

Spirit: Walnut Hills Happenings

June 2010

A Message from Doug

What a privilege it has been to serve you and to journey with you. This will be the last opportunity for me to write to you in this newsletter – please watch for Carol's greeting in the July edition.

It makes sense at a time such as this to reflect on our time together over the past 8 years. I have been so pleased by the willingness you have shown in reaching out to those not always included, in serving the ones who are hungry, homeless and hopeless, in insisting that the world extend grace and fairness to all and in demonstrating a Christian spirit that values Biblical and theological integrity. These attributes, among many others, have impressed me about you and have energized and encouraged me.

I recognize that I am not only concluding my leadership with you but that I am concluding the whole of my pastoral ministry. So let me end on this note – a few things I have learned over the past several decades:

- We never understand our spiritual journeys until others let us know what they see in us.
- We often have more than enough words but less than enough imagination.
- Being clever may change some minds; being loving really can change the world.
- There are no "throw-away" people.
- We don't really know our faith until we are willing to live our faith.
- The people who lash out with the strongest words may have the deepest wounds.
- The answers we are willing to fight for are never as important as the questions we are willing to live for.
- If Jesus wasn't afraid of change and extreme diversity perhaps that can be a clue for us.
- Only when injustice ceases to be an option has one really embraced God's justice.
- There are more miracles that we can possibly imagine.

Thank you dear friends. Martha and I wish you all our best.

Walnut Way Moment

L - Learning

"Make yourself available to learning... take a class, read a book. Your mind is important as your spirit, your heart or your body. Exercise it."

- Anonymous



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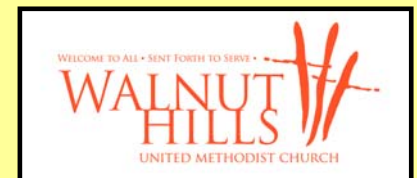
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Doing Justice

Natural disasters like the Iowa floods of 2008 have the biggest impact on those who can least afford it. Iowa Interfaith Power and Light is organizing a trip to Cedar Rapids to help the flood victims of 2008. Join Iowa Power and Light Volunteers on May 22, 2010 as they highlight this injustice and work with people in Cedar Rapids to rebuild. Volunteers will do light labor in service to neighborhoods still suffering from the 2008 floods. All skill levels are welcome. People will carpool to Cedar Rapids, leaving at 7:00 a.m. from Plymouth UCC (4126 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines), and arrive back in Des Moines by 6:00 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch. Please register by May 6, 2010 at www.iowaip.org/crffloodrecovery or contact Stephen Lauer at iowa.actioncorps@gmail.com (515) 343-0553.

Spotlight On...WH Garden Group



Several Walnut Hills members are exploring the possibility of establishing a Walnut Hills garden following the model of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in West Des Moines. A garden will allow a portion of our land to be dedicated to addressing local hunger needs through nutritious, locally-grown vegetables. For more information, please contact Doug Peters at 270-9226 or by email at doug@whumc.org.

Walnut Hills: Who We Are

Mission Statement

A place to call home where we are welcomed and sent forth to serve.

Vision Themes

Interfaith Acceptance
Social Justice
Spirituality



Inclusion Statement

"We, the members of Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, welcome all individuals into the life and work of our faith community. We resolve to follow Jesus' admonition to 'love one another, as I have loved you,' regardless of age, race, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, or any other human condition. As a reconciling congregation, we believe we are being reconciled to God and to one another."

Sunday Morning

9:30 a.m.

June 6, 2010

Second Sunday after Pentecost
The Surrounding Country

- Luke 7:11-17
- Communion Sunday

June 13, 2010

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher:

- Bob Crandall from Bidwell Riverside
- Outdoor Service - bring your lawnchairs!

June 20, 2010

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
The Word is "And"

- Galatians 3:23-29
- Father's Day

June 27, 2010

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Time to Go Over

- 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
- Doug and Martha's last Sunday at Walnut Hills
- Barbecue after church

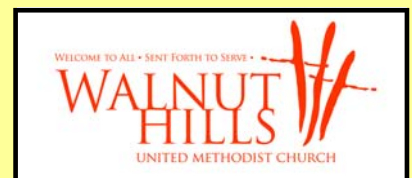
Satellite Worship

Sunday afternoons

at Silvercrest Assisted Living at 2:00 p.m. Come for worship and visiting. For more information, call Pam.

Fourth Sunday afternoons

at Illahee Hills Retirement Residence at 3:30 p.m.



