

**“To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly day by day.”
(*Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz, 1973)**

What a great line from the musical *Godspell*. We should commit our faith development to seek after this statement. We should all hope to see God more clearly by learning how to view the world through God's eyes. In addition, as we learn more and more about God and Jesus Christ, we will fall more and more in love with God. This in turn will encourage us to follow God more and more each day. Through our learning, we can seek each of these foci.

Here at Platte Woods UMC we invite every person to take the next step in their faith journey. We have many opportunities to learn more about God this spring. In addition, we are beginning Journey Groups, which are small groups of individuals who commit to meeting weekly to study scripture, to encourage one another, and to engage the world through their service. More information about these small groups are on the next page.

I pray that you take your next step in your faith journey. May God bless and guide you as you see God more clearly, love God more dearly, and follow God more nearly in 2010.

Growing through Christ,
Pastor Curtis Olsen



Journey Groups Are Here!

Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A journey group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both.

Our mission at Platte Woods UMC is to build an outward-focused Christian community where people become full participants in the Life of Grace. This means we seek to invite all people into a relationship with God while creating a community of Christ-followers.

Our Journey Groups exist to help us connect relationally, grow spiritually and serve graciously as we become more Christ-like. We invite every person to participate in one of these groups.

We have a variety of groups to meet your individual needs, as well as the diverse needs of the community. We hope to create couples', men's, women's and singles' adult groups as well as life-stage and multi-generational experiences.

No matter where you are in your faith journey, may you join with others to grow deeper in your faith this year!

Journey Group Exploration Studies

Journey Group Exploration Studies provides the opportunity for you to experience small groups and meet others interested in the concept while meeting in a large setting. During this time, you will be led by a large-group facilitator and table leaders. At the end of the Exploration Study, each table group will decide whether to commit to be a Journey Group.

Upcoming Spring Exploration Studies:

1. "Worship: Our Connection to God"

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.

January 13-February 10

2. "Learn: Our Knowledge of God"

Sundays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

February 21-March 21

3. "Serve: Our Faith in Action for God"

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.

April 7-April 28

Register at church or online at
www.plattewoodschurch.org.

SERVICE

Faith in Action All Church Study

During the month of April, we will focus on biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need, through special worship services, small groups and daily devotions. There will be a community study group that will study the Faith in Action Bible Study. You are invited to learn the importance of service in our daily faith walk.



- When: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., April 7-April 28
- Cost: \$7 for Bible Study
- Contact: Pastor Angie Olsen

Son Diggers

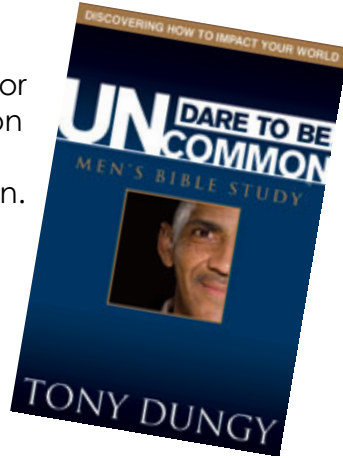
The Son Diggers are literally a hands-on group dedicated to creating and maintaining a more sustainable church landscape. Current projects include rain gardens at the parsonage to reduce flooding and remove pollutants from storm water. Additional hands are needed to explore, including edibles within the landscape to harvest for area food pantries.

- Meets as needed during the growing season
- Contact: Pastor Angie Olsen
Leader: Michael Short

MEN

Dare to Be Uncommon

Tony Dungy says it's time ... for every man to choose an uncommon life! This Super Bowl-winning coach has spent his life shaping young men. Now, Tony Dungy is ready to share core truths he wants every man to understand, live by and pass on to others. Examine your life — and aspire to a life of renewed integrity ... influence ... and faith.



- When: Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 22
- Cost: \$10 for study guide (book also available)
Check payable to Platte Woods UMC with Men's Study in the memo line
- Leaders: Pastor Steve Breon, Casey Beane, Carl Hughes, John Miller and Stan Shipman

Men's Group

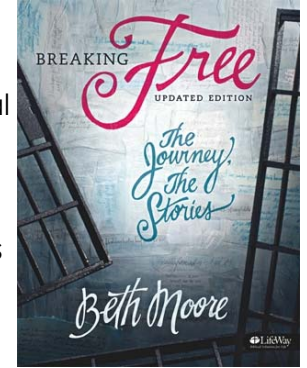
Eight to 12 men meet each Friday morning for food and scripture. The study of the Word provides them with focus for their work and lives. All men are welcome to join this group as they grow in their families, jobs and faith.

