CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF SERVING!

Connie Petruskevich and her organization, Fishing’s Future, have been spotted serving Jesus by teaching kids how to fish. What an awesome ministry! Thanks, Connie!

MISSION TO AFRICA: UGANDA 2014

We are already making plans for 2014! Anyone interested in going to Uganda next summer, to work with Amy Jorgensen and Revelation Life? Join Kelly Voorhies, Volunteer & Mission Coordinator, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30 pm, for an information meeting about the trip. Mark your calendar and sign up at the Connection Center.

(Amy Jorgensen, a full-time missionary with Revelation Life and former member of NW Hills)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who participated in this year’s Annual Baby Diaper Drive. We were able to collect a total of 11,671 DIAPERS! This is double what we collected last year. The class that collected the most was the Acts class. The Agape Pregnancy Center-Life Choices gives the diapers to families who are participating in their program and our donation of diapers will allow them to continue to assist families in need. Thank you again to all who participated and we will collect again next July. Mark your calendars!

Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
7575 Tezel Road • San Antonio TX 78250 • 210.681.3751 • www.nwhills.org
DISCIPLESHIP CAFÉ
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY
September 8, 9:45 am – 11 am
Choir Room

Whether you attend weekly, have been out of the routine of attending or have never attend-
ed Sunday School Classes, we warmly invite
YOU! Discipleship Café Fellowship Sunday
provides an opportunity to see our new adult
classes that will be offered, in a fellowship
setting.

Eight reasons from the Bible to join a
Sunday School class…

1. Sunday School is a place to study the
Bible, have a better understanding of
God’s Word, and apply His truth to your
life. (2 Tim. 3:15-17)
2. Sunday school is where you can partner
with others to share Christ with people
who don’t know Him. (Mat.28:16-20)
3. Sunday School is the place where you
start to feel like a part of the family of
God. (Acts 2:42-47)
4. Sunday School is a place where you can
see that God answers prayer. Other peo-
ple pray for you and you pray for others.
(Acts 12:12)
5. Sunday School provides an excellent
support group in times of personal crisis
and need. (Romans 12:12-13)
6. Sunday School is a place where you can
develop leadership skills. (Mat. 25:14-
30, 2 Tim. 2:1-2)
7. Sunday School is where you have a great
opportunity to serve God by serving oth-
ers. (Eph 4:11-12)
8. Sunday School is where you can learn to
be the Christian that God wants you to
be. (2 Cor. 3:18)

FROM THE PASTOR…

What a flurry of activity! Teachers, administrators and students back at school,
band parents, choir parents, sports parents, PTA, all asking for money, school
zones bogged down, the church offering new Sunday schools, Bible studies
and Journey Groups, more traffic everywhere! I’m exhausted just thinking
about it, and my kids are grown and gone.

In the midst of the flurry, it’s easy to leave God out of the formula. Even when
some of that flurry is church activity, it’s easy to go through the motions and
leave God out of it. This is not a new temptation. John Wesley, the founder of
the Methodist movement, expressed his concern that the Church of England
had fallen into a trap and the Methodists could go the same way, “having a
form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” (2 Timothy 3:5)

We can choose to move through this incredibly busy time with God. One Sat-
urday night not long ago I had strange dreams that I had a number of tasks that
were unfinished, such a pile of things that I could not possibly get to it all in
time. I woke up Sunday morning feeling tired. But within 5 minutes I knew
what the dream was about. I had forgotten to fill the baptistery on Saturday
night for an immersion baptism to take place on Sunday morning! Needless to
say, my usual Sunday morning routine was shot, as I hurried through a shave
and shower, dressed, and walked out the door with a big travel mug of coffee
and a couple of breakfast bars. All the while I was praying, “Lord, help me get
it all done without becoming frantic. Give me time to sit in quiet with you, to
go over my sermon, to pray and listen for your voice. Give me your peace.”
God answered that prayer, keeping me calm, deliberate, and prayerful through
everything I had to do. The tank got filled, the water warmed up, I went over
my sermon and got “prayed up.” All went well. God is good!

