



West Hills

United Methodist Church Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2007

A Message from Pastor Bruce.....

The whole idea of trust has been on my mind a lot lately. According to scripture, we are called to a radical trust in God no matter how the evidence looks to us. My own struggle with trusting God completely moves back and forth between some moments of real confidence in God's goodness and days of trying to second guess what God is up to. Sometimes I want to trust anything but God.

On Sunday, January 28th we were singing the late United Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy's hymn "God of Love and God of Power" when that verse,

We are not the first to be
Banished by our fears from Thee;
Give us courage, let us hear
Heaven's trumpets ringing clear.

leapt out at me!

Suddenly I made a connection! My problem with radical trust in God is fear. I felt ashamed, but also comforted by the fact that no less a person than Bishop Kennedy knew the experience of letting fear cut us off from God. I take some solace in knowing that I am "not the first to be/banished by (my) fears from Thee..."

While I was praying for help with my isolating and paralyzing fear I was lead to remember those lines from W. H. Auden's long Christmas poem, "For the Time Being":

Inflict Thy promises with each
Occasion of distress,
That from our incoherence we
May learn to put our trust in thee,
And brutal fact persuade us to
Adventure, Art and Peace.

I realized AGAIN what God has tried to teach me so many times: The only way to trust in God is to trust...to leap in and let God be God. In spite of my fear and my need to control everything!

You probably don't have the same struggle with trusting God as I do, but just in case I wanted to let you know that our theme during Lent seems to be moving toward some version of "Trusting God." Isn't that an interesting coincidence?

I hope to see you at all our events and gatherings during Lent. I'm *trusting* that God will move you to join with us in Lenten preparation and worship. Please plan to be with us on these special times. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Feb-

ruary 21st at 7:30 p.m. Passion/Palm Sunday on April 1st will combine the themes of the triumph of Jesus' Lordship and the horror of his betrayal and passion. The Holy or Maundy Thursday service of the Last Supper will be held on April 5th also at 7:30 in the evening. Good Friday is on April 6th with our church open during the day for prayer and our solemn Crucifixion service in the evening at 7:30. Easter Day will be marked with a joyful service of Resurrection at 10:45 a.m. Please plan to worship with us during these special times.

I want to wish you all a deeply meaningful time of prayer, reflection and challenge during the forty days of Lent. God's blessings to all.

Faithfully,
Bruce



Quality Quilts

Judy Knorr's quilting group, The Huntington Quilters, will have a quilt show in the gallery of the Harborfields Library, Broadway Avenue in Greenlawn during the month of March.

The quilts will be on display during regular library hours. There will be a reception on Friday, March

2, 2007 from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. when members of the community are invited to meet the quilters and learn about the quilts they have created.



Nativities Come Alive At Area Churches



Last year's Living Nativity at West Hills United Methodist Church.

West Hills United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Pageant entitled, "The Christmas Story" on two nights, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12, at 6:30 p.m.

The pageant has grown over the past decade so that two nights are necessary to accommodate the crowds who come to see it, says one of its organizers, Todd Winch. One of the more popular aspects of West Hills church's presentation is the inclusion of live animals — donkeys, sheep and goats are part of the show, making it appeal to younger children.

In addition, according to Winch, the actors will this year be performing live for the first time. In the past, much of the show was pre-recorded with the re-enactors "lip-synching" their parts.

West Hills United Methodist Church is located at 1 West Hills Court, Huntington Station. Call 271-4474 for information.

One of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season is the nativity scene. From tabletop models to life size ones, the Nativity is noteworthy as one of the few symbols of the season which has withstood the commercialism of the "holiday season."

This weekend, the Nativity will come alive at two area churches where live people will replace the statues of the typical nativity, bring to life the story of Christ's birth.

Across town, Greenlawn Presbyterian Church will host a living nativity in front of the church on Pulaski Rd. and Broadway. The re-enactment is in its ninth year at the church. There will be live animals in the manger, and a live choir in the background. If the event draws like past years, there could be as many as 1000 people in attendance, according to coordinator Bob Brandt. It will be held on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Remember When...

In this new segment honoring our illustrious past, items from yesterday and yesteryear will be included to jar your memory.

See if you can remember the year that this article appeared in a local newspaper.

Holiday Happenings

December 10th saw the annual decorating of the West Hills Christmas Tree. Each family places a special ornament on the tree that has significance to them. Whether it be a family favorite or a handmade gem, each ornament represents the uniqueness of our membership.



