

Witness

A Closer Walk With God

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but
to do justice, and to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

We are in the midst of our commitment campaign that we are calling “A Closer Walk With God.” In one sense, we can never be any closer to God because we profess that everyone is constantly in the presence of God. As proclaimed in Psalm 39, Romans 8 and elsewhere in Scripture, we are never separated from God. Even when we deny the presence of God, God remains by our side. Still, an image for discipleship often used in Scripture is the journey with God through life. As we seek to live in this world as God would have us live, we experience a stronger sense of the constant presence of God.

Discipleship is a life commitment, not merely the occasional commitment of gifts or service. In The United Methodist Church, we describe the disciplined life as requiring the commitment of Prayers, Presence, Witness, Gifts, and Service to the ministries of the church. In this campaign, we challenge you to commitment yourself

to what you will do tomorrow, and all the days after that, as well as to commit to what you will do today. Making such a commitment is an act of faith. It is a declaration of your intention to “walk more closely” with God each day. It challenges you to consider, each day, if what you are doing is something that is consistent with your discipleship commitment.

Some people fear that they will make a commitment and will not be able to fulfill that commitment. That concern is not unreasonable. Each day we make commitments, with the best of intentions, that circumstances prevent us from fulfilling. Don’t allow the fear of failure to keep you from making a commitment in each of the discipleship disciplines. You are more likely to take living a disciplined life seriously if you make a commitment than if you simply resolve to do the best you can.

On November 8th, we will receive our discipleship commitments as part of the offering during worship. I hope that all of you will make a special effort to be present that day as we celebrate our ministries and reaffirm our commitment to walk more closely with God.

—Rev. Dennis Meaker



Goodbye to Brad

West Nashville UMC has been blessed by the ministry of Brad Wright. Many may know him as the one who has helped us have projected words and images for our worship services. Others may know him as the voice in the Church Office who arranges such things as pianists when our organist, Tim Cover, cannot be here. Still others may know him from Thursday night suppers – bringing in supplies, cooking, serving, and working with volunteers. Still others have seen him in his role as father to 2 wonderful girls and husband of Alicia who, before the birth of Nicole, served as our translator on Sunday mornings.

Brad is leaving the staff of West Nashville United Methodist Church and beginning a new job on Monday, November 2. His new job will be with the Nashville Latino Health Coalition and Progreso Community Center, located off of Nolensville Rd in South Nashville. Progreso is an organization that is led and driven by Hispanic immigrants, for the most part.

He'll be working as Community Organizer, looking at a variety of social issues. It will involve helping the members of the community center to identify issues of concern in their context, and assisting in

gathering the tools and resources needed to effect the kind of changes they'd like to see in their community. The coalition uses a community-based research model to identify health issues particular to Hispanics in Nashville, and offers programs that address those things—like Gemas and Familias Saludables—that look at things like diabetes, childhood obesity, HPV virus, and so forth, and that advocate policy changes at local, state, national level.

Our love, prayers, and support go with him as he enters into this new ministry.

November and December

November 25: 7:00 p.m. A Thanksgiving service in place of the Energy classes. Meal at 6:00 p.m. as usual. Childcare available.

Thanksgiving Day Meal: Our Thursday night meal takes place every week of the year, including Thanksgiving. It has become a tradition here at West Nashville to bring traditional Thanksgiving foods to the church on Thanksgiving Day so that those who have nowhere else to go on this holiday can experience a traditional Thanksgiving meal. If you are able to come and be a part of serving food, or can donate pre-cooked food for the meal, please

call Rev. Dennis Meaker at the office (297-3216).

November 29: First Sunday in Advent: Fifth Sunday Breakfast in Memorial Hall at 9:30 a.m. The Hanging of the Greens will take place during the Sunday morning service. Following worship, Advent crafts will be offered in Memorial Hall – along with soup for lunch!

December 6: Second Sunday in Advent: The children, with the help of adults, will decorate the Chrismon Tree during the service and learn about the Chrismon symbols.

December 20: Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant at 6:00 (children should arrive by 5:30.) We will re-enact the Christmas story with Scripture, song, and costumes. It is a long-time West Nashville tradition. We need adult help this year with the costumes and organization. If you would like to help, please contact Dennis Meaker at the Church Office.

December 24: 6:30 p.m. The shopping should be done and the preparations made. Please join us at 6:30 for a candlelight Communion service as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Poinsettia Time

Each year West Nashville UMC provides the opportunity for you to purchase poinsettias for



display in the church before Christmas. Members and friends purchase the poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones. You will find the forms inserted in the church bulletin starting Dec. 6 or you can call the Church Office, 297-3216, for the form.