Even in the most frantic and busy of times, if we’ll invite God to “do the day
with us,” he will do it! Even on the launch pad of the school year, God is still
God and God is still good. Count on him. Call on him. Find your peace in him.
Even in September!

See you Sunday!

David

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Starting Thursday, September 19, 9:15-10:30 am
Room 204-205 in the Education Building
Captured by Grace By Dr. David Jeremiah
We will discuss a chapter of the book each week as well as Scripture that per-
tains to that week’s reading. When you read the book your heart will also be
captured by grace.
The books are here and the cost is $4.00 for the book.
Gerry Kimsey will lead the class and have the coffee ready for you.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES
Starting September 18, 6:30-8 pm, Sign up at the Connection Center, Classroom listings will be posted in the building.

ALPHA, Taught by David Trawick
This course is designed for seekers, but also a good refresher for believers, as an introduction to Christianity and an opportunity to address some of those difficult questions like, what about other religions? What about the problem of evil? Is Jesus the only way? and more. Format is presentation and small group discussion.

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST, Taught by Mike Turner
A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation
First, Companions in Christ, is not a place to come sit, and take notes, expecting the leader to fill you with wisdom and knowledge from the Bible. It is not a Study to gain more Biblical head knowledge, or a place to debate the mysteries of the Bible, or a place to talk about the God experiences of other people.

Companions in Christ, is a 28-week Small Group journey. An experiential study moving in five parts: Christian journey, scripture, prayer, call, and spiritual guidance. Each week the Companions in Christ book begins with an inviting and often challenging reading. Then each day provides scripture readings and questions to guide your personal reflections. The week closes with a Wednesday night small-group meeting where the participants can share their thoughts, reflect together, and take part in a variety of group learning experiences.

If you would like to go deeper in your relationship with God, if you are willing to commit to daily readings and reflections, then join us as we journey together as a group on this 28 week experience called, Companions in Christ.

SERMON DEEP DIVE SERIES, Taught by Joe Baumgartner
The Sermon Deep Dive Series will help you get more from the weekly sermon. You come to church, worship Jesus and hear a sermon weekly. How much does the sermon help you move closer to Christ? In this class we will share our thoughts about the main points of the sermon. We will review the bible verse that is the basis of the sermon. We will grow closer to Christ by discussing how we act upon the knowledge within the sermon. We will laugh, disagree and challenge each other. Mostly, we will pray together.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SNACK SUPPER
5:30-6:15 pm $2/person, cash or check
$2 will get you two slices of Papa John’s pizza (cheese, pepperoni or beef), salad and a drink. You must sign up for snack supper prior to Wednesday night. Sign up is available at the Connection Center on Sunday morning OR you can call the church office (681-3751) by 2 pm on Wednesday.

If you signed up and find you will not be able to attend, please call the church office by 2 pm on Wednesday so we can cancel your order.

To help us prevent “no shows,” if you sign up, do not show up for dinner & you do not call, you will receive a postcard in the mail reminding you that you owe for Wednesday’s meal.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
Starting Wed., Sept 18, 6:30-8 pm

Does your desire to tithe and participate fully in the financial support of Christ’s ministries through Northwest Hills seem impossible to accomplish? Possibly, other financial goals and wishes seem out of reach. Goals like ‘not living from paycheck to paycheck’; having a comfortable cushion for emergencies or those special occasions; a great start on the children’s college fund; retirement savings that will dispel concerns about housing, assisted living needs, or perhaps long term care. These are goals that are natural for everyone who is without the benefit of significant wealth.

Financial Peace University provides a plan for our money, and it teaches God’s ways of handling money. Financial Peace University is a nine week program consisting of video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities. This training experience presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you’ve dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save money wisely, and so much more.

