



A Message from Doug

Last week I began to give you some very sketchy result information from THE NEXT BIG THING event we celebrated on October 16. For those of you unable to be with us on that day, we had a terrific morning interviewing each other about the ways we are appreciative of Walnut Hills. Then we asked you to think waaaaaay outside the box and imagine the next big thing for Walnut Hills. We wanted you to use your imagination, just as God imagines things for and about us far beyond anything we could conceive. Over the next several weeks I will say a word about some of the general themes that seemed to occur with some frequency in your responses. Just remember that these are interest areas. THE NEXT BIG THING will be informed by but not limited to the areas of interest expressed last October.

Not surprisingly a number of you expressed a great deal of interest in ongoing relationships with interfaith partners. Connections with other Christian and non-Christian congregations have been of primary importance since Walnut Hills was founded. We have attempted over the years to approach other faith communities with respect and with the understanding that God's Spirit is not limited only to certain expressions of faith. That is apparently still very important to many of you. Please pray that God will continue to guide this wonderful and significant process and that we will be attentive to the directions for our future.

~ Doug

In the Spotlight...

It's Time to Invite Our Neighbors & Friends

We once again have door hangers to distribute, inviting those in neighborhoods surrounding the church and your own neighborhood, to our Christmas Time services. The door hangers will be available on Sundays, December 11 & 18 and should be distributed by December 20. Please consider how many you'll need for your street, block or neighborhood, and pick them up after services on those Sunday's. There are no door-bell ringing or conversational skills required. All you need to do is tuck the door hanger securely on or in the door.

Walnut Hills: Where we are welcomed...

Blue Christmas Service this Sunday, December 11

If you or someone you know is grieving during the holiday season, we invite you to attend the Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. This is a service for those who have difficulty getting through the holiday season due to loss or changes in their lives. We hope that you will share this opportunity with others in the community who could benefit from such a worship experience.

Celebrate and Sing Handel's Messiah

Join us Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at Beaver and Franklin Avenues in Des Moines. Our own Carl Johnson conducts the Des Moines Community Orchestra and Susan Waller will be the featured soprano soloist. The audience is invited to sing the chorus parts or just come, listen and enjoy the music.

Angel and Mitten Trees

Angel Tree: Don't forget to return your gifts for the Angel Tree families by December 18, wrapped and with the gift tag attached. Thank you so much for helping with this important holiday ministry!

Mitten Tree: The Senior and Junior High youth are sponsoring the Mitten Tree this year with items going to Bidwell Riverside's Christmas Sharing program. You are invited to bring new socks, underwear, mittens and hats (infant to adult sizes - older children often need adult sizes) to place on the mitten tree located in the East Gathering area. **We will deliver items to Bidwell for sorting on Monday the 12.** Last year 947 families were served and this year they are expecting that number to go higher. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Parent's Night Out - Friday, December 16

The senior high youth will again provide an evening out for parents and guardians of infants and children December 16, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a free will offering fundraiser for their work trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Please sign up before December 14 on the table in the East Gathering area, check the stub and provide children's name and ages, or contact Julie Stone at 270-9226 or julie@whumc.org.

Christmas Eve Services

6:00 p.m. Carols & Children's Message
9:00 p.m. Candlelight & Carols with Manger Strangers
11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion



Our nursery staff has been given Christmas Eve off to be with their families. Families with small children are invited to any of the Christmas Eve services but the 6:00 service is especially geared toward our young Walnut Hills' members.

Christmas Day

One Service December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Day

One Service January 1 at 9:30 a.m.

This year's Christmas offering will be given to Interfaith Hospitality Network and Compassion in Action.

Stewardship Commitment Time (STC) Update

390 invitations to participate in this year's STC were extended. To date, 169 households have returned intent to give cards. Of these 169 households, 75% have increased their giving intentions. We understand how easy it is to be overwhelmed by the demands of busy schedules and to overlook this important time in your spiritual journey. We pray that you are able to find a few moments to carefully consider responding to our invitation. The amount you select as your intention to give must be one which lets you feel truly pleased and fully satisfied with yourself.

Songspiration Kids Sing This Sunday, December 11

Songspiration Kids will sing this Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. service. They will be singing an African song in celebration of our Global Advent theme. They will open the service with their energy and enthusiasm!

The Cookbooks Are Here!

Please stop by the table on Sunday morning to make your purchase. Cookbooks are \$12.00 each, and we have plenty for your holiday stocking stuffers!

Walnut Hills Graduates

The 2nd Annual Reunion of our Walnut Hills Graduates will take place on Thursday, December 22 in the Senior High youth room beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you've graduated from high school in the last four years, we want to see you! Reconnect with friends, share memories, look at pictures and enjoy a meal on us. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Julie Stone - julie@whumc.org or 270-9226 ext. 103 or check the stub.

Additional Team Member

We are looking for an additional team member for the meal programs at both Churches United Shelter and Children and Family Urban Ministries. This team member would help with menu preparation and scheduling of volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more information, check the stub.

Book Study

On Sunday, January 8, at 9:30 a.m. we will begin a book study on the book Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest by Wayne Muller. The book is \$16.00 for paperback, and is available at local bookstores or at www.amazon.com. Please check the stub if you plan to attend.

Walnut Way Moment

"There can be no greater spiritual accomplishment than to come through brutal trials and then look back and see that mean times did not render us mean spirits."
~Barbara Kingsolver -
from *Small Wonder* - p. 193

This Sunday, December 11, 2005

DOUG PETERS' MESSAGE: "One You Do Not Know"

SCRIPTURE: John 1:6-8, 19-28

MUSIC: Mixed Quartet/WH Ringmasters 8:30 & 10:45/Songspiration Kids 10:45

3rd Sunday of Advent

With Our Children

Next Pizza Night is January 4. If you are going to join us for pizza, check the STUB Sunday or call the church office.

