

Volume 32 Issue 5
May 2013

NWH HAPPENINGS

SERMON SERIES:

LIFE AFTER JESUS

May 5

Life in the Good Old Days
Acts 1:3, John 21

May 12

Ascension Sunday
Mother's Day
Life Without?
Acts 1:1-11

May 19

Pentecost
Life in the Spirit
Acts 2:1-41

May 26

Trinity Sunday
Life In Community
Acts 2:42-47



FROM LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS...



The 3 Mile Challenge is about neighbor helping neighbor, and building a community that shares and supports each other well. It is about linking up practical needs of people (church members and our neighbors) with our abilities to serve and possessions we can give. Members at NW Hills have always been great at wanting to help, give and serve. One of the obstacles we have faced is managing all of the possible connections that could be made.

Matching needs and skills should be easy, and now it can be.

To join in the Challenge, log on to TheCommon.org, register for an individual account, then join the NW Hills community. You can input your data in three areas:

- Projects- register practical needs for yourself, or for neighbors you know (with their permission).
- Abilities- check skills that you have that could be used to help others.
- Marketplace- ask for an item for yourself or another, or share items you have to give.

When a need arises in the community that you can meet based on the abilities/skills you have, you are notified by email and can choose to join in meeting the need or not. Once projects are complete we will be able to share the stories and see how God is working in and through the people of NW Hills to share the love of Christ. "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Mat. 5:16

Join the Challenge!

Northwest Hills United Methodist Church

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FROM THE PASTOR...

I read in the newspaper: "A growing body of evidence suggests that all the anti-bacterial-wiping, germ-killing cleanliness of the developed world might actually be making us more prone to getting sick – and that a little more dirt might help us stay healthier in the long run." It seems that our antiseptic ways, especially as our babies and children are growing up, may make some people more prone to all sorts of health issues. The article mentioned allergies, eczema, multiple sclerosis, hay fever, autism, and asthma. Apparently, early exposure to a variety of germs encourages the body to strengthen itself against them, leading to a decreased likelihood of later health issues.

It reminded me of the old saying, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Which reminds me of several verses in the Bible. For instance:

- "We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Romans 5:3-4)
- "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." (Romans 8:28)

Everyone encounters difficulties and experiences suffering of some sort. Physical illness or injury, a strained or broken relationship, financial difficulties, the death of a loved one, the car breaking down, standing in line at the DMV. We don't have to go looking for trouble, because it will find us! But when trouble finds us, we need not despair. We can place our pain in God's hands, and then watch to see what he'll do with it.

Maybe you've heard the story of the young woman who told her mother how hard her life was. Everything seemed to be a struggle, one problem coming after the other, and she didn't know how she could continue. Her mother took her to the kitchen and put three pots of water on the stove, heating the water to a boil. In one pot she put carrots, in the second eggs, and in the third fresh ground coffee beans. After letting them boil for 20 minutes she fished out the carrots and eggs and ladled the coffee into a cup. She told her daughter to break the egg. It was hard boiled. She had her feel the carrots. They were very soft. Then she had her sip the coffee. Mmmm. The daughter smiled at the flavor. The mother said, "Each one faced the same adversity: boiling water. But they reacted differently. The carrot went in strong and firm, but came out soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with a thin outer shell for protection, but its insides became hardened. The ground coffee was different. It changed the water. Which will you be?"

It's all in how we respond to the "dirt" and difficulties in our lives. Place yours in God's hands, and see what he can do with it. He'll make you stronger. And he just might use it to equip you to for doing his work in some special way.

See you coffee beans on Sunday!



FROM THE LAY LEADER... Your Divine Design

Did you know that you are God's masterpiece? You are a work of art! Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (NLT) What does He have planned for you? Maybe a better question is, "How did God design me to accomplish the plans He has for me?" We have a small group study from Living On The Edge ministries with Chip Ingram called Your Divine Design. It has eight sessions on DVD and five study books. I have gone through the series and I learned a lot about myself. You might want to consider it for your small group and learn a little about yourself and others. You'll find it in the resource center in room E206 upstairs in the Education building.

Grace & Peace,
Todd Duke Lay Leader

FROM MEMBER CARE...

