

## West Point United Methodist Church

M A R C H 2 0 1 0


“Without a vision, the people perish.”  
Proverbs 29:18

**We are a church that understands that leadership is a shared responsibility with strong, proactive and risk taking laity leaders that remain future focused.** Adolph Hitler called him “the American Noah.” Several United States Congressmen called him “The Bellows from the Bayou,” because of his incessant complaining about red tape. His parents named him Andrew Jackson Higgins and their little boy grew up to develop the famous “Higgins” boat, the landing craft that deposited hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and Marines on foreign shores during WWII. Supreme Allied Commander Dwight David Eisenhower stated that the invasion of Normandy might not have been possible without the Higgins boats. Andrew Higgins was a visionary and a driving force in getting his boats into mass production. When he started his company in 1939, Higgins has less than a hundred employees. By 1944, *twenty five thousand people* were working at his eight plants.

As we reflect on our fifth and final core value at West Point United Methodist Church (see in bold above) I can't help but think about how far we've come over the last seven years towards accomplishing our mission: “the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We have and will continue to celebrate that success. But we should also keep an eye on the fact that success also means transition. I would imagine that Andrew Higgins was a very different type of leader when his company employed twenty five thousand people than he was when his company employed less than a hundred. He had to be! He could no longer be the kind of “hands-on, into the nuts and bolts of the business” kind of leader he once was. He had to rely heavily upon his people and his role changed so that their mission, mass producing landing craft that would go far towards winning the war, could go forward. The same principle applies to churches that are experiencing significant growth. A church reaches a certain point in membership and attendance, must be prepared to embrace new leadership styles and leadership dynamics. Starting with the pastor. Like Andrew Higgins, pastors of significantly growing churches can no longer be the same type of leader he or she once was. As the church grows, the pastor must become less “hands on” in terms of the nuts and bolts of the ministry process, and become more focused on keeping the vision in front of the congregation and developing ministry leaders so that the ministry of the church, and therefore it's growth, isn't all dependant upon the time and energy of one person. For the congregation, that change means that we begin by taking our membership vows seriously as each individual member comes to understand that for the church to achieve her goals and live into her vision, each of us must play a role. We must remain future focused in terms of where the church is going.

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# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Administrative Counsel meeting 7:00 PM</i>	3 <b>Confirmation class meeting 6:00 PM</b>  708	4 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	5	6
7 <i>Wesley Founda- tion to lead wor- ship! Luncheon to follow worship</i>	8	9 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	10 708 <i>United Method- ist Women 7:00 PM</i>	11 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	12	13
14 <b>District Super- intendent Craig LaSuer to preach. Lunch- eon &amp; cluster group to follow worship.</b>	15	16 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	17 708 <i>Little Beavers 4:30—6:00 PM</i>	18 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	19	20
21	22	23 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	24	25 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 	29	30 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	31 708			

## SERMONS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### March 7

- 3rd Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Today's worship experience will be led in both services by the Wesley Foundation focusing on Missions and evangelism.

### March 14

- 4th Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church
- Holy Communion

Rev. Craig LaSuer, our new District Superintendent, will preach at both services today. Immediately after the Praise and Worship Service, a light lunch will be served and we will meet with

Craig and our sister churches in our cluster here at West Point UMC.

### March 21

- 5th Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Matthew 3:1-12 & John 12:1-8.  
Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "The Left and the Right."

### March 28

- Palm Sunday
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Luke 22:13-38 & Luke 22:39-62.  
Pastor Jeff's sermon will be

That Season is here!! To order *Easter Lilies*: Place order with Rae Ritchie on March 14. They are \$8.50 a piece this year and they must be paid for by March 21. Contact Rae in church or at [raedee@msn.com](mailto:raedee@msn.com)

## March Birthdays

### Adults

Clayton Whitehead	Mar. 7
Del Craig	Mar. 11
Julie Katter	Mar. 18
Greg Stout	Mar. 21

### New Worship Service Hours!!!!

They begin this month. Please remember that on **March 7th**, our traditional service will be at **9:30 AM**. Our new praise worship service will be at **11:00 AM**. Sunday school will be at **8:30 AM**. We look forward to seeing you at one of our new services. Help us spread the word.

## Prayer Concerns

Connie Burke, Eve Hamilton, Sharon Hughel, Helen Nice, Teresa Vaughn, Luke Vaughn, Eric Elming, Bill House, Jim Deckerd, Reva Page, Jean Gamble, Lila Spoor, Harold Bollinger, Doug Ford, Ellen Martin (Nancy Allrich's mom) and Krystal West (friend of Robin Leuck).

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cody Hamilton, John MacIntosh, Rob Gaither, and Jeremy Ritter, especially those serving in harm's way.

The family and friends of Tim Cheesman and Jim Cadle on their recent passing.

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Let me state that another way; “a church that is more focused on it’s memories than on it’s possibilities is a dying church.” My friends, that’s not us. The good news is that we at West Point UMC are blessed with two types of laity leaders. We have folks in established and informal leadership roles who are not just leading, but helping to develop others for leadership. And then we’ve got leaders who simply don’t know that they are leaders yet.

