

# The Window

On a journey with the living Christ;  
connecting with God, others, and the world.



February 2018

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## The Next Right Thing by Caitlin O'Hare, Mission Coordinator

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I had only been introduced to Kurt Kandler, Executive Director and Founder of The 410 Bridge, very briefly one other time before we met properly on the Sunday morning he was scheduled to preach at West Hills last November. I had attended a 410 Bridge partners conference in 2016 and heard him teach on several topics including global mission and the poor, so I knew he was a gifted communicator, knowledgeable, and passionate. What I didn't know was how timely his message on that November morning would feel, to me, and I believe, many others, here at West Hills.

In that message Kurt shared about the darkest season of his life, a time when his family faced massive debt, a substantial change in their lifestyle, and economic uncertainty. He told a story about a man visiting the Steinway piano factory. The man saw many beautiful, expertly crafted pianos in various states of being finished; polishing, lacquering, tuning, etc., but then noticed a dark room with no activity, filled with large objects covered with tarps. The man asked if he could see what was happening inside that room and the tour-guide obliged. Under the tarps were the wood frames of the pianos, with many different clamps attached. The wood was being shaped, by the clamps, into the beautiful curve we all associate with grand pianos. Kurt said that season of struggle, depression, and uncertainty for him was his "Steinway times."

Kurt's point in telling the story became clear fairly quickly, but was powerful regardless. There are times in our lives where we feel very much like a bunch of wood, in a dark room, covered in tarps, ignored, and under-pressure, completely unaware of the beautiful masterpieces we are becoming. There have been many times in my own life where I have experienced this. Difficult times where I wondered, "Lord, what are you up to? How are you going to redeem this? How will you use this for your glory?" During the past five years of transition at West Hills I have often said those same words. I know I'll never be able to see the full picture of what God is up to, and most often it is much easier to see how he was working in hindsight. So, where does that leave us in the present?

For Kurt, the answer was simply to do the next right thing. Incremental obedience to God's will in his life. God told Kurt, "you don't need all the answers; all you need to do is the next right thing." When Kurt shared what God has spoken to him with us that Sunday morning it immediately brought to mind a sermon by George Moore, Senior Pastor at West Hills from 1994-2012, where he called the congregation to "deeper waters." The core message of the sermon was a petition for every congregant to take the next step in their journey of discipleship. There is a book by Eugene Peterson called "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." I have always enjoyed that description of discipleship. There is no question as to whether God is asking you to join him in his grand story. He is. Most likely he's not going to lay out the plan for you, (though if he does, let a sister in on it) but what he does ask, is for you to do the next right thing. What is the next right thing for you? What action of obedience is God asking you to take right now? Whatever it is, know that he will be with you, whatever the cost.

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# Youth Commitment

by Julie Zimmerman, Elder, Next Gen Youth

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What is youth commitment? I see it as an awesome opportunity to reach the youth of West Hills. Many youth drift away from the church during high school and college. How can we best avoid this? Get involved! Youth who have a strong relationship with an adult church member outside their family are most likely to remain engaged in church. *“Start Children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”* Proverbs 22:6. Relationships are key.

On February 11, 2018, West Hills will have its annual Youth Commitment Sunday. This is an opportunity for our members to support the youth financially. This financial support helps offset the cost of mission trips, retreats, youth activities, the youth band and Sunday mornings. But beyond the financial support, we encourage you to connect with the youth of our church, encourage their involvement, and help them understand how important they are to West Hills. During worship, a simple greeting toward the youth sitting near you can go a long way. Ask them questions, show an interest in their life and get to know them. As your new elder for youth, I want to invite all of West Hills to get involved with Next Generation programs and activities. Next Gen serves children from the nursery through college with a variety of activities to bring them closer to God. Each of us can find a place we fit in helping our young population feel more connected to West Hills.

