

Sunday Worship

8:50 AM Contemporary Worship with Communion

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

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

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.

No Jesus?

I expect that you have seen the bumper sticker which reads "No Jesus, No Peace - Know Jesus, Know Peace." Or perhaps some of the others that are particularly present at this time of year: "Keep Christ in Christmas" or "It's Merry CHRISTmas!"

Of course, as Christians, we can relate to the point of these pithy statements. We are familiar with the modern tendency to secularize everything; even sacred holidays (read "holydays"). But for most of us it still is difficult to imagine Christmas without Christ. It is difficult to imagine a holiday season in which we didn't experience and share the joy of Jesus' birth. Yet, if we allow ourselves a moment to stop and think about it, in many ways that is the prospect that far too many of our neighbors and acquaintances face at this time of year.

Our tendency automatically is to assume that all of our friends and neighbors are Christians and that they already are connected with a family of faith. But statistics and surveys reveal that just isn't the case. A lot of the people we know, in reality, have little or no faith background. And of those who do, many are not active in their faith. Such people often are referred to as "nominal" Christians. They may have been active in a church at one time in their life, but are no longer. To many of them, Jesus is not a present and active part of their life. They may experience occasional "stirrings" to return to an active life of faith, but many resist those impulses because of a mistaken notion that, since they have turned their back on God, He has turned His back on them. So they continue through their life with an unfulfilled longing to return to the Lord, allowing their false notion of God's abandonment of them to keep them from responding to His stirrings. The number of such people is staggering. In fact, the situation I've described is so prevalent that I safely can say that you personally know several people for whom that is true.

For them, Christmas truly is lacking Christ. They may know the story of Jesus' birth. They may even acknowledge the true "reason for the season." But they lack the joy of having the Living Christ in their Christmas. They lack the joy, love, peace,

and hope that His active presence will produce in their life. So for them Christmas is so much less than it could be, and the promise of the season winds up being empty and disappointing.

The thing is: many such people just need a little encouragement to help them to respond to those "stirrings" that occur from time to time. They just may need an invitation to help them to overcome their own feelings of ambivalence toward their faith. And that is where we can do something to help them!

This is the perfect time of year to encourage them to come with you to church. People who don't ordinarily attend church are more willing to go at this time of year than any other. And by far the most effective means of encouraging people to attend is to invite them.

I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you to worship during this Season of Advent. The Children's Pageant on December 13, and the Choir Christmas Cantata on December 18 would be especially good times to do that. Both offerings will be presented in both times of worship. And, of course, Christmas Eve would be an especially great time to invite someone! Again this year we will be having three times of Christmas Eve candlelight worship (5, 7, and 9 pm).

Sometimes it may take more than one invitation to help them know that you are serious in wanting them to come. So don't give up if they don't respond positively right away. They need to know that they not only are welcome but wanted here because they not only are welcome, but they are wanted by the Lord.

Be His instrument of blessing this year for a friend or neighbor who otherwise may not experience the fuller joy of Christmas. Invite them!

May the Lord bless you and fill you with joy this special season.

In Christ's love,

Financial Status October 2015

	Au	gust	Year-to-date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Receipts plus	\$79,870	\$85,275	\$861,898	\$864,529	
Expenses	\$83,306	\$84,707	\$808,882	\$864,948	
Net Income	(\$3,436)	\$568	\$53,017	(\$419)	
	12/31/14	10/31/15	YTD		
			Paydown		
Mortgages	\$1,408,038	\$1,355,694	\$52,344	•	

The budget numbers in this report reflect the revision we made to our 2015 budget in July. After that revision, we still need \$11,055 to fully pay our apportionments and we plan to fund our full apportionments with our Advent offering.

Our receipts for the year to date are \$2,631 below the budget and our year to date expenses are \$56,066 below the budget putting us \$53,435 above the budget for the year.

We paid down our mortgages \$52,344 so far this year, \$43,929 from our budget and the remainder from contributions to the building fund and from interest saved because of early paydown of the mortgages.

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



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year our special Christmas Offering will go to support the benevolence portion of our "Apportionments." Our apportioned giving through the United Methodist Church enables us to participate in so many more ministries around the world than we could as an individual church. Through our Apportionments, we are able to support missionaries, provide Bibles, feed children, help refugees, educate young adults, and truly be Christ's presence "to the ends of the earth."

