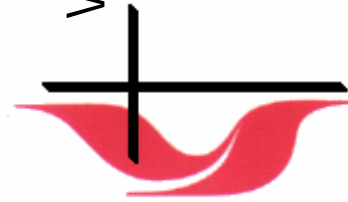


Visit us On-line at
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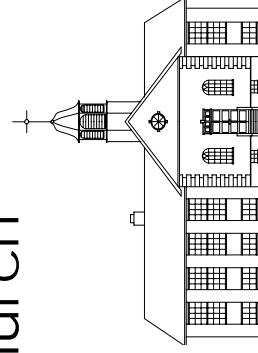


PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

January/February 2004

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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From The Pastor

Ending and Beginnings

As we begin a New Year I want to say how blessed I am to continue to serve the West Hills community as your pastor. I see the faithfulness in this church's struggle to keep going when finding adequate resources becomes more and more challenging. The people here take their church seriously because they take their faith seriously. I am humble and grateful to be among you. While there are many stories of faithfulness that come to mind to illustrate my point, two are of special note as we wrap up last year and look ahead to 2004—would you believe 2004!

In late December I received two letters with the same mail delivery. Among a mountain of "junk mail" I discovered a heartrending letter from a wife and mother who was facing Christmas without money, gifts or food for her family. Both she and her husband were disabled and didn't know how to face the holiday season.

The very next letter I opened was from a neighbor of ours who had sent a very generous donation in gratitude for having been inspired and comforted by our Sunday morning chimes playing her favorite hymns. Although she had never attended our church in twenty-five years, she felt so connected to West Hills UMC through our chimes that she wanted to say thank you.

When I proposed to our good people that we use at least some of her gift to help this other family, there was such an outpouring of giving that two car loads of gifts and food were taken to the needy family for their Christmas holiday. The quick and effective response by our Mission Committee and our Stephen Ministers was a fine example of the caring of the people of God. This response made it possible to use our neighbor's donation for other needs.

The other example of faithfulness that I would like to note is that we have been able to pay our apportionments in full for 2003! This is a great accomplishment on your part when the struggles of

Confirmation Class News

On January 3rd 2004 the confirmation class went into the city to help prepare and set up for a soup kitchen held at Disciples of Christ Church. On that day it was the Park Avenue Methodist Church's turn to sponsor. Afterwards we went for some lunch and then visited St. John the Divine before heading back home again.

This was a very good experience for our confirmands and the feeling among them was that they had done something good for people who do not have as much as we do.

If you look at the pictures you will see that even Pastor Bruce got in on the act and was stirring the pot.



MISSION NEWS

“Helping Hand Mission” was delighted with the mittens, caps and scarves which West Hills gathered on our “Mitten Tree”. The Helping Hand did not receive as many donations as they usually receive so our donation was greatly needed and appreciated



In the latest “Vision” is an article concerning the recent earthquake in Iran and UMCOR’s participation in the relief efforts, One of the things mentioned was the need of more health kits and more school kits. The Missions Committee will be collecting more of these kits.

Health Kit: Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. When people gain the knowledge and materials to maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"), 1 washcloth, 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized), 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers), 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up), 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper), 1 large tube of toothpaste (expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR Sager Brown), 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag

School Kit(1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip), 2 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper, 1 30-centimeter ruler, 1 hand held pencil sharpener, 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers, 1 eraser, 2 1/2", 12 sheets construction paper (varied colors), 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24), Prepare a 12" x 14" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and a closure (Velcro®, snap or button) and place items in the bag.

For more information on UMCOR:
<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>

the last several years are considered. It is not easy to meet our local responsibilities much less fulfill our commitment to the larger church and the world. But if we are not involved in the ministry of the United Methodist Church beyond our own community, how can we say we are truly Christ’s Church?

You are all to be commended for your discipleship. Please join me in giving thanks to God that we have had these opportunities to witness in God’s name. And let us pray as well that God will lead us to even greater challenges of ministry and witness in the coming year. With humility and joy let us hear God’s words: “Well done, my good and faithful servants! Enter into the joys of my kingdom!”

May all of you and our community of God’s people be blessed in the coming year and always.

I’ll see you in church and in the trenches—or wherever God is leading us.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Bruce

MUFFINS FOR MISSIONS

Join us March 21st after church for a bake sale in Jones Hall. Find out how the Missions Committee impacts our congregation, our community, and our world.



The Reason for the Season

By Harriet Matus



As Pastor Bruce mentioned in his letter, on December 14th, the Pastor read to the congregation a letter which he had received the previous week. The letter was from a mother of three. She and her husband are both partially disabled. She asked if we could help the family at Christmas with food and gifts. The letter was passed on to the Missions Committee.

After determining this truly was a family in need, it was also apparent there was little time before Christmas. The solution seemed to be the prayer chain. All members were alerted to the needs of this family.

On the 21st of December, the Sunday before Christmas, there was an outpouring of help from the congregation! From “soup to nuts”, so to speak! A ham, a turkey, canned goods, potatoes, desserts, gifts coming from the “Stephens Ministries” as well as decorations for the house. There was also a big carton full of gifts and at least thirty bags of food stuffs! It was awe inspiring! With the help of the members of the Stephens Ministries, Pastor Bruce, and the Missions Committee, the gifts were delivered after church. After the first load was deposited in the living room and members left to bring in more, the response from the family was, “there’s more?”.

Once again, the members of West Hills have proved it is much more blessed to give than to receive. Now that truly is the reason for the season!

On the Lighter Side

Courtesy of Rich Columbia

Two Cows

- >>> DEMOCRAT
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> Your neighbor has none.
- >>> You feel guilty for being successful.
- >>> Barbara Streisand sings for you.
- >>>
- >>> REPUBLICAN
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> Your neighbor has none.
- >>> So?
- >>>
- >>> SOCIALIST You have two cows.
- >>> The government takes one and gives it to your neighbor.
- >>> You form a cooperative to tell him how to manage his cow
- >>>
- >>> COMMUNIST
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> The government seizes both and provides you with milk.
- >>> You wait in line for hours to get it.
- >>> It is expensive and sour.
- >>>
- >>> CAPITALISM, AMERICAN STYLE
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> You sell one, buy a bull, and build a herd of cows
- >>>
- >>> DEMOCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> The government taxes you to the point you have to sell both to
- >>> support a man in a foreign country who has only one cow,
- >>> which was a gift from your government.
- >>>
- >>> AMERICAN CORPORATION
- >>> You have two cows.
- >>> You sell one, lease it back to yourself and do an IPO on the 2nd one.
- >>> You force the two cows to produce the milk of four cows.
- >>> You are surprised when one cow drops dead.
- >>> You spin an announcement to the analysts stating you have downsized and are reducing expenses. Your stock goes up.

Stephens Ministries

By Bette Ann Watson & Marge Klein

The Stephen Ministries sponsored another "Time to Morn and Time to Dance Part II" immediately after church on February 1 guided by Pastor Bruce. It was well attended and well worth it for those who went. Stephen's Ministries is already planning a third part to this program. Please see one of the Stephen's Ministers if you are interested.

On January 15 and January 29 at 7:00 at the Church the Stephen's Ministers held a book review and discussion on the book, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom . He is the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

Lenten Study

Have you heard about the upcoming movie about The Passion of Christ by Mel Gibson? Well it is going to be the topic for the Lenten Study this year. The study will begin with a review of the The Passion story from the Gospels. Then, arrangements will be made to see the movie. After the movie the study will focus on discussing it and how well it adheres to the Gospel version. If you are interested in attending, please see the Pastor or Claire.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:30 pm

February 25, 2004

Food Collection Continues

Please keep in mind that those that are hungry need food all year long, not just at the holidays. When you're at the food store and you see a deals, pick up some for yourself, and some for those who are needy.

Ad for Methodist Camps