

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Summer Worship Schedule – One Worship Service

### Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day

Beginning Sunday, May 29, there will be a **temporary** change in worship schedule for the summer. Join us every Sunday you're in town at 10:00 a.m. Come, worship together with old friends and new. We will return to the regular schedule of two services after Labor Day.

## Trying New Things in Worship

During the month of May, our 8:45am worship service may look a little different. We are taking a few Sundays to try some new things in worship in response to our learning and experience at a workshop with worship leader Marcia McFee in March. We are hoping that some of these small changes and new ideas may deepen the meaning of our worship time together on Sunday mornings. So when you come to the early service, don't be too surprised to find the chairs arranged differently or worship done in a different order. We promise to include all the elements of our regular worship together – just maybe not where or when you expect them – and we hope you will find your participation more powerful in connecting you with God and one another.



## Being Doers of the Word – Fifth Sunday of Service May 29

Once again, your Risk-Taking Mission and Service Team is bringing you an opportunity to “be doers of the Word, not merely hearers (James 1:22).” This month, we will focus our attention on supporting students in their education by beginning to collect school supplies for underprivileged students in our community. Through the Family Giving Tree, we are looking ahead to the needs of students this fall, and hosting a Backpack Drive.

In the Bay Area, more than 220,000 children are enrolled in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program (Title I). We can help these low-income students go back to school this fall with the tools they need to succeed. You may bring your donations to the collection baskets in worship. Following worship on May 29, we will also take some time to assemble educational kits for teachers to use in their classrooms. Thank you for supporting our community's children as they learn and grow, and their teachers as they work so hard to guide the next generation of leaders.

### School Supplies Needed for the Backpack Drive:

3-Ring Binders – 1" or 2"	Colored Pencils
Pencil Sharpeners	Rulers
Washable Markers	Erasers
Pencils and Pens	Crayons
Construction Paper	Glue Sticks
Drawing Paper	
Spiral Notebooks	
Folders w/ Pockets	
Scissors	
Pencil Cases	
Highlighters	
Notebook Paper (Wide or College Rule)	
Backpacks (not red or blue in color, please)	

## May/June 2011

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**Please save Saturday, June 11, for Pastor Nancy's Retirement Party!**

## Sunday 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

## Church 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

Mason Hutchinson

Director, the Praise Band

Tom Mounts

Director, the Willow Glen Ringers

Susan Barscheski

Office & Facilities Manager

Karen Kwon

Wedding Coordinator

## Notes from Nancy

Thirty years ago, my *Notes from Nancy* column came into being. Now it is time to retire the column as I retire from active ministry. Saying goodbye has never been easy for me as I have left each church and moved on to another one, but this time it is a little harder because I am not moving on to another church. I'm just moving on!

In 1991, I was not planning to move and the church where I was serving had asked for me to return but the Bishop had other plans. He called and said he wanted me to move to St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. This was a large church of 4,500 members – and to be honest, I had always had a little bit of a negative bias against large churches. After it became clear to me that the Bishop was not *asking* but *telling* me that this was where I was going, I started the difficult task of saying goodbye to the people at Broadway United Methodist Church in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. A friend of mine told me to get the book, *Praying Our Goodbyes* by Joyce Rupp. I don't remember a whole lot about the book except the title, but praying has always given me a way to say goodbye when I have left a church. Emotions are all over the place when a pastor leaves a church. Some people are sad to see a pastor leave; others are looking forward to change. Some people get angry, while others withdraw. Some are afraid of the inevitable changes, while others are energized. All of these emotions and concerns can be wrapped up in praying our goodbyes and giving them over to God.

As I look back on my twelve years at Willow Glen UMC, I am aware that some very significant life transitions for me took place during my time with you. In 2000, my daughter Meredith was married to John; in 2002 my daughter Renee was married to Dave. At the end of 2003 my mother suffered a stroke and in Feb. 2004 my first grandson came along on a bright, sunshiny Sunday. I got updates between the services on how far along she was and as soon as the service was over I rushed to San Francisco and arrived four minutes after Addison was born. My son-in-law, Dave, died on December 1, 2005, four months after he was diagnosed with kidney cancer. And then my granddaughter, Grace, was born in August of 2006. After suffering from the effects of her stroke, my mother died in June of 2007. We had another wedding in June 2009, when Renee was married to Bill – and then Meredith and John's third child, Max, arrived in September of that year. The circle of life has spun around me in my own life as it has been spinning in the life of this congregation. In twelve years, I have baptized babies and adults, officiated at weddings and memorial services and been present at times of celebration, illnesses, pain and death in your lives.