## January Session *notes*

### West Hills Session met Tuesday, January 16, 2018

- Interim Pastor Deena Candler called the meeting to order then read from Nehemiah 1:5-11. Our sharing question was - “What is something you have built or repaired?”
- Michael Alfieri presented and reviewed the financials and the 2018 Budget.
- Pastor Candler presented her report noting Session Responsibilities such as:
  - Ensuring the church mission statement is “in-fleshed” through their ministry team, in the staff, volunteers and programs of their area of ministry.
  - Offer the prayer for Joys and Concerns in Worship and assist with Healing Prayer Services
  - Involvement in the membership process
- The Major Themes and Challenges for Session in 2018
- Ministry Reports were received with notables:
- Additional security will be installed on doors in the Children’s area.
- Elders from Session will mentor the youth in this year’s confirmation class as designed by Michael Johnson.
- We received a letter from Michael Geiler who is under care of Session with an update on his journey of school and ordination toward a Master of Divinity degree through Fuller Theological Seminary.
- Session made plans for the Super Supper.
- A meeting will be held with the Committee On Ministry (COM) to understand their guidelines for the Interim Process.

Dear West Hills Church Family,

“In my prayers for all of you, I pray with joy...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Paul to the Philippians

What an honor and privilege it is to have served as your Bridge Interim Pastor. Thank you for the beautiful farewell reception you held for Joannie, our family, and me. You are indeed a beautiful people who dearly love and want to follow Christ. I salute your courage and commitment as you stand together in navigating God’s future as he continues to lead and provide. Your clear testimony and eagerness to share Christ is inspiring and confirms what I have known about West Hills since coming to Omaha in 1993.

In short, I am proud of you and, I thank God for you.

Friends in Christ,  
Bill Bowers

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## Super Supper by Deena Candler, Interim Pastor

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I want to thank you all for helping to celebrate my 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at West Hills. You have been such a blessing to me. Thank you for the wind chime, the necklace and the stained glass. I cherish them and their reminder of all of you.

I want to provide here a brief summary of my remarks from the end of this year's Super Supper. My prayer is that we will all take them to heart in the coming year.

My background is on sociology. One of the things I know from sociology is that what we see or experience often depends on what we are looking for. Think of it as the lenses you put on. We have choices about some of those lenses, and whatever the lens we put on will affect our focus. So I want to suggest some specific lenses for us at West Hills.

The first is the focus of thankfulness. If you have read Ann Voskamp's book, **Ten Thousand Gifts**, you know about the importance of looking at the world around us with thankfulness. As we look in that rear view mirror at the last year, I want to suggest that we look at it with thankfulness. When I look at the rearview mirror, what I see is staff, elders, and deacons for whom to give thanks.

The second is the focus of planting seeds. I am not much of a gardener, but I know a little bit about planting seeds. I grew up in a family in which Sunday morning was more about pancakes than church. But there were times in which our parents would get us involved in a Sunday School. For a while, my mom would drive us to her sister's house. The two of them would have coffee while my sister, brothers, cousins and I would walk down the street to the tiny church that had a Sunday School. After opening songs we would go in a small curtained off back room where we were taught about Jesus' love by Grandma Perkins. Everyone called her Grandma Perkins and she had taught hundreds of kids. Decades later after our parents were divorced and we were all grown and gone, our mom would marry her son, Bob, and she indeed became our Grandma Perkins. She died on Christmas evening about twenty-five years ago. She had a tiny house and I went to help my mom clean some things out. And there, among all of the other things, I came across a Sunday School register from all those years ago: Deena Candler, Scotty Candler, Christie Candler, Timmy Armstrong, Tommy Armstrong. She had no idea that at least one of those children would go on to become a pastor. Years after those Sunday School days with her, a young couple, the Ryans would pick me up every Sunday morning when I was in junior high and high school and take me along to church with them. The Ryans and Grandma Perkins were planting seeds.

I want you to think a few minutes about the people who have been seed planters in your life...who without them, you would not be where you are today in your faith journey. I will bet many of



them don't have a clue. Because seed planting takes patience. It is about future crops. And it is the call before each one of us—to plant seeds. Whether it is helping with our children's ministry here to love kids into the kingdom, or befriending a kid in your neighborhood who would never make it here on their own—God is calling us to do what others have faithfully done for us.

The third focus is one I made up: collateral grace. Most of us know the term collateral damage—damage that somehow comes to others who are not in the original path of destruction or harm. But what if instead we become proactive givers of collateral grace? The only reason we are here is because of God's

unmerited love and grace to us shown in Jesus Christ.

Paul writes this in 2 Corinthians 4:14-15: "...he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." As followers of Jesus Christ, his grace should be falling off of us to others like hair off of a shaggy dog. Our lives should have such as bearing on others that they begin to ask the question: "Why are you like this?" And we have a chance to tell them: "Let me tell you about Jesus, who loves me and gives me grace." My prayer for West Hills this year is that collateral grace may be so much a part of DNA that we do not even realize when it is happening.

One final focus—and that is encouragement. We may be down on finances and other resources, but there is one fuel resource that never needs to run out and that is encouragement. In fact, when encouragement is in place it will begin to multiply on its own. I am going to ask the elders to pass out an envelope to each of you. Inside that envelope you will find five of the encouragement cards that are in the back of our pew racks. What if we were to really practice encouragement? What if we were to make it a habit? What if it were something every one of us did regularly? I am challenging you to make this focus part of your life over the next month. To send or give those encouragement to five other people by the end of February. There is only one catch—and that is that you cannot give them to a staff person. Because for many people, that is who first comes to mind. Oh, you can encourage a staff person, and they will appreciate it, but if you wish to do that, you have to use a separate card from the pew rack. In fact, you can use as many separate cards from the pew rack as you want.

These four focuses: thankfulness, seed planting, collateral grace, and encouragement. Let us make them so much a habit that we no longer even have to concentrate on them. And a year from now, I can't wait for the surprises of how we will have seen Christ at work in our lives, in this church, and in this neighborhood.



We're printing a soup recipe from **Taste of Home** that sounded wonderful. If you try it and like it, please let us know. If you try it and don't like it, please keep it to yourself. (just kidding!)

### Italian Sausage Pizza Soup

- 1 pkg. ( 1 lb.) Italian Turkey Sausage Links or bulk Sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, cut in strips
- 1 medium sweet red or yellow pepper, cut in strips
- 1 can (15 oz) great northern or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 jar (14 oz) pizza sauce
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cans (14 ½ oz. each) beef broth
- 1 pkg. (5 oz) Caesar salad croutons
- Shredded part skim mozzarella cheese
- Remove casings or use bulk sausage.

In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, crumble sausage and cook until no longer pink.

Add onion and peppers, cook until crisp and tender. Drain and transfer to a 6 qt. slow cooker.

Add next five ingredients; pour in broth.

Cook covered on low until the vegetables are tender, 6-8 hours.

Serve with croutons and cheese.

### **Have a Recipe to Share?**

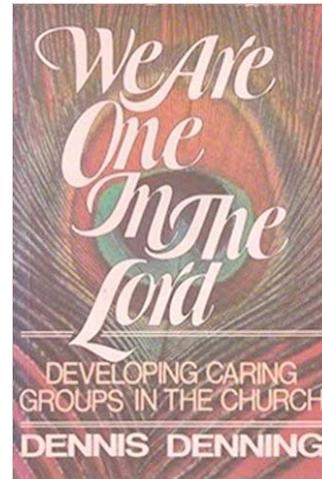
With both parents working these days it's difficult to come up with a healthy dinner after work.

Do you have a recipe for an easy-to-prepare meal?

Please send your recipes to Maralee Gifford:

[giffordgr@msn.com](mailto:giffordgr@msn.com)

**In the subject line please put "Recipe for Newsletter"** (she will know it is a safe to open.)

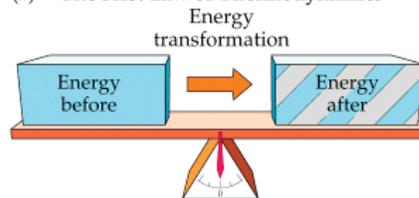


I recently found a little gem in our library, the Soul Café. It's called **We Are One In The Lord: Developing Caring Groups in the Church**. It was written by Dennis Denning, a pastor here at West Hills Church in the 1970's, long before I moved to Omaha and started attending this church. But, when I found out that he had written this book, I wanted to read it because I thought it would tell me something about the character, or DNA, of this congregation. And it did! This church has a long history of working toward living our lives

in Christian community, or koinonia. Whether they are called "small groups," "covenant groups," or "connection groups," these groups have been a big part of life, as we are "on the journey" with Jesus and each other. If you read this book, you will recognize some long-time members who are still around. Their stories of faithfulness to God and love for each other are inspiring. By the way, another former pastor of West Hills Church wrote a series of books about small group life called "One Anothering." I have only read the first volume, which we have in our Soul Café, but I have a goal to read the other two this year.

## Science & Bible

(a) The First Law of Thermodynamics



The First Law of Thermodynamics was established in the Bible: Genesis 2:1-2 *"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the*

*seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work."*

The First Law of Thermodynamics states that "the total quantity of energy and matter in the universe is a constant, it can neither be created nor destroyed. One form of energy or matter can only be converted into another, but the total quantity always remains the same". Therefore the creation is finished, exactly as God said way back in Genesis.

# A Sunday Morning With Children

by Jessica Scheopner, Interim Children's Dir.

Welcome! I'm so glad to take you on a walk through a morning with the children of West Hills. I hope you are feeling fueled up after the 9:00 service and are ready to jump in and observe! The first thing you will see is that every piece of Next Gen Children's ministry from birth until adolescence is based on the principle that our children are Growing on the journey: Knowing Jesus. Loving Jesus. Serving Jesus. Sharing Jesus. At each stage of children's development this looks a little different, so I will take you through three areas to give you a glimpse of the creative ways children connect with God's word and with others in our West Hills family on Sunday mornings.

Okay let's get started! First things first: Please put on this visitor nametag. This is an important part of our team atmosphere as well as a part of our safety protocol. Every adult and youth volunteer in our ministry has submitted an application and undergone a screening process to ensure the safety of the precious children in our care. We take very seriously the promise we make at a child's baptism or dedication to love children into the kingdom of God. Creating safe and fun spaces and giving them the chance to experience nurturing, patient, loving relationships with youth and adults who love Jesus is an important part of that promise.

It's 10:15, so it's check-in time downstairs. Here you see parents with children from four years through fifth grade putting nametags and security wristbands on their children. Our greeters are taking attendance and pointing guests to the classrooms. Let's go around the corner to the room where a new family is bringing a kindergartener. Miss Laressa, the kindergarten small group leader, is inviting her to join in the floor puzzle with two other children. It looks like the train table is full of activity this morning. And the chalk art is a hit today, too!

I'd like to see what's happening with the older elementary kids. I know they have a game of balloon volleyball set up, and I wonder if that is a favorite today. It looks like the game of Spoons is the bigger draw with this set today – and the foosball table is rocking with some older kids, too! I see that Mr. Doug already has the Bibles out. He likes to have the older kids warm up for the large group lesson by prereading through the Bible story and tackling some of the background information together. Over there, on that far table, Mr. Jack has prepared an interesting collection of objects to teach this



group about Jesus' baptism and the trinity in a bit of a deeper way.

Let's head back over to the Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st graders and see what Miss Marti is doing. It's a big class seated in the circle today! And there are lots of volunteers helping the kids learn today's point. What are they doing with those little clothespin people they are holding? They are learning

about repenting – discovering they are going the wrong way, turning around and going the other direction. I love how they are getting to act it out with their own hands and minds – what great preparation for them to think back on later this week when they realize they have gone the wrong way and need to turn around and go a different direction. They are breaking into small groups now to play a game of copycat tag. Let's take this opportunity to pop up to the nursery and see how our littles ones are growing on the journey!

It's a sweet group in here this morning – of teachers and toddlers! The toddlers, twos and three year olds are certainly engaged with the story about



Jesus' baptism here as well. Did you hear that little guy say "nack?" He's right: snack is the next thing on the schedule! I see their craft waiting for after snack, and the lights are on in the tumble room for them to do some active play after the craft.

Let's head back downstairs for the preschool and grade school dismissal time. We'll meet them in the JAM room and review what today's Bible point was. From the toddlers in the nursery through the upper elementary kids, today everyone was learning that Jesus is God's son. Look – on the wall on the way into the JAM room you can see the other things they have learned about Jesus in 2018 – He is God's gift to us. Jesus is the King. He is wise. Next week, they'll encounter the truth that Jesus shows us the right way.

Of course you are welcome to come again! I'm so glad you liked what you saw. We are always looking for people to connect with children and families. We are growing, and we do need help! On Sunday mornings, we need: substitutes for all roles, nursery volunteers, preschool and elementary small group leaders, teaching team members, greeters and safety team members, and Big Buddies to partner up one-on-one with kids. If you prefer to be behind the scenes, we need people to set up the games before ministry, and we also have an amazing administrative team that meets to prepare the teaching supplies on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month. We would LOVE for you to pray about how God is inviting you to participate, and then call or email [jessica@whcomaha.org](mailto:jessica@whcomaha.org) to begin the application to serve children and their families in our Sunday morning ministry.



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## “That I Would Keep On Loving Jesus!” by Judy Nelson

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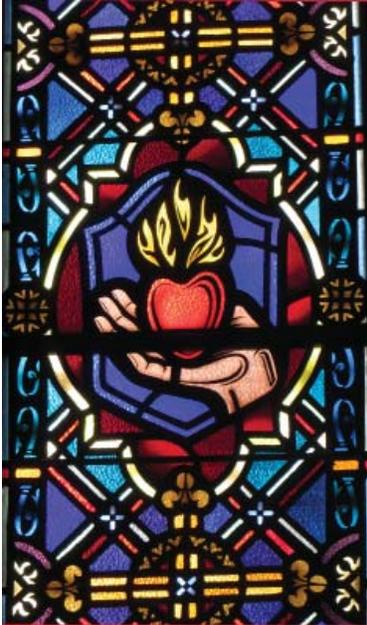
*“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24*

In early December, I unexpectedly ran into good friend from Iowa whom I had not seen for over fifteen years! We met for coffee early in January. We shared updates and stories for hours. My friend leads a women’s ministry and works tirelessly on preparation, training others, and fulfilling responsibilities. Before we parted I asked her how I could pray for her. Her answer caught me by surprise. She replied, “Pray that I will keep on loving Jesus.” After a long silence, she said that even in preparing and doing the work she’s been called to do, there are so many distractions. She wants to hold Jesus first in her heart, in her work, and in her relationships.

So how do any of us “keep on loving Jesus”? We must first consider our relationship with him— who He is, how He came into our life, how He loved us first. How He loves, transforms, forgives, protects, and sustains us. Many of our expectations of God originate in ourselves—our thoughts, our circumstances, our longings. We begin with self and what He might do for us, rather than beginning with Him. We can become the greatest distraction in our relationship with God when we prioritize our own desires and expectations (as well as the expectations others may have of us) ahead of the relationship into which we have first been called by our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and Friend. Is He first, above all others, in our life?

Jesus reverses the direction of our thinking—to begin not with ourselves but to begin with God, to love God with ALL of our heart, soul and mind. Then we can love others well. Someone said that to love another person is to put them in the center of your life. Jesus demonstrated this kind of love for his Father when he became flesh. How often we read of Jesus being at prayer in a solitary place before sunrise, or even in the midst of his work. The outflow of this time with the Father was loving and ministering to others. He listened to his heavenly Father. How do we take time to listen to Him when we are absorbed with doing everyday life? Do we want to “simply do our devotions and move on with our day?” How do you keep on loving Jesus? What is the evidence in our lives that we love Him more?

Lent is a good season to be more intentional with our Lord-listening, receiving, being fully present before Him, allowing His love to permeate our hearts and minds, wills and relationships. This is a good season to keep on loving Jesus, loving him more, and extending His love to those we encounter each day, at home, at church, at work, in the community.



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## Spiritual Correspondence

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by Jana Prescott



So, we have been blessed with a new year. Do you really feel that you have been blessed? Think about it. Did you keep the joy you felt with Christ’s birth? Is that joy blessing you this year with a brand new spirit of joy? Of thankfulness? Of freedom from something in the past? Of feeling blessed for what is coming? What kind of joy will the future hold for us? Joy in building a snowman? Joy when you’ve been able to help someone else?

Joy is the greatest feeling anyone can have. Joy is passing love on!

Nehemiah 8:10 - Nehemiah said, *“Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have prepared nothing. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.”*

**Intergenerational  
Father/Daughter Dance**  
**Saturday, February 17**  
**6:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**West Hills Church**  
3015 S. 82nd Ave.

Join us as we celebrate the father-daughter bond. ALL father figures are encouraged to bring their “daughters” for an evening of fun!

**\$10 Father + Daughter(s)  
Dessert and Dancing  
Photo Opportunities**

Register at [whcomaha.org](http://whcomaha.org)

# Our Valentine Couples

February is filled with hearts and flowers!  
Enjoy interviews from three couples from our church family.



BILL and BARB SPIECKER have been married for fifty-seven and a half years. They were both attending a small Quaker college in Indiana when they met at the Post Office, where Bill was working. He was filling the mail slots and Barb was receiving numerous packages from home! Bill said he was attracted to Barb because of her “simple beauty and friendliness” and Barb said, Bill was her opposite, “outgoing, warm and knew everyone.” After Bill, who

was two years ahead of Barb, graduated they continued dating for over a year before becoming engaged. They married in Wellesley, Mass. on July 30, 1960. Bill and Barb have a son and daughter, as well as 2 grandchildren. Bill said he was always impressed with Barb “saying what she meant and keeping her word.” Over the years, as with many marriages, there have been some problems, but the couple both agreed that the love and respect for one another, as well as understanding each other, has kept them working together. “We are each other’s best friend”, Bill said, and Barb nodded her agreement with a smile. “We each took a vow on our wedding day, and we never failed to keep that vow,” Barb remarked. Bill’s parting comment was, “It’s been fun!” Barb turned around and with a smile said, “It’s been mostly fun!” They credit their relationship with one another and their love for God and his church as a guiding light for their two adult children, who have also made church a very important focus in their lives. What a blessing Barb and Bill have been to their family and friends!

JUDY AND JOHN NELSON were married in 1975 by Judy’s father and two brothers, all ordained Presbyterian ministers, coefficients. As Judy stated “the knot was well-tied.” John shared he was attracted to Judy after only three dates, knowing they were “kindred spirits destined to become husband and wife.” Judy was immediately aware of God “being in this” from John’s firm handshake when she was introduced



to him (at his request) after a church service. She found John “not only a very kind man with many interests” but a man of strong character “a Renaissance man.” John listed Judy’s special gifts as being such a sensitive listener as well as an “advocate for and encourager of

family, friends and those in need.” Judy felt John’s gifts were not only in his excellent listening skills, the ability to maintain a strong work ethic, coupled with his patience and being “such a reasonable man,” but also as a man “who truly enjoys helping others.” The Nelson’s agree that a successful marriage requires faithful loving commitment to one another, based on trust as well as good communication from both parties and “praying for one another.” Judy added that it is also important to realize “any two people are wired differently” and the importance to know “when to give one’s spouse some space.” Judy and John have applied those same directives when facing, over the years, stressful situations or problems. Remembering and initiating them has been a blessing, with pray as the focal point. “Supporting and encouraging one another is essential,” John shared. The couples favorite Bible verses are Romans 8:28 “we know that in all things God works for the good of

those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” and Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” It is evident from three ministers marrying this couple over 40 years ago that God has indeed blessed this union. According to the Nelson’s they believed “God brought us together at just the right time, that He has equipped us for daily life together and extends His Grace to us. He has also given us peace when circumstances are challenging or disappointing.” What a blessing to have God in the center of your marriage, as is evident from the Nelson’s union. Such a good role model for their two children and grandchildren!



CAITLIN AND BRANDEN O’HARE have been married for eight years and have a soon to be 2-year old son, Calvin. What is interesting is they answered each of the questions separately with “no peeking,” according to Caitlin, and some of their answers were so similar. The O’Hare’s met when Caitlin was leading a West Hills

