

# THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

June 2023

## Legacy Gifts .... money, values, or something bigger

by Mike Overby, Elder of Finance



This being my third year as elder of Finance I had great hopes to again share some insightful thoughts built around financial lessons learned, past and present, which might serve as something to think about plus being entwined with foundational biblical principles. To be honest, I've struggled to assemble something worthy of submitting to the newsletter this year. I've started, stopped, tossed out, and re-thought ideas over this month more than I care to admit. Nothing clear or coherent was coming to mind. So ... I took a break to refocus my energies. Actually, I took out the book Session is reading this year, "Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership", and re-read the Foreword section. The contributor to this section of the book cites the need for "stillness" every day. Quoting from the book that hit home for me was that "In solitude and silence, we become aware of the inner needs and desires that we bring to the day. Then we can talk to God, our good and loving Father, about what it is we actually need for the day, asking for his wisdom, his guidance, his grace to prevail." For thirty minutes, with no other distractions at hand I went into this stillness. The time spent was less about me, this article, or my needs at the moment and turned more about the gifts God provides and values. Thus, the following reflects my thoughts crafted after this encounter with God that day in late May.

My guess is that most of us are thinking of inheritance or a large donation if we hear the words "legacy gift" being referenced. After all, money can be a gift. It can change a life, transform a family and be shared with the broader community that is named as a benefactor. In Proverbs 13:22, "A good person

leaves an inheritance for their children's children ...". Most of us might agree that planning for the day that we leave this world and transferring portions of what wealth we have acquired to our families, organizations/causes we treasure, or to our church, are prudent steps in stewarding those gifts God has given to us. That said, I believe in this verse God calls for something bigger.

After further thought on the above biblical concept of inheritance, my remaining time ventured toward what I might consider as worldly things I might be able to gift to others. This incorporates those values I believe in and have tried my best to share over the course of my life. Thoughts of; plan for the future but live for today, make memories, share family traditions and stories, work hard, learn to love and be kind, help those in need, all came to mind. You also may have other truths to add to this list. Share them with family and friends before it is too late. This said, I still believe God calls for something bigger.

Legacy gifts/values/action(s) are those that have the opportunity to make an enduring impact on those that follow us. Christians believe in doing things God's way, for his needs in our world, and to bless his people. In Psalm 78:4, "We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." Simply put, sharing your faith quite possibly is the greatest gift to give and to transfer this legacy to others. Then, how best to do this? Find the time to venture into the 'Stillness' and solitude with God daily, he wants to hear your prayers, thoughts and desires.

For me at least, a lesson learned this year . . .

## Capital Campaign Update

In April 2023, West Hills engaged Church Development of Kansas City to conduct a Feasibility Study. The feedback we receive from the study will assess the readiness of West Hills for a Capital Campaign to address our much-needed maintenance issues and building updates.

A cross-section of the congregation will be interviewed in person at the church. The rest of the congregation will provide feedback via an online or written survey. Whether a person participates in an interview, online or paper survey, the feedback counts the same and will be vitally important for understanding the voice of our congregation and the direction God is leading us.

A summary of the study will be presented to the entire congregation through a newsletter. The Session will study the results and will discern how to proceed at their July meeting.

### Capital Campaign Dates of Next Steps:

**June 23, 24 and 25** - Onsite interviews by Church Development (Darryl Prater and Peter Kardash).

**June 26** - Online and paper survey launches.

**July 13** - Close survey.

**July 18** - Church Development presents Feasibility Study report to Session.

**July 21/24** - Send out newsletter summary of the Feasibility Study report to congregation.

## May Session Notes

- Session continued the discussion of "Strengthening The Soul Of Your Leadership" by Ruth Haley Barton, Chapter 3, and a self assessment, *How Is It With Your Soul?*
- Session met with Jessica Scheopner for her Annual Interview while she's Under Care of Session and continues her theological education. Discussed her current ministry opportunities, her call to ministry, her personal Journey with Christ.
- Session accepted the updated job description for Deacons of Stephen Ministry.
- Session approved the motion for Session to take the month of June off from meeting.
- A motion to call a Congregational Meeting was approved for either late July or early August for the purpose of holding an election for a position on the Nominating Committee.

