

December 1, 2009

Issue 12

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

Inside this Issue:

David Henners

Corey Candler

Gail Parsons

Donna Gruver

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

It's time to take Baby Jesus down from the attic. I mean Christmas is coming and decorations, holiday shopping, parties to plan.....But wait. In the midst of all of the busyness can we look past all the wrappings and see God's present (or God's presence)?

The seasons are turning. Advent is here. The time of preparation is upon us. Jesus is coming. We'll celebrate around the manger and gaze upon the babe, that love gift of God.

Yet Jesus has already come, hasn't he? And for most of us, we've not ever boxed him up and put him in the attic. Oh, sure we've put away the manger scene. Still, we've come Sunday after Sunday, read the Word, heard that preacher unpack the Word, prayed and seriously considered how to not walk alone through our life. In so many ways we've tried to follow Jesus, to serve as his good neighbor to those of whom he is especially fond and to witness to others through the care we show to them.

In my Advent Bible Study we'll look each week at the prophets' call to remember God's promises to see the great hurts of the people. We'll remember the expectations for the "one who is to come" and to remember our own testimony that God has delivered on those promises to offer the world a new way. I suppose the study represents for me what I hope to accomplish this Advent, in preparation for Christmas morning.

The study, and Advent, reminds me of our troubled world full of people with global concerns and personal torments. I'll remember the lepers and others crying out "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." And I'll give thanks to God as I try not only to remember but to trust all the more in the way that leads to the only peace possible in this world—the peace of living in the blessings of God's presence and power.

The world truly is in travail—both the natural and the human world. Fewer people are reading the daily newspapers, but it doesn't mean that the horrible is no longer happening. Perhaps we afflict this on creation and on the creatures, including our fellow humans. Perhaps we'll be stuck in this place for a long time! However, our hope is strong, our longing for something more is intense, and we have a sense that only by the grace of God will life be better. "Fix it, please!" That's one reason we pray for the return of Jesus. We need some greater power to force the change necessary!

In the "in between time" we wait for the more, but we live in the presence of the present from God. God's love has come to us already. May we embrace this all the more on that Christmas morning. If we share this gift of love come down from heaven with one another and those around us.....well, it will be the beginning of that world of peace and justice for which we long.

Grace and peace,

Bill



Merry Christmas from the NWHUMC Staff

Beth

Helen

Lam

Madeline

Jean

Bill

Jenny



When We Need God's Love Most

When is the time that we need God's love the most? Of course, we need Him every second of our lives, but there are times when His love is especially precious to us. God's love is needed in times when we have lost a loved one, or when life becomes so confusing that we do not know where to turn. Or when life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in and God seems far away. It is at times like these that it is very important to have someone who cares, someone to bring the presence of God to us. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to share God's love and personal caring here at NW Hills. Our Stephen Ministers can help, let us.

You too can be more effective in bringing the grace you have experienced into someone else's life. The Stephen Ministry training class beginning January 11, 2010, can be an answer for you. Application forms are in the Church office or ask a "blue badge" on Sunday morning.

Financial Status August 2009

	October		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$90,721	\$84,473	\$878,329	\$862,727
Expenses	\$82,506	\$83,796	\$837,511	\$856,978
Net Income	\$8,215	\$677	\$40,817	\$5749
	12/31/08	10/31/09		
Mortgages	\$2,177,556	\$2,104,244		

Our net income for August was a positive \$8,215 with income \$6,248 above our budget and expenses \$1,289 below the budgeted amount. Our income year-to-date is \$40,817 above our expenses thanks largely to expenses well below budget and the added income we are receiving this year from pledges redirected from building to operating pledges. We paid down the principal on our mortgages \$91,415 so far this year; \$37,858 from our operating budget and the remainder through continuing contributions to our building fund. Thanks to the early paydown from contributions to the building fund, we have saved \$4000 in interest so far this year and applied that to principal! Check the financial report on the church's web site at <http://www.nwhillsumc.org>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Barbara Landers, Trey Whiddon, Robbie Kuemmel, Lexie Christian, Carol Bruney, Cathy Troutner, Sharon Bistline, Charlene Warren, JoAnn Brown, Marshall Stogner, Marian Sherwood
Our Troops

Those we love who are in nursing homes

Vernen Liles, Mary Alice Smith, Billie Stout, Sara Moïse, Clara Mae Mann, Melba LaFitte

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

NWHillsUMCPrayers@yahoo.com

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

Prayer Corner

Planning for Christmas celebrations, gathering family and friends together, cooking, shopping, all provide a special excitement to December. As I think about the birth of Jesus, I wonder at the excitement and joy of those who were able to witness that birth and who came in celebration, wonder and joy to see the baby in the manger! I invite you to come join us in taking this journey on December 17, at 7:00 in our chapel in the Family Life Center. Rev. Bill Henderson will lead us on a Labyrinth walk to the manger through scripture. It is quite a journey, then he and Rev. Hennes will serve communion and pray with us. I encourage you to make this one of your Christmas traditions, it is a reading of the Christmas story and walk you will want to share many times.

