

Westview Chimes July/August 2024



Westview Members Use Their Gifts to Bless Others in So Many Ways!

The more we know and experience Christ's immense love for us, the more we want to embrace others with this love in our daily lives! Many of you are being Christ's hands, feet, and voice (arms of love) to those around you in your daily lives...many of you without knowing it! Here are just **2 stories** of the many that could be shared about you:

I Can't Read!



Mary Lou Hoffman shared, "I first met **Dominick** in our fellowship hall the first week of August 2022. He was just starting second grade. Dominick looked up at me and announced loudly, 'I can't read' and slid under the table...what a challenge for an 'old' teacher who loves to help a child learn to read. Dominick and I have become great friends and enjoy learning to read together. He was so correct. He could not read a word and was starting second grade with no reading skills at all. To all of our delight, this spring he just completed third grade and **received not 1, but 2 awards from his teacher (photo on left):**

- 1. The most improved reader and**
- 2. The #1 reader in his class!**

He brought me the awards and showed them to me with a big grin. He even showed me that they were not plastic, but they were made of metal! I am so proud of Dominick and so grateful we met in the hall at Westview Church."



Photo Above: Other Children receiving their reading Certificates

What a lovely community of caring people we have at Westview!

You all are working miracles all the time in the lives of the people you meet!

Oh, To See the JOY On Their Faces!

Shirley Wong is one of those quiet rock stars in the Westview and greater community. Her life and her work make a big difference in our community, but few of us fully know how.

Shirley married Dick Wong in 1977 and their son, Erik, became friends with Derek Hayashi (Joanne and Art's son) who invited Eric to play basketball at the church, and their family began to become part of Westview. Dick and Shirley owned Don Rafa market near the church and were involved in the church as much as they could, with having to juggle working at the store. When they sold the store 17 years ago they were finally able to come to church more regularly.

Shirley wasn't ready to retire, and she wanted to work with children, but her credential had lapsed. So, she decided to be an aid for special needs children in the schools. For 10 or 11 years, she worked at the high school level, but the last several years she has been working with pre-K to second grade. When asked what she loved about her work, she said, "It is a delight to see them learn how to do things like hold the pencil, or figure out a word, and to see the joy on their face. When she worked with the older students, it was a delight to see the progress that they made after several years of investment and the fruit after all the hard work we had done with them."

She remembers specifically a student named Ashley that she got to work with one-on-one for four years of tutoring. It was a delight to see her progression of learning. At first, Ashley was not interested at all in written words, but over the years she learned to read, and pick out words from the newspaper. Shirley even got permission from the parents to take Ashley to the supermarket for a shopping trip where they would read all the words in the aisles like apples, and lettuce, and bread. As they walked the aisles it was a delight to see Ashley reading and the joy on her face! Shirley also enjoyed teaching them life skills like basic cooking-- making hot chocolate, oatmeal, or scrambled eggs. She also helped them with their morning routine, brushing their teeth, how to ride the bus, or how to be courteous on the phone— many things we all take for granted.

Shirley is considering retiring in a couple years, but right now she is still thoroughly enjoying her work.

I am grateful for people like Shirley who play such an important role in caring for our young ones, especially our vulnerable young ones. Thank you, Shirley for your faithful, hard work and your big heart!

“YOURS are the hands with which Christ blesses all the world,” in the words of St Teresa of Avila. YOU, the members of the Westview family ARE the church—YOU are Christ’s body on earth today. Continue to shine and love!

If you have a story of seeing God work among our Westview members share it with Pastor Dan!

I appreciate you, the Westview family, and am grateful to walk in life together serving each other and the community with God’s goodness and lavish love!

-Pastor Dan

Photos

Blast from the past: (photo below) Do you see yourself or loved ones in this photo collage from around 1998?!



Top right photo: Maria, Judith, Polly and Mary Lou packing lunches to give out on the levee to the unhoused.
Bottom right photo: Victor Maribel and Margo sorting Second Harvest food for the unhoused.

YOU Are the Church Wherever You Are!

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
— St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Westview Turned 125 in 2023! We will **celebrate** at our **Harvest Dinner** on **November 2, 2024 5pm** at **Westview**. Come celebrate with the best BBQ teriyaki in the world, historical slideshow, and bring check or money to donate to the Salvation Army as we fundraise for their vital ministry in Watsonville. Bring a side dish or dessert if you like.

Recurso de Fuerza Village (“Resource of Strength,”) is the name given by the unhoused on the levee for the small village that will be built behind the church gym hopefully by November 2024. Monterey County initiated the project and Santa Cruz County will be taking it over in 2 years. The funding from the project came from Monterey County, and despite what the newspaper said, it is not being diverted from Salvation Army funding which instead comes from Santa Cruz County. Please be in prayer for the transformation of the lives of those who will get to live and heal at Recurso de Fuerza! ***Consider Sponsoring a Room:*** Please pray about if you, a club, or workplace colleagues would like to sponsor the decoration of one of these 34 rooms with things like a welcome mat, pictures, a flowering plant, bedside lamp, etc, so we can welcome with loving arms these people who have felt like unloved outcasts for far too long. Bless you! (contact Pastor Dan)

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church Sunday at 10 am.!!
Masks are now optional for those attending the Live Worship Service.

To join Westview for **Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service** please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com so you can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings and can receive an automatic email reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message.** Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Guest Speakers: Pastor Mick Erickson – July 21st

Luncheons: Social Hour with a light lunch (cake for Birthdays) the **1st Sunday** of **each month. Come Enjoy!!**

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In: Taking a break until September 4, 2024.

Sew Fun Sewing Circle: Tuesdays, 9:30-12:30 in the dining room at Westview, led by Rachel Clark and Peg Pierce - quilting, clothing construction, fabric and color selection, tote bags, quilted postcards, and more! Join us!