Vacation Bible School "Need to Know"

- The VBS team will be decorating June 6 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church.
- All VBS Volunteers are invited to join the VBS team for an orientation meeting on Thursday, June 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Coffee House. Come learn more about Galactic Blast, your roles and responsibilities, the week's schedule, and more!
- The VBS dates for this year are June 20 - 24, so mark your calendars. Each night kids will experience singing, dancing, crafts, drama, lessons, and so much more. VBS goes from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.
- The VBS kids will perform June 27 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Please join the VBS team in celebrating another great vacation bible school!



If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susie Billingsley at susie@thefam.com or 274-9401, or check the STUB.

Walnut Hills Preschool Summer Camp

It's time for adventure and fun with lots of group games, outdoor play, music, crafts, and discovery experiences. There are two weeks available: June 14-17 and June 28-July 1. Your child may come one or both weeks. The cost is \$52 per week. There will be a mixed age group in the morning and afternoon sessions. All children must have completed at least a 3 or 4 year old preschool program and will be 4 or 5 by September 15, 2009. Children having completed kindergarten through second grade may also participate. To register, please contact Sue Petersen at 270-9127 or email at sue@whumc.org.

Children and Youth Dates

June 6, 2010

- VBS decorating day at 2:00 p.m.

June 13 - 15, 2010

- Jr. High Work Trip to Pictured Rocks in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

June 17, 2010

- VBS Volunteer orientation at 6:30 p.m. in the Coffee Shop

June 20 - 24, 2010

- Vacation Bible School

June 27, 2010

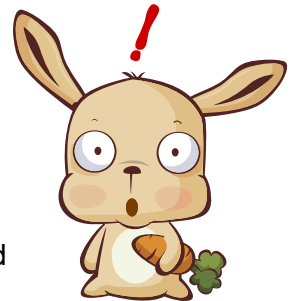
- VBS Kids perform in worship at 9:30 a.m.

July 17 - 24, 2010

- Sr. High Work Trip to York, Pennsylvania

Heifer Project Update

As of the end of May, 2010, the Sunday School children have raised \$5,710.05 for the Heifer Project International! This means that all grades, including the 5th and 6th Grades, reached their goals. Thank you to all who gave and participated in this wonderful challenge.



Children's Church Schedule

June, 2010

- June 6, 2010 - Liz Coffman, leader
Laura Linn, assistant
- June 13, 2010 - Amy Winkler, leader
Susie Billingsley, assistant
- June 20, 2010 - Kelli Hill Hunt, leader
Heather Davison, assistant
- June 27, 2010 - Sharon Dieke, leader
Holly Swartz, assistant



Walnut Hills' Graduating Seniors

Summer is a time for pool parties, backyard barbecues, and vacations to far off lands. It's also the beginning of a long farewell for those teenagers who find themselves graduating from high school and going on to pursue bigger and grander things.

This year, Walnut Hills had the opportunity to celebrate with the graduating seniors on May 2 at the 10:45 a.m. service. Those graduating from high school include: Anastasia Addington, Chris Calhoun, Adam Fast, John Freude, Jared Gilbert, Aaron Graham, Maggie Hall, Ben Jacobson, Allysa Koethe, Alana Krzyzak, Hannah McLean, Andrew Meek, AJ Merkel, Alison Miller, Kaitlin Olson, Allison Pestotnik, and Josh Prine.

Greg Robinson, superintendent of the Urbandale school district, gave a moving Living the Faith about the importance of connections throughout one's life. The seniors were also honored at a reception in the East Gathering Area given by the Church Life Team.

Earlier in the week, three seniors involved with Youth Group placed their silver-painted handprints on a wall in the Sr. High Youth room during a ceremony to mark the end of the seniors' Youth Group journey, as well as to welcome the incoming freshmen for next year.

The silver paint has washed off, but the memories will stay forever. Please take the time to shake the hand of a graduating student and wish them luck on their future endeavors.



I-Cubs Sign Ups

Please stop by the blue-covered table in the East Gathering Area to sign up to help with the I-Cubs concession stands! All youth going on the Sr. High Work Trip are required to work the I-Cubs games. Other adults and youth (16+) in the congregation are able to sign up, too! Your help is always greatly appreciated. For all times and dates, please stop by the table.



Sr. High Youth Car Wash

May 16 did not seem like a great day to have a car wash: cool temperatures and a threat of rain. But the Sr. High Youth enthusiastically rinsed, cleaned, dried, and buffed cars anyway. Thank you to all who brought their cars and trucks and SUVs to be cleaned. The car wash raised \$515, which will go towards funding the Sr. High Work Trip to York, Pennsylvania in July.

