

Westwood

September / October 2011

Church of God

Celebrating 125 Years and Counting
September 18, 2011



The Rose Street Church of God was constructed in 1920.



What was happening in the world 125 years ago?

Here are a few highlights - The American Experiment was just 100 years young and had recently survived the dreadful Civil War between the north and the south. Grover Cleveland was the 22nd President of the United States. The Statue of Liberty had just arrived in New York Harbor and was dedicated as a gift from France. Atlanta Chemist, John Pemberton, had invented the drink we know as Coca-Cola®. All this was happening in an era called "The Gilded Age," according to Mark Twain and Charles Dudley. It was one of the fastest growing economic times in our nation's history.

That's not all that was happening in 1886. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, a man named Sebastian Michels gathered a group of people from the area for "tent meetings" to hear messages about Jesus Christ. People's lives began to change and many banded together to organize, as a congregation, to minister and reach out to the city. 125 years later, that congregation is still in existence! Today, people at Westwood Church of God are still gathering, still sharing the message of Jesus Christ, and lives are still being changed. Oh, the name of the church has changed several times, but the message and purpose is still the same and God is still changing lives through the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Now that is something to celebrate!



September 18, 2011 is a day of remembrance and celebration to mark this milestone, as we look at what God has done and continues to do through our church. It's an anniversary celebration. Whether you normally attend our 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service, everyone is invited to participate together in all the events of this important day:

9:00 a.m., "A Time to Remember" — An hour of stories, photos and video projected on the screen of things that happened long ago and not so long ago in our church. We'll sing inspiring songs of faith from the last 125 years and be encouraged to continue on in faith, hope and love for Christ and His calling in Kalamazoo.

10:15 a.m., Table Fellowship — Coffee and refreshments will be available in the Fellowship Hall during this break. There will be a table set up in the Fellowship Hall with photo albums and other memorabilia to view from our past.

11:00 a.m., Celebration and Commitment — Special worship leaders, Rev. Scotty and Johnna Carroll and their three children will be with us from Murfreesboro, TN, to lead in worship at 11:00 a.m. Our *Kid's Connection* children will join in the first half of this service and will sing a special selection of music. Pastor Bill will preach on the theme "A Determined Household of Faith." This will be an inspiring and encouraging time, as we commit to carry on our great heritage and calling to reach out and impact the greater Kalamazoo area for Christ.

12:30 p.m., Potluck Luncheon — Please bring a side dish for this lunch together and we'll provide the meat and drinks! Have you ever wondered, "How many potluck/pitch-in luncheons has this church had in 125 years?" Regardless of the actual number, they've always been filled with good fellowship and great food. Bring your best dish, and lots of it to share with members and guests.

5:00 p.m., Youth Connect — Our youth group will gather together and travel to Otsego Church of God to unite with youth groups from the area. Illusionist Tom Coverly will be the main guest. There will be games and pizza, too! Bring \$5.00 for the night together.

What a day! I can't wait. I hope to see you in worship this month.

125 years and counting,
Pastor Bill Ferguson



Gather

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Sundays: Sept. 4 – Oct. 9

DETERMINED HOUSEHOLDS



de-ter-mined: [dih-tur-mind] adjective.

1. resolute; staunch: the determined defenders of the Alamo.
2. decided; settled; resolved.
3. Grammar (of a phonetic feature) predictable from its surrounding context.

What does it mean to be a determined household in a desperate world? Join Pastor Bill for worship in September and October, for this lighthearted and focused look at biblical principles that lead to a healthy marriage, family, church, and relationships. Issues like parenting, finances, communication, faith commitment and fun will inspire your resolve to be a determined and healthy follower of Christ. Invite a friend to this insightful series.

Stretching and Growing

Fall Study Series on Wednesday evenings, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Pastor Bill will lead this series looking at different aspects of the journey of faith in Christ. This is an excellent series for new believers, those interested in knowing more about a relationship with Christ and other believers, and Christians who want to think again about these important topics in our discipleship.