We have completed a study entitled The Way of Blessedness which lead us through a detailed look at the Beatitudes. We all came away from the study with a deeper understanding for a “rule of life” formed by these beatitudes. This time of year I am mindful of all the different names for Jesus, one of my favorites is Prince of Peace. One of the Beatitudes is “Blessed are the Peacemakers”.

In our study we learned peace is not just the absence of war or conflict, the peace that passes all understanding is the inner peace we have because of the birth of Jesus Christ and his life and the gift of his life for us. Some of the problems facing our world today are hard to understand and hard to know how we as individuals can help. We are called to live in peace and love and to care for one another. I think we are called to do that where we are, with all we meet, as God equips each of us with talents to do just that. For me that peace is freedom from worry, knowing that God is in control and provides for all my needs; freedom from fear, knowing God is with me always and gives me the power to overcome whatever the world throws my way; joy in knowing the mighty love of God dwells inside me enabling me to see others as he does and love others as he does.

Think about what that peace means to you as you prepare for this special time. I pray for all the blessings of this special time and for that peace that passes all understanding fill your hearts during this Christmas season and in the New Year. Merry Christmas.

Gail Parsons

Note from Corey

Dear Northwest Hills UMC Friends,

Thank you so very much for such a wonderful sendoff on my last Sunday with you. Thank you for your most generous love offering and all of the kind words and gifts with which you showered me. Thank you most of all for your continued support and encouragement during my time among you.

When I moved to Austin after having finished my undergraduate studies, I had high hopes of finding a church where I might serve. Not until a year later did God provide that opportunity for me at Northwest Hills. The past six and a half years have been wonderful. I have learned so much during my time with you, developed friendships, and was afforded numerous career-advancing opportunities.

God has opened this new door for me and I look forward to what is down the road. You will be in my thoughts and prayer as I continue my journey. As I close my chapter with you, please know that I leave you feeling loved very much and that it was difficult to say goodbye. May God shower each of you with blessings and may God continue to work among you.

Much love,

Corey

HEART MARKET

Do your Christmas shopping at church this year by making donations in honor of loved ones. Many of the mission programs of the church are offering opportunities to “purchase” specific items through donations to help those served by our mission programs. You will be able to shop at the Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 19. You will be given a special card and flyer explaining your individual gifts. Please support the missions of NWHUMC through this very special shopping event.

NEWS UPDATES

For more current NWHUMC news, subscribe to our Yahoo! News Group by sending an e-mail (with no subject line) to:

**NWHills UMCNews-subscribe
@yahoogroups.com**

WOMENS' BOOK GROUP

We will meet at 9:30 AM in Room 109 on Monday, January 4, 2010, for Marcia Lind to review Confronting the Controversies by Adam Hamilton. This book has limited availability—check with Jan Broomall at 250-0177. On February 1, we will meet for a review and discussion led by Sue Present of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and An-

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Journey to Bethlehem Labyrinth on Dec. 17 is at 7:00 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel. This Prayer service will make use of our chapel labyrinth as we are led on a journey to Bethlehem. Discover the birth so Jesus as we journey with Mary and Joseph and try to imagine the wonder and awe of the Shepherds and the Wise Men on that blessed night.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5:00 p.m.

Carols, contemporary music by Joyful Praise, with communion and candlelight

8:00 p.m.

Carols, traditional music by the Sanctuary Choir and handbells, with communion and candlelight



Notes from Beth

Thank you to Scott Roberts, Terri Sloan, Michael Petrus, Shana Pate, and Steve Brown and so many others who are helping to lead Music Ministry in my absence.

Outstanding Concerts to be Held at NW Hills UMC:

Chorus Austin, "On a Winter's Eve", Saturday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

All concerts are in the sanctuary and tickets are available at the door.

Choirs will be taking some time off in December. Please check your schedules or the church calendar for the last day of rehearsal in December and when you resume in January!

To D or Not to D?

Do you make long trips on a regular basis? Are you tired of spending too much time at the pump? Are you uncertain about hybrid-technology? Then perhaps a diesel might provide a sensible alternative. Several years ago I received a telephone call from a good friend asking me to join a new start-up company in Manchester city center. I accepted his offer and started making the 70 mile round-trip from Liverpool each day.

What I didn't realize was that I would be paying a trip to the gas station every 3 days to fill my Mini Cooper. By the end of the first month, I had spent £300 (about \$450) on fuel. I was stunned by how much money it was costing me to travel to and from work.

I knew that something needed to change and decided to find a more economical car for my commute. This sickened me because the Mini offered me 35mpg and was a great car to drive.

After some deliberating, I purchased an Audi A3 diesel. At first, I was reluctant to make the switch from gasoline to diesel. I was under the impression that diesels were noisy and sluggish. However, to my surprise, I found that diesel technology had improved significantly and that modern diesels are quiet, perform well, offer improved fuel efficiency, require less maintenance and last longer. Within weeks of running my new car I was averaging an incredible 60-70 mpg. This in turn led to a 50% reduction in fuel costs.

