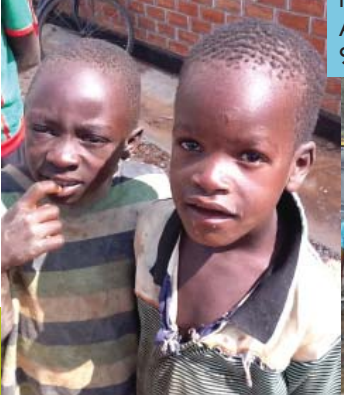




(Left) Core group for daughter church, Westbrook, which launched September 18, 2011 at Clover Ridge Elementary School.



(Left) Children benefitting from community centers we helped build in Malawi, Africa. (Below) Students at the first ever 9th Grade Camp.



(Above) Westwood VBS touched the lives of 760 kids!

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

In this report you'll find highlights of ministry from this past season and summary statistics that serve as good indicators of the health of our ministry. But know that behind the numbers are countless stories of lives changed and transformed by God's grace and goodness. Nothing confirms this more than baptisms and we saw another great year with many saying "yes" to follow Christ.

A highlight of the year was going into the homes of 39 Westwood families in February and March for the "Let's Talk" Gatherings. Hundreds attended—your insights, ideas and suggestions were extremely helpful and you listened thoughtfully as words of hope and challenge about our future were shared. Your input has shaped many of the objectives for this ministry season, as well as the church goals listed in the addendum to this report, *The Six Paddles in the Waters of Westwood's Future*.

The Leadership Board refined our planning process this past year giving us greater clarity of purpose and increased effectiveness in implementation. In response to Westwood's vision to reach people with the love of Jesus Christ, we made the decision to send Kevin Sharpe to launch a new church called Westbrook Community Church beginning on September 18. This will also help, but not solve our space challenge (three of our four services are more than 80% full from September-May). Our growth potential at the Westwood site is limited without making significant changes to existing services. We are currently evaluating our onsite options for worship services. Our holiday services smashed previous attendance records.

A highlight this past season was the partial completion of Phase 2 that resulted in significant student ministry growth and is providing dozens of new ministry initiatives for other programs.

The Nothing Less Than Extraordinary Campaign (NLTE) wrapped up, including our gifts to construct 10 village centers, a school expansion and World Relief office expansion in Malawi, Africa, providing facilities that house ministry to thousands in one of the poorest countries of the world. Your generosity during hard economic realities is inspiring.

Westwood sent many, many people on short-term mission trips interfacing with needs around the world and in our own community. Believing that Jesus comes to us through the poor, we will continue to make them a priority in our community life.

It is the desire and commitment of Westwood's leadership to honor God by enjoying Him through reaching people with the love of Jesus Christ. No matter what happens in the world around us, we will serve with bold confidence the purposes of Jesus Christ.

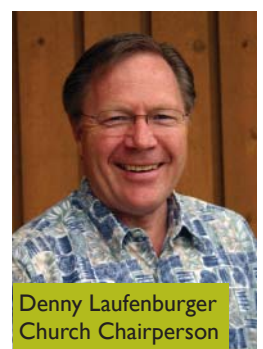
It is a joy and privilege to serve Christ Jesus through Westwood.

With Open Hands,



Joel K. Johnson  
Pastor

*Joel*



Denny Laufenburger  
Church Chairperson

*Denny*

## **Singles Ministry Helping Over 30 Singles**

Many singles join after coming out of difficult relationships, in need of others who have walked this path. “The transformation in my life and spiritual journey is amazing!” said one woman. “Coming out of my divorce feeling alone and broken, I never imagined I would have so many wonderful Christian friends and such a fulfilling life...I am so blessed.” Another single with an incapacitating back injury said “I am so blessed and grateful to receive all this unsolicited help with meals, cleaning, doctor appointments, etc.!”