We have been family at Willow Glen UMC. Just like all families, we have had differences of opinions and disagreements. We have celebrated good times and honored difficult times. In all that we have gone through together, I hope you know that each of you has been God's blessing to me. I have felt God's love in you and through you. I will always be grateful that I had the opportunity to be your pastor. Now it is time for us to start praying our goodbyes!

Grace and peace, *Nancy*

## Not Goodbye - but God Be With You, Nancy!

To Nancy, and Members and Friends of WGUMC,

When Pastor Nancy first announced her retirement, it seemed like such a long way away...but the time is upon us and this issue of the *Willow Word* will be the last before she takes her leave.

I would like to invite you to two important celebrations. First come and join Nancy and her family for a Retirement Open House at WGUMC, Saturday June 11, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with festivities focusing around the 2 o'clock hour. And please come to worship the next morning – Sunday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m. – to say a fond farewell and wish her best of luck, but most of all to publicly thank her for her 12 years of service here at WGUMC.

Nancy has guided this church through many changes that she can be very proud of, and we can honor her retirement by carrying on the work that she has begun here. We can continue to live out the Five Practices in our own congregation, and support the United Methodist Church by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The SPRC team and I have had the privilege of sharing a bit of this journey with her this year. We know that she is looking forward to being “Gaga” (the loving term her grandchildren use to address her), to volunteering on many of the projects she still holds near and dear, and to just having some “Nancy time.”

As chair of the SPRC, I would also like to explain some of the protocol that retiring/moving pastors and their congregations must follow. There is a guideline that states that the exiting pastor is not to carry on any level of contact with members for a period of time – normally a minimum of one year. This protocol has been highly stressed by Nancy’s superiors and I, too, have received a letter regarding the subject. The purpose of this guideline makes sense to my *head*, as it allows respect to the new pastoral staff – but not to my *heart*, as Nancy is my friend. I am sure that you will feel the same. And as Nancy begins her retirement and has more free time to spend with friends, this will leave a bit of emptiness for her as well. Please keep her in your prayers.

So Nancy, although we may not be able to be with you in person for a while, please know that you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. We will be thinking of you on your new life journey, and you will be missed.

Enjoy this time...your “transformation” has just begun!

With sincere appreciation,

*Karen Kwon and the 2011 Staff Parish Relations Committee*

Tom Grubb, Bob Hunt, Jodi Edwards-Wright, Harriet Hosack, Peggy Schlosser, Craig Ramsay, Holly Nielsen

### Woodhaven Open House on May 14

The Lay Leadership Team and United Methodist Women are joining forces to host an Open House at Woodhaven on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Invitations have been mailed to groups who have held their meetings at Woodhaven in the past, and to most of the churches in the (former) San Jose District. The Open House is for anyone who has an interest in seeing the changes that have been made. Willow Glen members and friends are invited to tour the beautifully renovated facilities if you have not already had an opportunity to do so.





## CrossWalk

**Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders**

Friday, May 6

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

*Theme: Friends in Faith*

We are welcoming new members to our CrossWalk fellowship! We will spend time getting to know one another, and discovering how we can be in service together as we reach out to the community.

Don't miss this opportunity to be with faithful friends, learning and growing together! CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

## CrossWalk Car Wash on June 5

Our CrossWalk kids see a lot of need in the community and would like to do something to help. To this end, CrossWalk will be having a car wash on Sunday, June 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in our side parking lot. Bring your car for a clean up, and enjoy lemonade and baked treats while you wait. All donations will support a community organization of CrossWalk's choosing (to be decided on at their May meeting).

## Sunday School Embraces the World

Our final unit for this school year encourages us to put our faith into action by embracing the world. At every age, we must find a way to serve God in the world. Our youngest children are most comfortable thinking about how they can help their families. Our first and second graders will begin to consider how they can share their faith with others through their words and actions.

Our older students will explore why it is important to belong to a community, and discover ways that they can be even more active participants in their communities. By the end of this unit, students will have explored a variety of ways they can be in service in the world, and hopefully will have integrated some of those actions into their faithful lives. Service is not necessarily something extra that we do. It can easily be a part of who we are, and our kids are on the way to being faithful servants of God in all areas of their lives.



## Toyon Kids Camp 2011

**Monte Toyon, Aptos – July 10-15**

Our conference offers summer camps for children and youth beginning in third grade. Pastor Susan and our CrossWalk kids are planning to attend Toyon Kids Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, July 10-15. However, there are lots of camps available throughout the summer. Check it out at [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org). There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration is now open. If you have questions, contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

## Building HOPE: Mexico 2011

### Support our Mission Trip, July 30-August 6

This summer, a mission team from Willow Glen, Almaden Hills and Cambrian Park UMCs will be traveling to Mexico to build a house for a working-class family near Rosarito. While the practical mission of the trip is to build a house, perhaps the more important mission is to build community with one another and with our neighbors in Mexico. Throughout the week, we will hammer and saw, mix cement, stucco walls, and lay tarpaper. We will frame walls, lay a foundation, and install doors and windows. Amongst it all, we will be sharing stories and activity with a family of new friends and their neighbors. We will be playing soccer in the streets, jumping rope and making crafts with the children. We will come home with new friends and a new understanding of how connected we are as people of God.



As we turn the keys over to the homeowners and dedicate their new home, we would also like to give them some gifts to warm their new home. During the month of June, we will have gift ideas displayed in the Wesley Room. Please sign up to bring a housewarming gift for our Mexican neighbors, donate supplies for our children's activities on the trip, or help with gas expenses on our trip. All gifts and donations should be brought by July 3. Thank you for sending love and hope to Mexico with your mission team.

## Stewardship Campaign Update

Dear Friends of Willow Glen UMC,

During the month of February, we looked at what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We considered how we make and spend money, how we deal with debt, and how we save and invest for the future. We examined how God wants us to relate to our money and earthly possessions, and we explored what it means to live a life of gratitude and contentment. Thank you for your response!



As a result of this year's campaign, we received more than 95 personal commitments to the ministries of our church. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gifts. They are an act of worship and an investment in opportunities for God to work through us. Our prayer is that you will find greater contentment and simplicity in your life as you put God first in your giving and your living. May we all experience the joy that comes from knowing that our gifts honor God and change lives!

The Finance Team is looking carefully at the church spending and income. We expect pledges and other giving of \$320,000 this year. With other income and no changes to our expenses this year, the committee expects a shortfall of \$76,000, or 15 percent of the total operating budget, by the end of the year. Please hold your faith community, staff and leadership teams in prayer as we closely monitor and evaluate the ministries we provide.

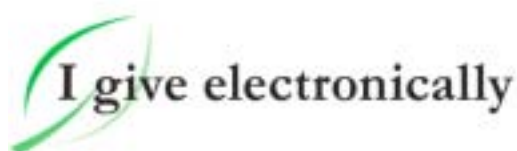
Yours in Christ,

*Leslie Fisk, Curt Moore, Becky Morgan, Holly Nielsen, Ingrid Quigley*

Finance/Generosity Team 2011

## eGiving Ensures Continuity of Ministry at Willow Glen

Before you leave for your summer fun with family and friends, sign up for eGiving. Electronic giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. To set this up, get an EFT Authorization form from the church office or download the form at the church web site [www.wgumc.org](http://www.wgumc.org).



## Women's Groups

### Heart and Hands

Monthly on Thursdays  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
With Child Care  
Call Meg Kau

### 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

The UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, March 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room.

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors

The deadline for the July/August Willow Word is June 20. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain

## Mission Education Events Scheduled for 2011

Following the theme of "All Things Made New," Four Mission Education Events are scheduled for the summer of 2011. The first will be held at the University of Pacific at Stockton the weekend of July 15-17. The other weekend event will be held at Reno, Nevada on August 12-14. Two one-day events are also scheduled: August 27 at New Vision UMC in Millbrae, and September 17 at Atwater UMC in Atwater.

