



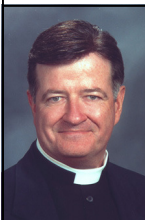
STEWARDS OF OUR CHURCH

United Methodist Church
of Westlake Village

Summer/Fall
2015

“With ourselves it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.” (St. Mark 10:27)

“Let there be a Joyful Noise unto the Lord”



Stewardship comes in many forms. We usually think about it in terms of money we contribute to our church. Stewardship, however, also includes the use of our time, talents, and commitment. One such area of commitment for our stewardship is those who give the talent of music and song in our church. Amongst our 10 choirs, both choral and bells, we have three adult choirs: The Chancel Choir, the

women’s Celebration Singers, and the men’s Fishermen. Each is comprised of very dedicated people who give not only Sunday mornings to sing but also other times during the week to practice and perfect their musical presentations in church. Their music each week is not only beautiful but assists us to glorify God. Throughout the centuries, the human voice has been described as the voice of God in tone and beauty. Our Director of Music, Gloria Hilliard and all of our other directors

allows us to have one of the finest music programs, of which I am aware, in the Methodist Church. I want to thank them for using their talents in stewardship to give back to God the joy of singing so that each week God’s people can be uplifted in their praise to the Lord. Thank you to all! Keep on singing!

CARY

Trustees at Work

Completed projects in last 3 months:

- ◆ Painted CE Building and all Alton Hall classrooms
- ◆ Tree removal on patio
- ◆ Repairs in Alton Hall, East wing hallway & CE building
- ◆ Garage door repair at parsonage
- ◆ Re-grouting of Alton Hall entry

Goals by year’s end:

- ◆ Upgrades to the Sanctuary
- ◆ Landscaping upgrades
- ◆ Painting Alton Hall interior, Wesley Fireside Room & kitchen
- ◆ New phone system

Attendance

April		May		June	
5	1700	3	235	7	270
	(Easter)	10	332	14	226
12	259	17	308	21	274
19	275	24	225	28	234
26	289	31	253		

Treasurer’s Report

Fiscal YTD Income \$543,634

Fiscal YTD Expenses \$568,534

Wish List Ideas

Under \$250

- ◆ Couches new or gently used

\$251 - \$500

- ◆ EZ Up patio tent
- ◆ Flat Screen TV for Bishop Kennedy Room

\$501 - \$1000

- ◆ iPad - new or used - for the Christian Ed. Committee
- ◆ 48" Flat Screen TV - new or used - for the Wesley Fireside Room
- ◆ Hearing impaired devices for the Sanctuary

\$1001 - \$5000

- ◆ LCD Projector for the sanctuary
- ◆ Painting of Alton Hall
- ◆ Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED)

\$5001 and over

- ◆ A/C for Alton Hall
- ◆ Stairlift to choir room
- ◆ Industrial patio awning
- ◆ New phone system
- ◆ Sanctuary Flooring

Any financial donations accepted

A Note from Finance: Rev. Brian Long



INVOLVING YOU IN CHURCH FINANCE

The church is about more than the bottom line. The United Methodist Church is about making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a local church, we too seek to transform the world by building disciples. In order to make this happen, we allocate our resources, including our finances, as we believe we are called to do.

Yet managing donated money is only a portion of our responsibilities. We are also asked as a committee to keep you informed of our faithful stewardship of finances. Most people know the basics - money in, money out, but many probably don't think about church finances beyond their own gifts. Our efforts help to support both the local

church and connectional ministries - including facilities, administrative costs, service and outreach, mission and apportionments. The impact our ministry has had on the lives of people in the congregation, community and around the world is great, thanks to all of your generosity. Though we cannot show every line item here, we want to share with you some important information, to show you how we operate on a monthly basis.

Finance reports for 2015 year-to-date (August 31):

Giving: Just below budget at 62% percent received.

Growing Place: Class sizes and revenues are meeting expectations, allowing contributions to the Church to meet the budget, with \$12,000 given so far in 2015.

Expenses: Our overall expenses are slightly less than budget at 64.9%. Most of these items are in line with

budget this year, but our general maintenance and equipment repairs are above budget.

Apportionments: We have given 41.7% of our \$106,000 apportionments. We expect to make further payments before year's end.

If you want more information about general church finances, please check out umcsgiving.org. It is a great resource to learn about connectional giving: *How We Give, Why We Give and the Impact of Our Giving*. The website explains apportioned funds, Special Sundays and shows where the U.S. local church expense dollars go. You can also pick up the **free United Methodist Church Handbook** in the church office, which explains this further.

Rev. Brian Long

Highlighting Adult Choirs: Steve Ames

Adult Choirs

Gloria Hilliard, Director of Music

With a song in their hearts, the members of the vocal and handbell choirs of UMCWV's Chancel Choir, Celebration Singers and Covenant Ringers regularly fill the air with melodious sounds, coordinated by Gloria Hilliard, director of music.



Gloria Hilliard

Hilliard was hired as the church organist in January 1982 and served in that position until 1994; when the former director of music resigned, she applied for and was appointed to that position. She directs the Chancel Choir, Celebration Singers and the Fishermen.