On December 9th, the UMW held their annual Cookie Walk in Jones Hall. With a line forming prior to the opening of the doors, an overwhelming success was guaranteed. Twelve Dozen of each of the more than 20 different varieties were baked and put on sale. Members of the UMW were on hand to assist shoppers as they filled their bakery style boxes using plastic gloves. When the final figures were weighed, the UMW had raised over \$650. Not bad for two hours! Of course, the time our bakers put in before the event is what makes it all so successful. Having held the Cookie Walk for more than decade, we now have cookie buyers who return each year to purchase the "home baked" cookies they serve during the holidays. This is yet another fantastic way the UMW serves not only the church, but the Huntington community at large.

Santa Claus wasn't the only visitor on Christmas Eve this year! Direct from North Carolina, Kent and Paula Knorr visited us on Christmas Eve this year. Not only were we blessed by their presence, but also by their musical performance! Our thanks go out to them for taking the time to share their beautiful gifts with us.



.From the God Squad...

If the Eucharist is, according to Catholic belief, the actual body and blood of Christ, and not just some metaphor or symbol of our closeness with God, as you've written in previous columns, then what would chemical analysis reveal? Is the communion wafer composed of real human cells and tissue? Somehow, I doubt it. But if scientifically it's merely a piece of bread, then a "symbol" is exactly what it is. Which is it, gentlemen?

- P., via the Internet

Even though your question reveals more than a hint of cynicism, we're happy to answer what we hope is a sincere query. The Eucharist transcends scientific categories because transubstantiation is not a scientific description but an act of faith. The traditional view is that the "accidents" of the Eucharist remain the same. This means that the bread is still chemically bread, and wine is still chemically wine, even after the transubstantiation.

What has changed is the underlying reality of the bread and wine, and that underlying reality has changed, according to Christian belief, into the body and the blood of Christ.

CONTACT THE GOD SQUAD, c/o Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747-4250, or at godsquad@telecaretv.org.



December 17th 2006

Sunday School Christmas Program & 2nd Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Brunch

After being entertained by the children's Christmas pageant, parishioners entertained themselves at the 2nd annual Old Fashioned Christmas Brunch in Jones Hall. Dozens of presents were collected for a needy family in the Huntington area.





Children's Mission



Our children were involved in helping our own Huntington Little Shelter last year by holding two fundraisers; a bake sale and a Chinese auction. We were able to donate \$200 to the Little Shelter to help them in their many programs to help abandoned cats and dogs. As a thank you for their hard work, we were visited on January 7th of this year by two representatives of the Little Shelter, Arlene and Jodi . They came and gave a very nice program for the children regarding animal care and helping to foster greater love and concern for all animals. They brought with them a 10-year old dog named Penny who had been abandoned by their owner when they had to move. Penny is almost completely blind. She was adopted by one of the staff and each child was allowed, if they wanted, to come up and pet Penny and get to know her. Thanks very much to each and every child who either baked something or donated something for our auction!

News from Long Island Council of Churches

HELP AVAILABLE WITH HEATING BILLS

United Way of Long Island's "Project Warmth" helps those facing the shut off of their heat during the winter, a little bit earlier this year. The LICC is one of the agencies that receives applications for this program, which can provide up to \$100 toward electricity bills and up to \$200 for gas or oil bills. Those who need help should call 516-565-0290 or 631-7272-2210 for an appointment. Before coming to the appointment, however, they need to first go to HEAP (for example, to 175 Fulton St. in Hempstead) with their termination notice and most recent gas/oil and electric bills.

We Are Praying For...

The victims and families of the World Trade Center devastation. Betty Berbrick, Rita Sawaya, Pastor Joe Gillespie, Marcie Gillespie, Alexa Rand, Veronica June, Karl Pasco, Gordon C. Gladden, Adelaide Brooks, Madeline Columbia, Ethel Thomas, Marge Ferris, Kevin Tanner & Family, Bruce Harkness, Darlene Friedell, Ashleigh Friedell, Harrison Mitchell and family, Lamerice Cousseillant, Susan Gerner and family, John Owens, Agnes Stanco, Stanley Meltzer, Bob Gray, Ann Spessard, Emily Hossain, Don Hansen and family, Rachel Anspach, Jake Amato, family of Paulette Penders, Daniel F. Hetzel



A Christmas Thanks You...



Huntington Intermediate School
155 Lowndes Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Phone No. 631-673-2060 Fax No. 631-425-6256

Mary Stokkers, Principal

January 9, 2007

West Hills United Methodist Church
PO Box 467
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Dear Pastor Bruce Anspach,

Once again your organization has gone above and beyond for a family in our school. Each year it seems the needs of our families increase but thanks to the continued support of your parishioners, we again have been able to meet those needs. We can't begin to tell you what a comfort it is to know that these children will not go without a proper Christmas thanks to the generosity and hard work of the members.

Special thanks to Ms. Carol Doyna, for again bringing the needs of our students to your attention and to Marge Klein for delivering the mountain of gifts to our school.

Thank you again for your support, the family was truly touched and grateful to receive your help this past Christmas.

