

The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

Church Conference Is October 23

This year's Church Conference will be held after our service on October 23. Not only will we elect officers and approve pastors' salaries, but we will vote on a plan for worship and look at a new way to conduct the ongoing business of the church. In the last few years, it has become apparent to many that the Lay Leadership Council as currently organized is not equipped to do their job developing and implementing the vision of the church. The Council needs input from a broader cross-section of the congregation, but not that many people are able to come to a mid-week meeting. To engage more people in growing the church's ministries, the Nominations Committee will recommend that the Lay Leadership Council hold four congregational meetings a year on a Sunday after worship with a meal. Each meeting will have a particular focus (such as the Joint Youth Ministry or the rotating shelter) and one of our lay leaders will guide us through steps that will help us to share ideas, discuss options and agree on actions.

Financial Update

Pastor Rebecca wanted to know what impact the demographic changes in the congregation over the last few years have had on our church finances, so she asked Ingrid Quigley to do some financial analysis for us. As expected, since 2014 we have lost significant income (about \$23,000 in regular giving) due to deaths and people moving away. We have lost a similar amount because of life changes and other reasons (about \$22,000). That comes to a drop in income of \$45,000. In that same time period, we gained about \$5,000 in new giving. That leaves us with a net loss of \$40,000 in income for the operating budget, which explains why we have dipped into reserves and why we are reducing the church's office hours. But additional steps will have to be taken in order to make our ministries more sustainable as we continue to navigate our way through a season of change and opportunity.

We are so grateful to all of you who support the church in the ways that you can. We know that you care about the work that God is doing in and through us with children and youth and with adults in need of hope, health or a home. We don't want finances to limit our commitment to our children's programs, the Joint Youth Ministry or Building Hope, to name a few.

So we call upon you to be creative in thinking of ways that you can help us continue to be God's family growing through loving, caring and serving. A few ideas to get you started: shopping at Amazon or donating your car. More details and other ideas are at www.wgumc.org/give.

Estimated giving needed though August to support the ministries of this church: \$266,191

Giving received January – August: \$231,377

This is \$34,814 BELOW what is needed to maintain the ministries of this church.

To date we have been able to maintain our programs through slight increases in revenues from other sources, less than estimated expenses in others and by using our reserve funds. We started 2016 with \$21,729 in our reserve fund. Since January we have spent \$17,000 of that. While we have received a \$10,000 donation from the preschool this year, that reserve needs to last through at least August of next year.

Total reserves remaining: \$14,729.

October 2016

In This Issue:

Pastor's Page	Page 2
General Church News	Page 3
Children & Family Ministries	Page 4
Women's Page	Page 6
All Around Willow Glen	Page 7
Conference News	Back

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.
Sunday School

10:00 a.m.
Combined Worship

11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time

Church Staff

Rebecca Ireland
Senior Pastor

Susan Smith
Pastor of Children &
Family Ministries

Lisa Jacobs
Director of
Joint Youth Ministries

Lorene Sheridan
Director of
Weekday Ark Ministries

Robert Birnstihl
Organist & Director
of Music Ministries

Tom Mounts
Director,
the Willow Glen Ringers

Roxanne Kholin
Office & Facilities Manager

God Is Good – All the Time!

I have been telling folks that change is good and that God does very good work when we are in the throes of transition. Now I have some empirical evidence. As our former office manager, Dee Davis, was leaving her position to take a full-time job at San Jose City College, she forwarded me the name of someone who was interested in applying for the position. I didn't jump upon it immediately because we had already asked Becky LaBree to work as an interim while we were looking for a permanent replacement. Since we all love Becky and were happy to have her back, I was in no great hurry to replace her. But it wasn't long after I returned from vacation that I felt the Spirit nudging me to inquire about this candidate, and I thank God I did.

Introducing our new Office and Facilities Manager, Roxanne Kholin! Roxanne grew up as the last of four children on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, went to the university in Madison and earned a bachelor's in Psychology and Organizational Behavior. Since then, she has lived in Austin, Seattle, Honolulu, and got her M.S. in Information System Management here in the Bay Area. She has lived here since 1995. She confesses that she is a tech geek and has worked for large and small companies, including startups. In the last fifteen years, she has been doing Marketing and Communications Management.

You may be wondering, as I did, why someone with her background was interested in being our Office and Facilities Manager. Roxanne is a member of Campbell UMC. She loves music and sings in their chancel choir and plays in a couple of their bell choirs. (In high school, she played the organ at church, keyboard for Jazz Band and drums in the marching and concert bands, in addition to singing in the choir!) For the past several years, she has been working part-time as their Communications Director and Webmaster. This summer, she had the opportunity to fill in for the Office/Facilities Manager at Almaden Hills UMC for ten weeks and discovered that she loved it. As their Office Manager was preparing to come back from her medical leave, Roxanne ran into Dee Davis who told her about the job opening here. This is one of those occasions that makes you want to say: God is good. All the time!

