

February 1, 2010

Issue 2

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:

New Youth Worship

Prayer Corner

Notes from Beth

Lent

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

“Tempus Fugit,” they always say. And “they” are right— “time flies.” It just seems like yesterday that Jody and I were taking down Christmas lights, and here comes Lent. The story of Jesus just unfolds so very fast this year. Ash Wednesday comes early and our time together takes another shift. In the midst of some exciting ministry “imagining,” we prepare for “Fanning the Flame” and inciting more enthusiasm and more ministries at Northwest Hills we also prepare spiritually to enter a time of reflection.

The prophet Joel shouts out the call to Lent: “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.” We’ll listen and gather indeed on February 17 to begin our fast with Ash Wednesday. I pray we also hear at the table that night “Remember Me,” words of Jesus that invite us to enter again into the season of walking with Jesus on his journey for life. We’ll read, pray, listen and wonder of his compassion for us and his commitment to us—and for all the world. Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights we’ll follow the story and try to enter into our reflection. I’ll invite

you to imagine what we might need to turn away from (repentance) that we more truly may follow the Way that would lead more surely to the life intended for us by God.

What shall we “give up” for Lent? What discipline will we use to encourage a remembrance of the “giving of Christ to us?” Perhaps a “giving to” might be a better discipline. Haiti cries out. And there is Darfur. And there is our “Imagine No Malaria” and “Nothing But Nets” campaigns for Africa. In our reflections and prayers let us each find the way we can show others the same love we’ll see in the march toward Zion of Jesus. Above all, may this coming season of Lent draw us into the story of salvation and closer to the grace offered us by God in Christ Jesus.

Yours in his name,

Bill



Notes from Beth

JOIN NOW! The Sanctuary Choir will join with the choirs from Westlake UMC and Lake Travis UMC to present a very special concert on Sunday, May 23, at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert will benefit the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign of the United Methodist Church. Now is a great time to join the choir so you may participate in this concert as well as be a part of the celebration of Easter in April. To join the choir, come to rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room or call Beth at the church to become involved.

TWO CONCERTS TO ENJOY!

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY will present a concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, February 6, at 8:00 p.m. ACGS has determined that our church is the best possible venue for presenting the international performers they host. If you haven't attended one of these outstanding concerts, be sure to include this one in your plans. Tickets are available at the door.

REVEL will present another in their 2009-2010 series of special concerts on Saturday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. The performers are Carla McElhaney, pianist, and Joel Beckett, cello, and their programs are delightful. It is a come-as-you-are, clap when you wish, laidback presentation with two outstanding musicians. Tickets are available at the door.

Financial Status December 2009

	December		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$137,102	\$124,473	\$1,124,301	\$1,071,672
Expenses	\$88,070	\$88,574	\$1,003,085	\$1,031,672
Net Income	\$49,032	\$35,899	\$121,216	\$40,000
	12/31/08	12/31/09		
Mortgages	\$2,177,556	\$2,036,699		

Our net income for December was \$49,032 with income \$12,629 above our budget and expenses \$504 below the budgeted amount. Our net income for 2009 is \$121,216 above our expenses thanks largely to expenses well below budget and the added income we received this year from pledges redirected from building pledges to operating pledges.

We paid down the principal on our mortgages \$140,856 so far this year, \$46,025 from our operating budget and the remainder through continuing contributions to our building fund. Thanks to the early pay down from contributions to the building fund, we have saved over \$5300 in interest this year and applied that to principal!

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Donna Gruver, Millie Shimfessel, Phyllis Davidson, Trey Whiddon, Robbie Kuemmel, Lexie Christian, Charlene Warren, Marshall Stogner, Marian Sherwood, Barbara Landers, JoAnn Brown, Marcia Lind, Jeff & Janet Jones, Connie Morris, Harold York, Brian Riepen, Jan Decovic, David Menchaca, Tom Coburn, our troops

Those we love who are in nursing homes

Vernen Liles, Mary Alice Smith, Billie Stout, Sara Moise, Vera Cline, Clara Mae Mann, Melba LaFitte, Florence Olsen

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

NWHillsUMCPrayers@yahoogroups.com

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

Prayer Corner

God loves us, claims us, and cares for us far more than we can understand. This knowledge can be too wonderful for us at times and yet it can also give us strength to acknowledge his power in our lives. No matter how overwhelming life becomes, God is greater than all our difficulties. God is mighty, and this mighty God gives us strength and peace.