## **Trunk n’ Treat**

**doubled** this year with more than 750 attending. This was a great fall outreach to bring families on to our campus.

**SOS** At the spring “Serve on Saturday,” 147 individuals and families served in practical ways at Westwood and throughout the community. 100 bikes were given away through Love Inc., 10,000 diapers were donated to four different organizations, 60 furniture items were donated to the Hospitality Center for Chinese at the University of Minnesota and a number of new clothing items were donated to the homeless. “Keep up this fabulous service throughout our church,” said one participant, “it has opened my eyes.”

**En Route** The new facility provided much-needed growing room for our senior high ministry. The Wednesday night program, grew by 37%. The Intersection has been a great space for students to be in community. New students arrived weekly by invitations from friends.

## **Caring for the Community**

The Community Care Team, a group of volunteers, are the first responders to those in need and connects individuals to available resources within Westwood and outside organizations. The Team works with Westwood’s community partner, Love INC, to meet the needs of the community. This team made over 23 hospital and home visits, two home blessings, nine healing/anointing prayer appointments, and various transportation, counseling referrals and prayer support.

## **Financial Resource Team**

A volunteer team of caring individuals knowledgeable about the financial and housing industries, was available throughout the year to counsel and help individuals facing challenges in those areas.

## **Musical Theater Discipleship**

To make room for all the young theatre arts enthusiasts at Westwood we expanded the program to include WINK, Walk In the Name of the King, for artists in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our goal in this ministry is to develop character by and through playing characters, and to help young men and women discover their story in light of His-story (history).

## **Student Worship Leading Teams**

Dozens of our student artists are involved in worship teams that lead on campus in various children’s and student ministry settings. In addition, student-led worship teams provided leadership on Sunday morning in our main service. Students of all ages are growing through service and training in Musicademy classes.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES • IM

**Tru Story** Our Children’s programming experienced a new infusion of energy and creativity with the addition of TRU Story, TRU Wonder and HomeFront Weekly and Monthly, a new online approach for parents and kids to grow spiritually together at home.

**Lifekeys** 76 people completed LifeKeys this ministry season. Here’s one of their stories: “In the fall of 2010, I enrolled in Lifekeys. I prayed God would show me through this carefully assembled course what the next turn in my life should be, according to how He designed me. As I began to discover more about my personality and gifts, I thought ‘Wow if I would have gone through this course as a teen what a difference it would have made in many life decisions.’

I found things I liked about myself, and areas of my life that needed to be prayed about, worked on, changed and developed.”



The Fernandez family was commissioned as missionaries.

**Wellspring**, Westwood’s leadership development initiative, anchored Westwood’s new process to DISCOVER leaders—having conversations

with 32 potential leaders. The Team launched Westwood’s leadership DEVELOPMENT ministry. 147 existing and potential leaders attended 7 different leadership classes on topics such as conflict resolution, leadership blind spots, and handling opposition. Wellspring continued efforts to SUPPORT existing leaders

by hosting a well-attended leadership vision event, and holding orientation training to help teams navigate relevant Westwood systems and

processes. We streamlined how we CONNECT leaders to ministries that need them, matching leadership need with ready leaders.

## **Womens Bible Study**

The Tuesday and Saturday studies continue to bring in new women to Westwood and to the Christian faith with 10% of the women new each session. There were 160 women in the Fall studies and 133 in the Winter. The studies provide significant leadership opportunities with 33 women now on the leadership team. For the first time, Women’s Bible Studies partnered with support ministries to offer a Bible study that deals with difficult life transitions. This was a group that grew in amazing ways as they sought God’s purpose through their trials.

## Support Groups

**DivorceCare** and **DC4Kids** encouraged and supported 22 parents and 18 children with the encouragement and hope offered through biblical healing. **Job Transition** held 20 meetings to provide the jobless with training, collaboration, networking opportunities and spiritual support. **The Meals Ministry** shared the love of Christ by providing meals to 25 families dealing with illness, hospitalization, or celebrating the birth of a child. Also lifting those in need, the **Prayer Shawl team** knitted and crocheted over 20 prayer shawls providing individuals with a constant reminder of God's infinite love. **GriefShare**, now in its 7th year, gave hope and encouragement in Christ to face the challenges associated with the loss of a loved one. **AA, Alanon** and other groups met on campus to offer help and support.

