

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Northwest Hills United Methodist Church

7575 Tezel Road • San Antonio TX 78250 • 210.681.3751 • www.nwhills.org

Volume 32

Issue 1

January 2013

From the pastor...

It's 2013, and if you still write checks you'll probably put the wrong year on a few of them, before you get the hang of 2013. The other thing we so often get wrong is New Year's Resolutions. We make resolutions of various sorts, to lose weight, to exercise, to stop a bad habit, to start a good habit, but in a few weeks... or perhaps a few days... that resolution is broken and forgotten, and we're back to the old routine.

Are you interested in making worthwhile changes that will last? Let me suggest a few things.

Make a resolution relevant to your Christian faith, one of true significance. If you can't think of anything, ask God. He's got ideas for you, and they tend to be pretty good. "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground." (Psalm 143:10)

Commit your resolution to prayer, asking God to help you keep it, asking God to use it to bring glory to himself and a blessing to other people. If you're asking for something that's in line with his will, he's just waiting to be invited by you to be a part of what you're doing. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

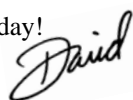
Share your resolution with a Christian friend, and ask them to check with you every week to see how it's going. We are, after all, the body of Christ, and so are here to carry on his work in the world. "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

That last point, number 3, is more important than you may realize. I've experienced it in my own life. When I have someone I meet with every week and I know we'll be talking about the ups and downs of our spiritual lives, that stays in the back of my mind all week long. I know that person is praying for me, just as I am praying for them. And I know they'll ask me, next week, how this week went. Do I want to have to confess this sin that's tempting me, this neglect of spending time with God, this whatever it is, or would I rather be able to tell them God used our accountability relationship to help me face this situation and still live life God's way?

If you don't have such a relationship in the church, go to work on it. Form a small group of trusted Christian friends, meet together weekly, or at least every other week, and share what's going on in your spiritual life. Some questions to use to prompt conversation might be: What are you doing to feed yourself spiritually? How did you serve God this week? Where did you struggle and perhaps falter in your faithfulness to him? When and where did you sense his presence close by you?

Give it a try. You'd be amazed what that does to your daily living. You just might KEEP a New Year's Resolution!

See you Sunday!



SERMON SERIES:

PERSPECTIVES

*January 6
Spiritual Seekers
Luke 2*

WHEN RELATIONSHIPS GO SOUTH

*January 13
Make a U-Turn
Matthew 3:1-17*

*January 20
Forgive
Matthew 18:21-35;
26:28*

*January 27
Rebuild
Matthew 5:23-26*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES AT NW HILLS

Wednesday Night activities will return January 9 for the spring semester.

5:30-6:15 pm: Snack Supper; \$2 gets you 2 slices of Papa John’s pizza, salad & a drink. Reservations are required. You can sign up at the Connection Center on Sunday morning or call the church office (681-3751) by noon on Wednesday.

6:30-8:00 pm: Activities for all ages!

Kids: Age-appropriate Bible study and Incredible Kids Choir

Youth: The Way Youth Games - a midweek break of fun

Adult Bible studies:

The Patriarchs (a Beth Moore study): Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This study on the patriarchs is taken from Genesis 12-50 and explores concepts such as blessing, covenant and promise and how they forever shaped the lives of Abraham and his descendants.

Sermon Deep Dive Series: Do you remember last week’s sermon? I am sure you did not intentionally forget. The fact of the matter is most people take for granted the valuable opportunity to learn about our God during the Sermon. This course will cause you to take an active participation in studying God’s word through a deep dive into the sermon each week. Live the sermon all week, not just absorb on Sunday.

Green Pastures, led by David Trawick

"He makes me lie down in green pastures," but he doesn't cram green grass in my mouth and chew it for me! This class is to give you the tools and practice to become a "self-feeder." Each night we'll learn about a spiritual discipline (methods of prayer, Bible reading, meditation, journaling, etc.) that can help us grow closer to Christ and become more like him. All the following week we'll practice that spiritual discipline. At the next meeting we'll share, in small groups, how our practice of that spiritual discipline went. Then we'll learn about the next practice and make plans to practice it in the coming week.

Warning: This will not be a lecture class where baby birds sit with their mouths open, waiting for something to fall in, but very practical and hands on, with weekly homework of practicing the spiritual exercise just learned about, and small group accountability and encouragement to lend support. Come learn to be a self-feeder!



The “Star of Wonder” production with the children

**NORTHWEST HILLS
LOVES OUTREACH**

“They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

What a joy and privilege it has been to work with Local and Global Mission and Outreach for the past three years. Thanks to each of you who responded so generously in such amazing ways. Your generosity has touched so many through Operation Shoebox, Angel Tree, Texas Ramp Project, Disaster Relief training and response, CropWalk, Flood Buckets, School Supplies, Methodist Mission Home, Wesley Community Center, El Divino Salvador UMC, and so many other places of ministry.

