

The Window

A Newsletter of:

West Hills Church

On a journey with the Living Christ;
connecting with God, Others, and the World.



December 2016

Exciting News for 2017 by Derek Richman

On the first Saturday of October 2016, the Session and Staff gathered for a half-day presentation by Ron Dotzler. The title of his presentation was, "How Churches Grow and Thrive in the 21st Century Post-Modern Culture." (Many of us grew up in what is known as a Modernist Culture but we now live in what is known as a Post-Modern culture. A succinct, albeit somewhat limited, description of the difference between Modernism and Post-Modernism may be found at the following site: https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/engl_258/Lecture%20Notes/modernism_vs_postmodernism.htm).

During his seminar he presented some very interesting thoughts, facts and challenges and I wanted to share some of them with you.

1. First, he stated his belief that the local church is the hope of the world. I fully believe this is true. I believe that Jesus established the church to be a light in our culture. I believe the church is called to minister to those who are already Christians but also to reach out and love a lost and hurting world. We cannot just be inwardly focused but we have to be outwardly focused as well. We are called to form relationships and love people who are not Jesus followers and when the time is right, talk to them about Jesus and invite them to West Hills.

2. Second, he shared a statistic that 95% of Christians in America do not share their faith. Everyone has a different opinion of what it means to "share their faith." I also realize that sharing our faith sounds intimidating. However, maybe this means asking a neighbor, co-worker or someone else if you can pray for them? In my entire life I have only had one person tell me that he did not want me to pray for him. The time around Christmas is a natural time to share our faith. People are almost expecting it at this time of year; so I encourage all of us to gently and graciously share our faith this Christmas season with a friend, a relative or a neighbor.

3. Third, Ron shared a particular activity of Bridge Church. He shared with us their three minute rule. The three minute rule means that for the three minutes before a service begins and three minutes after a service ends they ask their people to not talk to their friends but to seek out people they do not know and talk with them. These people could be visitors, guests or just people they do not know. I recently challenged us, in a Sunday message, to implement this rule at West Hills. I would like to challenge us once again to implement the three minute rule on Sunday mornings.

I realize that some of what I just wrote may be a bit intimidating or scary and take us out of our comfort zones but during this month we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus left his comfort zone for us and so what better present could we give Jesus this Christmas but to leave our comfort zones for the sake of others.

3 minutes
to make a difference

May God bless you and your families
this Christmas and may you have a
Merry Christmas.

Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is? by Carol Isaac

Time can be such an elusive thing. When we're children, it seems to move at a snail's pace, yet when we're adults, we yearn to slow it down. If you grew up in the 70's, you probably remember that Jim Croce wanted to put "time in a bottle" while the band Chicago asked, "Does anybody really know what time it is?"

Regardless of your musical taste, time is something that's always intrigued me, especially God's view of time. He's given us a few "snapshots" through scripture, but I'm not sure we'll fully understand time from His perspective until we see him "face to face." In the Bible, 2 Peter 3:8 says, "But do not forget this one thing dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day."

In my own experience, time can move along gently, or it can be a jarring and painful journey. Without a doubt, my most significant lesson in "time" occurred when my sister Kay developed cancer. For most of her adult life, Kay was intrigued by Eastern religions. She explored Christianity, but remarked that she could not accept a faith which taught that Jesus was "the only way." "How could a faith that promoted love be so limiting" she asked?

The years passed, and at the age of 53, Kay developed stage 4 cancer. Christians began to touch her life in many ways – through prayer chains, caregivers, house cleaners and finally, hospice. In the last month of her life, Kay came to the Lord through the writings of Sarah Young and her devotional, "Jesus Calling." The Holy Spirit prepared her heart through the prayers of His people and the Christians He brought into her life. As I pondered this, I realized how discouraged I would have been, if I had known how long it would take for Kay to come to Christ. And yet, looking back on events, it was indeed God's perfect timing!

