

West Hills

United Methodist Church Newsletter



Lent 2008



Dear Members and Friends of West Hills UMC,
Greeting in the Name of God!

So could it be that having just come through the celebration of the Nativity we are on the verge of Lent already?!

And, of course, the answer is yes! Lent and Easter are early this year so we must change gears faster than usual to make ourselves ready for the observance that is most central to our life as a Christian community. The Festival of the Resurrection, or Easter as it has come to be called, is our most solemn and joyous remembrance. It is the Resurrection of Christ and the events in the days immediately preceding that carry us through the drama that creates us as a people of God.

It is essential that we prepare ourselves for Easter by mindfully observing the Lenten practices of our faith. We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 6th with our service of ashes and communion at 7:30 p.m. The Sundays in Lent, beginning February 10th, will be focused on the themes of Jesus' life and ministry that enable us to journey with him to Jerusalem and to bring him into our hearts and life.

Holy Week, which begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, March 16th, will be a very important time for us to share together as we make our way to Easter Sunday one week later on March 23 and our joyous celebration of the Resurrection. But in order to arrive here we will have to go through Maundy Thursday on March 20th and Good Friday on March 21st. Both days will be observed on each evening at 7:30 p.m. with a special service in which you are urged to participate.

Please join us throughout Lent and on Easter!

May this Holy Season truly be a blessing to you and yours.

Faithfully,

Bruce

LENTEN MATERIALS

Pick up Your FREE Lenten Devotionals on the Narthex Table. Please take a look at all of the free resources for Lent on the Narthex Table (including family devotionals) and take what you like.



3rd Annual West Hills United Methodist Church Family Christmas Brunch

Family fellowship overflowed on Sunday, December 10th as West Hills celebrated its 3rd annual Family Christmas Brunch. Over 40 people attended the event, bringing with them dozens of presents for a local Huntington family adopted for Christmas. After parishioners finished partaking in the scrumptious food, Santa Claus graced us with his presence (presents). Everyone lined up for photos quickly, as Santa was on his way to the Walt Whitman Mall. Over \$100 was raised in a raffle from which the proceeds also went to help this local family in need. Many thanks to all who came and all who helped out, especially to Carol Doyna who was instrumental in finding a local family to help out.







The Missions Committee sends a heartfelt thanks to all those who put items on the Hat & Mitten Tree, as well as those who purchased items during the "Muffins for Missions" sale, which raised over \$100!

www.westhillsumc.org

We have launched our all new and improved church website. The site includes upcoming events, important email addresses, previous newsletters, our church history, recent photos and more. As part of the new site, we also have a mailing list which will allow us to email important reminders to everyone on the list. Also, upcoming meetings and special events times and dates will be posted. If you are interested in signing up for the mailing list, please go to the website and send a message to the webmaster.

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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008
PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

FAITH
 FUNNYBONE

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Thanks to Matt Hagan 12-31-2007
FOR ENGLISH, PRAY "I", FOR SPANISH, PRAY "2" ...

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

The West Hills UMC Sunday School performed its annual Christmas Pageant on December 23rd to a packed audience. Returning to a more traditional pageant, students reenacted the nativity story, replete with scenery boards, costumes, an actual manager and a moving star. The scenery boards presented a challenge that Sunday morning as George, Todd, Dave, Mike and Stephen Overbeck attempted to move the rolling partitions from Jones Hall to the sanctuary. After a

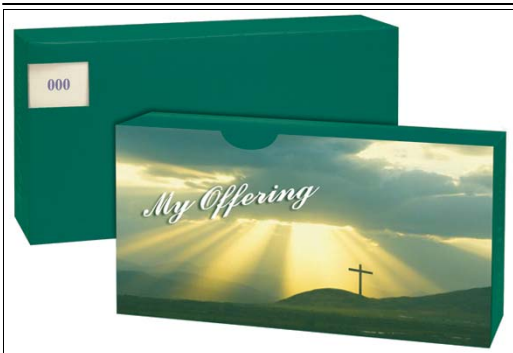


few

unsuccessful attempts, inverting the boards and bringing them up through the rear exit of Jones Hall proved to be the trick.

