

MARCH 2017

# Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC — EL PASO, TEXAS

## BAYOU BLESSINGS

Please be in prayer for our mission team as they travel to Louisiana this coming week and serve in mission in the Baton Rouge area.

**Bonnie Abbott**

**Paul Behrendsen**

**Susan Behrendsen**

**Isaac Clark**

**Jeni Clark**

**Mary Bell Haney**

**Don Haney**

**Janis Hillis**

**Amy Mercer**

**Linnae Nahrgang**

**Jared Rettig**

**Mitzi Underwood**

**Dawn Wheeler**

**Grant Wheeler**

WHEN YOU PASS  
THROUGH THE WATERS,  
I WILL BE WITH YOU;  
AND WHEN YOU  
PASS THROUGH  
THE RIVERS,  
THEY WILL NOT  
SWEEP OVER YOU.

ISAIAH 43:2A

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

# OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

## WITH OUR PRAYERS

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Jim Rewis, surgery & healing  
Ron Nelson, health concerns  
Ann Rothman, health concerns  
Bill & Gylene Bostick, health concerns

### THE WORLD

Syrian refugees  
People living in war zones  
People in the city of Juarez

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

\*Mary Miller, mother of Sara Smith, health concerns  
\*Amanda Coughlin, health concerns  
Juanita Loyd, health concerns  
Gayle Kipp, health concerns  
Anita Farr, health concerns  
Marie Conn, health concerns  
Sarah Oseles, health concerns  
Ginny Siebert, health concerns

### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Hector Salcedo  
Arthur Chapa  
Joy B.  
Debra Towe  
Judy Burnett  
Kim Hamilton  
Marianna Derr  
Anne  
Susana  
Sandy  
Bob Snead  
Gavin Moon  
Sylvia Villagrana  
Fred Haberlein  
Thomas Haddad  
Denese Gentry  
Robert Askelson  
Jill Askelson  
Rick  
Meredith Galyean  
Barbara Barnhill

\*Indicates a new prayer request this week.

## WITH OUR PRESENCE

### February 5, 2017

Worship ..... 221  
Sunday School ..... 86  
The Ridge ..... 100  
Sidewalk SS ..... 48

### February 12, 2017

Worship ..... 218  
Sunday School ..... 92  
The Ridge ..... 91  
Sidewalk SS ..... 50

### February 19, 2017

Worship ..... 238  
Sunday School ..... 91  
The Ridge ..... 103  
Sidewalk SS ..... 38

### February 26, 2017

Worship ..... 217  
Sunday School ..... 77  
The Ridge ..... 86  
Sidewalk SS ..... 23

## WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD January 2017: \$54,295.25  
Expenses MTD January 2017: \$58,180.76

Revenue YTD January 2017: \$54,560.50  
Expenses YTD January 2017: \$65,759.75



## 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.



*In Lieu of Lilies*

Monies from this year's *in lieu of lilies* will support our Change the World 2017 projects.

**\$10**

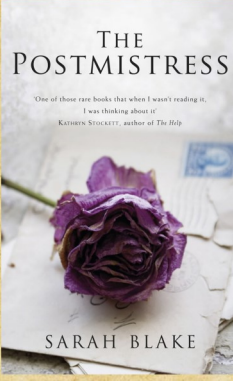
**FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP**

*Page Turners*

**NO MARCH MEETING** April 6  
7pm - 8:30pm  
SFLC Lobby

The Postmistress  
Sarah Blake

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



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO MOOYAH LAST WEEK! WE HAD A GREAT TURNOUT AND APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.**



**DISCOUNT CARDS**

**Available Now**  
**\$20/card**

Proceeds will go to support our 2017 Mission Team.

**Discounts Offered At:**



and **MANY** more!

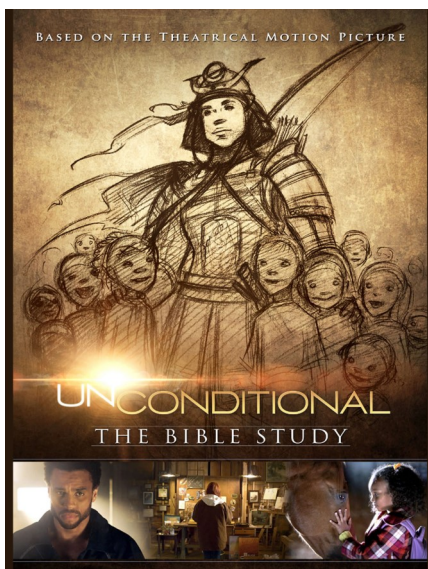
Cards can be purchased on Sunday mornings, in the church office during the week, or from any of the Bayou Blessings team members.