One of the ways we access God is through prayer. NWHills is a praying church and the Prayer Ministry is a vital part of its ministry.

Intercessory Prayer Chain, Mary and Sharon Donley, 512-868-8702. This group prays for emergency or sustaining requests received on Sunday morning, the Yahoo Prayer Group, and others received via e-mail or telephone. Anyone is encouraged to contact Marty or Sharon with their requests and concerns which are treated confidentially within the group when requested.

The Prayer Team, Gail Parsons, 512-633-0417. This group meets the third Thursday of each month in the Prayer Room, which they maintain, and prays for the congregation, the church staff and members and volunteers. This group also attends church gatherings to pray for God's presence and guidance. They pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit and for accomplishment of God's will in all that we do.

Friday Morning Prayer Group, Martha Bloomquist, 512-343-24298. This group meets at 11:15 each Friday morning in the Prayer Rom to pray for the church, its leadership, prayer requests from the previous Sunday, and others received through out the week. They also pray for our community, state and nation.

United Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast, Ken Moyer, 512-452-6889. All men are welcome each Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. for a great home cooked breakfast, fellowship and prayer.

Yahoo! Prayer Group. This group uses the internet to convey prayer requests and to offer thanksgiving for answered prayers. To subscribe, e-mail NWhillsumsprayers:subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Women's Ministries Prayer Sisters, Sharon Donley, 512-868-8702. Women who participate in this group are paired as sisters and lift each other up in prayer daily, send cards of encouragement, make phone calls to each other and try to have at least one face to face meeting monthly.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Karen Bowker, 512-401-1743. This group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month in the prayer room. This ministry makes shawls to uplift members and friends and family of the congregation who are ill or in need of special prayer. Each stitch is prayed over as it is made. Each stitch represents a prayer. The shawls are then placed on the altar for blessing on Sunday morning prior to being presented to the person for whom it was made. Baby blankets are also prepared by this group.

Our *Stephen Ministers* help those in need on a one on one basis as well as pray for the congregation.

The *Prayer Service*, led by Rev. Madeline Henners, is the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel and includes communion and prayer. This is a very meaningful service. Come join us.

We are also very blessed to have a *Prayer Room* in the Family Life Center where resources and aids are available. Additionally, there is a *Prayer Garden* which is also available for prayer. You are welcome to come any time to pray and you can also sign up on the calendar to come pray regularly.

The *Prayer Academy* recognizes prayer as the foundation of our communication and relationship with God and offers education, Biblical study and retreat experiences for prayer and spiritual formation. These studies are led by laity and clergy. We ask for your suggestions for study.

As you can see, opportunities abound for community as well as private prayer. Contact anyone of those listed above, Rev. Bill Henderson or Gail Parsons to learn more about any of these opportunities.

New Youth Worship—Becoming ‘Ancient Youth’!

Imagine youth knelt in a circle praying together, removing their caps and akin God to be with their church and friends. Imagine youth standing and jumping to music, loudly singing praise to their God. Imagine youth standing as the Scripture is read, listening intently to their fellow youth member read from the Old and New Testament.

Imagine youth on fire for the Lord, overflowing with excitement, faith, and a love for God’s people.

You can stop imagining now, because it’s here! This February 14th we’re launching a Youth Worship gathering every Sunday after Sunday School, and we’re looking back to the Ancient Church for inspiration

We will start with singing, read scripture from the Old Testament and New Testament, have a devotional, more singing, prayer, more singing, and close by shouting the Shema—”Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might!”