This year's study topics are: Haiti (geographical); Joy to the World, Mission in the Age of Global Christianity (Social Issue); Coming Out on the Side of Grace, Forgiveness & Reconciliation (Spiritual Growth); and Spanish Class (Spiritual Growth).

The one-day events include a special study for children in grades K through 5<sup>th</sup>. The children's study is "Krik, Krak: The Story of Haiti." Complete information and registration forms are available on the UMW Bulletin Board in the office hallway, or by contacting Ruth Granfors.

## Cookbooks Now Available at a Discount!

Looking for an idea for a Mother's Day present, or possibly a gift for graduation or a bridal shower? UMW wants you to know that there are still copies of the 2009 Cook Book available, at a discounted price of \$5. The books will be available for sale at the Woodhaven Open House, and at fellowship hour on the following Sunday. If needed before that date, please contact Patricia Madsen.

## Mission Springs Retreat Adventure

The San Jose District Retreat at Mission Springs is history, but the memories of the weekend will long remain for those who attended. As usual, the facilities were comfortable; the program was interesting and inspiring, and the food plentiful and delicious. The difference this year was that a violent storm on Saturday night (March 19) brought down a tree which in turn brought down a power line and disrupted water service to part of the area. Sunday morning breakfast, worship service and lunch took place without the benefit of electric lights, central heating, or running water. However, the guests felt well taken care of, and enjoyed the food and fellowship, and appreciated the level of service provided under the circumstances.

## Willowmates Visit Muslim Temple

Willowmates will meet on May 13 – a week earlier than their usual meeting date. We will join a tour of the Muslim Temple in Santa Clara. The tour will start at 12:00 noon and will include an offered lunch at no cost. For more information, please call the Loves at 377-1728 or the Hutchesons at 628-0322. The tour is limited to 22 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Details concerning carpooling will be arranged closer to the date.

## Save These Dates

Monday, June 6 - Birthday Lunch

Wednesday, June 8 - UMW Picnic

More details to follow in the *Willow Weekly*.



## April Shelter Meal

The Saturday evening meal on April 23 was served to the residents by a team from Willow Glen UMC, including Neil and Lauren Fissel and their friend Kelly and Linda and Lucy Yepiz. Others helping with the meal were: Ruth Granfors, Amy and Atom Yee, Bonnie Castoro, Margery Epperson, Ruby Goodnight, Kim Kunde, Beth Minton and Jane Vivian. As always, the Shelter guests enjoyed a delicious, home-cooked meal and the serving team enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community.

The next Shelter meal will be Saturday July 23 and beyond that, August 27 and October 22. Please put these dates on your calendar and watch for an appeal for help which will be coming from Stacey Ross.

## Birthday Party to Honor Nonagenarians

Nonagenarians are people ages 90 to 99 and, believe it or not, there are about two dozen such people in our congregation. They will be recognized in the 11 a.m. worship service on May 1, with a birthday cake in their honor served at the fellowship hour following the service. The newcomers to this list are those with birthdays in 2011, who were the “baby boomers” of 1921. They include:

June and Mel Bradfield	Virginia Knight
Kay and Bill Chamberlin	Walt Mounts
Kay Champion	Grace Praisewater
Barbara deWit	Elizabeth and Wayne Williams

Virginia Knight is the “baby” of this group, with her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December, but in terms of membership, she is the longest-standing member of this congregation, having been baptized as an infant in the Willow Glen Methodist Church on Lincoln Avenue in 1921. The other nonagenarians, ranging in ages from 91 to 98, are:

Elsie Erickson	Irene Leonard
Dr. Jack George	Opal Lewis
Ruby Goodnight	Elaine Rowett
Isabelle Gruver	Lee Ortmeyer
Bonnie Jean Gunderson	Ernie and Rosemary Ralph
Betty Heckbert	Jeniell Wieman
Alice Krings	



Young at Heart

In a special category of her own is Ruth Cromwell, at age 104 our oldest living member. Some on this list are shut-ins, others have moved to another area, but all are on our current membership list and participate to some extent in the life of our church. We are indeed proud of this distinguished group of nonagenarians among us and wish them all health and happiness on their road to becoming centenarians.

