

# WEST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

WWW.WESTHILLSUMC.ORG

FALL 2010

**“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ.”**

Dear Member of West Hills:

The local church is comprised of a series of Councils and Committees which, in a way, are like spokes in a wheel. Each of these groups must function effectively in and of themselves in order to contribute to the orderly functioning of the church. If one or two of the “spokes” are bent or broken, the wheel wobbles. **So too, for the church, if these work groups are not functioning or if there are not enough people involved our church will not be able to carry out its ministry.**

We who have been given certain gifts and talents are requested to use some of that ability in support of our church. Our Annual Church Conference will take place on December 18th at which time the Committee on Lay Leadership will be required to submit the names of persons to serve in various capacities for the coming year.

There are numerous opportunities for you to share your talents and give service and leadership to your church. Please prayerfully consider how you might serve and check off below any areas you would be willing to fill. Please return this letter to Pastor Bruce, his mail box in the church, or the offering plate **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, but no later than November 14<sup>th</sup>**. If you are currently on committees and would like to remain on them next year, please check the line below\*\*.

\_\_\_ If possible, please continue my membership on all committees I am currently on for the upcoming year

- |                                       |                              |                          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ___ Delegate to the Annual Conference | ___ Stewardship              | ___ Trustees             |
| ___ Finance Committee                 | ___ Parsonage Committee      | ___ Lay Leader           |
| ___ Sunday School Teacher             | ___ Sunday School Substitute | ___ Missions Committee   |
| ___ Publicity Coordinator             | ___ Counter ( Offering)      | ___ Liturgist            |
| ___ Church Council At Large Member    | ___ Worship Committee        | ___ Nurture & Care       |
| ___ Committee On Lay Leadership       | ___ SPR Relations Committee  | ___ Eucharistic Minister |
| ___ Sunday School Superintendent      | ___ Nursery School Board     | ___ Usher                |

NAME (Print):

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* United Methodist Church practice and policy promote leadership change in most positions and committees on a three year basis. For this reason, some parishioner requests may not be honored

## Sunday School Halloween Party

On October 24th, the Sunday School held a raucous Halloween Party. 15 children and many adults stayed after Church for apple bobbing, cupcake decorating, mummy wrapping, pin the nose on the pumpkin, “find the worms”, and a rousing game of musical chairs. Participants made Halloween frames, and left with a photo of all those who came. Bagels and juice were provided to the children (and coffee to the adults) for lunch, as well as a parting goodie bag filled with candy, tattoos, and little toys. Many thanks to all of the parents who brought their children, and to those who helped run the party: Miss Deborah, Ann Spessard, Miss Chrissy, Miss Joyce, Mr. George, Cindy Winch, our youth volunteers: Sarah Goehring, Nikki Peluso, Anthony Friedell, and Juliana Overbeck. Another special thanks to those parishioners who donated funds and snacks for the party!



## 2010 Sunday School Pumpkin Contest

The Sunday School students raised over \$140 in our annual Pumpkin Decorating contest. Each class decorated a pumpkin in hopes of winning the title of “best decorated pumpkin”. The contest was won by the preschool-kindergarten class for their Clown Pumpkin.

The money will be sent to support the St. Josephs Indian School in South Dakota. For more information on the school, go to [www.stjo.org](http://www.stjo.org)



### Church Playground Gets a Face Lift

Deborah Overbeck was able to secure a generous donation of playground equipment to the West Hills UMC Nursery School. Donated by a parent of a former nursery school student, the equipment includes a new slide, swingset and monkey bars.



## Updates Updates Updates

- Kent Knorr and his North Carolina Ukelele Academy in Wilmington, NC are featured in the November issue of "Our State - North Carolina". The magazine has a great article with pictures. Go to the magazine's website, [www.ourstate.com](http://www.ourstate.com) for a video of Kent.
- Paul Knorr's 9th book on drink mixing was published this month. Check them out on Amazon.com by typing "Paul Knorr"
- Friends from West Hills attended the baptism of William James Harrison in NJ on October 10th. Will is the son of Beth and Jeff Harrison and the newest grandchild of Peggy and Rich Columbia.
- Greetings to all from Helen Rehfeldt in Connecticut. She is well enjoying all the gorgeous flowers and leaves nature is providing this fall.



