

## West Hills Online!

As of this past April, Paul Knorr has registered and donated a web site for the church. The address is:

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

Come visit it and see what you think. Any and all suggestions and contributions are welcome!

Along with this giant technical leap for West Hills kind come some new e-mail addresses:

**Pastor Bruce:** [pastor@westhillsumc.com](mailto:pastor@westhillsumc.com)

**Darlene, our Secretary:** [secretary@westhillsumc.com](mailto:secretary@westhillsumc.com)

**Your fearless newsletter editor:** [news@westhillsumc.com](mailto:news@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



Rev. Bruce Anspach, Pastor  
Paul Knorr, Newsletter Editor

May / June 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!

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P.O. Box 467  
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[www.WestHillsUMC.com](http://www.WestHillsUMC.com)

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## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

It's great to have another edition of our West Hills United Methodist Newsletter in our hands! Thanks to Paul Knorr and Todd Winch.

It's also great news to know that we have a new website up and running for our church community. Again, thanks to our webmaster, Paul Knorr, who has created it and is maintaining and donating this attractive and user friendly site.

The hospitality of God's people is deeply rooted in our tradition. In some of the oldest texts of the Hebrew Bible we are commanded to welcome the stranger because we know what it's like to be strangers since we were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Jesus and the early church always reached out to those who were outside the mainstream of church and society and welcomed those whom others rejected.

John Wesley, the founder of our Methodist tradition, took his ministry outside the comfortable confines of the church of his day to those who were marginalized by the social, economic and moral norms of England's late 1700's.

The staggering success of the Methodist movement in our country for over two hundred years was primarily due to the fact that Methodist communities were the churches of everyday people as our nation grew. Everyone has always been welcomed at most Methodist services, meetings, fellowships and at the Table of the Lord.

Today, we Methodists may not be keeping pace with our tradition or the ever changing demands that God sends us in the persons of "strangers" that we should be welcoming into our churches and faith communities. There are among us, in our larger communi-

## Did You Know?

1. Don Hansen retired.
2. Dave Knorr retired.
3. Andrew Schreiber broke his hand. Get well soon.
4. Susan Ruge will graduate from Washington and Lee University this May.
5. Geoffery Schreiber became engaged to Lindsay Cohen. Congratulations!
6. Lois Valle persuaded a friend, Mr. Jay Verne, to donate an organ to our church. This is wonderful news. A grateful congregation thanks you. Also thanks to Kurt and Dave, who went to inspect the organ and meet with Mr. Verne.
7. Harriet Matus is still on her three month road trip across the USA with her sister. The choir misses her, but receives postcards from interesting places all over America. Please continue to keep Harriet in your prayers.
8. Lucille Walker is the glue, fire, mother and heart of our choir. Lucille keeps us together, inspires us, takes care of us and we love her for it. Thanks Lucille. Did we mention she has a good voice?
9. Betty Berbrick, Judy Knorr and Bette Ann Watson did a wonderful job on the Morrison Room. It looks like a completely different room. We should have taken a before and after photo for a magazine. Also thank you to Tom Ruth and Rich Stewart for refinishing the tables in the room. Wow!
10. Marge Klein and Bette Ann Watson deserve our heartfelt thanks for being our Stephen Ministry Leaders. Both are so devoted to this program, and our church. They have done an outstanding job. God bless their ministry.
11. Beth Columbia has taken a job as assistant director of our Camp Epworth this summer. We have three UM camps in our conference, Quinipet, Epworth, and Kingswood. Each camp offers a different environment. Beth wants to encourage our youth to attend camp. It's a chance to be away with kids your own age and have great fun.
12. Katie Schreiber has a summer internship with Grumman. Katie will be earning the big bucks while getting some good business experience.

## West Hills Annual Church Picnic

2002 Theme: Church Carnival

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> after church

Bring whatever meat you want to BBQ and a salad or dessert for everyone to share

We will provide drinks, BBQ's and games

Face Painting, Water Balloon toss, Softball, and more

Bring your family, and Bring your friends



ties, persons who have no faith community, are seeking a new community, are here among us from foreign cultures or marginalized because of numerous issues that often cause them to be regarded with suspicion because they have been mentally ill, are handicapped in some way, have substance abuse problems, are unemployed, have been incarcerated or have an alternate life style such as gay or lesbian, etc.