- When: Fridays, 7-8 a.m. (year-round)
- Cost: None
- Leaders: Chris Hodges and Carl Hughes

WOMEN

Breaking Free by Beth Moore

Thousands of women have journeyed with Beth through the original study. Breaking Free is Beth Moore's life message about freedom in Christ. Now enjoy her updated member book along with new video teaching sessions recorded in New Orleans. Through Scripture study you will discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. God intends for you to know and believe Him, glorify Him, experience His peace and enjoy His presence. This 10-week study includes independent study, five lessons per week requiring about 40 minutes each. A 60-minute teaching video will be used in class as well as discussion and prayer time.



- When: Two opportunities (beginning January 12)
-Tuesdays, 10-11:45 a.m.
-Tuesdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m.
- Childcare is available by reservation
- Cost: \$15 for workbooks (books will be distributed and money collected at the first class)
- Facilitator: Cindy Breon
- To register for the class and childcare, please contact Cindy Breon (breon4@msn.com or 587-0449)

WOMEN

Ladies' Day of Renewal

The holidays are past. Football season is almost over. Winter lingers on. Do you need a good laugh? Are you ready for some inspiration to get you through another year? Then join us for a day filled with laughter and spirit-filled inspiration. Better yet, bring a friend and join the fun!

Kelly Sisney will be our featured speaker for the day. Kelly is a very talented and award-winning Christian comedienne.

So put February 6th on your calendar now and watch for more information about this event!

- When: Saturday, February 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

United Methodist Women

The local chapter of the United Methodist Women is called Hope Circle and meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. to study mission needs and opportunities. Through intentional study and reading, Hope Circle expands their knowledge and compassion for persons in need and especially for women and children facing hardships.

Hope Circle also makes twin-size quilts for ReStart and Hillcrest Ministries, as well as lap quilts for Children's Mercy and church members confined to nursing homes or long-term hospital stays. They quilt on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

For more information on either of these groups, please contact Carol Adams at 587-2596.

WOMEN

Get a Life ... Debunking Six Myths in the Quest for Contentment

There are misguided concepts in our culture that can drive women — even those who know Christ — toward a less-than-abundant life. Myths such as “If I follow Christ, my life will be trouble-free,” and “If I could just meet the right guy, I would be happy.” And although women may know that fulfillment is not found in a remodeled kitchen or new pair of shoes, these false ideals may still impact them more than they realize or care to admit. To counteract these untruths, this new study confronts the worldly perception of what it really means to live “an abundant life” — and shows how women can find true abundance. Author Vicki Courtney's signature high-energy, engaging style makes this resource ideal for women of all ages, even collegians. We will meet for seven weeks and discuss the myths. Each week of study contains five days of material. You will need 15-20 min each day to complete your study.

- When: February 4-March 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Facilitators: Becky Simons & Karan Garrison
- Where: Home of Julie Denney, 4307 NW 60th Court, Kansas City, MO
- Cost: \$11. Please RSVP no later than Jan 29th.

Moms' Group

Find support among other mothers, grow in your Christian walk, and discuss various parenting topics.

- Fridays 9:15-10:45 a.m. (when school is in session)
- Childcare available

MARRIAGE

Couples' Nights Out — Growing Your Marriage

Family Ministries will once again sponsor Couples' Nights Out on four 4th Fridays. We will be using the "Marriage: Built to Last" video series as our discussion guide. This resource includes video clips of Pastor Chip Ingram of Living on the Edge radio program, financial guru Dave Ramsey and Super Bowl MVP Kurt Warner. Each of these speakers and their wives tackle the common issues couples are facing in their marriages today.

Join us for a brief period of discussion, then enjoy your date!

- Fridays, 6:30 p.m., January 15, February 19, March 19 & April 23
- Cost: \$5 per session or four sessions for \$15
- Childcare begins at 6:15 p.m.
- Pre-registration for childcare is required one week in advance of each program.
- To register, contact Vicki Dale, 741-2972, ext. 229, or vdale@plattewoodschurch.org



BIBLE

St. Paul's Laity School of Theology

Are you yearning for a deeper learning experience than the typical Bible study, but can't make the time commitment for a regular seminary course? St. Paul School of Theology is now offering interactive Saturday sessions built on solid scholarship and presented in an accessible manner for people of all educational backgrounds. Each Saturday session is a standalone study and is taught by seminary faculty. See below for dates and topics.