Jr. High Youth Work Trip

The Jr. High Youth will be going on a work trip from Sunday, June 13 through Tuesday, June 15. Once again, the youth will be working at Pictured Rocks in Cedar Rapids doing service projects in the morning, fun camp activities in the afternoon, and group activities in the evening. The Walnut Hills congregation will have the opportunity to send the youth off on June 6 during the 9:30 a.m. service. If you would like more information about the Jr. High Youth Work Trip, contact Doug Tupper at 402-1818 or by email at douglastupper@gmail.com.

Groups Gather

4/5/6-ers Fellowship Group: If you are in your 40s, 50s, or 60s, married or single, please join this group. For more information about the group, contact Darrell VanWoert at 222-9560.

Adoptive Families Group: Please mark your calendars for an upcoming event that promotes cultural awareness. If you are interested in carpooling or if you have any questions, contact Abbie Smith at 664-9400 or by email at kevinandabbie@hotmail.com.

Schedule of events:

- Saturday, June 19. Iowa Juneteenth Parade.
For more information, visit www.iowajuneteenth.org.

Brunch Bunch: This group will be taking a break for the month of June.

Coed Softball: Softball will begin soon. Please check the STUB on Sunday mornings if you are interested.

Men's Roundtable: Wednesday, June 9. Please bring a sack lunch.
Wednesday, June 23. Please bring a sack lunch.

Parents of Teens: This group will be taking a break for the summer. Please watch for more information in the fall.

Religious Studies Group: Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Koth Library. Featuring DVD programs and dramas, with viewing guides available. There is absolutely NO homework and everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Charlie Adams at 993-1818 or by email at adamschsh@msn.com.

Schedule of topics:

- June 3 - Varieties of Early Christian Life and The Uses of Philosophy
- June 10 - The Doctrine of the Trinity and The Doctrine of the Incarnation
- June 17 - The Doctrine of Grace and The Incomprehensible and the Supernatural
- June 24 - Eastern Orthodox and Scholastic Theology

Women's Book Group: This group will be taking a break during the month of June. The next discussion will be July 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Starbucks at 11084 Hickman Road. The book for July is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Groups Calendar

Religious Studies Group

Thursday, June 3, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Koth Library

Men's Roundtable

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
12:00 p.m. (noon)
Walnut Hills

Religious Studies Group

Thursday, June 10, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Koth Library

Religious Studies Group

Thursday, June 17, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Koth Library

Adoptive Families Group

Iowa Juneteenth Parade
Saturday, June 19, 2010

Men's Roundtable

Wednesday, June 23, 2010
12:00 p.m. (noon)
Walnut Hills

Religious Studies Group

Thursday, June 24, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Koth Library

Women's Book Group

Tuesday, July 6, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Starbucks

Spotlight On... Adoptive Families Group

Adoptive Families Group is a community of families created through adoption that gathers regularly throughout the year to support one another on each family's journey. This group is open to all who have been touched by adoption: international, domestic, foster, waiting, those with children, or those just starting to think about adoption. Our goal is to be a welcoming group in which to share our joys and challenges of the adoption process, parenting highs and lows, and the everyday moments of family life. We also strive to learn more about the many cultures that make up our families. We not only come together to support each other as parents, but we also provide a place for our kids to get to know one another and share their experiences of being part of an adoptive family.

If you would like to be a part of the Adoptive Families Group, have questions about the group, or would just like more information about the group and their activities, please contact Abbie Smith at kevinandabbie@hotmail.com.

To Do:

• Children and Family Urban Ministry Meal

Six to eight servers are needed to serve the meal each third Tuesday of the month. Serving begins at 4:45 p.m., so persons who are volunteering in this way need to be at Trinity UMC no later than 4:30 p.m. The next CFUM Meal is **Tuesday, June 15, 2010**. Please sign up on the bulletin board or check the STUB on Sunday mornings.



Prepare

Menu Needs:

- Pizza + \$10 tip for delivery = \$231.10
- Tossed salad with dressing
- Brownies
- Milk - 4 gallons white
- 6 gallons chocolate
- Coffee - One 2-3 pound can
- Paper Items - 150 strong paper plates, 150 napkins, 150 medium-size Styrofoam cups, 150 forks and spoons



Serve

• Urbandale Food Pantry

Walnut Hills has joined with other Urbandale churches in collecting personal care items on the third Sunday of each month. Our items for June are Toothpaste and Toothbrushes. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need!



Donate Toothpaste



Donate Toothbrushes

• Food Pantry

The suggested food items for the month of June are Canned Fruits and Vegetables. Place all donated food items in the red shopping cart in the East Gathering Area.