The Outreach Team was awesome! As James Voorhies begins his work with Outreach, I know he will experience the wonderful support to Outreach that we have. THANK YOU, one and ALL!

Lynda Byrd
Outgoing chair

**MISSION 2013
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 7-14, 2013
Adult Mission Trip**

This is the time to put your faith into action! Summer 2013 we will partner with MissionLab to minister and mission in the New Orleans area. This partnership allows us a variety of options for the work we will do so no matter your skill or gifting, you will be able to serve and make a difference. We can work with children or the elderly, we can do construction and feed the homeless, etc. We will get to determine what we feel called to as a team and then go be the hands and feet of Christ. If you have always wanted to go, but never felt you could do the international travel, here is your chance. If you have always wondered what it would be like to go on a mission trip but thought you had to go with youth or have some special skill, you are mistaken and this is your opportunity. Pray now and let God lead you. If you are curious, come and hear more and then decide if God is calling you now, at this time and for His purpose. We will have an meeting on Sunday, January 13 immediately following the late service.

DISCIPLESHIP CAFÉ

Fellowship Sunday, Jan. 6

Spring Semester starts

Jan. 13

Join us for Fellowship Sunday to here more about the classes being offered. Here is a sample of the classes:



Cover to Cover

New to Bible Study? New to adult Sunday School? This is the place for you! This class will cover the entire Bible with a "bird's eye" view. We will start with Genesis and continue through Revelation as we learn about people from the Bible that you hear mentioned and might not be sure who they are. Do those children's Bible stories really have an importance in day to day living? This class is designed to help you learn more about God and Jesus as we study His word. No prior knowledge required!

Growing in Christ

Growing In Christ, by The Navigators. There are a lot of things we aren't sure of in this world, but when we become a believer in Jesus, the Bible helps us to have assurance of salvation, answered prayer, victory over sin, and God's forgiveness and guidance. You'll learn how to get started living the Christian life - and you'll have help from God himself to do it. This is a great class for new believers. No homework required, but home study is encouraged.

David

What does it mean to be someone "after God's own heart?" David, Old Testament shepherd, king, and psalmist offers an answer in this in-depth study of his life. Can we, too, have such a relationship with God?

The Law of Love: Lessons from the Pages of Deuteronomy is a lecture series by Beth Moore. Are you stuck? Wandering? Asking, "What's the point?" "He brought us Out . . . that He might bring us in . . ." Deuteronomy 6:23 (no homework)

James

Looking for Practical Wisdom?

Studying the Bible a bit at a time is like hunger not being satisfied by eating 21 meals in one sitting once a week. Our bodies need a steady diet to remain strong. So does our soul. God sends spiritual food the same way. Christianity is more action on Monday than worship on Sunday. James says "my brothers and sisters if people say they have faith but do nothing their faith is worth nothing."

Can faith like that save them? The book of James deals with the practical side of faith, which means trusting God even in hard times. Think about the way you have responded to a recent problem or difficulty in your life. How would you describe your general attitude during this time? What does your response to this situation reveal about your view of God?

Come join us for a 15 week study to strengthen your faith, relationship with God and other people.

S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life.

God has given every creature he made a special area of expertise to fulfill its purpose. Each has a particular role to play based on the way they were shaped by God. In this class we will look at five factors God uses to prepare and equip us for our purpose for life. These shaping tools are our Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. Join in the journey!

MEMBER CARE SERVICES

Northwest Hills - We care about you! We need to know what is going on with you. Please let us know when you are going in the hospital, having any kind of surgery, received a diagnosis, lost a job, or going through a tough time. Any situation you are in that could use prayer! If we don't know we can't help!

If you would like to be on the member care committee to comfort those who need it, please let me know. If you are in a small group caring for each other's needs, we thank you for doing as you are called to do.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Karen Montgomery - Membership Care
210-0450 home
210-288-0843 mobile
karenemont@yahoo.com\

A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.



Hello Families!

It has been a wonderful season here at NW Hills. There is so much joy here all the time, but Christmas time is sure something special. Our kids get so excited about all this season brings and we get to share the reason why- JESUS! The MDO kids are practicing for their precious Christmas program, the Wednesday Night kids felt such success performing their Star of Wonder and there was joy felt by all who attended the Breakfast with Santa. We are truly blessed by a community of believers who love and value children and the role they serve in the body of Christ. Our kids are touching people's lives in real ways and we are celebrating that! As we wrap up the year, preparations are already underway for what's to come for the children in 2013 and you won't want your kids to miss out on any of it! Stay tuned family.....
Love in Christ,
Natalie Long

World Changers: Prayer Group for kids!