I am excited because I know that Roxanne has the people and tech skills to help us improve our outreach in many ways, and I can think of many projects that we could do together. She really does have a heart for the Methodist Church and its ministries and wants to help it grow. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the funds to pay her for the same number of hours that Dee was working. As you know we have been using our emergency reserve this past summer to make payroll, so it was decided that Roxanne will start at 20 hours per week instead of 32. Therefore, our new office hours, beginning in October, will be 9:30 to 1:30, Monday through Friday. I invite you to stop by during those hours, introduce yourself and help Roxanne learn the stories and get to know the people that make Willow Glen UMC a great place to work. You will also get to meet her little dog, Chulo, who is a Chihuahua/Dachshund cross. He is a little shy but will warm up once he gets to know you.

Here are some ways you can make Roxanne's new job enjoyable:

1. Remember to check with the office before scheduling space for meetings and events and notify the office of any changes or cancellations.
2. Get news items for the bulletin to her no later than Wednesday.
3. Please try to keep the workroom as clean and clutter free as possible.
4. Report attendance at your small group or event to the church office.
5. Notify the office of any changes in your email, phone number or street address.

Thank you!

Pastor Rebecca

October 9 and 16: The Vials of L.I.F.E. Are Here

The Care Team would like to encourage your participation in a program that was started by the San Jose Fire Department called Vial of L.I.F.E. (Life-saving Information for Emergencies). We can provide you with a plastic bottle and a form for medical information that can be placed in your refrigerator along with a magnet alerting emergency personnel to its location. That information will enable them to assess the situation more quickly if you are unable to provide it yourself.

The Care Team recognizes the need for such information not only in the home but also here at the church. There have been incidents involving church members where emergency forms on file in the church office proved helpful. On October 9 and October 16, the Care Team will have a table set up and Vials of L.I.F.E. and forms available for everyone who wants to participate. Although this program was originally intended for seniors or people with disabilities, it has merit for all family members and the Care Team encourages participation by all. Persons concerned for older family members may obtain copies for their use.

More Information on Page 7

Bible Study on Paul, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

If you've ever been afraid to read Paul or have ever wanted someone to give you a good reason to read him, this Bible study is for you. Much of the inspiration for the sermon series, "Conversations with Paul," comes from a set of lectures given by Franciscan priest Richard Rohr on "The Great Themes of Paul." Pastor Rebecca has the audio of these lectures and recommends them as incredibly rich insights into a complicated man and a critical figure in the history of Christianity who has shaped our personal faith in ways we don't even know. Join us to listen and discuss on Thursday evenings at 7:30 in Woodhaven.



October Worship

October 2: Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena, United Methodist missionaries, will be delivering the message this Sunday. The sermon title is "Mission Means Bringing Hope in This Life." The UMW will provide lunch after worship.

October 9: The series "Conversations with Paul" continues. We will celebrate communion, take the World Communion offering, and consider what Paul says about the body of Christ that could change the way you experience communion forever. The text is I Corinthians 15:12-22.

Our Praise Band Director and long-time band member who has also led the youth band and chaperoned on youth mission trips, will be leaving us to get married and get on with life. Please join us in saying "thank you" to John and "much love" to the soon-to-be-wed couple.

The UMW will be distributing Vials of L.I.F.E. starting on this Sunday.

October 16: We will tackle some of the hardest texts in Paul and learn about his method of dialectical thinking that allows him to go beyond the fixed polarities of ancient life (male vs. female; slave vs. free). The Scripture reading is Galatians 3:23-4:7.

October 23: Hank Millstein will preach on several connected themes in Paul: the relationship between Jew and Gentile, spirit and flesh, law and faith.

Our Church Conference will be held after the service. We will elect officers, approve pastors' salaries and vote on a plan for worship and a new way to conduct the ongoing business of the church.

October 30: Just in time for All Saints' Day, our final conversation with Paul will center on his mystical vision of the cosmic Christ that is best seen in the letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians. This vision is what makes Paul such a good resource for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue today. Our texts will be Ephesians 1:3-10 and Colossians 1:15-20.



Worship Update

Thank you to all who participated in our congregational meeting on the future of worship at Willow Glen. Your insights will be very helpful to the staff, Worship Team and Lay Leadership Council as we work together to create a proposal for Sunday morning worship, fellowship and faith formation. We will vote on the proposal at our Church Conference on October 23 and any changes will be fully implemented in January, giving us plenty of time to plan and prepare.

Filming the Christmas Story

Christmas Preview – October 9 at 9 a.m.

