



127 people were baptized in September and June!



(Right) students write verses & blessings on the steel beams for the Phase 2 building. (Above) People enjoy the new space at the Phase 2 Open House.



2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Westwood celebrated our 15th anniversary as a church on Easter 2010. We highlighted our 15 Guiding Principles during services leading up to that celebration day knowing that they serve as a compass for the future as well. We re-focused our purpose and ministry plans at Westwood around three challenges: **Renew** your faith; **Release** your gifts; **Reach** someone with the love of Jesus Christ. Over 1,200 people said 'YES' to this challenge by writing their name on a tag which was placed on the Vision Wall as a reminder of our desire to grow in Christ and serve His purposes. This response is re-energizing to us as leaders as well as to our whole church. Thanks for being a church that says 'YES' to the things that matter most to God.

We also saw the partial completion of Phase 2. This critically-needed facility will provide significantly more growth opportunity. One year ago we wrestled over the question of even moving forward due to the economic crisis. By faith we moved forward with a scaled-down version of Phase 2 but not a scaled-down vision for ministry expansion. We anticipate God working in this space and have planned a full slate of new ministry initiatives utilizing the facility this fall.

Again, the economic crisis was the center of attention this past year. Our nation continues to navigate around new realities. People in our homes, companies, schools and churches are doing the same. It's a new day, a different day, and learning how to lead in these times is challenging but rewarding. In a true but strange way, crisis is a gift. It's a gift because it focuses our attention on what is most important in life. It presses us to lean into God in creative and urgent ways. It makes us rethink what we do and how we do it. It heightens our senses in every way imaginable. This is good when we offer our lives and circumstances by faith to Jesus Christ. Two years ago we put a response team comprised of godly leaders from Westwood with housing, financial, and vocational expertise to come alongside our Westwood families in need. Dozens of families met this past year with members of this response team seeking godly counsel, personal encouragement and financial

assistance. We have always been generous to the economically disadvantaged in Honduras, Malawi, Asia and beyond, but it's been good and right to bring help and hope to our own church family. We expect this response team

will continue to meet with families into this next ministry season.

Highlights of ministry from this past season are included in this report along with summary statistics that serve as good indicators of the health of our ministry—our strengths and growth areas. But know that behind the numbers are countless stories of lives changed and transformed by God's grace and goodness, represented by a record number of people baptized this past year. God is alive and He is present and working in our midst in compelling and tangible ways.

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 the purposes of Jesus Christ with bold confidence.

As we completed 15 years of ministry this past year we welcome God's hand to lead us in the chapters still ahead. It is a joy and privilege to serve Christ Jesus through Westwood. Remember, we are always...

Under the Mercy,



Denny Laufenburger
Church Chairperson



Joel K. Johnson
Pastor

stories from a ministry season inside...

Westwood Artists in the Community

Westwood teams and individual musicians used their gifts outside of Westwood, even assisting a church in transition with worship leadership. The student band, The Breakfast Boys, played for a Love INC breakfast during Chaska's River City Days. Westwood musicians played at the State Fair, at Summerwood Senior facility in Chanhassen and at the prison in Shakopee.

SOS "Serve on Saturdays" launched in May with more than 120 volunteers pouring their hearts into 10 serving projects both on and off campus. An elderly woman in a low-income apartment in Chaska wept when she learned that there was no cost for the minor repairs and cleaning done by the team there to show God's love. SOS will be held two or three times a year.

Birthday Gift It was Westwood's 15th birthday this past Easter but the City of Chanhassen got the gift! Westwood gave \$10,000 to help the city with an Adaptive Recreation Program to help kids with special needs mainstream into community programs.

Emerging Technologies Westwood began to utilize new technologies as we text messaged in the services, began "tweeting" and added Facebook pages for Westwood and Children's Ministries. A new Westwood social network will be released this fall.

LifeKeys More people than ever before experienced this small group opportunity to learn how God created us as unique individuals with gifts and passions that can be used for His purposes. Said one partici-

pant: "All my life I've been told that 'who I am is a fault,' now I understand that 'who I am' is a gift."

Wednesday evening Lenten services, new this year, helped people prepare their hearts for the Lenten season, culminating in our joyous Easter services at two locations; our main campus and the new Chanhassen High School.

