

January 1, 2010

Issue 1

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

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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

A New Year dawns for us and always there is new hope. There is something about the clock resetting that gives us the sense of a new start with new resolutions and renewed faith. I am excited and most hopeful for Northwest Hills, our fellowship and our ministries. However....

A New Year dawns, but as I said yesterday it looks daunting. There are so many challenges for this infant year. As we look across the globe there are so many concerns, about the globe and about so many creatures including our own species. As always "there are wars, rumors of war, nations rising against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms; there are great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there are dreadful portents and great signs from heaven" (to paraphrase Jesus). Our president and the leaders of all nations struggle with incredible challenges made all the more intractable because of human stupidity and stubbornness - afflictions of our sinful, still broken nature. Of course, all of this affects or infects the life of our church family. Our sons and daughters are taken off to those wars, our families are jolted by some of those calamities, and our own hopes are shaken when the financial structures for the present and future economies seem so flimsy (or flimflamsy?) and hyper-partisanship divisions make resolutions nigh on impossible.

Still, there is that Bright Star in the heavens. God offers one "epiphany" after another. Those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will be comforted, encouraged, challenged and committed with

Good News that comes in Jesus Christ. And so "we've a story to tell to the nations," and to our neighbors as well.

God will be with us as God has always been with us. We are not alone. God is with us and we are with one another. There is strength and hope in God's presence and there is surely all of that as we gather together to undergird and lift up one another in prayer and love. Our own presence together with God can shape a community of hope and care, certainly for us. However, I would pray our life together would be a witness and a generous offering to others. In a divided, torn-apart world, where people suffer in so many ways, may our own community of faith provide a hospitable sanctuary of forgiveness and a place of power where, through God, those troubled can become new people.

Pat Markley often prays that with God's guidance we see challenges as opportunities, that we see God with us as we seek to shape our witness and our ministries and so shape a better day for us and the world. The opportunities will be wonderful blessings for us and others - if we, in the beginning of this New Year, renew and resolve to live in trust and obedience in our God, if our commitments can increase the strength of our life together and our ministries on behalf of others. The world truly needs the Good News of God. And God truly needs us to deliver the Word made flesh, grace alive in our life together.

May we all have a blessed New Year in Christ,

Bill Henderson

Floral Training

Do you enjoy flowers and using your creative talents to the glory of God? Perhaps God is calling you to serve your church family in a new way for 2010! We invite you to consider serving on the NW Hills Flower Committee. Our (mostly) amateur floral arrangers work in pairs to create the floral arrangements you see on the Chancel on Sunday mornings.

If you are considering joining our floral ministry, join us on Saturday, January 16, 10:00 am to Noon, for an informal training session with a floral design instructor from ACC.

For more details, questions or to RSVP, please contact:

Catherine Bailey
Chair, NWHUMC Flower Committee
 (512) 346-4516
 or
 catherineb@flash.net.

Stephen Ministry Training

The Stephen Ministry Training consists of Christian helping skills such as listening and spiritual resources. The training will include a wide variety of topics that aid persons to care for the specific needs of people who are experiencing different crises and problems in living their lives. Some of the topics are: Listening, Ministering to Depressed Persons, Ministering to the Dying, Ministering to the Hospitalized, Feelings, Assertiveness Training, Confidentiality and many, many more. A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin on January 11. There are still a couple of places available. If you would be interested in joining the class, please call Kathy Bouldin (345-5967) or one of the other SM leaders. (Jim McComb, Janet Hertel, Diane Coleman, Lynne Cline or Talka Carlisle)

Financial Status November 2009

	November		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$108,912	\$84,473	\$987,240	\$947,199
Expenses	\$77,504	\$86,121	\$915,015	\$943,098
Net Income	\$31,408	(\$1,648)	\$72,225	\$4,101
	31-Dec-08	30-Nov-09		
Church Mortgages	\$2,177,556	\$2,067,571		

Our net income for November was \$31,408 with income \$24,439 above our budget and expenses \$8,617 below the budgeted amount. Our net income year to date is \$72,225 above our expenses thanks largely to expenses well below budget and the added income we are receiving this year from pledges redirected from building pledges to operating pledges.

We paid down the principal on our mortgages \$109,986 so far this year, \$41,721 from our operating budget and the remainder through continuing contributions to our building fund. Thanks to the early payoff from contributions to the building fund, we have saved over \$4,600 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

Millie Shimfessel, David Menchaca, Phyllis Davidson, Barbara Jarman, Trey Whiddon, Robbie Kuemmel, Lexie Christian, 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 Moise, 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.

Dan Davidson Civic Forum

February 2, 2010

Our next Dan Davidson Civic Forum guest speaker will be Dr Dan Stultz, President and CEO of the Texas Hospital Association. Dan will speak on Sunday 07 February 2010 in the Family Life Center. The Texas Hospital Association is the leadership organization and principal advocate for hospitals and health care systems in Texas. The association represents 85 percent of the state's hospitals and health care systems which employ 320,000 health care professionals. It is one of the largest such associations in the country.

Dan Stultz has a strong background on the issues central to national health care reform and has worked directly with our political leaders on these issues. Dan is prepared to share his insights and experiences with us. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about health care reform from the inside.

Dan Stultz did his undergraduate studies at Southwestern University in Georgetown, received his Medical Degree at the University of Texas Medical School, performed his Internship and Residency at the University of Kentucky and participated in the CompHealth Scholars Program for Management in Health Care at the University of North Carolina.

Dan Stultz has received many honors and awards including: Mayor's Physician of the Year, San Angelo, Distinguishing Alumni Award, University of Texas Medical School and Pride in Professional Award, American Medical Association.

The Dan Davidson Civic Forum is open to all . . . invite your friends and neighbors to join us at these talks and engage with our outreach program.

