

SUMMER 2017

Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC EL PASO, TEXAS

VBS WAS A FANTASTIC WEEK WHERE KIDS LEARNED THAT THEY WERE CREATED BY GOD AND BUILT FOR A PURPOSE! A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE TO HOST OVER 115 CHILDREN. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO THANK JENNY ABBOTT FOR DOING A TERRIFIC JOB AS VBS DIRECTOR AND TO LEAH RENTERIA FOR ALL HER HARD WORK. MONEY WAS RAISED OVER AND ABOVE WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR THIS YEAR'S MISSION PROJECT.



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

OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

WITH OUR PRAYERS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Gayle Kipp, health concerns
 Betty McCann, health concerns
 Pat Crawford, health concerns
 Ann Rothman, health concerns
 Marietta Ervin
 Bill & Gylene Bostick, health concerns

THE WORLD

Victims & families affected by violence
 People living in war zones
 People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Bill Dickinson, friend of Cherry Duke & Brian Downen, health concerns
 Isaac Clarke Munoz, health concerns
 Roy Van Nostrand, health concerns
 Tootie Fields, health concerns
 Margaret Sanger, health concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Holden, health concerns
 Michael Lara

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Doyle Smith
 Pat Travers
 Gail Hill
 Sandy Capó
 Dane Jackson
 Tana Tackett
 Hector Salcedo
 Sylvia Villagrana
 Fred Haberlein
 Robert Askelson
 Jill Askelson
 Rick
 Barbara Barnhill

**Indicates a new prayer request this week.*

WITH OUR PRESENCE

June 4, 2017

Worship 253
 Sunday School 75
 The Ridge 82
 Sidewalk SS n/a

June 11, 2017

Worship 209
 Sunday School 60
 The Ridge 95
 Sidewalk SS n/a

June 18, 2017—Father's Day

Worship 194
 Sunday School 70
 The Ridge 78
 Sidewalk SS n/a

June 25, 2017

Worship 176
 Sunday School 58
 The Ridge 82
 Sidewalk SS n/a

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD May 2017: \$57,942.18
 Expenses MTD May 2017: \$72,563.56

Revenue YTD May 2017: \$317,884.09
 Expenses YTD May 2017: \$334,410.11

Revenue Budget YTD May 2017: \$272,802.50
 Expense Budget YTD May 2017: \$358,513.75

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

WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG



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.



Beginning on Sunday, July 30, a Honda CR-V will be parked in front of the church. Our mission is to fill it up with items and take it to Shiprock, NM to be donated to The Four Corners Native American Ministry.



A couple in the WHUMC congregation is celebrating their 50th anniversary with the Native American custom of a “give-away.” The Honda CR-V is being donated to the ministry and now we need to fill it up.

Fill The Car with (new items please): blankets, school supplies, baby supplies, and children’s socks

The car will be parked in front of the church and ready to be filled up with your donations on the following Sundays: July 30, August 6, August 13, and August 20

In addition to the donation of items, cash or checks may be given.

Make checks payable to: WHUMC with Four Corners in the memo

The **Four Corners Native American Ministry** is a Navajo Cooperative parish of the New Mexico Annual Conference and an Advance Special of the General Board of Global Ministries. Their ministry consists of 7 chartered churches, a children’s day care center, a thrift shop and 11 outreach congregations in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. Based in Shiprock, New Mexico, the ministry covers the eastern half of the Navajo Reservation.

The mission of The Four Corners Native American Ministry is to train pastors and leaders to be in ministry to the Navajos, always pointing them to Christ’s love.



To all choir members:

We will be on hiatus from July 5 through August 6, resuming rehearsals on August 9. During the hiatus, I will begin to make plans for our fall retreat.

I’m thinking about August 26 in order to stay away from Labor Day Weekend. If you have particular thoughts on this, please let me know.

I will be out of town July 24 through August 8 but if you need to get in touch with me just call my cell: 915-479-0798. I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer.

God Be With You Till We Meet Again.