We’re also launching monthly ‘House Gatherings’ for a time of fellowship, devotional and games. Each month a new youth family will host the gathering! Exciting times are ahead for our youth and for us as well! The youth are our lifeline in the church, so when they’re on fire, so shall we be!

Youth Worship starts at 11:15 a.m. and lasts around 30 minutes. Youth will be encouraged to attend the 9:00 a.m. service and receive communion. If you also attend the 9:00 a.m. service, come check them out before leaving for the day! But, any adult that comes to worship with the youth must fully participate, no observing from the back!

Your support will mean a lot to them as they discover what it means to become ‘Ancient Youth’!

NORTH HILLS GALLERY

PRESENTS

PASSION FOR PAINT

FEATURING 4 OUTSTANDING ARTISTS FROM THE AUSTIN AREA
FEBRUARY 3-28

MEET THE ARTISTS: FEBRUARY 14, 12:15 PM

Third Thursday Prayer Service

Join Madeline and the Prayer Team this third Thursday, Feb. 18th at 7:00 p.m. for a Lenten Prayer Service. As you’ve received Ashes the day before, come and anticipate what this season may bring for you. What shall you give up? What shall you offer?

It is a time for lifting each other in prayer, hearing a short word from Madeline, and breaking bread together. If you are in need of personal prayer, a pastor will be available to pray with you after the service.

Please come and enjoy this short service, offering a quiet moment between you and God that we don’t have in our busy lives! It will be a great start to Lent!

Fanning the Flame

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

This is a church-wide invitation to all who are passionate about NWHills UMC. We will gather in the FLC AC to hear from two guest speakers about how we can ignite a flame within the congregation. They will also speak about effectively engaging members into the life and ministry of the church. This church-wide event hopes to energize and encourage those working in ministry at NWHills. We will talk about new ideas for 2010 and current programming! We hope this will be a time of excitement and education so that we can turn a campfire into a bonfire! We will gather at 8:30 a.m. for refreshments and leave by noon.

Celebration Sunday & Fellowship Lunch

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

There will be one service at 11:15 a.m. with lunch at 12:30 p.m. It has been a recent tradition at NWHills UMC to combine both services for worship several times a year. Both the Sanctuary Choir and Joyful Praise will help to lead this exciting service! We will honor those who are in leadership roles at the church and we will bless them for their efforts. Please RSVP for our Fellowship Lunch by e-mailing rsvp@nwhillsumc.org or calling the church office at 345-1743. You may also RSVP in the Friendship Register with the number attending.

Relief for Haiti

Members of our congregation have already given almost \$7000 to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) for assistance to Haiti after the recent devastating earthquake. If you would like to contribute, you may do so online, www.umc.org, or through the church. Make checks payable to NWHills UMC, with a memo line "Haiti Relief."

Travel News

Join us on February 27th, 2010, to see "A Little Night Music" on stage. The Stephen Sondheim classic is currently enjoying a comeback on Broadway, but for those of us who won't be going to NYC any time soon, we thought we'd catch it at the Palace Theater in Georgetown. Dinner before the performance will be at Tony and Luigi's Restaurant. They have offered us a fantastic menu to choose from (inside sign-up folder) and the cost for the whole evening is \$35 per person. We'll leave the church at 5:00 p.m. by van and carpool. Make your reservation and menu choices no later than Feb 17th by calling the office (345-1743) or sign up in the folder at the front desk.

Lent Calendar

ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb 17th

Fellowship Meal - 5:30 pm
Service w/ Communion - 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENT SERVICES

Held at 6:30 pm, Feb 24th - Mar 24th
Holy Communion at each service

DAILY ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Services during Holy Week
Location TBD

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1st

Fellowship Meal - 6:00 pm
Service w/ Communion - 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd

Service - 7:00 pm, Led by Joyful Praise

EASTER, April 4th

Sunrise Service, 7:00 am at Murchison Hill
Breakfast, 8:00 am in FLC Activity Center
Contemporary Worship, 9:00 am
Traditional Worship, 11:15 am

