



# WESTLAKE NEWS

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## *Our Healing the Heart of Your Church Journey Continues...*

### **I. Where have we come thus far?**

#### **A. We have become aware of the biblical principles of our journey through our:**

1. Sermon series on the Letters to the 7 Churches in Revelation;
2. Healing the Heart of Your Church Seminar on Sunday, June 25, 2017 (grateful for the 19 who attended);
3. Reading of the book, Healing the Heart of Your Church by Dr. Kenneth Quick.

#### **B. We sought to prepare for our HTH Historical Weekend Retreat by:**

1. Asking our congregation to personally be in prayer for this process, and invited people to a corporate time in prayer on Sunday morning July 16, 2017 before our morning service;
2. Having various individuals read through the session minutes from the beginning of the congregation to the present.

**C. We reviewed the *Spiritual Journey of WPC* at our Historical Retreat on July 21-22, 2017 at the Youth Center of Covenant Hope Church. We were thankful for the 18 who were willing to give of their time for this process. During this time, we:**

1. Heard devotional thoughts and were prayed over (via speaker phone) by Dr. Kenneth Quick, author of Healing the Heart of Church on Friday evening and by Rev. Mark Barnard, President of Blessing Point Ministries on Saturday morning.
2. Assessed:
  - a. The blessings over the years (what Christ would have commended)
  - b. The challenges/conflicts, and
  - c. The crises that arose.

This time together was further a time of sharing great food, laughter, fellowship, along with a few tears. It was a positive bonding experience.

**D. Based on what was learned from the retreat, all who participated were asked to prayerfully write the letter they felt Christ, the Lord of the Church would be writing Westlake (in the format shown in the Letters to the Churches in Revelation). Those were to be handed in by Sunday, July 30, 2017.**

### **II. Now what?**

**A. Our session members will be studying these letters and prayerfully combining them into one letter in preparation for our *Reconciliation/Reconciliation Service* (Date to be determined,**

most likely the end of September or first of October).

Also called a Solemn Assembly, this is a worship service where our church leaders will address issues discovered at the retreat.

1. It's an opportunity to:
  - a. Celebrate what God has done through Westlake over the years;
  - b. Right our relationship with the Lord, repenting of the things revealed in our process, where we operated in a way that was not pleasing to Him;
  - c. Bring reconciliation among members/previous members who may have been wounded through these actions/decisions.
  - d. Recommit to a new way of operating under the Lord's leading.
2. During this worship service, two biblical concepts will be used to bring about healing in our relationship with Christ, the Lord of the Church, and with one another (along with previous members/pastors who may be invited to attend):
  - a. *Identificational Repentance*, which is repentance offered by someone in a role (such as pastor, staff, session or congregational member), identifying publicly with the sins committed by past leaders in that role, and taking responsibility for them through repentance;
  - b. *Mediatory Authority*, which is the unique ability God gives to those in spiritual authority to operate in His name and act on behalf of all under their authority. Mediatory authority is the means by which leaders are able to confess to God the sins of the church's past and receive corporate forgiveness.

**B. Please pray diligently for session members in the challenging task of preparing for this service, and make it a priority to participate when this service comes.**

**C. I will continue in what we at Blessing Point Ministry call *Recovery Coaching* with our church leaders**, seeking to guide them through the recovery phase of corporate healing. Coaching focuses on helping our leaders change the culture of our church, which is often impacted by past corporate wounds. Our goal in this phase is to help leaders move away from unhealthy ways of relating and improve overall corporate functioning. Session has voted to extend my contract another six months (to the end of February 2018). My commitment to this coaching goes beyond this. Normally six months and then one year after congregations first take the online *Church Scan* through Blessing Point Ministries; it is administered again to see if they are progressing to greater health.

Obviously, we want to become more and more effective in fulfilling Christ's purposes to best use the resources God has given us to bear the most fruit for His kingdom. Each member/attender has an important role in enabling WPC to do just that.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roger*

PS. As always, if you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me by phone: 616-443-8504 or through email: rogergrandia@gmail.com.