Our children have begun a prayer group that meets during the Sunday school hour. We are raising up leaders in these kids and it has been amazing to see their spiritual growth as a result. They pray each week for each other, our church's needs, our friends and neighbors, our country, our friends in Kenya and the world! They are praying specifically each week for our congregation for healing where it's needed, for all to get plugged into the NW Hills family, for our pastors and teachers and for everyone to act like Jesus wants them to. Our kids are seeing each week how God answers our prayers. This is a very exciting ministry that God is moving in a major way. If you have a prayer request, our kids would like to pray for you! This group is open to any child who wants to pray.

Star of Wonder

Thank you all for coming to support our kids Star of Wonder musical. It was really meaningful for them to perform in front of all of you. They felt so special and loved all of the praise from you all. If your child wants to be a part of a Christmas musical next year, they can by attending Wednesday Nights. Our kids originally learned this musical at MAD summer camp. NW Hills will be taking another group of kids (entering 4th, 5th and 6th graders) to MAD camp at Mt.



Wesley in Kerrville this summer. Stay tuned for the dates as they usually are announced in late January.

More Wednesday Night Fun

Join us for Wednesday nights as we start our children's program back up January 9. We have planned an exciting unit of study for the kids using the armor of God. The kids will make awesome crafts (their own full armor) and will have scripture memory verses every week. The children will still sing their Easter songs but will also have an armor of God performance in May. Little boys, sword making and the word of God? It's a win, win....and fun for girls too (hey, we gotta put jewels on those swords, right?) We start the fun at 6:30 pm and we learn and play until 8 pm. Feel free to come as early as 5:30 for pizza and salad with your church family!

Kenya Donations- IMPRESSIVE, Northwest Hills!

Wow, wow, wow! This community really knows how to pull together for a cause. I was so overjoyed to see the amount of items that you all donated for our friends in Kisii, Kenya. Just look at the picture! They are going to be so blessed by the amount of clothes, blankets and shoes that were provided. We could still use some donations to help cover shipping. I ask for your prayers that they would receive these items in a timely manner as that has been a concern in the past. Thank you again for supporting these lovely people who love the Lord so much.



Fishing Trips- Save the Date

I am looking forward to getting some kids together to go on a fishing trip with the help of fellow church member, Connie Petruskevich who works for an organization called Fishing's Future. We can take a group of kids (6-11 years old) out on a fishing boat free of cost to us! We have the dates set for Saturday, February 23, from 9am to 1 pm and Saturday, April 20 (same times.) Be on the lookout for registration information.

GONE BUT HOPEFULLY NOT FORGOTTEN

Phillip Hefner, Associate Pastor

This Christmas Eve we closed the doors of Pathway Fellowship for the last time. A noticeable lack of growth along with finances made it the logical decision, but it is still a decision that comes with a lot of pain and disappointment to many people – both at Pathway and at NW Hills. So I write this with two goals in mind.

I want to say that NW Hills has been the wind beneath my wings over the past 2 years. For me, it has been a season of learning and growth... an exciting time that would not have been made possible without support from our mother church and I offer my sincere thanks. But there have also been many within NW Hills who have really gone the extra mile... come alongside me and Pathway with GREAT offerings of support... guidance... prayer... wisdom... and friendship – and to each of you specifically I want to say THANK YOU! It has been an amazing ride due to your efforts and I will carry these memories... vision... and lessons with me for years to come. THANKS!

Secondly, I just want to say that Pathway was not a failure so none of you should view it in that light. Lives have definitely been changed due to Pathway's presence in that community and the ripple will continue to reach more people and change more lives as the spirit of Pathway continues to live in our people. God is truly amazing.



CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.



Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



Monthly Events

Next Class 101, Sunday, January 27

3:00 to 6:00 pm

What it means to be a Christian

What it means to be a United Methodist

What it means to be a member of Northwest Hills UMC



This class is for anyone wanting to find out more about becoming a Christian, about the United Methodist Church, and about being a member of Northwest Hills Church. Class 101 is required before becoming a member of Northwest Hills. Class is led by Pastor David Trawick.

There is a sign up sheet at the Connection Center if you wish to attend the next class or call the church office at 681-3751 to reserve a place.

LADIES OF LEISURE

DAY CHANGE TO Every Friday, 11:30 am

The ladies meet each week at a different restaurant just for fun. If you would like to be included in the fun or would like more information, contact May Lang at (210) 679-5774 or email maylang@sbcglobal.net.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 12, 8:00 am

Meet at the church and then drive to Denny's on 410 off Ingram Road. Contact George Hampton at 372-0969.

