

Westwood

May / June 2011

Church of God



Peace Like A River

Although I have not contributed to this newsletter yet, I felt that since I have been doing the worship leading since August of last year it was about time to start. I have to begin by thanking God for the opportunity and the direction he has provided over the last several months. I never thought that I would be led in this direction. I am reminded of Psalms 32:6-8 which reads "Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."



I feel that we have had a sense of rebirth and revitalization over the last several months here at Westwood. God has provided us with a renewed sense of purpose and new direction. Like the legendary Phoenix, we have begun to rise anew from the ashes. We have a new Pastor who has instilled a sense of hope and vision. We have a new sound system that enables us to spread the wonderful news that Jesus has arisen and is our Lord and Savior. But most important, we have begun to grow. I would like to personally welcome our new members and encourage each one to continue walking in faith. I would also encourage newcomers and the rest of us to continue to invite and welcome people to the church. Our mission, above all, is to introduce people to Jesus Christ. Over the remainder of the year, Pastor Bill and I will be working toward aligning goals and missions for the contemporary service. We hope to continue providing a welcoming and spiritually enlightening service for those who call Westwood their home church. We also would like to begin focusing outwardly on our presence in the community of Kalamazoo and surrounding area. We have many changes and improvements planned for the upcoming year but we need the support of the entire congregation. We will need both your financial support in your tithes and offerings, but also, and most importantly, we will need your prayers. Please continue your prayers for Pastor Bill as he unites his family here in Michigan. Pray for the Governance Board as they begin a new fiscal year. Pray for the members of the Worship Team. But most of all continue your prayers for this church. To borrow a quote from "**Beside a Quiet Stream**" by Penelope Stokes, "The hymns are right. Peace is like a river—moving, turning, plunging forward, carrying us downstream. It is not a static resting place, but an attitude of heart and mind that enables us to relax and let the current bear us up. Sometimes we don't want to go with the flow. We get comfortable where we are. We'd prefer to dig our heels into the riverbed and refuse to budge. But if we're to live in peace, we need to accept the movement of the stream. The only peace we'll ever find that does not involve change is the final 'rest in peace' on our tombstone. The good news is, God knows where the river's going. The Lord's control, not our own, enables us to accept what we can't see and be at peace with what we don't know." In short, God has great things in store for the Westwood Church of God in Kalamazoo!

In Christ,

Dr. Gary Hurt MD
Contemporary Worship Leader/Planner



Gather

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00am	Traditional Worship Service
9:30am	Hospitality & Fellowship
10:30am	Kid's Connection!
11:00am	Contemporary Worship Service



5-Week All-Church Series May 1—June 12, 2011

Outflow is designed to help you discover:

- ...how God's love can overflow through you
- ...how you can have a more meaningful relationship with God
- ...how you can share God's love with your family and friends
- ...how you can overflow with God's love into your community
- ...how you can change your world through the power of God's love

How you can get involved:

- ⇒ **Read daily devotionals** that will inform and inspire you in your walk with God. *(Pick up a copy of the Outflow book (\$12 each) at the Lobby Information Center!)*
- ⇒ **Attend weekly worship services** and hear sermons on the topics you are reading about.
- ⇒ **Join a Growth Group** where you can go deeper with others in what you are learning. *(See a list of Growth Groups in the Grow section of this newsletter)*
- ⇒ **Participate in "The Church Has Left The Building"** service projects to impact our community with Christ's love, Sunday, June 12. *(More information found in the Serve section of this newsletter)*

Bylaw Information Meetings

Wed., April 27 @ 7pm Fellowship Hall
Sun., May 1 @ 12:30pm Fellowship Hall

Copies of the new proposed bylaws are available at the Information Center in the lobby for your review.

Affirming a Vision at the Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 2011 @ 1:30pm

In many congregations, Annual Business Meetings are avoided by members like the plague!! The news and the discussion can be less than positive. When asked to describe an Annual Meeting most people don't use words like "exciting", "encouraging", "hopeful", or "fun". We want to change this perception!! This year's meeting will be a time for us, as a faith community, to affirm the future! Pastor Bill will present a challenging 10-year vision for our church in the Westwood Community and the greater Kalamazoo area. Goals for 2011 will be a foundation for a corresponding budget that will be presented for ratification. These will frame our efforts as we take steps toward fulfilling our mission and vision for growth as a congregation. A set of new bylaws, and a slate of Governance Board leaders will also be presented for ratification. These will be the ingredients for a new organizational structure and accountability process to help us move efficiently and effectively towards our calling together. All eligible voting members of the corporation are invited to participate. Our Youth Ministry will offer a Soup and Salad luncheon fundraiser in the Fellowship hall before the meeting. Plan to stay after worship and support our youth, before the Annual Meeting.

