

MarketPlace

The Newsletter of West Market Street United Methodist Church, Inc.



Volume P, Number 2

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Greensboro, NC



Pancakes for Habitat

Calling all pancake eaters! Bring your friends and family to WMSUMC on Tuesday, February 5 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, for all-you-can-eat pancakes! All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Habitat for Humanity. This year we have several new celebrities flipping for Habitat. We will have community leaders, our local ministers, youth and senior high, as well as others volunteering to flip pancakes, serve, greet, decorate tables, cook sausage and many other duties to make this day special. During the dinner hour we will have our own children's choirs perform! So hurry and get your tickets!

Ticket sales have begun and will be available in all Sunday school classes, the Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space. The cost is only \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Washington Elementary and the ECC will be our special guests. Please come and enjoy the day of fun and sharing with our neighbors.

Eugene Street Property Update

The Eugene Street Property Committee has met every two weeks since August. We have changed and/or modified the floor plan several times. Each time we improved the flow through the facility. We will make a presentation to the Administrative Board in January to discuss our progress to date and then a further update in March. We will have several congregational meetings to show conceptual drawings to the entire church membership once the initial plan is approved. We will then have opportunities for Sunday School Class presentations.

In the meantime, we need for church members to be thinking how they can help. We will have many committees and we will need help and input from church members in planning and implementing the building of this facility. Please let me know if you would like to serve on one of the committees listed below.

Committees: Auditorium – Worship/Music/Drama/Conference, Auditorium – Athletics, Auditorium – Acoustics, Auditorium – Audiovisual, Child Care Rooms, Catering Kitchen, Coffee and Bookstore, Gathering Space, Adult Care Room, Building Systems, Signage, Playground, and many more.

For a complete list of committees, staff members, and committee members please go to our web page at www.WMSUMC.org and click on "Eugene Street Property Building Committee Updates."

R. B. Arthur, Chair,

Eugene Street Property Building Committee

Sweet Elements

A Youth Fundraiser

On Sunday, February 10, the youth will be presenting a variety show entitled "Sweet Elements". This is a fundraiser to help finance mission trips this summer. This event from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will feature yummy sweets and a variety of talent presented by the youth.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 each in the Gathering Space, from Jeff Peck, or from any WMSUMC teenager.

From Your Finance Committee Thank You!!

A big "THANK YOU" to all who completed gifts toward your 2007 pledge, gave extra gifts above your pledge, and who made special gifts to the church at year end. Thanks to your support we finished 2007 in the best financial condition in over 20 years! Total receipts for the year were \$1,917,075 which enabled the church to meet all its commitments to the District, the Annual Conference, the General Conference; to all the local agencies and programs we help support; and all the other ministries, services, programs, etc. that make up our budget. Total expenses for the year (including the operating deficit from 2006) came to \$1,891,020 leaving us with an operating surplus of approximately \$26,000 for the year. Only God can move hearts to respond like this!

Sign Up Now for Pictorial Directory in the Gathering Space

You can also sign up on line by going to wmsumc.org and follow the link.

Photography dates

February 4 - 10 and February 13 - 16

Our Mission: *The mission of WMSUMC is to glorify God as we make, nurture and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ.*

A Word from the Pastor . . .

I'm composing this newsletter article as my fifteen-year-old daughter Mary Katherine and I, along with 30 other West Marketers, are in the air over Texas - returning from our 2008 Proyecto Abrigo mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. We have just completed the construction of three cinder block houses for impoverished families there.

This is the third year in our church's commitment to serve those in need over the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend. Those of you who keep up with what's happening in our congregation know that over the past five years our outreach ministry program has exploded.

Several years ago a couple of us were talking about appropriate ways to honor the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The thing that kept surfacing was the idea that we should seek to do something concrete for those persons whom Dr. King sought to help: the least, the last and the lost.

In 2006, some 40 folks traveled to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, to help rebuild homes and lives destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. That very Katrina program has continued to this day. Just 10 days ago, members of our congregation participated in a district mission trip to Mississippi.

Over the MLK weekend the past two years our Outreach Ministry Team chose to follow Christ and honor Dr. King by sending teams of people to serve homeless persons in Juarez, Mexico. Juarez (just across the border from El Paso, Texas) has a population of more than two million people. More than a quarter of those persons live in extreme poverty.

Fifteen years ago, in response to the large numbers of infant deaths by freezing in makeshift

cardboard housing, a Mexican Methodist pastor by the name of Jose Luis Portillo sought to make a difference by beginning to replace some of the cardboard lean-tos in which people were living (and dying) with simple cinder block houses.

