

WESTUMETHODIST
WITNESS



VBS 2009
CROCODILE DOCK

June 8th - 12th, 9:00 am - 12 Noon
For children who will be 4 years by September 1, 2009
through 4th grade.

Register NOW through May 15th.

Over **200 children** will experience God's word and love in the midst of a Bayou Swamp VBS Adventure. **Now recruiting Bayou Swamp Crews!** Everyone can help! Teachers, crew leaders, kitchen helpers, drama teams, sports helpers, greeters, and artists are needed! Swamp boots provided! Tons of laughter and hugs from swampy kids! Bayou crews will use God's light to get through the slimy waters filled with bugs and gators! **Contact Vicky Savage to volunteer, vsavage@westumethodist.org, or 713.664.8111.**

3611 University Blvd. Houston TX 77005

713.664.8111

www.westumethodist.org

From Mark's Desk

I truly believe we are off to a great start! Many of us are excited about the new worship service and attendance has picked up. It's great to see the church full again. We are off in the right direction.

I'm reminded of a young man who visited a church and was a little confused and somewhat embarrassed. He didn't know the Affirmation of Faith, understand the hymnal, and couldn't locate the responsive reading. It was obvious worship was unfamiliar to him.

Most of us can follow through worship easily because we are very familiar with the liturgies that we often take for granted. But then, there are many people, especially the younger generation that do not understand what is going on.

According to the Barna Group, 19% of teens have never been churched, and 59% who were part of a church in their teens are disengaged by their 20's.

The world has changed and we need to rethink how we are going to express our concern for them and what we offer. We need to be thinking out of the box as we communicate what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

This is a time of opportunity for us to create new, meaningful expressions of the vision of the church. It is a time to reach out. It is a time to be "the church."

God Bless,

Mark

New Opportunities to Serve With Worship!

This is a call to all current Altar Guild members and new persons wishing to support the unified worship service. Currently the Altar Guild prepares and assists in serving the communion elements for the worship service on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of each month. The unified worship service will provide additional opportunities for those with creative gifts and the desire to offer them as we prepare the altar for worship.



Please join us for an Altar Guild meeting on Monday, May 18th, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. Due to the end of school and sport activities, this date will create conflicts for many. If you wish to participate with the Altar Guild, but can not attend this meeting, a second meeting will be available on Tuesday, May 19th, 1:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. Feel free to e-mail Joy Hall at joy-hall@sbcglobal.net. We hope to see or hear from many in our family of faith!

As before, the unified worship service will include the acolyte program. We are seeking increased adult leadership prior to setting a date for a training class for new acolytes or creating a schedule for the current participants.

Please prayerfully consider offering your leadership for this portion of our worship! The current leaders, the children and our family of faith will be thanking you for sharing your time and gifts. Training and guidance will be available.

Grow with us in faith!
Joy Hall



14th Annual School of Fine Arts Recitals

*A celebration of 60 students receiving
instruction*

in guitar, piano, and violin!

May 9th, 5:00 and 6:30 pm, Sanctu-

Class Chat

Cornerstone

We are continuing our study of William Willimon's book, "United Methodist Beliefs." it's great to have so many of our class members joining us after our new unified worship service.

Faithkeepers

The past two Sundays have been a real challenge for us with changing schedules . It takes time to adjust. We look forward to the future and wish everyone well with God's love and grace.

Fellowship Forum

We will be involved with many opportunities for service, sharing and study during the beautiful month of May. Please plan to join the church and class in supporting the Youth Fundraiser, May 1st-2nd. Bring your calendar and bid freely on the socials as well as the Junior League luncheon we are offering in the auction.

Sunday May 3rd, 12 Noon, we will picnic in the garden of Cliff and Barbara Ownby's home, 3615 Pittsburg. Bring your covered dish (not required) and join us. All visitors and guests are welcome. Come one, come all! June 6th, we will have another class social, please mark your calendars and save the date.

