



**FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR**  
MY STORY, OUR STORY,  
GOD'S STORY

*"By faith Abel... Enoch... Noah... Abraham... Moses... Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah... David, and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice... won strength out of weakness..." Hebrews 11:4-34*

What is your "faith story"? When did you first come to the Christian faith? When has your faith grown or diminished along the way? For three years, our church's story has included the Bible, our beliefs, and Christian practices. During the upcoming 2017-2018 school year, beginning August 27 we'll spend time comparing our personal and corporate faith stories with people of faith who have journeyed before us; people who worked together to become part of God's story; people like Paul and Lydia, Moses and Aaron, Peter and Cornelius, Hannah and Samuel. As we do, we'll seek to find ourselves in their stories, learn from their faith, and consider how, together, we can become part of God's story today. Each Sunday at 9 and 11, during four sermon series focusing on faith stories, children, kindergarten through 5th grade, will have the opportunity to experience the stories with Vicky Savage in Room 110, and we'll take home questions for reflection to help us engage with these stories all week. I hope you'll join us in the sanctuary or via live streaming for a year of faith stories!

Grace and peace,

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017

**IN THE SANCTUARY**

**AUGUST 2017**

- Sunday, August 20  
9 and 11 am  
•Blessing of the Teachers
- Sunday, August 27 - Rally Day!  
9 and 11 am  
•Blessing of the Students and Backpacks  
•"We are the Champions" Hebrews 11 and 12  
•12 noon Church-wide BBQ lunch

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

- Sunday, September 3  
9 and 11 am  
•My Story, Our Story, God's Story Sermon Series begins  
•"Paul and Ananias" Acts 9  
•Faith Stories for elementary children K-5 with Vicky Savage begins
- Sunday, September 10  
9 and 11 am  
•"Paul and Barnabas" Acts 13 and 14  
10 am and 1 pm  
•Rise Against Hunger meal packaging missions event

- Sunday, September 17  
9 and 11 am  
•Preschool children receive Bibles  
•"Paul and Lydia" Acts 15 and 16
- Sunday, September 24  
9 and 11 am  
•3rd grade children receive Bibles  
•"Paul, Silas, and Timothy" Acts 16 and 18

**OCTOBER 2017**

- Sunday, October 1  
9 and 11 am  
•"Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila" Acts 18  
10 am – 12 noon  
•Birds and Bees for parents in the Chapel  
4 pm  
•Blessing of the Pets
- Sunday, October 8 - Laity Sunday  
One service at 10 am  
•Laura Elwood, lay speaker & Steve Wende, preaching  
•Church-wide meal at 11 am
- Sunday, October 15  
•9 am Traditional Worship Service  
•11 am Youth Sunday Worship led by 6th through 12th grade students

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## YOUNG ADULTS



Our new young adult home group continues to meet every other Sunday from 6-8 pm at members' homes for food, fellowship, prayer, and a Bible study. All college students and young adults are invited to join us! For the next host home's address, email [wluccas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wluccas@westumethodist.org).



## PRAY WITH US

Our two faithful prayer groups invite you to join them as they pray for our church, our community, and our world. Beginning on September 7, our Wednesday prayer group will resume meeting at 9:30am. Our Sunday group will continue meeting at 2pm throughout the year. Both groups meet in room 105. Everyone is invited!



Did you know the church has its own smart phone app? Search "West U Methodist" in your phone's app store to find it. It's perfect for Sunday worship, giving electronically, and staying up to date on what's happening!

## OUR CHURCH

### TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 THE WOODLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



This year's Annual Conference was a show and tell (showing the new Bishop Scott Jones and his wife Mary Lou telling) with incredible music, inspirational speakers, laughter, worship, prayer and the ordination of William Lucas. Judy Perry and Karyn Carmical thank you for allowing us to be your lay delegates to the conference.

"Unified" was the one word theme. Resolutions and constitutional amendments came to the floor for debate and votes. "A way forward" for the United Methodist Church will come in 2019 at a special session of the General Conference.

On a smaller scale, we were asked "If my church were to close today, would my community miss us?" Maybe at West U Methodist, we should ask "Would the surrounding communities miss us?" We believe the message and the challenge of Jesus Christ is for us to love all, no matter their circumstances. If we do that, the answer to our question becomes obvious.

So much inspiration, so little space, so I am referring you to YouTube. Type "Texas Annual Conference" in the search bar on youtube.com. Scroll down to the Memorial Service, Cultural Intelligence and Business Section II (1 or 2 videos down). The speaker at around 1 hour, 32 minutes is Dr. Maria Dixon Hall, Professor at SMU. She pretty much says it all!