Matthew 20:1-16 discusses God's timing in the form of a parable. The focus is on workers in a vineyard. The landowner hires workers early in the morning and at various times throughout the day. At the end of the day, the foreman calls the workers in from the field and pays each one a full day's wage. Of course, the workers who labored the longest did not consider this a fair bargain and began to complain! When Jesus explains this passage, he focuses on God's mercy, to the extent that His mercy may at times transcend what we consider justice. Kay may have come "late" to salvation, but in God's timing, and through his mercy, she is now His child. I concluded that I may not understand God's timing perfectly, but I am eternally grateful for the perfection of His timing in my sister's life.



Question for Pastor



Is there any place in the Bible that tells us what language will be spoken in heaven?

The Bible refers to many languages. In the Bible, God reveals himself to people in their native language. He speaks to Moses on Sinai in Hebrew of Egyptian. God, Jesus, and the angels reveal themselves to John in the book of revelation presumably in Greek or Aramaic. Obviously, God can use

whatever language he wants because He knows it all anyway; but what about our communication with each other in heaven?

Seemingly the only mention of any heavenly language whatsoever comes from 1 Corinthians 13:1, "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." In this verse there is a reference to a language spoken by angels, however no other information is given as to the exact nature of this language or if it is the official language of heaven. Thus, the answer to the question is that the Bible does not tell us what language will be spoken in heaven. Answer from Derek Richman.

Spiritual Correspondence by Jana Prescott



God offers His love and care to all who are willing to accept it and to welcome it with a whole heart, even if that welcoming heart is having a time where it just can't seem to feel very welcoming. I just try to keep my vision of my handicaps where I have God's "firm steps" (Ps 37:23) envisioned in my heart. A tough job, you say? Well, you are right. I just need to stay relaxed and remember that I do have His love for me, even in the midst of all my handicaps. Does this sound like

anything you have been dealing with as your life moves on?

Well, remember Psalm 37:4,5: "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this." Trusting in Christ always can be quite a task - at least it is for me. It can feel like a waste of time...but I just need to remember that God knows the best what I need and when I'll need it. So, hard though it seems, pray about any needs/wants you have, over and over if you need to, and He will give you (like He is always giving me), the patience that comes with waiting.

Connection Groups - Update!

It is so great to see the response to our new offering of Connections Groups based on the Sunday Sermon Series. We had 167 people sign up to participate giving us a total of 15 Connection Groups. We put together some comments from different people from the different groups and want to share these with everyone:

- We meet on Sunday right after the sermon so our questions are very fresh coming right after the sermon. There are no right or wrong answers. It is so nice to listen to other people's journeys in their faith. It has been so nice to meet new people and I love the fellowship.
- I am very comfortable in my group. There is a high level of trust and sharing with each other. It has exceeded my expectations.
- This is my first time in a group and I love being in such a diverse group. I like the sermon series and we have good discussions and dialogues.
- Because our group is diverse in ages, I really like the different perspectives we get when we answer the questions.
- I like the lively discussions and because people come from different backgrounds I enjoy the different perspectives that people offer.
- The time frame of the meetings is good. I like that we can carry the thoughts from the sermon with us all week and then share our thoughts at the group meeting. I also like the size of the group, 10-12 people. If people can't make it, it is still a nice size group to have a discussion.

We are halfway through this first Connection Group series. Another will start January 22 and end April 2. The third session will start April 23 and end June 11. There will be sign-ups for three weeks before each new sermon series session. We hope those that are already in a group will sign up again, and anyone who hasn't taken advantage of this opportunity to be a part of a Connections Group will sign up for the next session. The next Sermon Series will come from the book "The Story." Please watch for a taste of what that Sermon Series will be about from Pastor Derek Richman in the newsletter. Hope to see you at the sign-up tables in January.

Connection Group - Wins!



Our Connection Group gives generously to the Omaha area. We made close to 80 zip lock bags to offer some love to those who need it most. Thank you to Lisa and Louie Harrison who were the hands and feet delivering them to the Open Door Mission. Jesus Wins!

www.whcomaha.org

Kids Church & Store



Many of the people at West Hills who do not have children or grandchildren attending the Kids Church are not familiar with the changes going on with the children's program now under the care of Ulette Bonner. If you go downstairs to the children's area you will see the walls have been brightly painted with children's scenes making the walk down the hallways a really fun experience.