Students practiced every Sunday at 10:00am for four weeks prior to the event. This was done so that the classroom teachers would not lose out on too much time due to rehearsals. Ms. Kniffen pro-

vided the musical accompaniment during the closing number, "Away in a Manger". Many thanks to all the parents and students for a job well done. A special thanks to Deborah Overbeck who provided the scenery, costumes, script and direction.



2008 Offering Envelopes

The new 2008 offering envelopes are now available on the Narthex table. Please pick yours up and don't forget to use the "initial offering" envelope to help defray the cost of the envelopes themselves. Also, please be sure to keep up with your pledges, especially during the summer!

From Newsday.com

Op-ed: The spirit of Christmas isn't a thing

BY PAT MCDONOUGH

Pat McDonough is a Catholic educator and psychologist from Westbury.

December 20, 2007

The holiday season is in full swing, as is our hope that the holiday spirit will sprinkle itself over our shopping sprees and the endless stream of parties that prevail at this time of year. But will our celebrations be dappled with disappointed hopes when these days of hustle bustle fall short of our expectations? When we feel nothing more than exhausted come Christmas Day?

Carl Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist who emphasized the importance of balancing sociology and spirituality, suggested that it's no accident that the Latin word *spiritus*, used in religious language, is the same term used for alcohol and, later, borrowed by society to describe a mood of merriment at this time of year.

The spirits served at parties conspire with the season's goodwill and gift-giving to create a kinder, more generous, and more genial world, where we all hope to know the joy announced by angels 2,000 years ago.

Jung speculated that our hope that the holidays can capture all that in a single season is unrealistic. The happiness and wholeness that we long for, the perfect joy of Christmas, is better known as peace, the gift that God wished for the world - *shalom*. Jung suggests that our sense of completeness is found through faith, through healthy relationships, service to others and a genuine concern for humanity, all of which can be frustrated by the frenzy of December's days.

The glitz and glitter of the season almost mock that silent night in Bethlehem, a scene now undone by decorations that can crush the simplicity of the crèche that once stood as the sole symbol of Christmas. Concessions made to consumerism can diminish the meaning of the manger and move our focus off the baby born in a barn, among people of poverty. Believers, once steered through this season by prophets proclaiming peace, now provide profits to merchants proclaiming that the newest products will bring us peace - and pleasure and the completion we seek.

Contrary to popular belief, mental health professionals note that suicide rates drop dramatically before Christmas. Perhaps it's because the hungry, the homeless and heartbroken are hopeful that the spirit of the season will inspire modern-day disciples to give generously of both their time and treasures - and in those gifts, the weary will find the healing that comes with feeling included, valued and loved by others.

Unfortunately, December's dreams don't always come true, and the suicide rate rises again once the Christmas lights have dimmed and the star of Bethlehem fades from sight. The unforgiving truth of consumerism takes its toll. Besides the new sweater or some shiny gadget, life remains unchanged for too many.

Christmas can't be found under a tree. It isn't just a holiday, but a holy day, where we come to recognize that

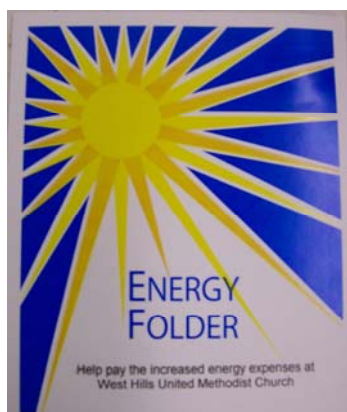
the spirit of Christmas isn't a thing. It's a man whose soul continues to bless this weary world with his love and mercy, and the many miracles that spring from those gifts.

The spirit of Christmas is an abiding sense that the spirit of God is with us when we embrace the poverty in ourselves and others. We are all without - all of us incomplete, longing for wonder, for tidings of great joy and a starlit sky that shines light into our lives, guiding us to a God who gives us all we truly need.



Let's kneel before the manger with the hope that this Christmas will be followed by fewer petty arguments and grievances, less cynicism, less fear and self-absorption.

Let's pray once again for peace on Earth and goodwill toward all, hoping that this familiar adage will be accompanied by the courage and the commitment to work toward these goals in 2008.