Please consider giving a gift that will make a difference in the lives of people all around the world. Any excess received will go to support students at the Lydia Patterson Institute, a United Methodist supported school in El Paso, which provides education for those who otherwise would not receive one.

- 3 Bonner Landrum
- 4 Pat Brabham
- 5 May Lang
- 6 Terri Loeffler
- 7 Susan Cardwell, Greg Gitcho
- 8 Susan Hammond, Pat Markley, Jr.
- 9 Marty Donley, Layden Louderback
- Jack Collins, Kellie Ghormley,Rosalind Johnson, Pam Jones, Tanda Rasco
- 11 Steve Brown, Daniel Dodson, Mary Nell Hall, Cathie Trider
- 12 Alan Hansford, Larry Stephens
- 13 Scott Arnold, Diane Coleman, Bess Wirht
- 15 Claudia Sydney
- 16 Michelle McPherson
- 18 Clyde Barre, Jacqueline Hello, Jim Landrum
- 19 Elizabeth Gunter, Antonio Lopez
- 20 Bev Baker, Leanna Bergschneider, Madeline Henners, Maxine Zeigler
- 21 Jim Blacksmith, Steve Garza, Emily Norman
- 23 Will Cain III, Shirley Irvin, Matt Painter, Gary Payne
- 24 Kendall Montgomery, Chris Painter
- 26 Emma Garza, Steven Hemmeline, Judy Johnson
- 28 Willena Bedoya
- 29 Kelsey Hansford
- 30 Kevin Brown, Caitlin Gardner, Nicholas Gitcho, Audrey Loeffler, Megan Shepherd
- 31 Joan Allen

North Hills Gallery

North Hills Gallery welcomes the Capitol Art Society presenting "Season's Jewels" featuring little jewels of art for holiday giving from December 2 through January 3.

A reception will be held on Sunday, December 6 (12:15-1:15 pm).

Gallery Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 AM - 5 PM

Friday: 10 AM - Noon

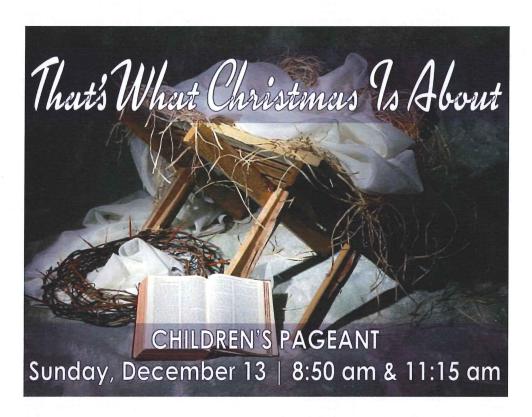
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