Much love, Margaret

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
TUESDAY, JULY 4TH

HOSPITALITY TEAM
 hospitality volunteers will meet at 7am

DONATE CANDY
 individually wrapped candy (no chocolate)

WALK IN PARADE
 arrive no later than 8:30am

PLEASE PARK AT JR. LEAGUE -- NO PARKING IN WHUMC LOTS

BLUE BIN COLLECTIONS Kelly Memorial Food Pantry

CANNED PASTA
 (RAVIOLI/SPAGHETTIOS)

Summer Food for Kids

MAC-N-CHEESE

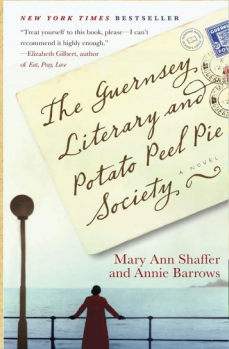
KID'S CEREAL

FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP
Page Turners

July 13
 7pm - 8:30pm
 SFLC Lobby

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
 Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

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



START COLLECTING ITEMS FOR *Grandma's Attic*



THIS YEAR'S FALL BAZAAR WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE GRANDMA'S ATTIC. THAT MEANS WE WILL NEED YOUR GENTLY USED TREASURES. AS YOU DO YOUR SUMMER CLEANING, PLEASE SET ASIDE YOUR GOODIES FOR US! *NO CLOTHES/SHOES.* WE WILL HAVE DATES IN OCTOBER FOR YOU TO DROP YOUR ITEMS AT THE CHURCH.

Honor Your Graduate
WITH A DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION



Western Hills Foundation
TODAY'S GIFTS FOR TOMORROW'S MINISTRIES



WE ARE SAD TO SEE YOU GO...
 but if you must...we'd like to send you off with a special gift from us!

ARE YOU MOVING?




PLEASE LET PASTOR ROBERT OR PASTOR AMY KNOW OR YOU CAN CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 584.2133

UMW Circle Meetings

Lydia Circle—July Summer Break

Esther Circle—July 18 Summer Luncheon

Mary Martha—July 18 Summer Get-together



NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
August 29th
9:30am
 Program: Landsun Homes
 Host: Lydia Circle

FLAGS WILL BE FLOWN IN HONOR OF:

In honor of William P. Hooten
In honor of Maj. Matthew D. Knepper
In honor of Lt. Frymire
In honor of CWO4 Manny Gonzalez USA, Retired
In honor of Lyle Fraka
In honor of Ryan Harper

FLAGS WILL BE FLOWN IN MEMORY OF:

In memory of Jerry Moe
In memory of Col. A. R. Cavanna Jr
In memory of Col. Joseph P. Rice
In memory of Harrison
and Mr. & Mrs. Kohl
In memory of Richard Maxey
In memory of George Ernst

In memory of Porter Farmer
In memory of Oliver Kusserow
In memory of Bob Farmer
In memory of Michael Hardin
In memory of D. D. Bowers
In memory of Art Peevey
In memory of Mike and Jack Wilson

SPONSOR A FLAG

YOUR GIFT OF \$30 SPONSORS A FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT WESTERN HILLS UMC ON MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, LABOR DAY, AND VETERANS DAY.

Make checks payable to: WHUMC

If you'd like for the flag to be flown in honor or memory of a loved one, please put that info in the check memo.



VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Worship Under the Stars Saturday, July 8, 6 PM White Sands National Monument

An evening of music, worship, and fellowship in the cathedral of God's amazing world. Potluck meal will begin at 6:30pm, outdoor worship with music and message at 7:30pm, star watching after sunset, an evening of fun under the stars. Bring a potluck dish to share, foldable chairs, and saucers for dune-sledding.



Please RSVP by July 6 by signing up in worship or on the event Facebook page so that we can estimate numbers and space needed!

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE 2017 MEN'S RETREAT. WE HAD A GREAT TIME!



IT'S NOT CHURCH, IT'S HOME

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry



The Children's Ministry has been very blessed this year to have Linnae Nahrgang serve and disciple our children. She has been a nursery worker, Sunday School helper, Children's Church worker, teacher, and friend. Linnae will be attending CU in Boulder, Colorado this fall. Her goal is to double major in Leadership and Community Engagement along with a Political

Science degree. Please pray for her as she embarks on the journey God has for her and when you get a chance please thank

her for her work with the children. We know that God is going to use her in a great and mighty way. Thank you Linnae!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
Now - August 20th
9:30am - 10:30am

GRADES 1ST - 6TH ROOM C5
"SUMMER AT THE MOVIES"

PRESCHOOL ROOM C8

Children will move up to the next grade at Sunday School Kick-Off on August 27th.