\$2100

This was the first bill for heating oil at West Hills this winter. As you know, heating costs have skyrocketed this year. Please be sure to use those fuel envelopes and give generously. We have ordered Fuel Coin Folders as a unique way to use your loose change to help pay the heating bill. Please pick up one from the Narthex table and use it at home to collect quarters. We may also be considering lowering the thermostats.

2007 Charge Conference

The Annual Charge Conference of the West Hills United Methodist Church was held at 7:30pm on December 3rd at the Huntington/Cold Spring Harbor UMC. The Charge Conference is the most important annual meeting for the church. The District Superintendent visits with us and reviews important goals not only for our congregation, but for the general body of United Methodists. Though important for electing a yearly slate of volunteer lay leaders, the meeting also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished over the past year, as well as where we plan to go in the new year.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS TO ALL THOSE ON THE FOLLOWING TWO PAGES WHO HAVE AGREED TO DO GOD'S WORK AT WEST HILLS!

West Hills Lay Leadership 2008

LAY LEADERS: Richard Columbia & Judy Knorr

LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Don Harkness

RESERVE MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Carol Doyna

CHURCH COUNCIL: CHAIRPERSON: Mike Klein

Secretary: Peggy & Rich Columbia

Treasurer: Cynthia Peluso

Financial Secretary: Peggy Columbia

Lay Leaders: Judy Knorr & Rich Columbia

Lay Delegate: Don Harkness

President, Board of Trustees: Determined by Board of Trustees

Finance Committee: Chairpersons: Bob & Julie Schreiber

Staff—Parish Relations: Chairperson:

SUPERINTENDENT OF CHURCH SCHOOL: Todd Winch & Deborah Friedell

COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATION: Todd Winch

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Lorraine Winch

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Judy Knorr and Julie Schreiber

WORK AREA CHAIRPERSONS:

Missions and Outreach: Cindy Winch

Parsonage: George Friedell & Rich Columbia

Stewardship: Nadine Albert

History & Archive: Harriet Matus & Todd Winch

Worship: Don Harkness

Age Level Coordinators: Children: Ann Spessard Youth: Heather Vasquez

Nurture and Care: (Includes Welcome Committee): Marge Klein

Nursery School Committee: Judy Knorr

AT LARGE MEMEBERS: Peggy Columbia, Carol Doyna

EVANGELISM AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSONS: Claire Burvenich

Bruce Anspach, Doris Schielke, Helen Rehfeldt, Todd Winch, Paul Knorr

STAFF—PARISH RELATIONS: CHAIRPERSON:

CLASS 2008

Kim Goehring

Nadine Albert

Peggy Columbia

CLASS 2009

Don Harkness

Mike Klein

Claire Burvenich

CLASS of 2010

Marilyn Grimm

Ann Spessard

Lucille Walker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: CHAIRPERSON:

CLASS 2008

David Knorr

Paul Knorr

Russell Cox

CLASS 2009

Todd Winch

Rich Columbia

Julie Schreiber

CLASS of 2010

Kim Goehring

George Friedell

Mercedes Rivas (SDA)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSONS: Bob & Julie Schreiber

Lay Leaders: Richard Columbia & Judy Knorr

Treasurer: Cynthia Peluso

Trustee Rep: Richard Columbia

Financial Sec: Peggy Columbia

Church Council: Bob Schreiber

UMW Rep: Determined by UMW

Staff-Parish Relations:

Lay Delegate: Don Harkness

Stewardship: Nadine Albert

Auditor: Marilyn Grimm

Counters: Michael Klein, Todd Winch, Rich Columbia, Lorraine Winch, Cindy Winch, Dorothy Wienecke, Agnes Stanco, George Friedell, Carol Doyna, Claire Burvenich,

LAY LEADERSHIP: Pastor Bruce Anspach & Lay Leaders: Richard Columbia & Judy Knorr

