

# THE WORD

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Westbury celebrates Pentecost, Confirmation and Mother's Day this Sunday, May 11

*...wear colors of the flame!*

This Sunday, May 11, is a *very* special day of worship — it's Mother's Day and Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday, all wrapped into one festive celebration!

The reading of the story of the first Pentecost, with different languages represented by our congregation members, will be included at both services, as will the recognition of mothers.



Our 2007-2008 confirmands will be confirmed into full membership at the 11 AM worship service.

Pentecost worship includes lots of red, orange, yellow — colors of the flame, symbolizing the gift of the Holy Spirit to The Church — 2000 years ago, and *right now!*

Wear the colors of the flame on this Sunday: red, orange or yellow. Celebrate the birthday of the church, and the presence of God's guiding and energizing Spirit in your life in the life of our church.

### Free skin cancer screening tomorrow

M. D. Anderson is offering free skin cancer screening exams to the public tomorrow, Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Cancer Prevention Center, 2nd floor, Cancer Prevention Building at 1155 Pressler Street. Screening is offered on a first-come, first-served basis; appointments are not available.

### BIM baskets are for your convenience

May is "BIM Month" at Westbury UMC. Grocery baskets will be in place for the entire month, so bring your non-perishable items or personal items (combs, brushes, tooth paste, etc.) and place them in the baskets. Disposable diapers (all sizes) are also always in high demand.

Envelopes are also attached to each

basket. You can use them to place your check or cash into and leave it in the office or in the offering plate on Sunday. BIM expenses run a little over \$10,000 each month to meet the needs of an average of 1,000-1,200 clients. Please give generously. BIM donations are accepted year round.

MIKE STURDEVANT, BOARD MEMBER  
BRAES INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

### Help welcome new members this Sunday!

This Sunday, May 11 at the 11am worship service, you are invited to witness and share in the joy as nine Westbury youth become full members of the Church through the Rite of Confirmation.

Our confirmands have met for an hour and a half each week since last fall. They participated in retreats, so that they can draw closer to God and each other while discussing faith issues. They participated in three mission projects and visited other churches to appreciate other ways of worship, including our Jewish and Orthodox faith roots. They used discussion, skits, music, videos, and other media to encounter the topics in the class, including the nature of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the primacy of Scripture, the problem of sin, the need for salvation and faith, Methodism and many others.

The Westbury UMC family has nurtured these young people in their faith journey.

We invite you to share their joy as they are confirmed this Sunday, May 11, and continue to nurture, pray for, and support them in this very important step, and in their lives as young Christians.

In Peace and Grace,

LINDA AND JACK TOLLEFSON,  
CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHERS

### No time to waste!

If you are interested in participating in the mission trip to Puerto Rico, contact Linda Tollefson immediately---before all the spaces are gone! Call 713-721-8606 or e-mail Linda at [tollef@ieec.org](mailto:tollef@ieec.org)

### Remember!

"May is Flood Bucket month!"  
Bless you for Caring!

## Pastor's Ponderings

This Sunday we touched on the issue of truth – in the Christian faith, truth takes precedence over religion or ritual or spirituality. That is to say Christianity is conceived on the conviction that God has made something known in Jesus Christ and our spirituality sprouts from the soil of this truth. Thus, our faith is not mere wishful thinking; not a comforting fiction. Rather our faith penetrates the mystery of reality. The Apostle Peter wrote: For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. Peter contrasts the fiction of fables to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and in referring to eyewitnesses, roots that knowledge in the everyday world of our experience. So when the Christian faith refers to truth it does not limit it to some kind of metaphor about life but rather insists that it invaded this life in a real way.

In saying this we are not so naive as to believe that truth can be reduced to simplistic formulas or pat propositions. Truth is bigger than we can define and deeper than we can plumb. Ultimately, our Lord Jesus is The Truth – truth is a Divine Person and all truths relate back to Him. Truth is not opposed to facts but makes sense of them. Moreover, our faith does not possess all truth – there are truths that can be found in other faiths and systems of thought. In the end we do claim that all truth is ultimately God's truth regardless of the source. This is the proclamation of our faith. It is controversial and scandalous no doubt. But it is what we believe and we invite all to come to know The Truth, which sets free. It is this faith that our confirmands will confess this Sunday. See you then.

...REV. KEEFE CROPPER

## Two breakfasts left before summer break

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM, come to the Breakfast Bar in the Servedy.

5/11 Breakfast Tacos

5/18 Biscuits & Gravy & Eggs

Closed for the summer!

...BRIAN AXTELL

## Screens – what to expect

If all goes well, our Screens should be on line on May 18th.

As we move into this new dimension of worship we will be doing some things differently. In the 11:00 service you will receive a bulletin but the hymn lyrics will not be printed in it. Instead you will have a page reference for the hymnal and the lyrics will be projected on the screen. Our announcements will all be projected on the screen, so we hope that you will give your attention to them.

The 8:30 worship will not receive a bulletin per se. The entire order of service will be projected on the screens. Instead you will receive some printed informa-

tion along with an outline of the worship order.

In both services, different backgrounds will be related to the different elements of worship itself. For the singing of certain songs, different backgrounds that go with the meaning of the lyrics will accent the mood. Different images will be used with regard to prayer and offering and sermon.

As you can imagine this is a work in progress and so our capacities will evolve and improve over time. Please pray that the transition is smooth, professional and meaningful.

## WMS to hear Drew Swanson

The May meeting of the Women's Missionary Society will be held on May 14, 2008 in the church parlor. The Rebekah Circle is in charge of the program, and the Miriam Circle will serve lunch.

