

# The Window

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



June 2018

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## Welcome Dr. Kevin Gibson: New Director of Worship & Music

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On June 1, Kevin Gibson is joining the staff as the director of Worship and Music. Kevin and his wife Christy are coming to Omaha from Kansas City, Missouri. June will be a transition month for them and they plan to move to Omaha in July.

Kevin was raised in the home of a Southern Baptist pastor and a home that was quite musical. From an early age, he enjoyed singing and playing the drums. At the age of nine, he realized that he needed to become a follower of Christ.

He graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, with a degree in music. He also has a master's degree in church music from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Later, he completed a doctor of ministry degree with a concentration in Christian worship from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. Previously, Kevin has served with churches in Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri.

### **Relating to corporate worship, he believes:**

The community of faith celebrates and responds to God's saving acts revealed throughout history, particularly the living, dying, and raising of Jesus Christ. Authentic worship presents a full and undistorted revelation of God, which in turn demands a complete response from

the people.

Worship is the "work of the people." The congregation should have an active role in worship—singing, praying, reading scripture, sharing testimonies, etc. The worship leadership—ministers, choir, ensembles, artists, and instrumentalists—should serve as encouragers and prompters to the congregation.

Historically, Protestants have relied heavily on verbal skills to reveal and respond to God. This reliance on the verbal has appealed mainly to the cognitive, or left-brain, of the individual. In order to appeal to the whole person in worship, the church must develop other forms of communication for worship. The whole person includes the mind, body, senses, imagination, and the emotions. Balance can better be achieved by the inclusion of the arts in worship. The use of music, visual arts, drama, language arts, and dance can help to incorporate the whole person in worship.

Some words that describe Kevin on the personal side: thoughtful, dry sense of humor, detailed, punctual, lover of the outdoors, biking and hiking, Kansas City barbecue aficionado, arts advocate, mechanically-challenged, has a weakness for popcorn, St. Louis sports fan and Mizzou fan (oops, sorry), and usually has a messy but organized office.

Christy and Kevin met in Springfield, Illinois, where he was on a church staff. Christy joined the choir and the rest is history, they were married on June 11, 1994. Like Kevin, her father was a Southern Baptist pastor and she had an early love for music. She is an elementary music teacher and recently accepted an offer to be the PreK – fourth grade music teacher at Brownell Talbot School. Pizza and ice cream are a couple of her favorite foods. She also enjoys being outdoors, biking and hiking and floral gardening. For the past several years, they have enjoyed summer vacations in Colorado, enjoying the beauty of God's handiwork.

## West Hills Staff



**Mike Alfieri**      **Director of Church Administration**

402-391-8662 x1008      [mikea@whcomaha.org](mailto:mikea@whcomaha.org)  
Provides direction and oversight for all church support function areas that include finance, human resources, IT, facilities, and stewardship. Responsibilities include: cash receipts and deposit, payroll processing, financial analysis and reporting, budget guidance and review, technology purchases and support, payment approval for church payables, and risk management.

**Luke Burns**      **Next Gen Special Projects Coordinator**

402-391-8662 x1017      [luke@whcomaha.org](mailto:luke@whcomaha.org)  
Next Gen Band dir., lead Sunday night worship, co-lead college-age group, compile worship music for the Next Gen Praise Band.

**Deena Candler**      **Pastor**  
call assistant-Heather Hipp      [deena@whcomaha.org](mailto:deena@whcomaha.org)

**Kevin Gibson**      **Director of Worship and Music**

402-391-8662 x1024      [kevin@whcomaha.org](mailto:kevin@whcomaha.org)  
Assists with planning, preparing, and facilitating weekly Sunday morning worship services. Oversight to worship-related ministries, including: Ushers, Communion Servers, Tech Team, and the Decor and Environment Team. Encourage folks of all ages to develop and utilize their creative gifts and talents. Direct the worship band/vocalists and the chancel choir.

**John Good**      **Facility Coordinator**

402-391-8662 x1033      [john@whcomaha.org](mailto:john@whcomaha.org)  
Responsible for the broad scope of all building and grounds upkeep and projects; from basic custodial tasks to roof repairs and HVAC installations. John can be seen washing dishes after events and running sound for worship services. He also supervises our outstanding maintenance staff and volunteers.