## GIVING

Giving is available online at [westumethodist.org](http://westumethodist.org) or via our West University Methodist smart phone app. If you would like to deliver a contribution to the church office, give gifts of stock, or capitol gifts please contact [mfarley@westumethodist.org](mailto:mfarley@westumethodist.org).



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

CCSC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER



### UPCOMING CHANCES TO SERVE:

- We are partnering with Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) to help children in need as they head to school. \$45 provides school supplies, shoes, and uniform for one child in need. Please leave your donation in the offering plate on Sunday with "Back to School" in the memo line, or mail it to the church office. For more info [wluccas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wluccas@westumethodist.org).
- CCSC Food & Clothing Drive, August 26 & 27, 9am-1pm.
- Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now), September 10, 10am-1pm. Help us assemble 25,000 meals in the John Collier High Court for people around the globe in need!

## COSTA RICA MISSIONS TRIPS



## STUDENT MINISTRY

Bible Study  
6-12th grade  
August - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
September - 6, 13, 20, 27  
October - 4, 11, 18, 25  
Methodist Youth Fellowship  
6-12th grade  
August - 13, 27  
September - 10, 24  
October - 8, 29  
High School Small Group  
9-12th grade  
August - 7, 14, 21, 28  
September - 11, 18, 25  
October - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

## SAVE THE DATE!

September 30  
J Taylor Memorial Golf Tournament

## STUDENT LIFE CAMP



This year, we took 33 youth and chaperones to Orange Beach, Alabama for our annual retreat, Student Life Camp. We got to sing worship songs with the band The Digital Age, hear from the amazing Jason Cook, and play games on the beach and in the pool, all in the midst of Tropical Storm Cindy. Despite the heavy winds and rain, we all had a blast and had the opportunity to grow deeper in our faith.

## STUDENT COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

This year, a group of 28 youth and chaperones went to Costa Rica to spend three days on a worksite doing various jobs such as digging a ditch, working in the garden, pouring cement, and much more. We spent another day in the town of Los Guido doing VBS and a feeding program for underprivileged children. We then traveled to Manuel Antonio for two days of beach time, white water rafting, and shopping. Needless to say, everyone had so much fun and got to grow closer to not only God, but also to each other.



## WEST U METHODIST SCHOOL

### OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 31, 9 am - 12 noon

Come meet your teacher and see your new classroom! Your teacher will contact you for your child's time.

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 5, 9 am

We will welcome 220 children from 1 year old to 5 years old back to school.

## CHURCH-WIDE COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

For the first time, the Costa Rica mission trip was opened to the whole church, and 24 people attended. The ages ranged



from 18 months to 60+ years. We spent three days on a worksite painting, making and pouring cement, and planting various plants in the garden. We also did VBS in the afternoons with the local children and then traveled to Los Guido for a day to do VBS with the children there. After four days of hard work, we headed to Arenal and had two days full of exploring a volcano, zipping, and game playing.

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE



### CHURCH CONFERENCE APPROVES PROPOSAL

On May 23, 94% of those present and eligible to vote at our church conference voted to allow our leaders to seek additional information concerning the first phase of our master plan to prepare for a possible capital campaign in spring 2018!

Potentially, that first phase could include:

- Repayment of recently acquired property debt
- Improvements (primarily mechanical, electrical and plumbing) necessary to maintain existing facilities
- Construction of a new fellowship hall and administration building (between the sanctuary and chapel on University Blvd)
- Renovations to the chapel and sanctuary

Members voted to authorize architectural designs and cost estimates, form a building committee to work with Jackson & Ryan Architects, authorize our Board of Stewards to interview and hire a capital campaign consultant to help us determine capacity, and form a capital campaign steering committee to work with that consultant.

During the church conference, two gifted faithful members who have agreed to lead us were introduced. Many thanks to Building Committee Chairperson, Mike Weill, and Capital Campaign Steering Committee Chairperson, Greg Waller!

This summer, Jackson & Ryan Architects has begun preliminary engineering and schematic design work. A building committee is being formed now and will be working with the architect by September. A Board of Stewards selection task force-- including Chairperson Steve Weddle, Vice Chairperson Lee Newick, Connie Williamson, Greg Waller, and Carol Bruse-- are interviewing capital campaign consultants now and will make a recommendation to the Board of Stewards this month. We hope to have cost estimates from a contractor and a better idea of our capacity from a capital campaign consultant by November 2017. At that time, we will schedule another church conference. During that conference, members will vote to decide whether we should schedule a capital campaign, and, if so, exactly what that campaign should be designed to fund.

