

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC  
APRIL 2016

## Connections

### Handwritten Bible—The Gospel of John

Deeply engaging with Scripture is important for all Christians, especially Methodists. John Wesley described Methodists as a people who had been raised up to spread 'Scriptural Holiness' throughout the land, and recognized that immersion in Scripture was one key way in which the people of God grew into maturity and faith. He also believed that searching the Scriptures was a 'means of grace'. We are going to tackle a project during Eastertide – the time between Easter and Pentecost – to “engage in scripture in a new way.” We will write (or print) the entire gospel of John as a congregation, as copied from the NRSV. Copies of the finished handwritten gospel will be available on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016 during our Change The World weekend.

#### Ways you can participate:

- + handwrite a portion of Scripture – there will be a table in the narthex where individuals can stop for a moment and write out a verse or two of the gospel of John. (Directions are at the table, as well as pens and paper.)
- + sign up as a small group, Sunday School class, or as a family to handwrite one entire chapter of the gospel of John. Call the church office at 584-2133 and speak to Pastor Amy to receive your packet (with paper and directions.)

+ illustrate a chapter heading page – the gospel of John has 21 chapters. Groups that are doing a chapter have the option of also doing the chapter heading page if someone in the group or family has an artistic bent. Pastor Amy will know which chapters still need illustrators.

+ submit an illustration that may be chosen as front cover of the gospel.

#### Why are we undertaking this spiritual discipline?

No English speaking person “needs” to write out the English Bible. Most of us have several copies and versions on our bookshelves. The Bible is available in print, online, and even on our mobile devices. But we want to invest time and effort in Scripture in a fresh and powerful way.

We trust that time spent “writing” the words of scripture will bring us new insight and understanding into the ministry of our Lord and Savior. Our diversity in handwriting, ages, creativity and cultures will be “united” as one in the gospel of John.

*John 17:17-18, 20a*

*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.*



## 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.

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.



## OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

### WITH OUR PRAYERS

#### SYMPATHY

\*Family & Friends of Betty Hansen

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Felix Salinas, health concerns  
Paula Davis, health concerns  
Steve, health concerns  
Betty, health concerns  
Linda Lord, health concerns

#### THE WORLD

Victims and martyrs in Syria & Pakistan  
People in the city of Juarez

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Abraham Quezada, health concerns  
Leslie Ely, health concerns  
Rob Gentile, health concerns  
Elizabeth Garcia, health concerns

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

with cancer

Donna Williams, family member of Martha Jo Cavanna  
Bob Snead, friend of Frank & Roberta Harrison  
Peggy Watson  
L.E. Shaneyfelt, cousin of David Raley  
Sherolyn Brite, aunt of Kelly Cooke  
John Lanigan  
Meredith Galyean  
Barbara Barnhill  
Linda Snow, cousin of Rick Snow  
Kim Hamilton, cousin of Rick Snow

*\* indicates a new prayer request this week.*

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

### WITH OUR PRESENCE

March 6, 2016  
Worship ..... 231  
Sunday School ..... 92  
The Ridge ..... 97  
Sidewalk SS ..... 43

March 13, 2016  
Worship ..... 235  
Sunday School ..... 92  
The Ridge ..... 97  
Sidewalk SS ..... n/a

March 20, 2016  
Worship ..... 308  
Sunday School ..... 115  
The Ridge .....  
Sidewalk SS ..... 29

March 27, 2016  
Worship ..... 459  
Sunday School ..... 100  
The Ridge .....  
Sidewalk SS ..... 105

### WITH OUR GIFTS

February 2016 Revenue: \$60,900.02  
February 2016 Expenses: \$66,450.33

YTD Revenue: \$122,896.45  
YTD Expenses: \$129,065.05

2016 Revenue Budget YTD: \$145,243.75  
2016 Expense Budget YTD: \$139,163.14

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

**WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG**



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. 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 mission trip to Juarez where we will be building a house for a needy family. 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.

## 9th Annual Youth Mystery Dinner Theater



# HAWOC at Harrison High

**REUNIONS CAN BE DEADLY**

by Samantha Parker & Claire Petty

Join us for our ten-year reunion, which promises to be full of excitement as old friends get reacquainted and learn about each other's lives since high school.

Those who were voted most likely to succeed, and those who actually did. Remember the girl that everybody hated back then; well some things never change. We will need your help in solving our crime when havoc hits Harrison High.