CLASS 2008

CLASS 2009

CLASS 2010

Russell Cox

Nadine Albert

Marge Klein

Peggy Columbia

George Friedell

Kim Goehring

Claire Burvenich

Bob Schreiber

Todd Winch

WORSHIP COMMITTEE; CHAIRPERSON: Don Harkness

Helen Rehfeldt

Claire Burvenich

Brittaney Overbeck

George Friedell

Carol Doyna

Peggy Columbia

Joyce Friedell

Gene Selesner

CHOIR: Claire Burvenich, Peggy Columbia, Michael Klein, David Knorr, Ann Spessard, Carol Cornish

Lucille Walker, April Walker, Russell Cox, Harriet Matus, Marge Klein,

LITURGISTS: Joyce Friedell, Peggy Columbia, Marge Klein, Claire Burvenich, Carol Doyna, George Friedell,

Harriet Matus, Julie Schrieber, Ann Spessard, Todd Winch, April Walker, Judy Knorr, Michael Klein,

Don Harkness

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Claire Burvenich, Harriet Matus, Marge Klein, Julie Schrieber, Helen Rehfeldt, Carol Doyna, April Walker, Lucille Walker

USHERS: HEAD USHER: Claire Burvenich

Agnes Stanco, Richard Stewart, Lorraine Winch, Nadine Albert, Todd Winch, Marylyn Grimm, Kurt & Doris Schielke, Marge Klein, Joyce & George Friedell, Marge Ferris, Daryl Cox, Mary Cox, Richard Columbia, Jimmy Columbia, Russell Cox

ALTAR CHANCEL & COMMUNION STEWARDS: Helen Rehfeldt, Judy Knorr, Marge Ferris, Joyce Friedell

NURSERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON: Judy Knorr

Director: Deborah Overbeck

Treasurer: Julie Schrieber

Members: Richard Columbia, Paul Knorr, Joyce Friedell, Ann Spessard, Heather Vasquez

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON: George Friedell

Trustee Rep, UMW Rep, Staff—Parish Relations Rep: Julie Schrieber, Rich Columbia

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSONS: Harriett Matus, David Knorr, Richard Columbia, James Columbia

NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE: INCLUDES WELCOME COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON: Marge Klein

Helen Rehfeldt – Prayer Chain Chairperson; Marge Klein, Agnes Stanco, Claire Burvenich Doris Schielke

Kurt Schielke, Helen Rehfeldt, Richard Stewart

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF: SUPERINTENDENT: Todd Winch & Deborah Overbeck

Missions: Ann Spessard, Music: Helen Kniffin, Teachers: Helen Kniffin, Joyce Friedell, George Friedell, Dorothy Wienecke, Richard Columbia, Brittaney Overbeck, Stephen Overbeck, Deborah Overbeck, Lorraine Winch, Todd Winch, Cindy Winch, , Heather Vazquez, Rachel Anspach

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON: Cindy Winch; Ann Spessard, Lorraine Winch, Todd Winch, Dorothy Wienecke, Harriet Matus, Brittaney Overbeck, Agnes Stanco

NEWSLETTER & WEBMASTER: Todd Winch

17th Annual Cookie Walk Another Success!



On Saturday, December 15th the UMW opened the doors to the usual line of community visitors looking to purchase dozens of homemade holiday cookies. The event raised over \$600 for the United Methodist Women.

Dates to Add to Your Calendar...

For the latest information, go to www.westhillsumc.org

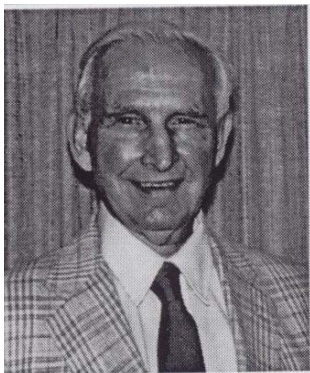
Sunday, January 27th: Fundraiser brunch

Sunday, January 27th 4:00pm - Winter Film Festival (Jones Hall)
Movie: "Sicko"

