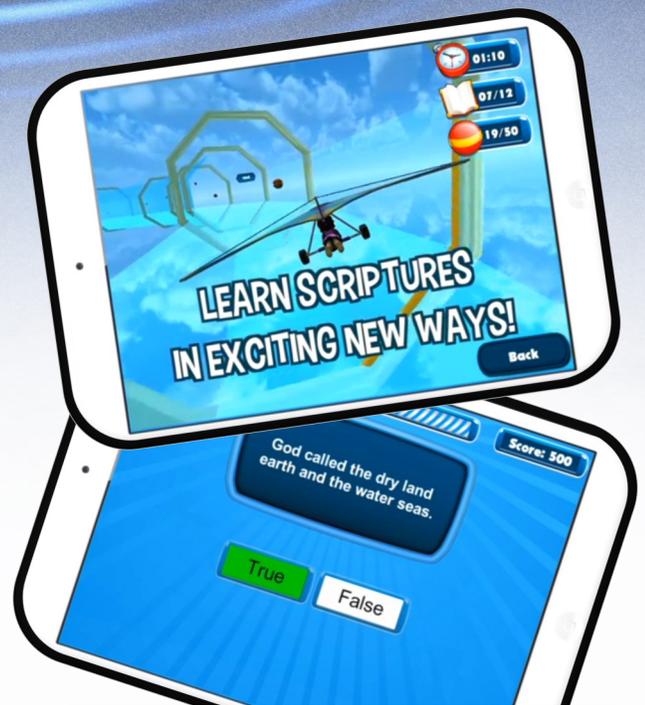


September 2015

CONNECTIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS

Reaching... Nurturing... Transforming...



Welcome to Deep Blue Kids! I'm Kat, and these are my friends, Asia and Edgar. We're on a Deep Blue adventure through the Bible. You can find us in the award-winning Deep Blue Kids Bible—and now in the Deep Blue curriculum, a new awe-inspiring resource for children includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games—all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today!

On Sunday, September 6, our children's Sunday school classes will begin this new and exciting curriculum! PreK—2nd grade will meet in Rm. B7 and 3rd—6th grade in Rm. B6, and of course a nursery is available for infants—3yrs in Rm. C7.

Part of what is exciting about our new Deep Blue curriculum is the Deep Blue Adventures App that can be downloaded for free in your app store. With the app your children (and you) can customize avatars, go on mini-quests, collect scriptures, and play games. This is such a great way to continue talking about what your child learned in Sunday school all through out the week. Make sure to check it out!





NEED PRAYER?

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

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.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

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



Reaching... Nurturing... Transforming

OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

WITH OUR PRAYERS

SYMPATHY

Family & Friends of Kinu Bue
Richard Kusserow,
in the loss of his father
LaVonne McMillan, in the loss of her
cousin, James Denson

Mike Trominski, health concerns
Wallace Toothman, father of Kathy
Wilson, health concerns
Sharon Marr, health concerns
Martha Morgades

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

*Vicki Hamilton, health concerns
Marietta Ervin, health concerns
MaryAnn Dodson, health concerns
Ann Rothman, health concerns
Bill & Paddy Littlefield
Elsa Jernigan
Arturo Cerda, health concerns
Gylene Bostick, health concerns
Joyce Cunningham

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

*Duane Coleman
Barbara Barnhill
Linda Snow, cousin of Rick Snow
Juan Morgades
Kim Hamilton, cousin of Rick Snow
Joan Gonter, friend of Gwen Keefer
George Norris
Barbara, mother of Pam Hooten
Jan Johnson, aunt of Bobbi Rettig
Grace Gan
Bill Bostick
Bill Kipp

THE WORLD

Bangkok bombing victims
People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Gayle Petersen, mother of Laura
Ferrell, heart surgery
Katherine Van Nostrand,
health concerns

** indicates a new prayer request
this week.*

**prayers are listed for 3 weeks,
cancer concerns for 2 months,
unless otherwise specified.*

WITH OUR PRESENCE

August 2, 2015
Worship..... 211
Sunday School 69
The Ridge..... 91

August 16, 2015
Worship..... 225
Sunday School 100
The Ridge..... 84

August 9, 2015
Worship..... 254
Sunday School 82
The Ridge..... 98

August 23, 2015
Worship..... 227
Sunday School 101
The Ridge..... 91

WITH OUR GIFTS

July 2015 Revenue: \$50,731.29
June 2015 Expenses: \$69,675.09

YTD Revenue: \$400,953.12
YTD Expenses: \$434,851.12

2015 Revenue Budget YTD: \$417,683.42
2015 Expense Budget YTD: \$457,530.25

*If you would like further detail,
please call Laurie in the church
office. (584.2133)*

Fall Bazaar

Fall Bazaar News

We are in need of church wide volunteers. Please call Nancy Bloch, 877-1534

We will have a church wide Bake Sale. Baked goods can be brought to the gym on Friday, Oct. 9.