Many thanks to all of you who are investing your gifts, presence, prayers, service and witness here at West U Methodist! Because of your commitment, we are financially stable, growing, and excited to be preparing for God's future! Please pray for Mike, Greg, our Board of Stewards, and our church and its staff as we continue this great work together!



GREG WALLER



MIKE WEILL

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



### BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

The Brown Bag Bible Study will kick off the fall on September 5 by studying the Gospel of John using a book and video series written by Dr. Ben Witherington, who taught at West U Methodist a few years ago. We will meet on Tuesdays at 12:45pm in room 103, so bring your lunch and join us on a journey through John's Gospel. For more info, [wluccas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wluccas@westumethodist.org).

## CONGREGATION CARE HOME COOKED MEALS

We are looking for volunteers to provide and deliver home cooked meals to families who are undergoing medical treatment and/or recovering from hospital stays. If you are available, please contact Rev. William Lucas at [wluccas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wluccas@westumethodist.org).

### SENIOR ADULTS

Every Wednesday at 10 am, our senior adults gather for fun, food, games, and a devotional in room 112. A few special outings are also scheduled for the fall. All adults are welcome! For more info [wluccas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wluccas@westumethodist.org).



## FELLOWSHIP

### RALLY DAY & LUNCH | AUGUST 27TH

This year for lunch, we're hitching up our horses and headed out on the trail with a western theme!

### LAITY SUNDAY | OCTOBER 8

One service at 10am with a lunch to follow at 11am in the John Collier High Court.

### DINNER FOR 6 | OCTOBER 6

Our series of dinners called Dinner for 6 was such a big hit last spring that we're bringing it back. Join us for dinner and conversation at 7pm on October 6 and December 1. Nursery and childcare is available through Friday Fun Night. Sign-up, meet us in the chapel at 7, and we'll have your group and a dinner reservation ready to go.

## NEW MEMBERS

Colin Crane

Jack Degregori

Matthew Evans

Elissa Glover

Michaela Jerez

Henry Jones

Taylor Kinahan

Mattew Mireles



## BAPTISMS

May 7, 2017

CAROLINE ELENOR DEAS  
daughter of Haley and Derek Deas

June 25, 2017

GABRIELLE ELLIS SHADDIX  
daughter of Caroline  
and Jeff Shaddix



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BACKYARD?

Our backyard space has doubled! Check out our Master Plan for more information on the changes coming to our property.

## IN MEMORY

Helen Elmore-Monroe 1939-2017

Lisa Gwendolyn Wilkins 1963-2017

# Children's MINISTRY



MEGAN MICHELSON

## BIRDS AND BEES PARENTING SEMINAR

Sunday, October 1st  
10am – 11:30am

The Children's Ministry of West U Methodist will host the Birds and Bees parenting seminar for parents with toddlers and young elementary age children. Mark your calendar – don't miss this! The Birds & The Bees was established as a way to bring a time-tested and popular strategy to a new tech-savvy generation. Mary Flo's (Birds and Bees founder) decades of experience and expertise combined with Megan Michelson's (program presenter) candor and in-the-trenches insight brings parents a well-balanced approach to talking to their kids about sex. The Birds & The Bees understands that the culture around us has changed dramatically and therefore our approach towards "the talk" should too. Watch for details & sign ups this fall!



For more information on our Children's Ministry contact [vsavage@westumethodist.org](mailto:vsavage@westumethodist.org).

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Children's Choirs Begin September 10, 5-6 pm!

### SONBEAM CHOIR - GRADES K-2ND

Location: Drummet Building

Three-Year rotating Curriculum with this year's focus on Jesus and the Parables. Songs, instrument playing, and other supporting activities. Singing in worship, to our homebound, and an end-of-the-year program! Kids will learn basic music reading skills!

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING FROM 5:50-6:10 PM  
AT THE END OF THE FIRST REHEARSAL ON SEPT. 10!



### KIDS OF THE KINGDOM CHOIR - GRADES 3RD-5TH

Location: Choir Room, Rm. 112

Songs, Choir Chime Ringing, and a Mini-musical! Singing in worship and to our homebound, and an end of the year musical, Parabelooza, where we learn in a game show format the teachings of Jesus. Children will go to the next level of music reading skills!



CONTACT LYNNE JACKSON, [ljackson@westumethodist.org](mailto:ljackson@westumethodist.org),  
FOR MORE DETAILS ON BOTH CHOIRS!