Parents' Meeting – October 16 at 11:15 a.m.

Casting Workshop – November 6 at 11:15 a.m.

Once again, our children will lead worship on Christmas Eve at our 5 p.m. family service with our own version of the birth of Jesus filmed on location at a local farm. It will be our kids' voices narrating the story in their own words and acting out the roles as well. It's a chance for our kids to tell the story with some local and modern elements that highlight their own understanding and interpretation of the events and it's sure to be delightful.

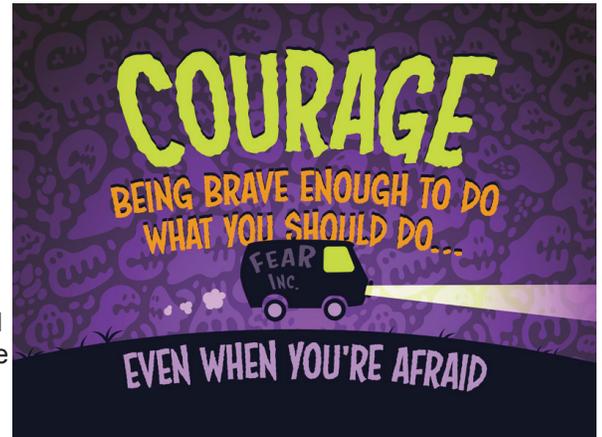
To begin preparing our pageant, Pastor Susan will meet with all of the Sunday School classes together on Sunday, October 9, to preview and begin planning the video with the children's input. Our on-location video shoot will happen on Friday, November 11 (during the day). All children whose would like a role in the video should let Pastor Susan know by October 16 and all parents should attend a parents' meeting after worship that same day. Our casting workshop will be held on Sunday, November 6.

Our Sunday School children will become the Christmas choir and rehearse together at the end of Sunday School each week beginning on November 20.

Finding Courage in Sunday School

Who hasn't ever wanted to be a superhero or have a superpower, even for a moment? Superheroes seem to act without a single ounce of fear. They see a problem and without thinking they jump to the rescue to save the day, conquering evils and injustices in their tracks.

None of us will ever be a superhero or have some super-human power from an alien planet or radioactive spider bite. But with or without the super powers, we will face moments in our lives when it feels like the odds will not be in our favor, the obstacles will seem overwhelming, and we will have to overcome that which seems impossible. And when those moments happen, where will we find the courage we need to face the everyday enemies or evils in life?



In truth, we're all called to do heroic things every day. And those moments can be scary.

Our goal as parents is not to raise superheroes, but to raise everyday heroes. We want our children to grow up facing the world with a different kind of courage—courage to stand up against the bully, courage to speak out for the sake of others who may not have a voice, courage to refuse to do the wrong thing even though the crowd seems to be pushing them in that direction.

We need our children to understand that because they believe and trust in God, they have a unique source of strength and courage. There will be times when we're going to be afraid, but we can trust in a God that is bigger than us. We put our hope in a God who is with us and is in control of every situation. Because of God, we can find the strength to be courageous, every day heroes.

Beginning October 16, we'll be studying some everyday heroes from the Old Testament, men and women who had no superpowers except for the fact that they knew God had a mission for them and they trusted in His promise to always be with them. Join us in Sunday School each Sunday at 9am as we discover the courage God gives us.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9b, NIV



It's Time to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!

For more than 60 years, kids have trick-or-treated for UNICEF, making a difference in the lives of kids in need all around the world. You can, too! Pick up your orange trick-or-treat box from Pastor Susan and start collecting donations from family, friends and neighbors. You can even wear your costume to church on Halloween weekend and trick-or-treat for UNICEF among your church family at fellowship time. Let's help make a difference in their lives this Halloween!

Want to Make a Joyful Noise?

Calling all musicians! Would you like to help us celebrate Christmas musically? If you play an instrument and would be interested in playing together with others at Christmas, please contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org). With enough interest and commitment, we will create an ensemble for the season.

Planning Advent Family Nights

For the past few years, we have gathered weekly for a family meal and activity in Woodhaven during Advent. We would love to continue this tradition with your help. Please contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) if you would like to make this family ministry possible this Advent season. We will all meet together in October to plan our Advent activities and then work together to publicize, prepare and lead them for our church family.



CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders
Friday, October 14
7-9 p.m.

CrossWalk is heading out to the mini-golf course, but we'll play it our own goofy way!, We'll meet at the church and carpool to the course for a game of wacky mini-golf. Watch your email for more details or email Pastor Susan to find out more. CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

E-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

Women's Groups

Open to all, newcomers are welcome. Please call the contact listed below for information.

