



# CONNECTIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC

March 2015

REACHING... NURTURING... TRANSFORMING...

## Western Hills Youth Proudly Presents Our 8th Annual Mystery Dinner Theater



*Guests are celebrating a scrumptious, oceanfront luau in picturesque Kona, Hawaii! All week they've explored the amazing island while attending relationship building workshops. But the evening unravels when secret identities, shocking lies, and regretful pasts lead to kidnapping, threats and thievery. Will you be the one to discover the villain and bring resolution? Or will catastrophe and chaos rule the night?*

If you have been a guest at our previous mystery dinner theaters, then you know what a wonderful time it is. If not, just ask someone who has, and they will tell you to expect a night of fun, good food, laughter and fellowship; not to mention the chance to win one of dozens of awesome prizes from area restaurants and businesses. This year's production promises to be quite entertaining. The audience will not only be working to solve the crime, but there will also be games and challenges throughout the night.

Our dinner this year is again being catered by Fernando Gonzalez. The menu will include appetizers, teriyaki kabobs, Hawaiian BBQ chicken with rice, and dessert. Your meal will be served by our youth.

The dates for our show this year are Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18. Doors will open and appetizers served at 5:45 p.m. The show will begin promptly at 6:30. **Tickets will be on sale starting March 15th.** The cost is \$25.00 per person. Free childcare will be provided for ages 10 and under, including a pizza dinner. You may purchase an entire table (8 people) for \$200.00, which will guarantee preferred seating. Or, for front-row seating, personalized service and lots of extra goodies, you may purchase a VIP table (8 people) for \$300.00. There are only four VIP tables available each night of the performance, so be sure to get yours first.

This is our only fundraiser this year. The proceeds from our mystery dinner theater will go toward our summer work camp at Sacramento as well as a new sound system for the camp. Please support our efforts by purchasing tickets for yourself, as well as spreading the word to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Everyone enjoys dinner and a show, and this is an awesome way to introduce people to our church. Last year's show sold out completely, so be sure to get your tickets early. If you have any questions, please contact Mitzi Underwood at 584-2133.

**If you're a fan of food, fun and mystery, then don't miss the chance to be a part of the action!**





*Reaching... Nurturing... Transforming*

# OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

Our mission is to reach out with the love of God to those beyond our church, to nurture our church body in the Christian faith and life, helping all to be transformed participants in the mission of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*And pray in the Spirit in all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*  
*Ephesians 6:18 TNIV*

### NEED PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request or would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain, email [ZDMFHM@aol.com](mailto:ZDMFHM@aol.com) or call 915.581.3051.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan the QR code to be taken to our electronic giving website.



## WITH OUR PRAYERS

### SYMPATHY

**Family & Friends of Blanche Brooks,**  
 wife of former WH pastor, Robert Brooks

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

**Nancy Rewis,** surgery & healing  
**Steve Putnicki,** healing  
**Dorothy Wood,** health concerns  
**Marie Rocheleau,** healing  
**Sharley Randall,** health concerns  
**Joyce Cunningham,** health concerns  
**Ann Rothman,** health concerns  
**Gylene Bostick,** health concerns

### THE WORLD

People in the city of Juarez

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

\***Kieran Hodges,** health concerns  
 \* **Perlinda Martinez,** health concerns  
 \* **Marshall Richards,** brother of Pat Phillips, health concerns,  
**Scott & Amanda Fox,** son & daughter-in-law of Debbie & Joe Evenstad  
**Marilyn Adams,** mother of Susan Behrendsen, health concerns  
**Bill Jones,** continued healing  
**Raquel Cervanti,** surgery & healing  
**Karin Kratz,** sister of Vin Richards, healing  
**Dorris Causey,** friend of Linda McKnight

**Brian,** grandson of Tootie Fields, surgery

### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

\***Susan York,** friend of Kathy Hernandez  
 \***Scott Heflinger,** godfather of Charles Spencer  
 \***Craig Shepard**  
 \***Shaun Ritchie,** aunt of Brianne Freeman  
**Karen Rudinger**  
**Libby Baldwin,** friend of Roberta Harrison  
**James Denson**  
**Grace Gan**  
**Annette Ophang,** sister-in-law of Ginny Moe  
**Marilyn Shreibel,** friend of Janis Hillis  
**Sherry Stiles,** friend of Ruth Salinas  
**Robert Arrieta,** friend of Ruth Salinas  
**Fernando Beltran**  
**Barbara Barnhill**  
**Bill Shaffer,** cousin of LaVonne McMillan  
**Juan Carlos Morgades**  
**Bill Bostick**  
**Bill Kipp**