## June At A Glance

At West Hills our mission statement . . . On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world, provides us with the framework for how we live our lives. Here are notable activities this month in the life of our church, seeking to connect us to God, others, and the world.

### Sundays:

- Crosswalk Kids and Youth break for the summer months and will begin again September 11.
- Spiritual Formation & Discipleship will offer a new class beginning July 2 at 9 a.m. in the Chapel on "When Christians Get It Wrong" by Adam Hamilton.
- Worship at 10 a.m. is livestreamed and in-person. Following worship, join us for fellowship in Geneva Lounge. For those not attending in-person, we welcome you to watch the service by livestream at: [whcomaha.org/live](http://whcomaha.org/live).

Tuesday Mornings - Men's Bible study meets at 7:00 a.m. in the large conference room #182 in-person. The group studies the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday sermon.

Tuesday Evenings - Interactive Worship Space from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Chapel.

Wednesday Mornings, Women's Bible study will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This group will be studying "The Beatitudes" by Matt Chandler.

Wednesday Evenings - Men's Bible study at 7 p.m. in the large conference room #182.

June 22 - Youth TreeRush Adventure 4:30-8:30 p.m.



June 23-25 - VBS Family Fun Weekend

June 25 - Summer Celebration Lunch following worship, everyone is invited to share a meal in Fellowship Hall.

# Keep it Fresh, Shed What's Dead!

Judy Nelson, Stephen Leader Deacon

*"Therefore ...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin, which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1*

Recently I was given a blooming plant full of purple blossoms. The care instructions made it seem like an ideal plant—"Full sun or shade; hardiness in zones 3-8; decoration only, do not consume; keep soil moist and remove faded flowers." The last instruction somehow made me think of the caring ministry of Stephen Ministers. People can thrive in many environments, but there are times in life that may cause our joy to wilt and leave us almost in despair. My little plant does not recognize, cannot see, what blooms have withered and need to be removed. But I can remove them because I have a different perspective than the plant!

Each of us has been challenged by a crisis, relationship issues, struggles, fears, or decisions. Perhaps a trusted friend or family member helped provide a different perspective or even gave advice. There are other times, however, that we may need a Stephen Minister.

A Stephen Minister is a trained Christian lay person committed to care for individuals going through a broad spectrum of circumstances that are challenging and perhaps overwhelming. The goal is restoration and wholeness, and to know the love of Christ which increases faith.

Here are some possible scenarios for Stephen Ministers to offer care:

- \*A young wife is facing infertility issues or considering adoption
- \*A single parent is laid off at work and doesn't have much hope of finding a good job
- \*A single person new to the community is finding the adjustment difficult
- \*A serious diagnosis has left a person feeling unable to navigate the path ahead
- \*A man is having a tough time grieving and adjusting to life without his wife
- \*Someone (of any age) is very lonely and feels there is no one who cares
- \*An adult child suddenly needs to provide or find care for a parent who is seriously ill or is unable to function independently
- \*A parent is worried about changes in their teen, or their graduate's departure for college

A Stephen Minister is a **Care Giver** on the journey with the care receiver to listen attentively, ask follow-up questions, provide encouragement and emotional support as the care receiver grows in their faith in God, the **Cure Giver**. When you request to be linked with a Stephen Minister, you will have the support of one who wants to help you sort out the complex issues, so you have confidence to shed the burdens that have been so heavy to carry. You need only let Pastor Andy, Heather, Dan O. or me know that you'd like your own Stephen Minister. You can also email [info@whcomaha.org](mailto:info@whcomaha.org).

As a runner must be able to navigate the course without carrying anything extra, so we must, with God's help, (and perhaps with the encouragement and care of a Stephen Minister), lay aside whatever holds us back, that we may "run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Mission Elder, Steve Burgess, shares a letter he received from Dr. Hanni Hanna, president of the theological seminary in Cairo, thanking West Hills for our support.