**Friday, April 22**  
**Saturday, April 23**

**6:30pm** Doors open at 5:45pm

**CONTESTS  
& PRIZES  
SOLVE THE CRIME  
GREAT FOOD  
& MORE!**

**GO HAWKS**

### Tickets

**\$25/PERSON or  
\$200/TABLE**

**\$300/VIP TABLE**

VIP includes front row seats  
and lots of extra perks!

**Complimentary  
Childcare**

10yrs & under  
Pizza dinner provided

CLASS OF

**20  
06**

### ON THE MENU

Appetizers

Potato Chili

Chipotle Chicken Fajitas

Dessert

*Meal catered by  
Fernando Gonzalez*



Western Hills UMC Youth

524 Thunderbird Dr.

Contact Mitzi @ 915.449.4476 for tickets.



Want **CHANGE**  
to **THE WORLD**?

**MAY**  
**11-15**



*Building Hope. Changing Lives.*

**APRIL 9, 2016**  
**11 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

Guests receive a one of a kind bowl to keep, created by community volunteers. Enjoy soups and breads prepared by local restaurants, silent auction, raffle and live music.

**\$25**  
per  
person

**TICKETS & MORE INFO**  
**[elpasoansfightinghunger.org](http://elpasoansfightinghunger.org)**

TO BENEFIT



EPCC ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICE CENTER – BLDG. A  
9050 VISCOUNT BLVD.

## WESTERN HILLS *Scholarship Fund*

A family has made a generous donation of \$10,000 with a challenge for the Western Hills UMC family to match it between now and December. The money will go for college scholarships for WHUMC youth.



**United Methodist Women's**

*SPRING*  
**BAKE SALE**

*May 1, 2016*  
*Narthex*

Calling ALL Bakers  
Anyone who would like to bake items can bring baked goods to the church on 4/30 from 2-4pm.

All money raised goes to United Methodist Missions.

*United Methodist Women* 

**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 3**  
**9:30am - Narthex**

*Guest Speaker: Blake Barrow*  
All are invited to hear about the new plans of the Rescue Mission.

*Hosts: Lydia Circle*

## Sacred Bread Mini-Retreat

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

**Saturday, May 7**  
**9am—Noon**

This May we will be offering an opportunity for you to reflect on this "I Am" saying of Jesus and we will learn to prepare and bake the communion bread. Suggested donation of \$10 per person to cover cost of ingredients and recipes, and for 2 loaves of bread. RSVP to the church office at 584-2133 to save your spot.

Led by Margaret Haddad in the SFLC Meeting Room and Kitchen





# ARE YOU A *FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION*?

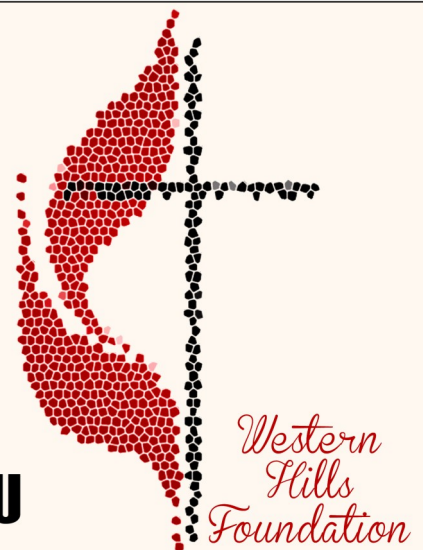
The Western Hills Foundation has kicked off the 2016-17 campaign: *Friends of the Foundation - Investing Today in Western Hills' Tomorrow*. The purpose of the campaign is to grow the permanent endowment funds through a **yearly membership**.

The Foundation is vital for the present and future growth of our church. Over the past 12 years the Foundation has distributed approximately \$904,000 to a wide variety of ministries, programs, capital improvements, land purchases, furniture/equipment purchases, and many other church needs that are not covered in the operating budget. In 2015 \$62,205 was distributed.

We are asking you to **RENEW** your membership to *Friends of the Foundation* with a donation of \$100 for a family and \$50 for an individual. If you have never committed the resources to become a *Friend of the Foundation*, now is your opportunity and we invite you to join.

Prayerfully consider becoming an **ANNUAL** member of *Friends of the Foundation* and *Investing today in Western Hills' Tomorrow*!

**INVESTING  
TODAY IN  
WESTERN  
HILLS'  
TOMORROW**



## Appointment News

In late June, Rev. Bill Case and his family will say goodbye to The Ridge & Western Hills and will begin a new journey at Kingswood UMC in Clovis, NM. Rev. Josh Kouri will be coming to serve as the next pastor of The Ridge. Please be in prayer for Pastor Bill and Pastor Josh and their families, as well as The Ridge, over the next few months as this transition takes place.

