The Herald

May 1, 2015

Sunday Worship

8:50 AM Contemporary Worship with Communion

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

Mission Making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision God's vision for Northwest Hills UMC is that we be the active presence of the Kingdom of God in our community. We will live out that vision by offering the life-changing love of Jesus Christ through energetic outreach, vibrant worship, compassionate service, and intentional faith development.

Embracing the Gracious Gift

In a book entitled *With Open Hands*, theologian Henri Nouwen asserts "The challenge of the Gospel lies precisely in the invitation to accept a gift for which we can give nothing in return. For the gift is the very life-breath of God, the Spirit who is poured out on us through Jesus Christ. This life-breath frees us from fear and gives us new room to live."

Nouwen's words remind us that the Christian faith is founded not upon your action or my action, but upon God's action: God loving us with a love that will not let us go; God choosing to dwell among us in Christ, taking human form; God seeking relationship and reconciliation with all the world; God adopting persons of faith as daughters and sons. Our task is but to receive the gift, to recognize and live in the assurance that all that we have in life- and indeed, all that we are- comes as a gift from God. Once we embrace this gracious gift which we cannot earn and which cannot be repaid, only then are we freed to become gracious givers.

This gift is what we celebrate each year through our observance of Easter. We remind ourselves that it all truly is a gift. Yet the event we observe at Easter is only part of the story. After Jesus' resurrection, He remained and appeared to His disciples a number of times, preparing them for "the rest of the story." And when He ascended, He didn't just leave His disciples on their own to do the best they could. He told them that when the time was right, they would receive a further gift- the gift of His Spirit to be with them, to guide them, and to give them power to accomplish the mission He had for them. Then on Pentecost that gift was given. The gift which, in Nouwen's words, is "…the very life-breath of God, the Spirit who is poured out on us through Jesus Christ. This life breath frees us from fear and gives us new room to live."

No, the story is not over with Easter, for the gift is not complete with the Resurrection. Pentecost is when believers receive the very "life breath of God."

This year Pentecost will be observed on May 24. I urge you to be present in worship in the weeks to come, as we prepare ourselves to receive and embrace that gracious gift- the gift that empowers us to be the Church.

See you in worship!

Charlie

Herald Deadline

Article Deadline: Monday, May 18, 12:00 pm

Please send articles to hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org

Publish date: Wednesday, May 27

Financial Status March 2015

	March		Year-to-date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus carryover	$99,172	$85,348	$293,114	$259,000
Expenses	$78,602	$85,043	$234,153	$261,560
Net Income	$20,570	$305	$58,961	($2,560)

	12/31/14	3/31/15	YTD Paydown
Mortgages	$1,408,038	$1,395,233	$12,805

The budget numbers in this report are from our approved balanced budget that only funds part of our apportionment benevolences. We are $34,719 short of fully funding those benevolences and plan to accomplish that funding with our Advent offering.

Our receipts for March are $13,824 above the budget (thanks to many who pledged contributing almost $11,000 ahead of their scheduled pledges to date) and our expenses are $6,728 below the budget putting us $20,551 above the budget for the month. If we had paid our full apportionments, we would only be $4,125 above the budget for the month.

We paid down our mortgages $12,805 so far this year: $4,586 from our budget and the remainder from contributions to the building fund and from interest saved because of early pay down of the mortgages.

Check the financial report under the members tab on the church web site at http://www.nwhillsumc.org/members.html.

May Birthdays

4 Chris Foreman, Buddy Johnson, Talka Carlisle
5 Miranda Darr, Cassidy Breazeale
6 Solana Campbell, Luke Perkins
7 Doyle Hudgins
9 Tom Baker, John Petrus
10 Benjamin Mathers
11 Brad Wirht, David Jacobson, Glenn Brown, Daphne Einhorn, Reid Cline
12 Katherine Norman
14 Mei Beth Shepherd, Kembra Herrin
15 Gary Trider, David Pound, Jordan D'Acierno, Madison Biggert
17 Shirley Jerkins
18 Connie Shimfessel, Harold Baker
19 Elizabeth Stuckman
20 Yolanda Turk
21 Martha Blomquist, Logan Gephart
22 Kay Lynn Moynihan
23 Ruth Copeland, Clark Johnson, Max Turk
25 George McCoy, Joyce Campbell
27 Sidne Campbell
28 Jenny Bailey, Adam D'Acierno
29 Petra Brock
30 Greg Doolittle, Alyssa Kirkendall

Prayer Corner

Spring has arrived and with it comes the beauty of all the shades of green and wild flowers and sounds of the birds and the glory of Easter! The incredible gift of life and forgiveness and new beginnings! We have no way to comprehend the love of God for us, the gift of eternal life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit within us while we are on earth. The power of Christ dwells within us, transforming us, to live for Him and tell others who He is and how much He loves all of us.