For more info, please call 512-345-4546.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Decen	:	1 1. Title AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:30 AM FH Chapel 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00 PM Emmaus Reunion Grp 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Lyndi Reed Workout Bible Study 4:00 PM MFH Chapel 6:00 PM Joyful Praise 6:00 PM NWAYBA Basketbal 6:30 PM Trustees Committee 7:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Walk through the Bible	2 7:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:15 AM MFH Whiter Wonderland Rehearsals 9:30 AM Domino Game 1:00 PM Heather Taylor 3:30 PM After School Program 6:00 PM Carol Giorda 6:00 PM Carol Giorda 6:00 PM Missions Committee meeting 6:00 PM NWAYBA Basketball 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM Troop 3 7:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	3 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:15 AM MFH Winter Wonderhand Rehearsals 9:30 AM Yoga MFH 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM MFH Staff Meeting	4 7:15 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:00 AM Carol Giorda 9:00 AM Stretch-N-Grow MFH 9:30 AM Kinderdance MFH 10:30 AM DE - Mommy and Me 10:30 AM DE - Navigators Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	5 7:45 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:30 AM EFA French Classes 9:00 AM Cool Panda Chinese 9:00 AM NWAYBA Basketball 9:30 AM DE Youth Chor Concert 12:00 PM Poinsetta arranging 4:00 PM Gingerbread House Party
6 7:45 AM Praise Band Set-up 8:50 AM Contemporary Worship 10:00 AM Coffee with the Pastors 10:01 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:11 AM A Closer Look 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 12:15 PM Gallery Reception 2:00 PM Cub Sco	7 8:00 AM NWHUMC Resource Team 9:15 AM Soccer MFH 11:30 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 7:00 PM Troop 3	8 7:15 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:00 AM UMW Annual Staff Party 9:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:15 AM MFH Whter Wonderland Rehearsals 9:30 AM MFH Chapel 12:00 PM Emmaus Reunion Grp 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Lyndi Reed Workout Bible Study 4:00 PM MFH Chapel 6:00 PM Joyful Praise 6:00 PM Joyful Praise 6:00 PM NWAYBA Basketbal 7:00 PM Handbel Practice 7:00 PM Troop 3 7:00 PM Wak through the Bible	9 7:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM DE - Chiese Exercise Class 9:15 AM MFH Winter Wonderland Rehearsals 1:00 PM Heather Taylor 3:30 PM After School Program 6:00 PM Carol Glorda 6:00 PM NWAYBA Basketbal 6:30 PM Nike Owl Quiters 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	10 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:00 AM MFH Winter Wonderland 9:30 AM Yoga MFH	11 7:15 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:00 AM Carol Giorda 9:00 AM Stretch-N-Grow MFH 9:30 AM Kinderdance MFH 10:30 AM DE - Mommy and Me 10:30 AM DE - Navigators Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 6:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 6:00 AM UMM/BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST 7:30 AM Emmaus Team Meeting 7:45 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 AM EFA French Classes 9:00 AM Carol Giorda 9:00 AM Cool Panda Chinese 10:00 AM Children's Christmas Pageant rehearsal 10:00 AM NWAYBA Basketball
13 Childrens' Pageant 7:45 AM Prake Band Set-up 8:50 AM Contemporary Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 3:30 PM Youth Gathering		15	16 7:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 1:00 PM Heather Taylor 3:30 PM After School Program 6:00 PM Carol Glorda 6:00 PM NWAYBA Basketball 6:30 PM Nite Owl Quiters 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	17 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:30 AM MFH Holidays Around the World 9:30 AM Yoga MFH 3:30 PM MFH Shining Stars Class 5:45 PM Balcones Towers HOA Board Meeting 6:00 PM Ladles Night 7:00 PM Third Thursday Praise & Prayer Service	18 7:15 AM Emmaus Reunbon Group 9:00 AM Carol Glorda 9:00 AM Stretch-N-Grow MFH 9:30 AM Kinderdance MFH 10:30 AM DE - Mommy and Me 10:30 AM DE - Navigators Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM Emmaus Reunbon Group 7:00 PM Youth Lock-In	19 7:45 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 AM EFA French Projects Presentation 9:00 AM Cantata Practice 9:00 AM Carlo Giorda 9:00 AM Cool Panda Chinese 1:30 PM Christine Smarda Rectal 5:00 PM Parents' Night Out
20 Cantata 7:45 AM Prase Band Set-up 8:50 AM Contemporary Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 3:30 PM Youth Gathering	21 8:00 AM NWHUMC Resource Team 9:15 AM Soccer MFH 11:30 AM Emmaus Reunion Group	22 7:15 AM Emmaus Reunion Group	7:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM DE - Chhese Exercise Class 1:00 PM Heather Taylor 3:30 PM After School Program 6:00 PM Carol Glorda 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	24 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:30 AM Yoga MFH 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	Group 9:00 AM Carol Giorda	26 7:45 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:00 AM Emmaus Reunion Group 9:00 AM Carol Giorda
27 7:45 AM Praise Band Set-up 8:50 AM Contemporary Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 3:30 PM Youth Gathering	Resource Team 9:15 AM Soccer MFH 11:30 AM Emmaus Reunion Group	Group 9:30 AM MFH Chapel 12:00 PM Emmaus Reunion Grp 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Lyndi Reed Workout Bible Study 4:00 PM MFH Chapel	30 7:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 1:00 PM Heather Taylor 3:30 PM After School Program 6:00 PM Carol Giorda 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group 8:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	31 9:00 AM DE - Chinese Exercise Class 9:30 AM Yoga MFH 11:00 PM New Year's Eve Worship	March May March May Octobe It Was A G	Augusi prils eptember December reat Year!