Our guest speaker will be our youth director, Drew Swanson. Drew will give us "info" about the youth programs — weekly, service projects, of both senior- and junior-high-school youth. These projects are the UM ARMY and Big House. There will be a video of youth in action.

Our society has included the UM ARMY as one of our missions for 2007-2008.

Also included in our budget are Braes Interfaith Ministries, Holly Hall, Boys and Girls Country, Wesley Community Center, Methodist Hospital Children's Fund, Westbury Day School, Star of Hope and Seafarers.

The meeting begins at 10:00 AM with sign-in, business meeting, program and lunch. We welcome visitors. Call Betty Jean Heck at 713-728-1858 (???) or Nancy Graves at 713-723-1370 for luncheon reservations.

Please join us to hear Drew talk about his goals and work with our youth.

...NINA CRAWLEY

## VBS needs YOU!

Jesus gives us the POWER to BE THANKFUL, to HELP OTHERS, to BE BRAVE, to LIVE FOREVER, and to TELL OTHERS ABOUT GOD. Help children discover the miraculous power of Jesus June 9 - 13 at POWER LAB VBS.

Vacation Bible School is an important evangelism tool. It is a great opportunity to introduce people to our church. Reaching out to children extends our hearts to their parents, and to the entire Westbury Community. Last year, we reached out to the families of 74 children. This year, we hope to top 100 kids!

VBS cannot happen without loving, caring adult volunteers who understand

children's needs. Youth volunteers are also vital to this ministry. Last year, our youth volunteers outnumbered adult volunteers! Please consider serving the children of Westbury this summer at VBS (childcare will be provided for volunteers' children under the age of 3). There are opportunities with either Elementary or Preschool children to:

- Lead a small group
- Tell stories
- Lead / help with music & movement
- Lead / help with crafts
- Lead / help with games

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## Our Shared Ministry

Sunday, 5/4/2008

### Our Presence

### Sunday School 5/4/2008

Children.....	29
Youth.....	25
Adult.....	198
Total.....	252

### Worship Sunday 5/4/2008

8:30 AM.....	173
11:00 AM.....	168
Total.....	341

### In the hospital, 4/28

Bobbie McCarver, St. Luke's

### Our sympathies

to the family of Ken W. Simmons

to Dorothy Ardie, on the death of her mother, Ruby Mary Carter, who died 5/12/08

### Operating Budget for 5/4/2008

Budget for May.....	68,416
Received 5/4.....	18,090
Received for May.....	18,090

### Special Offerings 5/4/2008

Screens/WAVMEC.....	310
Global Missions.....	181
BIM.....	185
Agape.....	125

In memory of Charles Chatfield

## VBS needs YOU!

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If you prefer "a behind the scenes" role, consider helping with decorations, set-up, snack preparation, or helping with the family outreach event on Sunday, June 15 at Noon. For more information about Power Lab VBS, or to sign up online, go to [www.westburyumc.org](http://www.westburyumc.org) & click on the link to Children's Ministries.

## Lion, Witch & Wardrobe shown May 14

Keefe is preaching on May 18 and May 25 on the symbolism used in C. S. Lewis' story, *Prince Caspian* (rated "PG") opening in theaters on May 16. This is the second major motion picture produced by Disney from *The Chronicles of Narnia* series by C. S. Lewis. As a church, we have purchased tickets to see the 7 PM showing that day at Edwards Theater. The tickets are \$10 each but we only have a few left. We'll be carpooling that night, leaving from the church at 6:15 PM.

On Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 PM, we are showing the first movie *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* in the Parlor. There will be discussion groups meeting at 7PM on May 21 after W.O.W. Din-

ner. You are cordially invited to bring your children and to participate in these family nights. You are also encouraged to read the story (an installment in *The Chronicles of Narnia*) and see the movies on your own if you're not able to join us.

To be a part of the W.O.W. Dinner on May 21, please RSVP to the church office by May 19. The menu includes Chicken Parmesan and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are always available. Please contact me if you would like to buy a ticket to see the movie or if you are interested in being part of a discussion group.

JANA KINCANNON  
DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

## How to order shrimp

Agape Youth Choir invites you and your friends to a laid-back day of crawfish and shrimp on Saturday, May 17, from 11 AM to 7 PM on the church grounds. The event will feature live music, coordinated by Chris Steed, and the services of Kent Crawford and "Horseshoes from the Heart," who have graciously agreed to boil the crawfish and shrimp



*You must pre-order the shrimp.* Here's how: buy a shrimp ticket (\$10) this Sunday, or call the church office to reserve a shrimp ticket (713-723-0175).

The menu includes corn on the cob and new potatoes. Soft drinks are \$1. Get your ticket or call today!

## WOW Dinners end May 28 with a picnic!

WOW Dinners will run through May, ending with a Memorial Day Picnic on Wednesday night, May 28! We will have Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, potato salad, chips and our famous "Banana Splits."

May 28 will be our last dinner of this season.

5/14..... Baked Potatoes & Salad

5/21 .... Chicken Parmesan

5/28 .... Hot Dogs with all the trimmings & Banana Splits

Have a great summer!

## Ragtimers coming to Westbury May 19

All adults over 50 are invited to join The Prime Timers on Monday, May 19 in Humphrey Hall. Games begin at 9:30 AM.

Our guest performers are the Bayland Ragtimers, who will begin the entertainment at 10:30 AM. Our guests will join us for our 11:30 AM lunch, so please bring extra food this time!

Invite your friends to join us. Everyone is welcome! Call Geneva Hensley at 713-981-0410 for more information.

...BEV VICTORY