The study for the four Sundays in May is the "Spirituality of Imperfection," by Kurtz and Ketcham (ISBN # 0-553-37132-0). Please order from the bookseller of your choice. We welcome Jean Treider as the "guide" through this series. You will be thankful you have put the 10 am worship and 11 am Sunday School as a priority for Sundays each week of May. May your experiences at WUM help begin your week with joy and thanksgiving.

Advance notice for the June study! "Proverbs and Parables," God's Wisdom for Living by Dee Brestin. It is available at Cokesbury for \$5.99. Blessings, Joy Hall

Koinonia

We are continuing our study of "United Methodist Beliefs," by William H. Willimon. Please join us.

Vines and Branches

Our class is having our Annual Crawfish Boil on May 9th. Don't miss out on signing up for our class Fish Fry event at the Youth Auction on Friday, May 1st!

Stepping Outside the Box: Serving Others in Their Time of Need

A Marrow Donor Drive was held at West U Methodist Church and School last month with 178 individuals volunteering to join the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. This drive was held in honor of Tracye Sellers, a mother of three who has been battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma for the past 20 months and is in need of a stem cell transplant. Any-one interested in joining the registry should go to <http://marrow.org/join>.

**Thank you West U
Methodist School and
Church and community for
showing us all how to care
for one another!**

Thank You West U!

Because of your faithful giving to the H2O Project, we have already raised enough money to drill for one well, and money is still coming in!

What a wonderful opportunity to share living water with others!



May 2009 WUUMC Events

Friday, May 1st, 6:00 pm
e5 Student Ministry Dinner and
Auction, High Court

Saturday, May 2nd, 8:00 am
e5 Golf Tournament
Hermann Park

Thursday, May 7th
National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 14th, 7 pm
Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

Friday, May 15th
Deadline to register for
VBS 2009

Sunday, May 17th
Confirmation Sunday

Friday, May 22nd
West U Witness deadline for
June 1st newsletter

Sunday, May 24th
Senior Graduation Sunday

Monday, May 25th
Memorial Day, Church office
closed.

Sunday, May 31st
Worship @ 6:10



June 1st - 9th

San Jose, Costa Rica

*Must have completed the 8th grade
Register at e5oneway.com*

Mid-High Summer Mission Trip

June 22-26

*For students who have completed 5th-8th grade
Register at e5oneway.com*



Best Opportunity of Giving Love Ever



StudentLife Camp

July 10-14

**Orange Beach,
Alabama**

Grades 6th - 12th

Speaker

David Rhodes

Worship Leader

Kristian Standfill

Register at e5oneway.com



Worship @ 6:10

Contemporary: Contemplative

Last Sunday evening of each month
6:10 pm, Chapel

Next Service: May 31st

Where Is **SUMMER** Taking You



West U United Methodist

SUMMER CAMP

**OPEN TO ALL CAMPERS
COMPLETING K-5TH GRADES!**

☆ Thursday “Field Trip” Days ☆

“Wow” Wednesdays ☆ “Fun” Fridays ☆ Sports

Arts ☆ Swimming ☆ Tennis ☆ **FRIENDS!**

Registration forms are available in the church office. or, go on-line for a brochure at www.westumethodist.org, on the children’s page under ministries.

Contact: Vicky Savage, vsavage@westumethodist.org



SESSION DATES

Session 1

June 15-19

Session 2

June 22-26

Session 3

June 29-July 3

Session 4

July 13-17

Session 5

July 20-24

Session 6

July 27-31



West U United welcomes

Dr. Amy Jill Levine

*East Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of
New Testament Studies*

*Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion,
Vanderbilt University*

Thursday, May 14th, 7:00 pm

Dr. Amy Jill Levine is a leader in the study of the New Testament and will discuss how the Old Testament and New Testament are related.



**National Day of Prayer
May 7th
58th Annual Observance**

Pray for our nation and give thanks to God for our freedoms! Pray for those far away defending our freedoms and for those whose freedoms are being denied. Pray for those who represent us in the US Government and for those who represent us in the Texas government, Harris County, Southside, and West U. Pray on this special day and every day!

The National Day of Prayer's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, mobilizing the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

Through prayer and God, all things are possible.