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .











SO YOU WON'T MISS ANY OF THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!!



CUB SCOUT PACK 2 SERVICE PROJECT

Please join Cub Scouts Pack 2 on Sunday, December 6 as we collect items for the **AUSTIN FREE STORE**, a Capital District Ministry of the United Methodist Church. This is our Cub Scouts service project for the Bear rank. NWHUMC is our charter organization, and we very much appreciate the support the church has provided for us over the years. Our web site is: http://pack2austin.com/home

WHO AND WHAT IS AUSTIN FREE STORE?

MISSION: We believe that in God's world there is enough for all people, and extend that abundance by freely giving clothing and household goods to all who come through the FreeStore doors. Through this tangible grace, we affirm the self-worth of every person by creating opportunities for all people to live in community with one another.

<u>METHOD</u>: When our shop is open, all are welcome. "Members" will be enrolled and with guidelines based on family size, every item is freely offered. These "shop-ortunities" empower by giving the freedom to choose. Our model also encourages members to participate by either donating items back to the FreeStore or by volunteering in one of the many roles needed to extend the FreeStore experience to others.

Coffee is our most important day-to-day expense because we aren't just in the business of giving stuff away. We're building and building up the community. We linger near the coffee pot to listen and be heard, sometimes sharing prayers and songs and always extending warm hospitality and the chance to connect with other people and with God.

<u>OUTCOMES</u>: We believe the FreeStore has the power to change the world--or at least our corner of it! By intentionally gathering people who need and people who need to give, we are creating unique opportunities for capacity and community building. When we expand opportunity for people and their families, we foster an opportunity for deep change.

<u>VITAL NEEDS</u> (new & gently used items please):

Toiletries

Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Soap
Razors/Shaving Cream
Lotion
Shampoo/Conditioner
Combs/Hair Brushes
Feminine Hygiene Products
Depends/Poise Pads

Household Items

Perfume/Cologne

Blankets
Towels/Washcloths
Pillows
Small Appliances (toasters, irons, etc.)
Microwaves
Televisions
Rugs
Shower Curtains/Hooks
Curtains
Dishes
Silverware
Pots and Pans

Clothing

Men's Clothing
Women's Clothing
Children's Clothing
Infant/Toddler Clothing
Shoes
New Undergarments







"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!" During the month of Northwest Hills December. UMC Music Ministry will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with wonderful Christmas offerings of praise! On December 6, the Ring of

Faith will be joyfully ringing Christmas carols for the 11:15am worship service. On December 13 during both times of worship, the children will present a Christmas pageant titled "That's What Christmas Is About" with drama and music that you won't want to miss. December 20 during both times of worship, the Chancel Choir, narrators, and a youth string ensemble will share "Joy to the World," a classic Christmas cantata with music from Handel's Messiah, Vivaldi's Gloria, Britten's Ceremony of Carols, and more Christmas favorites. Our Christmas Eve services will also be filled with beautiful music as we remember the night of Christ's birth. This December, "O come, let us adore Him" and celebrate the birth of our Savior together!

For more info on all of Northwest Hills UMC many musical activities, please contact Sonja Roebuck at sprmusic@nwhillsumc.org.



Parent's Night Out Saturday, Dec. 12 (5-9:30 pm)

We welcome ALL kids age 1 (must be walking) through 5th grade. We will provide a pizza dinner and a night full of fun crafts and events!

Early registration: \$20 for one child, \$25 for two children, and \$30 for three children of the same family.



E-mail Amanda Ronaldes (aronaldes@nwhillsumc.org) to reserve your spot, as they are limited and fill up quickly. Tell all of your friends & family to register for this exciting night!

If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Amanda to let her know.



STEPHEN MINISTRY BLESSINGS

When Stephen Ministers were asked about the blessings they have received from being a part of the Stephen Ministry, here are some of their responses:

... Christ gave me the heart for other people; Stephen Ministry gave me the skills.

... The training has unlocked a sensitive, feeling part of me that I was unaware of before the training.