Church Ladies Meetin’

Church Ladies will meet Sunday, November 22, at 6 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Our time includes a meal together, study, prayer, and fellowship. We invite all women of all ages to attend. We will be selecting a study for individual and group reflection on Advent.

Prayer Concerns

- Luis Alcazar, sympathy for the loss of his sister.
- Carolyn Batey, Evon’s mother, recovering from surgery
- Joan Berg, Barbara Dunlap-Berg’s mother
- Tom Brucker, sympathy for the loss of his mother
- Mary Ellen Carney, Helen Dozier’s daughter
- Gloria Cardona, mother of Miriam Cortes
- Albert E. Curtis, Mabel Jackson’s friend
- Danny and Angela Flanagan – Many members of their extended families are in ill health.
- Sympathy to the family of Louise Gafford.
- Cole Gerdes, sympathy for the loss of his grandfather
- Marty Gilbert and Conrad Jones

- Cherrie Hall, healing from broken ankle
- Dot Hendrickson
- Mabel Allene Jackson
- Dorothy Lish
- Family of Ruth McGinnis
- Mary McWright, recovering from a stroke
- Dennis Meaker’s sister, Nancy
- Sean Michael Mevis
- Fiona Murphey as she recovers from a broken arm
- Helen Sellers
- Phil Schmutz
- Annie Laura Wells, Angela Flanagan’s grandmother
- Our community

Joys

We give thanks for Angellie, Jose, Lesly and Eimy as they received new Bibles from the church.

Joy for Beth Chatham and the work she has done to deliver the Honduran Christmas Shoeboxes.

Our Gifts

September \$7,343
YTD \$62,883

Our Presence

October

Sunday School: 23
Worship: 63

November Birthdays

- 3 David Norton
- 8 David Hornby
- 17 Amanda Bachus
- 22 Crys Zinkiewicz

Where You Can Help

Meharry Baby Blanket Project

The most pressing needs right now are for receiving blankets, wipes, socks, and onesies. You may bring your donations and place them in the plastic bin in the Narthex of the church.

Thursday Nights/Food Pantry

It is getting colder and our friends are needing warm clothing (socks for women, men and children, hats, gloves, scarfs, coats) and bedding (blankets, quilts, and sleeping bags).

And we can always use donations for the food pantry.

Transportation to Church

Do you need a ride to church or know someone who does? Nat Roache has offered to provide transportation on Sunday mornings to anyone who might not otherwise be able to get to church. Contact the Church Office, 297-3216, if you or someone you know needs help getting to Sunday worship.

November Calendar

Every Sunday

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Youth, 5:30 p.m., Blakemore UMC

Every Monday (at Cockrill Elementary)

Basic Computer Class
5:30 – 6:00
ESL 6:00 – 7:00
Beginner’s Spanish classes 6:00 – 7:00



Every Wednesday

Energy 6:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Every Thursday

Community Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday and Friday

AA, Memorial Hall, 8 p.m.

Meetings and Events

Friday, November 6

Concert, 7:30 p.m.
(admission charged)

Sunday, November 8

Commitment Sunday –
Morning Worship

Tuesday, **November 10**
West Nashville Coalition

Tuesday, **November 17**
Church Council, 6:30 p.m.
– Gothard Room

Sunday, **November 22**
Church Ladies Meetin',
6:00 p.m. – Memorial Hall

Wednesday, **November 25**
Thanksgiving Service, 6 p.m.
dinner; 7 p.m. Worship

Thursday, **November 26**

Community Thanksgiving
Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, **November 29**
Fifth Sunday Breakfast, 9:30
a.m. – Memorial Hall

First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
– Morning Worship

Sunday, **December 6**
Second Sunday of Advent
Decorating of Chrismon Tree
– Morning Worship

Love Feast following worship
– Memorial Hall

Celebrating Our 120th and 2nd Anniversaries

October marked 120 years for the West Nashville congregation. Obviously, God isn't done with us yet—our Hispanic ministry also celebrated two great years!

Friday evening's Spanish-language service with English translation was a huge blessing to all that attended. We heard a beautiful dramatic presentation of the Syrophoenician woman's story (see Mark 7:24-30). We heard an inspiring message from the Rev. Carmen Gaud encouraging us to continue to be bold in our faith as the Syrophoenician woman was bold in hers.

