

75th Anniversary Celebration in 2011!

West U Methodist will celebrate 75 years in 2011! Please join us in the Chapel, Tuesday, August 31 at 1 pm, as we work and plan for the celebration. We have been blessed with wonderful years in the past. Our present is bright and full of hope, our future holds great promise as we do the Lord's work of building a Christian community together.



We pray you will consider serving as a communion steward for 9 or 11 am worship this year. The Altar Guild has a place for you to serve the Lord and our church in worship.

Please join us as we train and plan the fall schedule on Monday, August 30 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

Joy Hall
Altar Guild Chairperson



2010 Rally Day

Mark your calendars for Rally Day, **Sunday, September 12**. There will be no Sunday School that day to allow everyone to attend the celebration together. It is planned as a social event for all ages welcoming everyone to church after summer vacation. A light brunch is provided and Children's activities. Please plan on attending to meet new friends, greet old friends, and rejoice in having Carol Bruse as our new minister. The people are what make West University Methodist so special!

Adult Lay Academy presents Lay Speaking Academy

Saturday, September 11 and Saturday, September 18, the Texas Annual Conference of UMC Houston Area Districts is offering a Lay Speaking Seminar at the Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401.

This seminar is for everyone who wants to become a better disciple. The Lay Speaking School is designed to enhance and complement the Christian on his/her spiritual journey. Its purpose is to promote growth through study and prayer.

Early registration is \$30 and includes lunch and course materials. Registration after August 25 will cost \$40. To register call the Southwest District at 281-499-3700 or <http://regonline.com/layspeakeracademy>.

Memorials and Honorariums

Church Memorial

In memory of
Evelyn Sandifer, given by
Roberta A. Todd

In memory of
Dutch Ikeler, given by
Robert A. Todd

In memory of
Louise De Woody, given by
the Faithkeepers
Sunday School Class

In memory of
Louise DeWoody, given by
a former member of
the Bertha Smith Friendship
Class and the Faithkeepers
Class, given by Beth Dennis

In honor of Dolly Thomas,
given by
Karen Campbell Ross

The Fellowship Forum Sunday School Class

invites you to visit us during August. If you do not have a Sunday School class, August is a great time to visit classes before Rally Day and the fall activities roll around.

You will find us in Room 117 at 10 am, immediately following the traditional worship service. The summer study is "Psalms, Prayers of the Heart" by Eugene Peterson. Each week is a new and uplifting experience.



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Speaking the Very Words of God

From the Desk of Rev. Carol Bruse

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

As your new senior pastor, it is my privilege and duty to preach the Word of God each Sunday. Speaking for God is an awesome responsibility, one which keeps me on my knees and keeps me humble. However, although I will certainly continue to speak on Sundays during worship services, I do not believe I am the only Christian at West U Methodist through whom God speaks! I believe—along with the author of First Peter—that, as Christians, many of us have the gift,

privilege, and duty of speaking for God. And I believe God can speak through any and all of us.

As you have patiently listened for God to speak through me in worship, so I now look forward to listening for God to speak through each of you in the coming months. During the next week or two, you will receive an invitation in the mail to gather with your WUM friends to meet me and my husband Mark. I hope you'll make every effort to come to the church on one of the dates listed, or on Sunday, October 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Be sure to RSVP, especially if you need child care. However, even if you don't remember to respond to the invitation, please come.

All of these small group sessions will begin with 30 to 45 minutes of unstructured fellowship—a time for me and my husband to greet you personally, and a time for you to reconnect

with other members and friends. Then, we'll gather in a circle or around tables, and I will have the privilege of listening for God to speak through you. I'll ask these four questions to guide our conversation: Where were you baptized? When did you come to West U Methodist? Why have you stayed? To what do you believe God is calling West U Methodist? No one will be forced to answer any question, but all will have the opportunity to speak.