... I feel so connected and bonded to the other Stephen Ministers.

... Stephen Ministry has enhanced every relationship I have, and I now relate better to family, friends, and neighbors.

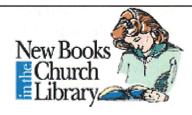
... The blessings I receive from being a caregiver are immeasurable.

... I now live a more Christ-centered life.

... I feel that Stephen Ministry is discipleship in action.

... I cannot imagine my life without Stephen Ministry!

A new class will start in January. If you would like to be a part of this class, contact the church office, any Stephen Minister, or Kathy Bouldin (512-345-5967) for more information.



The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies. This book was inspired by the Kendrick Brothers' new movie, War Room, and is designed to help anyone learn how to become a powerful person of prayer. It begins with prayer's core purpose, its biblical design, and its impact throughout history. Readers will be guided scripturally through the fundamentals of how effective prayer works, inspired towards a closer, more intimate relationship with God and shown how to develop specific prayer strategies for each area of life. If you want to experience the joy of mightily answered prayer, then it's time to engage with God at another level.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 1, 2015

Prayer Corner

Although it is difficult to believe, almost a year has gone by since we began our participation in the "Unceasing Prayer" city-wide prayer vigil. I hope you have been as blessed through this opportunity for prayer as I have. Call me crazy, but I signed up for 3:00 am! And I am glad I did! It has been such a special time. At that time of the morning, the world seems so quiet and it is much easier for me to concentrate. Initially, I wondered if I would have a difficult time staying awake, but so far that has not been an issue. In fact, the thirty minute period seems to go by much faster than I anticipated.

Now, as 2015 winds down, it is not too early to be looking forward to next year! As a church we recently committed to pray for our city for another year. So I ask that you give consideration to whether you will be willing and able to continue in this ministry for 2016.

Please think AND PRAY about it, and let me know of your intent.

Again, thank you so much for your dedication to this ministry.

Clarke



THE LIGHT

THAT LEADS US HOME

- 11-29 Hope It's More Than A Wonderful Life
- 12-06 Peace Beyond A Christmas Carol
- 12-13 Joy The Miracle on 3:16th Street

Children's Christmas Pageant

- 12-20 Love I'm Dreaming of A Bright Christmas
 - Choir Cantata A Christmas Classic Collage
- 12-24 The Light That Leads Us Home
- 12-27 How Can I Prepare For My Best New Year Ever?

There are many traditions and stories that we enjoy at Christmas, each with its own bit of light to shine on our path. Many are endearing and heartwarming, conveying beautiful truths about family, friendship, and generosity. Yet they all have a limit to their ability to provide real guidance to our lives. Join us this Advent as we explore the Ultimate Light which can guide us to safety, peace, harmony in relationships, and a life that lasts forever. Join us as we follow **The Light That Leads Us Home**.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

To help us accurately process your order, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Phone #:		l would.	like to orde				. 1.	
If you would lil		I would like to order			poins	poinsettias at \$12.00 each.		
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Please make checks out to <u>Northwest Hills UMC</u> and write "<u>Poinsettia</u>" on the memo line. Place this order form with your check in the offering plate, or turn in to the church office.



2015 Advent Candle Lighting and Scripture Reading

E	8:50 Worship		11:15 Worship			
	11/29	Mark Bond	The Hello family Joe, Marcy, Jacqueline & Salem			
	12/6	The McCarville family Kevin, Gina & Dylan	Justin Bauer & Lauren Baxter			
	12/13	The Lumadue family Kelsie & Kenny	The Norman family Michael, Alison, Jeffrey, Benjamin & Katherine			
	12/20	The Lauderback family Dustin, Renee & Layden	The Norman family Kyle, Abigail & Emily			



Christmas Poinsettias 2015



Each year during the Christmas season we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettia plants donated by *you*, our church family. You may order one or more poinsettias and dedicate them in memory or in honor of a loved one. The list of donors and dedications will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

You may take your poinsettia home with you following any Christmas Eve service.

Cost of each plant: \$12.00

Help the NWHUMC Youth! For every plant sold this year, \$1.50 will be donated to support Youth Missions.

Please complete the order form on the back and return it with your check.