Josh Kouri is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2003, he graduated from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces (Go Aggies!) with a B.A. in Government. During college, Josh interned in the Washington, DC office of Senator Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico.

After college, Josh discerned a call to ordained ministry while serving as the youth director at St. Paul's UMC, Las Cruces, NM. In 2008, he began seminary at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas. There he was a recipient of the Perkins Prothro Fellowship, an honor awarded by Perkins to three entering students each year who demonstrate promise and commitment to ministry. He was also one of 20 seminary students from across the country to be selected by the Fund for Theological Education as a Ministry Fellow.

Josh was ordained as an elder in the Northwest Texas Conference in 2014. He currently serves as the pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Amarillo, Texas. He is also a member of the Lewis Fellows, a leadership development program offered for younger clergy by Wesley Theological Seminary.

When he is not busy at church, Josh likes to ski, hike, or fish. He can also make a mean plate of green chile enchiladas. Josh loves the borderland, having lived in Las Cruces for eight years and El Paso for one. He is very excited to serve alongside the church-pioneers at the Ridge and Western Hills UMC.

Josh believes living as a disciple of Jesus Christ is the greatest adventure to which we can aspire, and is most fulfilling in the company of brothers and sisters in the church.





# WHY WE'RE HIS YOUTH

**Sunday Evenings**  
**5:00pm to 7:00pm**  
**Stewart Family**  
**Life Center**

**Friday, April 8**  
 District Youth Lock-In  
 NMSU Wesley Center  
 Return 8:00 a.m. on  
 Saturday

**April 22 & 23**  
 Mystery Dinner Theater  
 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Sat., April 23**  
 Cast & Crew Party  
 10:00 p.m. to Midnight

**Sun., April 24**  
 No WHY Fellowship



**Fun  
at  
ROC!**



**Holy Week**



**CONGRATS!**  
**CONFIRMATION**  
**CLASS**  
 of  
**2016**



# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

It was a wonderful Lent and Easter season this year for The Ridge. We particularly enjoyed spending Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with our Western Hills family. Please enjoy some of the sites of this season of Our Lord!



*For those who have not heard yet, Rev. Bill Case and his family will be moving in late June to serve Kingswood United Methodist Church in Clovis, New Mexico. The Ridge will be welcoming Rev. Josh Kouri in late June also. A brief intro can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. Please be in prayer for The Ridge, the Case family, and Josh Kouri during this time of transition.*

IT'S NOT CHURCH. IT'S HOME.



# Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL

## JUNE 20 – 24

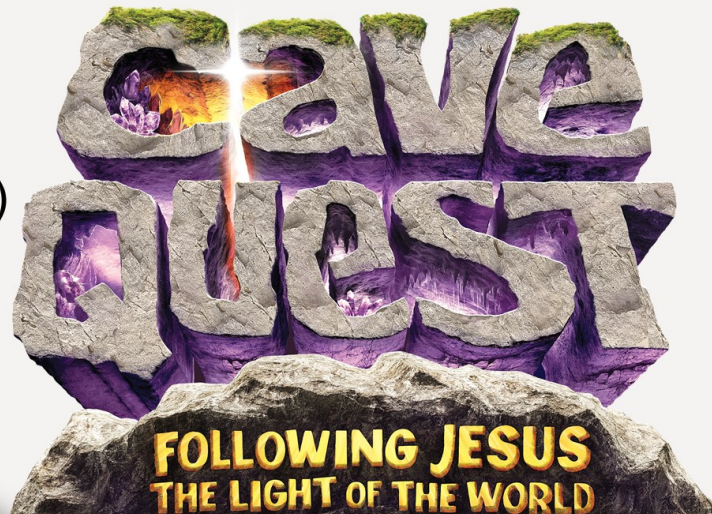
## 8:30 – 11:50am

### Ages 4yrs\* – 6th Grade

\*In order to participate in VBS 2016,  
your child must have turned  
4 yrs old by Sept. 1, 2015.

### Cost: \$10

Cost includes CD (one per family)  
& T-shirt (fee is non-refundable)



524 Thunderbird Drive  
El Paso, TX 79912

**Office:**  
(915) 584-2133

**Fax:**  
(915) 833-2965

**WH Academy:**  
(915) 584-6642

## 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**  
Publications

**Patricia Aguirre**  
WH Academy