**Don Good, Ricky and Silvia Lopez**      **Maintenance**

**Erika Hanna**      **Nursery Coordinator**

402-391-8662 x1018      [nursery@whcomaha.org](mailto:nursery@whcomaha.org)  
Oversees the nursery ministry, recruiting, training, and leading teams to care for and teach our littlest ones, serving as a resource for families with young children on Sunday mornings as well as during other ministry events.

**Heather Hipp**      **Administration/Pastor Assistant**

402-391-8662 x1006      [heather@whcomaha.org](mailto:heather@whcomaha.org)  
Primary responsibilities focus around support to the pastor in planning services, organizing events, and facilitating programs. Other duties include processing payables, overseeing adult Spiritual Formation Ministry, employee hiring and onboarding, and managing the church calendar.

**Michael Johnson**      **Director of Next Gen Ministries**

402-391-8662 x1005      [michaelj@whcomaha.org](mailto:michaelj@whcomaha.org)  
Build a vision and culture for Next Gen, lead Next Gen Ministry Ingathering Team, Lead discipleship opportunities for youth; Sunday school, Next Gen worship, mission trips and events.

**Kathy Leach**      **Accompanist**

402-203-9166      [kathy@whcomaha.org](mailto:kathy@whcomaha.org)  
If it needs piano, keyboard or organ accompaniment in worship or any other congregational activity, Kathy Leach is your go-to person! She prepares music for weekly rehearsals: (1) to accompany the Chancel Choir and any vocal/instrumental ensembles; (2) to play for prelude, postlude and with the Praise Band/Worship team for both services.

**Betty Manna**      **Caregiving Assistant**

402-391-8662 x1002      [betty@whcomaha.org](mailto:betty@whcomaha.org)  
Assist the Deacon teams: Caregiving Ambassadors, Stephen Ministers, Practical Needs Teams, and their volunteers. Assist members with: hospitalizations, deaths & funerals, births, and annual membership reviews.

**Caitlin O'Hare**      **Mission Coordinator**

402-391-8662 x1016      [caitlin@whcomaha.org](mailto:caitlin@whcomaha.org)  
Coordinates church-wide mission partnerships, events, and trips. This includes neighborhood, local, and global opportunities to join God in mission.

**Jessica Scheopner**      **Interim Children's Ministry Coord.**

402-391-8662 x1015      [jessica@whcomaha.org](mailto:jessica@whcomaha.org)  
Serves as a partner and resource for families; oversees the Next Gen Children's Ministry Teams that delight in serving children and families from birth through elementary school by offering opportunities for spiritual growth through discipleship, worship, outreach and mission.

**Kim Sedivy**      **Next Gen Assistant**

[kim@whcomaha.org](mailto:kim@whcomaha.org)  
Kim is available to assist Jessica Scheopner, Michael Johnson and Erika Hanna, as needed, with a variety of projects to reach children, youth, and their families.

**Charissa Wells**      **Communications Coordinator**

402-391-8662 x1020      [charissa@whcomaha.org](mailto:charissa@whcomaha.org)  
Coordinates multiple forms of church communication; bulletin, newsletter, website, tv monitors, Facebook page, annual report and church documents.



Begins on Wednesday, June 6th  
6:30 PM – Choir Room

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# Interim Ministry by Pastor, Deena Candler

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For the past five months it has been my calling and privilege to serve West Hills as Interim Pastor. Interim ministry is different from 'regular' ministry. My calling now is to help West Hills Church examine its past and prepare for the future as a new pastor is called.

One of the questions asked most frequently is when will we have a Pastor Nominating Committee so that we can call a new pastor? Most people are quite

anxious about this. What has become clear to me over the past few months is that West Hills is not ready for a new pastor. In order for the next pastor to succeed and thrive in ministry, this church—all of you—must come to terms with healing from the past and taking responsibility.

Before West Hills can form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), the Committee on Ministry (COM) wisely advises that we must consider the following questions:

- What type of pastoral leadership will help the church accomplish God's calling for this church?
- What is West Hills leaving behind?
- How has this church dealt with its recent past?

More specifically, some things West Hills should consider have to do with thinking about the relationship with Pastor Richman as a marriage that ended in a divorce. No one wished for that outcome. And just as individuals whose marriage ends must come to a healthy place of seeing their parts before they can really move on, so, too, must the key players in this relationship. So, we might consider these questions:

- What attracted this church to Pastor Richman?
- What part did we play in causing things to end the way they did?
- What does West Hills need to change to have a different relationship in the future?

One of the great joys for me these past few months has been the number of people who have been eager to move ahead, who have stepped up with great enthusiasm and vision to serve in many ways. I have seen people step up and take responsibility for a new Fellowship Ministry that is quite visible on Sunday mornings, working to design (and soon implement) a New Member Class, people stepping up to help with building cleaning and maintenance—and so many other areas. What I especially take notice of is that these things are not out of duty or obligation, but the joy and servant attitude by the individuals who are helping. They are invested in the future of West Hills. These are all signs of health.

However, I continue to see some actions and behavior that are not healthy.

A few observations:

- People are hypersensitive to change of any kind, and become negative about it
- There continues to be some triangulating—talking about individuals/groups rather than talking to them

- There continues to be finger pointing and blaming about the past two years (towards staff, Session, PNC, former pastor...)
- People making assumptions about statements or actions and becoming critical without knowing all of the details
- Trust levels are low
- There continue to be divisions as some people refuse to work with others in a ministry area who they deem to be on "another side"



## CAT Study

Thank you to all who participated in taking the CAT study. The Presbytery is partnering with us in this effort and paying a portion of the costs. I am hopeful that the results of this study will help us understand more about who we are currently, what our values are, and help this church prepare for

the future. On June 2 the Session, Deacons, staff and Congregational Relations Committee will meet with an individual from CAT to help us understand the results. A summary of these results will be shared with the congregation later.

My calling in the time ahead is to help this church be as healthy as it can in order to live out the mission to which God has called it. Each member of this church has a vital part to play. Here is how you can help as we move forward:

- Volunteer. This is your church. Be invested in it. There are many opportunities.
- If you have a question or concern, talk to someone directly and have an open spirit. Instead of making a judgment, be curious and ask questions: "I am wondering if you can tell me more about why we did \_\_\_\_\_."
- Talk to people instead of about people. This may take more courage, but it is what will bring us to health—and reconciliation.
- Refuse to gossip...and when others try to pull you into it, gently but firmly correct them. "We shouldn't be talking about this...it is not for the good of the church."
- Forgive. I will be preaching about this later this summer. There is still much forgiveness needed in this place.
- Accept responsibility for your part instead of pointing fingers of blame at others.
- And while we are at it—let's not play the blame and shame game. Blaming and shaming are not biblical or healthy.
- PRAY—for the Session and staff. These are stressful times. YOU have elected these men and women to serve you. They are volunteers. They put in long hours here because they love Jesus, this church, and their area of ministry. And thank them. They are amazing servants of grace and doing their very best to lead this church into the future.
- PRAY—for West Hills. God planted this church here in 1960 with a call to serve in the name of Christ. That calling has not ended.
- PRAY—for the pastor God has called for the future of this church. He is already preparing that person.



### BREAKFAST EGG & MEAT CASSEROLE

This recipe was in our Prairie Lane Elementary School cookbook, submitted by a neighbor. Our family has enjoyed this for many years and it has become a starring role in our Christmas brunch. It works well with bacon, sausage or ham. Charissa Wells



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup milk
- 1 dozen eggs
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 count package of hash brown patties
- 2 cups (1 lb.) meat of choice; bacon, sausage, ham, chicken
- salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in bottom of 9" X 13" pan (in oven while coming to temp.)  
In separate bowl mix milk, eggs (beaten), 1 cup cheese, meat of your choice, salt & pepper.  
Lay 8 hash brown patties in pan on top of melted butter.  
Pour mixture in bowl over patties.  
Crumble remaining 2 patties and sprinkle over casserole.  
Sprinkle remaining 1 cup cheese over casserole.  
Bake 1 hour in oven at 350° temperature.

#### 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.w"  
(she will know it is a safe to open)



Jan Karon, author of the best-selling series of Mitford novels, is back with another that readers won't want to miss. **Come Rain or Come Shine** picks up where Karon's last novel left off—with the upcoming marriage of aspiring veterinarian Dooley Kavanagh and his longtime sweetheart, Lace Harper. In true Mitford style, Dooley and Lace have decided to get married in a barn, on the farm they've just purchased for Dooley's vet practice. They want their wedding to be simple, so they're doing it potluck style.

Of course, nothing is ever as easy as it seems, and the threat of a torrential downpour and sixty-mile-per-hour wind makes for a logistical nightmare, not to mention the already grueling task of shuttling guests to various locations on the one hundred-acre farm. But with seemingly inexhaustible help from those they hold most dear, the couple has vowed to savor every minute of it.

This beautiful novel examines a Southern tradition—the do-it-yourself, at-home wedding, in all of its intricacies. From the cast of characters who make the big day a reality and the new relationships that form in such intimate settings to the surprises that wedding guests will tell stories about for years to come. In this case, readers encounter two unexpected wedding guests, including the farm's first bull, Choo-Choo, who nearly crashes the wedding at the most inopportune moment.

Karon has a gift for breathing life into small moments that make readers both laugh and cry. In one moment, just days before the wedding, Dooley and Lace test the lights that they've strung up in the trees and exchange a heartfelt set of promises that are built on years of history. In another, the couple's good friend Harley vaults a fence at a near-sprint to get away from the horns of the almighty Choo-Choo.

**Come Rain or Come Shine** is about immeasurable love, the inevitability of change and the extraordinary power of ordinary moments.

This article was originally published in the October 2015, issue of Book Page. Download the entire issue for the Kindle or Nook.

Dear West Hills Family,  
It is hard to find words to express the way you have provided me with faith and strength as I heal from a replaced knee. The outpouring of love came in many different ways: visits, phone calls, cards, bringing food and prayers. The phone pager was a great comfort and also opened up dialog with my therapist, as she asked about it and found it very unique. She asked me where I went to church and I told her West Hills. She was familiar with West Hills through the Women's City Bible Study. It was great working with a Christian. I am so privileged that God has put me at West Hills where there is so much care and love. Thank you all for your encouragement. Carolyn Collins

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## Perfect Trust

by Linda Springsted, Deacon

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Recently, I picked up a book by Charles Swindoll called **Perfect Trust**. Wow, I thought, what a great goal to have perfect trust. I need to learn more about this.

He says, "It is only through the scripture applied to our hearts through the Holy Spirit that we receive the grace to trust God in everything." That gives us a place to begin.

David was a good inspiration for us in trusting God. David knew that he was anointed by God to be king. But, he spent years being hunted down and on the run from Saul who was trying to kill him. But even in those circumstances he wrote, "Let me hear Your loving kindness in the morning for I trust You. Teach me the way in which I should walk; for to You I lift up my soul." (Psalm 143:8.) David was even close enough to Saul at one point to kill him, but he relied on God's timing and did not take things into his own hands.

And then, of course, there was Job. Who, after losing literally everything including his health, his response was "Job arose and tore his robe, shaved his head and fell to the ground and worshiped." (Job 1:20.) That sounds like a great example of perfect trust in the sovereign Lord!

We are all faced with many great opportunities brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems. They seem to overwhelm us. It seems like there is no human solution. And maybe they are without God's wisdom. But, that may be the time when God can show his greatest work.

The opposite of trust is worry or anxiety. Jesus spoke about being worried or anxious in his sermon on the mount in Matthew 6. He mentions the word six times: Do not be anxious (25), which of you by being anxious (27), why are you anxious about clothing (28), do not be anxious then (31) do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care (or be anxious) about itself (34). And poor Martha. As Mary is sitting at Jesus feet, Martha is rushing around trying to get dinner ready. Jesus had to slow her down and remind her what was important.

Perfect trust is a character building process. Well, that's a good thing, but the process may be the tough thing. We need to hang in there and take it one day at a time, as we pray for strength and His grace. May He give us ears to hear, hearts to trust and minds to rest in Him. Our God is uniquely and ultimately trustworthy.

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## Your Blue Robe

by Daniel Patrick O'Reilly

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Well, hello fellow West Hillians. Have you ever looked at the front of the sanctuary and thought, wow, I wish I could wear a blue robe in church? Okay, maybe you haven't thought that, but maybe you've thought about singing in the choir? Someone asked me recently, what do you need to do to be in the choir at West Hills?

According to the Book of Order, a choir candidate shall stand in front of the congregation and sing the solo from Beethoven's Sixteenth Symphony in D minor. Then the choir votes. If the candidate receives a majority of yea's, the candidate shall be taught the secret handshake and they shall be given the royal, blue robe... okay, not really.

So, what is the criteria to be in the choir? Well, are you breathing? If you answered yes, then you qualify!

To paraphrase the Apostle Paul; whether you are old, young, male, female, slave or free, it does not matter. You can be in the choir.

What are the benefits to being in the choir? You get to wear the royal, blue robe in front of the church. You get a whole new perspective during the church service. You get to see the congregants' faces. Some amazing expressions. Expressions ranging from, my mom made me come to worshipful tears of joy.

What is the purpose of the choir? Simply to worship, praise and glorify God and in the process, hopefully lead others into a relationship with Christ. And why worship God? Worship gets our eyes off ourselves and on God. Worship helps us understand that we are not the center of the universe. Worship helps us understand that we are of infinite value to God. And a God as loving and wonderful as ours deserves our worship.

A final benefit to singing in the choir? We are a small group. We are a group that prays with and for each other.

I know what you are saying. Dan, my voice is not good enough. Let me reassure you. Neither is mine. So, how do we do it? The Holy Spirit. We always pray before we sing. Depending on the song, sometimes we pray harder than others. Michael Dryver had a gift to get the very best out of us.

We said good-bye to Michael on May 23, at our regular choir rehearsal time. He will be greatly missed and we were much improved under his leadership.

Remember the old Uncle Sam posters? I want you for the U. S. Army. We want you for the West Hills choir. See you in church.

Psalm 100:2 - *"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."*



## Spiritual Correspondence by Jana Prescott

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**Jesus Calling**, by Sarah Young, April 26:

Do problems lift you up? Or maybe can they head you too fast the other way? Or, can they be a ladder uphill to heights you want to view, like seeing your life from Christ's perspective? Any problems where you can see Christ are seeing them with a Christ-eyed view to help you get through what's happening. So, where can His eye be found? My bet is definitely in your heart: always be ready to let your heart lead as the foreigner you are to situations that you may be afraid to tackle, but that Christ will help you tackle them together. 1 Peter 3:15 - *But in your*

*hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared give an answer to all who ask you to give a reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...*

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## Thoughts by Lisa Harrison, Elder for Nominating

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The big question on everyone's mind is, "When are we getting a new senior pastor?"

I have some thoughts on this and some answers:

My thoughts are that we have one terrific interim pastor. I admit it, I'm partial to Pastor Deena. I am in awe of her knowledge, wisdom, gifts and talents. We should appreciate these qualities while we have her with us! Let us continue to learn and grow under her leadership.

The answers we have received from the Presbytery on the timing of our Pastor search include:

1. The Committee on Ministry (COM) meets regularly with Pastor Deena to make sure she is on task.
2. The COM had us do the CAT survey, which we have completed. The Presbytery paid for the expense because we are the test pilot church for this survey.
3. On June 2, we will receive results from the survey. These results are intended to help us with the pastor search.
4. The COM will meet with session and determine if we are ready to call a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC )
5. As a congregation, our job is to pray for whom God is calling to be a part of the PNC. Could God be calling you?
6. The last item of business is that, before you know it, we will be electing new Elders and Deacons for 2019. So much to pray about... Continually!

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Now that we have that piece of business out of the way I want to tell you about one of West Hills greatest assets... praying for each other!

Many days we come through the doors of this church for Sunday services, weekday Bible studies, committee meetings, band practice, choir, or to volunteer our time. Each one of these gatherings begin and end in prayer. All of us face burdens every day of our lives. Some life threatening, others just a nuisance. Yet, they are real and distracting to us. We bring these concerns with us through these doors and people genuinely care. They really do lift them before the Lord. Someone always follows up and asks how so and so is doing and says "I am still praying." Or you might get a note card in the mail from a staff member or congregant saying, "I am praying for you."

It would be amazing to keep a log of prayer concerns and see how God has answered them! So, I encourage anyone who has a struggle to bring it to light and have us bring it to our God. If you aren't comfortable sharing it on Sunday mornings before the congregation you can always write out a prayer card, found in the pew racks. You can remain anonymous if you choose.

Another option is to ask for one of our trained Stephen Ministers. They can pray with you on Sundays, or meet with you on a regular basis. At West Hills, you should never feel alone. *"We are called to bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2.

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## Volunteers Are Seed Planters

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Twenty-one years ago, Lisa Harrison heard a young staff member at Open Door Mission describe her vision for a ministry that would simply make up sandwiches and hand them out to hungry, often homeless people on the streets of Omaha. And Lisa couldn't wait to get started.

The new program was called Streets of Omaha. The young staff member was Candace Gregory. Candace and Ronda Nelson at that time were in the Family Center developing new programs for women and families. Lisa recalls that Ronda coordinated the food. "In those early days of the program, the lunches were basically peanut butter sandwiches. There wasn't even jelly most of the time for a full-fledged PBJ. It was peanut butter sandwiches and whatever we had on hand to put in with them.

"We loaded into the van and found hungry and homeless people who needed those lunches along the railroad tracks at first. Then our route expanded to include more territory and more people who needed help."

As the most experienced Streets of Omaha volunteer, Lisa has valuable insights she's learned from serving – including one myth she addresses without hesitation. "Don't ever think that the hurting or hungry people you see on the streets are lazy. They're busy every day trying to survive. Many of them have illnesses or injuries you don't see at first. Their daily schedule looks different than ours, because we don't share the same challenges. But we are 'seed planters' for them. We bring them immediate assistance like lunches, water, hygiene kits and clothing. We also remind them where they can access resources to help them beyond one day.

"My job is to show them God's love without judgment. My job is to care for them. My job is to know their names. My job is to love them for who they are, because so many of them love me for who I am. The people we serve think the Streets of Omaha volunteers are the greatest thing ever, not because we feed them but because we love them."

Lisa has been on the Streets of Omaha team long enough to develop relationships with people in severe need. She mentions "Snowman Jerry," who is on the regular Streets of Omaha circuit. Volunteers like Lisa deliver sack lunches to Jerry, who now has housing but is disabled. They also ensure he makes it to the grocery store once a month. She remembers Rosa, who struggled with alcoholism and homelessness. Lisa was the one who called the ambulance when they found Rosa almost dead under a tree on the edge of a near-downtown park. In the hospital, Rosa regained consciousness long enough to visit lucidly with some of her family and Lisa before she passed away.

"You never go out on a Streets of Omaha run without praying," Lisa says. "But you'll also see people who deserve to be treated with dignity, and really need to see Jesus in you."

*Reprinted with permission from The Open Door Mission*

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# Easter Week At West Hills

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Awesome! Extremely moving! Quiet and dark (as well as somber). Those are the kind of comments people made about the Maundy Service held at our church on the Thursday before Easter. The theme of the service was "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Dubois, and Michael Dryver did a wonderful job of picking the music for this very somber occasion that was so reflective of Jesus' suffering for us on the cross. The choir, the chamber music ensemble and the beautiful voices of the professional singers made this an absolutely beautiful service.

## EASTER SUNDAY

How does a pastor give a sermon on April 1, Easter Sunday, that ties in April Fools Day and make it meaningful? It was brilliantly done by our own Deena Candler using 1 Corinthians 1:28 "God chose the foolish things of the world to put the wise things to shame." Deena related how there are people who think it's foolish to believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet, it's these so-called "foolish" people who have a real hope for their future and the future of mankind.