Financial Peace University can be the solution to so many challenges that we face. It requires a sincere commitment of time and money. Consider carefully and prayerfully if you are ready to make a lasting change in the way your finances are managed. Enrollment in Financial Peace University requires the purchase of the training materials at a cost of $100 per individual or family. The enrollment fee is payable in two installments: $50 in advance of the start of the class and $50 at the beginning of the class on September 18. Stop by the Connection Center to sign up. Enrollment checks may be made payable to Northwest Hills UMC, indicating Financial Peace University in the memo line. Class size is limited, so early enrollment is strongly recommended.
UPDATE FROM DEBI

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

Twelve years ago I was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL). Typically seen in older patients (70-80), I am considered a “young” patient. Basically I have been followed with just routine blood tests to monitor my white blood cell count. This spring however, changes were seen and my CLL has become “active.” In older patients treatment consist of a pill. Because I am a young patient, a more aggressive approach is needed. I will be undergoing chemotherapy to put the CLL into remission. The regimen will consist of 3 days in a row of a combination of 3 medications every 4 weeks. Depending on how well I respond, about 6-8 rounds of treatment (about the length of the school year). No, I will not lose my hair. There are many different types of chemo and they all have different side effects. The biggest concern for me will be an increased risk of infection.

I will continue to work in the office but will be out the days of my treatments. I have a great group of ladies who will answer the phones while I’m gone. During the cold and flu season, I may be missing on Sunday mornings.

I ask for your prayers. I know that God has got my back. Todd and I have been through tough times before and we know that God will be by my side walking me through this and putting the leukemia into remission. I also ask prayers for those who are listed in the Ongoing Prayers in the bulletin. These people are going through their own trials and need you to support them as well.

Your Sister in Christ
Debi Duke
Administrative Assistant

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!
23RD ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH

Jesus’ command at the end of the book of Matthew was to “GO” and make disciples. Then how would it be possible to “STAY” and share the love and hope found in Christ with our community? The answer is simple: Pumpkin Patch!

This October (actually, Sept. 28) Northwest Hills will open its Pumpkin Patch for the 23rd year, once again creating an opportunity to be like Jesus to the thousands of people in the surrounding communities who come to visit our patch.

Our first pumpkin unload will be Friday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m. Second unload will be Friday, Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. and the last one, a half load, will be Sunday, October 20 at 1:30 pm.

By the time you read this, you will notice that signups for patch shift volunteers has already begun. We will have a Pumpkin Patch Potluck on Sunday, Sept. 22 after the late service. Bring a covered dish or dessert and we will enjoy some fellowship and pray over the patch.

Monday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. in the choir room, we will have Pumpkins 101 training for first-time Patch volunteers.

The patch will be open 9 am to 9 pm every day between Sept. 28 and October 31. That requires a lot of volunteers for shifts and a lot of hard work from our congregation. The shifts are 3 hours each (9-12, 12-3, 3-6, 6-9).

What is the payoff? Again, thousands of people from our communities and across the city will be coming to our church to buy pumpkins. Many children will come from local elementary schools, day cares and play groups for story time – to sing songs, laugh and get a pumpkin story that points us to a Creator.

We get the opportunity to share the love and hope of Jesus with all of them. Many current church members joined NWH because of their positive experiences in the patch. We have the opportunity to touch so many lives without leaving the church grounds.

Oh yeah, another benefit of the patch is it is THE fundraiser for our youth group. Money raised from each pumpkin patch has been enough to COMPLETELY fund the youth ministry for the entire year.

So, you are encouraged to love your neighbors as yourselves and to “STAY” and share Jesus with our community.

Thanks and peace,
Chris Baxter
Youth Minister

SEPTEMBER 2013
NWH HAPPENINGS
Page 4
This is the time of year when the church leadership begins to evaluate the ministry and mission of the year for the current year and begin the process of planning for the coming year. In a few weeks, we will all be asked to prayerfully consider our financial commitment for 2014. For some, this is a very spiritual process and reflection on God’s presence and His abundance in our lives is recalled with gratitude, and a pledge is welcomed opportunity. For others, consideration might be given to coming to church at all over the next few weeks with the hope that we might miss all the pledge talk.

Participating in this vital part of the church’s responsibility is important for everyone. Everyone includes children, youth, young adults, adults, older adults. Participation includes the employed, the underemployed, the unemployed and the retired. Whatever our individual circumstances, we can all point to blessings that we experience every day, in great and small ways. Every gift matters because each of us matters to God.

