

A HOPE FOR HARVEST

Thanks to our property manager, Jeff Vredevelde, the Garden of Eatin' has a new look! Encroaching limbs have been cut back to maximize sunlight. And a sprinkling system will insure every plot is watered. Two master gardeners who are working alongside our neighbors supplied a wonderful variety of donated vegetable plants from a local greenhouse. Fourteen families are tending their plots and trusting God for a bountiful harvest!



“It’s not the one who plants or waters...but God who makes things grow.” 1 Cor. 3:7

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THE OTHER WAY MINISTRIES
THE HOPE OF THE CITY
JESUS CHRIST

710 West Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6382

WEST SIDE STORY
We are a Christian ministry that walks alongside Westtown urban families as they strive to grow spiritually, relationally and economically.

THE WEST SIDE STORY

“The Other Way” Ministries

Summer 2009

HOPE THAT SPRINGS ETERNAL

I learned from the faith of Depression-era parents that “my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” And then I saw them weave that hope into the warp and woof of life, as they worked and prayed and played me into adulthood. It all reminds me of the game grown men still play... poetically described in 1888 by Ernest Thayer:

“It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day.
The score was two to four with but one inning left to play.
So, when Cooney died at second, and Burrows did the same,
A pallor wreathed the features of the patrons of the game.
A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest
With that hope that springs eternal from within the human breast.
For they thought, if only Casey could get a whack at that,
They’d put up even money now, with Casey at the bat...”

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright.
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout.
But there is no joy in Mudville... Mighty Casey has struck out.”

And yet, Tiger fans resurrect hope each spring...
like children hope to see Santa Claus.
And workers hope for another paycheck...
like retirees hope to stretch their savings.



2009 FAITH FOCUS VERSE EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

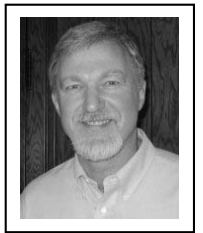
Economists hope for an uptick in the DOW.
Parents hope for better for their children.
These days, we all dare to hope, with the hope promised to Jesus’ grandparents living in Assyria (Iraq).

In the year 594 BC, when the candle of hope flickered and reasons for hope faded, Jeremiah’s God said to his people, families unemployed and homeless, living in exile:
“I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future.”

I invite you to enjoy and be encouraged by signs of hope in Westtown. See inside... and see much more at www.theotherway.org.

“May the God of hope, fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

Lou Roossien,
Executive Director



SAVE THE DATE....
Please join us at our fifth annual fall fundraiser on Tuesday, September 15, 2009
6:30pm - 8pm at Remembrance Church



PANTRY BLESSINGS GIVE HOPE

In these tough economic times we are all looking for ways to save or reduce. This economic climate has a huge impact on those who already face financial challenges. We wonder how our pantry will continue to meet even basic needs. A ray of hope came through L3 Communications Avionics Systems in Grand Rapids. Their team building competition centered on giving and we were the recipients! In March they collected 3,000 pounds of food and non-food items for our pantry! We are overwhelmed by their generosity at a time when giving is such a challenge. The people at L3 Communications remind us that no matter what our line of work, God can use us to bring hope to each other.

FAMILY CENTER OPENS

A synonym for hope is trust. If we say our hope is in God, it implies we trust Him completely. We trust Him to do all He has said and be all we need. We are building on this hope as we open the doors of the Jean Czarnecki Family Center. From office furniture to skilled technical volunteers, the God of Hope has provided for us in amazing ways. Now He is calling us to new ways of building community. He has planted new visions of hope for Westown Families and programs to help families reach their goals. The Family Center represents a long term commitment to our neighbors and a new dawn of hope. Please pray for us as we build upon the foundation He has laid. Our hope is in Him.



YES - 2009 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



Early morning sprinkles didn't dampen the enthusiasm of twelve YES youth, supervised by Carly Uthoff and Jeff Kladder. Canal and Sixth St. City Parks are blooming with colorful flowers donated by Henry Mast, Masterpiece Flower Co. Special thanks to Ed DeVries and Katerberg-Verhage staff, Jennifer and Uri for preparing the flower beds and encouraging the young planters!

"Beauty" and "Excellence" are two teachings we emphasize for our YES workers, and this was a great start to the summer!

CEDAR GROVE WORK CREW LABOR OF LOVE

Our 19th annual visit from the work crew from First Reformed Church in Cedar Grove, WI is in the history books! After gifts were unloaded from the DeMaster 53' truck, the work crew and neighbor volunteers tackled several Westown Jubilee Housing projects. On Friday night, neighbors and friends enjoyed another 'Wisconsin Chili Supper'. Thank you again!



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CHANGING WOMEN

The annual Women's Retreat is the highlight of the year for our Koinonia Women. Twenty three of us traveled to CranHill Ranch in May for our weekend together. We were challenged by the words of Paul from Galatians 6:15b, "What counts... is whether you really have been changed into new and different people." Here are some hopeful signs of women growing and being transformed by the power of Christ.

I've been going on the Women's Retreat for 12 years. I really look forward to getting away, forgetting things at home, understanding the Bible better and having fun times with friends. It is friends working together that make retreat great.



At retreat I learned that God will be there through all my struggles and that gives me hope.

I enjoy spending time with women I don't see enough. We share our faith and are there for each other, even just to listen. I especially enjoy my quiet time with God when I'm up early cooking for our group.

This year's retreat theme was PROOF. Our lives need to be the proof of God's love. We prove our trust in Him when He calls us to get outside our comfort zone and we are willing to follow Him. When we say yes to Christ, it's amazing the transformation God will do in our lives.

Retreat spoke to me about showing proof in my life that inspires others to live for Jesus. One big change in my life since retreat is that I am in God's word at least 15 minutes every day, spending time with Him.

We had an assignment to go off by ourselves and ask God about changes He wants to make in our lives. I prayed, then wrote, "Lord if you are ready to talk, I am willing to listen." Just then a butterfly floated all around me! (We had just talked about being transformed, like caterpillars to butterflies). Coincidence? I sealed my envelope, cried a little, and thanked him for the sign!

HOPE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Some days hope comes easy. Hope comes easy on days when I stop in at Sibley Elementary School and dozens of students pepper me with questions... "Does the summer program start soon? When do we get to go to camp? Do we get to go to beach? Is Steve coming back?" To all the questions I say, "Yes!" I see hope in the students. Hope that things will be like last summer. I hope they will meet Jesus at camp, at the beach, in a relationship with Steve, Courtney, Ashley and Greg, in creating a sculpture at Art Camp. I hope they will be reminded every moment they are here that the God of truth and hope loves them.

Some days hope comes hard. Hope comes hard when I hear about gang activity at Sibley Elementary School. Hope comes hard when I hear another story about a family forced to move or another parent losing a job. Hope comes hard when I hear about a healthy Hispanic neighbor being told to wear a mask. Hope comes hard when I hear about another pregnant teenage couple. On these days, I choose hope. I choose hope because Christ is risen. He is victorious over injustice. Over poverty. Over racism. So I hope. I profess that hope to the children and families of our community. I pray that our children come to know the hope of a victorious Christ.



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

● Matching Gifts

For more information ask your financial planner or contact Kyle (616-454-4011 ext 5114).

● Planned Giving

● Meijer Community Rewards - our organization number is 200782.