**Summer Camps and Trips** had a huge impact as 6th-8th graders enjoyed summer camp in Grantsburg and went to Green Bay on a mission experience for the first time, and En Route (10-12) spent a week in Colorado.

A team of 10th-12th grade students were servants on the Rosebud Indian Reservation while other 9th-12th grade students served the poor in Chicago. 9th grade students came together for the first year of "Unite," summer camp.

**Prayer Teams** prayed with more than 100 individuals after services and prayed during the week for submitted prayer requests, and for those seeking prayer support. A Tuesday prayer group for men developed and

were held to encourage others to develop and deepen their prayer life and equip volunteers.

## The Worship Leading Choir and Orchestra

involves 80 vocal artists and 36 instrumentalists in a powerhouse of musical praise leading the congregation in a life-transforming encounter with God. The Christmas Concert was performed for two nearly capacity audiences, the highlight being a collaborative presentation of "The Little Drummer Boy" with the Drum Line from Minnetonka High School.



83 people were baptized in June and over 60 were in September.

## We Shared Our Space

with Love INC, St. Hubert's School, Southwest Christian High School, Minnetonka High School and Prayer Ventures.

remains strong in its commitment to support one another through prayer. Additionally, Fall and Spring training events

# PACTING THE COMMUNITY

**Marriage Team** The Marriage Ministry hosted four opportunities for enriching marriages including Intimate Allies, through the Marriage Course, Marriage in Full Color and a one-day seminar with Dr. Bob Moeller called "For Better, For Worse for Keeps." The seminar offered couples tools to renew their love and commitment to their marriage, allowing for hope, love, grace and a fresh start.

**Marriage Prep** Our volunteer Counseling Team prepared 35 engaged couples for marriage through individual sessions and "Rock Your Relationship," where couples learned how to develop a strong foundation for a lasting marriage. 12 weddings were held on campus.

**Shifting Students** This summer, Student Ministry and Children's Ministry moved 5th graders into Children's Ministry and phased out of the Middle School ministry. 9th graders are now incorporated into the Senior High ministry on Sunday mornings and have their own Upper Room emphasis on Wednesday nights. The shift is already helping us be more effective in reaching kids and students with the love of Christ.

**Mobile Food Pack** Partnering with Kids Against Hunger, over 950 Westwood volunteers packed a total of 176,688 meals last December; which will feed 484 kids a meal a day for a full year. It was exciting to see so many families working together.

**Small Groups** Nearly 600 people are in small groups at Westwood. Last fall, new groups were launched to complement Pastor Joel's Sunday teaching series, "One Month to Live" and continued with the Romans series. Response to this new format has been extremely positive, with people going deep into God's Word and fostering richer application of Sunday messages.

**Operations Teams** 15 people on the **Wheeler's Team** joyfully repaired and donated cars for those in need. 8 volunteers on the **Garden Team** kept our grounds weed-free and flower-filled. And no matter rain, sleet, sun or snow, our **Parking Team** helped thousands of people safely flow through our parking lot each Sunday. Technology experts

on the Westwood Information System Team expanded and improved our wireless internet system into the Phase 2 building.

## Singles Growing, Connecting and Serving Together

Book studies were offered in the fall, winter and spring for singles to grow in their relationship with Christ and others. Large fellowship events were offered quarterly along with monthly dining out opportunities and activities such as theater, snowshoeing, Twins games, mini-golf and biking. Many have made Westwood their church after attending one of the events. Singles provided volunteer services to the community through the Ronald McDonald House, Love INC, Feed My Starving Children, Chaska's Auburn Manor and Serve on Saturday.