So how do we tap into this life line? We seek Him through the scriptures, through worship, through fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, through reaching out to those we meet each day and extending the love we have been given to share, and we love Him back. Through prayer and relationship, we come to Him with soul and mind, in faith and trust, we listen and wait for direction. We seek to know His plan and desires for our life. The more we seek to know, the more we seek to be in relationship, the more we seek His presence, the greater peace and joy we find in each day. Why? Because with His presence we are equipped to do and be all we are called to be. It is through His transforming power that we are able to love our neighbor and be His hands and feet as we serve and minister to others.

As an update on our commitment to praying on the fourth Friday of each month to cover Austin in Unceasing Prayer for 2015: we now have 100 folks praying in the 48 slots and more have signed up to pray.

Blessings to each of you,
Gail Parsons

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Camp Tejas **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Stretch-N-Grow MFH **9:30 AM** Kinderdance MFH **10:30 AM** Friday Lunch Bunch **10:30 AM** Mommy and Me **1:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 PM** YoungLife	**2** Camp Tejas **7:45 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Church Work Day **8:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:30 AM** EFA French classes **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **10:00 AM** Daniel Evans **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts
3 Camp Tejas **8:50 AM Contemporary Worship** **10:00 AM** Coffee with the Pastors **10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages** **11:15 AM Traditional Worship** **2:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **2:30 PM** Handbells	**4** **9:15 AM** Soccer MFH **11:30 AM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **6:00 PM** Troop 3	**5** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** MFH **9:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:30 AM** MFH Chapel **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry **12:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **1:30 PM** Staff Meeting **4:00 PM** MFH Chapel **6:00 PM** Joyful Praise **6:30 PM** Trustees Committee **7:00 PM** Walk through the Bible **8:00 PM** Cub Scouts	**6** **7:00 AM** UMM Breakfast **9:30 AM** Domino Game **10:00 AM** Yoga MFH **1:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **3:30 PM** After School Ministry **6:00 PM** Carol Glorda **6:30 PM** Missions Committee **6:30 PM** Paul Arismendez **7:00 PM** Troop 3 **7:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **7:30 PM** Sanctuary Choir **8:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**7** **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **3:00 PM** Daniel Evans **6:00 PM** MFH Staff Meeting	**8** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Stretch-N-Grow MFH **9:30 AM** Kinderdance MFH **10:30 AM** Friday Lunch Bunch **10:30 AM** Mommy and Me **1:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**9** Annual Golf Tournament **7:45 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:30 AM** EFA French classes **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Cool Panda Chinese **10:00 AM** Daniel Evans **5:30 PM** Fish Fry
10 **8:50 AM Contemporary Worship** **10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages** **11:15 AM Traditional Worship** **2:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **2:30 PM** Handbells **3:00 PM** Carol Glorda **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts	**11** **9:15 AM** Soccer MFH **11:30 AM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **7:00 PM** Stephen Ministry **7:00 PM** Troop 3	**12** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:30 AM** MFH Chapel **9:30 AM** UMW **10:00 AM** MFH **12:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **1:30 PM** Staff Meeting **4:00 PM** MFH Chapel **6:00 PM** Joyful Praise **7:00 PM** Troop 3 **7:00 PM** Walk through the Bible	**13** **7:00 AM** UMM Breakfast **10:00 AM** Yoga MFH **1:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **3:30 PM** After School Ministry **6:00 PM** Carol Glorda **6:30 PM** Nite Owl Quilters **7:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **7:30 PM** Sanctuary Choir **8:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**14** **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **3:00 PM** Daniel Evans	**15** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Stretch-N-Grow MFH **9:30 AM** Kinderdance MFH **10:30 AM** Friday Lunch Bunch **10:30 AM** Mommy and Me **1:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **6:00 PM** Kathy Rabago recitals	**16** **7:45 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Habitat work day **8:30 AM** EFA French classes **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Cool Panda Chinese **10:00 AM** Daniel Evans **1:30 PM** Smarda recitals **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **5:00 PM** Parents' Night Out
17 **8:50 AM Contemporary Worship** **10:00 AM** Senior Sunday **10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages** **11:15 AM Traditional Worship** **2:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **2:30 PM** Handbells **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts	**18** **9:15 AM** Soccer MFH **11:30 AM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **7:00 PM** Troop 3	**19** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:30 AM** MFH Chapel **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry **12:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **1:30 PM** Staff Meeting **4:00 PM** MFH Chapel **6:00 PM** Joyful Praise **7:00 PM** NWHills UMC Board **7:00 PM** Walk through the Bible	**20** **7:00 AM** UMM Breakfast **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Yoga MFH **1:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **3:30 PM** After School Ministry **6:00 PM** Carol Glorda **6:30 PM** Nite Owl Quilters **7:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **7:30 PM** Sanctuary Choir **8:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**21** **8:00 AM** Murchison Choir **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **3:00 PM** Daniel Evans **7:00 PM** Monthly Prayer Service	**22** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Stretch-N-Grow MFH **9:30 AM** Kinderdance MFH **10:30 AM** Friday Lunch Bunch **10:30 AM** Mommy and Me **11:00 AM** Leaps N Bounds **1:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**23** **7:45 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:30 AM** EFA French classes **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Cool Panda Chinese **10:00 AM** Daniel Evans
24 **8:50 AM Contemporary Worship** **10:00 AM** Confirmand church visit **10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages** **11:15 AM Traditional Worship** **2:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **2:30 PM** Handbells **6:00 PM** International Worship & Dinner	**25** Church Office Closed **11:30 AM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **7:00 PM** Stephen Ministry **7:00 PM** Troop 3	**26** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:30 AM** MFH Chapel **10:00 AM** MFH **12:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Grp **1:30 PM** Staff Meeting **4:00 PM** MFH Chapel **6:00 PM** Joyful Praise **7:00 PM** Troop 3 **7:00 PM** Walk through the Bible	**27** **7:00 AM** UMM Breakfast **10:00 AM** MFH **10:00 AM** Yoga MFH **1:30 PM** Dance rehearsal **3:30 PM** After School Ministry **6:00 PM** Carol Glorda **6:30 PM** Nite Owl Quilters **7:00 PM** Murchison set up **7:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **7:30 PM** Sanctuary Choir **8:30 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group	**28** **7:30 AM** Murchison Awards **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **3:00 PM** Daniel Evans **6:00 PM** Cub Scouts	**29** **7:15 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Stretch-N-Grow MFH **9:30 AM** Kinderdance MFH **10:30 AM** Friday Lunch Bunch **10:30 AM** Mommy and Me **1:00 PM** Emmaus Reunion Group **6:00 PM** MFH Celebration of Children	**30** **7:45 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:00 AM** Emmaus Reunion Group **8:30 AM** EFA French classes **9:00 AM** Carol Glorda **9:00 AM** Cool Panda Chinese **10:00 AM** Daniel Evans
31 **8:50 AM Contemporary Worship** **10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages** **11:15 AM Traditional Worship** **12:15 PM** Reception for Ben & Christina **2:30 PM** Handbells **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **3:00 PM** Cub Scouts **4:00 PM** 5th Sunday Fellowship						