## Upcoming Events

November 21, 2010– Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Centerport Congregational Church

November 25th: Thanksgiving– Praise God!

December 11th: Cookie Walk at 9am

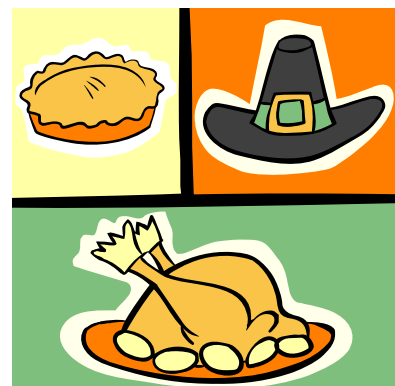
December 12th: Christmas Tree Decorating during church After church- Christmas Luncheon with Santa Claus

December 19th: Sunday School Christmas Pageant

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

We will be collecting Thanksgiving Food items for our annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Please bring in all items no later than the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please make sure all items you donate have not expired. Do not donate perishable items (pies, potatoes, bread, etc.)



COME JOIN US FOR OUR

# 5TH ANNUAL WEST HILLS FAMILY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH



FOOD GAMES CRAFTS

PICTURES WITH SANTA

**DECEMBER 12TH, IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE IN  
JONES HALL**

(To help out, or bring a dish, see the sign up sheet in the Narthex hallway)

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## **Missions Committee Adopt-A-Family**

Once again the West Hills UMC will be adopting a local area family to purchase Christmas gifts for. This is a great opportunity to spread joy to another family in need. Please bring your wrapped present (new from the store only, please), either clothes or toys, to the Christmas Brunch.



This year, instead of posting the ages and sizes of the children, we will be creating a “Giving Tree” in the Narthex by the front door. If you are interested in getting a gift (or two) for our family, just pick one (or more) gift “ornaments” from the tree. The ornaments will have the child’s age and size. Purchase the gift, wrap it and tape the paper ornament to the gift. Bring the wrapped gift to the Christmas Brunch.

## Nursery School Halloween Happenings

In a very special treat, ghosts, goblins and princesses held court at West Hills UMC Nursery School the last week of October. Great fanfare was held in their honor, include a Halloween party and parade. A great time was had by the students and parents!



### THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

CREATE OR ADD TO AN  
EXISTING ENDOWMENT  
FUND AT WEST HILLS.  
INTEREST FROM OUR  
ENDOWMENT FUNDS  
HELPS THE CHURCH  
CARRY OUT ITS MISSION

### ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS

Starting on Sunday, November 14th, parents are asked to bring their children at

**10:00am**

For Christmas Pageant rehearsals.

Feel free to drop your children off and come back for service at 10:45. This will be in effect for the following Sundays:

November 14th  
November 21st  
December 5th  
December 19th



## Can you Name the Newsletter?

Since no one came to claim the Dunkin Donuts gift card last newsletter (and it was from March 1997), I will give you an easier one. Keep in mind that all of the newsletters I am selecting are on the church website. If you can tell me the date (month and year) of when that article appeared you can win a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card.

### *Count*

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses;  
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes;  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears;  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean;  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.

- Beverly UMC newsletter, Beverly, OH, December 1997

### **CAN YOU SOLVE THE MYSTERY?**



## **20th Annual West Hills UMC Cookie Walk**

Pick from dozens of different types of homemade holiday cookies. Sold bakery style, by the pound.