*\* indicates a new prayer request this week.  
 \*prayers are listed for 3 weeks,  
 cancer concerns for 4 months, unless  
 otherwise specified.*

## WITH OUR PRESENCE

<b>February 1, 2015</b>	<b>February 15, 2015</b>
Worship ..... 223	Worship ..... 225
Sunday School ..... 114	Sunday School ..... 107
The Ridge ..... 78	The Ridge ..... n/a
Sidewalk Sunday School ..... n/a	Sidewalk Sunday School ..... 43
<b>February 8, 2015</b>	<b>February 22, 2015</b>
Worship ..... 245	Worship ..... 234
Sunday School ..... 113	Sunday School ..... 118
The Ridge ..... 118	The Ridge ..... 104
Sidewalk Sunday School ..... 40	Sidewalk Sunday School ..... 20

## WITH OUR GIFTS

January 2015 Revenue: \$59,964.58      YTD Revenue: \$59,964.58  
 January 2015 Expenses: \$59,880.34      YTD Expenses: \$59,880.34

2015 Revenue Budget YTD: \$58,994.85  
 2015 Expense Budget YTD: \$64,622.92

# SAVE THE DATE



**Vacation Bible School**  
June 22—26, 2015  
**REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1**

## MISSED A SERMON?



Sermons from each Sunday  
are posted on our website  
the following week.

[www.westernhillsep.org/  
sermon-podcasts/](http://www.westernhillsep.org/sermon-podcasts/)

## In Lieu of Lilies

# \$10

All monies collected for  
In Lieu of Lilies will go to  
support Change The  
World 2015 projects.



### In Lieu of Lilies Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity:

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total at \$10.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Paid

Proceeds will benefit Change The World 2015

*Return forms & payment to church office.*

# Answered Prayer

Has God answered a prayer for you? If so, place a flower on the large cross in the Narthex. Let's watch the cross bloom as God works in our lives this Lent.



## Check out our app!

### Available for Apple & Android



## servants needed

We currently need help with:

### *greeters for all worship services*

See Pastor Amy if you are interested in serving.



FEB. 28  
6:00PM  
SFLC

### Potluck

BRING THE FAMILY  
YOUR FAVORITE GAME  
& FOOD TO SHARE



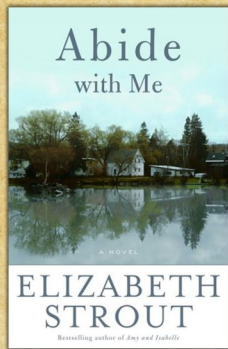
Faith, Fiction, & Fellowship

## Page Turners

March 12  
7pm - 8:30pm  
John Wesley Rm

Abide With Me  
Elizabeth Strout

Even if you don't finish the book, join us for lively discussion & bring a friend. Refreshments Provided



## BE IN PRAYER

### Nicaragua 2015 Mission Trip

March 7-13, 2015

Become a prayer partner for those going on the upcoming mission trip to Nicaragua.

### SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX



### Saturday, March 21st

### United Methodist Women will host Church Women United

Western Hills UMC - Registration Begins at 9:30am

Program: Young El Paso Singers (Directed by Dr. Cindy Jay)



# NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

February's Mission Project was exciting as the children made Valentines and Thank You cards to send to troops that are currently deployed. We love and support our military and are so thankful for all that they do. We also want to thank those in the congregation who joined the children in sending a note of encouragement. A very special thank you to Major Bryan Harmon who spoke to the children about the military and took time to answer their MANY questions! Please continue to pray for those troops that are not home yet and for their families.

God Bless!