Feel free to put a price on your items. We will continue to have a used

Book Sale and Silent Auction. Please call Gwen Keefer, 581-2117. All proceeds from the bazaar go to missions of United Methodist Church.



SERMON SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13



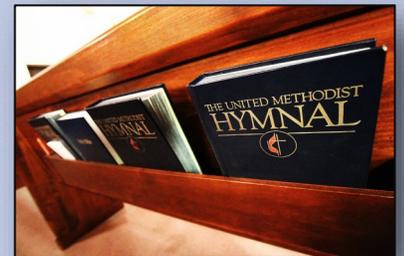
MISSED A SERMON?

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

www.westernhillsep.org/sermon-podcasts/

HYMNS OF "SOCIAL HOLINESS"

We are called individually to be holy. We are also called, as a people of God, to be collectively holy. In our current hymnal there is an entire section devoted to "social holiness". Most of these hymns are set to more traditional tunes you are probably familiar with but others are relatively new, that is, written in the early to mid 20th century. The lyrics of many of these also reflect our changing society and our response to it as holy people.



During the next several weeks while Robert's sermons will be emphasizing our role as Christians in a societal world, our hymns will also call us to "social holiness".

These hymns begin on page 425 of our hymnal and continue through page 447. In the next few weeks, when you have a spare moment, turn to these pages and read the texts these hymns. You may be surprised at how poignant and apropos they are for our world today.

Joyfully, Margaret

WESTERN HILLS UMC GARAGE SALE

aka Grandma's Attic

Friday, March 11 & Saturday, March 12

Start saving your donation items/treasures now!

Tomorrow morning,
when you look in
your bathroom
mirror, ask yourself
"what does a disciple
look like?"
Your children have
headed back to
school to learn and grow.....
How about you?



AN INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP **DISCIPLE**

As a participant you will be strengthened
in your faith, grow through fellowship
and worship, and be guided into
places of service and ministry.
All this through the study of God's Word.

Hear the Challenge: Do you see Scripture as
the starting point and foundation for all of the
congregation's ministries?

Accept the Invitation: This study is open to all...

Believe the Promise: All who come to seek God
through the study of Scripture will with the help
of the Holy Spirit experience a power that
transforms.

DISCIPLE 1

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

(Genesis through Revelation)

Sundays * 3:00-5:00pm * Library

Begins September 13

Leader: Mary Bell Haney

And for those who have already completed Disciple 1....

DISCIPLE 2

Into the Word, Into the World

(Genesis/Exodus and Luke/Acts)

Wednesdays * 9:30-11:30am * Library

Begins September 16

Leader: Amy Mercer

DISCIPLE 3

Remember Who You Are

(The Prophets and Letters of Paul)

Wednesdays * 6:30 - 8:30pm * John Wesley Rm

Begins September 16

Leader: Steve Putnicki

DISCUSSING MERE CHRISTIANITY

Join us on Mondays
(either morning or even-
ing) for a DVD discussion
class on C.S. Lewis' most
famous book.

Mondays * Library

9:30-11:30am

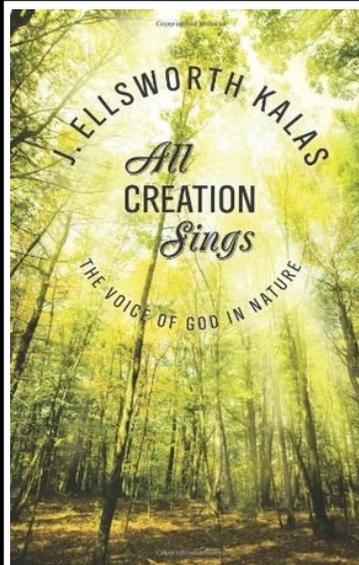
4:30-6:00pm

Led by Rev. Lynette Meyer



C. S. Lewis

MERE
CHRISTIANITY



Friends in Christ *Women's Bible Study*

**ALL CREATION SINGS - THE
VOICE OF GOD IN NATURE**
J. Ellsworth Kalas

THURSDAYS
6:30pm, Room C-2
Begins Sept. 10th

Contact Zoe Dean
Middleton at 581-3051 or
zdmfhm@aol.com

**SIGN UP NOW FOR A LIFE
GROUP OR ONE OF OUR OTHER
FALL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

have you signed up yet?