TEXAS RAMP PROJECT

Building Freedom for the Homebound

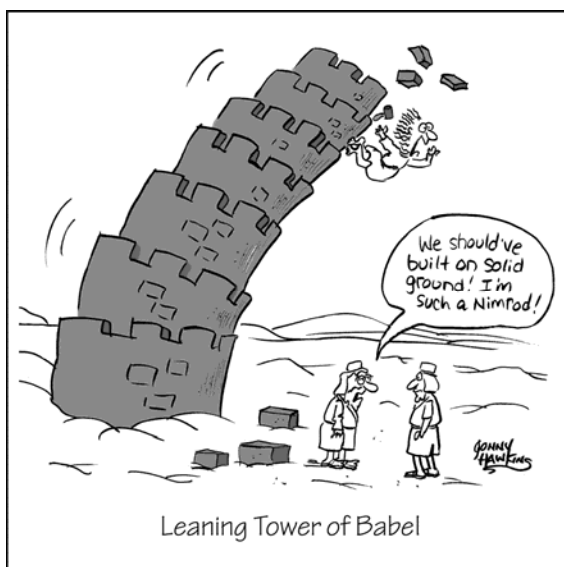
Saturday, January 19, 7:00 am. Meet at the church.

If you like working with power tools and get satisfaction in doing a job that betters another person's life, this is for you! Sign up at the Connection Center. For more information contact Ron Gloyd at (210) 673-3796.

PRIME TIME POTLUCK LUNCH

Monday, January 28, 11:30 am

We've lowered our entrance age to anyone age 60 and older is invited to attend. Bring a yummy dish to share and stay for a fun activity.



Leaning Tower of Babel

THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

Peter admonishes us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). That's the ultimate New Year's resolution — all but certain to be broken repeatedly before the sun sets on the first day. Yet though we fail, are we not better for trying?

What *not* to take into the new year

- Self-help books — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview mirror — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Life vest — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- Garage-door opener — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- Handcuffs — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin

January

Sunday, January 1—New Year's Day

10:00 am Mom's Club

Monday, January 7

7:00 pm Troop 228 Venture Crew
7:00 pm Troop 228 Panther Patrol

Tuesday, January 8

Wednesday, January 9
6:30 pm WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES START

Thursday, January 10

6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review

Saturday, January 12

8:00 am United Methodist Men Breakfast

Sunday, January 13

12:30 pm New Orleans Mission Meeting
6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 15

7:00 pm Troop 228 Venture Crew

Saturday, January 19

7:00 am Texas Ramp Project

Friday, January 25

6:00 pm Pinewood Derby Set Up

Saturday, January 26

8:00 am Pinewood Derby

Sunday, January 27

7:00 pm Troop 228 Patrol Leader Council

Monday, January 28

9:00 am Mother's Day Out Staff Meeting
11:00 am Mother's Day Out Board Meeting
11:30 am Prime Time Potluck Lunch
7:00 pm Administrative Council

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:

3:00 pm Youth Choir
5:00 pm Youth Group
6:30 pm Church Prayer Group
7:00 pm AA Women

Monday:

11:00 am Home School Group
12:00 pm AA
1:00 pm Needle crafters
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 228
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday:

9:00 am Mother's Day Out
5:15 pm Worship Band Practice
7:00 pm AA
7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday:

9:00 am Mother's Day Out
5:30 pm Snack Supper
6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities
7:00 pm Hand bells
8:00 pm NA 12-Step Program

Thursday:

9:00 am Mother's Day Out
7:00 pm AA

Friday:

11:30 am Ladies of Leisure Lunch
7:00 pm AA

Saturday:

9:00 am AA
10:00 am TOPS Weight Loss

SPECIAL DATES

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2013*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2013*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2013*
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance, *January 21, 2013*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2013*



As you head into 2013, create a special journal for the new year.

What you need:

- Spiral notebook (with a plain-colored cover)
- Foam letters, numbers and shapes
- Stickers
- Jewels and glue (optional)

What you do:

- Decorate the notebook cover with letters and numbers. Options include “2013,” “Journal” or your name.
- Decorate with foam shapes, stickers or jewels.
- Write in the journal daily – or whenever possible – recording life events, thoughts, prayer requests and more.
- Keep the journal private or share it with your friends and family.



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?
Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 – tab 18 – Pro 7 – ever 6 – what 15 – lish 8 – you 4 – the
 21 – :3 16 – your 9 – do 1 – Com 20 – 16 11 – he 10 – and 22 – NIV
 3 – to 12 – will 19 – verbs 13 – es 2 – mit 17 – plans 5 – LORD

Answer: “Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3, NIV