

June 1, 2009

Issue 6

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

Welcome New Members!

Carl, Loretta and
Melika Gradek

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 Summer at *The Shack*”

Would you come and spend time this summer with Madeline and me at *The Shack*? We'll be there in June and July and hope you join us for another “Sizzling Summer Sermon Series.”

Have you read *The Shack*? It is a most interesting book, a nation-wide, best-selling religious novel. The author, William Young, has stirred up so many people- drawn them to God, helped heal their grief, given them a sense of the goodness of God, or caused them to howl “blasphemy!”

His main character struggles with a question that stirs many of us, “Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?” The novel takes the character and readers into some marvelous and profound discussions of theology. His “talking about God” covers so many issues: the very nature of God, the nature of human freedom, salvation, the nature of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, forgiveness and on and on. These issues are ones our Christian family has struggled with and given witness to since the Pentecost.

Have you read *The Shack*? If you have, read it again during these weeks ahead. If

you haven't, I'd encourage you to find a copy. If you have a computer connected to the Internet you'll find many introductions or reviews. Wikipedia has a good introduction worthy of reading.

Madeline and I will not be “preaching *The Shack*.” We'll simply enter into a conversation with Brother Young, with others in “The Family” who have reflected on these same issues in centuries past and invite you to consider the shape of your own faith.

I have enjoyed my own reading of this small novel. Discussions with others have been provocative. The book just invites a sharing, a struggling and a re-thinking of one's beliefs. It sends one into Scripture to ponder the revelations there. Perhaps, more than listening to our sermons, you would like to join in a discussion as well. To this end, I'll invite you to lunch each week. I'll host a “talk back time” each week, with a “bring your own lunch” plan. The place and time will be announced soon.

We are looking forward to this time at *The Shack*. I'll pray you join us for some marvelous reflections on The Word and this interesting novel.

Grace and peace,
Bill Henderson

Communion Offering

The communion Offering for June benefits the Montopolis Community Friendship Center. This center sponsored by local United Methodist churches contin-

ues a long tradition of supporting those in need in East Austin through a variety of programs including preschool, ESL classes and parenting classes. Please support this program by giving with the notation of Communion Offering- Montopolis.

Mission Report from Brownsville

The Mission Team to Brownsville concluded a week of work with a special lunch and a visit with the Director of Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH) who expressed near tearful appreciation for NWHUMC and its support of the ministries there through the work of the team and the finances provided for the job.

The team spent 5 days working on the conversion of a small bathroom that accommodated one person at a time along with a closet and hallway into a larger bath with 3 sinks, 2 toilets and 2 showers. This will allow GNSH to host larger mission teams to work in the Brownsville area. While we were not able to complete the job, team members, under the construction leadership of Charley Gallia, were able to make a good start and leave detailed plans and materials in place for following teams to finish

the job. We were blessed by the help of homeless clients who watched over us by helping to carry materials up the stairs, do what work they could and remind us of the heat and the need to drink water.

This is an organization that is meeting the needs of the homeless, poor, and the needy in very meaningful ways through a soup kitchen, thrift shop, referral services for medical and social needs, AA meetings, ESL meetings and just being there with a smile and a willingness to listen.

Thank you to the team, UMM and Missions Committee for their support and for all who prayed us home safely. There is still work to be done. If you are interested in joining a group to return in the very near future and finish what was started, please contact Debbie Johnson at djohnsonart2006@yahoo.com.

Confirmation 2009

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class on a year of studying our faith. Confirmation was held on Sunday, May 31.

2009 Confirmands: James Anders, Jacob Brewer, Scott Brown, Jack Collier, Britta Garza, Anne Gusler, Kembra Herrin, Lily Gates, Maggie Mueller and Ryan Rusy.



Financial Status April 2009

	April		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$87,790	\$84,473	\$359,888	\$355,891
Expenses	\$77,590	\$91,083	\$339,827	\$356,174
Net Income	\$10,200	(\$6,610)	\$20,062	(\$284)
	12/31/08	4/30/09		
Mortgages	\$2,177,556	\$2,141,057		

These are preliminary April results provided to make the earlier deadline for the Herald. Final April results will be available on the church's web page after the Finance Committee meeting on May 19. Our income for April was \$3,317 above our budget and our expenses were \$13,493 below the budgeted amount, leaving us with income \$16,810 above expenses for the month. With these exceptional results for the month of April, our income year to date is \$20,345 above our expenses. We paid down the principal on our mortgages \$36,499 so far this year, \$14,723 from our operating budget and the remainder through continuing contributions to our building fund. Check the financial report on the church web site at <http://www.nwhillsumc.org>.

Apples for Kids at Comfort House

In July NWHUMC will support Comfort House through the communion offering and a new program, "The Apple Tree." There will be a tree in the narthex with apples featuring the photo of a child served by Comfort House along with their sizes for new school clothes. You may either take an apple and purchase a complete set of clothes or you may donate towards the purchase of clothes by writing a check to NWHUMC, noted Comfort House communion offering, or by purchasing a gift card from Target and leaving it in the basket under the tree on Sunday mornings. Remember what it felt like to put on that new, special, first day of school outfit when you were a kid and help a child in East Austin have that same special feeling.

Youth Mission Trip Reflections

Out of all the mission trips I've been on, this might have been the most enjoyable and meaningful one for me. I was blessed to be able to work with a fun group of people, and we had one of the sweetest ladies for our client. When we first met our client, Emma G., the first thing she did was show us all photos from her fiftieth wedding anniversary; it was apparent that was something she was very proud of. She was always smiling and her gratitude for what we were doing was depicted clearly through her countenance. It didn't even matter how tired we were or how hot it was, we would have repaired Emma's house no matter what.

–David Vaden, 11th grade (7th mission trip)

My group was the best part of the trip! I loved my group! We bonded so quickly! We worked very efficiently! I saw God in ALL of my clients. I never thought someone could be so thankful and welcoming to us. I learned how to replace boards in a ceiling board and insulate and put up sheet rock. I will be much more thankful for all that people do for me! And I will be more useful around my house!

–Maddie Brown, 10th grade (3rd mission trip)

Throughout our process of transforming Ms. Mata's house she was embarrassed and seemed antisocial, but throughout the week she came out and said hello between her numerous doctor's appointments. After one of her doctor's appointments, she came and spoke to us about how much she loved the house so far and asked us to please pray for her because she had just been told she had skin cancer.

That was when we all realized she truly appreciated the work that we were doing. When she saw the final product of the house, tears streamed down her face and we each were given a kiss on the cheek. She topped off her method of showing appreciation with a beautifully written card.

–Amy Maletta, 11th grade (6th or 7th mission trip)

When attending this mission trip, I wanted to renew my faith by seeing some proof that God was still with me. While helping the clients, I saw God through one man, who coincidentally was a carpenter named Wally. Our work team leader was very sweet, but didn't know much about what to do. Without Wally's expertise, we would have never completed the project in a timely and practical manner. I could tell we were put at that house for a reason, and without the help of the client, we could not help him and his family in return.

–Mark Orr, 13th grade (5th mission trip)

This week I really saw God in my work group. They were just amazing and even when I messed up they didn't get angry, they just figured out how to solve the problem and helped me out. Our clients were both in intensive care and didn't have the money to buy lumber to build a wheelchair ramp and re-side their house, much less buy paint and brushes to paint the house. I could really tell that we affected their lives and helped them to have an easier time. I could see their joy when we finished the house and even though they weren't going to do everything that needed to be done to the house. She just thanked us and God for everything we had done.

–Jacob Moody, 10th grade (2nd mission trip)

Recycle Your Paper Here!

Northwest Hills UMC and My Friend's House participate in the Abitibi Paper Retriever program. This program places green and yellow recycling bins, called Paper Retrievers, at hundreds of Austin area churches and schools. Our retriever is located at the top of the Village Center Drive parking lot next to the MFH playground. Everyone in the neighborhood can help reduce landfill space, conserve natural resources and clean up the environment while earning money for our church's activities.

Recyclable materials include all clean and dry newspaper, advertising inserts, magazines, shopping catalogs, office paper, unwanted junk mail and notebook paper.

Please help us grow this program! It has already been successful, but we can save so much more! The next time you're at church or MFH, bring your paper and drop it in the bin! If you have any questions, please call Helen in the church office. Thanks!



Calendar

We ran out of room for the calendar this month! If you'd like to see the most updated schedule of events, please visit the church website at <http://www.nwhillsumc.org> and click on Calendar.



Liturgical Dance Camp

Please join us from 9:45 a.m.-noon in the Youth Center on June 15-19 for a liturgical dance camp. Come meet the teachers and try some exercises on Sunday, June 14 at 12:30 p.m. Camp instructors will be Heather Taylor, Ashley Davis and Jenny Terry Roberts. Camp is open to the following:

- 4th grade through adults
- males and females
- beginners through experienced



The cost for camp is \$25 per person for the week. Snacks will be provided. The focus will be classical ballet training, including stretching, barre work, center work and some choreography. We'll have daily devotionals and work on interpretive dancing for Worship.

Children's Ministry

Get ready to visit Discovery Canyon where each day we will go to Red Rock Rhythm, Gully Games, Sagebrush Story-telling, Cavern Crafts and Shadow Science to discover God's beautiful creation. Vacation Bible School is June 28-

July 2 from 5:45-8:00 p.m. Registration forms were mailed to families of the church, or you can sign up on Sunday mornings in the narthex. The cost is \$15 per child. Volunteers will have training on Sunday, June 7.



Parent's Night Out is not held during the summer. Look for the program to resume in the fall on September 12.

Summer Sunday school starts June 7. All children that have completed the 2 year olds class through fifth grade meet together. We start in room 116 (children's choir room) for music and a Bible story and then break into 2 groups in the children's hallway rooms 105 and 106 for crafts, recreation and more. The first month look forward to "Camp Edge." In July we will revisit Max Lucado's children's stories and in August we will explore God's gifts of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. Helpers are wanted for each Sunday. Sign up sheets will be posted in each children's Sunday School room.

Blessings,
Miss Jean

Partner in Education with Murchison Middle School

We've stepped up NWHUMC support of our neighbor school by hosting the following events:

- May 13 PTA/PIE Appreciation "Orange and Gold Bowl" Luncheon in the FLC Activity Center 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- May 15 Choir Trip Prep in the Youth Center 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- May 26 Murchison Orchestra Concert in the Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.
- May 27 Murchison Choir Concerts in the Sanctuary 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- May 28 Choir 6th Grade Party in the Youth Center 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- May 29 Murchison 8th Grade Awards in the Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We also hosted the Science Fair in January as well as other concerts this Spring.

Travel News

We're on the road again! Did you know that Austin has many interesting churches? Some are historically interesting, some have concerts and serve lunch, some are especially beautiful. Come with us on June 25, while we explore three of these churches.

The first stop will be historic St. David's Episcopal Church. We'll have a guided tour and then have time to browse in the gift shop or relax in the coffee shop. Next will be historic Central Presbyterian Church where we'll be treated to a 30 minute concert by members of the Austin Chamber Music Association. We will have lunch at the church followed by a guided tour. Then it's on to Our Lady's Maronite Eastern Catholic Church with its amazing stained glass windows and exquisitely painted interior. There will be a tour and time for questions.

We'll leave the church by van at 9:15 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Make your reservations by calling the church office (345-1743) or sign up at the front desk. Reservations and payment must be made no later than noon on June 19.



June Birthdays

June 1	James Barron
June 2	Andrew Rodriguez, Craig Watson, John McElroy
June 3	Bob Foster, Edwin Cheatham, Audrey Hare
June 4	Mary Alice Smith, Susan Doolittle
June 5	Walter Foxworth, Haleigh Smith, Aidan Trulove, Grayson Alex
June 6	Lane Moore, Lindsay Barclay, Bryant Gitcho
June 8	Lucy Milliron, Carol Hering, Cindy Martin, Jeff Bowers
June 9	Shelby Barnett, Lisa Stephens
June 10	Kelsey Moringy, Cole Dennis
June 11	Carolyn Humphrey, Terry Maletta, Shana Pate
June 12	Jean Eddins, Doris Haertig, Ava Wilkins
June 13	Sonja Keever, Ken Payne, Jennifer Crews
June 14	John Eddins, Katie Waggoner
June 17	Sharon Callison, John Shanks
June 18	Muriel Westbrook, Teri Shapiro, Dawn Longacre, Jessica Bedoya
June 19	Carolyn Patterson, Kay Kurio, Jason Amacker, Mitch Brown
June 20	Marty Sloan, Dan Dewberry, Jessica Dunn, Avery Ross
June 21	Larry Biggert, Jay Willingham
June 22	Jim Patterson, Pam Dudley, Patti Oehring, Sharon Bistline, Haley Crane, Gracie Karabinas
June 23	Jo True, Kelly Jackson, Brandon Scott George, Stephen Stokes
June 24	Ben Streetman, Barbara Landers, Kathy Brown
June 25	Jane Fuchs, Meredith Sanders, Madeline Brown, Jack Collier, Alex Kirkendall, Ethan Brown
June 26	Rickie Eddins, Ana Menchaca, Colton Hoffman
June 27	Lou Gardner, Rainer Mueller, Julie Petrus, Timmy Willingham, Alexa Hansford
June 28	Jill Belohlavy
June 29	Vera Cline, Pat Dowling
June 30	Joe Jerkins, Myra Rattan

North Hills Gallery

The June gallery show is the 8th annual *All Creatures Great and Small* juried show. The show runs from June 3-28. A reception will be held Sunday, June 7 at 12:30 p.m.

We Need Your Help!

We need your help staffing the front desk of the office during the week. This is a great volunteer opportunity offering you a chance to be in contact with the congregation, church staff and visitors. Volunteers answer the phones, greet people as they come into the church office and help with office projects. The phone system is very easy to learn and there's always someone to help or answer your questions.

We have a great group of substitutes already, but we're always happy to add more to the list. If you're interested in volunteering, but do not want to commit to a weekly time, being a substitute might work best for you!

During the summer, from mid-June to September, we need a Monday morning volunteer from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mondays are often a busy time and you would get to see a lot of people. We also need a permanent Friday morning volunteer. Fridays are very quiet, but it's always good to have a second person in the office and we could use your help!

We'd also be happy to have any high school or college students who are looking for a place to volunteer during the summer. This could also be used as service hours if needed.

If you're interested, please contact Helen in the church office (hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org, 345-1743). The staff looks forward to working with you!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Carrie Wheatley, Trey Whiddon, Robbie Kuemmel, Lexie Christian, Carol Bruney, Karen Green, Cathy Troutner, Sharon Bistline, Our Troops

Those we love who are in nursing homes
Vernen Liles, Mary Alice Smith, Billie Stout,
Sara Moise, Clara Mae Mann

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

Offering God's Love... Building Believers.

Important Deadlines

The Herald

Deadline: Monday, June 15, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Wednesday, June 24

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

Publish date: Wednesday, July 29

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.



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The Herald