**SPRING FORWARD THIS SUNDAY**



BASED ON THE THEATRICAL MOTION PICTURE



**UNCONDITIONAL THE BIBLE STUDY**

There are bound to be storms in our lives that bring disappointment and pain, but God's love is never far, shining in even the most unexpected places.

**NEW STUDY**

Sunday Mornings  
11:00am  
John Wesley Room  
BEGINS MARCH 26th

**UMW Circle Meetings**

<p><b>Lydia</b> March 20 7:15pm—SFLC Meeting Room Hostess: Sue Williams Devotion: Jill Boyea Program: Nancy Haegele</p>	<p><b>Esther</b> March 21 9:30am—John Wesley Room Refreshments: Sarah Raffel Devotions: Nancy Bloch Program: Angie James</p>	<p><b>Mary Martha</b> March 21 11:30am—SFLC Meeting Rm) Hostesses: Jane LaGrone &amp; MaryBell Haney Co-hostess &amp; Devotional: Sara Smith Program: Easter Baskets for Sidewalk SS</p>
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# Western Hills Foundation

## Western Hills United Methodist Church Foundation December 31, 2016

In December of 1996, the Foundation was established for the purpose of creating a permanent endowment fund to assist the church. It is operated through a separate non-profit corporation, the directors of which are elected by the Charge Conference. The by-laws of the corporation provide that gifts to the Foundation are to be invested and held permanently, with annual distributions of income to the church in amounts determined by the Foundation board of directors. The amount of such distributions is limited so as to preserve the principal value of the endowment fund. The Foundation began raising funds for this permanent endowment in 1997. These gifts have come in the form of cash, memorials, honorariums, bequests and the cash value of an insurance policy.

All such funds have been deposited with the New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation in Albuquerque, which Foundation has been merged into the Texas Methodist Foundation (the TMF). Funds held by the TMF are deposited into Wespath Investment Management, a division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Wespath is the largest faith based investor in the U. S., with over \$21 billion in assets. This account is styled as the Western Hills UMC – General Endowment Fund. As of December 31, 2016, the market value of this fund was \$362,443. Beginning in 2010 and continuing through 2016, a total of \$76,617 of income from this fund has been distributed to the church. Income from this fund in the amount of \$18,292 was distributed to the church in 2016.

In August of 2002, the Foundation received a gift from the estate of Grover Stewart in the amount of \$984,205. This gift came in the form of an IRA account then managed by Merrill Lynch in Austin, TX. The document which designated the Foundation as beneficiary provides that the funds are to be held as a permanent endowment, with the income to be distributed to the church. The donor also specified the purposes for which this income may be used by the church. The funds in this account are now being managed by UBS Financial Services in Austin, Texas. As of December 31, 2016, the total value of this portfolio was \$1,269,370. Beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2016, a total of \$530,729 of income from these funds has been distributed to the church.

In August of 2004, by virtue of two charitable remainder trusts, two permanent endowment funds in the original principal amount of \$495,000.00 each were established with the NMCM Foundation, now TMF. These endowment funds are known as the Grover C. Stewart, Jr. and Carolyn Ann Stewart Endowment Funds for the benefit of Western Hills United Methodist Church. The Foundation has been designated as the receiving and managing agent for income distributed to the church, which income is to be used in accordance with directions contained in the trust instruments that created the funds. As of December 31, 2016, the market value of these funds was \$1,056,770. Beginning in 2005 and continuing through 2016, a total of \$414,954 of income from these funds has been distributed to the church. Income from these funds in the amount of \$37,897 was distributed to the church in 2016.

