 8:60

- We hope to have future Mission speakers and prayerfully hope for the support from the congregation.

“...the Word of the Lord endureth forever.”

Harriet Matus  
Lorraine Winch  
Mission Co-Chairpersons

## Disaster List / Emergency Preparedness

West Hills Disaster Plan is requesting the congregation to bring in blankets, pillows, candles, paper products, and flashlights, etc for storage at the church in the event that the church needs to be used for a disaster temporary housing. (We ask that the items be in good shape.) the collection will go on for a few weeks so get your items in!

Please see the web site for the full list.

## September 8 Back-to-church luncheon A success!



- Great turnout
- Great food

- Stephens Ministers gave a great presentation on how the church could be an emergency center during times of local and national crisis.



-Todd

## Luncheon Fundraiser

On November 17, there will be a luncheon fundraiser at the Crystal Garden Café. All proceeds will go towards paying our apportionment. See Claire Burvenich for details.

Also, November 17 is Stewardship Sunday.



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## Cookie Walk 2002

A reminder to all ladies (and men) in the congregation to start getting supplies ready for the annual cookie walk on Saturday, December 14 (the same day as the tree lighting.) Our goal is to get 20 dozen of one kind of cookie from each family. This will give a huge assortment to choose from.

A sign up sheet will be posted outside the sanctuary.

Please indicate what type of cookie you will be making so there are no duplicates. Cookies should be no more than 2" in diameter as people feel they are getting more of an assortment when the cookies are not too large.

The Cookie Walk starts at 9:00 AM and if this year is the same as the last four years, it will be sold out by 10:30.

Due to many requests, cookies can be gift wrapped for an additional fee.

If you have any questions, please see Marion Stewart or any other member of the United Methodist Women.



# Wanted



We're in need of

**Ushers**  
**Liturgists**  
**Counters**

To be one, see Pastor Bruce or Todd Winch

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## The Choir

9/2/02

I can hardly believe another year is starting here at West Hills

As always we are looking for some forward thinking young people to help us revitalize our small congregation.

Our choir will begin singing on 9/8. We are few but faithful, fervent, and fearless, so if you like to sing to the Lord and can carry a tune, please come and sing with us. Who knows, maybe you can bring your own music or bring new life into the old hymns.

Be bold!! Try God!!

Come and sing with us on Sundays at 9 AM for choir practice or for service at 10:45

Yours in Christ,  
L. Walker

## Starting a New Tradition!

West Hills is full of it!  
(The Christmas Spirit that is)

This year we would like to try something new to share the joy of Christmas with each other and with our community.

### Announcing the first annual Christmas Tree Lighting



**December 14, 6:30 PM (Rain Date December 15, 6:30 PM)**

#### *Details:*

We plan to light up the pine tree that's between the driveway and the church sign. It's a big tree and will take many strings of lights. We hope to collect monetary donations from the congregation for the purchase of lights. This way, all the lights can be purchased together and they'll all match.

Paul Knorr is organizing the event. If you have suggestions, ideas or questions see him.

## The 7 Ups

### **1. Wake Up**

Decide to have a good day.

“This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”  
Psalms 118:24

### **2. Dress Up**

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” I Samuel 16:7

### **3. Shut Up**

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth so he must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

“He who guards his lips guards his soul.” Proverbs 13:3

### **4. Stand Up**

...For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

“Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good.” Galatians 6:9-10

### **5. Look Up**

...To the Lord.

“I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me”  
Philippians 4:13

### **6. Reach Up**

...For something higher.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path” Proverbs 3:5-6

### **7. Lift Up**

...Your prayers

“Do not worry about anything; instead pray about everything.”  
Philippians 4:6