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.**





SUNDAY, JULY 30 — GUEST PREACHER ONE SERVICE AT 11AM

The **Rev. George Miller** is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as coordinator of international and

migrant ministries for the United Methodist Church in Germany (Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Deutschland). He works out of Frankfurt.



The central focus of George's work is outreach to and development of international and migrant United Methodist ministries in Germany. This covers asylum seekers, migrants, students, undocumented workers, residents with foreign backgrounds, and military personnel and their families. George relates both to the resident bishop of the Germany Central Conference and the International Council of The United Methodist Church in Germany. He began this ministry in mid-2014, after having served in 2012 and 2013 as a pastor with the German State Protestant Church (Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden) in the city of Schopfheim.

George Miller is a native of North Carolina and an ordained elder of the New Mexico Annual Conference. From 2006 to 2012 he was chaplain and vice president for religious affairs at Lydia Patterson Institute, a mission institution of the South Central Jurisdiction in El Paso, Texas. Earlier, he was pastor of United Methodist congregations in La Mesa, New Mexico, and Anthony, Texas.

WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

Ministers

All Members

Margaret Haddad

Director of Music
Ministries

Laurie McBride

Business/Facilities
Manager

Rev. Robert Pelfrey

Senior Pastor

David Pena

Director of Praise
& Worship

Suzy Snow

Administrative
Assistant

Rev. Amy Mercer

Mission & Discipleship

Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth
Ministries

Mindy Archey

Publications/
Communications

Rev. Josh Kouri

The Ridge

Colleen McGuire

Director of Children's
Ministries

Patricia Aguirre

WH Academy

**524 Thunderbird Dr.
El Paso, TX 79912**

Office: (915) 584-2133
Fax: (915) 833-2965
WH Academy: (915) 584-6642



CLASS OF 2017

Graduation

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT!

KAITLYN BISHOP

NATASHA MARCUM

CALLEN JACOB NAHRGANG

LINNAE MARIE NAHRGANG

SAMANTHA LEE PARKER

CLAIRE ELISE PETTY

JARED MICHAEL RETTIG

Kaitlyn Bishop



The daughter of Jesse and Carrielyn Bishop has graduated from Franklin High School where she has been involved in the Fusion Dance Program, Forte Ballroom Dance Program, and Orchestra. Her honors and awards include Choreographer of The Year 2016 & 2017 for Fusion, Dancer of The Year for Fusion and Forte, and Letters in Dance and Orchestra. Kaitlyn has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Youth Worship, and Mystery Dinner Theaters.

In the fall Kaitlyn will attend the University of Houston, where she will major in Biology and Dance. Her favorite scripture is Matthew 11:28-30, and "I Need Thee Every Hour" is her favorite hymn. Her hobbies include: dance and violin.

Kaitlyn would like to thank her parents for showing her how to work hard. "I love you both beyond words. I'm sorry for ever disappointing you. I've always tried to make you proud. I love you so much and will miss you like crazy." She would like to express to her church family,

"Thank you for taking me in when I had no one. You all have the most amazing testimonies of Christ. Thank you for allowing me to see God through you."

Special thanks to Mitzi for never judging me when I complained about my personal issues. Thank you to Connor for being supportive and very honest to Cal, Linnae and me. Thank you Mr. Nahrgang and Momma Nahrgang. I ate a lot of your food and I'm hard to put up with, but you both showed me love and showed me how to be an amazing parent. Thank you, Linnae, for being my go-to girl! I love you and I'm so glad God put you in my life. Thank you, Callen, for spending hours upon hours with me. You were the only one I trusted for a while, and although I'm crazy, you still put up with me. I owe you the world! Thank you for all the laughs. I'll miss you all, and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish." The memories that Kaitlyn will treasure most from her time at WHUMC are from CCYM; meeting all the new people and creating everlasting memories.



Natasha Marcum

The daughter of Monica Marcum has graduated from Coronado High School where she has been involved in Generation ON Community Service Club, Cheerleading, Marching Band and Class Executive Committee. Her Honors and Awards include: Outstanding Senior for Cheer, Stein (Selfless) Award for Cheer, Cheer Captain Freshman Year, Drum Major Senior Year, and Nominated for All Coronado Girl. Natasha has been involved at WHUMC with Youth Group, Mystery Dinner Theaters, VBS, Youth Mission and Outreach Projects, and Youth Bible Study at The Ridge.