Wednesday, February 6th 7:30pm– Ash Wednesday Service

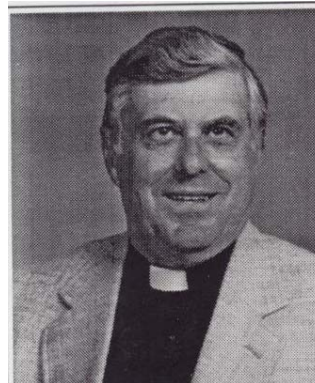
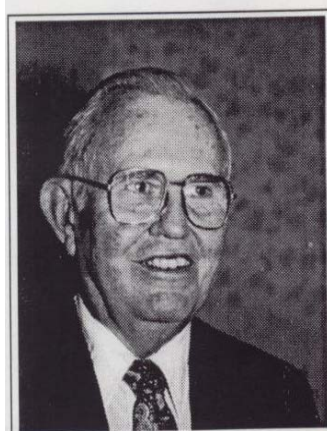
Thursday, February 7th 7:30pm (Meeting Room): Church Council Meeting

Sunday, February 10th 4:00pm - Winter Film Festival (Jones Hall)
Movie: "The Rabbit Proof Fence"



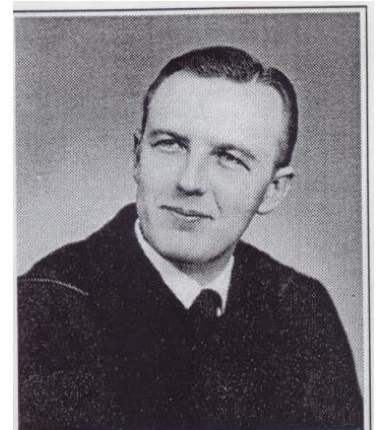
Remember

Can You Identify



When?

These Four Pastors



Missions Update

The Missions Committee is looking for suggestions from the congregation on what types of programs to become involved in this year. We are already involved in supporting the Red Bird Mission, the Huntington Food Council, and Habitat for Humanity. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

All I Want For Christmas is....a Sheep??

Dotty Wienecke's Older Elementary Class decided that instead of receiving Christmas gifts from Ms. Wienecke, they would donate the money to charity. This year they decided to send the money to buy a sheep through the Heifer Project.



Entire communities depend on wool and meat from sheep. Struggling families use sheep's wool to make clothes, or sell it for extra income. Sheep often give birth to twins or triplets and can graze even the hilliest, rockiest pastures unsuitable for other livestock. Warm in winter, cool in summer, waterproof and durable - wool is a valuable product that struggling families can use for clothing or sell for extra income. All over the world, Heifer partners are raising sheep to advance the cause against hunger and poverty. For more information, go to: <http://www.heifer.org/>



Thank You from the Huntington Food Council

West Hills received a thank you letter from Donald Proferes, president of the Community Food Council in Huntington. This year round emergency food pantry provides food and personal items for about 600 clients a month. The food items you bring in go directly to help Huntington families. Please continue the great support that we have offered the Food Council for over twenty years!