"Many times an anthem that we sing has a message," she says, "that the congregation may enjoy. We have been practicing it for weeks. It becomes a part of us. I think it strengthens us in our faith. I think that for many people in our choir this is an important thing."

Hilliard received a Bachelor

of Arts degree in music from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and a Master of Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

Along with having been an assistant professor of music at Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Texas, and a teacher of music theory at Pepperdine University, Hilliard has gained recognition as a pianist, organist and music director.

Hilliard has directed the Village Voices Chorale since 1987 and teaches piano privately. She holds memberships in the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association of Church

Highlighting Adult Choirs: continued

Musicians and the Music Teachers Association of California.

Hilliard and her husband Mike live in Agoura Hills and have two grown children and two grandsons.

"I enjoy making music with others and I am touched by this very caring community," she says. "I enjoy making music with the people in the choirs. I think there's something very special about making music with someone else."

"I think we are very close, we care for each other, we contribute to the community. It's important to provide music that enhances the worship services. We offer music for people of all ages to participate because music is a joy. We can certainly enrich the lives of anyone who is participating."

The Chancel Choir is for men and women. It rehearses on Thursdays, 7:30-9:15 p.m. The Celebration Singers is for women and they practice on Thursdays, 6:45-7:30 p.m. The Chancel Choir sings weekly in the 10:30 a.m. worship service from September through mid June. On special holiday Sundays, it also sings at 9 a.m. If a person cannot attend because of being out of town, he or she can sign out so the director knows who will be missing on a given Sunday.

The Celebration Singers participate during church services about once a month, so there's less of a commitment there. It's still a very cohesive group.

Nick Newkirk directs the Covenant Ringers handbell choir. It meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

"The people who come to church are always excited to hear the music of the bells," Hilliard says. "It's very joyful and it enhances their worship. In addition, there's a men's



Chancel Choir and Covenant Ringers

Our Mission Statement: "The mission of Music Ministry at the United Methodist Church of Westlake Village is to serve, communicate and enhance the mission of the church and the worship of God through music. We are committed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate through a variety of programs and musical styles."

choir, the Fishermen, that sings on occasion. The congregation always enjoys it when the men sing."

During the summer months and for the Christmas and Easter services, Hilliard coordinates with soloists, small groups, brass and/or a small orchestra. Most of these people are UMCWV members.

"We're very fortunate in this church because we have so many talented musicians," she says.

On some occasions, instrumentalists from the community are hired to perform, accompanying the choir for a church service, especially for Easter.

It's possible to join one of the choirs without auditioning, and people are welcome to join at any time.

"I find that even if people have not sung before that if they come in and give it a try it's amazing from just singing new music you do learn to read music," Hilliard says. "We put someone with no experience with someone who is an experienced singer so if the new person has questions there's someone to ask."

"I try to encourage people: 'If you think you would like to sing

in a choir and never tried it, come and try it for just six weeks to see if it's something you would like.' We can certainly help them. I even have a course that teaches people how to read music. There have been times when I would use it. It's a course that I have permission to copy, so I copy it. If you are interested in music, music is something you can learn to do."

The strength of the music program is in itself a strong recruiter.

"If people are looking for a church that has a strong music program, when visiting our church they will come away aware that we do and they may want to join it," Hilliard says. "One way we recruit is by having choirs that other singers would like singing with."

Pizazz, the summer music camp held one week in August for children entering first grade to eighth grade, is a popular program. Families with children in Pizazz are invited after the week to come and participate in the UMCWV bell and singing choirs and the choir schedule is sent to them.

"It's important to provide choirs for children of all ages because not only will they learn music and maybe become adult choir

Highlighting Vocal Choirs: continued

members, but they are also developing a faith," Hilliard says.

"We're teaching Christian education through music and our choirs. Also, choirs are a very caring community to belong to, and I think we need a place to feel good about coming to church. Not only do people come to church, but also sing a piece that's meaningful and is contributing to the worship experience of others."

Membership in the adult choirs includes several who have sung or

rung with the youth choirs and adult choirs at other churches.

A plaque in the narthex of the church shows the names of choir members who have been in the Chancel Choir for five years or longer. One charter member of the church, Jane Chapman, has sung in Chancel Choir for 45 years.

The church also has a Sacred Movement program directed by Suzanna Judd-Newkirk and it's nice to have liturgical dance in the worship

service occasionally. Hilliard said that those interested in this program should contact her or Judd-Newkirk.

"We invite you to join us in singing and ringing praises to God," Hilliard says. "Making music together is a very special experience. Making music together in praise to God takes it to a whole new level. That's why people enjoy being in the choir."

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2017	Margie Price Sunny Benjamin Bob Each

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Lay Leader: Boyd Donavon

Treasurer: Leroy Friel

The Focus Statement of Our Church

The United Methodist Church of Westlake Village is a caring Christian community that welcomes everyone to experience the loving embrace of God, nurtures one another, and reaches out to the community and the world through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

INVITE INVOLVE GROW SHARE

Serving the people of the greater Conejo Valley and beyond in ministry since 1969.