- February 6 *Resurrecting Dying Congregations and Keeping Flourishing Congregations Thriving*
- March 6 *A Biblical Model of Incarnational Ministry*
- March TBA *Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise?: John Wesley's View of the Christian Person*
- April 10 *Faith and Science: Embracing Both God and the Apes*

- Saturdays, except where noted, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Lunch included
- Cost: \$50 per session
- For more information and to register, go to http://www.spst.edu/site/laity_school.php
- Contact: Pastor Curtis Olsen, colsen@plattewoodschurch.org

Living Fully, Dying Well

Watch for more information on this upcoming intergenerational Bible Study.

FINANCE

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

In this study you will find out how to:

- Learn how to handle money God's way.
- Make a budget that you will understand and actually use.
- Get out of debt and stay that way.
- Communicate with your spouse about finances.
- Invest with confidence.
- Change your financial future.

Good for singles, married couples, divorced people or single parents. Space is limited so sign up early!

- Wednesdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m., January 20-April 21
- Cost: \$99.00 for entire membership kit per registered couple or registered single
- Children's Activities Available
- Leader: Mark Schuh



HEALTHY LIVING

First Place 4 Health

First Place 4 Health is a Christ-centered weight loss and healthy living program for men and women, emphasizing balance in the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual areas of life. In its fourth year at Platte Woods UMC, this exciting program is making a difference in many peoples' lives. Your new member kit will include materials for daily Bible study and excellent resources to help you make healthy choices.

- Info and Registration Meeting - January 5, 6:30 p.m.
- New Member Training Session - January 12, 6:30 p.m.
- Bible Studies - Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Jan. 19-March 23
- Childcare available; please reserve childcare through the church office
- Cost: \$80 for New Member Kit + \$16 for Bible Study
- Scholarship aid available - Contact Vicki Dale at 741-2972, ext. 229
- Leader: Jane Schriver



REGISTRATION

To register for the classes in this brochure, please fill out the information below and submit this form to the church office. For classes with a fee, payment may be made at your first class. Please register at least two weeks prior to the beginning of class so that study materials can be ordered. Please notify the office, 741-2972, if you need to cancel.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please indicate the class(es) for which you are registering:

Journey Group Explore 1 Ladies' Day of Renewal

Journey Group Explore 2 Get a Life

Journey Group Explore 3 Saint Paul School of Laity

Faith in Action Living Fully, Dying Well

Dare to Be Uncommon First Place 4 Health

Breaking Free (Tues. a.m.) Financial Peace Univ.

Breaking Free (Tues. p.m.)

Couples Night Out (1/15 2/19 3/19 4/23)

Support Groups (Grief Postpartum Divorce)

I need childcare for the following child(ren):

| Name | Age | Allergies |
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WEDNESDAY *at the* WOODS

Evening Meal

Wednesday at the Woods dinners are a great way for the family to come together for a meal before going to various studies and activities. WATW is offered each week from 5-6:30 p.m. in the dining hall. Join us for great food and fellowship with your fellow church members.

Wednesday Children's Activities

Interested in a Wednesday group or study, but not sure what to do with the kids? Platte Woods UMC offers a variety of programs for children on Wednesday evenings. Following are some of the programs available:

- Kids' Krafts, ages 4 yrs.-6th grade, 6-6:30 p.m.
children make a new craft each week
- Footprints Liturgical Dance Troupe, grades K-6,
6-6:30 p.m.
children are invited to learn worship through dance
- Kids of the Kingdom Choir, grades K-2, 6:30-7:10 p.m.
- Power of Praise Choir, grades 3-6, 6:30-7:10 p.m.
- PowerXpress Bible Study, grades K-5, 7:15-8 p.m.
- Cherub Choir, preschool, 7:15-7:35 p.m.
must be 3 years old and potty-trained

Professional childcare is available from 5:30-8:30 p.m. each week.

JPEG

Justice, Peace and Environment Group

In keeping with the Methodist tradition of Christian engagement with society, JPEG focuses on contemporary issues related to God's call for justice by:

1. Studying the root causes of hardship and disparity.
2. Making information available to the PWUMC congregation.
3. Finding ways for PWUMC to respond to community needs.
4. Advocating for constructive social change.
5. Working in cooperation with other congregations.

