

WEST U METHODIST
WITNESS
Congratulations
2009 Graduates!



June 2009
Issue 6



West U United 2009 Graduating Seniors

Grant Blakely
High School: Challenge Early
College Attending: Texas A&M

Tom Martin
High School: Episcopal
College Attending: Missouri

Shelby Smolen
High School: Lamar
College Attending: Texas

Andy Hale
High School: Episcopal
College Attending: Texas A&M

Travis Masterson
High School: Episcopal
College Attending: TCU

Tom Stacy
High School: Lamar
College Attending: Texas A&M

Stephen Hassenflu
High School: Episcopal
College Attending: Texas A&M

Hilary Munding
High School: Episcopal
College Attending: Texas

From Mark's Desk

Dr. Granger Westbury, the founder of Holistic Medicine, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, asks this question when he talks to nurses, doctors, and pastors, "What is the healthiest hour of the week?" He often surprises many people by answering, "The hour of worship on Sunday morning."

Worship at its best offers the opportunity to resolve conflict through forgiveness and to express feelings of gratitude through praising God. At best, the church is a healing community.

Of course, there will be times of change and conflict in the life of any church family. Differences of opinion will always arise and the challenge for all of us is to accept these differences and changes and make the best of it with God's help.

I know the new changes by the Board of Stewards has left some of you unsettled, guess what, me too. However, my faith experience has always taught me to meet the challenges that lie in front of me.

With this being said, I am available to visit about the recent changes that have taken place at WUUMC. I believe it's always good to roll up one's sleeves and get to work, or as St. Paul reminds us, to run the good race, stay the course and finish the race faithfully.

God Bless,
Mark

An Open Letter to West U United . . .

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The new Wesley Study Bible notes that "generosity is the keyword of II Corinthians 8. Paul speaks not of the generosity of rich people who give from their affluence what they don't need, but of the "extreme poverty" of the Christians of Macedonia which has overflowed in a wealth of generosity. Of course, generosity does not depend on the size of our bank accounts. It deepens on our readiness to open our hearts for the needs of others and to share what we have with them."

With joy and appreciation I am enclosing this Bishop's Certificate of Appreciation to your Church for readiness to open your hearts to the needs of others and to share what you have with them. Your congregation reached 100% of the total amount apportioned to you. Because of your church and others, the Texas Annual Conference is also able to share abundantly with others. Thank you.

Your 2008 giving enabled The Texas Annual Conference to pay 95% of our connectional support for World Service. Through these funds The United Methodist Church was able to be in mission locally, nationally and globally. They support higher education and theological education. They underwrite ministries of discipleship and service. Your generosity also care for the ministries of The Texas Annual Conference. You are, indeed, Christ's servants in the world.

On behalf of The Texas Annual Conference, I celebrate your outstanding accomplishment and encourage you to continue your benevolent support for 2009.

Grace and Peace,

Janice Riggle Huie

Janice Riggle Huie



Please pray for our members who will be in Costa Rica, June 1st-9th, as they become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in San Jose and the surrounding area assisting in areas where help is needed most.

Class Chat

Faithkeepers

A beautiful day, a little rain, a great time to celebrate our graduating seniors. Gary Edmondson was our teacher today as we continue our study of Ephesians. There is so much to study. We had 10 in class Sunday, May 25th, and are so happy our class now has 2 new members.

Fellowship Forum

Many thanks to Jean Treider for her loving leadership in the study of "Spirituality of Imperfection" during the month of May! Thanks to Barbara Ownby for the lovely garden party and lunch.

June and summer are here! Many celebrations and passages are in store for all of us! If you are not traveling, please make worship and Sunday School a priority for your Sunday mornings. We love seeing you in Sunday School! All visitors are welcome!

We will use one book for study during the summer months. "Proverbs and Parables" will be the text. Books will be purchased and can be picked up in the class room for \$6 or you may buy it at Cokesbury - #16 in the Fisherman's study. Lesson #1 will be June 7th. Please prepare to study and share with us!

Due to the food shortage in all the shelters and food pantries, we will have a continuing food drive for CCSC. Please bring rice, beans, peanut butter and your favorite canned foods for the children and families during the summer. Remember CCSC needs and accepts all children's clothes as well as adult clothing.

Celebration time! June 6th, we will party at the home of Paula Arnold. Plan to bring a friend and enjoy an evening of sharing and good food! See you there!

Solomon's Porch

We will begin a new summer study, June 7th; "Holy Conversations: Talking About God in Everyday Life" by Richard Peace. This is a useful study guide that will help us talk about the gospel in ways that are comfortable, easy, and mutually beneficial and enriching. This is NOT (a) a sales pitch, (b) an argument, (c) a sermon, or (d) an information dump. Lesson One - Everyone is On a Spiritual Pilgrimage. This includes seekers, agnostics, atheists, deists, the disillusioned, the contented and many more. Where are you in this journey? People you know? Do you know how to carry on a conversation with someone no matter where they are on this journey? No need to buy the book. Handouts will be provided at each session. If you miss a session, no problem. This series and our class will provide thought provoking and lively conversation. If interested, please join us in Room 103.