Over the past 15 years, 4,000 families have been provided shelter through that Methodist mission. Last year a team of 20 West Marketers built two houses over the holiday weekend. This year 32 members of our church family, including 13 youth and 19 adults, constructed three houses.

The experience has been transformational for all those involved, including many of you who have supported the ministry by your prayers and gifts. The truth is the presence of Christ is powerful every time His followers seek to reach out in His name. That is exactly what happened over this past weekend.

There are so many different ways to reach out in and through our congregation. Have you found your ministry? Every single time I participate in one of our of mission events I am drawn closer to Christ, and in so doing become a better person and pastor.

May God continue to guide West Market to reach out to God's children. And may God direct both you and me to finding a place in that ministry. My prayers are with you as we continue "to glorify God as we make, nurture and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ."



Dave Melton

Help Supply Clean Water to Africa

For his senior project, through Weaver Academy, Joe Tracey, III, researched the water quality (which he found quite awful), and the water scarcity (which is extreme) of the countries in Africa. For the product/service learning portion of his senior project he has built a well to collect change to help with constructing clean water wells in Africa. One dollar can provide one year of clean water for one African.

14,000 Africans die a day because of the lack of clean water. Numerous diseases can arise from either contaminated water or scarcity of water. Joe wants to do as much as he can to provide the basic necessity of clean water for the people in Africa. The money collected in the well will be donated to Blood: Water Mission. Blood: Water Mission is an organization dedicated to make a huge impact on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the unsanitary water problem faced throughout Africa. Look for the well, and make a donation.

Joe believes we can make a difference if we are all motivated to do so. For more information on Blood: Water Mission visit bloodwatermission.com.

Thank you for helping in this cause

WORSHIP

Sundays,
January 27 and February 3
Sermon: Dave Melton
The 11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
Service is broadcast over
WPET 950 AM

Tuesday Music

12:30 p.m. Sanctuary
January 29
Vincent van Gelder, piano
Music for meditation
begins at 12:25 p.m.
A light lunch will be served
each Tuesday from
11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.
for \$5.00.

February 5
NO Tuesday Music
Pancake Day

WCN Menu

January 30
Beef tips and rice
Mixed steamed vegetables
Fried squash

February 6
Ash Wednesday
Pinto beans
Turnip Greens
Macaroni and Cheese
Broccoli Salad
Cornbread

Wednesday Church Night Adult Offerings

January 30
Depression As We Age, Sandra
Howell, WMSUMC's Parish
Nurse, will be the presenter.

February 6
Ash Wednesday Service

Small Group Offerings

Companions in Christ
Monday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30
p.m., begins February 11

Beth Moore Studies
Thursday mornings,
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.,
January 24—March 13 or
Sunday evenings
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.,
beginning February 3
Contact Nancy Hamilton
275-4587, vm 12
to register.

Help WMS Host Homeless Families this Year! Opportunities for Volunteers!

As a Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network "host congregation", WMSUMC will provide overnight accommodations and meals for three to five families (up to 14 individuals) for one week once a quarter. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate Christian hospitality and love to those in need.

You can help: provide and eat dinner with the families; stay with the families overnight and help transport them to the Day Center; shop for breakfast and sack lunch items; provide activities for the children on the weekends (great idea for Sunday School classes, UMW circles or small groups); laundry; help with set-up or take-down.

Sign up in the Gathering Space and plan to attend the training session on Monday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Do some early spring cleaning and help provide needed supplies. Supply lists are available on the Outreach table.

Health Happenings

Women and Depression Thursday, February 5, 6:30-8 p.m. Women's Hospital of Greensboro, Classrooms 5 & 6. Call 832-8000 to register

Start your New Year Right Equip Yourself for Mission!

The West Market Missioners school course catalog is now available! Pick up a catalog at the Outreach Table. Course offerings, with a variety of dates and times, include: Bulgarian and Spanish language instruction, "Walk Across the Room" Faith Sharing Lenten luncheon series, Understanding Issues of Poverty & Homelessness, volunteer training for Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network, mission team leader training, volunteer coordinator training, cultural education, construction skill workshops, disaster response training, CPR and First Aid certification for missioners, mission work with children. Choose one, choose them all and register online at www.wmsumc.org

To learn more about this exciting new ministry, see the latest issue of *The Vineyard* (available online or at the Outreach table)

Volunteer Office Help is Needed

Outreach Ministry is GROWING! Help support this kingdom-building growth

- Flexible hours during the day
- Variety of tasks including putting up fliers and posters, mailings, assembling information packets, setting up Outreach tables, work orders and check requests, making copies, etc.
- Please contact Elizabeth Montgomery (275-4587 ext. 16) if interested.