Connect

Senior Adult Ministry Happenings

Friday Mornin' Breakfast: An informal gathering for fun, food and fellowship: 9am

- ⇒ Fri., May 27 @ Callahan's
- ⇒ Fri., June 10 @ Colonial Kitchen
- ⇒ Fri., June 24 @ Perkins

Park Village Pines Ministry: Join us once a month at Park Village Pines for a time of encouragement through Fellowship, Prayer & Bible Study.

- ⇒ Tues., May 3, 1:30pm in the Fish Room @ PVP
- ⇒ Tues., June 7, 1:30pm in the Fish Room @ PVP

Senior Adult Ministry Events & Excursions

Tulip Time Festival: Lights! Camera! Action!

- ⇒ Friday, May 13
- ⇒ Pre-Registration Required
- ⇒ Depart from Church @ 9am

South Haven Maritime Museum & Lunch

- ⇒ Wed., June 15
- ⇒ Depart from Church @ 9:30am
- ⇒ Free time to browse or visit Maritime Museum
- ⇒ Lunch at Clementine's

Grow

Nursery

Sundays from 8:50-10:15am and 10:45am to 12:15pm

Kid's Connection! Sundays @ 10:30 am

Special Spring / Summer Schedule
Preschool—5th Grade

Sun., May 1—Sun., June 5

Outflow Series: Preschoolers—5th Graders will participate, along with the entire congregation, in this 5-week growth initiative. The children will engage in experiences and activities that are designed to lead us to embrace God's love deeply and allow that love to flow out and bless others! Our regular format will change a little bit: We will hang out as one big group for worship and interactive bible learning. Following our time together, we will split into small groups for crafts and prayer. We can't wait to see how God will change our hearts!

Sun., May 29: Memorial Day Movie in Kids Connection! (Pandamania)

Sun., June 19: All-Star Sports Day: Soccer, Cheerleading, Baseball...Be the All-Star God made you to be!

Sun., June 26: Camping Kids: Bible learning in Campers with stories and s'mores around the campfire!

Joint Vacation Bible School— "Pandamania"

June 13-17 @ Agape Church, 5:30-8:00pm
Ages 4 yrs thru 5th Grade



Kids will see how God is WILD about them! This is going to be an amazing experience where kids become a part of the Bible Story, meet new friends and have an awesome week immersed in God's love! Look for Registration Opportunities during Kids Connection on May 22 and June 5.

CONNECT Youth Ministry – every Sunday night 4-6 pm "Outflow" Series—May 1-June 12

Through this study, teens will be challenged to grow in a relevant faith in Jesus Christ that overflows to the lives of others! You may ask, "Can God use me?" ABSOLUTELY!! Outflow is a 5-session emphasis that challenges teenagers to experience an honest, personal relationship with God—from inward to outward-focused living. Everyone who participates will receive a Youth Journal with 25-daily interactive readings and guided responses. On June 12, teens will join our church in "The Church Has Left The Building" Sunday Service Projects. This is going to be a great series. Get involved!! There will be no Sunday evening Youth Connect on May 22, 29 and June 12.

State Youth Convention May 20-22 @ WMU

Contact Deloris Watts (delorisw@cfbroadcast.net) or Linda Hartman (ljhartman@msn.com) if you have not yet registered for this great event. Please pray for our group of counselors and teens who will join hundreds of others from around Michigan for this weekend of spiritual growth and fun!



Outflow Growth Groups in May
Contact a Leader and Join a Group!