Saturday, December 11th at 9:00am

See Judy Knorr if you would like to bake cookies for this special event

## **HAT AND MITTEN TREE**

The West Hills UMC Missions Committee will be collecting new hats and mittens for our hat and mitten tree. Items will be collected between December 19th and January 9th



**Person To Praise: Lorraine Winch**  
**Secretary of the West Hills United Methodist Church**  
**2005 through 2010**

Mrs. Lorraine Winch has served as Church Secretary of the West Hills United Methodist Church with great distinction, consummate loyalty, superb talent and excelling love for the past five years until her retirement this year.

No one has held this church in the cradle of their hearts more closely than she has or has given witness to their love of it more devotedly or more passionately than she. No one has maintained a more cheerful countenance, a more gentle demeanor, or a more welcoming spirit than she. She has been a real joy to work with and a Godsend to the Pastor, the parishioners, the visitors, and the community members who have been blessed by her presence and service.

No assignment given to her was ever too large, too taxing, or too late for her to accept and handle with dignity, grace and dispatch. No one ever had a happier relationship or better communications with the Pastor, the organist, the sexton, the choir, the Sunday School staff, the liturgists, the ushers, the committee chairpersons and the service personnel that passed through our halls than she did. No one was more gracious, more giving, more considerate, or more compassionate than she. She modeled Christian charity and felicity.

She has been a member of the West Hills United Methodist Church for 36 years, during which time she served as a Sunday School teacher for 10 years, head of the Missions Committee for 10 years, and an active member of other committees including the Pageant Committee, the Library Committee, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee – always exhibiting charity, loyalty, talent and commitment in the exercise of her volunteer duties and responsibilities.

Her gentleness, kindness, sincerity, and concern for others are an inspiration to all. It is her kind of spirit that not only distinguishes the church as special but also induces emulation and loyalty in seasoned members and newcomers alike.

We were ever so fortunate to have her as our Church Secretary and wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.

## *Celebrating the life of Rev. Jim Gaines*



11/3/1930 - 10/29/2010

## **Helping Hand Rescue Mission Founder Passes Away**

Rev. Jim Gaines passed away this past month.

He, along with his wife, Reverend Rose Marie Gaines, and her mother, Florence E. Meringola founded the mission in 1965. After witnessing local poverty conditions first hand, they invested everything that they had with the view that if they could help even one person it was worth the investment.

West Hills has been an active sponsor of the Helping Hand Mission in Huntington and shares in the sorrow of his passing.

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## **Charge Conference**

On Saturday, December 18th, West Hills will hold the most important meeting of the church year. At the annual charge conference, we review the past year of the church, look ahead to the future, and choose the individuals who will help us get there. This year the meeting will take place at the Centerport United Methodist Church. Updated information about the meeting can be found on our church website. Please remember- all committee chairpeople must submit narrative reports for the charge conference booklet. All reports are due to Cindy Winch no later than November 28th.



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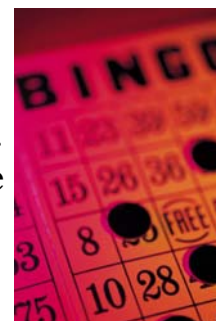
## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Look soon for leaflets in the weekly bulletin for ordering altar poinsettias

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## **Family Fun Night**

Many thanks to those who helped run the Family Fun Night. It was a great night for those who attended, and helped raise money for the church!



E N A C Y D N A C H T A E R W S S  
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## Christmas Word Search



ANGEL BELLS BETHLEHEM CANDLES CANDY CANE CAROLS DECORATIONS EGGNOG FAMILY FRANK-  
 INCENSE FRIENDS FRUITCAKE GABRIEL GIFTS GOLD GREETING CARDS HOLLY ICICLES JESUS JOSEPH  
 LIGHTS MANGER MARY MISTLETOE MYRRH ORNAMENTS POINSETTIA SANTA SHEPHERDS  
 SKATES SLEIGH SNOWFLAKES SNOWMAN STABLE STAR STOCKING THREE WISE MEN  
 TOBOGGAN TOYS TREE WREATH

# West Hills United Methodist Church NEWSLETTER

West Hills UMC  
 PO Box 467  
 Huntington Station NY 11746

To:

Thanksgiving Letter Enclosed