We want to extend thanks to Dana Lyons, Ida & Charles Wackes who will be volunteering to deliver flowers. We appreciate all the volunteers who deliver flowers, write & send out cards, and take attendance. You are always welcome to be added to our team. We especially need those who have a few hours in the early part of the week to help Maureen Tarazon with the attendance. Cheryl MacKinder has been helping & will be in New York for the next 4 months. If you feel called to do this very important work for the church, please let me know.

Revelation 2:19 I know your deeds: your love, faith, service and steadfast endurance. In fact, your more recent deeds are greater than your earlier ones.

Prayer, Share & Care
Karen Montgomery
210-520-0450



Lynda Byrd
Chair

In recent months, *Stewardship Musings* has focused on the meaning of stewardship. The hope is that we will see the many facets of stewardship and how integral it is to all that we are and do as followers of Jesus Christ. Some years ago, while attending a General Church event facilitated by the General Board of Discipleship, a stewardship definition was shared that not only served as a powerful enlightenment, but has formed so much of my personal understanding of stewardship. The definition given was quite simple... stewardship is what we do after we say we believe.

Hopefully, as you have read the previous entries of *Stewardship Musings*, an idea of your understanding of stewardship has been formed or strengthened. The emphasis over the next few months will be on our *spiritual giftedness*, and how critical it is in all of our relationships to demonstrate the constant presence of Christ in our lives. To illustrate this, there is a story of a woman who saw a poor, barefoot child roaming the streets of a large city. She took the child by the hand to the closest shoe store. The woman bought the little girl socks and shoes. With 'happy feet' the little girl ran gleefully from the store. Disappointed that she had not received a word of gratitude from the child, the woman paid for the socks and shoes. As she walked out the shop door, the little girl came back to the store, eyes bright with excitement. "Are you God's wife?" she asked the woman. Smiling, the woman said, "No, but I am God's child." The little girl said, "I knew that you were some kin of his." Taken from *Preaching for Giving*, by Timothy Bagwell, p. 48.

Those who enter into a Spirit-filled relationship with God become signs of his kinship to the whole world. Our spiritual giftedness is evident in the choices we make, not for recognition or power or prestige... but because Christ lives in our hearts.

Challenge for the month: How often can you demonstrate your kinship with God to others?



At the end of the first quarter, the pledge responses to the 2013 budget was at 24% of the year's total. This is a great start. 25% each quarter will meet the goal in full. We're on our way!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

Sign up at the Connection Center with a working email address. You can also email Valerie Martin at vmartin@nwhills.org. If you wish to receive your end of the year statement by regular mail, please indicate.

NEW CLASSES BEING OFFERED

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Attention all 9:45 Worship Attendees!
We are pleased to announce the launch of additional Sunday School Classes offered just for you! Children's Church Time/supervision will be provided.

The Sermon Revisited

We will discuss the sermon that we just heard. Look at the background etc.

God's top 10 (Starts June 2)

An open discussion of the Ten Commandments and the relevance for today. Drop in's welcome.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF SERVING!

You may have noticed that Spring has sprung and with it all of the pollen and oak leaf dump! BLAAA! However, it was also noticed that NW Hills looked amazing for our Easter Celebration with lawn areas cleared of excess leaves, colorful flowers had been planted, and fresh mulch put out. It has been reported that a special servant of the Lord made that happen. Her name: Karen VanBuskirk! She spent hours and days up here, vacuuming up leaves, raking, hauling bags and bags of debris away and then the color was added. It was awesome to see it take shape and come alive. Karen, thank you for your gift of service, surely the Lord is glorified!

If you have caught someone in the ACT of SERVING, please report to Kelly Voorhies at Kelly@nwhills.org. Include pictures when possible and a date and description of the service.





FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY...