Children's Ministry

Sunday School News: The First Looks preschoolers will be learning lots in May as they join the Happy Helpers Club! At a young age, children start saying, "I help," and it's our responsibility to teach them how to help. God wants them to help others, to think of others before themselves, so let's make sure they know how to do it!

The 1st-5th graders in the 252 program will be discussing honesty- "Tangled: A Lie Will Trip You Up!" As we look at great stories and principles from the Bible, we hope that kids begin to live with honesty and integrity, that what they say will line up with what they do. But we know this is not always easy, so the memory verse for the month can serve as a prayer for our kids when they need God's strength to tell the truth. *Psalm 119:29* says, "Keep me from cheating and telling lies. Be kind and teach me your law."

Vacation Bible Camp: Mark your calendars for June 22-25 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Come join us as kids explore how to put their faith into action. We will need lots of help with setting up, leading a small group, crafts, food, music, and much more! Go to http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/nwhillsumc to register your child or grandchild for this week of adventure. You can also register as a volunteer through the same website. Contact Amanda Ronaldes (aronaldes@nwhillsumc.org) if you have any questions.

Parents Night Out: The last Parent's Night Out for this school year is Saturday, May 16 from 5:00-9:30 pm. We would love all kids ages 1 (must be walking) through 5th grade. We will provide dinner and a night of fun-filled events. Early registration cost is $20 for one child, $25 for two children, and $30 for three children of the same family. Late registration has an additional $5 charge. To receive the early registration cost, please email Amanda Ronaldes (aronaldes@nwhillsumc.org) by noon on Friday, May 15 to reserve a spot. Email early as spots fill up quickly! Tell your friends and family to register for this exciting night!