Kid's Generosity

Westwood children and families continued to model generosity as they participated in:

- Backpacks of Blessing
- Garden of New Beginnings
- Festival of Hope in Rwanda
- Santa Cruz preschool support
- Feeding the homeless
- Haiti earthquake relief

The kids also sent letters, drawings and prayers to our troops overseas.

Summer Camps continued to be outstanding opportunities for students to make significant faith decisions. "I know what it means to follow God now," said one middle school student. CrossRoads, Xchange and En Route ministries all saw record camp attendance.

Malawi Volunteers from Westwood continued to serve alongside World Relief partners in this southern Africa country where the average income is \$1 per day and AIDS devastates the population. This year we were able to contribute funds to build three more village centers as well as offices for World Relief which were used in July for a church leaders conference with 70 leaders from six denominations benefitting.

TRANSFORMING LIVES • IM

Small Groups were enjoyed by more than 650 people who found connection, support and opportunity to grow together in their relationships with Christ. Many met in homes, while others met in coffee shops or on campus. The One Month to Live message series this fall brings another great opportunity to enhance learning through group interaction.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) provided wonderful fellowship, ministry and support to 130 women, including a young mom who called in to say that she couldn't be there because her child was having emergency surgery. She was prayed with by the coordinator who took the call, then the

whole MOPS group. Women are mentored in spiritual leadership as they, many for the first time, use their gifts in leading MOPS.



Success Through Scripture Pheasant Hunt, October 2009

Simply Connected was a great way for more than a hundred people to connect with others at Westwood for social and spiritual growth.

Women's Bible Studies saw more than 150 women in attendance; choosing from a banquet of studies that met women at various seasons

in their spiritual growth. One woman, who had come to faith through last year's study, saw her children, husband and brother-

in-law come to faith in Christ throughout the year.

With Open Hands small groups helped people to know more about Westwood's values and vision, as well as learn about places to serve.

Musical Theater Discipleship An amazing 50 volunteers provide 200 children a chance to build character while playing characters in our musical theater discipleship ministries through sixth grade. JAM, JELLYS and WATCH presented four productions this year.

Women's Dessert expanded to three nights for the first time in the history of this wonderful outreach event. 1,200 attended and 35 indicated first-time decisions for Christ. Additional special events included a Mini-Retreat, the fall Steppin' Out event and Tour of Tables in the Spring.

Westwood Preschool

celebrated its fifth anniversary having served more than 650 children. More than 150 are enrolled for this year. Spiritual seeds are planted as the children grow spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically as they are cared for by a loving staff. Families are connecting with each other and with Westwood.

Success Through Scriptures

a ministry for outdoor enthusiasts who love to fish, hunt, snowmobile, canoe, or camp provided Canadian fishing retreats, a pheasant hunt and snowmobiling for men and boys as an opportunity to develop relationships and spiritual growth. In 2010, STS opened its ministry to include the first-ever women's fishing retreat, hosting six women in the great Canadian outdoors.

The **Community Care Team**, established to be first responders at Westwood, connected and coordinated those in need with available resources through Westwood volunteer teams and through a partnership with Love INC a unique organization that links churches in eastern Carver County.

Summer of Serving

Student ministries provided teenagers a chance to serve others. Fifth and sixth graders spent a week serving people in Richfield, while Xchange served

at a thrift shop and En Route teams served people in Chicago and on the Standing Rock Native American Reservation.

Children's Ministry

More than 800 kids embarked



More than 1,000 people packed food for Haiti in December

on a "High Seas Adventure," discovering God's Amazing Love at Vacation Bible School. The voyage through God's Word was

incredible. Other special events included the annual Trunk n' Treat Festival and two great family movie nights.

Seasons of Spiritual Growth

were incorporated throughout Westwood's growth ministries helping people to identify where they are spiritually and which resources or opportunities would be most helpful to them. Many attended several classes on the Holy Spirit, while others were blessed by the Vine and Branches Retreat.

PACTING THE COMMUNITY

Support Ministries

Individuals experiencing significant transition and loss received and gave hope and encouragement in Christ through various support ministries. New this year was the development of Men's GriefShare for a group of men experiencing grief, loss and family challenges. GriefShare, offered in the fall and spring, continued to offer support and encouragement for individuals who have experienced loss.

The leaders of **Divorce Care** and DivorceCare for Kids brought on new team members and leaders to join them in support, encouragement and biblical teaching for parents and children experiencing divorce.