mission trip to New Orleans in 2007. Branden joined the team through “a friend of a friend.” It turned out to be designed by God. They recalled what attracted them to one another and Caitlin stated she was impressed with Branden’s “easy- going nature, rugged good looks and his eccentric passions.” Branden recalled their mutual interest in music as common ground, as well as Caitlin’s “great smile and her some degree of willingness to try new things.” He also was impressed by Caitlin’s intelligence. Caitlin stated a dependence on God, as well as supporting one another’s passions and calling is an important element in a successful marriage, as well as “humor, intimacy and lots and lots of grace.” Branden included compromise, understanding, “coupled with honesty and respect” as important components for successful marriages. When problems arrive they both agree that discussion of the problem is important, along with prayer and asking for one another’s grace and forgiveness “which is always given.” Branden also stated “to understand how the problem developed and what would be needed to avoid that particular problem in the future” is also important. Caitlin shared that she liked Branden for being such a hard worker, his self-sacrificing characteristic, and his “cheerful nature and laid back attitude.” Branden remarked that he really liked Caitlin for her strong support of his interests, as well as the passion she has for her own interests. When asked what gifts Caitlin felt Branden has she shared his “gift of gab, how easily he makes friends, and his artistic expression he has in his work as a taxidermist.” She also added that Branden has “the patience of a saint.” Branden noted Caitlin has “many skills.” Among those he shared were her “very compassionate attitude” as well as her organizational, managerial and “great leadership skills.” They both agreed that God is the foundation that they have built their relationship upon. They stated that because they share a common faith they are able to “see things through the same lens and have the same standards in our decision-making processes.” That faith, according to Caitlin, guides every part of their lives, including “parenting, finances and so much more.” What a wonderful way to start a marriage for the next fifty plus years!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>When God Interrupts</b>		
Feb. 4	Luke 1:26-38	“Unplanned Pregnancy”
Feb. 11	Acts 9:1-19	“When You Are Sure You Are Right”
<b>LENT-Journey to Jerusalem</b>		
Feb. 18	Luke 9:51-63	
Feb. 25	Luke 10:1-22	“You Want us to Do What?”
March 4	Luke 10:38-42	“Distraction”
March 11	Luke 13:31-35	“Foxes and Demons”
March 18	Luke 18:28-34	“Sacrifice and Suffering”
March 25	Luke 19:28-44	“It Was the Best of Times...”

Our newsletter is on our website  
<http://www.whcomaha.org/media/newsletters>  
 A limited number of paper copies are available in the wall racks.  
 If you do not have access to the website or prefer to have a paper copy mailed, please notify Charissa Wells.  
 402-391-8662 X 1020 charissa@whcomaha.org

**Core Values of West Hills Church**

- Giving ourselves in God’s mission
- Rooted in God’s Word
- Authentic relationships-freedom to be real
- Christ-centered community
- Energized through joyful worship and prayer

**Contact for all Elders**  
**session@whcomaha.org**

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Julie Zimmerman | Next Gen-Youth      |
| Jane Loeck      | Caregiving          |
| Kathy Cordes    | Westgate            |
| Don Glasgow     | Building            |
| Lisa Harrison   | Nominating          |
| Mark Hawkins    | Worship & Music     |
| Mike Kelley     | Stewardship         |
| John O’Donovan  | Personnel           |
| Dan Travaille   | Support/Finance     |
| Jack Pagel      | Next Gen-Children’s |
| Peg Shirley     | Mission             |
| Patti Gatzke    | Spiritual Formation |

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

Nursery: 9:10a-noon

Kids Church: 9:10a-10:30a

Jr./Sr. High SS: 9:30a-10:30a

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Women's Bible 9:15a* Al-Anon 12p* Capernaum-Young Life:7p	2 Silent Retreat AA Women's Bible: 6p* AA Ann. Event: 7:30p* Al-Anon:new 7:30 & reg. 8p*	3 Arabic Fellowship Service: 5:30p*
4 Familia De Dios:2-4p* Next Gen Worship: 7p*	5 Newsletter Writing Team: 11:30a Worship Team: 6p BSF: 6:40p* AA mtg: 8p*	6 Men's Bible Study 6:30a* Arts for All: 5, 6 & 7p* Ingathering: snacks/6:30p meeting/7:00p	7 Women's Bible 9:15a* WNC-Wed. Night Connect Dinner: 5:30p-lasagna 6:30p: Choir & Connection Groups Youth Band Rehearsal: 8p*	8 Capernaum-Young Life:7p	9	10 Skinner East Neighborhood Walk 3223 N. 45 St 9:00 a.m. Familia De Dios:7p
11 Next Gen Worship: 7p	12	13 Worship Team: 6p Caregathering: 7:00p	14 Valentine's Day WNC-Wed. Night Connect Dinner: 5:30p-baked fish, chicken strips, + Ash Wednesday Service: 6:30p Ash Wednesday	15 Siena Francis House sloppy joe pick up: 9:30a Capernaum-Young Life: 7p	16	17 Intergenerational Father/Daughter Dance Saturday, February 17 6:30-8:30 p.m. West Hills Church 1000 S. 42nd Ave Join us as we celebrate the Father-daughter bond. All Father figures are encouraged to bring their "daughters" for an evening of fun! \$10 Father + Daughter(s) Dessert and Dancing Photo Opportunities Register at whcomaha.org w/1718
18 Next Gen Worship: 7p	19 Game Day Debrief: 10a	20 Worship Team: 6p Session: 7p	21 WNC-Wed. Night Connect Dinner: 5:30p-ham/hash brown casserole 6:30p: Choir & Connection Groups	22 Capernaum-Young Life:7p	23	24 Familia De Dios:7p
25 Next Gen Worship: 7p	26	27 Worship Team: 6p	28 WNC-Wed. Night Connect Dinner: 5:30p-oven chicken 6:30p: Choir & Connection Groups	January 2018 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		March 2018 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