Also, we are always looking for volunteers to help out with the crafts during PNO. If any youth or adult is interested in helping out, please contact Amanda as well.

North Hills Gallery

North Hills Gallery presents a show by the Creative Arts Society from May 6-31. Join us for a reception on Sunday, May 17 at 12:30 pm.

Memorials

In Memory of Mattie Franke
Sandra Hille

In Memory of Rev. James Harrell
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nana, Jr., Adrienne Harrell, Dean Fleming

Any contribution given in memory or honor of a person will be placed in the NWHUMC Memorial Fund. Please know that the use of these funds will go to benefit the church and congregation. The distribution of funds will be at the discretion of the Memorials Committee.

19th Annual Damron-Davidson Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 9 Lions Golf Course

Women, youth (with accompanying adult), and men, join us for the 19th Annual Damron-Davidson Golf Tournament on May 9. The tournament will be followed by dinner and a dessert auction in the NWHUMC Family Life Center from 5:30-7:00 pm. Tickets for non-players are $10 for adults and $4 ages 12 and under.

Hole and tee sponsorships are available. We also need donations of desserts for the dessert auction following dinner.

Registration and tickets will be available after Sunday morning worship, in the church office, or from any member of the United Methodist Men.

Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for this fun event full of good food and fellowship!

5th Sunday Summer Kickoff

Sunday, May 31, 4:00 pm in the FLC Activity Center

Don't miss our fun summer kickoff ice cream social. Join us as we launch into summer with a huge variety of ice cream (your homemade recipes are welcome too) as well as a delicious array of potluck treats. If you don't have the crank to make ice cream feel free to bring: fruit to serve 4, a homemade finger food dessert, or a couple of ice cream toppings.

There will be prizes for the most creative, best fruit flavor, best nondairy, best without chocolate, best with chocolate, and best made by the youth!

In addition to all that tasty dessert, there will be a video of NWHUMC summer events! Come and talk with those that can help you register for these events and/or accept your volunteer talents.

Contact Mary Frances Markley (512-346-2856, mfmark@swbell.net) for more information. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and feasting!

Receive the Herald via Email

If you would like to receive the *Herald* via email instead of getting a hard copy in the mail, please contact Helen with your email address (345-1743, hnovielli@nwhillsumc.org). Over 250 people currently take advantage of this service and receive the *Herald* in color on the day it is published!

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry has a busy summer planned so get ready to mark your calendars!

May is full of great activities beginning with High School Senior Sunday on May 17 (graduation is right around the corner you know). Sunday, May 24 is the annual International Worship Gathering which is always a huge success. Last year we were joined by Austin area Chinese, Latino, Burmese, African, and Korean churches for an evening of not just international fellowship, but international food as well. Worship is from 6:00-8:00 pm with dinner from 8:00 -10:00.

Wednesday, May 27 is the last day of Afterschool Ministry for the school year. We're wrapping up in grand style with an open house for our youth and their families to celebrate the end of this year, with free food and drinks of course! Youth can sign up for the 2015/16 school year too.

Looking ahead to June, Confirmation Sunday for 6th graders will be June 7, with brunch in the FLC at 10:00 am.

Then June 28-July 2 it's the Youth Summer Mission trip to San Antonio where they'll be working on restoring houses for low income families in the inner city.

As summer heats up, our youth will be doing mission work in downtown Austin on Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 pm-midnight. Other youth ministries from around the metro area also converge making it quite a night!

Continuing their ministerial spirit, the youth will be serving hot dogs to refugee families at Capital Village Apartments in Austin on Sunday, August 9. This is a great opportunity for fellowship with people who are truly struggling.

The Big Finish will come Sunday, August 23 when our youth descend on Hawaiian Falls in Pflugerville from 1:00-5:00 pm. Everyone is invited, so come ready for some serious water park fun!

northwest hills
united methodist church
7050 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Herald

May 1, 2015

A Fond Farewell

Dear Northwest Hills,

I have spent ten wonderful years working with you all and have enjoyed the friends I've made and people I've met. This has been a rewarding job which has seen me through so many different things in my life. You were the first people I met when we moved to Texas in 2004, you saw me through graduate school, and then celebrated the birth of my daughter Ophelia with us.

As she gets ready to go to school in the fall, I find that it is time for me to move on to something new as well. I will be leaving Northwest Hills at the end of May to spend the summer with Ophelia before she starts kindergarten in the fall.

It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I treasure the friendships I've made here. Thank you so much for being such a great part of my life.

With love,
Helen