The sum of \$56,189 distributed by the Foundation to the church from income earned in 2015, was used for the following purposes:

• Panic bars for 10 storefront doors; keys on exterior	\$ 5,915
• Carpet for Indian Bluff parsonage	4,219
• Replace HVAC in Narthex kitchen	6,760
• Three \$1000 scholarships for Youth ministry	3,000
• Two switches for handicap doors	250
• Sacramento Assembly Equine Adventures	2,500
• Repairs to Sanctuary roof and ceiling	10,300
• Building and equipment repairs and replacements	9,543
• Wall repairs, painting and door-stop repairs-Building C	500
• Landscape and wall-mount lights at SFCLC	964
• Various plumbing repairs and replacements	1,450
• Install push bar openers on doors in B and C Buildings	8,266
• HVAC repairs in Sanctuary, Main Building, SFCLC, C Building	2,522
	<b>TOTAL \$56,189</b>

The Board of Directors of the Foundation for 2016 was composed of Martha Jo Cavanna, Debbie Hand, Bill Hooten, Ray Marshall, Victor Moore, Charlotte Nobles, Nate Peevey, David Rogers and Randolph Young.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Hand, President  
WHUMC Foundation

# NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND  
OF COURSE -- FOOD!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9th**

**6:30PM**

**The Greenery  
Sunland Park Mall**

NO NEED TO RSVP  
JUST COME!  
QUESTIONS? SEE  
COLLEEN MCGUIRE



**REMINDER: OUR NURSERY IS AVAILABLE  
FOR ALL SUNDAY SERVICES.**

Our nursery workers are the best!  
Just ask these kiddos!



**VBS 2017  
JUNE 12-16**

**HEROES NEEDED!** If you are interested in a leadership role and want to get involved but aren't sure how, please call the office and ask for Colleen. There is a place for you!



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**  
WE'RE HIS YOUTH



**ROC & CCYM  
2017  
Sacramento**



**Make sure and  
save the date now...  
you won't want  
to miss this year's  
ANNUAL MYSTERY  
DINNER THEATER.  
April 28 & 29**

# Bound for the PROMISED LAND

2017 NEXT STEPS PLAN

THE RIDGE, EL PASO

The lay leadership at the Ridge has set a goal of vacating our current meeting space at Brown Middle School and acquiring a dedicated permanent space in 2017.

Over the past 7 1/2 years, the Ridge has worked hard to establish a devoted and meaningful congregational presence in our mission area in far-West El Paso. We continue to reach out, evangelize, and serve our community with joy and passion. However, we have discerned a need to explore the next faithful steps in our congregation's story. This means moving into a dedicated site where the Ridge can grow and develop ministries that will carry us into the future.

*So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness...*

Exodus 13:18a

## Why Now?

- Our mission and ministries are curtailed without a usable space during the week.
- Any benefits of meeting at the school have already been fully realized.
- Property in our mission area is quickly being developed and we need to find a space before the area gets even more expensive and fills up.
- Volunteer resources are currently focused on setup for worship, rather than witness and ministry.
- The Ridge's size and presence is stagnant at the upward limit of our current organizational capacity. We have to change in order to grow.
- We are unnecessarily vulnerable to vehicle breakdowns and losing access to the school.
- Meeting at the school is expensive, both in terms of rental fees and wear and tear on equipment.
- **A permanent location is the next step in the Ridge's evolution. It will demonstrate our commitment to serving Christ in our neighborhood and local community.**

*Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you saying, The lord your God is providing a place of rest, and will give you this land.*

Joshua 1:13

In October 2016, a leadership group began planning our next steps as a congregation and discerned the need for a building for the future development of the Ridge. A few possible sites have been explored, but so far we have not located our "Promised Land." However, the leadership is continuing to lay the groundwork so that when a suitable site is located we will be ready to move forward.

*Join us this Lenten Season at the Ridge as we prayerfully prepare for our journey to our "Promised Land." We are excited about our congregation's future.*

**For more info, please contact Pastor Josh at 915-228-8864 or [josh@theridgeep.com](mailto:josh@theridgeep.com)**



# WHAT JESUS DID

***THIS LENT***  
**DISCOVER WHAT JESUS DID**  
**ABOUT TEMPTATION, SIN,**  
**DIVISION, BLINDNESS, DESPAIR,**  
**POWER, AND DEATH**



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WH Academy: (915) 584-6642

## WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

**Ministers**  
All Members

**Rev. Robert Pelfrey**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Amy Mercer**  
Mission & Discipleship

**Rev. Josh Kouri**  
The Ridge

**Margaret Haddad**  
Director of Music  
Ministries

**David Pena**  
Director of Praise  
& Worship

**Mitzi Underwood**  
Director of Youth  
Ministries

**Colleen McGuire**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Laurie McBride**  
Business/Facilities  
Manager

**Suzy Snow**  
Administrative  
Assistant

**Mindy Archey**  
Publications/  
Communications

**Patricia Aguirre**  
WH Academy