## **A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS**

August. It is hard to believe that we have already arrived in the month of August. While summer is still in full swing, the Deacons are gearing up for another exciting fall church kick off. Please be looking for more information on the Super Safe Place Sunday donation drive and the annual all church fall kick-off picnic. Both of these events promote our love of the Lord, each other, and our community. You will not want to miss out!

Love, Kerri



**Please remember** the following members of the congregation in your daily prayers: Jack Hungerford, Marian Jewett, Don Kortzen, Art and Pat Wickert, Richard Phillips, Susan Gregory, Grace Taylor, Bill Lang, Carol Reid, Paul Yunker, Kerri Comai, Frank Crookes, Tom Lightbody, Gordon Dyer, and Jill Grandia.

## **THANK YOU**

**Thank you to everyone for your prayers, kind words, thoughts and emails, cards, flowers, FEC memorial contributions, and presence at the visitation and/or memorial service for my dear Amy.**

**Larry White**

## **Thank You**

Dear Church Family,

I thank you for all of your caring concerns, prayers, and cards given to me during my recovery following the accident.

It has taken longer than expected, but after 4+ months the "shell" is off! I pray as I see the surgeon August 3 that she will release me. God truly has been protecting David and me.

Christian Love,

Shirlee Burlingame

### **August Celebrations**

#### **Birthdays**

- 1 Jeremy Bishop
- 2 Kyle Tharp  
Sara Paulson
- 20 Linda Morcombe
- 21 John Dolbee  
Joshua Gerber  
Steve Tharp
- 24 Laura Bishop
- 28 Peggy Fettes
- 30 Larry Gregory

#### **Anniversaries**

- 5 Steve and Lisa Tharp
- 16 John and Nicole Kincaid
- 22 Mike and Linda Morcombe
- 24 David and Shirlee Burlingame



# Presbyterian Women

*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

PW is so thankful for what you have done to help us with our mission projects throughout the years. We continue to do our missions, projects, and sometimes we are able to add a new one for the year.

**Our PW meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. following the circle meeting. This is our planning meeting for the new year and every woman is invited to attend.**

Our church has had some busy months with preparing funeral dinners, prayer services, and our retreat weekend, so PW wants to give a heartfelt thank you to each person who helped in any way (providing a dish, making centerpieces for the tables, setting up and cleaning up). We thank you for your willingness to help whenever needed.

Our mission project during the month of August is our **STAMP MINISTRY**.

What is STAMP MINISTRY? We are a part of Church Women United and they have been connected with the Alliance Women's Stamp Ministry for a long time. This unique ministry was started in the early 1970's and it is located at Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida. The volunteers at this community collect, process, and resell used stamps to stamp dealers and collectors. The proceeds go towards overseas missions projects. \$25,000 a year is the average amount collected from this stamp ministry.

Ask your family, friends, and neighbors to save stamps for you. Please bring them to church and put them in the labeled container on the bench in the foyer.

Our recycling will help our brothers and sisters around the world.

## WESTLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

June 30, 2017

### OPERATING BUDGET

	MONTH	YTD	BUDGET
INCOME	9,821	99,414	134,121
EXPENSES	12,146	82,078	181,195
INCOME VS EXPENSES	(2,325)	17,336	

### CURRENT DEACONS

#### Class of 2017

Sharon Hungerford  
Marty Simmons  
Sara Simmons

#### Class of 2018

Kerri Comai  
Karen Patterson  
Ceci Porter

#### Class of 2019

Kathy Powell  
Larry White

### CURRENT ELDERS

Jody Owens (Clerk)

#### Class of 2017:

Nancy Chapin  
Paul Yunker

Madalyn Trumblee

#### Class of 2018:

Frank Crookes  
Tara Dolbee

#### Class of 2019

Charles Eppright  
Orman Trumblee  
Truman Smyth