Sept. 21	What does it mean to be "saved?"
Sept. 28	Getting into scripture to grow spiritually
Oct. 5	Praying on the go: Daily Devotions
Oct. 12	Confidence in Christ
Oct. 19	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Oct. 26	The Church and me
Nov. 2	What does the Church believe?
Nov. 9	What is baptism and is it for me?
Nov. 16	Stewardship
Nov. 30	Passing along the faith

Did You Know?

From Aug. 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011
we have had
157 First Time Guests
In worship at Westwood Church of
God!

From Aug. 1, 2010 to
July 31, 2011
we have had
**107 Second Time
Guests**
return!

From Aug. 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011
we have had **92 people** who
have joined us 3 or more times for
worship and fellowship!

Why report the number of guests and newcomers in worship over the past year? Is it really all about numbers at Westwood Church of God? YES. Absolutely, Yes! Every guest, and every newcomer that we invite is precious to God and our church! Every one who worships with us represents a life to be transformed by the love of Christ. So, keep reaching, loving and inviting family, friends, neighbors and co-workers not-yet connected to Christ and the church. 125 years and counting!

Adult Ministry Connection

Senior Adult Ministry Happenings

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

- ⇒ Fri., Sept. 16 @ Cracker Barrel, I-94 & 9th St.
- ⇒ Fri., Oct. 7 @ Callahan's, 5200 Portage Rd.
- ⇒ Fri., Oct. 21 @ LaRue's, Stadium at Parkview

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

- ⇒ Tues., September 6 @ 1:00pm in the Fish Room
- ⇒ Tues., October 4 @ 1:00pm in the Fish Room

Senior Adult Ministry Events & Excursions

2nd Half of Life Fall Fest

- ⇒ Tues., Sept 27 (Depart from WWCOW @ 8:10am)
- ⇒ North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek, MI
- ⇒ Speaker: Dr. Robert Dulin
- ⇒ Worship: Pastor Tom & Jean Tufts
- ⇒ Cost: \$12.00 (includes lunch)
- ⇒ Deadline to sign-up/pay: Sun., Sept. 18
- ⇒ Optional afternoon activities available. See Info Center for more information.

Potluck

- ⇒ Wednesday, October 12 @ Noon
- ⇒ Fellowship Hall
- ⇒ Bring your favorite dish (or two), and a friend (or two)!

Grow & Connect

Nursery (3 months to 3 years)

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

Kid's Connection! Sundays @ 10:30 am



Kid's Connection is launching a brand new format and curriculum on Sunday, Sept. 11— *Living Inside Out*, Where Kids Dare to Live Their Faith 24/7!

Preschoolers through 5th graders will enjoy worship and hands-on bible learning as a large group and break into age-appropriate small groups for relationship building and bible application. September's theme is Extreme Makeover: Attitude Edition!



Pennies for Popsicles!

Over the summer months, the kids collected pennies to purchase popsicles for the kids at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Their goal was 8,000 pennies. The goal was reached, popsicles (972) were purchased and delivered, and the Westwood kids celebrated their accomplishment with a popsicle party of their own!

Join a Life Group or a Bible Study this fall

NEW Life Groups

What's a life group? The bible speaks of the early church gathered in large group (shoulder to shoulder) for worship in the temple and in small home groups (face to face) to grow in the Christian faith (Acts 2: 41-47). A life group is simply a group of people who choose to meet together in homes to do life together as they journey in faith toward growth in Christ. Life groups study scripture together and apply it to real life, pray together, care for one another in need and have fun together. If you'd like to lead a new Life Group in your home, contact Pastor Diane or Pastor Bill. Join one of our new life groups starting the week of September 18:



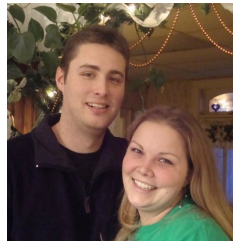
Leaders	Area	Time	Focus
Becky & Jamie Cripps	Westwood	Sunday evenings	Marriage & Family
Tim & Sherry Tufts	Mattawan/Paw Paw	Thursday evenings	Discipleship

Classes

Classes last an hour and incorporate interactive learning and discussion. Join others in bible study and learning in one of the following classes beginning in September.