Vines and Branches

Our prayers for the coming weeks are for all our expectant mothers! Four new babies are due in the next month or so. How is that for a membership drive?

The Walk

Great lesson Sunday, May 25th by Josh Arrington on "Song of Solomon." Josh will be continuing the study in June.

Memorials and Honorariums

Memorial Fund

In memory of Madeleine Hawkins given by William L. Kruss, Jr., Faithkeepers Sunday School Class, Geneva Youens, W. Gordon Smyth, Raleigh and Bette Bailes, and Ana Shipley.

In memory of Trent Turpin given by Harris and Jimmie Johnson of Austin, Texas.

In memory of Marvel Banks Nicely Hilburn given by Beth Dennis, Faithkeepers S. S. Class, and Carol K. Turpin.

In memory of Thelma Hadley given by Carol K. Turpin and Beth Dennis.

Missions Fund

In memory of Susan Goebel, mother of Judy Perry given by Kathy B. Gunner.

Youth Fund

In honor of Vicki Piper, given by Rev. and Mrs. Charles E. Hall.

June 2009 WUUMC Events

June 1st-9th
Costa Rica Mission Trip

June 8th-12th
Vacation Bible School

June 15th-July 3rd
Children's Summer Camp
Sessions 1-3

June 22nd-26th
Boogle Mid-High Mission Trip

June 28th
Worship @ 6:10



The children of Kids of the Kingdom Choir enjoy their end of the year party at a local skating rink!

Allison, Grayson, Stephen, and Julia enjoy their reception on the front lawn following playing in the WUUM's 14th Annual School of Fine Arts Recital.



WUM To Host Bereavement Retreat

Saturday, June 13, 2009

9:30 am - 3:00 pm (lunch provided)

West University United Methodist Church

\$25 per person

Registration: Contact Samaritan Ministry,
281.589.8936 or cmaluski@thesamaritanministry.org

Deadline is June 9th



West U United has joined hands with the Samaritan Ministry to offer a one day retreat for all who have experienced a death loss. This retreat is appropriate for families, couples, or individuals.

It is a day of reflection, a day of prayer and those who wish, a day of sharing. For many, it will be a day of knowing that you are not alone, that you are not the only one bearing the burden of grief, loss, and experiencing all those unexplained feelings. It can be a day of moving ahead to a bit of serenity.

For all of you who are grieving - whether the loss is recent or in the past - please come and join us. In this day, you will find comfort, smiles, tears, laughter and peace.



SOMBRERO SOIRE

Women's Ministry Progressive Dinner

Hat's off to you ladies for all the "sombreros" you wear in every day life. Come celebrate with us! We'll pass the sombrero for Dress for Success again this year!

Thursday, July 16th, 6:30-10:00 pm

\$35 per person

Register on-line at westumethodist.org, women's ministry page or, in person at the church office.

Appetizers: Julie Jackson's Home

Main Dish: Lee Newick's Home

Desserts: Bonnie Clements' Home

NACHO ORDINARY DINNER!

Project on Pioneer Wins Student Award

Submitted by Mark Woodward

Written by Christi Laney

Although she left her birthplace of Huntsville at a young age, Catherine Woodward never forgot her family's roots and recently won an award for her research project about her great-great-great-grandmother, a Huntsville pioneer, Sallie Gibbs.



Catherine Woodward never forgot her family's roots and recently won an award for her research project about her great-great-great-grandmother, a Huntsville pioneer, Sallie Gibbs.

Woodward, a graduating senior at the University of Texas, entered her poster project on the historical documentation and oral history of Sallie Gibbs in a forum held by the UT College of Natural Sciences in April. Through the project, Woodward won the Award for Excellence in Textiles and Apparel Research, as well as a \$500 prize. "I already knew a lot and I got to learn more about my grandmother and her dedication," Woodward said. "It was very uncommon in the late 1800's for a woman to be involved in a business and have a college degree."

Woodward initially became interested in entering her project in the forum after a conversation with her mentor, Dr. Kay Gerhardt Jay, uncovered the Gibbs' rich family history in Huntsville.

"Part of the mission statement at the UT Textiles and Apparels school talks about pioneer women so that's how I originally got started talking about it," Woodward said. "My advisor was the one who encouraged me to go for it." To find information for the project, Woodward turned to her uncle and curator of collections at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Mac Woodward.

"My uncle was probably the most resourceful; he helped me a lot with this project," Woodward said. She also turned to the pages of a novel by Donald Walker titled *A Frontier Texas Mercantile: History of the Gibbs Brothers and Company, 1841-1940* for information about the Gibbs brothers and Sallie Gibbs' role within the company. Sallie Gibbs became one of the first women to run a business when she was put in charge of the Gibbs Brothers mercantile after her husband passed away and left her in control of the family business.

As she began digging into her family's history, Woodward found that the legacy Sallie Gibbs created in the 19th century not only helped build Huntsville, but also helped inspire her relatives generations after her death.

Woodward will graduate in May from UT with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts.