

# together

**JULY | AUGUST 2012**  
WESTBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Coming into view**  
Apartment ministry in  
Southwest Fondren

**Saying "I do"**  
Weddings at Westbury

**Hammers and hearts**  
U.M. ARMY teen journals

**The vacation of a lifetime**  
Why VBS matters

**Being a Good Samaritan**  
Volunteers at local clinic



**Westbury**  
United Methodist Church

# ON THE COVER

The brick facade and windows of Los Arcos, one of the apartment complexes along the Fondren corridor. See full story on page 6.

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE** TO CREATE A COLLABORATIVE PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHTING STORIES OF MINISTRY, MISSION AND TRANSFORMATION AT WESTBURY UMC, TO BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED EVERY OTHER MONTH.



### WE'RE LISTENING.

Send your suggestions, corrections and comments to Kelsey Johnson, Director of Communications, at [kelsey1@westburyumc.org](mailto:kelsey1@westburyumc.org) or write to Westbury UMC at 5200 Willowbend Blvd. Houston, TX 77096.



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JULY | AUGUST 2012  
WESTBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



APRIL 2011



FEBRUARY 2012



NEW DESIGN

**Where's the *WORD*?** For those accustomed to our monthly newsletter, this newly formatted magazine publication, *Together*, may have caught you by surprise.

There wasn't really anything wrong with the old design. It served us well to communicate announcements and recap past events. Still, it relied on the voices of the staff, broadcasting out information. For such a diverse and gifted congregation, we saw more potential. The new design and content aims to capture more of your voices in rich, collaborative storytelling rather than basic reporting. Here are a few more details about the new design.

## A NEW NAME

The title, *Together*, captures the collaborative nature of the publication and reinforces the value of Christian community as we serve and worship God alongside one another. The Greek word for "together," as used in Acts 2, means "with one mind, with one accord, with one passion."

We hope that Westbury members will not only contribute to the magazine's content, but be proud to share copies with friends and neighbors so that hand-to-hand distribution will increase for evangelistic

—Rev. Tommy Williams,  
Senior Pastor

and missional purposes. May it all be to the glory of God.

## EVERY OTHER MONTH

*Together* will be printed six times a year and mailed the first full week of the following paired months: January/February; March/April; May/June; July/August; September/October; and November/December.

To keep the congregation informed on timely news, *The Weekly Word* will be disseminated as usual every Sunday in worship. Additionally, it will be emailed out every Monday and available for download on the Westbury UMC website.

## COST SAVINGS

We will save a modest \$216 over the course of a year by mailing the magazine just every other month. All designing, printing and prepping will continue to be done in-house within our contracted allowance of color copies.

It's our hope that you'll be inspired and uplifted by our first issue. To offer feedback, please see details on the previous page.

Kelsey Johnson  
Director of Communications

Tommy Williams  
Senior Pastor

# THE VACATION OF A LIFETIME

STORY BY JANA KINCANNON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—100+ KIDS, 100+ VOLUNTEERS, ONE WEEK. WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY ON A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM THAT LASTS A MERE 15 HOURS EACH YEAR? THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THE "MAIN THING." IT'S NOT JUST THE MAIN THING TO ME BECAUSE I'M THE CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR. VBS IS THE MAIN THING BECAUSE THERE'S NO BETTER VACATION THAN THE BIBLE. HERE'S WHAT I MEAN...



**VBS 2012**  
**JULY 30–AUGUST 3**

**Sign up** to be a volunteer.

**Register** your child.

Ages 3– 5<sup>th</sup> grade (\$20)



## BEFORE A VACATION, WE MAKE SOME DECISIONS.

- 1 **DECIDE TO ACTUALLY LEAVE HOME.** Wanting something better than what we have is still difficult to act on if we have to leave behind what we know and what makes us feel comfortable. Going on this Vacation means trusting God enough to begin doing things His way.
- 2 **FIGURE OUT THE DESTINATION.** Hmm, we'll never know if we've actually arrived at our destination unless we decide where it is we're actually going. The destination for this Vacation is heaven.
- 3 **DO THE RESEARCH.** We'd better know something about where we're going before we get there. Everyone benefits from pre-trip preparations. We'll read the Bible and ponder what we've read until it changes who we are.
- 4 **MAKE THE RESERVATION.** We don't want to show up at our destination to find that no one there was expecting us. On this Vacation, Jesus is our travel agent so He's already made these reservations for us!
- 5 **PAY FOR THE TICKETS.** There's an investment to be made usually based on the value we place on the trip. See # 3 above! (Thank you, Jesus!)
- 6 **PACK WHAT WE NEED.** That's easy too! All we need is the Bible. Well, not the Bible we can hold in our hands but the one we "hold in our hearts."
- 7 **BEGIN THE VACATION OF A LIFETIME.** It's the journey of the Christian life. The Main Thing.



For some children, as well as adults and teenagers, Vacation Bible School is the beginning of their personal journey towards wanting God as their Best Friend. For others, this Vacation is a retreat from the day-to-day challenges and becomes a reminder that we can return to God. And still for others, this Vacation offers an opportunity to show someone else what having God as a Best Friend looks like.

Now you know why we spend so much time and energy and money on Vacation Bible School.

You may have thought it was about the popcicles or the t-shirts. Nope, it's because Vacation Bible School is the Main Thing—the thing from which the church should never stray. The Jesus story, the transformation of the individual, the journey. The making of a disciple who can transform the world. All because some were offered and decided to take the Vacation of a lifetime, an eternal lifetime.





# Coming into view

WITH EYES WIDE OPEN, WE SEEK GOD'S VISION FOR WESTBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY HERE IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON. THE SPIRIT HAS REVEALED TO US GLIMPSES OF POTENTIAL FOR A RESIDENTIAL MINISTRY WITHIN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT THE APARTMENT COMPLEXES ALONG WEST BELLFORT AND FONDREN. THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR NEW COMMUNITY PASTOR, HANNAH TERRY, WE FOCUS ON WHAT GOD SEES IN OUR FUTURE.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY HANNAH TERRY

**Y**ou have to look hard, but you can see it. The thing that made me circle around in my car three times to capture it on my iPhone camera. In the middle of a summer storm, through the raindrops on my rear view mirror, you can see it—a rainbow. It arched over the apartments along Fondren as I drove past my first week in Houston. I saw a promise, a vision. God definitely had my attention.

## COMING INTO FOCUS

Word on the street is that here at Westbury, God has been aligning your yearning with God's own yearning. That's what I heard and saw when I met Tommy, Romonica and DeAndre in January 2012. As they shared stories of the Westbury family, I was struck: the Holy Spirit's up to something here in Southwest Houston!

I returned to Duke Divinity School, finishing my final semester with renewed vision of possibilities for life together as disciples.

From January through March, I wrestled with God as I sought to discern where the Spirit was leading me in pastoral ministry within The United Methodist Church. It was a time of pain. It was a time of grace. And it was a time in which God was moving at Westbury UMC, in the neighborhood and in my life.



## LOOKING HARD TO SEE IT

*A summer rainstorm brings this symbol of hope and promise.*





#### A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Tranquil crepe myrtles bloom at the intersection of Fondren Road and Ludington Drive, where Los Arcos Apartments is located (photo at far left). From a different vantage point, there's a fence surrounding the complex wrapped with barbed wire.

#### A RISKY PRAYER

I dug my toes into the North Carolina sand. I stared straight into the sliver of sun rising from the Atlantic.

*Please slam shut every door you don't want me to walk through, Lord.*

I relaxed my toes. There, on the beach, I gave up the wrestling match.

Three days later, I freaked out. I realized I had prayed something kind of risky.

*I know God has a home for me—a place where I can love*

God put  
on skin  
and moved  
into the  
neighbor-  
hood.

—Eugene Peterson,  
*The Message*  
(John 1:14)

*others and I'll be loved, too. But what if I haven't listened well and perceived rightly where God is leading? What if every door I thought was open is now suddenly slammed shut?*

That evening, Pastor Tommy emailed me. He asked if we could talk in the morning. We had been in touch before, having conversations about ministry, but I hadn't yet imagined Westbury as a place I might be able to call home. The next day, Tommy shared with me how God had been moving at Westbury.

A manager from the apartments on Fondren between West Bellfort and West Airport had approached the church, asking if someone would come teach a Bible study—they invited Westbury into relationship.

Folks began talking and praying and discerning that the Spirit was truly leading Westbury into a form of incarnational ministry.

And I was invited in, too.

I'm not the savior. Westbury UMC is not the savior. Jesus Christ is the Savior. We're not bringing him there—he's already there, inviting us to join him.

#### REAL PRESENCE

Jesus chose to be with humanity in the midst of brokenness and share life among us. He chose to be a dependent babe, to wear clothes, to grow up. He chose to live acquainted with injustice and marginalization—to hang in the shadows where forgotten folks got shoved behind walls. He chose to give his life so that people of all ages, nations and races may know how far and deep and wide the love of God reaches. And our God chose to show the world that death will never have the final say. Resurrection transforms everything.

This is the reality of the Incarnation. Of God with us. And this is the reality that

God calls us to pattern our lives after. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to imitate him. To feel what he feels, to touch what he touches, to go where he goes, to sit and be with people as he does just that. Jesus, the one who entered and continues to enter into places of suffering within the world—the Incarnate One. Westbury UMC has heard God's call to this incarnational ministry. Now the real work begins.

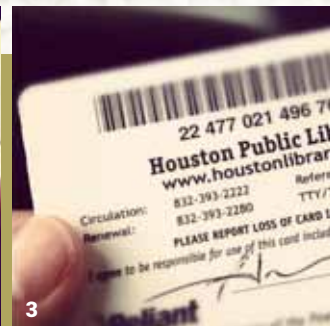
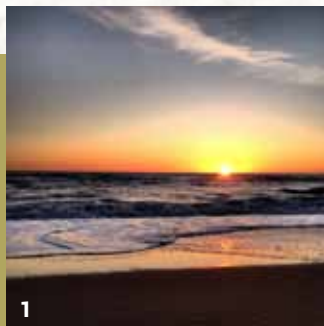
#### JOINING JESUS IN HIS WORK

Sisters and brothers, I am humbled and overjoyed to join you in ministry. I thank you dearly for your warm welcome and enthusiasm for the newly-budding community ministry down on Southwest Fondren. I'm



### GAINING CLARITY

- 1 Sunrise on the North Carolina beach where I prayed my "risky" prayer of surrender.
- 2 Serving alongside Westbury family at the March 2012 More Than Enough Love Day.
- 3 Soon after moving to Houston, I got a library card and began meeting with neighbors there.



blessed to call Westbury my home and you my family.

I look forward to conversations with you, because I want to hear your stories. Stories of this place and people and how God has been working long before any of us have been here.

During this first month, I've been gathering a leadership team together of folks from Westbury who are passionate about the ministry, and we've been discerning God's leading in our next steps. I've been making contacts with key individuals, churches, and organizations from Southwest Houston and learning of the dynamics and needs of the area. Also, I've had the joy of meeting new friends at the apartments—folks who have moved to the city as refugees and immigrants and folks who are born and raised Southwest Houstonians.

### JUST WITHIN SIGHT

So, what's next? I'm not entirely sure.

Perhaps this ministry looks like a house church—that is, a group of Westbury folks moving into the neighborhood, living together and creating a holy and safe gathering place for worship and discipleship. Perhaps this ministry looks like a community house—a holy space offering refuge for folks in need. Perhaps this ministry looks like something we haven't yet imagined.

This is what I *am* sure of: God calls us...

to be **faithful disciples** of Jesus who welcome the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

to this ministry—as an **entire body**—with our neighborhood at the Fondren corridor.

to **deeper relationship** with God and each other, as we live and eat and work and commune together in the spaces we call home.

to **listen intently** and faithfully to the Holy Spirit and the voices within the community.

to slow down and **notice the details**—to be attentive to how God is at work already in the world and how we are being welcomed as God's partners in it.

### MORE ON THE HORIZON

Please actively join me in trusting God's voice and participating in this ministry.

I invite you to contact me so we can share stories of God's work of grace in our lives and partner together in this work. To pray for me, our neighbors and all of us who are discerning together the next steps in this incarnational ministry. To consider what gifts and graces God has placed within you to offer.

May we patiently listen, graciously relate and faithfully seek Jesus together in this new way.

God is with us—this God who put on skin, moved into the neighborhood, died, and was resurrected. This God who transforms everything.

## 10 things a Northeastern transplant has learned in her new home

- 1 The tacos are terrific.
- 2 It's appropriate for me to say *y'all* now. (Such a brilliant word!)
- 3 I never have to check the weather anymore.
- 4 Good barbeque doesn't need sauce.
- 5 Friendliness is normal.
- 6 Guacamole's acceptable at every meal.
- 7 Cowboy boots are comfortable.
- 8 The people are incredible.
- 9 God is with me.
- 10 The Spirit is moving.

**Hannah Terry** feels called to live intentionally among folks who are ignored, forgotten and marginalized. She joined Westbury UMC's staff as Southwest Fondren Community Pastor in June 2012. Having grown up in New York State, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Roberts Wesleyan College. She then journeyed to Duke University for her Master of Divinity degree. Residential college and university ministry, rural camp ministry and urban community ministry have profoundly shaped her. She loves filling life with music, food, good competitive games and hours at local coffee shops.



### LIKE HANNAH'S SNAPSHOTS?

Follow her photostream on Instagram (a free app for Apple and Android) @hr87terry



## Westbury Cares

### *In Memory*

of Billy West, father of  
Wynette Stone, from  
Janel Gillespie

.....

### *In Honor*

of all God's servants who  
love and respect Jesus  
who died for them, from  
anonymous

.....

### *Deaths*

Katie Griffin, member,  
06/01/12

Dr. Charles Godbey,  
former pastor, 06/17/12

Marilyn Malone Grogan,  
mother of Rev. Romonica  
Malone-Wardley, 06/18/12

.....

### *Congratulations*

#### **2012 Graduates**

Beverly Ann Chatfield  
Westbury High School

Sheridan Robinson  
Foster High School

Rachel Hodge  
Bellaire High School

Jared Brooks Patterson  
Bellaire High School

Nicole Caputo  
Westbury Christian School

Kathryn Kubena  
Bellaire High School

#### **Newly Ordained**

Rev. R. DeAndre Johnson  
Deacon

Rev. Julius Wardley  
Elder



taste  
and see  
that the  
**LORD**  
is good

A Mid-Year  
Church Update  
Sunday, July 29  
9:30 am  
Humphrey Hall

SAVE THE DATE

More Than Enough Love  
community service day



OCTOBER 27, 2012  
HOUSTON FOOD BANK



### HEROES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Each Sunday at 10:45 am,  
we'll get to know some  
faithful men and women from  
the Bible, all of whom God  
used in unlikely ways.

#### **Sunday, July 01**

"David" Rev. Tommy Williams

#### **Sunday, July 08**

"Jonah" Rev. Romonica  
Malone-Wardley

#### **Sunday, July 15**

"Esther" Hannah Terry

#### **Sunday, July 22**

"Isaiah" Jeff Gleghorn

#### **Sunday, July 29**

"Daniel" Michael Draper

**PRIMETIMERS** (adults 50+) will meet on **Monday, July 23**, to enjoy a sing-along with our own Sarah Winkel. On **Monday, August 27**, the musical guest will be Stephen Ray from Westbury Baptist Church. PrimeTimers meet from 11:00 am till 1:00 pm in Humphrey Hall. Please bring a summer salad dish to share for the potluck lunch.



MR. AND  
MR. AND  
JOYFULLY  
THE MA

Laura  
Marcio

A ♥ T

Tiffany

# Westbury Weddings

STORY BY KELSEY JOHNSON

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS WESTBURY'S SWEETHEARTS, AMY GRINSTEAD AND TOMMY BEHRMAN WILL WED IN LATE JUNE. AND THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES PLANNING THEIR MARRIAGE CEREMONY IN THE SANCTUARY THIS SUMMER. AS THE WEDDING BELLS RING OUT, READ ABOUT THE LOVE STORIES OF THREE COUPLES AND WHY THEY CHOSE TO CELEBRATE THEIR SPECIAL DAY AT WESTBURY UMC.



## Amy Grinstead *and* Tommy Behrman



**WEDDING DATE** June 30

**HOW DID YOU MEET?** Tommy and I met at Westbury UMC back when we were in elementary school. It all seems like a fairy tale when I think back, but we have been dating for seven years since we were both 16 years old. I owe a bit of thanks to my brother, Scott, because Tommy was his friend first and I had the advantage of hanging out with the boy I liked without having to invite him over myself. It is safe to say it wasn't love at first sight, since we didn't even know the true meaning of the word then, but we were lucky enough to grow together (once I finally got him to like me back!)

### **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO GET MARRIED AT WESTBURY UMC?**

Westbury UMC has a large significance in our lives. It only makes sense for us to confirm our commitment to each other in the place that we first met and continue to grow in every year. We also get the privilege of having Romonica officiate our ceremony, a person that has been a mentor to both of us through the past five years.

### **DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL PLANNED FOR THE CEREMONY?**

In our wedding party, we are lucky enough to have many musically inclined friends who will be participating in our wedding ceremony. Daniel Heathcock will be playing the piano, Anna Nelson will be performing special music, and one of the groomsmen will have a musical part in the procession. We are honored to have everyone share their talents to make our day memorable.

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURE AS A COUPLE?**

We both decided on 1 John 4:16–19 for our wedding ceremony. This isn't the most traditional wedding scripture because it doesn't speak of the love between a husband and wife, rather the reason we are able to love. God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them. It is because Tommy and I have cultivated our faith, that we are now able to commit ourselves to one another and to God in front of our family and friends.

## Laura Joost *and* Marcio Giacomoni



**WEDDING DATE** July 7

**HOW DID YOU MEET?** Marcio and I met at a mutual friend's going away party. We are so blessed to have met right before she left town!

### **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO GET MARRIED AT WESTBURY UMC?**

We wanted to get married at Westbury UMC because of our friendship with Rev. Johnson and his family. Westbury's amazing diversity also made it seem appropriate because Marcio is from Brazil, and we are incorporating foreign-language aspects into the ceremony.

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL PLANNED FOR THE CEREMONY?** I think the most special part will be serving communion to our guests.



**W**ith wedding season in full swing this summer, several couples will say their vows in Westbury UMC's sanctuary or chapel.

The sanctuary, with ample seating for 700, and a long center aisle for the bride's processional, is an attractive venue. For couples with a smaller guest list, the chapel seats 50 and features a central stained glass cross.

"Lately, we've been getting lots of calls from non-members to reserve the sanctuary for ceremonies," says Cindy Parker, administrative assistant in the church office.

"Three consecutive weekends in October are already booked for the fall season."

Couples can schedule use of the sanctuary or chapel for both rehearsal and ceremony. For more information on reserving facilities, contact Cindy Parker at 713-723-0175 or [cindy1@westburyumc.org](mailto:cindy1@westburyumc.org).

## Tiffany Johnson *and* Joel Jenkins



**WEDDING DATE** July 15

**HOW DID YOU MEET?** Joel and I met at a mutual friend's birthday party. Joel was friends with the brother, while I was friends with the sister. After about three months of friendship with each other Joel and I began to have feelings for each other. We came to an agreement to fast and pray for 21 days to see if this was in God's infinite plan. At the end of the 21 days we began our courtship.

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO GET MARRIED AT WESTBURY UMC?**

It's the church that I grew up in and holds my extended family. I could think of no other place to be.

**WHAT ARE YOUR WEDDING**

**COLORS?** Purple and silver—no real special meaning, just a pretty combination.

*Special note: The Westbury UMC church family has received an open invitation to the Johnson-Jenkins wedding at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 15, followed by a dessert reception.*

## THEY'VE ALREADY MADE IT DOWN THE AISLE



**SALLY UPTON AND DONNIE KELLER**  
DECEMBER 21, 1991



**SARAH AKPANUMOH AND DAVID JOHNSON**  
JUNE 27, 2009



**ROMONICA MALONE AND JULIUS WARDLEY**  
JULY 17, 2010

"Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
Love never ends."