Leader	Room	Time	Topic
Debbie Moore	Room 27	Sun., 9:15 a.m. (begins 9/11)	Christian growth
Tom Tufts	Room 22	Sun., 11 a.m.	Bible Study
Bill Ferguson	Fellowship Hall	Wed., 7 p.m. (9/28-11/16)	Basics of Christian faith

What's happening this fall in **YOUTH CONNECT?**



Announcing Interim Youth Minister – Jason Chapman

Help us welcome, support and bless Jason Chapman on September 11, in morning worship, as we commission him in prayer to the interim ministry with youth. Jason is a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ with a passion for young people. We are excited to have him lead the youth ministry team to provide Sunday night youth meetings, monthly activities, and big events. Pray for Jason and the team in this important ministry!

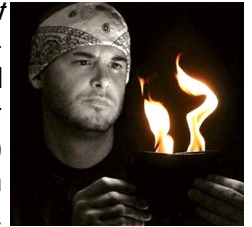
Sunday night meetings: 4-6 p.m. (Gather in the Gym)

- September 25 — Youth Connect: "Come Together"
- October 9 — Youth Connect
- October 23 — Youth Connect

Monthly Activities

*September 18 — Sunday Night Vision

Youth groups in this region will gather at Otsego Church of God for a night to clear our vision and focus our faith. *Illusionist* Tom Coverly (from 2011 Michigan State Youth Convention) and worship band, *Waiting Forever*, will be the guest leaders. There will be a time to meet young people from the area during a fellowship time with free pizza and pop!! Meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. and plan to be picked up at 8:30 p.m. Bring \$2.00 to contribute gas for our vans!



*October 29 — Fall Bash!!

Fall is a time for fun, costumes, candy and crazy games. Invite a friend to this night of adventure, crazy fun and food!! More Information coming. Bring \$5.00 to help cover costs.

The BIG Events in 2011-2012

- ⇒ Late Fall Campout Retreat — Freeze 2!!! More information to come
- ⇒ 2012 Michigan State Youth Convention (May)
- ⇒ 2012 International Youth Convention trip — Parent's information packets available in the church office.

Fundraising Opportunities

Contact Deloris Watts (delorisw@cfbroadcast.net) for more information about how to get involved in the following fall fundraisers:

- ⇒ Parade of Homes — (adult and youth teams are needed in September/October)
- ⇒ Apple Pie Sales (September/October)
- ⇒ Candy sales (anytime)



Find the Youth Group on Facebook (Westwood Youth)

Serve



Calling all Choir Members!! We will begin practicing at 6:30 on Wed., Sept. 7 and Wed., Sept 14. Come join others and use your talents to share in the 9am Worship Service. We will have a new book from which to sing and fellowship abounds—we hope you'll join us! For more information,

contact Jean Tufts (jeanotuf@wwcog.com)

Kalamazoo Communities In Schools:

"Whatever you do for one of the least of these... you do for me," ~Jesus (Matt. 25:40) We have an opportunity to love Jesus in tangible, practical ways. When we have made a difference in a child's academic life, we really can feel like we have loved Jesus in a practical way. At the least, we feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. It's like we've done something that really matters. The children in Kalamazoo Schools are very fortunate to be able to get a college education without the expense. However, in order to get that education, they have to qualify for admittance to a university. That is where WE come in!!



