

July 1, 2007

Issue 7

Sunday Worship

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

9:00 a.m. worship offers
Holy Communion

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.
for all ages

For the most current
information check
the church website
and calendar at

www.NWHillsUMC.org

Our Mission

- ✠ Serve as the hands and feet of Christ
- ✠ Reach out to the community in witness and mission
- ✠ Grow by embracing new members and new ministries
- ✠ Care for our church family and community
- ✠ Celebrate Christ's love through prayer, study and worship

From the Pastor

Our nation's birthday is upon us- 231 years since our "founding" on July 4, 1776. The date commemorates our independence and our witness to freedom in the world. We Christians have been blessed to help found, help shape and help share the visions of life lived where everyone is valued and everyone is free to worship or not worship God as they choose. We are truly blessed that God has allowed us this time in history with unique prosperity and peace. While there have been those times (1776, 1812, 1860) when war has torn peace asunder on our land we have been spared what so many other nations have suffered in oppression and devastation.

Surely part of what we remember (as on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veteran's Day) are those many that fought and even died to ensure our way of life. Having a son and nephew serve as Marines in Iraq certainly brought home to me the personal sacrifice so many have offered. We are currently saddened by the 3528 men and woman that have died in Iraq since 2003. Some historical perspective should give us even greater sense of gratitude. During the Normandy invasion alone (June-July 1944), we suffered 29,000 deaths (plus 16,000 British and Canadian dead). Not to mention 109,000 American wounded. Then there was Iwo Jima and ...

This July 4 I have a naïve wish. I would wish Christians could offer up a unique witness to our nation. A witness of tolerance, forgiveness and kindness- and I mean that in our part in the presidential race that has already, unfortunately, started. I know that since George Washington was considered for the presidency, presidential politics has been a "blood sport." Every presidential candidate has suffered horrendous scrutiny and cruel, vicious attacks- and that's just from the Christians. Christians who were citizens, Christians who were opposition candidates, Christians who owned newspapers, magazines, radio stations,

television stations, etc. "What would Jesus do?" Probably almost nothing that has transpired within the realm of political campaigns.

Hillary Clinton is a Methodist. George Bush is a Methodist. However, there are Methodists who spit at the name of Hillary Clinton. There are Methodists who spit at the name of George Bush. We pass along mean, ugly lies about both of these in our blogs, our emails and our coffee breaks. We spew hate at these two siblings in Christ and Wesley. We even denigrate their faith so as to justify our wish that they would be thrown out of our church. The efforts of my colleagues in ministry to stop the Bush library at SMU would be a case in point.

What would it be like if we prayed for George and Hillary on July 4? And for Rudy, Fred, Milt, John, Obama, John and the other candidates? What would it be like if we didn't forward ugly emails about them around the internet? What would it be like if we did not listen to Rush Limbaugh and other talk radio hosts that spew cynicism, hate, ugliness and prejudice? What would it be like if we did not believe, trust, affirm much of the ugliness on the internet blogs?

The candidates are imperfect. Certainly. So are you! And me. They will make mistakes, say silly things, look silly, offer silly, pandering propositions- but then so would you and I if we were running. We won't agree with many things, we won't be proud of many things, we'll wish for someone else not tainted or stained by all the mud-slinging. Still... Jesus said, "love one another."

We'll honor our nation on July 4 if we imagine what that might look like in our own thoughts, prayers and actions in the presidential race- as someone (probably a brother or sister in Christ) is elected to be our president.

Grace and peace,
Bill Henderson

**NWHUMC
Financial Status**

NWHUMC Financial Status May 2007

Our receipts for May are below budget and expenses are slightly above budget, but year to date we are still doing well in both receipts and expenses.

	May		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$78,218	\$89,920	\$478,113	\$467,199
Expenses	\$92,726	\$91,489	\$432,585	\$456,571
Net Income	(\$14,509)	(\$1,569)	\$45,529	\$10,628
	December 31	May 31		
Mortgage & Building Loan	\$2,488,286	\$2,434,949		

Check the financial report on the church's web site at <http://www.nwhillsumc.org>.