Kid's Connection (Preschool-5th Grade)

Sundays @ 10:45am
Katie Call

Lower Level
callkatie1@yahoo.com

I Choose Joy (Adults)

Sundays @ 9:15am
Debbie Moore

Fireplace Room—Main Level
brdeb_moore@charter.net

Partners for Life (Young Couples)

Sundays @ 9:15am
Becky & Jamie Cripps

Red Chair Room—Main Level
bcripps@tds.net

Youth Connect Outflow (Teens)

Sundays @ 4:00pm
Youth Team

Lower Level Youth Area

Prayer Group (Adults)

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm
Pastor Bill Ferguson

Fellowship Hall
bill@wwcog.com

Adult Study Group

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm
Bob Wheelright

Fireplace Room—Main Level
robertwheelright@yahoo.com

Portage-Area Study Group

Day / Time / Location TBD
Pastor Diane Tultz

dianetultz@yahoo.com

"Fire" (College & Career Age)

Fridays @ 7:00pm
Pastor Bill Ferguson

Fergusons' House
bill@wwcog.com

Westwood Group (Newcomers)

Day / Time TBD
Dick & Jan Daudert

Dauderts' House
rjdaudert2@att.net

Adult Study Group

Day / Time TBD
Jim & Toni Willette

Willetes' House
thridbase44@yahoo.com

Looking Ahead

Graduate Recognition Sunday—June 5

We want to honor our graduating High School and College Students on **Graduate Recognition Sunday**. In the morning Worship we will have a time of recognition and prayer. If you are graduating this year, please email the church office (elise@wwcog.com) by June 1st, to let us know of your school, degree attained, your next steps in education or career and which service you will be attending that day.



Summer At The Movies

In July and August, we will reach out to our Westwood community by offering several Community Movie Nights in our Sanctuary. The first night will be Friday, July 8. There will be free popcorn, drinks and fun, as we invite our neighbors to join us for some family fun! During this time, on

Sunday mornings, we will use movie clips during our Worship Services, as a way of exploring weekly themes through the lens of scripture, to better understand who God is and what kind of people He is calling us to be. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for *Summer At The Movies!*

The Kalamazoo Ringers In Concert

Sunday, May 22 @ 4:00pm

Celebrating 30 years of ringing with an American Celebration!

125th North American Convention of the Church of God

June 24-29, 2011 Anderson, Indiana

www.chog.org/nac

Summer at Warner Camp

Summer activities for all ages. See the Warner Camp Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall or visit www.warnercamp.com

Newcomer's Luncheon

Sunday, June 26 @ 12:30pm

Join Pastor Bill and Pastor Diane as they share information on our ministries and programs, who we are and what we are all about. Call the church office or mark your Connection Card on Sundays if you are interested in attending. Lunch and Childcare provided.

Contact

Lead Pastor

Bill Ferguson 207-8472 bill@wwcog.com

Senior Adult Ministries:

Tom Tufts, Sr. 353-0843 tom@wwcog.com

Children's Ministry:

Katie Call 760-1504 callkatie1@yahoo.com

Connections and Involvement:

Diane Tultz 321-1706 dianetultz@yahoo.com

Office Administrator:

Elise Ripmaster 344-0985 elise@wwcog.com

Serve

Don't just Go to church, Be The Church on "The Church Has Left The Building" Sunday

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Goal

To share God's love within the community by serving our neighbors in tangible ways.

Project Sign Ups

Members of the congregation, not part of a small group, will sign-up to participate in a service project via sign-up sheets in May. Small Groups will be encouraged to participate in a project or identify and coordinate a project of their own in the community.

Time Frame

Most service projects will run for no more that 3 hours , from 9am-Noon.

Childcare

Childcare will be provided at the church between 9:00am and 12:30pm from infant to kindergarten. Sign-ups for childcare will occur at the same time as project sign-ups.

Giving

The congregation will be encouraged to give their tithes and offerings in support of our ministries by dropping them off at the Church Lobby on this Sunday.

Church Celebration

At the conclusion of the day, participants will be asked to gather back at church at 1:00pm. We will have a simple pitch-in lunch to celebrate what God accomplished through us during the morning service projects!!

Ministry Needs

Vacation Bible School Volunteers

- ⇒ Registration
- ⇒ Security Team Members
- ⇒ Crew Leaders (responsible for leading 4-5 kids to their stations each day and to be their friend)
- ⇒ Kitchen Help

Contact Katie Call (callkatie1@yahoo.com or 760-1504) to volunteer.

Vacation Bible School Supplies

- ⇒ Stuffed Panda Bears
- ⇒ Parasols
- ⇒ Paper Lanterns (no dragons, please!)

Contact Katie Call (callkatie1@yahoo.com or 760-1504) to volunteer.

Information Deadline for the July / August Promotional Publication is Wed., August 17