Natalie Long
Children's Minister

SOAR Children's Ministry Summer Schedule of Events

Here is a rough schedule of children's summer events for your planning purposes. Details will be provided as the dates get closer. The schedule may change but we will keep you posted. Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions, Natalie Long at 681-3751 or by email at Natalie@nwhills.org

Splash-a-Palooza: Sunday, June 2, 3-5 pm

Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible Camp (VBC): June 17-21, 9 am-12 pm

Creation Museum Field Trip: Saturday, June 29, 8 am- 6 pm

Craft Day (3 yrs-5th grade): Tuesday, July 2, 1:30-3:30 pm

Pump it Up: Thursday, July 11, 1:30-3:30 pm

MAD (Music, Art and Drama) Camp (for incoming 4th, 5th and 6th graders):
July 24-27

Bowling at Bandera Bowl: Tuesday, August 6, 1:30-3:30 pm

Landa Park Field Trip: Saturday, August 17, 12:30-5:30 pm

Evangelism through Children

My 13 year old niece, who recently accepted Jesus as her savior, was blessed by receiving letters prepared for her by the children of Northwest Hills. I let our Wednesday night kids know that my niece did not know a lot about Jesus and asked if they would share what God has done in their lives with her. Here are a few examples of what the children wrote. The names have been omitted for the children's protection.

Dear _____, I hope you feel better. Jesus loves you so much. God is loving, caring and kind. I hope you will feel better. When I accepted Jesus in my heart, I felt kinder and sweeter. Love, _____ age 7

Dear _____, I was so glad to hear that you asked Jesus into your heart! I just wanted to tell you that I know how good it feels to have asked Jesus into your heart. I hope you know that Jesus will always love you and will never leave you. My life was so much better once I asked Him into my heart. I hope you will get to go to church one day so you will experience how it feels to learn more about God. I just wanted you to know that JESUS LOVES YOU!!!
Love, _____ age 9

Dear _____, I have asked Jesus into my life, too. It's amazing to see the changes that happen. I want to tell you about God. Here are some words to describe him- loving, caring, miracle maker and amazing. I hope you can see the changes too. Love, _____ age 7

MISSION 2013 UPDATE

KELLY VOORHIES
Volunteer & Mission Coordinator

Our mission travel team continues to meet to plan and prepare for our mission to New Orleans, Louisiana. We are now learning how we will be serving while we are there and want to share this information and invite all of NW Hills to join in the mission. Currently we have 3 areas we will be focused on: Construction, Kingsley House Adult Services and Women at the Well. While our construction project has not been clearly identified yet, we do know generally how we will be serving in the other two areas. The Kingsley House provides day care for senior citizens and medically fragile adults. We will spend two days with them, worshiping, playing games and doing crafts with them. Women at the Well provides Christian-based addiction recovery to women. In our two days with these women we will get to lead and share in Bible study, prepare the lunch meal for and with them. Some of them also will have children with them so we will have the opportunity to play with them too!

You can help in a few ways. Money donations are welcome. Some of our team members could benefit from financial support, so sponsoring travel costs would help as well as supply costs for our materials for construction, crafts and games. Make sure to note Mission 2013 in the memo. We will also be providing supply lists for our projects, so if you prefer to donate items, look for that information to be available in early June. Of course, join in praying for our mission. Pray for those we meet along the way and get to minister to, preparations for the mission, team member safety, and family support. May all we do and say bring glory to Jesus!



FROM MOTHER'S DAY OUT...

Jennifer Staver, Director

As a child I was taught not to brag, as a parent I impart these same beliefs to my children. When I was asked to share all of the stories that came from MDO's open registration day, I thought "but I can't write this, it's bragging." I shared this thought with a wonderful church member, and MDO supporter, and was told that by sharing the information, it wouldn't be boastful – but important information for all members of NWH to realize just what kind of a program takes place during the weekdays at NWH.

Over the past years, our MDO program has continued to grow in popularity. Moms at neighborhood parks talk about it, conversations have been overheard at nearby Starbucks that NWH's MDO is the 'place to be' and helpful parenting chat rooms list our MDO as one of the best in the community. Every January the phones begin to ring more, emails are frantically sent and anxious parents come to take a tour of our MDO... all with the same question, "How do I get my child in?"

This year our open enrollment day surpassed all others, with examples by which parents will go to just to get their child "in" at MDO. Registration is held on Saturday morning and is a first come, first serve basis. In year's past we've had lines forming at 5am, then midnight and last year one enthusiastic parent arrived at 9:30 pm. We thought we had seen it all.... we hadn't even come close!