**United Methodist Men
Quarterly Dinner**

How does homemade ice cream and hot-off-the-grill hamburgers sound? Mark July 26th on your calendar. The United Methodist Men will have their next quarterly church-wide event, featuring music and comedy furnished by Phil and Debi Witt Jones. Ernestine will be taking phone calls for God. Be sure to get your tickets early. See you there!



**Fifth Sunday Fellowship
July 29th**

Methodist Fried Chicken and Potluck

Several times a year we have five Sundays in the same month. When that happens NWHUMC celebrates by having a single unified service followed by a Fellowship meal for all church members and visitors including families, singles, youth and anyone else otherwise associated with the caring ministries of NWHUMC. The next Fifth Sunday is July 29th. On that day Sunday School classes will be at 9:00 a.m. with a single Church Service at 10:30 a.m.

The Fellowship meal will be in the Activity Center at 12:00 noon. In addition to fried chicken, bread and rolls your Fellowship Committee will provide iced tea, lemonade and coffee. A small love offering to offset our expenses will be accepted.

Members are asked to bring their potluck contributions according to the following:

- Last Name beginning A - F: Salads
- Last Name beginning G - R: Deserts
- Last Name beginning S - Z: Veggie Side Dishes

In addition, if you'd like to help the Fellowship Committee with the setup, cleanup, decorations or other preparations please contact Julie or Charley Gallia at 331-9547 or email CRGallia@sbcglobal.net

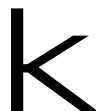
News from My Friend's House

It's hard to believe that school is out and summer is here. Summer is a very exciting time at My Friend's House. We all look forward to splash days, sno-cones and fun camp activities. All of our classes go into summer mode which means we relax on the academics and focus on fun projects. This year we have two summer camps going. Camp Kool Kids is for school age children in Kindergarten through fourth grade and the Chill Crew is for fifth through seventh graders. We will be participating in lots of arts and crafts, cooking projects, swimming, physical education with Stretch and Grow, investigating our world with Mad Science, and traveling Austin and the surrounding area on field trips. We also will help around the church campus by watering plants, picking up litter, helping in the office and reading to younger children.

- Lynn Wiggins

Can You Help?

**Office Angel
Substitutes**



We are in need of a few more Office Angel substitutes. This wonderful group of volunteers answers the phones, greets walk-ins and helps with special projects. If you would like to be on our substitute list, for

any day of the week or time of the day that is convenient for you, please call Helen in the church office, 345-1743. Substitutes are generally called once or twice a month and we will happily work around your schedule.

Notes From Beth

Sing, Ring or Play! Opportunities abound for you to join a singing choir, a handbell choir, or to play an instrument. All you need to do is let Beth or Corey know that you are interested! Check out all the groups below, decide what looks good to you, then give us a call at the church!

- *Sanctuary Choir:* adult singing choir
- *Joyful Praise:* adult contemporary vocal and instrumental ensemble
- *Handbell Choirs:* adults and youth
- *Children's Choirs:* children K-5th grade

Special Gift The Ring of Faith handbell choir surprised me in April with the gift of music. They had commissioned a well-known choral and handbell composer, Anna Laura Page, to write an arrangement for handbell choir. The piece incorporates two special hymns: "How Firm a Foundation" and "Amazing Grace." The dedication reads "With love to our director and friend, Beth Watson, in memory of her beloved Aunt Carmen. The Ring of Faith Handbell Choir, Northwest Hills UMC, Austin, TX." The hymns selected represent my favorite hymn and my Aunt's favorite hymn. I am so grateful to the handbell choir for this very special gift of love!

Beth

Children's Ministries



It's not too late! Vacation Bible School is July 8th-12th. Come and "Lift Off! Soar to New Heights with God." Call Jean in the church office at 345-1743 to register or e-mail jmarinus@nwhillsumc.org.

Note the time change – **we will start at 5:45 p.m.**

Has your child received their music CD? Stop by my office Monday through Thursday or see me on Sunday mornings. This CD gives them a jump start on lifting off and singing the VBS songs.

There will be a closing time in the sanctuary for parents, family and friends at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 12th. After the closing we will gather in the courtyard for shaved ice and fellowship.

Reminder: There will be no Parent's Night Out in July or August.

In July, summer Sunday school, "Live Big," will focus on 5 Parables of Jesus: "The Sower," "The Two Houses," "The Mustard Seed," "The Lost Sheep" and "The Forgiving Father." Children age 3 by September 1 through those going into 6th grade start in room 116 where they learn the song of the month and see a short DVD. They then move to three age appropriate rooms (103, 105 and 106) to play games and create masterpieces of art.

Those interested in being an acolyte please contact me. This is open to those in 2nd grade through high school. We will have acolytes at the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. I would like to have a schedule set up by the first Sunday in August.

Blessings,
Miss Jean

Vacation Bible School 2007 "Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights With God"

July 8th-12th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Child's Name: _____ Age (DOB): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration fee is \$15.00 per child. Child must be 3 years old as of September 1st.

_____ Sign me up to help with VBS. (training is June 24th at 10:00 a.m.)



July

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

For the most current calendar information, please visit the church website:
[Http://www.NWHillsUMC.org](http://www.NWHillsUMC.org) and click on "Calendar."



2007 SWTX UMC Annual Conference Report

■ Uplifting spirit

Bishop Joel Martinez set the tone for the 2007 Southwest Texas UMC Annual Conference with his congenial style. He helped move the proceedings along with a gentle, but focused, approach that affirmed everyone and still got the job done.

■ Sharing our faith stories

This was the conference theme. It represents an approach to evangelism that almost anyone actually can do. Two stories stood out to Bill Cain, Northwest Hills lay leader.

The first was by Roberto Gomez, who leads the Rio Grande (Hispanic) Conference. His father was a Methodist preacher and decidedly anti-Catholic. Early in his career, Roberto Gomez was called upon to baptize a baby who was thought to be dying. The parents were simple Mexican Roman Catholics. He went to the hospital floor reluctantly. He gave several explanations why he should not do the baptism. The young mother looked him in the eye and said, "You are a man of God! Baptize my son." A lot of rigid theory went out the window as the young preacher comprehended his calling in a new way. He baptized the baby.

Kathryn Edwards, a retiring preacher, told about her mother changing her older brother Jim's diapers. She used safety pins then, and one was missing. Convinced the baby had swallowed it, the mother drove 9 miles to a clinic. She prayed to God, promising that if the baby lived, she would see that he became a minister. No pin was found, and the baby did live. When Kathryn was 20, her older brother died suddenly without having become a minister. He left a wife and son. Years later, after Kathryn—and her nephew—were ordained, she and her mother laughed as they remembered that God's time is different from ours, and that God collects 2-for-1 on promises made.

■ Election of delegates to 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

After numerous ballots lasting until 11:30 Friday night, we elected 24 clergy and lay delegates to the General (National) and Jurisdictional (Regional) Conferences. Walt Lengel, 18, from Northwest Hills, will be one of the Jurisdictional delegates who will help select our next bishop. For other delegates, see the following link: www.umcswtx.org/news/witness/witHtm0608/swt/delegates4.html.

■ New church start efforts

Bill Henderson awarded plaques to five churches that have helped sponsor new churches in the past year. A \$5,000,000 capital campaign will run through May 2008, to raise money for more new churches.

■ Statistical report – Attendance not down in past year

David Seilheimer, Conference Treasurer, announced that average worship attendance in the Conference was up slightly in 2006 after many years of decline.

■ Vote to close 99-year-old black church in Kingsville

This was painful, but the Trustees recommended closing Scott's Chapel Church in Kingsville. It has dwindled to a few members. A motion was made to give one more year to study possible remedies, but the delegates voted it down.

■ Apportionments increased by vote on floor to do more advertising

The Council on Finance and Administration recommended a budget. A motion from the floor added \$150,000 to it for advertising. This will qualify for \$150,000 in matching money from the General Conference. Although it requires an increase in apportionments, the delegates passed the motion.

■ Visiting old friends like Ray Kiser, Chuck Crane, Veda White, Jim Mayfield

It is always a pleasure to see them, and all are doing well.

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

July 1-5	Jr. High JAM Camp
July 8-12	Volunteer at Vacation Bible School
July 15-19	River Camps
July 22-26	Sr. High Quest Camp
July 26-30	Jr. High Texarkana Mission Trip

September 3 District Dodgeball Tournament

To donate money for Youth Mission Trips, make checks payable to NWHUMC, and write "Youth Stock" in the memo line. For more information on Youth Ministry or to volunteer, contact Youth Minister Jenny Terry Roberts at 577-9247 or youth@nwhillsumc.org. Thanks!



NWHUMC Ladies Tour Conference Missions

Nancy Gibson, Myra Rattan and Marcia Lind, representing NWHUMC, toured the Southwest Texas Conference missions supported by the churches within our conference. Included were Good Neighbor Settlement house (Brownsville), Holding Institute (Laredo), Wesley Community Center (Robstown), Wesley House (Corpus Christi) and Southside Community Center (San Marcos).

These centers are geared toward helping women, children and youth— the primary goal of United Methodist Women. We heard of programs to tutor students, to teach job skills, GED, and English as a Second Language. We saw excellent childcare facilities enabling mothers to become employed, well-stocked food pantries, beautifully-run thrift shops, and craft training, as well as after-school tutoring and creative arts for upper elementary and teens. We also saw how meals were stretched to feed up to 150 people each night. Some missions had bed/bath facilities used as temporary housing, such as Katrina victims, volunteers and those temporarily without housing. Funding to all of these facilities has been cut between 15-30% by the Methodist Church. We need to remember them all with our pocketbooks and prayers!

We visited a Methodist church, El Buen Pastor, in Progreso, Mexico where school children are fed lunch every day, men and women are being taught crafts to sell, and to participate in the P.E.T.s program, which builds pedal carts for the disabled. We also visited a school for 4-6 year olds whose bright, beaming faces seemed not to depict the shanty town with no running water or electricity. (This church does not receive funds from any Texas conference.)

The 1035 miles we drove to learn about our missions were miles well traveled. We were graphically reminded that there are three basic necessities in life- food, shelter, clothing— and not everyone in our state has these.

Women's Book Group

Please read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*. Then join us at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 10 in room 109! Sue Present will lead a review and discussion. All women of the church, friends and visitors are welcome! Please call Jan Broomall at 250-0177 if you have questions.

A Note from Madeline

Hello Northwest Hills family! David and I are so happy to join you in worship and in service. We appreciate the kind welcome and good wishes. We are glad to be back in south Texas, and David apologizes for bringing the rain with him from England.

To share just a bit about David and me, he is from Liverpool, England as many of you noticed. He's a talented architect and a little shy, or as I like to call it, 'a gentle soul.' He doesn't mind being called 'Pastor's Wife,' so have fun.

I was raised in South Texas and went to school at Southwestern University before going to Duke Divinity School in North Carolina. My passions are pastoral care, mission, education, and preaching.

I hope to meet you all and will do my best with names! I am excited to experience the blessings and gifts we all have to offer.

En Cristo Vivimos, In Christ we live,
Madeline Carrasco Hanners

North Hills Gallery presents

10 Off The Edge

June 27 - July 29

Reception: July 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday Flowers

Flowers for Sunday worship are provided by members of our church family to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The cost of an arrangement is \$35.00. We are in need flowers for the following dates:

- * **September** **9, 23**
- * **October** **21, 28**
- * **November** **4, 18**

To order an arrangement, please look for the bright yellow "**Sunday Flowers 2007**" order forms in the narthex and church office or contact Chris Cavner at 345-4237 or cccavner@aol.com.

July Birthdays

July 1	Jon Bass, Phyllis Grisham, Scott Martin	July 18	Vaughn Dennis, Mildred Foxworth, Sarah Mettlen, Nicole Purdue, Sue Watson
July 2	Beverly Brown, Bill Reynolds	July 19	Joyce Austin, Michael Bistline, Nancy Gibson, Pat Mullins, Staci Thomas, Matt Wood
July 3	Charles Byrd, Ron Harrison, Elsie Markley, Sam Watsham, Bob Wilkes, Harold York	July 20	Rene Crosby, Daniel Renfro
July 4	Brian Sloan	July 21	Carol Pinckard, Courtney Spickelmier
July 5	Marsha Gray, Gaye Kopas, Bill Martin, Aubrey Page, Robert Sturman, Torrey Wilkins	July 22	Chris Cavner, AnneMarie McComb, Scott Tyson
July 6	Nancy Pellerin	July 23	Kate Alex, Suzanne Chaney, Jeff Eastman, Sterling Sasser, Brian Walters, Eyvonne Williams
July 7	Pam Arbuckle, Steve Landsman, Jaci Smith	July 24	Allison Kemp, John Landers, David Menchaca, Evin Thomas, Bob Walters
July 8	Bill Koehler, Jean Marinus, Rick Ransdell, Marci Shafto	July 25	Lilly Alexander, Kelly Johnson, Maxine Stevens
July 9	Terry McElroy	July 26	Laila Johnston, Thom Lang, Katy Merriweather, Mickey Moore, Steven Smith
July 10	Cami Eastman, Jack Goulet, Matthew Johnson, Katie Kirby, Stephanie Ross	July 27	Erin Hudgins, Emily Webb
July 11	Mary Lee Cooper, Jessica O'Mary, Joel Wise	July 28	Eric Fuchs, Clay Mullins, Phyllis Steury, Bob Watson
July 12	Sarah Henly-Shepard, Lila Kirkendall, Rick Kouns, Robin Perry, Greg Scott	July 29	Ashley Avey, David Cline, Beth Gillham, Chloe Krieg, Elizabeth Lowrey, Thomas Lowrey, Barbara Wray
July 13	Robert Bowker, Tayte Webster	July 30	Krista Payne
July 14	Barrie Cogburn, John Glock, Barbara Hays, Grace Ann Longley, Ron Montgomery, Kevin Reed	July 31	Les Broomall, Mark Clardy, Kay Tyson, Carolyn Hamilton, Tyler Moore, Sarah Walters
July 15	Leigh-Anne Aiken, Wendy Ellis, Molly McComb		
July 16	Kathy Bouldin, Monica Landers		
July 17	Michael Belohlavy, Ken Einhorn, John Thomas		

Memorials

In Memory of Dan Davidson

Jan Wheeler, Richard & Mary Kathryn Strickland, Nancy Richter, Les & Jan Broomall, David & Pat Norton, Doris Haertig, Carol, Chip & Jack Pinckard, Wayne & Martha Rogers, Jim & Shirlene McComb, Kathy & Wood Bouldin, Brenda & Rick Ransdell, Bruce & Robbie Kuemmel

In Memory of Violet Campbell

Nancy Richter, Les & Jan Broomall, Myra Rattan, Wayne & Martha Rogers, Nancy Gibson

In Memory of Pat Cousins

Nancy Richter, Ila & Donald Maxwell

In Memory of Francis R. & Betty A. Karr

Nancy F. Karr

In Memory of Laverne Branch

Julie A. Parsons



Frieda Coughenour, Carrie Wheatley, Sara Moïse, Robbie Kuemmel, Emmitt Wieruscheske, Jo True, Trey Whiddon, Lexie Christian, Beth Watson, Carol Bruney, Maxine Pittman, Donna Gruver, Our Troops

Those we love who are in nursing homes
Vernen Liles, Mary Alice Smith, Billie Stout,
Virginia Thomason

Prayer concerns may be submitted to our Yahoo! Prayer Group by sending an email prayer request to:

NWHillsUMCPrayers@yahoo.com

For confidential prayer requests, contact the church office or email PC Coordinator, Sharon Donley at: martindonley@msn.com

Offering God's Love... Building Believers.

Important Deadlines

The Herald

Deadline: Monday, July 16, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Thursday, July 25, 2007

Deadline: Monday, August 20, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Wednesday, August 29, 2007

The Bulletin

The **deadline** for the weekly Sunday bulletin is

8:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Please send articles to: hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org

For information or questions, please call the church office at 345-1743.

Thank You

Sue and Ray Bennett would like to thank the ministers, the congregation, the Prayer Angels and the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their prayers and support during Ray's illness. Recent biopsies show no signs of cancer after his treatment. Prayer still works!

Flower Arrangers Needed

Members of the Flower Ministry create the floral arrangements used in worship each Sunday. We are shorthanded right now and need a few more people to help us arrange flowers. You would be part of a team of 2 or 3 people and would do arrangements for one Sunday each month. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience. We provide complete training.

If you are interested please contact Catherine Bailey (346-4516, catherineb@flash.net) or Chris Cavner (345-4237, cccavner@aol.com).



Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
7050 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

Offering God's Love... Building Believers

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The Herald