



A Message from Doug

About three weeks ago a team representing a cross-section of the Walnut Hills congregation met to participate in the next stage of determining The Next Big Thing for our church. For over a year a Vision Team under the guidance of the Rev. Sarai Beck has been following a process known as Appreciative Inquiry for the purpose of learning what God is calling us to be and to do. Our big event last October was part of that process and on that Sunday morning you gave us several hundred pages of ideas, thoughts and dreams. At our meeting three weeks ago magician Ben Ulin prepared us to imagine in ways we might overlook. We took your several hundred pages of responses and have now had the first glimpse of what The Next Big Thing will look like. In some ways, what I am about to tell you will not be overly surprising. What is wonderful is that it confirms some of what we have known for a long time, and that is that Walnut Hills people are compassionate, innovative risk-takers who want to make the world better for others. This confirmation gives us the motivation to trust God to lead us into new places.

What we now know is that The Next Big Thing will in some way involve these four components:

- Use of our land
- A truly inclusive approach
- Spiritual exploration
- Major focus on children and youth

We are very close to the conclusion of this process. Whatever The Next Big Thing is will challenge us and will be beyond the dreams of any one individual or group. Please continue to ask God to lead us through this wonderfully significant stage of our congregational journey.

~ Doug

In the Spotlight...

PdP Partnership

The Walnut Hills Administrative Council has made the decision to renew our partnership with Principe de Paz United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas through 2008! According to Elizabeth Vega, coordinator of Jireh House Ministries (a ministry of PdP), they were able to serve 1,204 families with food, 553 people with clothing, 516 people with Bible study, 34 free haircuts, 113 referrals, 12 people with stress management counseling, and the list goes on! We will be sending four youth and two adults to San Antonio from March 17-21 as a part of our relationship-building with our sister congregation. Thanks to all of you who make this such a valued relationship for Walnut Hills!

Looking for More Adult Basketball & Volleyball Players

Has it been awhile since you've put your 3 point shot to work or your bumping and setting skills? If so, we have the place for you. Adult men and women are invited to join an ongoing group who plays basketball 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings here at Walnut Hills in the Celebration Center. Depending on the numbers who show, the game varies. We also invite those interested in volleyball to join us Sundays at 4 p.m. We have adults of all ages and would welcome more players. For more information, check the stub, or contact Connie or Marlyn McKeen at 253-9017. Both volleyball and basketball continue through mid March.

New Sunday Adult Learning

On March 5, we will begin a study entitled "Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace?" by John Dominic Crossan. This DVD study will be facilitated by Susan Guy and Charlie Adams, and will end on April 30 (skipping April 16 – Easter Sunday).

On March 19, Doug Peters will begin a four-week study on Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity." Books are available at local bookstores, or online at www.amazon.com. To sign up for either study, check the stub or call the church office at 270-9226.

Special Offering February 26

February 26 Walnut Hills will be collecting a Special Offering for three of our United Methodist special Sundays:

- Human Relations Day, which strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.
- One Great Hour of Sharing, which enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to respond to do business and to send 100 percent of all designated funds to the selected programs.
- Native American Ministries Sunday, which nurtures outreach with persons of all ages and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

These offerings give another opportunity for Walnut Hills to be in ministry in places that we cannot be physically present. Please respond generously!

Preschool Family Fun Night

Come join the fun of Preschool Family Fun Night Thursday, February 23, 6 to 8 p.m. There will be magic shows by Ben Ulin, inflatable fun, mini golf, soccer, basketball, spin art, game booths, treat walk, tattoos, and PRIZES! The cost is \$5 per family with the proceeds going to the Walnut Hills Preschool for equipment purchases. Dinner (free will donation) will be provided by Woodee's BBQ, Hy-Vee, Walmart, Two Men and a Truck, Panera Bread, Costco, & more. The snow date will be March 2.

Join Us for Lobby Days

Lobby Day, co-sponsored by the Iowa Conference Social Witness Advocacy & Education Ministry, will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 606 E. 9th Street, DM. RSVP's are needed, you can contact Kristin Clark at 974-8911 or kristin.clark@iaumc.org.

Work Trips to the Dominican Republic

On Sunday, February 26 we will be having an informational session about work trips to the Dominican Republic through the Foundation for Peace. It is at 9:30 a.m. in the music room, led by Jean Jacobsen, who has participated in this work trip in prior years. In addition to information about the work trip, we will be discussing ideas for financial assistance for a group from Walnut Hills.

Bidwell Riverside Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

Bidwell Riverside Center is hosting their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 25 at Grace United Methodist Church, 8:30 – noon. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4 to 12 years old. Children under 4 eat free. Bidwell Riverside Center needs bake sale items to be sold during the Pancake Breakfast. Donations need to be brought to Grace UMC, 3700 Cottage Grove, between 2-4 p.m. on Friday, February 24. For information or tickets, check the stub.

Adult Co-ed Softball Around the Corner

Interested in playing softball with a group from church? It's a great way to meet others, have fun and get some exercise. All skill levels are welcome. We have to let WDM know if we have a team by the first of March! So, check the stub today, and we'll give you a call with the details. Games are played on Sunday late afternoon and evenings beginning the end of April.

AMOS - "Beat the Winter Blues"

AMOS will be hosting an evening of food, refreshments and music entitled "Beat the Winter Blues," Saturday, March 11, 7-10 p.m. at the Fitch Gallery, 15th and Walnut, DM. Tickets are available between services for \$15 apiece or by calling Tom Caudron at 987-1525. Proceeds go to support the operating budget for AMOS.