About 500 people attended the two Easter Sunday services. It was wonderfully exciting to see familiar faces and new faces come together to celebrate this occasion.

The flower cross in the Geneva Lounge was filled with individual flowers by all the people attending the services and was a reminder of the new life that was given us through the sacrifice of Jesus.



Many have asked where the idea for an Easter flower cross originated, and I must admit, I don't know! Our family's first experience with this beautiful Easter tradition happened in our church in Jacksonville, North Carolina, around 1983. At Easter every yard is filled with flowering bushes and flowering bulbs bursting from the ground. Our church was located on a very busy

highway, so hoisting a very large cross, covered with chicken wire and greens seemed like the PERFECT way for us to proclaim to the world: 'Christ is RISEN!' Each family brought flowers from their yards to add to that cross.

Our family has loved this tradition, of all of the church declaring in such a colorful, strong, beautiful way the great, good news, of Easter!

*Marcia O'Donovan*

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# Priscilla Shirer Simulcast

by Tracy Enholm

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On Saturday, April 28, we held a Priscilla Shirer simulcast event in the West Hills chapel. A group of twenty-four ladies joined along with 700 other churches around the world to listen to Priscilla share a message about Simeon and his example of being righteous, devout and looking. There was a time of prayer and fellowship.

We were blessed by worship and a time of mission learning by her brother Anthony Evans, who shared about the Watato Child Care Ministry. This mission provides products for girls in Kenya so they can stay in school. We raised \$457.

Some of the responses from the ladies at the simulcast included: excellent experience, yummy brunch, great gathering, one of the most uplifting Saturdays I have ever had and a powerful message. It truly was a special time.

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## TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

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1. Who went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus after He had died on the cross?  
A) Malachi B) Joseph of Arimathea C) Jairus D) Joseph of Judea
2. What is the more familiar name for the tax collector, Levi? A) Luke B) Simon C) Matthew D) Bartholomew
3. Which governor of Judea tried Jesus? A) Herod B) Agrippa C) Pilate D) Caiaphas
4. Which three disciples accompanied Jesus to the Mount of Transfiguration? A) Peter, James and John B) Matthew, James and John C) John, Peter and Andrew D) James, Bartholomew and John
5. Who said: "Every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God" A) Jesus B) Paul C) Solomon D) Samuel
6. In what land did Job live? A) Ur B) Uz C) Nod D) Gur
7. How many psalms are contained in the Book of Psalms? A) 66 B) 125 C) 200 D) 150
8. Which book in the Bible tells the story of a female saving the Jews? A) 1 Kings B) Esther C) Ruth D) Exodus
9. How did Paul die? A) beheaded B) crucified upside down C) burned at the stake D) hung
10. Who became King of Israel after King Solomon? A) Jeroboam B) Ahaz C) Ahab D) Rehoboam



**Answers found on the last page of The Window.**



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Congregational Relations Committee**  
**crc@whcomaha.org**  
**Contact for all Elders**  
**session@whcomaha.org**

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

**ANSWERS**  
**"TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE"**

Answers: 1) B 2) C 3) C 4) A 5) C 6) B 7) D 8) B 9) A 10) D

**APRIL**  
**Session** *notes*

The Session held their regular monthly meeting in April discussing the following items:

- Approved purchase of a new security system
- Reviewed the process followed to hire Kevin Gibson as the new director of Worship and Music
- Adopted a standard fee schedule for use of the West Hills Church facilities.
- Participated in exercises to help identify the West Hills Story to help with the PNC (Pastor Nominating Process).

**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

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
You can read "The Window" newsletter, see the weekly bulletin, and listen to past sermons, ALL on our website?  
Great information on events available.  
Check it out at: [www.whcomaha.org](http://www.whcomaha.org)



First Sunday of each month.