## Happy Birthday to ...

### FEBRUARY

1-Cassie Czaplewski  
Linda Lavelly  
John Vana  
2-Jacinta Hoff  
Sheryl Overby  
3-Jake Distefano  
Daryl Greger  
Scott Tromler  
4-Suzanne Kuhn  
5-Katie Northouse  
6-Callum Buss  
Emory Conrad  
Brett Curran  
Steve Dostal  
Jen McClaren  
7-Becky Anders  
CJ Bishop  
Dee Buckley  
Thierry Mercer  
Elizabeth Nilius  
Rebecca Nilius  
Calvin O'Hare  
Jewel Schieuer  
Sevryn Thorberg  
8-Ray Huck  
Timmy Johnson  
Patty Keairnes  
Grace Nodes  
9-Victor Urban-Sparvell  
10-Keeley Conrad  
Sophia Cross  
Jackson Cunningham  
Christine Meier

11-Andy Bailey  
Terry Bloes  
Parker Saar  
Antonio Urban-Sparvell  
Ranee Yetts  
Ryan Yetts  
12-Duane Eckhoff  
Simeon Pyle  
Rylee Sauer  
13-Heather Czerwinski  
Mary Jane Hendricks  
Marissa Kifferly  
Blane Langfeldt  
14-Eden Anderson  
Melissa Johnson  
Carson Thorberg  
15-Glennis Ferrand  
Wm. Ferrand  
Samuel Williams  
16-Carol Isaac  
Faith Johnson  
Vicki Westergard  
17-Bridget Backer  
Scott Degand  
18-Sherry Dickey  
Wilma Hoeven  
Elizabeth Scott  
Eric Tsai  
19-Gage Voshell  
20-Jerry Allen  
Susan Bailey  
Dallas Grafton  
Jessica Thorberg  
21-Angie Arner  
Jenna Cunningham

22-Angie Bergman  
Anthony Mares  
Ben Nodes  
22-Jordan Parker  
Kevin Sherlock  
23-Kora Kopperud  
Marcia O'Donovan  
Cathy Voshell  
24-Wende Kotouc  
25-Bob Drake  
Jackie Harned  
Rayann Maze  
Chase Weaver  
26-Cody Boliver  
Jenna Sorenson  
27-Nicholas Conrad  
Dick Frandeen  
Lois Goss  
Sonya Holland  
Sabrina Litton  
Ruby Sauer  
28-Carl Brady  
David Kline  
Brenton Pyle  
**MARCH**  
1-Theressa Heaton  
Dwight Rickard  
3-Kassandra Chesire  
Justice Irvin  
4-Jamie Carlson  
5-Chelsea Gros-  
soehme  
Jan Richardson  
Robin Rusie



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



Intergenerational  
Father/Daughter Dance  
Saturday, February 17  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
West Hills Church  
3015 S. 82nd Ave.



Join us as we celebrate the father-daughter bond. ALL father figures are encouraged to bring their "daughters" for an evening of fun!

**\$10 Father + Daughter(s)**  
Dessert and Dancing  
Photo Opportunities

Register at [whcomaha.org](http://whcomaha.org)

