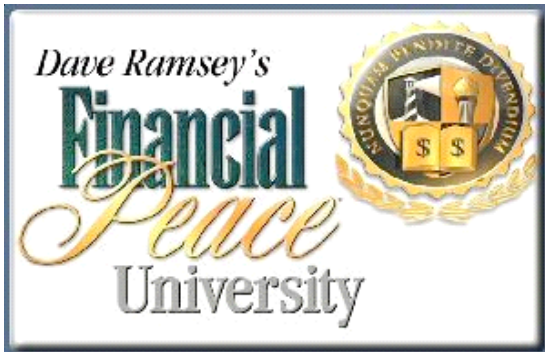


The Willow Word

December 2010/January 2011



Financial Peace University

Willow Glen UMC is pleased to join the many other churches in the area who have been offering this popular class in recent years. These classes are in high demand, and many have waiting lists for their offerings. We already have 12 registrations. There's room for more, but sign up now to secure your spot! For more information, contact your co-leaders of Intentional Faith Development (Kristin Kufeldt, Stan Praisewater), or Extravagant Generosity (Leslie Fisk, Ingrid Quigley), or to register contact Ingrid Quigley at 294-9796 ext.19 or ingrid@wgumc.org.

The class at Willow Glen UMC will begin Monday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m., and run for 13 weeks until April 18. If this is not a convenient time for you, check out the schedule for other classes offered in San Jose.

Continued on Page 4

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time to worship with your church family, and we hope you will join us on Christmas Eve for one of our two candlelit celebrations.

Our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is designed for families with children, but is delightful for worshippers of all ages. Our children will share some special Christmas music, our praise band will lead us in familiar and contemporary Christmas carols, and the Christmas story will be told by and for our children in wonderful ways.

Our 10:00 p.m. service is a peaceful candlelit communion service. The familiar words of the Christmas story combine with the beauty of the choir's Christmas selections to create a peaceful and renewing remembrance of the gift of Christ into our lives. The glow of love of light will stay with you into your Christmas Day celebrations.

May all your Christmas celebrations bring you closer to the love of God.

Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

Gifts that Last, Part 1

Sunday, December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent

Gifts that Last, Part 2 *with Holy Communion*

Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

Gifts that Last, Part 3

Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gifts that Last, Part 4

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Family Worship at 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion and Carols at 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26 - The Gifts of Christmas

One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Our upper-elementary children will be sharing their version of The Twelve Days of Christmas. All children are invited to bring one of their favorite Christmas gifts to be shared in worship (No weapons or violent toys, please)

Sunday, January 2 - Wesleyan Covenant Service and Communion

One worship service at 10:00 a.m.



Sunday Morning Worship

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Christian Education/
Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Traditional Service

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.
Fellowship Time

At Willow Glen United Methodist Church, we love and worship God and follow Jesus as we invite all to grow with us in faith, service and mission to neighbors near and far, with the Bible as our guide and CHRIST as our cornerstone.

C = Communication
H = Harmony and Tolerance
R = Reliance on God
I = Integrity
S = Spiritual Growth
T = Teamwork

Offering Our Gifts

Last month, Nancy and I had the opportunity to meet with our clergy colleagues at beautiful Mount Hermon for a couple of days of continuing education and spiritual renewal. It was a wonderful time of re-connecting with new and old friends, our faith and our ministries. For me, it was also a time of relief since I had spent the past six months chairing the planning team for the event, and had often wondered how I had ended up in that position. I was excited about the opportunity we were bringing to our colleagues, but I just wasn't sure why I was the one coordinating the details. My ministry is with children, after all. What am I doing here, leading a team planning an event for adults? By the time the event began, I was simply ready to "get the show on the road," and I prayed that the experience would be as meaningful to our colleagues as we hoped it to be in its conception.