The children now have their own "Praise Team" with whom they can sing along with every Sunday. The "Puppet Team" is also a Sunday regular as well as a new popcorn machine and Christian movie time that the children can enjoy while they are waiting for their parents at the end of their lesson time.

The kids are really excited about the new Children's Store that is open the last Sunday of every month. During the month the children can earn tickets they can use to purchase toys, games and stuffed animals. How do they earn tickets? By their attendance at Kid's Church, bringing their Bibles, memorizing their scripture for the week, bringing a friend, listening attentively, etc. The children can then "spend" their tickets on things at the store that range in price from 2 tickets to 36 tickets. Some children want to spend their tickets right away, others will save their tickets for a larger or more expensive item (a good lesson in managing their resources).

One of the more awesome things observed at the Children's Store were three little boys spending their tickets. Two of the boys had more than enough tickets to get what they wanted, but the third little boy was short 3 tickets for the toy he wanted. Without a moment's hesitation the two boys gave the third boy the three tickets he needed to get his toy. What a great lesson in sharing with others.

The kids are excited to come to church, and they are learning Christian principles in many different ways. A big "Thank You" to Ulette and all her volunteers that make Kid's Church and the Store a totally fun experience.



page 3

“Come To Me” ... Matthew 11:28 by Wayne Moore

As part of my responsibilities for work, I need to travel. It is interesting to get to see various parts of the country and even better I get to meet many great people along the way.

A while back on a trip to San Antonio, traveling through Dallas, was one of those opportunities. On the plane next to me was a lady, who I noticed seemed to be a little downhearted. I was reviewing some drawings for work and I kept noticing her wiping her eyes numerous times. She seemed a little upset. I finally turned to her and asked if she was okay. She said she was, so I went about my business.

A few moments later, I saw her continue her actions. I again asked her if she was okay and if she would like to discuss the situation. I told her, “I can see you are upset and I would like to lend a listening ear.” I told her that sometimes it helps to talk and I was more than willing to listen.

She began telling me that she had just heard that her younger sister had been killed in a car accident by someone who had ran through a red light. She said her sister was the mother of three middle school children and her husband was stationed in Japan. Her sister and children had returned to the states about a month ago. Her husband was due back in the next few weeks.

She told me her sister was a very caring person and would always lend a helping hand when needed. About that time, it was announced that we would be landing soon in Dallas. She thanked me for listening and apologized for taking me from what I was doing. I affirmed her that it was not a bother and was thankful she could share her heartfelt feelings with me. I asked if she was getting off in Dallas. She said no, that she was on her way to Houston and had about a two and a half hour layover. I told her I would like to hear the rest of her story and had a two-hour layover also. She said she enjoyed the conversation and was feeling better, but did not want to bother me.

We found a quiet gate adjacent to our incoming flight and sat down as she continued telling me about her and her sister while they were growing up. She also shared about her sister’s family. I told her that her sister sounded like an amazing person and had done a fantastic job raising her children especially through all their travels with the Navy.

Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that is equipping lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care for those who are experiencing many kinds of life needs and circumstances. Stephens Ministers are committed to expressing God’s care through their lives to others. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training in caring ministry skills such as listening, confidentiality, boundaries, etc. We currently have four caring individuals completing this training.

By creating that caring ministry our congregation is enabled to grow as a warm, loving, nurturing community, where all people are cared for and cherished for their love of Jesus. In I Thessalonians 5:11, we are told “*Encourage one another and build one another up.*” As Stephens Ministers we always encourage our care receivers by using God’s hands and words throughout our care. This caring ministry identifies our congregation as a place in our community where people’s needs are taken seriously.

If you or someone you know needs a “child of God” to walk beside them; a person who is a caring Christian friend who will take time to listen, call pastor Deena Candler 402-391-8662 X 1009, Esther Miller 402-669-2446, Tom Thompson 402-658-6958, or Wayne Moore 402-660-7245.

Returning to Syria by Julie Burgess

In August, 2010, I made my first trip to the Middle East with our mission partner The Outreach Foundation (TOF). In the intervening six years I have returned nine more times. Those trips have taken me to Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. On four occasions, my husband Steve has traveled with me, and in July, 2015, Patti Gatzke went with me to the women’s conference in Lebanon. All of those trips have been about coming alongside our Presbyterian brothers and sisters shining the light of Jesus Christ in their own contexts.



January 4-19, 2017, I will be heading back again, the third time in nine months. This time Ron Gatzke and I will be traveling with ten others (including our good friend Marilyn Borst, Associate Director

Julie with Rev. Firas Ferah of Hasakeh and Rev. Mofid Karajili of Homs, two of the nine Presbyterian pastors in Syria.

for Partnership Development with TOF) to Syria for two weeks. We will spend time in Damascus, Homs, Fairouzeh, Mahardeh, Amar al Hosen, Mashta Helu and Latakia, and as I told Ron, it will be a rich and holy time.

In the nearly six years since the war began in Syria, The Outreach Foundation has collected over \$1,000,000 for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon’s relief efforts. Since 2012 West Hills Church has donated nearly \$40,000 of that amount through your offerings and special disbursements from Mission ministry budget. These gifts to the church in Syria have allowed them to give aid and comfort to thousands of families whose lives have been turned upside down by this war. It has provided rent, food, medical aid, heating fuel and school fees. It has helped to rebuild homes destroyed in the fighting. These gifts have provided a way for the church that is not suffering to help the church that is. That is our call.

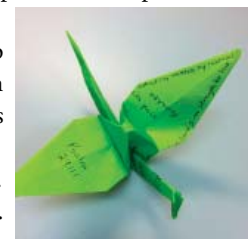
We want West Hills Church to come around us and the church in Syria as we prepare to leave and as we are there. We will gather in the chapel for prayer over this trip, those traveling from the U.S., and especially for the faithful churches in Syria, their pastors and congregations during the following times:

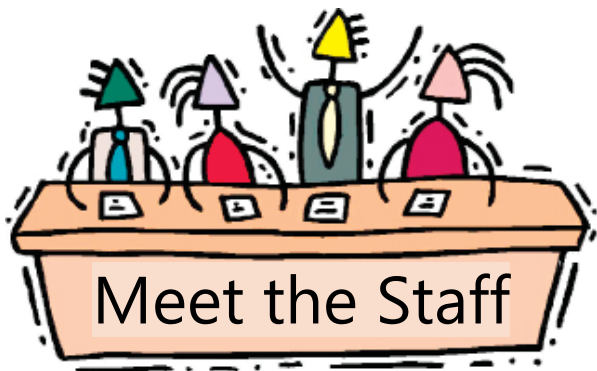
Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:30, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 11:00, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. and January 15 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join us to be a part of our prayer team. I will be glad to teach you how to fold an origami crane, my own personal discipline of prayer for peace.

Ron and I look forward to sharing our trip with you while in Syria. We hope you will join us in this trip by praying for it now. God bless you all!

This is the journey with the living Christ... connecting with his world and humbled to be called.





Every day at West Hills there is an event—sometimes there may be two or four in one day! Last week over 400 people met at the church at 6 p.m. and at 6:30 a.m. the next morning a large group met for prayer. Yet the bathrooms were clean, no trace of crumbs from the snacks that were shared, no used coffee cups, napkins or other trash was evident that something had gone on the night before. There wasn't even a chair out of place! That's because West Hills has a dedicated and very professional Property Coordinator in charge: John Good. John is one of those wonderful and rare employees who truly believes he is honoring God by the work he, as John said "is allowed to do at West Hills." John didn't always have that positive Christian attitude. John grew up in a family that did not attend church and due to his "chosen" lifestyle he moved out of the family home at 16 years old, living on his own. John describes his life as "living in hell." He has witnessed early deaths of previous friends from that life, others are living in prison and some are "strung out on drugs." John said, "burying your friends at such an early age makes you really look at the errors you've made in your life." However two very God driven events took place in John's life and changed him forever. The first occurred in 1998 when John's son was born. For the first time in his life John experienced the absolute overwhelming love for another person, his son. It was a feeling that John couldn't believe and wondered why God had given him such a "wonderful gift." Now that John Jr. is 18, and attending college on a scholarship he earned for his excellent grades, John feels even more blessed. According to John the second event which changed the direction of his life came in 2000 when he saw an opening for a custodial position at West Hills Church. He had completed a 16 month program in Building Maintenance at Job Corp and had also once helped his father when they gutted and remodeled the entire house. John loved working with his hands and seeing "the finished results" when caring for a building. John also said he felt "very drawn to West Hills for some reason" which he felt was unusual since he had "never been to church in my life." After the interview he continued to call Ken Powers and Loren Loibl, the two who interviewed him for the position, about his chances of being hired. When he was offered the job "I was so excited and happy" and John added "and I've never regretted it." When he started working at West Hills "everyone was so nice to me," and since he had been living a life where "people who were nice to me always wanted something from me" John had difficulty trusting anyone. However, no one at West Hills "seemed to want anything from me and were always so friendly towards me, it was a whole new world." When his previous records arrived at West Hills, which was part of the hiring process,

John felt his job may come to an end. However, Pastor George Moore met with John and they discussed John's life up to that point. John said George told him "your past is in the past and you are moving forward with a new future". The two became very close and Pastor Moore was the first person John fully trusted. In fact when John filed for custody of his son George Moore went with him to every court hearing, "he was like a father to me, I knew he really cared about me." Since John had never attended church he became interested in "what went on inside the sanctuary" and asked George if he could attend and if there was a cost. One of the first sermons he remembers is one Deena Candler preached using a large telephone., and encouraging everyone to "answer when God was calling you." John believed God had called him and decided to devote his life to Him. He began by enrolling his son in the church preschool program, buying and reading Christian books to his son, and purchasing Veggie Tales videos. He also took John Jr. with him at 6 a.m. when he arrived at his job at West Hills, "sometimes carrying him on my hip as I completed my chores." As John Jr. grew he began to help his dad around the church, being paid "out of pastor George's pocket. When John Jr. worked with a "negative attitude" as children sometimes do, pastor George talked to his son that he was not only paying him for the work he did but also "for the attitude you use when you work." John said that counsel stayed with his son and was a very important lesson for him to learn at a young age. After John's father retired he joined his son as an employee at West Hills. His siblings began to send their children to West Hills for Vacation Bible School, and John's mom and sister began helping in the kitchen during VBS. When Maralee Gifford told his mom one day in the kitchen at VBS that John was so loved by everyone at church, his mom said: "it was because of this church that made John who he is today." John completed our interview by sharing "I get to come to work and help people every day." To John that has been "a very big blessing in my life." John went on to say, "This is not just a job for me. It is a passion. Every day I get to prepare space for people so their souls can be fed. All I do is for the kingdom of God." We have been truly blessed to have such an amazing role model at West Hills. Thank you John.

OCTOBER Operating Fund Report		
	<i>as of October 31</i>	<i>as of October 31</i>
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Revenues	\$ 952,125	\$ 977,244
Expenses	\$1,122,654	\$1,157,637
Surplus/(deficit)	\$ (170,529)	\$ (180,393)

Church Family News
Baptisms
Henrik Johnson Hanna
son of Erika (Thedens) & Chris Hanna
Born May 31, 2016
Hospitalized/Recovery
Zyanna Dozier, Karen Garvey,

A Living Lighthouse

The vision/purpose of the Lighthouse initiative is that “one day every person, in every neighborhood would have every opportunity to reach their God given potential.” For those at West Hills who have been involved with Abide’s Lighthouse project this last summer you have assisted in helping them reach their vision/purpose on 32nd and Taylor Street in north Omaha. So many from West Hills worked very hard toward converting a very sad looking house into a beautiful home. Many are still involved in that project by offering their support and guidance to the young couple who moved into the Lighthouse home in August. Alee and Brendan George are a very special and unique couple in today’s world. They had been attending Bridge Church for several years and embraced the goals the church had become committed to, in establishing Lighthouse homes throughout north Omaha neighborhoods. Brendan was attending Cole College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa., and Alee was attending Creighton University in Omaha, but both had the same mentor and as God has a plan for each of us, they met, fell in love and married. They both had been involved in the block parties as well as other activities that Bridge was doing in North Omaha so it was just a matter of time before they agreed to become the Lighthouse Leaders in Abide’s newest project. The house is amazing. The minute you walk into the cozy living room, with its open concept to the kitchen and eating area, you feel the warmth. The colors are a blend of soft greens and gold, and the inviting kitchen,



with its black appliances, would be an asset in any home. On October 8 the Georges’ invited a few of their neighbors to a picnic, held in their backyard. They wanted to keep the picnic small so they would have the opportunity to “really get to know some of our neighbors.” Several people from West Hills also attended, and the Georges’ felt the picnic was the opening they needed to begin building relationships with their new neighbors. In building these relationships their neighbors would begin to understand and accept the Lighthouse concept no matter who would be living there, even if the Georges’ moved. The purpose of the Lighthouse would remain the same for the neighborhood. The couple shared that they want the “love of Christ to be the aroma

the neighbors would feel in and around this house.” Like missionaries in any environment Alee and Brendan are learning the language “of the community” and growing as they learn that new language. Currently Alee works as a Project Coordinator at Quantum



and is taking 6 hours at UNO’s graduate program in Public Administration. Her goal is to work in a non-profit organization. Brendan is working as a Technician at Midwest Eye Care, and has applied to 15 medical schools. His dream of becoming a physician came when he visited Ethiopia where he observed the sad conditions of the citizens and their strong need for medical care. That feeling of wanting to provide care never left him. Since their move Alee shared she has been “overwhelmed seeing Jesus from those around us.” She said their neighbors have been “so loving and kind.” The couple believes that Jesus has shown them so much of His love and it has been “so positive for us as we start working in our own lives.” There has even been a positive influence with friends and family members since their commitment to the Lighthouse project. There are 63 homes in their Lighthouse community, including the 8 vacant homes/lots. Their only concern has been the rental properties within their neighborhood, with people moving in and out. The Georges’ were looking forward to meeting with other Lighthouse Leaders. Abide has organized these Lighthouse Leaders to meet on a regular basis and discuss problems, offer one another solutions as well as support as they move forward with their common goals. They also share ideas in addressing the neighbors in their community to make the Lighthouse an integral and consistent part of the project. The Georges’ have already made a goal for the next few months to become intentional by visiting all 55 homes in their neighborhood. They also are “so grateful” for the support they continue to receive from so many West Hill members. They feel they have made not only some very good friends, but also have received invaluable guidance through West Hills. The future of this Lighthouse that West Hills has committed to, through the gutting and renovation of the house, to providing the support this couple has experienced, will be a light in this neighborhood for many, many years to come. We look forward to hearing about the changes this wonderful Lighthouse will make on Taylor Street.

Our Youth by Daniel Patrick O'Reilly

Well, hello fellow West Hillians (not to be confused with the East Hellions). If you come to church at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, you'll notice some people singing up front in long, blue robes. I'm one of the guys on the right in the front row up in the choir loft. One of the joys of singing in the choir is I get to see the faces of everyone in the congregation. It's fun to watch people in worship. Sometimes there is joy. Sometimes there is crying. I always hope it's not my singing causing the crying. Recently one of the gentlemen in the choir made a comment to me about the age of our congregation. He asked, where are all the youth? If you've seen the males in our choir (notice how careful I was with that), you'd notice that some of us are old enough to know what dinosaur tastes like. And he thinks our congregation looks old? Granted we are an aging population, but one does wonder, where are all the youth? Well, it just so happens that a bunch of them were at our house one night. We opened our house up on a Sunday evening for a senior high youth get-together. Hosting the youth is an easy and fun thing to do and I would recommend it for anyone asking where are all the youth? Mike and Peggy Kelley were the organizers and chaperones. So, what did we do? Well, there was a bon fire (you could see it from the space station). Hot dogs, brownies, glow stick crowns. Feasting, friendship and fellowship. Bonding. Life changing lessons of faith and hope. You know, this recent campaign year made me pause and ask, good grief, is the world really headed to hell in a hand basket? Is there any hope? What is going to happen to our youth? Well, if you've asked any of those questions, you should have been at my house last night. What a joy and a privilege. I got to watch some incredible adult volunteers share their faith and gifts with a wonderful group of young people. Adults with a heart for God, generously sharing their time, talent and treasures. Adults who are ambassadors for Christ, investing themselves in a relationship with a young person. And what about those young people. They are observing wonderful faith models and learning lessons from the Bible that will form a foundation that can serve them the rest of their lives. I ask you, how many people get to see lives transformed? How many people have the opportunity to touch the heart of a young person? How many people get to actively shape the future of our faith, of our world and of humanity? And enjoy a huge bonfire. All in one night!

When asked what was the most important commandment, Jesus said to love God and love your neighbor. This isn't rocket science. It's about relationships. How we relate to God and how we relate to our fellow man. Our youth program provides a great opportunity to love God and love these kids.

So, how can I participate you ask?

On the simple side, greet them as they come into church, tell them we are glad to see them and glad they are here. Check in with them. Ask them about their day, their week, follow up on something they may have told us earlier or previously. Just show genuine interest in them.

On the official side:

1st and 3rd Sundays, 9:30 hour, Confirmation for 8th grade.

7th grade will have a parallel study.

2nd and 4th Sundays during the 9:30, Alpha Youth 7th/8th grade.

Wednesday Night Connect junior/senior highers are invited to discuss the sermon series in a fluid Connection Group - fluid because it will be anyone who shows up.

Sundays during the 9:30 hour will be Connection Groups discussing the sermon series.

Sunday evenings, senior high, studying the Alpha Youth Series.

For contacts and more info, check out: <http://whcomaha.org/kids--youth/amp-youth>

My challenge and prayer would be for everyone at West Hills to get involved in our youth program in one way or another. See you in church.



DVD Review-Beyond Narnia



Those who have entered the magical world of "Narnia" will be interested in the life of its creator, "C.S. Lewis." The 2005 movie "Beyond Narnia" a 54 minute DVD, is now available in the Soul Café.

The docudrama tells the life story of Lewis, who later became an atheist, following the death of his mother from cancer, when he was only eight years old. In 1929, in part due to his friendship with fellow authors and Christians, Hugo Dyson and JRR Tolkien, Lewis

surrendered to God and once again embraced Christianity.

Lewis was the author of over 30 books including:

- Mere Christianity
- Out of the Silent Plane
- The Great Divorce
- The Screwtape Letters
- The Chronicles of Narnia

In addition to Lewis's fascinating life story, the DVD also offers bonus features including: CS Lewis and Narnia Trivia, About CS Lewis, The Chronicles of Narnia Bibliography, Narnia Word Find and a Recipe for Turkish Delight!

The DVD was produced by Faith and Values Media and stars Anton Rodgers as Lewis.



3015 S 82ND AVE
Omaha NE 68124
Tel: 402-391-8788 Fax: 402-391-1812

NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA NE
PERMIT NO 487

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trunk or Treat - FUN!



Our very own, Dir. of Children's Ministry and family at Trunk or Treat, October 27, in the parking lot of Westgate Elementary School. A great time was had giving out candy to over 400 kids and the weather was perfect for costumes and spooky creatures.

YOUR 2016 SESSION

Jodeen Bradfield - Nominating
Julie Anderson - Youth
Craig Moore - Building & Grounds
Brenton Pyle - Support
Mark Hawkins - Worship & Music
Kathy Cordes - Westgate Community Partnership
Marti Bloes - Caregiving
Jim Sadler - Stewardship
Mary Beth Seyler - Children
Peg Shirley - Mission
Trink Traudt - Spiritual Formation
Dave Weaver - Personnel



First Sunday of each month.

Services: 8:15, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Nursery: 9:10a-noon*

Crosswalk: 9:10a

Adult SS: 11:00a*

Jr. High SS: 9:30a*

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
<p>November 2016</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				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						<p>January 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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					<p>Women's Bible 9:15a* 1</p> <p>Al-Anon 12p*</p> <p>Women's Leadership: 12p</p> <p>Capernaum-Young Life: 7p</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Celebrations Lunch: 11:30a</p> <p>AA mtg*: 7:30p</p> <p>Al-Anon*: new 7:30p</p> <p>regulars 8p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Christmas Concert Rehearsal: 9a</p> <p>Arabic Fellowship Service: 6:30p*</p>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																					
			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																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																					
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																																																																																									
<p>Christmas Program 9:30 & 11 a.m. 4</p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 8a-2p</p> <p>Congregational Mtg. 12p</p> <p>Familia De Dios: 1-4p</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Group: 6p</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BSF: 6:40p</p> <p>AA mtg: 8p*</p>	<p>Men's Bible Study 6:30a* 6</p> <p>NO - InGathering</p>	<p>Women's Bible 9:15a 7</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Capernaum-Young Life: 7p</p>	<p>9</p> <p>InterVarsity Progressive Dinner : 7p</p>	<p>10</p>																																																																																					
<p>Chili & Caroling 12 p.m. 11</p> <p>Familia De Dios: 1-4p</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Group: 6p</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BSF: 6:40p</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Women's Bible 9:15a 14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Siena Francis House sloppy joe pick up: 9:30a</p> <p>Capernaum-Young Life: 7p</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>																																																																																					
<p>18</p> <p>Familia De Dios: 1-4p</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Group: 6p</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Session: 7p</p>	<p>NO - Women's Bible 21</p> <p>First Day of Winter</p>	<p>22</p> <p>NO - Women's Bible</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Services 5:00 p.m. - Family 7:30 & 9:00 p.m. both Candlelight</p>																																																																																					
<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day 11:00 service only!</p> <p>Familia De Dios: 1-4p</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>NO - Women's Bible 28</p> <p>Newsletter Assembly 9a.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>NO - Women's Bible</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>																																																																																					

* Meets weekly

Happy Birthday to ...

DECEMBER

1-Zoe Dozier
Candy Glasgow
Riley Kelley
Stacey Mielke
Nicole Tromler
2-Jeff Vojtech
Steve Woodworth
3-Kelsey Beles
Jennie Ellison
4-Wilson Geiler
Bruce Hawkins
5-Wayne Moore
Millie Woodcock
6-Sue Carson
Jan Duffy
7-Charlotte Ellison
7-Kay Hothan
Isabel Mercer
8-Auburn Korf
Rod Ritenour
Jim Sadler
9-Tatum Gardella
Pattie Mininni
Brian Myers
Adam Olson
Gary Radil
Stacy Rafferty
Joanne Topolski
10-Dante Camper
Rowan Meyer
CJ Young
11-Branden
O'Hare
Mary Turner
Tatem Ulane

12-Charley Kathman
Doug Miller
13-Dale Hawkins
Jan Pokorny
14-Henry Keeling
15-Allison Johnson
Ethan Litton
Eddie Nelson
16-Jacob Frisbie
Bill Jansen
Taylor Jones
Bre Weaver
17-Declan Buss
Jackson James
Molly Rogers
Jason Scheopner
18-Lynn Burns
18-Sean Davis
18-Breckin Pankoke
Brody Pankoke
Sidney Pecha
Jonathan Rafferty
Lauren Vanhessche
Daniel Woodworth
19-Julie Burgess
Karen Loibl
20-Matt Jansen
Judy Pagel
Terry Sedivy
22-Michael Backer
Bryan Bader
Randy Hess
23-Molly Krahmer-
Zabrowski
Doug Saitta
24-Laura Anderson
Donna Hodge

25-Scott Lucks
26-Jude Pyle
28-Bev Eckhoff
Blake Fisher
Erik Mercer
Rick Schieuer
29-Cami Kotouc
John Nelson
Katie Olson
Nathan Reynolds
Mark Zimmerman
30-Melanie Lucks
Bev Nichols
Christina Pyle
Rachel Voshell
31-Louie Harrison
31-Elana McGill
JANUARY
1-Katie Best
Heidi Fethkenher
Eric Pankoke
Phyllis Tubach
2-Dave Anderson
Carole Burrows
Verne DeHaven
Jessica Evans
Mark Zoll
3-Annie Biros
Nancy Chesire
Jennie Harrison
Nicholl Suter
4-B. Gratton
Laura Meyers
5-Elaine Hook
Greg Kuhn
Shirley Nelson



www.whcomaha.org
West Hills Church
3015 South 82nd Avenue
Omaha NE 68124-3291
402-391-8788

Christmas!

WE REMEMBER,

REJOICE,

WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS CONCERT | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 9:30 & 11:00