- Third Thursday of the month, 7-8 p.m.
- Contact: Pastor Angie Olsen

Green Team

The Green Team is an outgrowth of JPEG that focuses on Creation Care. The Green Team is working to:

1. Expand awareness of how faith compels us to Earth care.
2. Seek knowledge and inspiration to incorporate Earth care in daily life.
3. Discover how to adopt sustainable practices within our church community.
4. Collaborate with Green Teams from other area congregations.

- Third Thursday of the month, 8-9 p.m.
- Contact: Pastor Angie Olsen

SUPPORT GROUPS

Grief Support Group — Journey Through Grief

- Offering the comfort and validation of being surrounded by others traveling a similar journey.
- Learning to grow through grief, not merely survive it.
- Members of the groups are at different places in the process, so new members can join at any time without feeling that they have missed important information.
- Meet each week (schedules vary for holidays, etc.)
- Facilitated by Vicki Dale, a Licensed Professional Counselor, as well as by PWUMC members who are traveling the grief journey. Please contact Vicki Dale at 816-741-2972 or vdale@plattewoodschurch.org for more details.

Divorce Support Group

We will use the book "Rebuilding: When Your Relationship Ends" by Dr. Bruce Fisher and Dr. Robert Alberti to help us heal as we do the work of rebuilding our lives after a divorce. The six-week course will offer practical tools for coping with the difficult emotions as well as provide support during the "rebuilding" process.

- Dates: Jan. 13-Feb. 24 (will not meet Ash Wednesday)
- Time: 6:45 to 8 p.m.
- Cost: Book price (may purchase on your own)
- Facilitator: Vicki Dale, contact Vicki to register

GEN X at the WOODS

We are a diverse group of singles, couples and families ranging in age from early 20s to mid-30s. We currently have two ongoing study groups and try to have a social event every month. Stop by some time, and be a part of our group!!

Sunday Morning Small Group

- Sunday mornings, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Children's Activities Available
- Contact: Gen.X.at.the.Woods@gmail.com

Monday Night Young Adult Bible Study

Come join other young adults as we grow and learn together. We are a small group that meets weekly to share in Bible Study and conversation. During the school year, we meet to talk about topics important to our age group. We also have weeks where we put our books aside and plan a fellowship or missions event. This allows us to get to know each other a little better and help the world around us. New members are always welcome

- Monday evenings, 7 p.m.
- Contact: Rachel Zolnowski, 805-3116 or golfer02@sbcglobal.net

GEN X at the WOODS

Social Events

To be announced. Some examples of activities are: Spades Tournament, Day at the Lake, Guys & Girls Night, Snow Tubing, Super Bowl Party, Wii Party, Poker Night, Progressive Dinner, KU-MU Game Day, Chiefs Party, Corn Maze

Contact

- Email: *Gen.X.at.the.Woods@gmail.com*



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sojourners

We enjoy looking at faith questions from various viewpoints through our study of the Bible and a variety of Christian literature. Our discussions are open and stimulating. This is an intergenerational class. Everyone is welcome!

- Leader: Jay Kimball
- Age Group: 18 and up
- Class Size: 20+

Step By Step

We are a lively and welcoming Bible study class, with members of all ages and various backgrounds. We invite anyone who wishes to explore the scriptures to join us. Jump in and ask questions or listen to others discuss and ponder, while enjoying great fellowship.

- Study Leader: Jason Rule
- Age Group: 18 and up
- Class Size: 20-30
- Contacts: Jason Rule and Bev Fotovich

Around 30's

We are a large class with a variety of speakers and topics. We discuss everything from Bible study to important civic issues of the day. Topics usually change monthly. Drop in any time!

- Leaders: Fred & Susan True
- Age Group: 60+ ● Class Size: 30-40

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Questors

We are one of the longest-running Bible studies at PWC! The "Fidelis" class has joined the "Questors" Sunday school class. We are all in Room 219, enjoying Bible study and fellowship. Come and join us.

- Leader: Burt Jolley
- Age Group: 70+
- Class Size: 10-15

Bible Boomers

Our lively group has four key focuses: Biblically based studies with life applications to advance our faith, an active outreach and missions focus, a strong support emphasis and a healthy social agenda. We are delighted to have new members.