Following are just a few of the examples of what parents will do to get their child into the NWH MDO program: (Registration was Saturday, March 23 starting at 7:00 am.)



The first parent arrived on Friday at 5:30pm, complete with a glitter banner that read "I'm #1 and here to register my child for MDO." This parent came too late last year and never made it off of the waiting list. She was determined not to miss out for the 2013-2014 school year. She happily waited FOURTEEN hours to get her son into our program.

But not to worry, she wasn't alone. Two more mom's joined her about an hour later on the porch. These moms set up a tent and spent the night giggling and watching movies and playing games. Not irritated that they had to wait in line, overnight, in the dark, on the porch... but excited to know that they were securing a spot in our MDO for their children. (cont. next column...)



One family lives out of state, but will be moving to San Antonio this summer. Knowing that this was the program they wanted their child to attend, they planned their vacation around the date of our registration.

Another family living out of state was not able to travel hundreds of miles to be here. Not to be outdone, they put an ad on a college message board and paid an unknown college person to camp out on the front porch to be a proxy person for their child during registration.

What do all of these parents have in common? They recognize the fact that our MDO makes a difference in children's lives. We don't babysit, we aren't here just to make a mess and keep some kids occupied for a few hours... we are here because we love to be with kids, we want to teach them and to ready them for kindergarten. And best of all we get to do all of this while sharing just how much Jesus loves them!

When I thanked a mom for spending all night on our porch to register her child, she said to me "If I can do it on Black Friday for a sale, why shouldn't I do the same for my child's education?"

So without bragging, I share these stories with you. MDO is not something that just happens, it is purposeful and planned. It is led with full hearts everyday and we do it knowing that the children of our community are better off because we are here.

Monthly Events

Next Class 101, Sunday, May 26

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

NOW MEETING EVERY MONDAY, 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, May 11, 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, May 18, 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, May 20, 11:30 am

Anyone age 60 and older is invited to attend. Bring a yummy dish to share and stay for a fun activity.

11TH NATIONAL GATHERING OF UNITED

METHODIST MEN, JULY 12-14

**BELMONT UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

Dynamic Speakers, Hands-on Mission and Workshops for all.

Register at www.ummgathering.org or mail-in. Early registration fee is \$199 until June 1 after June 1, fee is \$299

Campus lodging includes 2 nights & breakfast for \$85.00 additional night \$43.00.

Area hotels room rates \$119-145 per night.

For mail-in forms, schedule of events or questions see George Hampton 372-9069 or geohampton001@gmail.com.

CRAFT SALE

SUNDAY, MAY 5, All Morning

The Needlecrafters will be selling home-made gifts to benefit ministries of NW Hills. Get your Mother's Day gifts! Proceeds from the sale will go towards cleaning the upholstery in the sanctuary.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the cards, visits, phone calls, food and prayers. God guided the many medical pro's I encountered. The surgery, healing and recovery is right out of a hip replacement text book. God has blessed us with a wonderful, caring, church family.

Bless you all,
John Dinsmore

THE MYSTERY OF MONTLEY'S MANOR DINNER THEATRE

Tickets Go On Sale May 5

Have you ever been to a "mystery" Dinner Theatre? You get to play detective/reporter and figure out "who-dun-it". It is fun and interactive and you get fed too!

Well, it appears good old Montley was murdered...or was he? You can join us **Saturday, June 9, at 12:00 or 6:00 pm** for "The Mystery of Montley's Manor," a mystery dinner theater performed by the NW Hills Youth Choir. The lunch and evening performances will be full of unpredictable fun as the cast, made up of participants in our youth choir, portray the zany and hilarious characters in Montley's world.

You are invited to be our detective/reporters for dinner, the show, and to help solve the mystery by asking your own "who-dun-it" questions.





