

You are invited to take on a new Lenten practice. Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports the vital work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere. Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of gifts made to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project. Follow the calendar (available on the website and via email) during Westwood's One Great Hour of Sharing period. Each entry suggests an offering -- your family can decide what "coin" is best for your situation each day -- pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half- or whole dollars.

The calendar can be found at
www.westwoodumc.org/go/oghs.

Prayerful Stitches

Prayerful Stitches is a ministry focused on providing hand-crafted items to members of the church as a symbol of our prayers and support.

The items we craft are more than string and yarn. They symbolize the way our community has come together to create comfort, warmth and support in an intentional, prayerful way.

We create with any craft-base: knitting, crocheting, sewing, cross stitch, quilting, etc. It is our goal to become a group that can act as a prayer response team in order to provide an immediate item of comfort or joy.

Prayerful Stitches meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:15 am in the Wesley Room. All are welcome!

Mozart Comes to Church on March 7!

The church music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will be featured in worship on March 7. The communion acclamations for the service will be taken from a Mass that Mozart wrote to be sung during Lent at the Salzburg Cathedral - when he was 13 years old! The choir's anthem that day, *Ave verum corpus*, was written shortly before Mozart's death and is regarded as one of his most perfect works. The choir and organist Peter Fennema will be joined by a professional string trio. The Prelude will be one of Mozart's seventeen *Church Sonatas* for strings and organ.

Plan to be present to be inspired by this beautiful and prayerful music.

The SPIRE

Westwood United Methodist Church

February 28, 2010

do justice • love kindness • walk humbly with God

The Ongoing Journey

By Pastor John R. Woodall

Like many of you, I've been staying up too late at night watching the Winter Olympics. I've delighted at victories for the various athletes, groaned at some of the "mind boggling" crashes and continue to be amazed at what mere mortals can do when they set their minds to it. I don't think I ever had quite enough of the daredevil in me to consider the snowboard half pipe, the snow X (totally insane) and I wonder about the required mindset to be a downhill racer.

Common to all of these athletes is dedication, persistence, and the ability to commit to the day-after-day training, especially on those days when you'd rather be doing something else. Their discipline is amazing. It does prompt me to consider the question, "what would all of our lives be like if we even showed 10% of that intentionality to our daily living?" I suspect we would all benefit from living lives which are more **proactive** than the usual **reactive** patterns that are more indicative of our human nature. This is especially true when it comes to faith matters.

More often than not we tend to turn to our spirituality, our faith, our religion only when in crisis. It would be equivalent to a skier whose only experience was "bunny slopes" participating in the Super "G" or other down hill races - it just doesn't work. Spirituality, faith, whatever we choose to call it, is something which is practiced and cultivated. It best serves our needs when it is a regular part of who we are; consistently practiced prayer, worship, study and reflection does make a difference.

Perhaps this Lenten Season might be the beginning of our intentional "faith training" so that when it comes to matters of the spirit, we might be Olympians. How is it on your journey?

Pastor John



Week 2 – February 28: Fear Has a Hold on Me

Texts: Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27

"The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

We can't always control our human response, anger and fear seem to bubble up quickly. God calls us to deal with our fear in a different way.

Week 3 – March 7: My Soul is Empty

Texts: Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8

"My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

"Burning the Candle at Both Ends" is all about life as we know it. How can we keep our souls alive and refreshed?



Throughout the Lenten season (February 21 – March 21) the Sunday youth schedule will change. Youth Music will meet from 11:00 am to 11:20 (snacks will be provided) in Helms Hall. After music, all of our youth will participate in *Plan Be – A Lenten series* – led by Walton Williamson and Chris Spearman. Don't forget to pick up your books from Kathy!



Church Leadership

The Rev. John Woodall
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Gregory Norton
Minister of Music &
Communications

Kathy Cannon
Director of Children &
Youth Ministries

Chris Spearman
Director of Adult Ministries

The Rev. Glen Watts
Visitation Pastor

Peter Fennema
Organist

Bette Caldwell
Spire Editor

Linda Bravin
Pre-school Director

Sabrina Simmons
Administrative Assistant

Sherry Stack
Administrative Assistant

Next Spire:
Mar. 14

Article Deadline:
Monday, Mar. 8

Among Our Friends...

By Bette Caldwell

When we joined Westwood United Methodist Church, we took vows to support the Church with “our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.”

Our Prayers...

...are with **Reverend Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Rachel Rhodes-Wickett Gipson, and Ben Rhodes-Wickett; Al Rhodes-Wickett** is now in hospice care and all medications have been stopped.

...are with **Linda Bravin**, Westwood UMC Preschool Director, on the death of her father-in-law, **Paka**, on February 12. Please keep Linda and her husband, **Steve**, as well as Steve’s Mom, **Ruth**, in your prayers as they finalize services, etc.

...are with **Ellen, Heather Robinson’s sister**, following the birth of **her son, Dillon**, who is critically ill with seizures and poor functioning; a strategic treatment plan is under development.