LIFE
GROUPS
SHARING
LIFE
TOGETHER

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, SEPT 27

ACOLYTE TRAINING

12:15pm

Sanctuary

3rd—6th graders

Please contact Colleen at 584-2133 if you would like your child/children to participate. This commitment is a great discipleship opportunity for your child/children as they minister to Christ and the congregation.



BLUE BIN COLLECTIONS



Join our Mission Project for September!

We will be collecting baby items for the Stork's Nest. All baby items are welcome but there is a specific need for diapers and wipes. Diapers needed are all under size 2. The blue bins will be out in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in September and will stay there through the end of the month. The Stork's Nest is a collaboration between the March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The Stork's Nest provides clothing and nursery items for pregnant women who use community health services. It provides incentives for expectant mothers to obtain early and regular prenatal care. It also provides educational opportunities regarding parenting, nutrition, and health. Please donate and show your support for this wonderful program!



LOVE



GROW



SERVE

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.**

WHY Fellowship
Sunday Evenings
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Family
Life Center

Sun., Aug. 30
Back-to-School Bash
Mitzi's Pool
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 6
Labor Day Weekend
No WHY Fellowship

Sun., Sept. 20
Confirmation 2016
Begins
11:00 a.m.
Youth Lounge

Confirmation 2016 Begins

Sun., Sept. 20 at 11:00 a.m.
Youth Lounge

Our classes are for all 7th graders and any older youth who have not yet been confirmed. We will meet weekly until our Confirmation Ceremony on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Please contact Mitzi for more details.
mitzi@westernhillsep.org, 915-584-2133

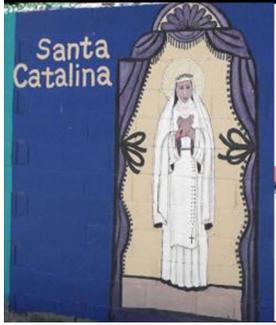


Work Camp



NOISY OFFERING

August 30



The offering goes toward the purchase of school supplies for **Centro Santa Catalina.**



2015 Women's Retreat
October 17-18, 2015

Common Ground

eph 4:12
mended women's ministry

Mark your calendars and don't miss this year's women's retreat at Holy Cross in Las Cruces, NM. Planning for the fall retreat is underway! The phenomenal speakers from Mended Women's Ministry in Dallas, Texas, Allison Cornell and Holly Stallcup, will be leading worship and guiding us to find "CommonGround" in the Word.

All of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Peter 3:8)

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Blessing the Bulldogs and Beyond

As we closed out August and began the new school year, The Ridge spent time and money to bless students, faculty, staff, and administration of Hutt Brown Middle school and many others. We were able to gather 25 backpacks filled with needed school supplies for students.



We also prayed for students, faculty, staff, and administration of surrounding schools! We are looking forward to the fall kicking things off with Back to Church Sunday and Sunday School Launch on Sept. 13th. We will also begin our church wide study of The Good and Beautiful God. Please be in prayer as we seek God together as a community.



IT'S NOT CHURCH. IT'S HOME.

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

Joe Estala

Director of Praise & Worship

Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth Ministries

Laurie McBride

Business/Facilities Manager

Colleen McGuire

Director of Children's Ministries

Suzy Snow

Administrative Assistant

Mindy Archey

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(915) 833-2965

WH Academy:

(915) 584-6642



GOD HEAL OUR NATION

Annual Prayer Vigil

You're invited to the sanctuary to spend time praying for our great land, as well as for your personal concerns. You may sign up for a 30 minute slot beginning Sunday, August 30th. Drop-ins also welcome.

The emphasis at the labyrinth walk will also be our nation.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

IN GOD WE TRUST

Information: Frank & Zoe Dean Middleton, 581-3051, zdmfhm@aol.com

NEWS FROM WESTERN HILLS ACADEMY

*Beginning its 51st year of operation
on the campus of Western Hills UMC.*

The first day of the 2015-16 school year for Western Hills Academy is August 24. Registration is ongoing in room C-1. Begun in 1965 as a community outreach, the program now includes a Mother's Day Out for ages 1-3 and a school for PK through fifth grade.

Among the most significant changes are the purchasing of new pea gravel on the upper playground, a new fire alarm system in Buildings B and C, and upgraded internet cabling for new computers in Buildings B and C. As a result of inspections, the school is in good standing with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Robert LaGrone
President, School Board