



WOODLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

# The Connection

September 1, 2017

Vol. 1, Issue 6

## THIS FALL AT WHCC

Although few of us are going back to school, we uphold the tradition of new beginnings in the fall. As the weather cools (hopefully) our thoughts turn to new ways to participate and serve in the life of the church.

### September 17– Just Peace Sunday

Rev. Andy Schweibert of CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) will preach and lead the Conversations That Matter discussion.

### Chancel Choir and Hand bell Choirs

**Return—** Get ready for beautiful music!



### September 24— Worship in the Park

Join with other United Churches of Christ to enjoy an outdoor worship service. (There will also be a service in the sanctuary as usual.) Check the Sunday Bulletin for more details and updates on transportation.

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Woodland Hills Community Church 21338 Dumetz Road Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Worship and Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. (818) 346-0820 Office Hours 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. M-F

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## The Monday Night Acts Bible

**Study** will continue through September. It's not too late to join! Monday nights at 7:00 in Breeze Chapel.

### Oct. 1 “Neighbors in Need”

**Special Offering-** Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

**Oct. 8 Access Sunday—** To fulfill our commitment to be an Open and Affirming congregation, this Sunday will focus on how we can go further in being a welcoming congregation. A proposal will be discussed that changes the pew configuration in the sanctuary. Come to Conversations that Matter to have your voice heard.

### October 15 - November 12—

**Stewardship Drive-** Now is the time to start prayerfully considering how you can support the church financially.

## “Sing-A-Long” Saturdays Resume on September 2, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Our “first Saturday of each month” show tune sing-a-longs resume in September. We'll be singing to, "Oklahoma." We will not be showing the movie, but just providing the music. This is a multi-generational event for all ages and all voices. The more; the merrier! Singing provides tremendous benefits to us all! So come join us for this fun event in the Chapel! If you have any questions, contact Laurie Gysin at [213-394-5267](tel:213-394-5267) or email at [<lambekim@gmail.com](mailto:lambekim@gmail.com) See you soon!



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPTEMBER 10

The Children's choir rehearsals will resume on September 10th. God's Kids, (Kindergarten – Second grade), will rehearse from 11:10-11:30 in the Chapel. Spirit Express, (Third grade – Sixth grade), will rehearse from 11:30-12:00 in the Chapel. Questions? See Dianne Meyer.



## Pastor's Message

When I did my student teaching several years ago, I student taught in a veteran social studies department. I'll never forget something my supervising teacher said as he was pointing out the other two veterans I would be working with in the department.

"You see the woman standing over to the left? That's Susan," he said. "Susan has taught here for 30 years."

"You see the guy over there to the right? That's Mark," my supervisor said. "Mark has taught the same year here over thirty-one times."

That assessment of our colleagues taught me an important lesson about living each year to the fullest – and not simply repeating previous years.

As we begin a new program year here at WHCC, I have a question for you. Are you entering the new year expecting to repeat your experiences from previous years (i.e. have "just another Christmas" or "just another Easter"), or do you expect to find new and fresh experiences of God through your time at WHCC?

I hope you choose the latter!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Craig

**To contact Pastor Craig Peterson**

**call 818 346-0820**

**or email him at church at**

**whccpastor@gmail.com**

## Nursery School Parent Orientation

Woodland Hills Community Church members helped welcome parents back for a new school year at the August 21st event. Delicious treats and smiling faces greeted the guests. Here's to a great year at the Nursery School!



Happy Birthday!



### *September Birthdays*

*3- Robin Page*

*7- Matthew Churchill*

*10- Nita Standke*

*11- Walter Nasarenko*

*13- Betsy Noorsay*

*14- Adelaide Churchill and  
Yolanda Alfaro*

*22- Evie Wilkins*

*23- Janet Cabral*

*26- Lake Nofer*

### **FAREWELL “COFFEE LADY” SEPTEMBER 10**

After having served for 5 years as your “Coffee Lady,” I realize that it is time for me to step down and September the 10th will be my last day. I want to thank all my volunteers, who for all these years have given their time and effort to see to it that every Sunday the coffee and delicious cookies were available. A big thanks to everybody! *By Barbara Van Egmond*



### **WELCOME NEW ‘COFFEE LADY’ LYN OWEN**

Stepping into Barbara’s shoes, Lyn will need us all to help out and volunteer to be “coffee hosts.” Because, what’s better on a Sunday morning after church than nice hot coffee and delicious treats?



Please keep the entire Ayers family surrounded by love and prayers as they mourn the loss of their mom and dad, Dick and Kathy. There will be a joint memorial service on Saturday, September 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with a reception following in Harter Hall.

Clark McIlvain is back at church. Prayers of thanks for improving health.

Kathi asks for prayers for her friend, Chris, whose son took his own life.

Lila Aurich is still dealing with the pain of shingles, so please continue to hold her in prayer.

Lake asks for prayer of support as she struggles through her relocation.

### SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE A SUCCESS

Stacey Mosely reports that the congregation came through in a big way for this year's drive. Over 20 backpacks and dozens of other items were donated to the Family Rescue Center and West Valley Food Pantry. Thanks! Like it says in Proverbs 11:25, **Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.**

## PATHFINDERS AND PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

### A Testament to a Lifetime of Faithful Service to the Youth

By Laurie Gysin

The legacy of the Ayers/Gysin/Mowers families began in the fall of 1969, when my parents were hired as the Ministers of Music, a calling that lasted for 21 years. I was in the fourth grade when we all met. It was a big change for the Gysins, since my parents had spent the prior 14 years building a five choir program in Hollywood.

My memories are quite different than my peers growing up in the 70s at WHCC since I spent so many extra hours at church as my parents lead the various choirs. Kathy and Dick Ayers were the youth leaders of the Pathfinders (7th through 9th grades) and Jeanne and Bob Mowers led Pilgrim Fellowship, affectionately know as PF, which was the high school group. The two youth groups were synonymous with the choir. Sunday night from five to eight-thirty at WHCC was our night together. The Pathfinders met in Harter Hall with my dad

directing, and Kathy and Dick as sponsors. Simultaneously, PF met in the Smith Lounge with my mom directing, and Kathy and Dick Ayers as sponsors.

Comparing notes with Jeanne, we recall that 1969 may have brought in about 20 PFers and around 30 Pathfinders. (Does anyone remember PF Flyers?) As kids started inviting their friends in 1970, the groups got bigger, with the Pathfinders transitioning into PF. By 1972, PF had about 80 kids. These were exciting times at WHCC. To me this was normal. I watched from the sidelines and couldn't wait to be part of the youth program. Then in 1973, I became a Pathfinder!!!

Anyone who went through the youth programs in the 70s looks fondly back at the incredible commitment, work ethic, and (most of all) the love the Ayers/Mowers brought to these groups. They brought the fun and team work, along with hard work. In Junior High my parents had to coordinate the youth musicales. In High School PF also had Work Camp, a culmination of fundraising all year. As Jeanne Mowers commented, "Bob and I always felt that the biggest part of the growth was the kids were enjoying enough that they wanted to share it -- the choir programs & fun activities--both Pilgrim Fellowship & Pathfinders."