...are with **Harriette Craig**, whose father, **Harvey Craig**, is seriously ill and hospitalized in North Carolina.

...continue for **Jack Behnke, Polly Hanson, Ruby Koupal, Jaynee Nakanishi, Gunther Schiff, Lon Symensma, and C.Z. Wick.**

Several Church members and visitors shared prayer requests during the Worship Services recently:

...**Eleanor Alberstadt** requests prayers of hope for the **people of Haiti**, as well as all the **people who have lost their jobs and all people suffering from diseases.**

...**Sherry Burch** asks for prayers for **Doug’s mother, Nancy Burch**, who fell and broke her hip recently. She entered the dementia section of a nursing home in January, moving from assisted living in Texas.

...**Jeanne Contreras** requests prayers for **Nina, Evan, and Dean** as they face mid-terms, as well as for **Los Angeles Unified School District** as they

M.O.P.S Saturday, March 6th

Mothers of Pre-schoolers is an environment where moms of children from birth to 1st Grade can find support, helpful teaching, spiritual connection, and places to serve. We believe that parenting is one of the most important tasks an individual can undertake. MOPS is our attempt to do everything we can to have the best moms possible.

This month’s topic is **Raising Confident Kids** - patiently guiding a child of almost any age to learn age-appropriate tasks is essential to giving him or her a feeling of mastery and confidence that will carry through the school years and beyond. This kind of encouragement also provides a wonderful opportunity to bond with your child in a way that is meaningful to both of you. Also covered will be an effective way to give positive feedback to your child which empowers him or her.

Our speaker will be Kim Gayler. Kim is in her 2nd year as a parent/toddler teacher for Westwood UMC Preschool.

The cost of MOPS is \$10 per week, which covers the cost brunch and child care.

face sending pink slips out to approximately 5,000 employees... prayers, also, for **those who receive them.**

...**David Henry** asks for prayers for **his children.**

...**Nancy Hill** requests prayers for **Dillon, Heather Robinson’s nephew**, who is in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit at UCLA.

...**Rhonda Lawrence** asks for prayers for her **Aunt Norma**, who lost her husband, **John**, in December.

...**Alistair and Kasey Lewis** request prayers for **Jenny Bazaillion**, a friend in Texas whose health is improving but faces possible amputation of her feet.

...**Wayne Marker** asks for prayers for **Pam D’Amour**, who has colon cancer; for **Kenneth Cook**, who has leukemia; and for **Carole Dias**, whose health is failing.

...**Leanne Nakanishi** requests prayers for **Laura Nakanishi, Sam and Eleanor Alberstadt, Lita Nelson, and Great Aunt Sachan Matoi.**

...**Keith and Nancy Price** ask for prayers for **Sam and Eleanor Alberstadt.**

...**Susie Williams** requests continued prayers for improvement in her health. She reports that “each day is somewhat better...”

...**Ulysses Griggs, Jr.** requests prayers for **the Sharon Rhodes-Wickett family; for the Gertrude Harris/ Reynolds family** on the passing of their mother at age 106; for the family of **Prince Cobbs** on his passing; and for **Mel Bailey; Carl Henley; Lydia Moore; Herbie Howard; Bill Elkins III; Bernard Johnson; Wesley Logan; Denise Griggs; Chip Neuwirth; Ann Griggs; Cedric and Marion Price’s mother, Mrs. Harrison; Don Mims; Pam Davis; the homeless, the disabled, and the members of Westwood United Methodist Church.**

Our Gifts and Our Service...

...**Judy and Bob Wessling** wrote, “Blessings on this family of faith during our Lenten journey.”

...Congratulations to Preschool teacher, **Rory, and his wife** on the birth of a healthy son on February 18th.

Follow-Up: An Adult Education Adventure

February 28

Meet the King – part 1

Mozart called the organ “The King of Instruments.” For centuries Christians have found the music of this unique instrument useful as they seek to worship God. This multimedia presentation will explore the fascinating machine behind the music. **In the Sanctuary**

March 7

Meet the King – part 2

The organ has been used in Christian worship for centuries, and pipe organs have been part of the life of Westwood UMC since its beginning. This class will trace some of that history including the development of the Shaffer Memorial Organ and its significant role in the musical life of our parish today. **In the Sanctuary**

Have you been to the church's website lately? It's changing all the time:

- Homepage information about next Sunday – *updated weekly*
- Up-to-date information about weekly children and youth activities
- Interactive calendar
- Access to the current SPIRE and back issues
- Information about all the church's ministries
- Expanded content about our Preschool, including the newsletter ...and much more!

NEW for users of iPhone, Blackberry and other mobile devices: a new *litesite* version, formatted for viewing on a smaller screen, is now available. (You should be automatically referred to that version when using your mobile device)

Coming soon: Sermon Podcasts!



PATH's (People Assisting the Homeless) mission is "to break the cycle of homelessness by empowering people with the tools for self-

sufficiency" and to do so by "helping homeless individuals and families find work, save money, secure housing, and empower their lives".