In the fall Natasha will attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where she will major in Pre-Engineering. Her favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11, and "How Great is Our God" is her favorite praise song. Her hobbies include: Cheer, longboarding and being outdoors.

Natasha would like to express to her mom, "Where do I begin? My Momma is the reason I am here, the reason I am going to stand on this stage as a graduating senior. My life and everything in it are because of her. She has sacrificed so much to make sure that my sister and I grew up happy, in a church, and reached for the stars. She has been my best friend, my rock, and my biggest cheerleader. Without her always telling me to keep going or that I was doing great, these past four years would have been so much harder." "Momma there aren't enough words to express how much I love you and appreciate everything you have

done for me. You are the reason I am reaching for the stars and accomplishing my dreams. I just want to say thank you for everything. I love you so much!" She would like to express to her church family, "I remember growing up in this church and being surrounded by so much love. Every time I would walk into any service or event, I was always greeted with smiling faces and huge hugs. Western Hills was a place where I could be with some of my best friends like Jared, Ryland and Arun, who I remain close with today. This church took in my little family and nurtured us; it gave us a place to become strong and steady in our faith. The Youth Group taught me that [yes] church is serious, but learning about God can be fun, and so rewarding. I have been able to grow in my faith and share in important moments such as going on the recent mission trip to Juarez, and being a part of the work camp at Sacramento. This church has helped mold me into the person I am today. Although it has been quite some time since I have attended Western Hills services with my family, it was the love and nurturing I received here that gave me the courage to move with my family to The Ridge, even though our home was here. I owe so much to this church, and I will forever be grateful for the endless love I have received." The memories that Natasha will treasure most; "my dear Mitzi and all the times she has put a smile on my face and been a loving hand reaching out. I have known and loved Mitzi since the day my sister joined Club 56. I just remember seeing this crazy redhead who was so much fun to be around and planned so many cool things for the youth to do. She has seen me grow up and has seen me through every stage in life. I will treasure all of her lessons and words of wisdom that she has given me, especially when we went through True Love Waits. That is something I will always hold near to my heart. The laughs, and jokes, and tears that have been shed will forever be my favorite memory and experience while at Western Hills.

Samantha Lee Parker

The daughter of Robert and Stacey Parker has graduated from Coronado High School where she has been involved in Marching and Concert Band, Jazz and Concert Symphony Orchestra. Her honors and awards include: AP Scholar. She has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Youth Praise Band, Mystery Dinner Theaters, and VBS.

In the fall Samantha will attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where she will major in English with a minor in Secondary Education. Her favorite scripture is Matthew 6:25-34, and "Come to The River" by Rhett Walker Band is her favorite praise song. Her hobbies include: Reading, writing, drawing, listening to music, and playing instruments.

Samantha would like to express to her parents,

"We've come a long way from the days I would bring my Barbie Doll to church, haven't we? Thank you for being the best possible people to raise me. I would not trade these last eighteen years for anything (no, not even concert tickets!) I love you guys so, so much!"

She would like to express to her church family, "Thank you for giving me such a loving, caring, and accepting environment to grow up in. It's been a pleasure to be a part of this church." The memories that Samantha will treasure most from her time at WHUMC; "My time with the Youth Group because of the amazing and lasting friendships I have made, and the way I have seen myself grow in Christ through the people in the group, as well as the opportunities that the organization has presented me with."



Claire Elise Petty

The daughter of Russ and Jennifer Petty has graduated from Coronado High School where she has been involved in Marching, Jazz, and Concert Band, Daily Jokes Text Service Creator, Japanese Club, and National Honor Society. Her honors and awards include:

Distinguished Achievement Program Graduate, and AP Scholar. She has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Conference Council for Youth Ministry (CCYM) team, Youth Praise Band, Mystery Dinner Theaters, Mission and Outreach projects, VBS, The Ridge Church Unique Committee, The Ridge Sunday School Teacher, and member of the 2015 Nicaragua Mission Team.

In the fall Claire will attend Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she will major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in pursuit of a career in Psychiatry. Her favorite scripture is Proverbs 4:23, and "Oceans" by Hillsong United is her favorite praise song. Her hobbies include: Sewing, cross stitching, cooking, baking, and playing ukulele.