These children of God present us with the same opportunities for the enrichment of our Christian experience that contributed to the ministries of Jesus, the early church, Wesley and the Methodist movement in America. As the banner on our website so boldly proclaims: "Through our scientific genius we have made of the world a neighborhood; now through our moral and spiritual genius we must make it a brotherhood. -Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., December 1956."

The United Methodist Church has given us the challenge of a four year program called "Igniting Ministries" with the overriding theme of welcoming all persons into our fellowship. And the leadership of West Hills United Methodist Church has pledged ourselves to be a welcoming and accepting community.

One of the important ways we are doing this is by becoming a Stephen Ministry Church. Under the able leadership of our Stephen trainers, Marge Klein and Bette Ann Watson several more of our members are being commissioned for service in this vital ministry.

We want to welcome all persons into our accepting, caring and celebrating community. If you are a member or friend of WHUMC find out what you can do in our "Welcoming Ministry". If you are not part of our community please consider a visit to see what might be here for you. In either case spiritual enrichment awaits you!

Blessings!!

-Pastor Bruce

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a program in our congregation that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation and community. In short, Stephen Ministry is “Christ Caring for People through People”

A Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one on one lay caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen and to share God's love with can help people cope with the confusion, stress or loneliness they may be experiencing.

In 1 Peter 2:4-5, Peter portrays the church as a living, spiritual house, with Christ as the foundation and cornerstone and each believer as a stone. Paul portrays the church as a body, with Christ as the head and each believer as a member. One stone is not a temple or even a wall, one body part is useless without the other. When Gods calls you to a task remember that he is also calling others to work with you. Our Stephen Ministries is only one part we need all to work together your individual efforts will be multiplied. Let's build a beautiful house for God

The Stephen Ministry Class is half way through their 50 hours of training. In mid June will be the commissioning of 5 New Stephen Ministers. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and if you see them in church please give them a words of encouragement. The trainees are Peggy Columbia, Dorothy Wienecke, Michael Klein, Julie Schrieber, Betty Berbrick and their leaders are Marge Klein and Bette Ann Watson.



## The Poem

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease  
All day long I had no time  
To spread a work of cheer  
No time to speak of Christ to friend,  
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die.  
I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.  
for in his hands God held a Book;  
It was the book of Life.  
God looked into his book and said  
Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down  
but never found the TIME.



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## Mark Your Calendars!

- |                    |                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 26</b>      | Commissioning of Stephen Ministers                                                                  |
| <b>June 9</b>      | Church Picnic                                                                                       |
| <b>June 23</b>     | Sunday School Moving up Day / Baccalaureate Sunday                                                  |
| <b>June 30</b>     | Service moves to summer hours                                                                       |
| <b>September 8</b> | Church service returns to normal hours / Sunday School begins / After Church Covered Dish Luncheon. |

## Christenings

On April 7th, Tara and Victor Vozzo presented their beautiful baby **Katherine Elizabeth** for baptism. Katie is so cute and already has her mother's long hair. We look forward to all the milestones in her life and watching her grow in faith at West Hills. Congratulations to all.

We are so lucky to have two baby girls in our congregation. **Camryn Faith**, daughter of Nicole and Paul Knorr, granddaughter of Judy and Dave, was baptized on April 14th. We at West Hills also vowed to love and support Camryn and her family. This is such a special joy having a third generation with us. Camryn has her parents happy disposition and Mom's good looks. Blessings to this special family.