Now is the time to get your volunteer application filled out and submitted so you will be able to help children at MLK School gain needed basic skills. We want to sign you up to be a tutor, helper in a classroom, pen pal, cookie baker and any other opportunities that may arise. Even those of you who are gone over the winter can help out with the tutoring program!! You can fill out an application online at www.ciskalamazoo.org (be sure to indicate King-Westwood as your preferred location) or contact Pastor Diane Tultz, dianetultz@yahoo.com or 321-1706 or at church. If you fill out the online application, please let Pastor Diane know. Pen Pals or others who have no contact with children will not need to submit an application. Questions?? Contact pastor Diane.



The Big Give: Saturday October 22, 9am-3pm

For the 4th year in a row, PJ's Closet will move upstairs to the Fellowship Hall for a one-day community give-away. Clothes, household items, shoes, winter wear, holiday decorations, small appliances, etc., will be given away, free of charge, to anyone who may

need these items. We will also be offering a free breakfast for those who come to the event. Here's how you can get involved:

- ⇒ Donations of gently used items are being collected now through Fri., Oct 14. Donations can be dropped off during regular office hours (M-F, 10am-3pm).
- ⇒ Monetary donation are needed to help offset the cost of food items for the complimentary breakfast and bibles that we will offer on this day. The cost to provide this will be \$400.00. Please mark "Big Give" on your checks or envelopes as you give, over and above your regular offerings, for this purpose.
- ⇒ Lots of helping hands are needed! There will be many opportunities for you to get involved, from set-up to clean-up to everything in between! Watch the Information Center in the lobby for Volunteer Sign-Ups or contact Linda Pierce (lindystar14@aol.com or 491-0238)

Trunk or Treat: Monday, Oct. 31, 6-8pm

Halloween is just around the corner, and we are already gearing up for Trunk or Treat. Dress up your trunk, pull out your costumes, get your pumpkin carving tools sharpened up...we're rolling out the red carpet for the kids (and grown-ups) in our neighborhood! Join us for a night of fun and fellowship in the parking lot! If dressing up is not your thing, there are plenty of other opportunities to get involved! New this year: PRIZES for creativity and enthusiasm! Brush off those thinking caps and get planning! Watch for more information and Sign-ups in the church lobby or contact Theresa Hazard (theresa.l.hazard@gmail.com) for more information or to lend a hand!



Kalamazoo Valley Habitat Volunteer Opportunity in Westwood



A new Habitat House has been built near the MLK Jr. Elementary School on Nichol Ave. There are still tasks to do in the interior of the house: priming, painting, trim, etc. If you can volunteer, contact the church office to get connected and serve in our community.

Thank You!

Summer Youth Intern

Thank you to Jeremy Bontrager, our Summer Youth Intern, for all you did for and with the youth of Westwood this summer. We send our prayers for a productive, safe and blessed school year.

Summer At The Movies—Community Movie Nights

Thank you to everyone who had a helping hand in making our 2 Community Movie Nights a great success. All those who helped with planning, preparation, decorations, greeting, ushering, serving and clean-up made these two nights special for all who attended!

Exterior Beautification

Thank you to Lee Jennings for all the exterior floral and landscaping work that he has done over the summer months. These enhancements have created a welcoming entrance to the church building!

Kid's Connection Painting

If you haven't had a chance yet, visit the lower level and see the colorful new additions to the children's ministry area. A special thanks to all those who helped transform the space into a vibrant, welcoming area for our kids: The Gower Family, Craig & Ann Russell, The Call Family, Diana Vickery, Rob Moore, Stephanie Laughlin and Family, Jack Weir, Lynne Stenger and Nakia Davis.

Sound Upgrades in the Fellowship Hall

Thank you to Dr. Gary Hurt for the work he has done recently to upgrade the sound system in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact

Lead Pastor		
Bill Ferguson	207-8472	bill@wwcog.com
Senior Adult Ministry		
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
Interim Youth Ministry Leader		
Jason Chapman	303-2093	jcc1201@gmail.com
Office Administrator		
Elise Ripmaster	344-0985	elise@wwcog.com

Information Deadline for the November / December Promotional Publication is Wed., October 19