As you can imagine, the dramatic downturn in our economy has affected many in our city and the beds are full now at PATH. *You are invited to join in shopping for and/or cooking a hot breakfast for the PATH residents the last Saturday of each month.* We meet at the PATH building at 7am. If you are interested in learning more or to see our upcoming breakfast dates, just sign up on the WUMC website, Mission Team page.



Get Your Picture Taken! Sunday Mornings in Lent

We're trying a new thing – a self-published church directory. No portrait packages to buy or appointments for sittings - simply have your picture taken following worship on any of the Sundays of Lent (until Palm Sunday -March 28). Soon after Easter we will make a photo directory with the new pictures and information.

Small Group Study: A Celebration of Discipline

Please note that, until further notice, this group has been cancelled.

The Next Two Weeks at Westwood...

SUN	Feb 28	11:15a Plan Be: A Lenten Journey Fellowship Prayerful Stitches Wesley Room
TUES	Mar 2	7:00p Young Adults Selby Parsonage
WED	Mar 3	11:00a Disciple Bible Study Room 207
THUR	Mar 4	7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room Sanctuary
FRI	Mar 5	Youth Special Event: Laser Tag Meet at Church
SAT	Mar 6	8:00a Men's Breakfast #3 Wesley Room 10:00a MOPS Room 207
SUN	Mar 7	11:15a Plan Be: A Lenten Journey Fellowship
Please note there is NO evening youth program.		
MON	Mar 8	7:00p Trustees Meeting Room 301
TUES	Mar 9	7:00p Young Adults Selby Parsonage 7:30p Mission Team Meeting Room 301
WED	Mar 10	11:00a Disciple Bible Study Room 207 7:00p Church Council Wesley Room
THUR	Mar 11	7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room Sanctuary



Youth Winter Retreat

March 19-21

The youth at WUMC have spoken! We will be having a retreat at Camp Wrightwood with skiing, tubing and snowboarding. We will leave Friday afternoon (after school) and return Sunday, early afternoon. The trip will include all meals on Saturday and Sunday, transportation and lodging. Lift tickets for skiing and snowboarding are an additional \$55 or tubing is \$20. This is an outstanding deal and a great opportunity for fun and spiritual growth.

Please look at your calendars and let Kathy know if your teen can attend. Friends are invited but we have a limit of 18 teens being able to stay in the facilities. *Please note that due to the retreat we will NOT have our regular youth evening program on Sunday, March 21.*

Sundays at Westwood

8:45a	Café W Wesley Room
	Childcare Room 100
9:00a	Bible Study Room 301
10:00a	Worship Sanctuary
	Westwood Waves (Pre-school) Room 202
	Westwood Waves (Pre-K to 5th) Room 108
11:00a	Children's Music Room 109
	Coffee Fellowship Courtyard
11:15a	Follow-Up Room 207
	Plan Be Fellowship Hall
	Youth Sunday School and Music Helms Hall
11:20a	Handbell Choir Room 105
5:00p	Youth Group (6 & 7th grades) Helms Hall
6:00p	All Youth Dinner and Games Helms Hall
7:00p	Youth Group (8-12th grades) Helms Hall

Last Chance to Order your Spring Gift Cards!

Spring is just around the corner! Time to think about those upcoming baby showers, weddings and big parties you are planning to attend in the next few months. Where will you be buying those gifts and supplies? Answer: The SAM Plan!

Westwood UMC has a wide selection of gift cards, including restaurants, retailers and grocery stores, that we're selling to support our two missionaries: The Rev. Romeo "Romy" del Rosario, in Cambodia, and the Rev. Paul Jeffrey, in Haiti. 5% or more of each gift card sale goes toward their work.

And it's not just for gifts. Don't forget to think about those stores and coffee shops that you frequent on a regular basis -- gift cards work for your own purchases just as well.

Order by THIS SUNDAY to get your cards! We will have them available at the church by March 14. SAM Plan pre-order forms are now online at Westwood UMC's Web site, or you can pick up a pre-order form after church at the SAM Plan store.



**Purchase gift/cash cards from
Westwood United Methodist Church
to support our missionaries!**

The Church at Worship

Sunday, February 28, 2010

2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. John Woodall, preaching

Sermon: Heartsongs: *Fear Has A Hold On Me*

Featured Music: Prayer of St. Francis
and Wade in the Water

Scripture: Psalm 27 / Luke 13: 31-35

Sunday, March 7, 2010

3rd Sunday in Lent

Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. John Woodall, preaching

Sermon: Heartsongs: *My Soul is Empty*

Featured Music by W.A. Mozart

Scripture: Psalm 63: 1-8 / Luke 13: 1-9



Check out the most recent letter and pictures from our missionary, Reverend Paul Jeffrey. Paul has most recently been in Haiti documenting the struggle and recovery of the Haitian people in the aftermath of the devastating January 12th earthquake. For more on his pilgrimage, go to www.tinyurl.com/paulhaiti or check out our website at www.westwoodumc.org

**Westwood United Methodist Church
10497 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90024**