Thursday, May 2
6:30 pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting

Friday, May 3
10:00 am NISD Parenting Class

Sunday, May 5
9:00 am Craft Sale
6:30 pm Troop 228 Committee Meeting

Monday, May 6
10:00 am Mom's Club

Tuesday, May 7
Troop 228 Panther Patrol

Thursday, May 9
6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review

Friday, May 10
10:00 am NISD Parenting Class

Saturday, May 11
8:00 am United Methodist Men Breakfast

Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day
6:30 pm Board of Trustees

Tuesday, May 14
7:00 pm Troop 228 Venture Crew
7:00 pm Troop 228 Panther Patrol

Friday, May 17
10:00 am NISD Parenting Class

Saturday, May 18
7:00 am Texas Ramp Project
8:00 am Mother's Day Out End of the Year Program
10:00 am Confirmation Celebration

Monday, May 20
11:30 am Prime Time Potluck Lunch
6:00 pm Finance Committee
7:00 pm Administrative Council

Tuesday, May 21
6:30 pm Parklands HOA

Friday, May 24
10:00 am NISD Parenting Class

Sunday, May 26
3:00 pm Class 101

Monday, May 27 MEMORIAL DAY
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 29
6:30 pm Girl Scout Ceremony Practice

Friday, May 31
10:00 am NISD Parenting Class
7:00 pm Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:

12:00 pm AA
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
11:30 am Ladies of Leisure Lunch
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
8:15 pm AA Spanish

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
8:15 pm AA Spanish

Friday:

12:00 pm AA
7:00 pm AA

Saturday:

9:00 am AA
10:00 am TOPS Weight Loss
7:00 pm AA Spanish

- National Day of Prayer, *May 2*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 9*
- Mother's Day, *May 12*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 18*
- Pentecost, *May 19*
- Memorial Day, *May 27*

FROM WILDWOOD...

Hey Northwest Hills! I just wanted to take a moment and give you an update on your outreach ministry, Wildwood Fellowship (formerly Pathway Fellowship). We're alive and well meeting each Sunday at the Yellow Pamona off of Talley Road. We are experiencing God's presence every week as we gather together to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus. Currently we are averaging nearly 25 people each week. On Easter we had 43 children and adults attend our Easter egg hunt and Easter service. We have two small groups we call "Journey" groups which meet weekly and we just completed our first women's Bible study on Esther. We are super excited about the opportunities we have to reach out to our community. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek new ways to reach out to those who don't have a church home in this area. Feel free to drop by and visit us at the Yellow Pamona (2493 Louis Augusta) and check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Wildwood SA. Thanks for all your support.



Your brother in Christ,
Phil Bland

GOD'S FISHING HOLE

This new monthly addition is to keep the Emmaus community informed on upcoming events here at NWH and throughout the local area.

Emmaus participation should be fun and bring joy into your life while helping to maintain that important balance between you, God and your daily roles on this earth. During our walk, we were able to meet new friends, learn a lot about ourselves, and see God's unlimited love for us through others love, and support. One of the things God did ask of us was to become fishermen for him, and share His Love with others. Our goal is to help you rekindle that spirit and support each other through our Fourth Day Groups.

Tom & Vicki Bader are the new Emmaus Coordinators for NWH Emmaus community. You can contact them either by email (www.nwhumc.emmaus.yahoo.com), or by phone at 210-521-6782. They invite your suggestions and support to help strengthen our discipleship and commitment.

As a part of our Emmaus community, we would also like to develop the Chrysalis Program for our youth. This will help enrich their lives in this ever-changing world, and providing future leader in our church.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NWSA Emmaus/Chrysalis Gathering
Tuesday, May 28
6:45 PM, Oxford Methodist Church, 9655 Huebner Road
Snacks appreciated - Children and Guest welcome

Summer Chrysalis Flights
Boys July 10 – 13, at FUMC Boerne
Girls July 24 – 27, at Alamo Heights UMC
Cost is \$60.00 per person



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

We thank you, God, for loved ones dear
Who clung to faith beyond their fear,
Who served and paid the highest price
For freedom bought with sacrifice.
May they remind us of your Son
Whose death our final freedom won.

—Heidi L. Mann, 2012



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"Like" us on Facebook at Northwest Hills UMC or follow us on Twitter at NW Hills UMC.



You can also follow other NWH ministries on Facebook:
SOAR Northwest Hills UMC Children's Ministry
The Way Youth Ministry NW Hills UMC
and NW Hills UMC Mother's Day Out



David's sermons are now available on iTunes for free to download. Go to Northwest Hills UMC for a listing of sermons.



For those who enjoy using their smart phones and tablets as their Bible, WiFi is now available on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.