



## A Message from Doug

As most of you are aware Senator Tom Harkin will lead a conversation here at Walnut Hills about the current debate over Social Security. I was asked by a member of our congregation if she could invite him to come and I agreed wholeheartedly. The church is an obvious place where the difficult issues of our day are discussed and prayerfully considered. A similar invitation is being extended to Senator Chuck Grassley on the day I am writing this column. Senator Harkin's appearance will be:

◆**Sunday, May 15, 1:00 p.m. in the Celebration Center.**◆

I will undoubtedly be asked at some point why Walnut Hills should host an appearance by anyone in the political arena. Don't we observe the separation of church and state? Aren't we prohibited from this kind of interaction in the church? The nation and the Christian faith are very divided over a number of issues. We are prohibited as a church from endorsing a particular candidate. However we are always expected to learn as much as we can about the issues of the day in order to determine if they represent Jesus' focus on the needs of the poor and the Hebrew prophets' attention to social justice. The church is expected to encourage full engagement of our faith perspective so that we can be informed and participatory citizens. I know you will give Senator Harkin a warm welcome and will come with questions and thoughts. -Doug

## Children's Garden Begins to Unfold.....

Plans for a children's garden is underway, soon you will be able to see a work in progress. The garden will be located just outside of the West Gathering area windows and the brick patio. Not only will that space be protected from all of the traffic but is easily accessible from the doors in the West Gathering area. When we have the final design completed, we will post it for all to see. Upon seeing the design, if you would like to buy or donate flowers, plants, shrubs, trees, benches, etc. the children would love it. The Children's Garden will kick off an on-going gardening component in the Creative Arts Program. The children will be active participants in the creation of the garden, what goes into the garden, actual work in the garden, expansion of the garden and the life cycle of the garden.

### ...Donations Needed:

Due to the magnitude of the project we are asking for immediate donations of child-size garden gloves and hand tools. If you would like to donate these items, please drop them in the bin outside the Music Room marked "Children's Gardening Tools." Thank you for your help and support in this fun and exciting project! - Susan Waller

## VBS Center Leaders Needed

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner from July 31 through August 4. If you are available to facilitate one of these activity centers please check the STUB on Sunday. Stacy McDermott, the VBS Director, will contact you. Center Leaders needed are: **Bible Storyteller Foreman, Decorating Foreman, Preschool Foreman** and **Preschool Ranch Hands**. Registration for VBS will be the month of June.

## A Letter of Thanks

I am nearing the anniversary of my first year as the Director of Youth Ministries. As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the team of people who worked with me and to the "family" of Walnut Hills who so generously support youth ministry.

In this past year, 12 youth who made up a Youth Leadership Team met twice monthly to plan activities and fundraisers. Over 40 Junior and Senior High youth attended Sunday school and youth group on Wednesday nights. Most of these youth also participated in monthly service projects that included working at 2 Goodwill branches, Ronald McDonald House, Mosaic Homes, Veteran's Hospital, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Festival of Trees, DMARC Food Pantry and here at the church. Seven Jr. High youth and 3 adults spent a weekend working at Wesley Woods. (One of those youth even chose to forgo her birthday celebration to give her time to others). The Senior High raised over \$6000 to fund their work trip to Dulac, Louisiana where they will work with a small Native American community repairing homes and having Bible school for the children. The new confirmation model was kicked off this spring with twenty youth participating. Adult mentors are being recruited and will be matched with these youth to partner with them through the confirmation process. Parents and other adults spent numerous hours working on fundraisers, subbing for Sunday school and youth group, driving youth, chaperoning overnights (& getting little, if any sleep), hosting, working with and playing alongside, planning for and loving our youth.

Thank you to the Sr. and Jr. High Sunday school teachers - the Youth Group leaders - the parents and adults, Doug & Pam and the wonderful staff who helped me so much and to the congregation who supported the ministry financially and prayerfully.  
- Julie Stone, Director of Youth Ministries

## In the Spotlight...

### Special Speakers at Walnut Hills this Sunday!

#### Dr. Daniel Davis

Sunday, May 15 at 9:45 a.m., Walnut Hills is hosting speaker Dr. Daniel Davis. He will have a brief talk followed by a Q & A on sexual orientation issues in connection with Gay Pride Week which is celebrated in the month of June.

#### Senator Harkin

Also on Sunday, May 15, 1 p.m., Walnut Hills is hosting Senator Tom Harkin. He is leading a conversation about why the current discussion on Social Security should be important to people of faith. All are welcome to attend.

## Children Perform May 15

Children's Chimes and CAP Kids will play and sing at both services this Sunday, May 15 and Songspiration Kids will join in the fun at the 10:45 a.m. service. Children are invited to wear their "Music at WH" t-shirt! What a joyful day this will be!

## 2nd Annual Mother Daughter Luncheon a Success

Ninety women and girls gathered on May 7 for a delightful lunch followed by door prizes, a dance program involving Walnut Hills dancers, and May Pole dancing on the lawn. The event was particularly special for 3 families who had 4 generations in attendance. Thanks to all who attended, those who danced and those who helped put on this wonderful event.

## UMCOR Kits

The Walnut Hills Outreach Committee will be collecting health kits and school kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). These kits are distributed to families who need them both in the U.S. and around the world. You can pick up the list of supplies needed for each kit in the East Gathering Area. You can also get the lists online at [gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits](http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/print/kits) or at [www.whumc.org](http://www.whumc.org) on the link page. Kits will be collected from now until June 5, and will be taken to the UMCOR truck at Iowa Annual Conference on June 9. Walnut Hills has a goal of collecting 100 kits, please help us meet our goal!