On the first evening, however, a friend and colleague said something to me that made me rethink my contribution. Marty stopped me at dinner and thanked me for my work on the retreat. "I am so glad this is your giftedness," he said. "Thank you for sharing it." My giftedness? I almost protested. My gifts are with children... and then I realized that the current event held a lot of similarity with a Vacation Bible School event. Two hundred to two hundred fifty people - put the details in place so they can come together and have an opportunity for learning and fun. Adults? Children? Maybe it's the same skill set. Maybe my giftedness with an event like VBS isn't just about my love for children. Maybe I need to broaden my own understanding of my gifts so that I can offer them more fully. In a simple comment, Marty challenged me to take a better look at myself. That's a good friend!

This Advent and Christmas, Nancy will be considering the gifts of Christmas that last. With the children, I am focusing on the gifts that we each bring to the stable. God gives us an incredible gift of love and hope and peace and joy in the life of his Son, Jesus. How do we respond to such an amazing gift? We bring ourselves. Much like the Little Drummer Boy in the beloved Christmas song, we have little else to offer but our gifts and skills and talents. We offer who we are to the baby in the stable, and he smiles with gentle love at each of us. I enter the Advent season with Marty's comment on my heart. How has God gifted me and how am I offering those gifts back to God? If I acknowledge only part of my skills, am I offering enough of who I am? As a good friend, Marty helped me see myself more clearly, and I am re-evaluating what I bring to the stable this Christmas.

I hope you too will take some time this Advent season to reflect on how God has gifted you and how you can offer those gifts back to God. As children, we envisioned the wise men bringing their treasure chests to the stable. Our offering is not much different. What treasure do we have to bring and how do we bring it? Can it be boxed and wrapped as a gift, or does it take another form? What is it that we bring as we humbly kneel before the babe in the manger? God has given us a gift of love, expecting nothing in return. Yet how can we not respond to this abundant generosity with lives that express and honor God's love for each of us? I believe that God's gift of love is still being revealed to the world as his beloved live in the glory of that love. May the true gifts of Christmas touch your heart in ways that cause you to touch the world.

Love and peace,
Susan



OFFERING OUR GIFTS

“Enough” Stewardship Campaign Coming In January

Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world’s largest insurance company, home foreclosures and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family’s basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, “The declining state of the nation’s economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide.”

Join us in worship beginning January 23, 2011, as we begin our stewardship campaign with a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the “American Nightmare.” Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We live in a society that tells us “you deserve it now,” whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another – many of us are in the middle of it right now. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why we are offering the *Financial Peace University* classes beginning at the same time. We hope you will join us as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.



San Jose Family Shelter Dates For 2011

Stacey Ross has announced the following dates for Saturday evening Shelter Meals for 2010:

- January 22
- February 26
- April 23
- July 23
- August 27
- October 22

Get out your calendar for 2011 and see which of these dates will work best for you, then contact either Stacey Ross or Jane Vivian. If we don’t hear from you, you’ll be hearing from us! We appreciate the many offers of help we have received in the past and look forward to another successful and enjoyable year of service to the Family Shelter.

A Dishwashing Team In The Making!

Faithful Willow Glen members have answered the call to service, and Mark Bergmann is very pleased to finally have some help with washing dishes after Body Builders. Mark Fisk and Harriet Hosack have taken on the task of helping one Sunday each month with Ruth Granfors filling in from time to time. At least two more dishwashers would make it a complete team, so if you’ve been shy about being the first one to volunteer, now is your opportunity. Let Mark know when you can help, and he’ll be on hand to get you started. It takes less than an hour and costs you nothing; but offers the assurance that our church dishes are clean and sanitary.

Come Volunteer At The Family Giving Tree

Tuesday, December 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Come be an elf for the Family Giving Tree – sorting and wrapping gifts for needy children in the valley. We will meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. and carpool to the Family Giving Tree warehouse in Santa Clara for a 2-hour shift of Christmas wish fulfilling. This is a great project for older elementary children on up. Bring the family! E-mail Susan at susan@wgumc.org for more information or to let her know you’re coming.



Family Giving Tree

Experiencing God In Sunday School

“What does God do?” “Why did God send Jesus?” “What is the Trinity?”