Heart & Hand

First Thursday
7 p.m. in Woodhaven
Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Third Wednesday
12:30 p.m. in Woodhaven
Sue Johnson

UMW Executive Board
Monday, November 14
9:30 a.m. in Wesley Room

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Patricia Madsen.

The deadline for the November *Willow Word* is October 25. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain.

Special Guests on October 2

Willow Glen United Methodist Women will be leading the worship service on October 2. Guest speakers will be Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena, who are active United Methodist Missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries, currently serving as Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

They have interesting stories to tell of the work they have done with the people of Nicaragua where they served from 1985 to 2014. Both Nan and Miguel have worked for 15 years serving youth and children through the Women and Community Association in San Francisco Libre, where they promoted community development, gender equality and prevention of violence against women.

After the service, all are invited to lunch being served by the members of UMW, with an opportunity to socialize with our guests. A freewill offering will be taken to offset the cost of the luncheon.

Nan and Miguel have an additional video which they will stay to present to those interested, depicting the immigration problems in Nicaragua.

El Camino District Annual Celebration UMW In Mission: Our Legacy, Our Future

"...then fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love..." 2 Timothy 1:5-7

Saturday, October 22
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Guest speaker is The Rev. Paul Jeffrey, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

See complete information and registration forms on the UMW Bulletin Board in the office hallway

California/Nevada Conference Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 15
Santa Rosa UMC

Please see UMW Bulletin Board in Office Hallway for full information



The Care Team Re-Introduces VIAL OF L.I.F.E

Life-Saving Information for Emergencies

By Jane Vivian

This program, formerly sponsored by the San Jose Fire Department of Emergency Services, was instituted at Willow Glen UMC two years ago, under the auspices of the Care Team. Vials of Life were formerly distributed by the Fire Department through various senior programs and agencies. This consisted of an amber pill bottle about 6 inches high which held a Vial of Life information form, consisting of patient identification, medical problems, medications, emergency contacts, etc. The completed form was inserted in the pill bottle, prominently labeled "Vial of L.I.F.E." then placed on the top shelf of the individual's refrigerator. A magnet label attached to the door of the refrigerator announced that the Vial was inside. Emergency teams entering the home immediately knew if the information was available for their use. This could provide life-saving information about the patient who might not be able to provide the information personally.

The Fire Department is no longer providing the vials or the forms, presumably due to budget cuts. The Care Team recognizes the need for such information in each home and that some of the same information needs to be available under secure file in the church office. There have been recent incidents where emergency information on file in the church office proved very helpful.

On October 9 and 16, the Care Team will be distributing the L.I.F.E. forms to be completed for each family member at Willow Glen UMC. One copy will be securely filed in the church office; the other will go home to be inserted in a vial which has been labeled VIAL OF L.I.F.E. Although this program was originally intended for seniors or disabled persons, it has merit for all family members and the Care Team encourages participation by all. If you or your family completed this information earlier, it is suggested that you complete new forms, with any revisions necessary. Forms will be available following the worship services on October 9 and 16 with Care Team members available to answer your questions.

Change the World Barbecue

Saturday, October 1, at Noon on the Woodhaven Patio

On Saturday, October 1, we will welcome our houseless friends and neighbors here in San Jose to join us for a barbecue on the Woodhaven patio. In addition to wonderful food and gracious hospitality, we will also provide a free necessities store filled with donated toiletries and clothing, and have the Dignity on Wheels truck on site with shower and laundry facilities. There will be plenty of time to gather around the table and hear one another's stories, enjoy some creative activities and make community connections. This is a welcoming event for our entire congregation. Please sign-up to attend and help as you are able with food, set-up, clean-up and hospitality. Sign-ups sheets will be available after worship. Financial donations are also welcome – simply mark checks with memo "Building Hope." Please join your Building Hope team as we open our hearts and our home, offering respite and relationship to our houseless brothers and sisters.

Donations needed for our Free Necessities Store

Please bring the following items to stock our free store for October 1:

- Gently used clothing (fall to winter season), especially men's
- New socks and underwear
- Bars of soap
- Shaving cream and razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Washcloths and hand towels
- Raingear and ponchos
- Blankets, sleeping bags, tarps

Donations can be delivered to the boxes in Wesley Room. Please contact Pastor Susan if you can bring food or help that day. Thank you!



Free Halloween Party Sunday Oct. 30th, 2016

All Ages Invited!



Costumes Encouraged!

Start Time: 1:00pm End Time: 3:00pm

**Where: Almaden Hills United Methodist Church
1200 Blossom Hill Road,
San Jose, CA 95118**

**What: All ages are invited to join us for
pumpkin decorating, giant inflatables, games
and lunch!**

Cost: Free!! Everything is free at this event



Hosted by the Joint Youth Ministry
www.jointyouthgroup.com

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

408-294-9796

www.wgumc.org