Where is God in the Interruptions? Find Out at WCN

How many of us are living the life we planned? We keep losing things: health, spouses, friends, jobs, dreams and security. Nothing stays the same or turns out exactly as we expected. Where is God in the midst of change? On Wednesday Church Nights during Lent, February 13-March 12, join Rev. Pam Strader as we look at what it means to lose your life in order to find it. We'll be studying *When God Interrupts: Finding New Life Through Unwanted Change*, by M Craig Barnew. Copies of the book will be available at the class. The sessions are from 6:30-7:30.

Upcoming Knitting Clas

Do you want to knit but have never learned how? Come to a three week session February 27, March 5 and March 12 on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 as Sarah Hester will lead the group in the basics. Participants will also hear about the Prayer Shawl Ministry that has blessed so many - knitters and recipients. Call Nancy Hamilton to register (275-4587, vm 12). There is no fee for this class.

Embracing 2008 A Youth New Year's Party

Youth meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. on January 27 and travel together to the Grays. The vans will return at 8:p.m.

Our Presence

	Jan. 13	Jan. 20
Sunday School	294	132
8:30 a.m.	158	63
9:40 a.m.	125	43
10:55 a.m.	166	190

Church-wide Ski Trip, Saturday, February 16

The church van and personal cars will leave the Church/ECC Parking Lot at 7:00 a.m. for Hawk's Nest Ski Resort. Return will be around 8:30 p.m. Lift tickets are \$39.00 for adults and \$36.00 for children/youth. Tubing is \$25.00 for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Those participating will need to rent their skis before going. Meals are on your own; snacks will be provided. Transportation in the church van is limited to the first 13 people who sign up for this mode of transportation. Reservations are due by Thursday, February 7.

Tennis Anyone?

Now that Piedmont Indoor Tennis Center is up and running it's time for our (almost) annual Tennis Social. All level of players are welcome. We use a round robin format that's lots of fun and good tennis. Snacks will be served. Please invite a friend and join us on

Saturday, February 16.

6:00 -8:00 p.m.

\$8.00 per person

Contact Nancy Hamilton in the church office to register (275-4587, vm 12 or nhamilton@wmsumc.org) or Debbie Taylor if you have questions. 286-3169 or debtaylor2@yahoo.com.

Lenten Older Adult Home Bible Study

Wednesdays, February 13 - March 19, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Study Book:

God is Closer Than You Think by The Rev. John Ortberg
910 Avery Place.

Contact Susan Barnes at 275-4587, vm 11, to register and purchase a book for \$14. Registration is required and the study group is limited to 20 participants

Important Summer Dates

1-2-3 Go Day Camp

June 16-19 at Camp

Guilrock

(8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily)

-For rising 2nd

through 4th graders.

Vacation Bible School

July 14-18

For older threes through

rising 5th graders.

Summer Elementary Music

Camp July 28-August 3

For children who have

finished 2nd

through 5th grades.

Leadership Summit 2008:

August 7 - 8

Opportunities for

January 27—February 9

Leak Chapel is open daily from 11a.m.-2 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 am Laity in Prayer, Rm 319
8:30 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:40 am Worship Service, FH
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am Confirmation Class, 403B
10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
Children's Chapel
12:00 noon Global Mission Planning Team, CR
12:15 pm SENIORS Luncheon, GS
5:30 pm UMYF, YS
5:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir, Chapel

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

11:00 am Friendship Club, FH3
6:00 pm Membership Care, 302B
6:30 pm GIHN, CR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

11:45 am Tuesday Lunch, FH
12:30 pm Tuesday Music, Sanctuary
5:30 pm MarketBell Ringers, Rm 316
5:30 pm COM Retreat, GS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00 am Sewing Group, Rm 109
10:00 am Staff Meeting, CR
4:00 pm Pancake Planning Meeting, 302D
4:30 pm Art Committee, Library
4:45 pm WCN Kids, Rm 304E
5:15 pm WCN Dinner, FH
5:30 pm Cherub Choir, Rm 303
6:30 pm WCN Classes
6:45 pm Chancel Choir, Rm 317