In Sunday School, we continue to explore the presence of God in our lives. We are also preparing to welcome Emmanuel, God with us. Each Sunday, the children are spending part of their Sunday School time in choir rehearsal so they can share some special Christmas music with the congregation at the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Then, in January, we will continue to deepen our faith as we consider how we can live more fully as Jesus’ disciples. What does a child of God do? How can I follow Jesus? Who are my neighbors? Together we are asking important questions of faith in Sunday School, and hope you’ll join the conversation each Sunday at 10:00am.



CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for
Third, Fourth and Fifth
Graders

Friday, December 3

7:00–8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room & Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: The Gifts We Bring, The Gifts We Are, The Gifts We See in One Another

We receive an amazing gift from God at Christmas. Let’s take some time to reflect on the gifts God has given each of us and how we can share them with others. We’ll also create a Christmas gift for the church. There’s some Christmas fun to be had! Don’t miss it at CrossWalk!

Friday, January 7

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

We’re going to split up for the evening – one activity for the girls and another for the boys. Stay tuned for more information...

Financial Peace University

Continued from Front Page

During this life-changing class, you will learn how to:

Get Control Of Your Money

- Follow the step-by-step process for getting out of debt and staying out of debt
- Put together a monthly spending plan that really works
- Set financial goals and communicate about money

Stop Struggling To Make Ends Meet

- Protect your family from life’s emergencies
- Eliminate the stress that comes from financial problems
- Save and invest for your future

Tell Your Money What To Do

- know what insurance to buy... and what to avoid
- Get great deals on the things you buy
- Buy or sell a home the right way
- Plan for your retirement and make the right investment choices

Change Your Family’s Future

- Utilize a good money plan to strengthen your marriage
- Unlock the power of giving to change your community

Can’t make Monday evenings?

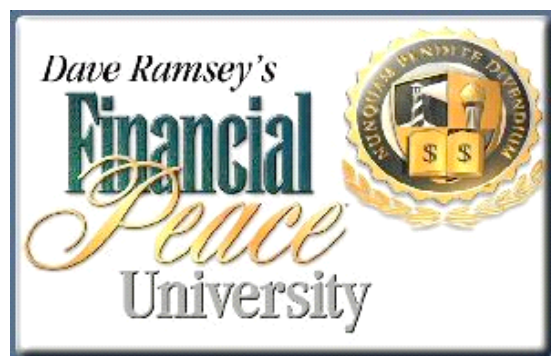
Check out these classes, offered locally, also beginning in January. You can take the class in parallel with your Willow Glen UMC friends, but on a different night and at a different place. Registration is through www.daveramsey.com. Select “Find a Class,” then enter your zip code and you may find even more.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., beginning January 18 at Cornerstone Community Church, 5655 Gallup Drive, San Jose

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., beginning January 13 at Neighborhood Bible Church, 1302 Branham Lane, San Jose

Fridays at 6:30p.m., beginning February 4 at Bayside Community Church, 1901 Cottle Avenue, San Jose

Sundays at 6:00p.m., beginning January 30 at Cambrian Park Church of the Nazarene, 2575 Coit Drive, San Jose



With Thanks To Our Endowment Donors

by Margo Sidener

Did you ever wonder how our church manages to maintain our beautiful facility in this terrible economy? How about that new roof, or the upgrade to our heating and air conditioning system? The truth is, our pledges and other donations are not enough to provide for these major items. For many years, we have relied on another source for these purchases...our church Endowment Fund.