FOOD DONATION OF THE SEASON

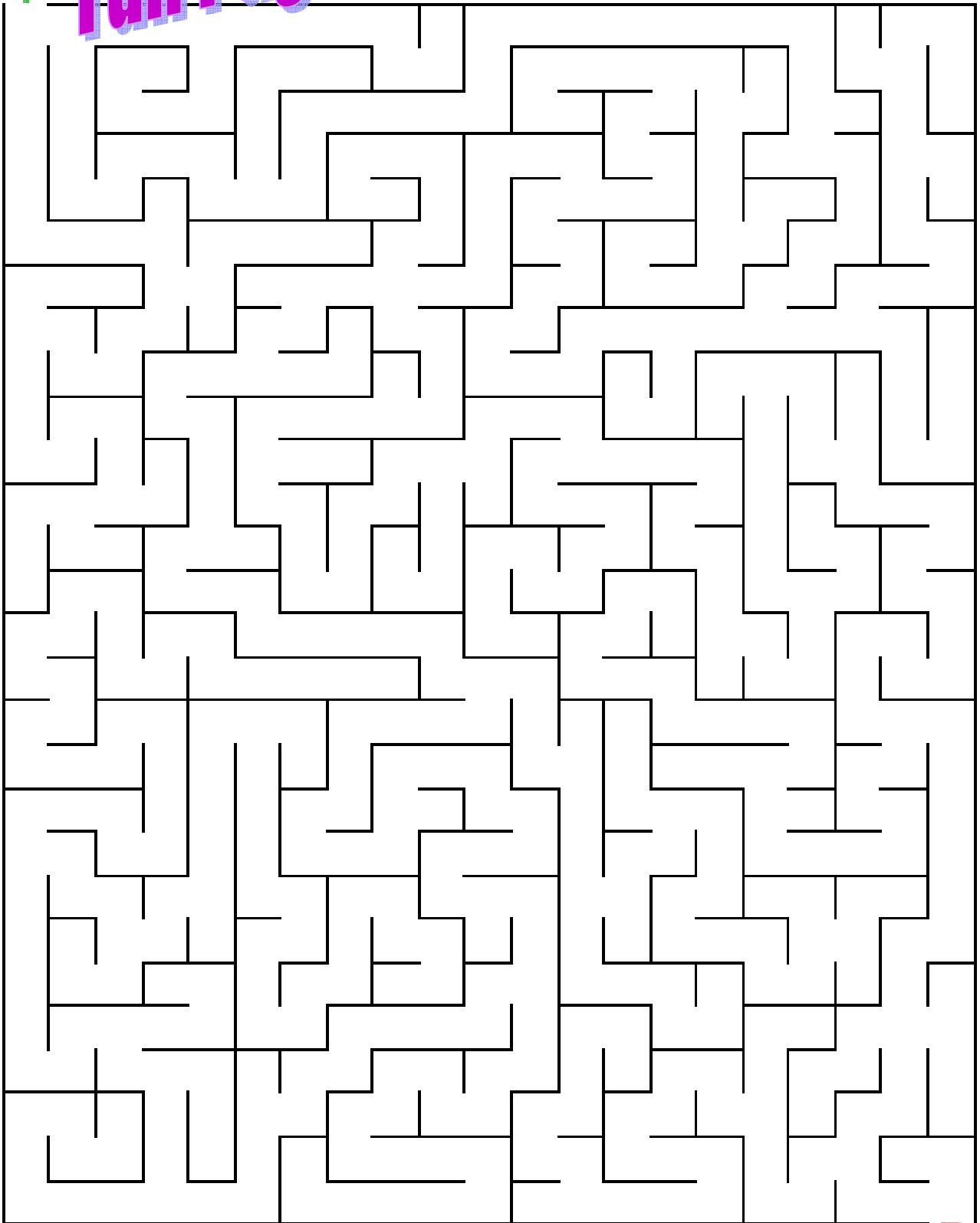
Feb/March: SOUPS



Fun Pages

Immediate Mazes by KrazyDad

Maze #3



LENTEN WORD SEARCH

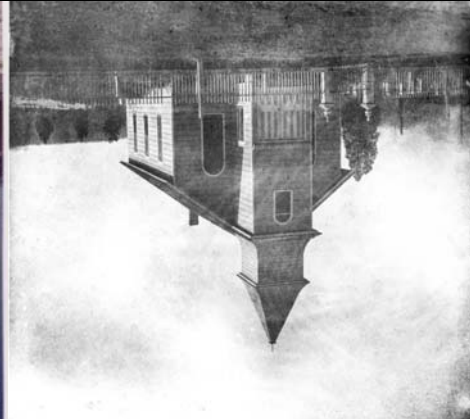
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Lent devotion fasting forgiveness grace lamb
spirit garden ash Jesus repent pray salvation
meditation winter spring snow palms bible love



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

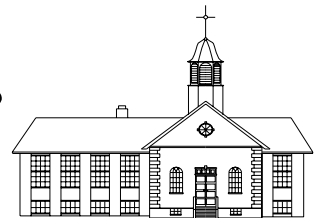


Visit us On-line at www.westhillsumc.org



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Bruce Anspach, Pastor

Todd Winch, Newsletter Editor

Winter 2008

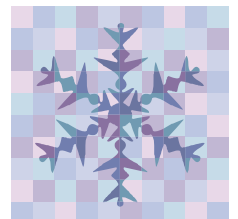
West Hills United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 467

One West Hills Court

Huntington Station, NY 11746

Lenten Letter
Enclosed!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®