

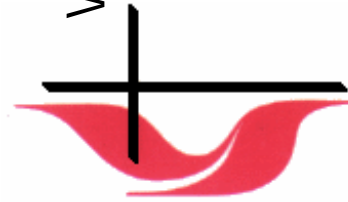
Visit us On-line at
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Coming Next issue:

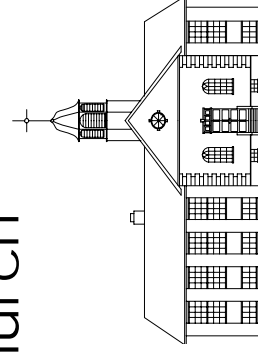
- Information about the Church's new "Safe Sanctuary" Policy
- Holiday events and dates
- Information regarding the 2004 Phone Directory

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



West Hills United Methodist Church



Newsletter

Bruce Anspach, Pastor
Paul Knorr, Newsletter Editor

September / October 2003

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

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NY

From The Pastor

September 2003

Dear Members and Friends of West Hills United Methodist Church,

Greetings in the name of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ! I hope you had a good summer filled with fond memories of friends and family. May God bless you and yours in the coming months and may our troubled world know the peace of God!

The Church Council of West Hills has asked me to write to you about the serious financial situation in our church. This is an uncomfortable duty for me, but the future of our church is in question. We are experiencing serious shortfalls in our trimmed down and bare bones budget so I am asking your to help.

I hear people say all the time that "The church is always asking for money!" And I know that it is true. Personally, I have a hard time asking for financial support for our church. So before I started to write to you I took the whole thing to God in prayer. How do I answer people's frustration that "The church is always asking for money,"? I asked God. Without any hesitation God answered me, "Well, you and all other church people are always asking me for something. The church is my way of being in the world, so let's work together! I want the church to be in the world and you need me; so tell them that!" So I'm telling you!

I don't know if I feel much better about writing this, but here it is anyway. Please forgive me if this letter is uncomfortable for you but I see no other way than to let you know we need more giving if we are to continue to have our ministry here in West Hills.

I am asking you first to pray for us and to seek God's help in discerning what you can do to help us. Second, I am asking you to review your giving to West Hills and see if there is some way to increase your contribution to our church and ministry. Our situa-

Part of WH history.....

On March 1, 2003 Jeanette Blackshaw passed away . Mrs. Blackshaw was a long time member of WH, was married here in 1923 to John Blackshaw and had her two daughters Matilda Gollatz and Jeanette Gonzales baptized at WH and later her granddaughter was brought up from Fl to be baptized at WH. When West Hills celebrated its' 150th anniversary Mrs. Blackshaw attended along with her daughter and was recognized as the oldest living member of the WH congregation. Her daughters attended Sunday school at the little red school house which was then located across the road from the church in its old location, Mrs. Blackshaw's father William Burgess is buried at West Hills Cemetery. , and she will be cremated and her remains will be at the Melville Rural Cemetery

A preacher goes to a nursing home to meet an elderly parishioner. As he is sitting there he notices this bowl of peanuts beside her bed and takes one.

As they talk, he can't help himself and eats one after another. By the time they are through talking, the bowl is empty. He says, "Ma'am, I'm so sorry, but I seem to have eaten all of your peanuts."

"That's okay," she says. "They would have just sat there. Without my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off and put em back in the bowl."

West Hills News Briefs

In appreciation for allowing them to use our facilities and grow in numbers... The Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church donated funds to purchase 10 new Hymnals and 6 new Bibles in our honor..

-Bd of Trustee's

A special thanks to Geof and Andrew Schreiber for being our shoveler's again this past winter. With the many heavy snow storms we received, the church walks were always clean & free of ice & snow. This winter really pushed our snow shoveler's and snow blower to the extreme! Again, a special thanks to Geof & Andrew for a job well done!

-Bd of Trustee's

The Board of Trustee's wishes to remind everyone that parking in the fire zone areas of our parking lot is a **NO,NO!** In an emergency the fire truck or ambulance will not be able to get through. The Huntington Manor Fire Department has warned us that violations will be issued ! So, please park in the designated parking spots, the street or the school lot and keep our facilities safe!

-Bd of Trustee's



tion is serious.

For example, in order for us to have met our minimum budget in August, we would have needed to receive \$7,209. We received a total of \$5,059.27 which represents a shortfall of \$2,149.73. We now have a shortfall for the year of \$5,657.06! Without your help we can't continue to function!

I'm sorry for having to bring this to you. I know that most of you are also struggling to make ends meet. But please see how God would have you respond. I have great faith in God and in you! Thank you for your understanding.

Your pastor,
Bruce Anspach

Mission Committee



We had a missions speaker (Henry McCarter) come to talk about his missionary work in Mozambique. He goes there every summer as a missionary. Most recently he helped them built a church for the community. It was well attended and followed by a brunch prepared by the missions committee.