Colleen McGuire



**CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30am

Nursery (Infant - 3 years) -- C7

PreK/Kinder -- C8

1st - 2nd Grade -- B7

3rd - 4th Grade -- B6

5th - 6th Grade -- B1

Youth (7th-12 Grade) -- C11



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES MISSION STATEMENT  
**TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL  
 OUR HEART, WITH ALL OUR SOUL, WITH ALL  
 OUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL OUR MIND.**



# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

In 2009, as the beginning seeds of The Ridge were being planted, I read a book called Church Unique by Will Mancini. In it the author suggests creating a vision after watching and discerning what God is doing within your congregation, as opposed to creating your own vision within a closet with no consideration of what God is already doing within and through your community of faith. So, in 2013 a group of Ridge folks began reading and working the process of Church Unique. We asked many questions of our church, our community, and our leadership to discern The Ridge's "Kingdom Concept," or sweet spot. From there we discussed, discerned, prayed, and filtered our findings until we arrived at the direction we believe God is taking The Ridge. Below is the fruit of these labors, and our leadership is currently in the process of sharing this with our congregation. Please continue to pray for your daughter congregation for God's Kingdom business to be first and foremost in our lives and church! — Pastor Bill Case

*And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

**Galatians 4:3-7 (NLT)**

*That is the way it is with us: When we were minors, we were just like slaves ordered around by simple instructions (the tutors and administrators of this world), with no say in the conduct of our own lives.*

*But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.*

**Galatians 4:3-7 (MSG)**

## Missional Mandate

As a family in Jesus Christ we are loving God, serving others, and changing lives.

## Missional Motives

**Grace**- God loves us unconditionally in Jesus Christ, so we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and others as Christ loves us.

**Family**- In Jesus Christ God calls us children, so we all belong to the family of God. We also know that the home, no matter its makeup, is where the Christ life is lived and learned on a daily basis.

**Community**- Because our faith family loves the community in which we live and God calls us into this community, we reach out and invest in the lives and activities of our surrounding neighbors.

**Acceptance**- God accepts and welcomes us before we realize it, so we offer an honest genuine welcome to all without judgment.

**Discipleship**- We are called to help all in our family mature in their relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

**Sharing Christ**- Believing in and following the great commission and the great commandment, we live so others might see Jesus Christ through our words and deeds.

**Growth**- Believing in the great commission to expand the family of God in Jesus name, we invite people into our lives and into the life of our church family.

## Missional Marks

**People on an intentional path of growth to a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ through:**

**Prayers**- conversing with and depending upon God daily for ourselves, others, and The Ridge.

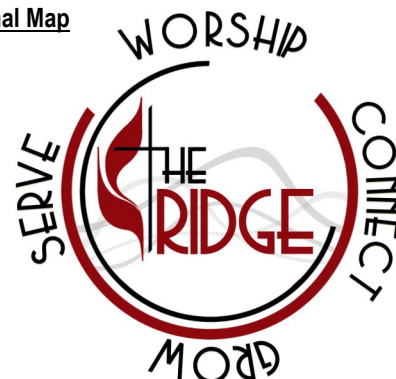
**Presence**- Abiding with God and others on a weekly basis through worship & small group.

**Gifts**- Giving 10% of our income to God through The Ridge.

**Service**- Serving God and others with our lives both inside & outside The Ridge.

**Witness**- Sharing how God is at work in our lives and inviting people who are not yet in a relationship with Jesus Christ or a faith community to join us on our journey.

## Missional Map



COMMON LIFE. EPIC GRACE.

## Western Hills Staff

### Ministers

All Members

### Rev. Robert Pelfrey

Senior Pastor

### Rev. Amy Mercer

Mission & Discipleship

### Rev. Bill Case

The Ridge

### Margaret Haddad

Director of Music Ministries

### Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth Ministries

### Laurie McBride

Business/Facilities Manager

### Colleen McGuire

Director of Children's Ministries

### Suzy Snow

Administrative Assistant

### Mindy Archey

Publications

### Patricia Aguirre

Day School, MDO



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(915) 833-2965

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(915) 584-6642

# YOU ARE INVITED



## Annual LADIES TEA

March 28  
3pm - 5pm

\* FOOD \* FELLOWSHIP \*  
\* SILENT AUCTION \*

Western Hills UMC  
Stewart Family Life Center

Donations will benefit the  
Center Against Sexual  
and Family  
Violence.

## RSVP *WHUMC Office: 584.2133*

## WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG



### Sunday Mornings at WHUMC

Traditional Worship

8:00a & 11:00a

Contemporary Worship

9:30a

Sunday School

9:30a — All Ages

11:00a — Adult