Donate Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Special Ways to Serve

Garden Caretakers

Walnut Hills is a welcoming church and part of that is the beauty of its gardens. If you would like to help with the care of the gardens this year, please contact Connie Struve at 971-7736 or by email at struve92@msn.com.



IHN Annual Garden Party

Celebrate the Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network's (IHN) 5th Anniversary while raising funds for a worthy organization. The event is Friday, June 25, 2010 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The party includes beautiful gardens, refreshments, live music, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available at www.dmihn.org or you may purchase them from Angie Arthur and Jana Warren. If you have questions, please call 279-4655.



The Hymns We Sing

James D. Walters

June 13, 2010 will be one of Walnut Hills' summer outdoor services. Part of the process for choosing hymns for any Sunday is how those hymns use the scripture, or how they fit in with the sermon topic for the day. For June 13, I took a different approach: instead of using the aforementioned sources for inspiration, I looked to nature. What better time to sing about nature than when we are outside under the shade of the giant trees on the park-like lawns of the church?

One of the hymns for June 13 may seem like a stretch when it comes to the nature theme. I'd like to share the story of this hymn, and hopefully through understanding its history, you will see that it fits quite well. The hymn is *It Is Well With My Soul*.

The text for this hymn was written in 1873 by Horatio Spafford, a devout Presbyterian and wealthy businessman who lived in Chicago. A few months before the Chicago Fire of 1871, Spafford had invested heavily in real estate along the shore of Lake Michigan and his investments were completely wiped out by this disaster. Looking to get away, he sent his wife and four daughters on a trip to Europe, but due to last minute business developments, he had to remain in Chicago, but he sent his wife and daughters on ahead as scheduled on the S.S. *Ville du Havre*. He expected to follow in a few days.

On November 22 the ship was struck by an English vessel and sank in twelve minutes. Only Mrs. Spafford survived. She wired her husband, "Saved alone." It is thought that on the sea near the area where his four daughters had drowned, Spafford penned this text whose words so significantly describe his own personal grief - "When sorrows like sea billows roll..." It is noteworthy, however, that Spafford's hymn does not dwell on the theme of life's sorrows and trials, but focuses attention in the fourth stanza of Christ's triumphant return to Earth. Humanly speaking, it is amazing that one could experience such personal tragedies and sorrows and still be able to say with such convincing clarity, "It is well with my soul."

The water spoken of in this hymn represents, to me, the journey we all take through life. Sometimes turbulent, sometimes smooth, but always with a clear purpose. This is the nature of our existence. Please join your Walnut Hills family on June 13 to enjoy the outdoor service and the nature around us. You surely won't be disappointed when sitting in our outdoor sanctuary.

Nature Adult Ministries

Bible Study: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Koth Library. The study will be using the United Methodist Curriculum: Adult Bible Studies, and will involve reading and discussing the biblical books of Ruth, Isaiah, Matthew, and Luke. If you plan to attend, please check the STUB on Sunday mornings or contact Pam at pam@whumc.org.

Game Day: Fourth Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Koth Library. Please come to the next Game Day on June 28.

Trauma Doll Ministry: Friday mornings from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. at Silvercrest Assisted Living. This important ministry is a partnership with the North West Kiwanis. Please come for fellowship with residents and so much more. For information, please contact Pam at pam@whumc.org.



Don't forget!

There is always a need for volunteers to fold the Sunday morning bulletin, fold the monthly newsletter, or work in the office. If you would be interested, please call Joyce at 270-9226 or email communications@whumc.org.

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church
12321 Hickman Rd
Des Moines, IA 50323

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Publication Deadlines

Articles for the monthly newsletter for July are due June 1, 2010.

Sunday Service Bulletin and Insert Information

Submissions are due no later than 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday of that Sunday's bulletin. Please send information in an email format to communications@whumc.org.

Walnut Hills Newsletter and Online Calendar

See the latest and past issues of the Walnut Hills Newsletter in pdf format and a calendar of events at www.whumc.org/whatsnew.html.

An electronic newsletter can be emailed to you

Email the church office at communications@whumc.org to request it by email.

Walnut Hills is on Facebook

- Walnut Hills UMC Fan Page
- Walnut Hills UMC Youth Page
- Walnut Hills UMC Worship Arts Page
- Walnut Way

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)



12321 Hickman Rd
Urbandale, IA 50323
Phone: 515-270-9226
Fax: 515-270-0838
www.whumc.org



Doug Peters &
Pam Deeds, ministers



9:30 a.m. Sunday Summer Worship

How to Reach Your Ministers

Doug and Pam want you to feel free to contact them:

Doug Peters, Senior Minister

email - doug@whumc.org

Pam Deeds, Associate Minister

email - pam@whumc.org