Job Transition is a faith-based group covering a range of topics designed to build relationships and business contacts through sharing, listening and supporting each other. The ministry remained strong and continues to provide strength and direction for many in and outside of Westwood.

Westwood members made themselves available to lead and begin **12 Step Spiritual Journey**, an invitation to experience the restoring love of Christ. Participants worked through various hurts, habits and hang-ups. Each step included the applications of biblical truth to the lives and relationships of participants.

Mobile Hunger Pack

We partnered with ImpactLives to benefit people in earthquake

stricken Haiti. 1,000 Westwood children and adults packed 200,000 meals over Christmas break.

Artists Ministry A developing ministry seeking to utilize the gifts of visual artists at Westwood saw their photos used to augment several Westwood worship services and won an award for the Westwood float they designed for the Chan Fourth of July parade!

The **Meals Ministry Team** provided meals to those dealing with illness, hospitalization and other circumstances where encouragement and a hot meal were needed.

The **Funeral Hospitality Team** created a lasting memory and responded with the love of Christ to families experi-

encing the loss of a loved one by preparing and serving meals after many funeral or memorial services, most from outside of our church community.

After two years of work, our **Leadership Pipeline Team** called Wellspring presented a comprehensive plan for leadership recruitment, development and deployment.

The **Financial Resource Team**, a volunteer team of caring individuals knowledgeable about the financial, housing and employment industries continued to make themselves available to individuals within the congregation who are facing challenges in these areas. This year they also hosted a Housing Seminar and the Financial Seminar.

Couples explored dimensions of commitment and communication and were encouraged to build upon strengths to grow in intimacy as a couple during **Intimate Allies** led by Pastor Dave Trautmann. Engaged couples were encouraged to build a strong foundation for a lasting marriage as they learned vital communication skills and learned to manage financial resources as a couple during the **Engaged Couples workshop**.

We were thrilled to have **Dianne Cotten** join our staff as the student ministry pastor to students in grades 7-9. She brings a great heart and a wealth of experience.

In September, a Westwood Bible study group desiring to branch out and serve others was moved by stories of soldiers and their families, developed the **Military Ministry**. They provide care packages filled with items for soldiers and help the families here at home with the encouragement and support through cards, prayers and household goods.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** knitted and crocheted shawls which Westwood distributed to people in need of a tangible reminder of God's infinite love for them.

Deeper connections were made and developed during **Couples Communication** where couples discovered ways to create a collaborative marriage by reducing tensions, resolving differences and making mutually-satisfying decisions. Other events to encourage and inspire couples included: a date night opportunity to view the movie, "FireProof" (several small groups developed to discuss topics portrayed in the movie) and a Valentines event with Bob Stromberg.

For the first time at Westwood, a **Gathering of Hope** service brought reflection, encouragement and faith—all reminders of God's compassionate love to those suffering loss, transition or struggles during the Christmas season.

Releasing God's Power through Prayer, a fun and lively workshop hosted by Betsy Lee of Prayer Ventures helped attendees learn new insights and practical tools to pray for themselves and others as well as how prayer can release God's power



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

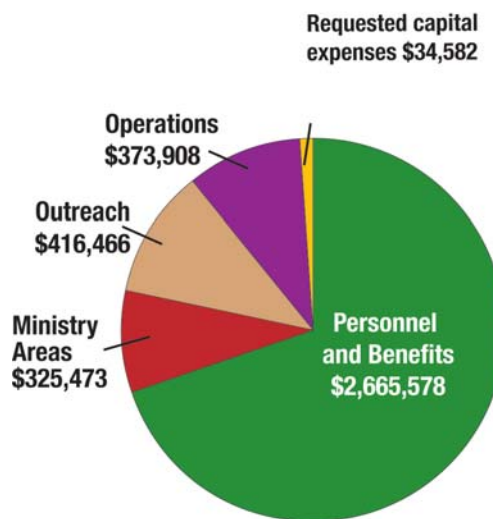
2010 Operating Expenses

2010 Operating Expenses (\$3,763,730) and Capital Expenses (\$61,932)



2011 Operating Budget

2011 Operating Budget (\$3,781,425) and Capital Budget (\$34,582)



8-Year Worship Attendance

Worship Attendance 2003-2010 (by Fiscal Year, August-July)