## Jump into Our Summer Study!

Lex Danson will again be facilitating a class on Monday nights this summer from July 11 – August 8. Put it on your calendars now so you don't miss this chance for fellowship and learning. Childcare is provided. Come join the discussion!

The class is entitled “Countering Pharaoh’s Production-Consumption Society.” In this 5-week, DVD-based curriculum, Professor of Old Testament Emeritus Walter Brueggemann explores ways in which Scripture may have an effect upon the faith and life and practice of the church as we journey together toward the common good that God wills for the world. Focusing on the way in which ancient Israel moved from Pharaoh’s slave labor arrangements to the holy mountain of covenanting at Sinai, Brueggemann says, “It’s a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again...[because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery.” If you’re interested and would like to read ahead, Brueggemann has a new book titled *Journey to the Common Good*.

## Plan Today to Join Us This Fall for DISCIPLE

Beginning this September, we will be offering DISCIPLE classes for the whole congregation during the day and/or evenings, with childcare provided. Consider this wonderful opportunity to read and study the Bible with a small, committed group and be challenged in your Christian discipleship. Don't miss this chance to let us know which class (and time) works best for you – please fill out our interest forms in the Sunday morning Willow Weekly or contact us soon: Stan Praisewater at [spraisewater@gmail.com](mailto:spraisewater@gmail.com) or Kristin Kufeldt at [kristin@kufeldt.net](mailto:kristin@kufeldt.net).

### Which Class is Right for Me?

**DISCIPLE I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study** – This class is perfect for beginners to Bible study, or those who want a comprehensive study of the entire Bible. This class covers over two-thirds of the Bible from Creation to New Jerusalem. This study calls on persons to submit themselves to examination by God's Word, to put themselves under the power of God's Word, and to be changed by God's Word.

**DISCIPLE II: Into the Word, Into the World** – This class covers Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts for graduates of DISCIPLE I. This study includes special emphasis on Sabbath-keeping, spiritual disciplines, and a call on persons to evaluate and order life's priorities according to God's call as revealed in Scripture.

**DISCIPLE III: Remember Who You Are** – This class covers the Old Testament Prophets and Paul's Letters in the New Testament for graduates of DISCIPLE I or II. This study examines the command to remember, the call to repentance, the need for renewed vision and the place of community. Persons confront the questions of the prophets and Paul: What are life's priorities? What are society's priorities? What does God require of God's people?

**DISCIPLE IV: Under the Tree of Life** – Also for graduates of DISCIPLE I, II, and III, this class covers Old Testament books not in the Torah or the Prophets, and the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; James; Jude; and Revelation. This study emphasizes the Psalms as a way of praying, the wisdom teachings as a way of living, and the book of Revelations as a way to worship God in hope and victory.

### Why Should You Take Disciple Bible Study? Ask Your Friends Who Have!

*I took two commitments away from my crazy-busy list and added the Disciple class. And I'm SO glad I did. What a wonderful, enriching, and surprising experience. I've grown to love, admire, and respect all my fellow classmates, and I look forward to another Disciple class experience—because I need to remember that God is patiently waiting for me to stop, take a deep breath, and spend some time with Him and his Son. Kyle Mastrolia*

*Disciple has been a wonderful experience. As a group we are all very respectful of each other's opinions and interpretations, even when we disagree. One of the best aspects of this class for me is the opportunity to talk things through, to try to make sense of what the authors of the various books were really trying to teach us. The class environment is very safe and caring, giving everyone the opportunity to voice their opinions and question long-held interpretations of certain passages that we may not have felt comfortable discussing in other venues. It has been a great growth journey in both faith and personal relationships for me. Debbie Clayton*



*If you are considering signing up for Disciple, but don't know how the time commitment would "fit" into your busy life, I had the exact same concerns. For years I told myself I would enroll "when my schedule lightened up." Yeah, right! I finally realized that this decision was not about finding the time, but about facing the fact that, in terms of what's most important in my life, I had let my own spiritual development be a lower priority. What I needed was a more challenging learning experience – an active Bible study with the opportunity to really examine the passages, discuss and question the various interpretations with peers, and develop an understanding of scripture that was deeply personal and meaningful to me. Disciple was the answer for me! Craig Ramsay*

## Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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