Thank you for listening to me. I look forward to listening to you!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Carol Bruse
Senior Pastor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship at 9 and 11 am Sunday School, 10 am MYF, 5 pm Prayer Group 4, 5 pm	2 Lectionary Bible Study, 4:30 pm Guy's Small Group, 6 pm Girl's Small Group, 6 pm Stamp Club, 7 pm	3 Boy Scouts Pack Meeting, 6:30 pm	4 Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am Prayer Group 1, 8 am Praise Band, 6:00 pm Student Bible Study, 7 pm	5 Student Hang Time, 1 pm	6 Student ministry Bowling, 6 pm Vines and Branches Party, 6:30 pm	7 Boy Scouts Pine Wood Derby Sign Up, 8 am CCSC Back-to-School Distribution at Faith Lutheran
8 Worship at 9 and 11 am Sunday School, 10 am Trustees Meeting, 12 pm MYF Schlitterbahn Trip, 12 pm Prayer Council, 4 pm Prayer Group 4, 5 pm	9 High Court Resurfacing - GYM CLOSED School Board, 12 pm Lectionary Bible Study, 4:30 pm Worship Committee, 6 pm Mercer Task Force Meeting, 7 pm	10 Staff Meeting, 9:30 am High Court Resurfacing - GYM CLOSED Boy Scout Meeting, 7:30 pm	11 GYM CLOSED Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am Prayer Group 1, 8 am Senior Lunch, 10 am Praise Band, 6:00 pm Student Bible Study, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	12 GYM CLOSED Student Hang Time, 1 pm Meet the Pastor, 6:30 pm	13 GYM CLOSED Faithkeepers Lunch, 10 am	14
15 Worship at 9 and 11 am Sunday School, 10 am Outreach Meeting, 12 pm Cheerleading Group, 3 pm MYF, 5 pm Prayer Group 4, 5 pm	16 Lectionary Bible Study, 4:30 pm Guy's Small Group, 6 pm Girl's Small Group, 6 pm Stamp Club, 7 pm Technology Task Force Meeting, 7 pm	17 Staff Meeting, 9:30 am Day School Teacher Lunch, 11 am Boy Scouts Pack Meeting, 6:30 pm	18 Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am Prayer Group 1, 8 am Praise Band, 6:00 pm Meet the Pastor, 6:30 pm Student Bible Study, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	19 Student Hang Time, 1 pm Meet the Pastor, 6:30 pm	20	21
22 Worship at 9 and 11 am Blessing of Teachers Sunday School, 10 am Promotion Sunday, Cheerleading Group, 3 pm MYF, 5 pm Prayer Group 4, 5 pm	23 Brownie Troop Mtg, 2:30 pm Lectionary Bible Study, 4:30 pm Guy's Small Group, 6 pm Girl's Small Group, 6 pm	24 West U Staff Retreat, 9 am SPRC, 7:00 pm Boy Scout Meeting, 7:30 pm	25 Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am Day School Dance Class, 12 pm Praise Band 6 pm Meet the Pastor, 6:30 pm Student Bible Study, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	26 Student Hang Time, 3 pm Meet the Pastor, 6:30 pm Girl Scout Mtg., 7 pm	27 Day School Open House, 9 am	28
29 Worship at 9 and 11 am Blessing of Backpacks and Students Sunday School, 10 am Cheerleading Group, 3 pm MYF, 5 pm Prayer Group 4, 5 pm	30 Day School Prep Day Lectionary Bible Study, 4:30 pm Guy's Small Group, 6 pm Girl's Small Group, 6 pm Altar Guild, 7 pm	31 Day School First Day of Class 75th Anniversary Planning Meeting, 1 pm Kids on the Court, 3 pm Boy Scout Meeting, 7:30 pm BOS Meeting, 7 pm				

Summer Shenanigans

Part of me cannot believe it's almost August already. And the other part of me feels like it's been five years since May. But either way, it has been an AWESOME summer.

My time here at West U started off with a bang, and I jumped in at the busiest time of year. But honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way. The first summer trip I went on as the Student Ministries Director was Costa Rica. It was a great way for me to get to know everyone, and a couple things stood out to me. First, Costa Rica is absolutely BEAUTIFUL!! I found myself feeling so blessed to have the opportunity to drive through the rainforest and go white-water rafting in a place that looks like it's straight off a postcard.

The second thing that left an impression on me was how hard the students worked. With barely any complaining, the girls and boys worked side by side in the hot sun to accomplish more than any of us expected. In Charlie Strong's words, "Y'all set the bar high for the rest of the groups every summer." What a great legacy that I now get to be a part of.

The second trip we went on was BOOGLE and it was a much smaller trip to say the least. Three staff and

four students hopped in a van for a week of service in Waco. While I admit I had my doubts about the practicality of the trip, without a doubt God showed up and had His own plans for the week. And it was an amazing week! We served at the World Hunger Farm and the Waco Community Development Center and we can now all say that we know how to farm potatoes and herd goats. Not to mention five plots of land that we mowed where low income houses will eventually be built. But more than that, we had lots of fun together. We went out to eat, went bowling, and got to have great times of fellowship.

And finally, our last trip of the summer was Student Life Camp at Orange Beach, AL. I've been to lots of Student Life Camps in my years of full time ministry, but this one was definitely one of my favorites. Part of it was the anointed preaching of Matt Chandler, which inspired and moved students AND us leaders. Part of it was the powerful worship led by Aaron Keyes, whose knowledge and love of God's Word was a great example to us. And another huge part of it was getting to relax and spend time with some pretty awesome students. Camp is programmed for us, so the

leaders get to worship and hang out as opposed to worrying about the details. Not to mention feeling the power and might of God's presence and creation each time we looked out at the ocean from our beach-front condos. What a great way to finish out our summer travels.