## Baccalaureate Sunday, June 23, 2002

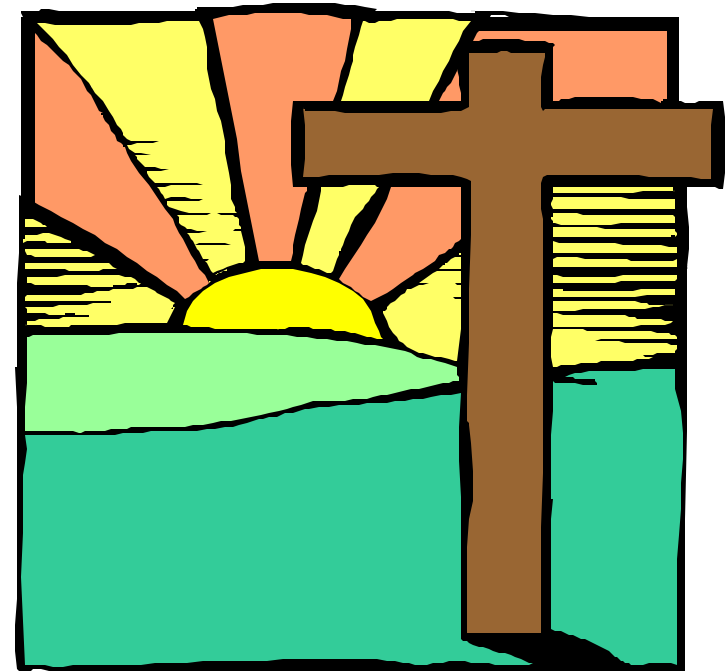
This Mother's Day, Melissa Klein will receive her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. MWC is an excellent liberal arts college where Melissa has worked hard, and maintained a high GPA. Melissa already has a job lined up with Geico, a large insurance company in Woodbury, NY. What a wonderful Mothers Day gift for Marge. As for Mike, only one more move up Interstate 95 and only one tuition to pay. Congratulations Melissa, we are so proud of you.

Andrew Schreiber will be graduating from Walt Whitman High School on June 30th. It seems like just yesterday he started in Miss Marion's Nursery School class. Andrew will be attending Nassau Community College in the fall. Congratulations Andrew and family. No more SD#13 for the Schreibers. Best wishes Andrew for your college years ahead.



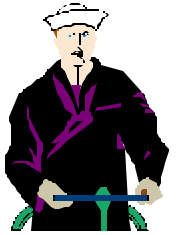
## A Message from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

As a church family, we need to keep each other aware of what is going on in our lives. If you are having upcoming surgery, have loved ones who are sick, or just need to talk to someone, please let either Pastor Bruce or the church secretary Darlene Friedell know so that your spiritual needs are met. Being a small church with a part time pastor and part time secretary, we don't always know what is going on in your day to day life. By letting either the Pastor or secretary know, you can be sure that your friends at West Hills will be with you in your time of need.



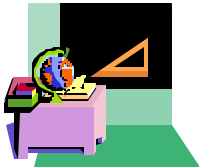
## Kids in the News

**Matthew Valle** has recently joined the Sea Scouts and will be participating in a Car Wash fundraising on May 11th. Dennis Watson may soon have a new crew member if Matthew sticks to this.



**Alexander Valle**, who plays the trumpet, has just been accepted into the school band. Good job Alexander.

**Amanda Stockwell** just performed in a show at Stimson Middle School. Hopefully Amanda will participate in the plays and voices of Walt Whitman when she moves on to high school next year.



**Kenny Stockwell** has received a Birchwood Booster for the third year in a row. Congratulations Kenny on a job well done. As his mother said, “You can’t get much better than that.”

**Michael Spessard** has achieved the rank of Life Scout. This is quite an accomplishment. Mike is a member of Troop 34 at Saint Peter’s Church. The next step for Mike is the challenge of becoming an Eagle Scout. Many presidents, and even some of our own young men have this on their resumes. Congratulations Mike and good luck.



**Katie Spessard** has been studying this term in Florence, Italy. Katie left in January and finishes up at the end of May. Next she will go on a two week adventure traveling around Europe. Katie is an English major, but while in Florence, has taken advantage of electives in Art History, Painting, etc. We continue to pray for her safe travel and the time of her life.

**Elizabeth Columbia** performed at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center on March 13th. Beth and fellow members of the Nyack College Chorale, under the direction of Paul Liljestrang filled the hall with heavenly sounds. The next morning, the chorale left for Washington, DC for several concerts in our nation’s capital.