—I Corinthians 13:7-8a





# Banana-Berry Smoothie

*A summer recipe submitted by Mary Ann Riggs*

.....

10 ice cubes

1 sliced banana

10 strawberries

6 oz. container of blueberry yogurt

*Put all ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth. Serves 2.*

**“This is my favorite! It can be made with any combination of fruits and flavors of yogurt.”**

Mary Ann Riggs





# confirmation 2012

**CONFIRMATION** in the Methodist tradition is a rite through which young Christians affirm the faith of the church, renew the vows of baptism and commit to lives of discipleship as professing members of The United Methodist Church. Confirmation classes for teens at Westbury are for anyone entering into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this fall, or 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have yet to go through this course.

Mark your calendars as we will have a parent meeting on **Sunday, August 19**, and our retreat will be youth-led on the weekend of **September 7 and 8**. We are excited to see what God will do with this year's confirmation group! For more information, email Cody Cruise at [codycruise@gmail.com](mailto:codycruise@gmail.com)!



**CHANGE THE WORLD** Revs. Romonica Malone-Wardley and Tommy Williams stand with Principal Roslyn Vaughn and staff from our school partner, Anderson Elementary, who joined us for our Jazz Brunch and Auction on Sunday, May 20. This fundraiser benefitted global and local missions, with \$4,200 equally supporting Imagine No Malaria and Braes Interfaith Ministries.



We've saved a seat for you.

Do you have a **song** in your heart?

An interest to learn more about **music**?

A passion to unite your voice with others in **worship**?

The youth and adult choirs invite new members to join this fall.

**Come to our "Back in the Groove Party" on Thursday, August 16, @ 7:00 pm.**



# Hammers and hearts

U.M. ARMY TEAMS BUILD NOT JUST  
WHEELCHAIR RAMPS AND DECKS  
BUT COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



**“To show our appreciation to everyone who helped sponsor and donate toward U.M. ARMY, we will have a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, August 19. We can’t do this work without the support of the people of Westbury UMC.”** Cody Cruise

**W**ith hammers and shovels in hand, Westbury UMC’s team of 16 joined other church work teams in Fairfield, Texas, for U.M. ARMY the week of June 10.

Soon after Westbury’s team returned, our church doors opened to host 88 visiting volunteers from the Clear Lake area as they connected with our neighbors and completed projects in the surrounding communities.

For over 30 years now, U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) has provided Christ-centered camps that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth. Often, youth come home expressing a deepening of faith and passion for missions.

Two of Westbury’s teens, Cory Garza and Melanie Wiggs, had just such an experience. Turn the page to read their journal entries about U.M. ARMY 2012.



## Cory Garza

As a first-timer to U.M. ARMY, I wasn't expecting much. I had heard countless stories about how amazing it is and how God's love is just poured out. Before I went to U.M. ARMY, I was struggling with something—selfishness was eating me away. I wanted things to be done my way or not at all. I wasn't thankful for the little things in my life.

I was pumped to go to U.M. ARMY though. I really like to help people who really

need it, but the sad thing is that I thought I was just going to U.M. ARMY to help a couple of people in need and fix up their houses, and do whatever needed to be done. Little did I know that it was much more than that!

God spoke to me through prayer and song. The second night we were there, I realized that I was falling short of God's glory, I realized that selfishness was eating me away, and I also realized that God will never give up on me.

Worship on Wednesday night was the most powerful thing I have ever experienced. I prayed over everything that could come to mind. I prayed that God would transform me and give me the strength to put others before myself. I prayed with many of my friends and with some people I just met. It was crazy how every single person in the building was burning on fire for God.

I met many new friends at U.M. ARMY. The people in my group were just so awesome: Hank, Gusti, Lizzy, and Sebastian. They were all from the same church, but welcomed me with open arms.

Every day when we arrived at our worksite, we would pray with our client and when we left, we would pray with them too. All of our clients were so thankful, and that also helped me change—seeing that hope and gratefulness. This camp changed my life.