Passover Seder- April 2003



Lamplighters



The Lamplighters had a picnic lunch and train ride at the Long Island Live Steamers facility in Southaven Park on Sunday, August 31st. Only one real steam engine was running. The other trains included a Santa Fe "F" unit, a Southern Pacific Baldwin, "Gramps" MP-15 and an EMD GP40 "Southaven." Other than a minor derailment on the train the Lamplighters were riding, the day was uneventful. A fine time was had by all.

Other Important Announcements

Carrie and Jeff Campbell are expecting!!!!
The baby is due March 7th. Feel free to congratulate the soon-to-be grandparents.

We are really going to try and get a newsletter out quarterly. The next issue will be November/December, but will be printed for the third Sunday in November. This way, the major December events can be mentioned.

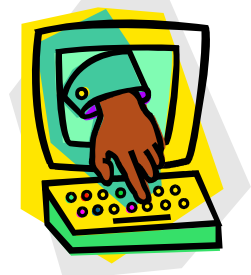
**PLEASE COME UP WITH INFO/STORIES/
PICTURES**

Give them to Todd Winch or Paul Knorr
Or email them to:

tcwinch@optonline.net

**LINK FOR
SEPTEMBER:**

<http://www.upperroom.com/>
Daily devotional online



Event helps families, soldiers stay connected

Sept. 5, 2003 News media contact: Kathy Gilbert • (615)742-5470 • Nashville, Tenn.

A UMNS Feature

*By Kathy L. Gilbert**

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (UMNS)--Zach turned 14 and made the high school baseball team.

Sami lost her front tooth and is enjoying second grade.

Not exactly breaking news, but those kinds of little milestones in a child's life are what thousands of military moms and dads are missing every day as they serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Zach and Sami's dad is Capt. Ernest P. Jay West, a United Methodist minister serving in Iraq as a U.S. Army chaplain with the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell Screaming Eagles.

When it was announced that the 101st Airborne Division would continue its duties in Iraq for another six months, West and his commander, Lt. Col. Donald G. Fryc, thought it was time to boost the morale between deployed soldiers and their families.

To recognize and to honor the fact that kids and spouses, parents and friends are missing one another, "Operation Strike Span," a name taken from the regiment's slogan "Strike Fear," was held on a recent muggy summer day.

"You have the most important job in the army," Col. Jeff Horne told the room full of family members. "You have to keep the family together and things going on here at home. God is looking over your shoulders."

Deployed soldiers' videotaped messages and photos sent back home for the occasion, brought laughter, tears and smiles to the crowd gathered in the recreation hall at Fort Campbell.

West gave the invocation via videotape for the event, and took the opportunity to tell his wife Pam, and Zach and Sami how much he loves and misses them.

Other members of the 2-44 ADA also sent special messages home to their wives and children through videotapes. One dad, holding up his wallet full of family photos, told his kids he shows their pictures to the children in Iraq.

The three members of the 2-44 ADA who have died, Pfc. John Brown, Pfc. Daniel Parker and Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Foley, were honored during the event. Brown and Foley both died during Holy Week; Parker, in an accident just weeks ago. Operation Strike Span was held during the Labor Day weekend because it marks six months since the unit deployed to Iraq.

"We have six months behind us with about six months more to go," says Pam West. She helped plan the event and had hoped Jay would be able to come home to share the time with her.

"In the middle of one of our planning meetings, I heard he wouldn't be coming home," she says. "It was hard to hear it that way, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized having him home for just two weeks would have been hard also."

Pam and the children stay busy. Adjusting to Jay's being so far from home has been hard on all of them, she says.

"Things are just now starting to settle down," she says.

During Operation Strike Span, the "home team" gave certificates of appreciation to those who had sent care packages to the soldiers.

When West was deployed, he sent an invitation to several churches asking them to participate in "Operation Desert Care Package."

"I thought it would be wonderful if we received 50 packages," he says. "I was overwhelmed when I was able to deliver more than 500 care packages to these men and women. This is truly an example of sharing God's love."

Don and Sandy Sanders, members of Calvary United Methodist Church in Keyser, W.Va., where West was pastor for four years before becoming an Army chaplain, traveled to Fort Campbell to accept a certificate on behalf of their church.

"It was hard to lose Jay because we came to love him and his family so much," Sandy says. "But it clear this is where God wants them to be."

Young mothers carried babies and held on to the hands of toddlers as they enjoyed a potluck lunch together. After the lunch, families gathered at different booths to record video messages, write letters, send e-mail messages, take digital photos and sign large paper banners. All of the messages of love will be sent to the unit with soldiers leaving Fort Campbell on their way to Iraq.

"It is hard not having Dad here to talk to," Zach says. "I will be glad when he comes home and we are a whole family again."