A story told by a pastor in Bethel Park, PA always comes to mind when I dare to think that I have any scarcity of resources. The story is told by a missionary who was serving in the African nation of Chad. “He was preaching in a native church in that country, and the time came for the offering… He prayed that God would lead the people to see their offering as an expression of faithfulness, discipleship, and love for God. In the congregation sat a woman who literally had nothing to give. When the plate finally came to her, she looked at it for a moment. Then she slowly rose from her seat in the pew and stepped into the aisle. Quietly, she put the plate on the floor. Then, in a humble and beautiful act of devotion, she simply stepped into the plate”.*

When the pledge cards come around this fall, may we all, in our own way, step into the plate.

*Right on the Money, Messages for Spiritual Growth through Giving, Brian K. Bauknight
Monthly Events

CLASS 101, Sunday, Sept. 15
3:00 to 6:00 pm
What it means to be a Christian
What it means to be a United Methodist
What it means to be a member of Northwest Hills UMC

This class is for anyone wanting to find out more about becoming a Christian, about the United Methodist Church, and about being a member of Northwest Hills Church. Class 101 is required before becoming a member of Northwest Hills. Class is led by Pastor David Trawick.

There is a sign up sheet at the Connection Center if you wish to attend the next class or call the church office at 681-3751 to reserve a place.

LADIES OF LEISURE
Meets Every Monday, 11:30 am
The ladies meet each week at a different restaurant just for fun. If you would like to be included in the fun or would like more information, contact May Lang at (210) 679-5774 or email maylang@sbcglobal.net.

UNITED METHODIST MEN’S BREAKFAST
Saturday, September 14, 8:00 am
Meet at the church and then drive to Denny’s on 410 off Ingram Road. Contact George Hampton at 372-0969.

TEXAS RAMP PROJECT
Building Freedom for the Homebound
Saturday, September 21, 7:00 am. Meet at the church.
We build accessibility ramps for the homebound. So, if you like working with power tools and get satisfaction in doing a job that better’s another person’s life, this is for you! Sign up at the Connection Center. For more information contact Ron Gloyd at (210) 673-3796.

PRIME TIME POTLUCK LUNCH
Monday, September 23, 11:30 am
Anyone age 60 and older is invited to attend. Bring a yummy dish to share and stay for a fun activity.

JOURNEY GROUP KICKOFF, SEPTEMBER 15
4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Please join us for an ice cream social. NW Hills will be launching a new small group ministry. Meet new people and we will help you find just the right group. If you are undecided about joining a small group, come and get information about what it means to be part of a Journey Group. You can stop by the Journey Group table outside by the front doors to sign up for the kickoff or to get more information.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY’S FALL KICKOFF EVENT
Thursday, September 19, 6:30-8:00 pm.
You won't want to miss this fun, football themed event that will promise to provide food, fun, information and excitement! RSVP by September 7 to Natalie Long at natalie@nwhills.org.

UPCOMING EVENT

CARD MARKING WORKSHOP
Saturday, October 5
10 am - 12 pm, Fellowship Hall
Join the ladies of Northwest Hills as we support Membership Care in making hand-stamped cards. You don't need any experience or supplies. Just come ready for a day of fellowship, fun and creative recreation. Watch for a sign up at the Connection Center or email Natalie Long at natalie@nwhills.org.

THANK YOU!
We are profoundly thankful to our church family, who bestowed upon us so many prayers and blessings during our illnesses.

God bless you all,
Keith Carr & Bob Hockey
Sunday, September 1
6:30 pm Troop 228 Committee Meeting

Monday, September 2
Labor Day—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out Room Prep
7:00 pm Troop 228 Panther Patrol

Wednesday, September 4
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out Room Prep

Thursday, September 5
10:00 am Mother’s Day Out Open House

Sunday, September 8
5:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
5:00 pm NWSA Emmaus Community Gathering

Tuesday, September 10
9:00 am First Day of Mother’s Day Out
7:00 pm Troop 228 Venture Crew & Panther Patrol Meetings

Wednesday, September 11
6:30 pm Uganda Mission Information Meeting

Saturday, September 14
8:00 am United Methodist Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, September 15
3:00 pm Class 101
3:00 pm Aging Parent Support Group
4:00 pm Journey Group Ice Cream Social