I would like to close by saying that the real test of leadership both clergy and laity is coming for us here at West Point UMC. The mortgage on our new property is almost paid for. (See details below) It will be completely paid for by Easter Sunday and on that day we will worship God and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as we always do but we will also celebrate the burning of our mortgage. What a joy that will be! On the following Sunday, April 11, we will have a Dreaming Day Sunday. On that Sunday, after the second worship service, we will have a light lunch and we will dream together about the next step. I will share more about this next month but on that day our leadership team invites you to start visualizing what our new church will look like. We encourage you to bring pictures of other churches, inside and outside if you like, and a list of things that you thing the first phase of our church building should contain. What are our priorities, in other words. For example, one of the problems with our current building is that the fellowship space and the kitchen are downstairs. So one vision might be; “a state of the art kitchen with fellowship space and worship space on one floor. I encourage you to dream big! But as you dream, please be also open to the leading of the Holy Spirit especially as it regards our leadership core value. Could it be that God might be calling on you to help us move into our future in a leadership role of some kind?

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

### How things stand with our new property

What was once a far off dream is starting to become very, very real! We are within striking distance of having our mortgage paid in full and the land fully ours. At this rate, we will burn the mortgage on Easter Sunday and the following Sunday, we will have a “dreaming day.” I would encourage you all to start thinking serious thoughts about what our new church should look like, what it could do for the community and for us, and what kinds of creative ways we can use our new building for worship and service to the community. More on this later. Please pray for our continuing mission.



Here are some facts about where we stand on our mortgage:

Original Loan Amount:	\$175,000.00
Amount Paid as of 2/17/2010:	\$160,644.87.
Mortgage Amount Remaining:	\$14,355.13.
Amount lowered from the previous month:	\$6,714.54.

## GO GREEN SAVE MONEY

**We are now able to e-mail the church newsletter to you.**

If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail instead of US mail, send an e-mail to us at [wpumc@tds.net](mailto:wpumc@tds.net). Then beginning next month your newsletter will arrive by e-mail. This will save on paper (save a tree) and postage (save a buck) helping to make us good stewards of God's gifts.



## The Tax Man Cometh

It's that time of year again. You know, that time usually after the Super Bowl and before April 15th, where we Americans diligently get ready to settle up with the tax man. Darlene Christian would like you to know that your giving records will be cheerfully forwarded to you if you but ask for them. However, if we don't hear from you, we will assume you don't want them. You can contact Darlene at [dcmc2@tds.net](mailto:dcmc2@tds.net), or at 572-2719.

## Employment Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Postmaster Relief/Leave Replacement at the West Point Post Office. This is a non-career position and the successful applicant would replace the postmaster during absences. The salary is \$9.45 per hour. Health insurance is an option to purchase from A Group Limited Benefit Hospital indemnity Insurance policy underwritten by Transamerica Life insurance company. Stop in and see Shawn Grube for an application or additional information.

## March Birthdays

Cory Meadows	March 2
Star Welles	March 7
Shad Meadows	March 12
Megan Francis	March 18
Sarah Craig	March 18
Destiny Taylor	March 21

If we missed anybody, please accept our apologies and let Pastor Jeff know so we can update our records!



## Little Beemers!!!!!!

Our brand new year is off to a great start! Little Beemers will meet on February 24th at 4:30pm. Can't wait to see you there! Bring your friends.

## Hey Light House;

We will continue our study of the books of the prophet Samuel.

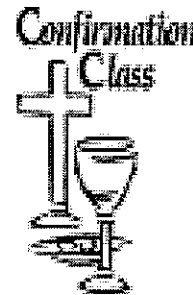
This month, we will see a king abuse his power and we will experience the tragedy of his fall.

We will see the rise of a new king; a man after God's own heart. And we will see that sometimes, even good people give in to temptation. If you think the bible is boring, you will be very pleasantly surprised by the stories of Saul and David.

We will be going to see the movie The Blindsight and have a pizza party. Details to follow.



Next confirmation class is set for Wednesday March 3rd at 6:00 just prior to 708. We will go to Merrillville to attend a vice at St. Constantine and St. Helen's Greek Orthodox church. Details to follow. In April we will attend a worship service at Temple Israel on the 9th. We are really looking forward to these opportunities to deepen our faith.



Blessings,

Pastor Jeff

## B I B L E   S T U D I E S

The life transformational experience that is the Disciple I Bible study continues. Our journey into the New Testament has begun in earnest with the teachings and stories of Jesus. We will soon begin the evangelical journeys with the Apostle Paul. The adventure continues.

### *Women's Bible Studies*

#### *Come Join Us*

Beth Moore's "It's Tough Being a Woman" bible study is well underway and eleven women are off to a fantastic start. This amazing journey through the Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage, containing many modern parallels for today's woman. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. Esther's destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner.

*We would love to have you come along with us. Please contact Delite Ritter or Ronda Smith for details.*

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

#### The Patience of Job

Charles Swindoll calls Job a man of heroic endurance. In our bible study of this long suffering biblical character, we are finding out that Job is very much worthy of that title. Join us for the remainder of the journey. We meet Wednesday mornings at 9:00 and we would love to have you join us.

## Our Vision Statement

We envision the West Point United Methodist Church to be the focal point of our community and to be a welcoming church reaching out to everyone; offering all the opportunity to know and serve God; providing fellowship; offering spiritual leadership; and teaching the Word of God.

For more information about West Point UMC, contact us at 765-572-2256, or  
[wpumc@tds.net](mailto:wpumc@tds.net) or check out our webpage at  
[www.westpointunitedmethodist.org](http://www.westpointunitedmethodist.org)

Sunday School:	8:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:30 AM
Praise & Worship	11:00 AM

*West Point UMC*  
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