“I prayed God would transform me and give me the strength to put others before myself.”

Cory Garza



### YOUTH ON A MISSION

Above: Volunteers gather on the youth wing stairs, ready to head to Fairfield.

Opposite page, clockwise starting at top: Cory Garza paints a chair; Melanie Wiggs touches up trim on a client's home; Sarah Patlan and other members of her work team take a short break; Jared Patterson pitches in; and Rachel Hodge hauls wood scraps.



## 2012 Participants from Westbury UMC

1. Cody Cruise
2. Michael Draper
3. Jeff Gleghorn
4. Kenneth Henderson
5. Brittany Peavy
6. Cory Garza
7. Tyler Henderson
8. Rachel Hodge
9. Sarah Kubena
10. Sarah Patlan
11. Sean Patlan
12. Jared Patterson
13. David Richard
14. Sebastian Silva
15. Chris Wiggs
16. Melanie Wiggs





## Melanie Wiggs

In Fairfield, our theme was "Act of Worship" with 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 being the main Bible verses for the week. With these verses, I was reminded to love everyone, help those who seek it, and pray continually.

At the worksites, I met our clients, and got to do what they needed help with, knowing it wasn't just for them, or to make me feel better about myself, but to actually serve God as an act of worship. It was also a very spiritual journey for all of us as we spent lots of time praying during worship, which I know I really needed.

**"It wasn't just for them, or to make me feel better about myself, but to actually serve God as an act of worship."** Melanie Wiggs

On Wednesday, all the Westbury UMC campers received letters from our congregation, which I was definitely not expecting, and the letters really moved me. I didn't realize the work I was doing at U.M. ARMY really impacted many people until I read my letters.

We also met many new amazing people who helped

us through the week and who we hopefully continue to remember and talk to. It's great being at a camp with believers alongside you, but the most important thing I learned this week is to not let coming back to Houston, where I know not all of my friends are believers, stop me from being passionate about God.

## By the Numbers

**3,000**  
hours of work

**100**  
gallons of water consumed

**75**  
participants  
(25 adults, 9 college students and 41 youth)

**26** projects completed

**16** youth and adults from Westbury UMC

**3** churches represented  
(Westbury UMC, Cokesbury UMC and Bay Harbor UMC)

**1** Savior glorified through it all





# CASA EL BUEN SAMARITANO

PHOTOS BY TOMMY BEHRMAN

It takes 14 volunteers to staff the clinic. We already have 7 signed up. Will you give up just one night a month to help this community ministry?

Although we live in a city with one of the best medical centers on the planet, the services and technologies offered here are beyond the grasp of many Houstonians. By volunteering at Casa el Buen Samaritano, I can be "His hands and feet" one night a month, and help provide health care and healing to someone who is truly in need.

LAURIE STURDEVANT





**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT "THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN," PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CAFÉ.**

**Maybe you're not able to volunteer right now. That's okay too.**  
The clinic asks for your prayers.

**Pray for those we serve**

- that God would send the spiritually hungry to us
- that God would open hearts to accept Christ
- for good follow-up relationships with those who accept Christ

**Pray for volunteers and staff**

- that God would bless and protect them
- that God would provide more volunteers

**Pray for our board members**

- that they would have wisdom about the future and direction of our ministry
- that they would follow God's leading

**Pray for our finances**

- that God would provide for our financial needs
- that God would bless our financial supporters

**LOCATION**

14060 Dublin Street  
Houston, TX 77085

**WEBSITE**

[www.casaelbuen.org](http://www.casaelbuen.org)