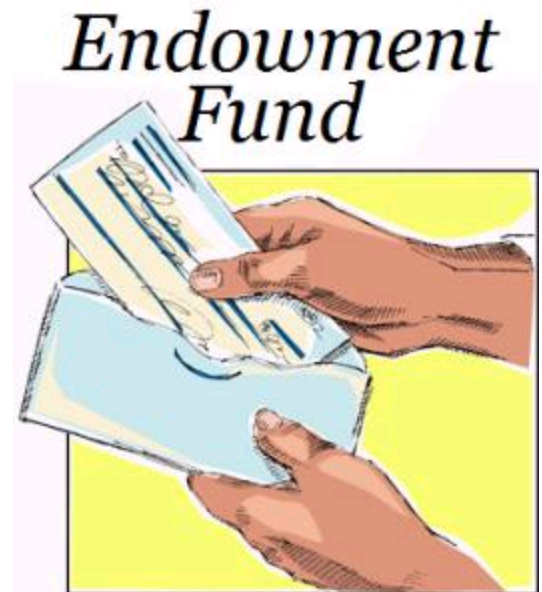
Even during this period of low interest rates, over the last five years we have earned enough interest to spend \$35,753 of Endowment Fund interest on a broad variety of items that have enhanced our worship services, provided a garden for inspirational meditation, and built a library for our spiritual enlightenment.

- Our Music Fund and Cromwell Fund have purchased youth music, drums, a computer and projector and other equipment for both services, handbell music and shirts for the bell choir, sheet music, and honorariums for guest musicians.
- The Library Fund and Loretta Vivian Library Fund have provided over \$1,600 of books and supplies for our library.
- The Gardens Fund and Jack Bois Gardens Fund have paid for tree removal and trimming that keeps our church grounds safe and beautiful, in addition to maintaining the garden landscape.
- The Homeless Fund and Ritchie Safe Haven Fund support programs that provide safety nets and shelter for the homeless in our community.
- The Cross fund maintains our unique Woodhaven property and has recently purchased a water heater and signs. This fund will soon spend over \$10,000 on the new renovation project, thanks to having “saved” their interest earnings for three years as allowed by endowment policy.
- The Schlosser fund has provided lights for our parking lot and a new kitchen hood and has shared the funding of many general fund projects.
- The Willow Glen General Endowment Fund, the main fund with trustee-approved expenditures, pays for many critical purchases such as roofing, HVAC, and carpeting and grows through a re-investment of 10% of the interest that is earned on all the endowment funds each year.

The Endowment Fund is maintained in its own separate accounts, not co-mingled with other church money. Other than a small checking account kept for immediate expenditures, the money is in several interest-bearing accounts at The United Methodist Conference Claimants Endowment Board, which has historically maintained very competitive interest rates, allowing us to get the maximum earnings off our money. All funds are legally designated and administered by a special board elected by our church. The funds can only be used for specific purposes that were set by the donors of each fund, and strict policies govern the distributions. As endowment treasurer the last several years, I can attest that the policies are followed.

If you love our church facility and want it to be maintained and improved in the future, or have a special desire to help the homeless, or want to be sure our high-quality library continues to be available, please make a donation to one of our endowment funds. You can give to the General Endowment or choose any of the specific funds, and any amount will be appreciated. Although many funds are received from a church member’s estate at their passing or from their families, you can give anytime. Peggy Schlosser has served as President of the Endowment Board for several years. In January, she will turn over the reins to Bill Robbins. The three of us would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Think of the blessings above which were possible due to the donations of generous church members who had the foresight to begin an endowment. Remember their gifts with Thanksgiving.



Women's Groups

Heart and Hands

Monthly on Thursdays
7:00-9:00 p.m.
With Child Care
Call Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Third Monday
12:30 p.m. for lunch
Le Boulanger
Call Sue Johnson

Wesley Women

Fourth Tuesday
1:00 p.m. for dessert
Call Harriet Hosack

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors

The deadline for the February Willow Word is January 20. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain

“Telling The Stories Of Christmas”

UMW Christmas Program And Luncheon December 8

How can we identify ourselves in the Christmas Story characters? We'll have an opportunity to find out on Wednesday, December 8 when UMW members hold their annual Christmas Program and Luncheon. All are invited to come at 11:00 a.m. when Kathy Benedict will lead us in the program. Dorothy Mauseh will be accompanying us as we join in carols of the season.