Unfortunately, only a handful of U.S. manufacturers offer diesel variants of their motor vehicles, e.g. Volkswagen, Audi, Mercedes Benz and Jeep. However, this is set to change within the next 2 years.

Conclusively, the popularity of diesel in the U.S. is on the increase and with manufacturers planning to expand their development of diesel-driven vehicles, consumers can expect to benefit from the increasing number of choices.

To D or not to D? This depends on many factors. However, given some thought, making the switch from gasoline to diesel might make financial sense.

David Henners

December Birthdays

December 1	Lynn Atchison, Mark Watson
December 3	Bonner Landrum
December 4	Brooke Baker, Pat Brabham
December 5	Anne Fitzgerald, Mary Lang
December 6	Terri Loeffler
December 7	Susan Cardwell, Greg Gitcho, Mark Orr, Kyren Schultz
December 8	David Doyle, Susan Hammond, Ethan Karabinas, Pat Markley
December 9	Marty Donley, Bekah Milstead
December 10	Jack Collins, Kellie Ghormley, Shirley Hull, Rosalind Johnson, Pam Jones, Tanda Rasco
December 11	Steve Brown, Isaac Coffman, Daniel Dodson, Albert Kennedy, Laney Owens, Jeff Ratcliff, Cathie Trider
December 12	Jane Garrison, Alan Hansford, Meredith Perry, Larry Stephens, Cheryl Waggoner
December 13	Scott Arnold, Diane Coleman, Elizabeth McNatty, Leigh Stuckman, Bess Wirht
December 14	Kathryn Arnold
December 16	Rachel Milstead
December 17	Michelle McPherson
December 18	Haley Jackson, Clyde Barre, Jim Landrum, Jerry McGray
December 19	Elizabeth Gunter
December 20	Bev Baker, Leanna Bergschneider, Madeline Henners, Mary Kurio, Maxine Zeigler
December 21	Jim Blacksmith, Steve Garza
December 23	Will Cain, Andrew Judd, Matt Painter, Gary Payne
December 24	Kendall Montgomery, Chris Painter, Zoe Tyson
December 25	Anna Carpenter, Ian Carpenter
December 26	Emma Garza, Judy Johnson
December 27	Charlene Warren
December 28	Willena Bedoya
December 29	Jaxson Flowers, Kelsey Hansford, Sonya Loyer
December 30	Caitlin Gardner, Nicholas Gitcho, Audrey Loeffler, Megan Shepherd
December 31	Joan Allen, Jeffrey Wayne Nutt

Children's Ministry

Parents' Night Out is the second Saturday in January.

Please remember your children's Sunday school teachers for their dedication this year. We have been blessed with 21 wonderful souls who give joyfully of their time.

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday December 19th 9:00 – 11:00. \$2 per child / \$4 per adult - \$10 per family of 4 or more. The menu will include: juice, milk, coffee, cereal, bagels, sweet rolls, donuts and fruit. Santa will be there for a photo op with your child – bring your own camera. 11:00 – 2:00 there will be childcare giving parents a few hours for shopping. \$3 per child. The children will make a craft, have a pizza lunch and watch a DVD. Christmas Eve both services are child appropriate 5:00 & 8:00.

Sunday December 27th Children's Sunday school is in their regular classrooms.

Wishing You a Blessed Christmas,
Miss Jean

Northwest Gallery Art Show

Our Northwest Gallery is hosting "Season's Jewels", a new display of art by the Capital Art Society.

Our Northwest Gallery has been open since May of 2001, hosting more than 70 art shows and displaying more than 3,500 works of art. We celebrate the work of our Gallery Committee (chaired by Betty Jameson and Carolyn Patterson) and this outreach to the Austin art community.

In January 2010 there will be a juried photography show featuring members of the congregation. A Prospectus outlining the parameters for inclusion in the show is available at the front desk in the office or in a rack on the wall of the library in the gallery. Entries must be delivered Tuesday, January 5, Between 10:00 a.m. and Noon.

A Note from Donna Gruver

There are not enough words to thank my Church family for all your prayers, cards and visits. You brought me through some very struggling days and nights. May God's blessings be abundant to each of you. Thanks so much for your support.



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

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Offering God's Love... Building Believers.

Important Deadlines

The Herald

Deadline: Monday, December 21, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Wednesday, December 30

Deadline: Monday, January 18, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Wednesday, January 27

The Bulletin

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

10:00 a.m. every Wednesday.

Please send articles to: hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org

Receive the Herald Via Email

If you are interested in receiving the Herald in your email instead of getting a hard copy in the mail, please email (hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org) or call Helen with your email address.

Recycle Your Paper Here!

Drop your paper in the green and yellow NWHUMC recycling bin located at the top of the Village Center Drive parking lot next to the MFH playground. Recyclable materials include all clean and dry: newspaper, advertising inserts, magazines, shopping catalogs, office paper and unwanted junk mail. Thanks!