***"And I will call upon Your name,
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace,
For I am Yours and You are mine..."***

Claire would like to express to her mom, "Thank you for always laughing at my awful jokes, tolerating my bursts of songs, and cooking me food so that I do not die." She would like to express to her church family, "At dinner theaters, members of the church are always shocked that I am not pursuing acting as a career." The memories that Claire will treasure most from her time at WHUMC; "I cherish the memory of Mitzi's Diet Coke-fueled, enthusiastic, loud, and loving personality."



Callen Jacob Nahrgang

The son of Lamont and Juli Nahrgang has graduated from Franklin High School where he has been involved in Baseball, National Honor Society, Student Council, Council Executive Board, Parent Teacher Student Association, and Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House. His honors and awards include: Academic All-District Baseball, NHS 100 Hours of Community Service Award, and National Council of Excellence. He has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Mystery Dinner Theaters, Mission and Outreach projects, and VBS.

In the fall Callen will attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas, as an Army ROTC Cadet, where he will major in Mechanical Engineering. His favorite scripture is John 15:13, and "10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)" by Matt Redman is

his favorite praise song. His hobbies include: Guitar, movies, fishing, and community service.

Callen would like to express to his parents, "Thank you for putting up with me." He would like to express to his church family, "Thank you, Mitzi and the Youth Group, for everything. I will miss all of the fun and games." The memory that Callen will treasure most from his time at WHUMC is going to Disney for the first time in his life.

***"The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes..."***

Linnae Marie Nahrgang

The daughter of Lamont and Juli Nahrgang has graduated from Franklin High School where she has been involved in Track and Cross Country, Class Council Parliamentarian/Vice President, Student Council Community Service Chair/Vice President, National Honor Society, STUCO Winter Retreat Conference Leader, One Act Theater Tech Member, TexaStrong Club, and Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House. Her honors and awards include: National Council of Excellence, Presidential Gold Volunteer Service Award, and NHS Community Service Award. She has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Conference Council for Youth Ministry (CCYM) team, Youth Praise Band, Mystery Dinner Theaters, Mission and Outreach projects, VBS, Children's Sunday School and JC Crew Teacher, and member of the 2015 Nicaragua Mission Team.



In the fall Linnae will attend the University of Colorado in Boulder, as an Army ROTC Cadet, where she will major in Leadership and Community Development and Political Science. Her favorite scripture is Deuteronomy 31:6, and "How Can It Be" by Lauren Daigle is her favorite praise song. Her hobbies include: Running, lifting weights, reading, cooking, baking, singing, piano and writing.

Linnae would like to thank her parents for their support, with special appreciation to her best friend/mom for helping and encouraging her leadership at church and school. ***"Thank you both for keeping me grounded."***

She would like to thank her church family for creating an encouraging, loving and safe space for her to grow as a person and a Christian. The memory that Linnae will treasure most from her time at WHUMC is her week in Nicaragua building the home, repairing the well, and sharing in fellowship with the kids there.



Jared Michael Rettig

The son of Mike and Bobbi Rettig has graduated from Coronado High School where he has been involved in Marching and Concert Band, and the FFA. He has been involved at Western Hills UMC with Youth Group, Conference Council for Youth Ministry (CCYM) team, Mystery Dinner Theaters, Mission and Outreach projects, VBS, and member of the 2015 Nicaragua Mission Team.

In the fall Jared will enlist in the United States Marines. He hopes for a future career as an animal handler/trainer. His favorite scripture is 1 Corinthians 10:13, and "Bad Moon Rising" is his favorite song. His hobbies include: Welding.

Jared would like to express to his parents, "The pure joy that I have to call you my parents. Even though you might not like me

some of the time, you have never stopped showing me love. The times that I didn't deserve it; those were the times you showed it most. I'm so grateful to have you in my life. I love you." He would like to express to his church family, "The chance I was given to be part of this great church is what I'm most thankful for." The memory that Jared will treasure most from his time at WHUMC; "The gift from God that is Mitzi Underwood."

No temptation has seized you that isn't common for people. But God is faithful. He won't allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead, with the temptation, God will also supply a way out so that you will be able to endure it.
1 Corinthians 10:13