CAP –Creative Arts Program for children Kindergarten through 6th grade Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.: Our theme is "Epiphany." The children will be learning about the meaning and observance of Epiphany through spiritual activities, crafts, and music, Wednesday, December 14.

CAP will take a 2 week break December 21 and 28. CAP will resume Wednesday, January 4 with Pizza Night.

"Created by God a Class on Human Sexuality for Older Boys and Girls" A Class on human sexuality for 5th & 6th graders.

- Parent session January 8.
- First student session January 15, meeting each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30.
- final Parent and Student Session February 19.

Please call Pam at 270-9226 or email pam@whumc.org for more information.

With Our Youth

Sunday School: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

(Sunday School/Confirmation will not meet on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1 - these are both Sundays with 1 worship service at 9:30 a.m.)

Sunday School for 7th Graders meets from 9:30 -10:30 a.m. in room 003 - lower level.

8th Grade Confirmation Bible Study - room 007-008.

Freshman Club for all 9th Graders meets in the Koth Library

10-12th Grade meets in the Sr. High youth room - lower level

Jr. High Youth Group: Wed., 7-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 14 - Christmas Party-7-8:30 - (Bring a "white elephant" gift for exchange.)

Dec. 21 & 28: Christmas break - no youth group.

Jan. 4 - Youth group resumes.

Sr. High Youth Group: Wed., 7-8:30 pm

Dec. 14 - Caroling and Christmas Party - **Starting at 6:00 tonight!** (white elephant gift exchange.)

Dec. 21 & 28 - Christmas break - no youth group.

Jan. 4 - Youth group resumes.

Jan. 8 (Sunday)- YLT meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Sr. High Youth room.

With Our Adults

Dinner for 6,7,8 is an opportunity for singles or couples to fellowship together around a meal each month. Dinner is at group members' homes, and the host selects the menu and asks members of the group to bring part of the meal. You can sign up now for January, February and March by checking the stub.

The knitters will be meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at noon in the Koth Library. There will be no knitting gathering the rest of December. If you need help with your prayer shawl, you can contact the church office at 270-9226, or email Susan Guy at sguy@whumc.org. We'll see you again on January 8!

Adult Learning Opportunities:

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues, Room 102. Faith & Life: Exploring Your Spirituality in Everyday life, Room 101.

Disciple Bible Study III: Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., in Conference Room.

Disciple Bible Study I: Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Kitchen Annex.

With Our Sr. Adults

Book Club at Silvercrest: We are meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the private dining room at Silvercrest Assisted Living. We will be reading and discussing the last book in the Mitford series.

Remember, Friday mornings at Silvercrest - 10:30-11:00 a.m. trauma doll stuffing and visiting. Join us for fun, and fellowship each Friday morning with the residents at Silvercrest Assisted Living.

Illahee Hills Retirement Residence will be helping with our Trauma Dolls ministry.

Check the stub or call Pam at 270-9226 for more information.

Important Dates

Office will be closed on December 26 & 27 and January 2.
Sunday School on Break December 25 & January 1.

With Our Music

MUSIC ON SUNDAYS...

- December 11 Mixed Quartet/WH Ringmasters
Songspiration Kids at 10:45 a.m.
- December 18 Women's Chorus/Adult Choir
December 24 Christmas Eve Services
6:00, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.
- December 25 Andy Petersen

Service

Preparers and/or servers are needed for **CFUM Low Income Meal Program** (located at Trinity) Tuesday, December 20 and **Meals for the Homeless** (Churches United Shelter) Thursday, January 5. Check the STUB.

KEEP THOSE CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS A'COMIN' IN!

Needed: Small plastic containers to store leftover food for people after the homeless meals. Place containers in box located in the East Gathering Area.

Groups Gather

♦ **Women's Night Out:** Monday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. at Carlos O'Kelly's on Westtown Parkway, WDM. There will be a \$5 Christmas decoration or ornament exchange. Firm RSVP's to Terrie Kohl by December 8 at 987-5957.

♦ **Young Couples:** Saturday, December 17, Holiday potluck dinner at Chris and Amy Winkler's house. Anyone is welcome after 4 p.m., dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Chris and Amy at 276-0652 by December 14.

In Our Prayers

- † Dillion Thomas, recovering at home.
- † Keith Sheriff's father, Lynn Sheriff, continued healing from a broken hip.
- † Jean Baker & her family and the family of Amy Prideaux. Amy died in a car accident this weekend.

Satellite Services

Monday afternoons ~ Worship at Silvercrest Assisted Living-1:30-2:15.

1st & 3rd Wednesday mornings ~ Worship at Timberline Care Facility-Deerfield-9:30-10:15.

4th Sunday afternoons ~ Worship at Illahee Hills Retirement Residence- 3:00-3:45.

All worship services are open to the congregation. Pianists/instrumentalists and persons who love to sing invited to serve on a rotational basis. Check the stub or contact Pam at 270-9226.

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

12321 Hickman Rd
Des Moines, IA 50323

Walnut Hills Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

12321 Hickman Rd
Des Moines IA 50323
Phone: 515-270-9226; Fax: 515-270-0838
www.whumc.org

ca
Doug Peters & Pam Deeds, Ministers

ca
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. services

ca
9:30 a.m.

Christian Learning Time and Sunday School

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