Monday, September 16
7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Pumpkin 101 Training

Tuesday, September 17
7:00 pm Troop 228 Venture Crew Meeting

Wednesday, September 18
5:30 pm Snack Supper

6:30 pm Wednesday Night Activities Start

Saturday, September 21
7:00 am Texas Ramp Project

Sunday, September 22
12:30 pm Pumpkin Patch Potluck Celebration

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:
12:00 pm AA
3:00 pm Youth Choir
5:00 pm The Way Youth Worship
6:30 pm Church Prayer Group
7:00 pm AA Women

Monday:
11:30 am Ladies of Leisure Lunch
12:00 pm AA
1:00 pm Needle crafters
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 228
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday:
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out
5:15 pm Worship Band Practice
7:00 pm AA
7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice
8:15 pm AA Spanish

Wednesday:
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out
5:30 pm Wed. Snack Supper
6:30 pm Wed. Night Activities
7:00 pm Hand bells
8:00 pm NA 12-Step Program

Thursday:
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out
7:00 pm AA
8:15 pm AA Spanish

Friday:
12:00 pm AA
7:00 pm AA

Saturday:
9:00 am AA
10:00 am TOPS Weight Loss
7:00 pm AA Spanish

Monday, September 23
9:00 am Mother’s Day Out Staff Meeting
11:00 am Mother’s Day Out Board Meeting
11:30 am Prime Time Potluck Lunch

Friday, September 27
5:00 pm PUMPKINS ARRIVE

Sunday, September 29
7:00 pm Troop 228 Patrol Leader Council

SEPTEMBER 2013 NWH HAPPENINGS
THE WAY YOUTH MINISTRY—PASSION, PORN AND PURITY 3-PART SERIES
Starting, Sunday, Sept. 22
5 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall.

Sexuality is a topic that will reach 100-percent of our youth and children whether we take an active role in teaching or allow the world to force-feed our young ones an unhealthy, distorted view.

Towards the end of the past school year, my youngest son, in 4th grade at the time, asked me very directly, "How do babies get in their mom’s bellies?" Having already steeled myself mentally for such a conversation, I proceeded to go into enough detail, using equal parts clinical terms for anatomical parts of the body and verses from Genesis, to accurately convey both the how and the why. He proceeded to sit in my lap for about 15 minutes crying uncontrollably and exclaiming periodically, “Why did God make us like that?”

The reality is, the world has long conveyed an inaccurate story of “how and why” regarding sex and that story is reaching children at a younger and younger age.

And that is why The Way Youth Ministry is starting a three-part series entitled Passion, Porn and Purity, Sunday, Sept. 22, 5 - 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Snack supper will be provided. It is open to youth from 6th to 12th grade and their parents. Each session will have a teaching time followed by separate small group sessions for adults and youth.

The material will not cover “Where do babies come from?” but will focus on sex, dating, lust and pornography. The goal of the series is not to scare youth away from sex with facts about STDs and teen pregnancy. The goal is to strengthen their (and our) understanding of God’s plan for our relationships and how our relationship with Him should be the foundation of everything we do, including dating.

I cannot stress enough how important this series is to youth and parents. I encourage every youth and every parent of a youth to attend this series. I also assure you that parents and youth will be split up for question and answer time and small group time to allow a greater sense of freedom and eliminate awkward discussions.

If you have any questions regarding this series, you can call me at 681-3751, 442-9790 or email me at chrisb@nwhills.org.

Peace,
Chris Baxter
Youth Minister

Keepsake BOOK
With your grandparents, create a special book to preserve cherished memories.

What you need:
- Index cards
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Binder ring (or yarn)
- Crayons or markers

What you do:
1. Brainstorm questions to ask one or more of your grandparents (topics can include their childhoods, favorites and advice). Write one question on each index card.
2. Ask your grandparent to write his or her answers on the blank sides of the cards.
3. Make a cover by decorating one index card.
4. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.
5. Use a binder ring or string yarn through the holes and tie to secure the cards together.