## CHILDREN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## SUMMER CAMP



It's SUMMER time!



## MUSIC AT WEST U

### SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

On Sunday, June 11, several of our Fine Arts teachers and a student performed together at our 11 am contemporary worship service. It was a beautiful musical presentation and was well received by the congregation.

With the Chancel Choir on vacation, several Fine Arts students and teachers have had the opportunities to share their musical gifts to enhance our summer worship experience. Among our student and teacher performers are:

- Kathy Brown — voice student and strings teacher
- Brian Davis — piano teacher
- Thomas Donnell — guitar student
- Alicia Gianni — voice teacher
- Lynne Jackson — voice student
- Erol Kuscu — guitar teacher
- Janet Lindley — piano student
- Kristine Mazziotti — voice student
- Lee Newick — piano student
- Kathy Summers — voice student
- Dolly Thomas — voice student
- Joyce Woodward — voice student and piano teacher

The School of Fine Arts offers lessons to students of all ages in cello, guitar, piano, viola, violin and voice. Registration is currently underway for the fall semester which starts September 5th. Whether you want to perform or learn to play for personal enjoyment, music lessons are fulfilling. You may register online through the church website or contact Janet Lindley at [jlindley@westumethodist.org](mailto:jlindley@westumethodist.org) if you have questions.

### SAVE THE DATE!

CHRISTMAS ALIVE AND BACKYARD PARTY | DECEMBER 10

Participate in/watch our church's live nativity drama at 6 pm, then enjoy a petting zoo, incredible fellowship, and dinner that can be purchased from food trucks at 6:30 pm on December 10. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 9, 4-6 pm. In the case of rain the Christmas Alive and Backyard Party will be held on December 17.



## CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir resumes August 16! Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday evenings with the first rehearsal being at Kris Mills' home along with a dinner. Contact Lynne Jackson at [ljackson@westumethodist.org](mailto:ljackson@westumethodist.org), to learn more about this supportive group that so beautifully leads the music of our 9 am service. The choir's first Sunday back in worship is August 20.



## SEASONAL SINGERS

Calling All Seasonal Singers! Join the Chancel Choir in singing Handel's *Messiah* with chamber orchestra on December 3 at 9 am. The first seasonal rehearsal is October 5 from 7:30-8:00 pm and rehearsals will continue weekly, lengthening as we approach December 3. A dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 2. Contact Lynne Jackson, [ljackson@westumethodist.org](mailto:ljackson@westumethodist.org) for more details.



## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

We have opportunities to volunteer in worship through setting up/cleaning up communion, serving communion, reading scriptures, and greeting visitors. If you are interested in serving in worship, please contact Rev. William Lucas at [wlucas@westumethodist.org](mailto:wlucas@westumethodist.org).





**West U**  
METHODIST

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713.664.8111 | www.westumethodist.org

### SAVE THE DATE

- AUGUST 20 Blessing of the Teachers
- AUGUST 26-27 CCSC Food and Clothing Drive
- AUGUST 27 Rally Day/Blessing of the Student & Backpacks/Lunch
- AUGUST 31 School Open House
- SEPTEMBER 4 Labor Day/Church Office Closed
- SEPTEMBER 5 First Day of Preschool
- SEPTEMBER 5 Brown Bag Bible Study begins/ School of Fine Arts begins
- SEPTEMBER 8 Friday Fun Night
- SEPTEMBER 10 Children's Choirs resume
- SEPTEMBER 17 Preschool Bible Presentation
- SEPTEMBER 24 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
- SEPTEMBER 30 J Taylor Memorial Golf Tournament

### SAVE THE DATE

- OCTOBER 1 Blessing of Pets/Children's Ministry Parenting Seminar
- OCTOBER 6 Dinner for 6/ Friday Fun Night
- OCTOBER 6-17 Journeys of Paul Cruise
- OCTOBER 8 Laity Sunday, one service/ Blessing of the Pets rain date
- OCTOBER 15 Youth Sunday
- OCTOBER 20 5th Grade Lock-In
- OCTOBER 26 School Spaghetti Dinner

JOURNEYS  
OF PAUL  
CRUISE departs  
October 6, 2017



aboard Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas. Guest speaker Adam Hamilton will be talking about the life and journeys of the apostle Paul.

### SHARING

**SIMPLIFIED GIVING - ONLINE**  
You can give tithes and offerings online at [westumethodist.org](http://westumethodist.org), or contact Mary Farley at [mfarley@westumethodist.org](mailto:mfarley@westumethodist.org)

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