Each trip served a different purpose and reached different students, and each trip was invaluable in its own way. Though I've worn out my body and my suitcase this summer, I can't think of a better way to spend my first summer as the Student Director. I've learned a lot about our students and gotten to spend some good quality time.

But it hasn't been all about the trips this summer. Bible studies, activities at MYF, sleepovers, pranks and times where we just hang out have been such a blessing. Relationships have been built, new students are coming into the program and there's a great sense of community. It makes me feel SO grateful for everything God has done this summer and SO excited about what is yet to come. So thanks for an amazing summer West U!

Mandy Jones



Student Life Camp 2010

Mandy Jones

In the wee hours of the morning on July 5th, our students and staff packed up the vans in preparation for the epic eight hour ride to Orange Beach, Alabama and Student Life Camp. Our student ministry has been going to Student Life Camp for many years now, and though this year was one of the smaller groups we've ever taken, it proved to be no less eventful and exciting than in years past. The speaker for this year's session was Matt Chandler, who is the head pastor of The Village Church in Dallas, Texas, and worship was lead by Aaron Keyes. The message and worship throughout the week centered around the theme of God's freely given grace, which was a powerful message for our students to hear.

One of the perks of going to Student Life at the Beach is that, aside from the worship sessions each morning and evening, we are given the flexibility to fill the free time with whatever ways that we see fit. This means that students got to enjoy lots of small group time bonding with old friends and getting to know new faces within our student ministry. Much of this bonding occurred on the beach or at the pool and sauna provided by our condominium. Having smaller numbers really allowed our group to bond in a unique way, and we are excited to see how the relationships formed and the lessons learned will manifest themselves back home.



School of Fine Arts Names New Director Lynne Jackson

The School of Fine Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of Janet Lindley as its new Director, effective August 1. Janet has been an active church member for sixteen years, serving on the School Board, SPR Committee, and chairing both the Board of Stewards and Worship Committees. Janet has an appreciation for music and the arts and has sung in the Chancel Choir for 12 years, assisted with the Children's Choirs and served on the School of Fine Arts Board. We believe that Janet's passion for this church will be reflected again in her new role, as we enter our 16th season this fall. Janet is married to Robin and they have three children, Brooke, Kara, and Robyn. The School of Fine Arts offers lessons in guitar, piano, and voice to children, youth, and adults in the classrooms of our church. Contact Janet at jlindley@westumethodist.org to learn more about enrollment.

Chancel Choir Begins August 11

It is the sum of the voices, whether they are large or small, that blend together to make the music that moves us in our services. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday evening, August 11 at 7:30 pm. Lynne Jackson at ljackson@westumethodist.org, would be happy to fill you in more, including the great fellowship and laughter that also comes with being a part of this special group. First Sunday back in worship is August 15.

Save the Dates!

**Christmas Alive Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 11**

**Christmas Alive Performances
Sunday, December 12**

Consider being a part of this West U Methodist tradition in 2010!

Children's Choir Begins September 12!

Four short-term commitments available!
Sunday, 5:00 pm

Session 1

September 12 - October 17
Worship presentation, October 17

Session 2

October 17 - November 21
Worship presentation, November 21

Session 3

November 21, December 5, and December 19
Worship presentation, Christmas Eve

Session 4

January 9 - February 27
Worship presentation February 27

Sonbeam Choir (K-1st grades)

Old Testament Heroes - Songs, Bible passages, activities, and crafts focused on Old Testament heroes of our faith.



Kids of the Kingdom (2nd-5th grades)

Session 1 - Choir Chime Playing
Sessions 2 and 4 - Mini-musicals
Session 3 - Christmas Eve prep combined with Sonbeams

For additional information, contact Lynne Jackson, ljackson@westumethodist.org.

August in the Sanctuary!

August 8 "Ready, Willing, and Able" Acts 8:26-38
August 15 "Staying Connected" John 15:1-8
August 22 "It Matters" 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Blessing of the Teachers
August 29 "Lose Your Labels" Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Blessing of the Students and Backpacks



Youth Handbells Resumes

Calling all 6th - 12th graders, youth handbells for sort-term commitments will begin soon!

Serve God and your church and learn a fun new skill by playing with the youth handbell ensemble. Led again by Jennifer Hayes, this group will meet several weeks at a time, playing worship, then take a short break. Rehearsal time is 4-5 pm on Sundays.

Fall Schedule

Session 1

September 12 - October 17
Six rehearsals working on fall piece and Christmas music. Performance in worship, October 24

Session 2

November 14, 21 and December 5
Performance in worship, December 19

For additional information, please contact Lynne Jackson at ljackson@westumethodist.org.