**PHONE**

(713) 721-4100

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

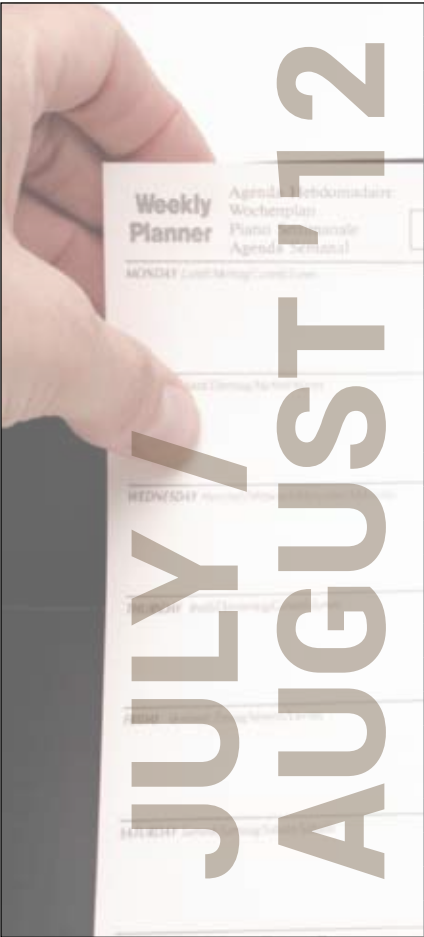
Medical professionals, Spanish-speaking translators, childcare workers and more!

A few months ago I had the opportunity to tour Casa el Buen Samaritano during one of their open clinic nights. I saw people receiving much-needed health care and volunteers giving their time and talents to be a blessing to others. I saw the kingdom of God at work. It was a beautiful picture of what can be accomplished when people respond to Jesus' call to show God's love to the sick, the poor, and the marginalized. What I love most about the work at Casa el Buen Samaritano is that they offer whole-person care to their clients. They offer vital health care to people who are uninsured and have nowhere else to turn, just as Jesus healed the sick when they had given up hope of ever being well. At the same time, they offer healing for the soul and spirit by sharing Jesus' gospel of love and grace with each client.

Hundreds of individuals, clients and volunteers alike, have been transformed by this ministry, and I am so excited to be a part of it with my church family here at Westbury. There are many talents within this body that are well-suited to the mission: health care providers, Spanish speakers, childcare providers and more. We are blessed to be a part of what Casa el Buen Samaritano is already doing in our community, and I can't wait to get started!

**LINDSEY HEATHCOCK**






DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
JULY 08	Noon	Teens go to Astros game	Youth Wing
JULY 09	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting	Room 105
JULY 10	7:00 pm	Community Ministries Team Meeting	Room 102
JULY 11	10:00 am	Living Water Caring Ministry Prayer Meeting	Room 103
JULY 15	5:00 pm	Teens go to Discovery Green	Youth Wing
JULY 22	Noon	VBS Volunteer Training	Room 102
JULY 23	11:00 am	PrimeTimers (musical guest: Sarah Winkel)	Humphrey Hall
JULY 23	7:00 pm	Global Ministries Team Meeting	Room 102
JULY 23-28	All Day	Teens go to Student Life Missions Camp	Denton, TX
JULY 29	9:30 am	Taste and See: A Mid-Year Church Update	Humphrey Hall
JULY 30-AUGUST 03	9:00 am-noon	Operation Overboard Vacation Bible School	Children's Wing
AUGUST 05	5:00-9:00 pm	Teens go to Kemah	Youth Wing
AUGUST 06	7:00 pm	Discipleship Meeting	Room 102
AUGUST 06	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Room 103
AUGUST 08	10:00 am	Living Water Caring Ministry Prayer Meeting	Room 103
AUGUST 10-11	All Day	Teen Planning Retreat	Galveston, TX
AUGUST 13	6:30 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting	Room 105
AUGUST 13	7:00 pm	Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting	Room 103
AUGUST 14	7:00 pm	Community Ministries Meeting	Room 102
AUGUST 16	7:00 pm	Back in the Groove Choir Party	Parlor
AUGUST 19	5:00 pm	Youth Appreciation Spaghetti Dinner	Parlor
AUGUST 20	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Room 103
AUGUST 20	7:00 pm	Global Ministries Team Meeting	Room 102
AUGUST 26	10:45 am	Promotion Sunday	Sanctuary
AUGUST 27	11:00 am	PrimeTimers (musical guest: Stephen Ray)	Humphrey Hall
AUGUST 27	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	Parlor

CHURCHWIDE | ADULTS | YOUTH | CHILDREN

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