



A Message from Doug

We Christians haven't fared so well in the press in the past few days. There has been the argument about the words "Christmas" vs. "holiday (holy-day)." One of our most sacred days has been relegated to "make or break" status for economic reporting. And most recently, some of our churches were ridiculed for planning to be closed on Christmas Day. All of this has really made for unpleasant conversation and a loss of focus on what the whole purpose of Jesus' life was in the first place.

I hold no illusion that any word or statement will be able to quiet the controversies that disturb our faith journey. Sometimes the collective human spirit is agitated and finds rest difficult to come by. I haven't weighed in on the argument about what to call decorated evergreen trees. I have heard commercialism criticized and I have been both critic and culprit from time to time. I can tell you that your church will be open on Christmas Day for a 9:30 a.m. service of celebration of great joy.

What seems to me most important as a message to the people I serve is a wish for peace from one wounded soul to another. This year has seen horrendous tragedies, both natural and human-imposed. Humanity around the world finds itself gasping for relief from the uncertainties and fears that come at us from all sides. A part of my wish for peace is a reminder that the world into which Jesus was born was not the "silent night" about which we sing. That world staggered under the excesses of empire and the injustice that was heaped upon all the people considered to be inconsequential. It was a hard world. It cried out for God's compassion. Jesus was born.

Our world, our nation, our community, our families, our individual spirits also cry out for the embrace of our God. At this time of year one of the best ways I can remind you of hope is to say again, "Jesus was born." May you find Jesus' birth renewed in your own lives as together we seek to serve others. I look forward to being with you on Christmas.

~Doug

This Year's Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Offering this year will be given to two important ministries in our community: The Interfaith Hospitality Network which houses homeless families in the Des Moines area, and Compassion in Action which provides funding for families struggling to meet expenses such as utility bills. We hope that you will give generously to these ministries!

Join us for Dinner for 6,7,8

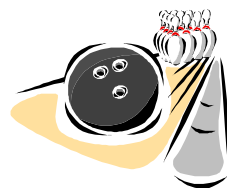
Dinner for 6,7,8 is an opportunity for singles or couples to fellowship together around a meal each month. Dinner is at group members' homes, and the host selects the menu and asks members of the group to bring part of the meal. You can sign up now for January, February and March by checking the stub or calling the office at 270-9226.

Adult Work Trip to Dulac

We've set the adult work trip date for February 5-11 to travel to Dulac, Louisiana to help with clean-up following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Final details are being worked out, but we anticipate the cost to be approximately \$500 per person, which will include airfare, meals in Dulac and a supplies donation. If you are interested and would like more information, please check the stub or contact Susan Guy or Julie Stone at 270-9226.

Let's Go Bowling!

Walnut Hills is having an all-church bowling party on Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Warrior Lanes in Waukee. Warrior Lanes is smoke-free, so it's a perfect place to have fun with your family and socialize with other Walnut Hills friends. The cost of the party is \$10 per person, and it includes one game of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. You can make your reservation after worship on January 8 - 22.



Bring a Mug

In an effort to be good stewards of our environment, Walnut Hills has begun using coffee mugs on Sunday mornings to help reduce the amount of Styrofoam that we throw away. You are encouraged to pick up a mug at the coffee table to use, or bring your own from home! If you have extra mugs you would like to donate to the church, we appreciate that as well! You can leave donated mugs in the kitchen annex.



End of Year Giving

Contributions to be credited to 2005 can be dropped off at the church office *before noon on December 30* or mailed to the office postmarked *no later than December 31, 2005*. Any contributions received in the office after December 31 will be applied to 2006.

Office hours on December 30 are 8:30 a.m.-noon.

In the Spotlight...

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. Please read Section One: Rest for the first session. 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, or call the church office at 270-9226.

Leader Training

There will be a Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training on Saturday, January 7 at First United Methodist Church in Boone from 10:00-2:30. If you are interested in information, contact Susan Guy at sguy@whumc.org, or 270-9226.

Mini-Immersion

The Des Moines District Committee on Hispanic Ministries is offering a mini-immersion into the Hispanic contact on Saturday, January 28 from 9:30 - 12:30. Lunch is included, and this event will be held at Easton Place United Methodist Church, 2412 Easton Blvd., Des Moines. For more information contact Susan Guy, sguy@whumc.org, or 270-9226.