Women of Walnut Hills Secret Pals

The Women of Walnut Hills are sponsoring Secret Pals. It's a wonderful way to connect with another woman in our church. Beginning the week of April 2 through April 29, send your secret pal small notes, poems, thoughtful sayings, prayers or small gifts. Then on the 29th you will reveal your identity at a luncheon. You do not have to attend the luncheon to participate. Sign-up on Sunday. For more information, contact Sandy Lorenzen at 221-2999.

This Sunday, February 19, 2006

DOUG'S MESSAGE: "It Is Always 'Yes'"

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

MUSIC: Soul Singers

7th Sunday After Epiphany

With Our Children

Camp Sunday: February 26, 9:30-10:30 in the Celebration Center. Learn about the United Methodist Church Camps with presentation given by representative from Camp Wesley Woods. Q&A time during the meeting.

Pizza Night will not be served in March or April due to these special events:

- Ash Wednesday in March
- A Seder meal in April.

Pizza Night will be held the last Wednesday of Wednesday Night Alive which is May 10.

“Created by God: A Class on Human Sexuality for Older Boys and Girls” is a class for 5th and 6th graders. The last class is this Sunday, February 19. It is the parent and student session.

Vacation Bible School: Mark your calendars from July 31-August 4 for *Adventure of the Treasure Seekers, Exploring God's Promises*.

With Our Youth

Valentines: Remember to check the West Gathering Area glass windows for a valentine from a special person and take it home. Thank you for supporting the youth group and their work trip to Kentucky.

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

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 9th Graders Koth Library. 10-12th Grade in the Sr. High youth room.

Youth Volleyball - Postponed until February 29th - open to youth grades 7-12, Sundays from 2:30 - 4:00 in the Celebration Center.

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

Feb. 22: Opening worship in the Celebration Center, followed by youth group.

March 1: Ash Wednesday service - no pizza tonight.

March 8: Bowling at Warrior Lanes in Waukee - \$3.50/1 game, free shoes.

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

Feb. 19: YLT - 10:30 Sr. High youth room.

Feb. 22: 6:30 Bible study, 7:00 Opening youth worship in the Celebration Center, followed by youth group.

March 1: Ash Wednesday service - no pizza tonight.

March 8: Service Project - Mosaic residents here for game night.

Sheltered Reality Youth Rally, February 19, 5 p.m. at Epworth UMC, 412 Euclid, DM. For more information, 270-9226 or julie@whumc.org

With Our Adults

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Issues: Rm 102

Faith & Life: Rm 101

Wednesday Bible Study: 6-8 p.m.

Disciple III: Conference Room

Disciple I: Koth Library

You can buy your Fair Trade Coffee at Walnut Hills! The next date to get your coffee will be Sunday, February 26 after worship.

The Adult Work Trip to Dulac, Louisiana has been rescheduled for September 1-7. Check your calendars, and check the stub if you would like more information!

With Sr. Adults

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 residents at Silvercrest Assisted Living.

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

Trauma Doll Ministry at Silvercrest and Illahee Hills is a partnership with the North West Kiwanis. Check the stub or call Pam at 270-9226 for more information on any of these programs.

Satellite Services

Sunday afternoons ~ Silvercrest Assisted Living - 2:00 p.m.

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

4th Sunday afternoons ~ Worship at Illahee Hills Retirement Residence - 3:30 p.m.

Those who wish to help with services on a rotational basis, check the stub.

In Our Prayers

- ✠ Randy and Julie Peters as they mourn their wife and mother, Susan Peters.
- ✠ Darrell VanWoert and his family in the death of his father, Don VanWoert.
- ✠ Tiffan Yamen's mother, Ginny Renaud, breast cancer surgery.

With Our Singles

Sunday, February 29: Lunch after the 10:45 service. Decide where to go as a group after the service.

Needed: A volunteer to host a movie night once a month. You can choose the theater and the day. Email Kelli at kelic@whumc.org.

With Our Music

MUSIC ON SUNDAYS...

February 19 Soul Singers

February 26 Women's Choir

March 5 CAP Kids

Groups Gather

- ◆ **Knitting Ministry:** Sunday, February 12, and Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Susan Guy, 270-9226 or sguy@whumc.org.
- ◆ **Co-Ed Volleyball:** Sundays, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Walnut Hills. Everyone welcomed!
- ◆ **Co-Ed Basketball:** Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. at Walnut Hills. Everyone welcomed!
- ◆ **Brunch Bunch:** Sunday, February 19 at Perkins on 74th, WDM. Host is Marj Putney.
- ◆ **Morning Parents:** Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Pampering Party at Susie Billingsley's. Please bring a dish to share, and a gift under \$10 to exchange. Any questions, call Susie at 274-9401.
- ◆ **Men's Round Table:** Wednesday, February 22, 11:50 a.m., Walnut Hills. Host: Jim Riggs.
- ◆ **Young Couples:** Saturday, February 25, 7 p.m. at Macaroni Grill. RSVP to Prunty at 255-8198.
- ◆ **Morning Parents:** Wednesday, March 1, 9-11 a.m. at church. All welcome to join.

Service to Others

Preparers and/or servers are needed for **CFUM Low Income Meal Program** (located at Trinity) Tuesday, February 21 and **Meals for the Homeless** (Churches United Shelter) Sunday, March 5. Check the STUB.

Walnut Hills is going to be participating in an interfaith build with Habitat for Humanity this summer. This build will include volunteers from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith communities. We are looking for a few lead volunteers for project coordinator, volunteer coordinator, fundraising coordinator, lunch coordinator, and promotion coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, check the stub or contact Susan Guy, sguy@whumc.org, 270-9226.

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

12321 Hickman Rd
Des Moines, IA 50323

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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

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Doug Peters, Pam Deeds & Susan Guy,
Ministers

ca
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday Services

ca
9:30 a.m. Sunday School