## College Grads

If you know of anyone receiving a college degree, please let us know. We will publish a list in the newsletter and bulletin. Write it on the STUB on Sunday or call the office center at 270-9226.

**This Sunday, May 15, 2005**

**DOUG'S MESSAGE:** "All Together in One Place"

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2:1-21

**MUSIC:** CAP Kids & Walnut Hills Ringminors at Both Services, Songspiration Kids at 10:45 a.m. Service

**Pentecost Sunday**

## With Our Children

Nursery for infants through 3 yrs.

**New Format for Children's Church:** Ages 4 years to 1st graders. See below for details.

**Sunday School:** 3 year olds through 6th grade, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday Mornings.  
**May 22 last day of Sunday School.**

**Songspiration:** 3 year olds through 2nd grade, 9:30-9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings.

### Wednesday Night Alive

**Kindergarten through 2nd graders:**

**6:00-6:30 p.m.** organized play time.

**6:30-7:00 p.m.** Centers: God's World—Nature

Wednesday, May 18: Planting in the Children's Garden. Pizza Night, final Wednesday Night Alive. Please check the stub if you are planning to attend.

**3rd Grade Through 6th Graders:**

**6:00-7:00 p.m.** C.A.P. program

**7:00-7:45 p.m.** WH Ringminors

## With Our Youth

**Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School:** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Senior Sunday May 22** - Photo and information due.

### Sr. High Work Trippers:

Sr. High Youth attending the work trip to Dulac, LA are required to work as many games as possible. All adults (18 & older) are welcome and needed! We have a blast! Sign up on the Ministry Board Table or check the STUB. For more information, contact Barb Stagg, coordinator, 221-9871.

Cubs Games Schedule:

- Friday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 2, 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 12, 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 7, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Report time is 2 1/2 hours before start time of the game above.

## With Our Adults

**Interested in joining Walnut Hills?** Join us on Sunday, May 15, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Child care is provided.

**Another Parents of Teens group forming.** All persons who would be interested in participating in a parents of Teens Fellowship Group please check the stub.

### Women of Walnut Hills

The Women of Walnut Hills planning group is inviting all women who are interested in helping plan and facilitate the coming year's events to check the stub, or call Sandy Lorenzen, 221-2999 or Denise Gibson, 987-0471. You will be contacted to participate in the first meeting for Fall planning which will take place in May.

## With Our Music

### MUSIC ON SUNDAYS...

May 15 CAP Kids and Walnut Hills Ringminors at both services  
Songspiration Kids at 10:45 a.m. service only  
May 22 Soul Singers  
May 29 John Jacobsen & Friends

## Service to Others

Preparers and/or servers are needed for **CFUM Low Income Meal Program** (located at Trinity) Tuesday, May 17 and **Meals for the Homeless** (Churches United Shelter) Sunday, June 5. Check the STUB.

## Groups Gather

◆ **Narcotics Anonymous:** Sundays, 5 p.m., Youth Room.

◆ **Alcoholics Anonymous:** Mondays, 7 p.m., Youth Room.

◆ **Brunch Bunch:** Sunday, May 15, noon at Baker's Square. Hostess: Helen Wilson.

◆ **Cyclepaths:** Sunday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. on The Great Western Trail. Meet at the Izaak Walton League Clubhouse on Valley Drive, DM. Call Bob 988-9909 or www.whumc.org for more information.

◆ **Men's Roundtable:** Wednesday, May 25, 11:45 a.m. Host: Bob Start.

◆ **HillToppers:** Sunday, May 15, 5:30 p.m. at Linda & Keith Sheriff's house, 813 58 St., WDM. RSVP to 224-9694. Pizza burgers, tableware and drinks provided. Please bring a dish to share and lawn chairs.

◆ **Women's Night Out:** Monday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Diner (next to Legends in Johnston). Check the STUB on Sunday if attending.

## In Our Prayers

- ✠ Carter Thomas Jones baptized Sunday, May 1. Parents are Jennifer & Jason Jones.
- ✠ Hayden James Dinkin baptized Sunday, May 8. Parents are Christina & Art Dinkin.
- ✠ Mandi & Angie Arthur's grandmother, Margaret Arthur, recovering from fall and surgery for shattered knee cap.
- ✠ Denise Gibson's father, Glen Grimm, cancer and undergoing tests.
- ✠ Susan Guy's friend, Joan Jones, healing from a car accident.
- ✠ Chuck & Maxine McCauley's nephew, Tim Sloan, heart attack.
- ✠ Chuck & Maxine McCauley's friend, Roland Hawthorne, Lou Gehrig's Disease.

**New format for Children's Church:** Children 3 year olds will go to their own classroom 103 next to the nursery and 4 year olds through 1st graders will meet in room 108 for the new Children's Church. Rooms 108 and 107 will be used for activities. Activities include, crafts, drama, games, or video, and sing-a-long songs with a snack. Half of the children will stay in room 108 for a center time and the other half will go across to room 107 for a different center time. After awhile, the children will switch rooms to experience the other center. The session ends with sing-a-long with a tape or video and a snack. Parents will come and pick up their children in either classroom after the church service is completed. Center activities are planned ahead of time and mailed to the Children's Church leaders.

## Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

12321 Hickman Rd  
Des Moines, IA 50323

## Walnut Way

W – Worshiping Community  
A – Acts of Service  
L – Learning  
N – Non-Judgmental Way of Life  
U – Unfolding Spirit  
T – Tithing

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church  
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Phone: 515-270-9226; Fax: 515-270-0838  
www.whumc.org

Doug Peters & Pam Deeds, Ministers

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

Christian Learning Time  
9:30 a.m.

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