Adult Children of Aging Parents Support Group

The Adult Children of Aging Parents Support Group will present a seminar on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Building. It is titled "Be Informed About Post Acute Care" and will be led by Loretta Kappel, Director of Market Operation at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital. Previously Loretta was a nurse and the primary caregiver for her mother. If you have a loved one that has had a life changing event like a stroke or a severe illness or *anything* that has changed their functional ability, the question you should ask is: "What will it take to get them back to where they were?"

Armed with the facts, you can make the right choice. Loretta will join us to discuss the ins/outs of the 4 levels of post acute care options. She will help inform us of the choices. By being knowledgeable about the various levels of care, it will be easier for you to make the right choice for your loved one.

This is a forum to *nurture and recharge* concerned Adult Children caring for their loved ones as they age.

Contact Nancy Nickerson at 837-3741 for more information.

Sacred Dance Ministry

Sacred Dance Ministry resumes Sunday, January 10th at 3:00-4:00 p.m. Fourth graders through adults are welcome! We'll have a yoga warm-up and work on technique. Join us in the Youth Center!!

For further information, contact:

Jenny Terry Roberts at 512-577-9247
or

Homeless Men's Clothes Closet

The Austin District UMM continue to operate the clothes closet under the auspices of Austin Resource Center for the homeless. We need your contributions of used men's clothing—primarily jeans and other cotton pants, Tee shirts, pullover sweaters and coats.

You may leave any clothing in the church office or give me a call for other arrangements. Many thanks to all of you who contributed in the past.

Harold Cline
345-8066

Orders and Dedications for Sunday Flowers

The NW Hills Flower Committee is now accepting orders and dedication for Sunday Flowers for 2010. A maximum of 2 dedications are accepted for each Sunday, so reserve your special date now. Order forms are available in the church office, the Sanctuary Foyer, or by email request. The cost of an arrangement is \$35.

Flowers on the chancel are a thoughtful tribute to your loved ones, and help to remind each of us of God's gift of beauty in the world.

For questions or to reserve a date, contact:

Catherine Bailey
Chair, NWHUMC Flower Committee
512-346-4516

or
catherineb@flash.net

January Birthdays

January 1	David Walters
January 2	Kathi Doolittle, Michael Haynes
January 3	Pat Damron, Gale Copeland, Jim Connolly
January 4	Lindsey Moringy, Kendall Connolly
January 5	Liz Oliver, Diedra Connolly, Susan Anthony, Melissa McLaurin, Andrew Watson
January 6	Julie Gallia, Stacey Trulove, Brent Brackmeyer
January 7	Neill Gruver, Cindy Brackmeyer
January 8	Joseph Toth, Mike Vaden
January 9	Kari Means, Randy Atchison, Kathy Bowers
January 10	Brian Lengel
January 12	Debbie Johnson, Heather McKenzie
January 13	Sara Moise, Gayle Hight, Lauren Hoffman
January 14	Judy McGray, Deanna Rees, Jordan Wilfley
January 15	Doray Lendacky, Charlie Clark, Daniel Lindstrom
January 16	Kim Talley, Gray Bryant, Judith Buck, Kelsey Beavers
January 17	Harvey Jones, Sharon Donley, Paige Diver, Bruce Fullerton, Brian Brushwood, Christina Maletta
January 18	Erie Nagel
January 19	Dan Waelti, Michael Norman, Rita Collier
January 20	Barbara Jarman, Connie Croslin, Chuck Krueger, Marla Menchaca, Pierrette Tyson, Jennifer Newton, Scott Smith, Charlotte Einhorn, Aidan Hale
January 21	Betty Hamilton, Connie Doland, Anita Costanzi, Katie Lang, Chris Barron, Claire Wirht
January 22	Joanne York, William Brackmeyer, Ella Johnson
January 23	Ryan Loyer, Emma Brooks
January 24	Tami Anderson
January 25	Ruth Ann Trulove, John Michael Garrison
January 26	Becky Travelstead, Pamela Krueger
January 27	Jeff Jones, Mary Frances Markley, Kim Allen, Matt Dudley, Ashlynn Fitzgerald
January 29	Helen Stogner, Diane Crawford, Zach Scott, Sarah Vaden
January 30	Frank LaBoon, Britain Darr
January 31	Carolyn Baker, Bonnie Brushwood, David Nutt

Children's Ministry

I pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas and is energized with the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of the season and ready to begin a new year. Elizabeth Gunter has graciously agreed to chair the Nursery / Children's Team for another year. My brain is swimming with new ideas to spark enthusiasm in our children's lives. Look for news of a team meeting in the near future. John Shanks, chair of My Friend's House Council brings his wonderful organization skills to help parents & the staff move forward in the New Year.

Parent's Night Out continues to be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, January 9th 5:00 – 9:30. Please R.S.V.P. by calling the church office or e-mail jmarinus@nwhillsumc.org

Interested in helping us pick the Vacation Bible School program for 2010? We will be hosting a VBS PREVIEW on January 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. There will be many vendors here to give us hands on chance to see their materials. Churches from the Austin and surrounding area have been invited to join us.

Yours in the Joy of our Lord,

Miss Jean

Notes From Beth

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry activities are gearing back up and you are invited to become a part of one of our wonderful ensembles. If you wish to sing, ring, or play an instrument, there is a place for you. Contact Beth in the office to become involved! Make the second decade of 2000 be one that is filled with music!

NORTH HILLS GALLERY

The January show in the Gallery features talented photographers from the congregation! Be sure to check out the wonderful pictures in the exhibit and meet the artists at the reception to be held at 12:30 on Sunday, January 10.





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, January 18, 12:00 p.m.

Publish date: Wednesday, January 27

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

Publish date: Wednesday, February 24

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!