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

9:30 am Sisters in the Spirit, GS
6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, YS
6:30 pm 9:40 Service Rehearsal, FH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 am Laity in Prayer, Rm 319
8:30 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:40 am Worship Service, FH
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am Confirmation Class, 403B
10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:30 pm UMYF, YS
5:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir, Chapel

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

3:00 pm Church Directory Photos, 311, 319
6:30 pm CR Men's Step Study, 302A
7:00 pm Understanding Poverty Seminar, CR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - Pancakes all day

3:00 pm Church Directory Photos, 311, 319
5:30 pm MarketBell Ringers, 316

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6—Ash Wednesday

9:00 am Sewing Group, 109
10:00 am Staff Meeting, CR
3:00 pm Church Directory Photos, 311, 319
3:00 pm Sing-A-Long at Evergreens
4:45 pm WCN Kids, 304E
5:15 pm WCN Dinner, FH
5:30 pm Cherub Choir, 303
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
7:30 pm Chancel Choir, Rm 317

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:30 am Sisters in the Spirit, GS
3:00 pm Church Directory Photos, 311, 319
6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery, YS
6:30 pm 9:40 Service Rehearsal, FH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

3:00 pm Church Directory Photos, 311, 319

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

10:00 am Church Directory Photos, 311, 319
10:30 am Bulgarian Class, CR

Music Opportunities

Youth Handbells

(for mid and senior highs)

Rehearsals every other Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in Room 316

Rehearsals start for this choir on Sunday, February 3

A minimum of eight participants are required for this bell choir. More are welcome.

It is essential that you sign up. Call Alice Ann Johnson,
275-4587, vm 18 or ajohnson@wmsumc.org

Join the WMSUMC Instrumentalists

Anyone 8th grade and over who has ever enjoyed playing a musical instrument is invited. Chuck Spicer will direct this group of musicians. Performance opportunities will be identified as the group organizes. Rehearsals will be held every other Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 beginning on January 27. Sign up in the Gathering Space or at WCN, or call Chuck Spicer (314-1452).

These music opportunities take place on alternate Sundays to enable youth to participate in both.

Mentors Needed

Mentors are needed for our Confirmation journey. Jeff Peck, Youth Pastor, is praying for God to provide a healthy match for each of our students. Mentoring involves walking alongside a teenager during their Confirmation experiences. Mentors provide encouragement, prayers, listening ears, support, and spiritual friendship. Being a mentor involves some form of weekly contact with your Confirmation student. It could be through a phone call, email, text message, card in the mail, sharing a meal, or ice cream, going to your student's concert, game, or other school event, or praying together after worship on Sunday. If you are interested in being a mentor for a Confirmation student contact Jeff Peck, 275-4587, vm 14.

Please help us spread the word and invite all the 8th grade students that Confirmation Class has begun. They can sign up online at www.wmsumc.org.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Grows

In the Spring of 2005, a new ministry was formed within United Methodist Women which has given comfort and support to people in special circumstances both locally and in other countries. Meeting monthly, two groups of women are contributing their time and skills to the knitting of prayer shawls. A shawl may be given in celebration of a special event or as an expression of love and concern. But whatever the situation, prayer is an implicit part of the gift. The individual knitter prays as she knits and offers her completed shawl for individual prayers from the members of her knitting circle. The final blessing is then given by an ordained member of the ministerial staff.

Since 2005, the ministry has expanded. Shawls are being provided to mission teams who have taken them to Bay St. Louis as a part of hurricane relief efforts; our youth have taken them on their Carolina Cross Connections mission; shawls have been taken to Guatemala, and to our sister church in Bulgaria.

In June 2006, the decision was made to include the occasion of infant baptism as a part of the ministry, and a special pattern was designed and produced with white yarn. These baptismal blankets require many hours to knit and are given in celebration of this special occasion and as a token of our intent to help raise and nurture children in the church. The blankets are more appropriate for infants and are given to those one year or younger. Since 2006, a total of 32 baptismal blankets have been given.

The most recent addition to the ministry has been the knitting of prayer blankets for children who are facing difficult challenges. Softly colored yarns are used, and a new pattern has been adopted for this purpose.

To date, a total of 212 shawls and blankets have been knitted and given away. This number speaks to the commitment of the women involved and the gratification of spreading love through hand work. New members are welcome, and assistance is available for anyone who is an inexperienced knitter. Contact Sarah Hester, 288-7823.