Rev. Joaquin García spoke of our progress with the Hispanic ministry in these last two years, referring us to 1 Samuel 7:12 where Samuel takes a stone and names the place "Ebenezer," saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." Rev. García brought a stone painted with "Ebenezer 2009" as a gift to the church; it is on display in the Gothard room.

Saturday's performances were also a great blessing, and the children's dancing was certainly the highlight of the afternoon.

Sunday brought everyone together to celebrate the ministry of WN—past, present, and future! There were 40 Hispanic persons in attendance, forming about half of the attendance, helping our "Pentecost effect" to ring clear and strong.

Thanks to everyone who made our anniversary celebrations a big success!



Harvest Festival a Great Success

Dignitaries from all over the universe (known and unknown) flocked to the celebration October 31.



We had a queen and an African queen.



A very happy queen bee.



And Cleopatra herself.

Childcare Helpers

Childcare for children under age 7 is provided during worship. Childcare helpers during worship for the month of November are

- 11/1 Sherry Cothran
Woolsey
- 11/8 Danny Flanagan
- 11/15 Ryan Murphey
- 11/22 Angela Flanagan
- 11/29 Andrea Bachus

Our caregiver for children is Alicia Hickman. She is a wonderful caregiver for our children. However, some Sundays there are more than she can manage. The additional help keeps our children safe. If you would like to volunteer for a ministry that gives great joy, contact Angela Flanagan; she'll be glad to put you into the childcare rotation.

Youth News

Sunday Morning Sunday School – Youth & Adult class in Memorial Hall.

Sunday Night Youth Group – WNUMC youth are still included in the Sunday night program and special youth events at Blakemore UMC. Sunday night Youth meetings are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and include supper, recreation, study, and fellowship.

Wednesday Night Energy – Youth are invited to be part of the new Wednesday night Energy. There will be a specific class for youth of all ages each Wednesday night.

Community Meeting

The West Nashville Coalition will meet November 10, 6:30 p.m. at our church. The West Nashville Coalition is made up of neighborhood organizations, residents, business leaders, council representatives, metro parks and police representatives, and church leaders in the West Nashville



area who come together to share information and work together on ongoing community issues. Our focus for the last year has been crime prevention and neighborhood safety, youth programs, and drug prevention.

Sacred Steel Concert

Sacred Steel – An Evening with Aubrey Ghent
 Friday, November 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
 West Nashville United Methodist Church
 4710 Charlotte Avenue
 Tickets: \$15 adults; \$10 students, seniors;
 \$5 children under 12
 Contact: Ellen S. Gilbert, Global Education
 Center – 615-292-3023
 or globaleducationcenter@juno.com

Offering a rare performance in Nashville, the Aubrey Ghent Band will perform their highly spirited and engaging sacred steel gospel. Widely recognized as a masterful lap steel guitarist, Aubrey Ghent is credited with the birth of the "Sacred Steel Tradition," which has become one of our country's greatest African-American gospel roots

traditions. Mr. Ghent has won numerous awards for his lap-steel skills; he has traveled the world sharing his gifts and is considered to be a legend within the folk world.

Before the concert, he will offer an interactive discussion of the evolution of Sacred Steel as well as a glimpse into the childhood and family dynamics that sparked the creation of this energetic and inspirational art form.

Sacred Steel is the second in the Global Education Center's ARTS ACCESS Concert Series, now in its fourteenth season. The entire series is posted at www.globaleducationcenter.net. This concert is made possible with support from the Tennessee Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and West Nashville United Methodist Church.

New Web Pages

Check out the new web pages on our website; they're designed for people from our community who volunteer for service for a variety of ministries at West Nashville. Check out the link for "Friends of West Nashville" at westnashvilleumc.org.

You can sign up to get the next e-newsletter too! Tell your friends about this site.

Fifth Sunday Breakfast & Advent Workshop

On Sunday November 29 we will gather at 9:30 in Memorial Hall for the Fifth Sunday Breakfast and Learning Time. Our theme will be Advent/Christmas/Epiphany. Come to eat, fellowship with one another, and enjoy a rousing round of West Nashville Jeopardy!

Following worship, all are invited to Memorial Hall for a simple soup lunch and for making Advent wreaths and crafts. If you would like to attend, make a Christmas ornament for your tree, or an Advent wreath for your home, please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate OR drop it in the Church Office.

YES! I plan to participate in the Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 29, following worship.

Name: _____

Number in Family Attending _____

I will eat lunch ____yes ____no

I would like to make a wreath ____yes ____no

I would like to make an ornament ____Yes ____no