A brief business meeting will include election of officers for 2011 and approval of the proposed budget. President Ruth Granfors promises to keep the business to a minimum so that more time may be spent in enjoying the program and luncheon which will follow. Wesley Women Circle will be hosting the meeting, promising a delicious lunch (for just \$5) and festive decorations being arranged by Jacque Lauer. It will help in the planning if you will let Harriet Hosack or Jane Vivian know if you wish to attend. Child care will be available if arrangements are made through Susan Smith.

This is a wonderful way to observe Advent with friends at Willow Glen Church. Plan to attend!



UMW Planning Meeting

UMW officers, both newly elected and returning, will gather for a planning retreat on Monday, January 10 at 9:30 in the Wesley Room. All are encouraged to bring a sack lunch and plan to continue with the session during and after lunch. Goals will be determined, dates for regular meetings and special events will be set and program planning will take place. Returning president, Ruth Granfors, will be leading the meeting. Please let Ruth know if you will be unable to attend.

Dates For Upcoming UMW Events

Please see the UMW bulletin board in the office hallway for details and registration forms concerning the following events:

- UMW Leadership and Membership Development Event – Saturday, January 29, Alum Rock UMC
- UMW Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs Retreat Center – March 18-20
- UMW Conference Legislative Event – April 11 in Sacramento
- Mary Elizabeth Inn Fundraiser – April 28, Hilton Hotel, San Francisco

Birthday Luncheon December 6

Monday, December 6, the Birthday Bunch will gather at noon in the Wesley Room for the quarterly observance of birthdays. December's party will honor those with birthdays in October, November and December. This is not a closed group – all are welcome. Each person attending brings a salad to share and a dollar for incidental expenses. Let one of the hostesses know if you would like to join this festive group, no matter when your birthday is! Anne Forsythe, Peggy Schlosser or Harriet Hosack will take your calls.



Willowmates Meet December 17

The annual Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall. Hostesses Anita Layman and Jane Vivian promise a good time for all. Games, songs, and guest entertainers are on the agenda – something for everyone. This party is open to all adults – whether members of Willowmates or not. Please let Anita or Jane know if you would like to attend. Every effort will be made to provide transportation for those who need assistance. Each person is asked to bring an unwrapped toy which will be delivered to Sacred Heart Community Center for their holiday gift distribution.

Deaths In The Year Of 2010

At the All Church Charge Conference on November 13, names were read of the saints who have died during this last year. The list included: Kay Eilers, Robert Lohr, Janice Luick, Rachel Smart, Mary Ellen Stephens, Janice Wilbanks and Alan Ehrke. Since that reading, we note with sorrow the passing of Garry Hodson. All have enriched our lives and will be greatly missed. Our sympathy is extended to their families as they face the holiday season without these loved ones.

Shared Bulletins

Peggy Schlosser has shared a bulletin from the Silver Lake Camp Retreat of September 6, 2010, and Ruby Goodnight from El Sobrante UMC of August 29, 2010.

Support WGUMC Through Amazon.com

It's the time of year for shopping, in the mall and online. If you are making purchases through Amazon.com this holiday season, remember to enter the site through our church website (wgumc.org). If you do, Willow Glen UMC will receive a donation in the amount of 5-8% of your order. So... before you do your holiday shopping at Amazon.com, be sure to visit www.wgumc.org, click on the "Books" button and shop away, knowing that a percentage of what you spend will come back to support the church. Tell your friends and family, too!



Winter's Gift: Bells

The Willow Glen Ringers Handbells will be performing in a Christmas Concert at the Rose Garden Library on December 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with The Choral Project, the San José Chamber Orchestra, and special guest artists, the world famous Sonos Handbell Ensemble in a concert that celebrates the winter season. New and exciting settings of holiday favorites such as "Carol of the Bells" and "Ring Out, Wild Bells" will serve as the evening's centerpieces. Presented by The Choral Project at Mission Santa Clara de Asis on December 19.

We invite you to make our holiday tradition part of your holiday tradition.

Old Fashioned Christmas Caroling!