AMOS Program

AMOS (A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy) is presenting "Principles and Practices of Broad-based Community Organizing" on Saturday, January 28 from 9:00 - 1:00 at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 9th and High Streets, DM. An RSVP is required to William Summers, willsummers1@msn.com, or 277-6408.

Fair Trade Coffee

You can buy your Fair Trade Coffee at Walnut Hills! Starting Sunday, January 29, we will sell Fair Trade Coffee from Our Sister Parish in El Salvador on the last Sunday of the month following worship.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your donations to the Angel Tree this year! We were able to collect about 250 Christmas gifts to be delivered to the Homes of Oakridge this year!

Important Dates

Please note the dates listed below to know the schedule for the next couple of weeks at Walnut Hills. Thank you.

- Office will be closed on December 26 & 27 and January 2.
- Wednesday Night Alive on break December 28.
- Sunday School on break December 25 & January 1.
- Wednesday Night Alive resumes January 4.
- Sunday School resumes January 8.

This Sunday, December 25, 2005

DOUG PETERS' MESSAGE: "The Feet of the Messenger"

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:7-10

MUSIC: Andy Petersen/Christmas Pianos and More...

Christmas Day

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. Pizza, salad, cookie or bar is served.

CAP on break December 28. CAP will resume Wednesday, January 4 with Pizza Night.

"Created by God" a Class on Human Sexuality for Older Boys and Girls: the class is for 5th & 6th graders. Parents session starts January 8. Student session starts January 15. Classes are from 9:30—10:30 a.m. Final session for parents and students is February 19. Please contact Pam, at pam@whumc.org or 270-9226 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.)

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

Dec. 28: Christmas break - no youth group.

Jan. 4 - Youth group resumes.

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

Dec. 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.

**** Jr. and Sr. High Youth check your calendars** for January 27-28th for a ski trip to Minnesota. Adult chaperones will be needed. Check the stub or contact Julie indicating your interest. Details pending.**

Reminder: The webpage is updated weekly at www.whumc.org. You can download the weekly newsletter or view the available web pages for the most current information.

With Our Adults

Please note a new schedule for knitting ministry beginning in January! Knitters will gather on the first Wednesday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. – this will start on January 4! Also we will meet the second and fourth Sundays at 3:00 in the Koth Library Questions? Contact Susan Guy at 270-9226, or sguy@whumc.org

Men Interested in Basketball: Plans have changed, we will play informally at Walnut Hills, in our own Celebration Center at 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings beginning January 8. Interested in more info? Check the stub.

Co-ed volleyball is held in the Celebration Center at Walnut Hills and begins in January, every Sunday from 4-5:30 p.m. Sign up for volleyball. If you are interested, please check the stub.

Women of Walnut Hills Game Night will be on Friday, January 20. More information to come!

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 on any of these programs.

With Our Music

MUSIC ON SUNDAYS...

December 25 Andy Petersen/ Christmas Pianos & more . . .

January 1 Martha Schut & Susan Waller

There will be no adult choir rehearsals on December 29. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 5.

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.

In Our Prayers

- ✠ Keith Sheriff's father, Lynn Sheriff, moving to nursing home.
- ✠ Bob Krause and family in the death of his brother-in-law, Millard Robinson.
- ✠ Gary and Julie Stone's sister-in-law, Ruth Stone, continues tests and recovers from surgery to remove thyroid.
- ✠ Ann Young and her family in the death of her father, Kham Tang.
- ✠ Michelle Riesenber, received good results from tests.
- ✠ Liz Coffman's friend, Donna Wiley, hospitalized.
- ✠ Susan Myers' friend's sister, Amy, reoccurrence of breast cancer.
- ✠ Ann and Bob Krause's friends, Sue and Millard Robinson of Wisconsin and JoAnn and David Coignet of Louisiana., the husbands have brain tumors.

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 are 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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines IA
Permit No. 3566

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
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Des Moines IA 50323
Phone: 515-270-9226; Fax: 515-270-0838
www.whumc.org
☪
Doug Peters & Pam Deeds, Ministers
☪
December 25 & January 1
9:30 a.m. service