- Leaders: Chris & Dianne Hodges and Carl & Cheryl Hughes
- Age Group: Baby Boomers
- Class Size: 15-25

Seekers

We focus on ways to apply our faith to daily life, and we will give you many opportunities to develop supportive friendships. We have a strong focus on community service, and we serve a great brunch every 5th Sunday. We would love for you to join us!

- Leader: Sharon Milburn
- Age Group: 50+
- Class Size: 50+

Sunday School 11 a.m.

Families of Faith

Our strong group knows that walking with God means living his promises in our everyday life. Parents will find stability and community with our group. Our curriculum will help you to make God a priority in your life, and to serve your church and community. Our fun activities with both families and couples will help you to find new friends. You have a home with us!

- Leader: Suzanne Zimmerman
- Age Group: 30+
- Class Size: 20-30

Hearts and Hands

We are exploring our mission as Christians today. We are searching for what our love of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit requires of us. We invite you to be part of this process.

Currently we are meeting in room 252. We are open to meeting in the church coffee bar or perhaps meeting for coffee outside the church. Our curriculum for 2010 is evolving, and we are open to new input and suggestions. We ask for Emmanuel, God among us, to be with us and guide us to be where God needs us.

- Leaders: We rotate facilitators
- Age Group: Adults

Sunday School 11 a.m.

Single On Sunday ("SOS")

Do you attend church as a single on Sunday morning? Then this class is just for you. Whether you are male or female, single or married, you are always welcome. Come on in! Enjoy the comfy chairs of the library, and a Bible study that is geared toward developing community. You've got a friend with us.

- Leader: Sandy Malish
- Age Group: Adults Class Size: Small

SONrise

If you enjoy down-to-earth conversation about how to apply God's Word to your daily life, then this is the class for you. This diverse group of people studies a wide variety of topics. We will begin a new study in September 2009. We serve church and community in a variety of ways. We also enjoy parties and class trips. Newcomers are especially welcome!

- Leader: Barbara Campbell/Stephanie Theis
- Age Group: 30-65 Class Size 15

Gen X at the Woods

We are a diverse group of singles, couples and families ranging in age from early 20s to middle-30s. Stop by sometime and be a part of our group!

- Contact: Gen.X.at.the.Woods@gmail.com
- Age Group: 20's-30's ● Class Size: 15-25

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

- Age Group: Crib nursery-5th grade
- Location: see below

Christians In Action (CIA) - 11 a.m.

This hour will encourage your child to worship God complete with all their wiggles and enthusiasm. Your child will experience all the elements of worship — prayer, messages and scripture — in a style your child can relate to.

- Age Group: 1st-5th grade
- Location: Room 150

Childcare/Sunday School Rooms

| | <u>9:30</u> | <u>11:00</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Crib Nursery | 60 | 60 |
| Toddlers | 56 | 56 |
| Two Years Old (by 8/1/09) | 51 | 51 |
| Three Years Old (by 8/1/09) | 55 | 55 |
| Four Years Old (by 8/1/09) | 54 | 55 |
| Kindergarten | 158 | 55 |
| First Grade | 150 | 150 |
| Second Grade | 160 | 150 |
| Third Grade | 256 | 150 |
| Fourth Grade | 255 | 150 |
| Fifth Grade | 12 | 150 |
| Special Needs | 50 | |



Sunday School - 11 a.m.

- 9-12th Grade - Room 13
- Disciple (9-12 Gr) - Room 15
- 7-8th Grade—Room 11

Refuel

Come get a Refueling before the busy week starts. Join us on Sunday nights for a great time of music, community and learning. Each night holds a different outlook on growing closer to God ...

- Jr. High @ 5 pm
- Sr. High @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday Night

We have many great ministries with Flite. Most of our ministry teams meet on this night to use their talents for God. You can get involved in our Drama Team, Video Production Team, FliteLine (our praise band) and Dance Team. All students are invited to come join a ministry. If these don't interest you, we also have a Hospitality Team, Setup Team and an unknown (you tell us what you want to do).

Flite Groups

Our weekly small groups meet Sunday night in the Student Center. Each group is designed to help build friendships, have fun and study God's word. This is a great way to get more involved in Flite Ministries and really get to know other students. Groups are led by awesome adults who love God and love students. These 60 minutes will change your entire week.

- Sr. High Group @ 5 pm
- Jr. High Group @ 6:30 pm