Have a wonderful and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Stokkers".

Mary Stokkers
Principal

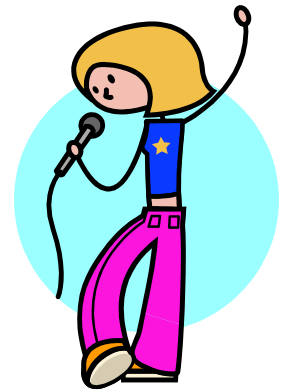
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Scannello".

Liz Scannello RN
School Nurse

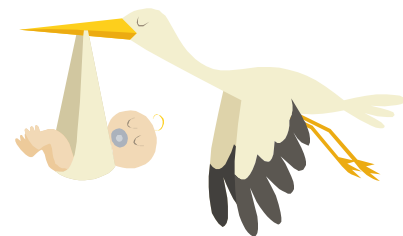
January Happenings at West Hills



Singing in the
New Year at
West Hills...



Isabella Grace Winch
gets Baptized



It's a boy! Ryan David Segalla was born January 17, 2007, 7 pounds, 11 oz., 19 inches. Nice to see the congregation is starting to add to the male population!

Word Search

People from the Bible

Z N O R A A Y M C R X M H L C E E N K J Y N H X A
W E H T T A M I A D G A R M M E L Z O B O Q C C Y
L U A P Z T M R A X E H H V V N I P G M L S C E I
E N R A X A K I S M Z A W E V I Z D N C O E E J Z
L V O F J L Y A I S F R I G B R A R B J B L Z P H
J E Z E B E L M A I R B R Q J A B N Y E H F O H H
O W K D C C I A U E M A R D E I E P R L G J G S T
U Q W R Y P Y D C A Z O X U V J T R G J G Z W G Q
R S Z F C T B R R B T U Z X M Q H O D N A K M G L
F E G K T F R Y A C A L E U M A S O I O L N W J R
B W H S W W G T H D L W Q P T C T E S A M C D Y N
A I P T H H H R J Y T K B H M D A W I H J Q R I L
L B N R S S J Z L N J J Y C A W S Y H O Z J M B R
Y B P K H E S P E T E R U V H Q Y H T G P B N W F
A Z M E D U L P B K S V I M T A N N I X W Y X B A
S D B H S Z H B Z D O D N V U J T G U J L O X C S
L A A E H B S E O Z A A T M R A V D G C R N N E L
E Q J M C P L V R C F S K I S F B D D R U V S Q R
I T N L L I L X T O A E R Z P C Z U X H J O R J M
N Y G H J S A R A H U J J Z G L O A M Y M U X O V
A R V A O F K X O P N V H J T T S T Q J P I D N U
D O H Z G J X O E G K C T F R D S S J N A H G A J
M F U B Q J P Z C P P J Z Y T J U P G H Q I F H S
Z J E Y I S A Y V X L S U O B I T S C I V H V U T
A R P O B E C D O O V N T E T V X N J F G J N B B

WORDS: AARON, ABRAHAM, ADAM, BATHSHEBA, DANIEL, DAVID, ELIJAH

ELIZABETH, ESTHER, EVE, ISAAC, JACOB, JESUS, JEZEBEL, JOHN, JONAH

JOSEPH, JUDAS, MARY, MATTHEW, MIRIAM, MOSES, NOAH, PAUL, PETER

REBECCA, RUTH, SAMUEL, SARAH, SOLOMON

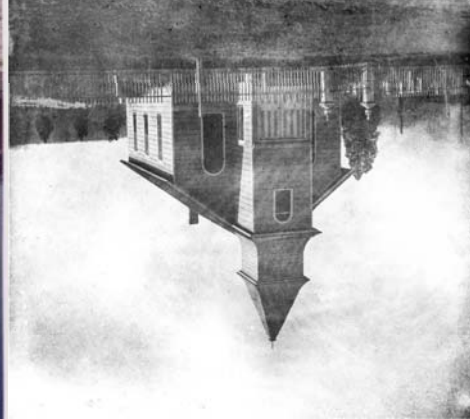
REMINDER



PLEASE PICK UP YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONALS.
THEY ARE ON THE NARTHEX TABLE

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.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

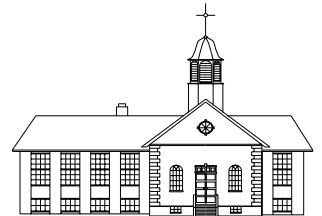


Visit us On-line at www.westhillsumc.com



West Hills United Methodist Church

Newsletter



Bruce Anspach, Pastor
Todd Winch, Newsletter Editor

WINTER 2007

West Hills United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 467
One West Hills Court
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Lenten Letter
Enclosed!