Services: 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Nursery: 8:45a-11:30a

Kids Church: 10:30-11:30a

Jr./Sr. High SS: 10:30-11:30a

# June

\* denotes meets weekly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<p>May 2018</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>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>31</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>July 2018</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>1</p> <p>CMA Women's Bible: 6p* AA: 7:30p* Al-Anon: new 7:30 &amp; reg. 8p*</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CAT Survey: 9a-1p Worship Team: 4:30p Arabic Fellowship Service: 5:30p*</p>
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<p>3</p> <p>Familia De Dios: 2-4p* Next Gen Worship: 7p</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Newsletter Writing Team: 11:30a Next Gen-Worlds of Fun AA mtg: 8p*</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Men's Bible Study 6:30a* Arts for All: 5, 6 &amp; 7p* Worship Team: 6p*</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Women's Bible 9:15a* Choir: 6:30p College Night: 6:30p Next Gen Band: 8p</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Al-Anon 12p* Women's Ldr mtg. 12p VBS Leadership: 5:30p VBS Training: 6:30-8:30p CRC: 7p</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Celebrations Lunch: 11:30a</p>	<p>9</p> <p>FDD Prayer: 7-9p</p>																																																																																				
<p>10</p> <p>VBS Training: 12p Next Gen Worship: 7p</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Men's Min. Team: 7p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Choir: 6:30p College Night: 6:30p Next Gen Band: 8p</p>	<p>14</p> <p>VBS Leadership: 5:30p</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>FDD Family Night: 6p</p>																																																																																				
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<p>→ 24</p> <p>VBS Decorate: 12p-4p VBS Shipwrecked 6-8:30p Next Gen Worship: 7p</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Choir: 6:30p College Night: 6:30p Next Gen Band: 8p</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>																																																																																				

## Happy Birthday to ...

### JUNE

1-Beth Anderson  
Kim Sedivy  
Ryan Turner  
2-Debra Chadwick  
4-Amanda Everhart  
Rhona Yetts  
5-Everly Hanna  
6-Erin Blocker  
7-Jan Nowling  
Michael Wohlgemuth  
8-Colin Leslie  
9-Rosemary Frandeen  
10-Warren Powell  
Joshua Thompson  
11-Nick Gratton  
Andy Jansen  
Macy Moore  
René Padilla  
Rich Schmidt  
12-David Cook  
Kathy Leach  
13-Gabrielle Burns  
14-Penelope Cosgrove  
15-Alyssa Curran  
Linda Springsted

17-Sue Balkovec  
Joey Laughlin  
Tessa Overby  
Jeff Saar  
18-Amanda Huck  
Aryn Huck  
19-Kara DeHaven  
Roger Harned  
21-Jan Vermilyea  
23-Jordan Schaffer  
24-Lois Crinklaw  
Mark Kriglstein  
Joan Livingston  
26-Mark Jacobsen  
Mary Beth Seyler  
27-Jerrian Hawkins  
Linda Nodes  
28-Jacob Gibbons  
Rob Laughlin  
Stan Owens  
Mary Wistrom  
29-Macayla Core  
Deb Johnson  
Jane Power  
Josh Sauer  
Tobias Thorberg  
Terry Topolski  
30-Gavin Mielke  
Steve Nowling

### JULY

2-Nancy Anderson  
Meredith Dierking  
Mark Hawkins  
Karen Hollingsworth  
Noreen Johnson  
Bud Nelson  
Linda Schuchmann  
3-Alison Kopperud  
Caitlin O'Hare  
Alisha Sauer  
Dana Zoll  
4-Jon Hoeven  
Gavin Wohlgemuth  
5-Michael Gerbeling



The graphic for the Vacation Bible School features a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, a green iguana is on the sand, and a toucan is flying in the sky. In the background, a sailboat is on the water. The text "SHPURECKED" is written in large, wooden letters on the sand, with "RESCUED BY JESUS" written below it. The overall theme is a tropical vacation.

**Join Us for**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**at West Hills Church**  
3015 So. 82nd Ave.

**June 24-28 6-8:30 p.m.**  
**Age: 4 years-entering 6th grade**  
**Cost: \$15 per child/\$30 family max.**  
**\*Scholarships Available**

**3 WAYS TO REGISTER**  
**Online: [whcomaha.org](http://whcomaha.org)**  
**In Person: West Hills Church**  
3015 So. 82nd Avenue  
**Registration Form**