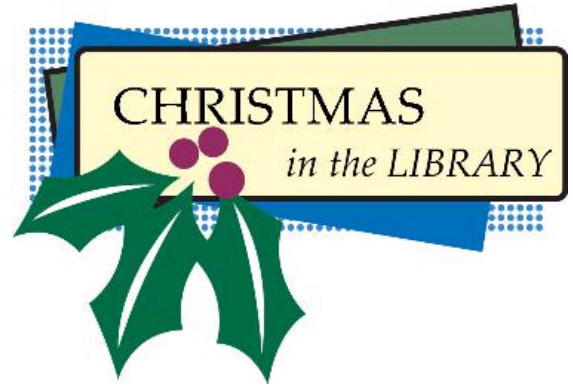
Join us Wednesday, December 22, ready to sing and bring joy to all around us (well, at least that's what we tell ourselves as we loudly bring the spirit of the season to all!). Bundle up, bring the family, bring a torch and yes – if you are feeling especially moved – you CAN bring a Partridge in a Pear Tree. You have to carry it though!

Caroling music provided, We meet at the Church (6:00 p.m.), and end at the Freeman's home for refreshments. Please contact Stephanie Freeman (stefannyfanny@yahoo.com) or Kristen Brown (kristen@stephenbrown.org, 278-1393) for more information.

Christmas In The Library

By Alice Singh

Merry Christmas everyone! I hope that all of you have a good holiday and a get a good start in the new year. We have been fortunate to be the recipient of some new books from Diane Oswald. The Christmas ones for children are listed below. Come in and take a look at them. I will have Christmas books for children and adults on display all over the room. As we get busy trying to get everything done, we need to sit quietly for a few moments to remember what the season is all about.



The Animals Christmas Carol, by Helen Ward; Inspired by a French carol that can be traced back to the twelfth century.

Away in a Manger, illustrated by Thomas Kinkadee; He illustrates the words to this classic Christmas song.

Bethlehem, illustrated by Fiona French; The illustrator uses the words from the King James Bible to tell the story.

A Cowboy Christmas, by Audrey Wood; Cowboy slips in and out of consciousness on his snowy road home.

Elijah's Angel, by Michael J. Rosen; Elijah, a black barber, carves an angel for Michel, a Jewish boy.

Great Wolf and the Good Woodsman, by Helen Hoover; Good Woodsman is hurt in his cabin with no heat. Someone must save him.

How Many Miles to Bethlehem? By Kevin Crossley-Holland; Each of the participants tell their parts, adding threads to the whole story.

The Legend of Saint Christopher, adapted by Margaret Hodges; A 13th century tale of Offero's search for the greatest ruler.

The Little Boy's Christmas gift, by John Speirs; The journey of the three wise men as others join their caravan.

The Little Drummer Boy, illustrated by Kristina Rodanas; The classic story of a poor boy and Jesus.

Mouse Tales – Things Hoped for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, by Ruth L. Boling; Set in Hillsborough, the church mice live, work and play.

The Night of Las Posadas, by Tomie dePaola; Santa Fe celebrates Christmas Eve with the traditional procession for Los Posadas.

Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey, by Robert Byrd; The Saint meets an unhappy donkey and shows him his marvelous beginnings.

The Spider's Gift, by Eric A. Kimmel; Katrusya finds the perfect tree, but it is crawling with spiders.

Spirit Child, a Story of the Nativity, by Bernardion de Sahagun; Combines lore from Christian Gospels along with traditional Aztec lore.

December 2010/January 2011

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WGUMC Staff:

Nancy Danson
Senior Pastor
Susan Smith
Pastor of Children & Family Ministries
Lisa Jacobs
Director of Joint Youth Ministries
Ingrid Quigley
Director of Adult Spirituality
Lorene Sheridan
Director of Weekday Ark Ministries
Robert Birnstihl
Organist & Director of Music Ministries
Barbara Brustrom
Conductor, the Chancel Choir
Brian Ganz
Coordinator, the Praise Band
Tom Mounts
Director, the Willow Glen Ringers
Susan Barscheski
Office & Facilities Manager
Jeanette Beavers
Bookkeeper
Karen Kwon
Wedding Coordinator



Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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