## Westwood's Preschool Ministry

saw an all-time high of 161 students this last school year, many from non-Westwood families. There was a strong response to a new mini camp offered this summer. The new building space has enriched outreach potential and we experienced record participation in the Fall Festival, Jesus' Birthday Celebration, Date Night with Dad, and Mother's Day events.

**Pandamania** 760 kids and more than 400 volunteers experienced VBS Pandamania— learning of God's WILD love for us! Many of those who came were unchurched, some have now begun attending Westwood regularly. Two highlights; a Prayer Wall with hundreds of prayers and praises posted, and \$6,200 raised for Samaritan's Purse to purchase more than 40 bikes to bless people affected by the earthquakes in Japan.

**Tour of Tables**, a creative womens' event with a fashion show and Christian speakers/performers, sold out in just nine days. The event also targeted younger women who don't normally attend church women's events. One woman who decorated a table shared how she formed new friendships and was blessed to share her gifts with those who attended, thereby honoring God. Others appreciated the opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who don't normally attend church services. Spiritual seeds were planted.

**Record Holiday Attendance** This Christmas Eve, two family services were added to our holiday programming to accommodate the special needs of young families with children. These services were a creative collaboration with Children's Ministry and Worship Arts and allowed us to reach over 1,000 additional people. A third off-site service was also added at Easter with worship led by Sara Renner. Our Easter attendance was also the largest in the church's history, topping 8,000.

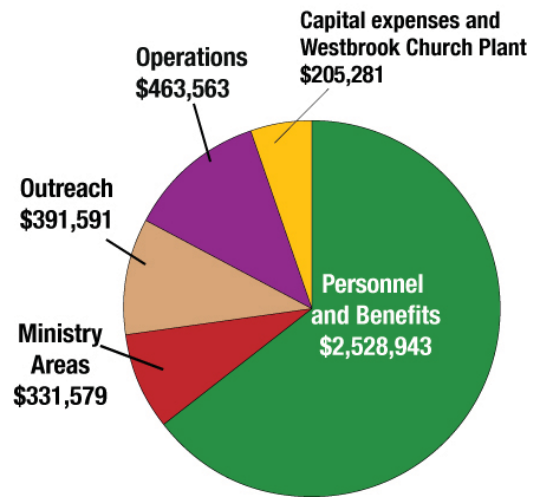
**Community Care** held a luncheon for senior adults and invited CASE (Communities Against Senior Exploitation) to bring awareness to mature adults about criminals' efforts to exploit them. An evening presentation was held for parents of teens, hosted by SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) bringing education about depression and attention to warning signs for suicide.



3121 Westwood Drive  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
www.westwoodcc.org

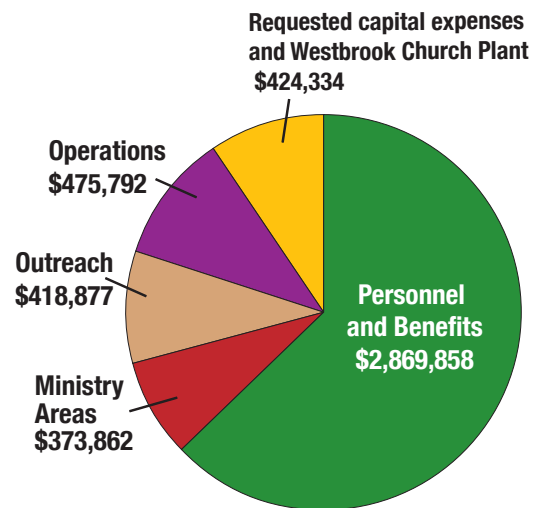
## 2011 Operating Expenses

### 2011 Operating Expenses and Capital Expenses



## 2012 Proposed Operating Budget

### 2012 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Budget



## 9-Year Worship Attendance

### Worship Attendance 2003-2011 (by Fiscal Year, August-July)