June 7, 2023

Mr. Steve Burgess  
West Hills Presbyterian Church  
3015 S 82nd Street  
Omaha NE 68124-3207  
United States of America

Dear Mr. Burgess,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

I would like to thank you for the faithful generosity of West Hills Presbyterian Church towards ETSC. No words can capture how important your gift is to the ministry of our Seminary. Your generosity contributes to the preparation of men and women for ministry in Egypt and across the Middle East. Thank you for your investment in their lives for the larger church.

We have just celebrated the graduation of 70 students from various programs. It is heartening to know that these 70 men and women are well-trained and better equipped to serve Christ in different fields of ministry. We are thankful for the many ways God is using ETSC to empower the church in Egypt and other countries not only in the Middle East but around the world as well.

We ask that you keep the ETSC community, faculty, students and staff and their families in your prayers. May we together share in our common goal of participating in the Kingdom of God, here in Egypt and around the world.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Rev. Hani Hanna  
President, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo

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## Step into Faith, Fellowship, and Fitness with “Walk & Talk!”

by Patti Brownlee

Women's Ministry is offering a special opportunity for the next three months. Many women like to “walk and talk,” and that's what we're going to do. West Hills ladies of all ages are invited to meet at a local park, share a 3 minute devotion, start moving and conclude with a prayer. Simple and fun!

**Where:** [Walnut Grove Park](#) - This is a beautiful park with lots of big shady trees and a paved circular footpath. [We will gather at the shelter house identified by colorful pinwheels.](#) Walnut Grove Park is located at 15050 Q Street - north of Culver's and almost immediately across the street from Millard South High School

**When:** The [second Wednesday](#) and the [fourth Saturday](#) of each month

**Wednesday, July 12, from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Saturday, July 22, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.**

**Wednesday, August 9, from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 26, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.**

**Wednesday, September 13, from 6:30 - 7:15 pm**

**Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.**

**Who:** West Hills women and their friends

**Why:** It will be a real blessing to start your day or end your day with a God focus and some exercise. Plus, it will be a great time to visit with friends and make new friends.

*You don't need to sign up, but we sure hope you will show up!!!*

## Collecting Clothing + Small Household Items

by Peg Shirley



For a couple more weeks, we are collecting unwanted clothes and small household items for Heartland Hope!

Search those closets, and bring in spring and summer clothing items for men, women, children and babies to fill the empty shelves in their clothing closet. You may also bring in small household items.

There are tubs marked for Heartland Hope by the entry doors. Thank you for your donations and supporting our local mission partner.

If you have any questions on items you want to donate, feel free to call Peg at 402-980-2650 or call the church office.



## Bible Quiz compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. Galatians 5 tells us there are \_\_\_\_ Fruits of the Spirit. A) 5 B) 7 C) 9 D) 6
2. What did Jonah and Paul have in common?  
A) They both disobeyed God's orders B) They both spent 3 days and nights in darkness  
C) They both were citizens of Rome  
D) They both had their name changed
3. Who else was in prison with Joseph? A) Pharaoh's head chef and cupbearer B) Pharaoh's chief baker and cupbearer C) Pharaoh's chief wine steward and chief baker D) Pharaoh's head steward and chief baker
4. Which one of the 12 tribes received no inheritance of land? A) Levites B) Judah C) Gad D) Benjamin
5. The first mention of Paul in the Bible is that of a \_\_\_\_\_. A) Apostle B) Evangelist C) Roman citizen D) Persecutor
6. Where did God tell Jonah to go and prophesy?  
A) Nazareth B) Nimrod C) Nineveh  
D) Nahrain
7. Who encouraged the Jews, after they returned from their Babylonian captivity, to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem? A) Habakkuk B) Zechariah C) Haggai D) Obadiah
8. From where did the Ammonites descend?  
A) one of Ham's son's and a daughter of Noah  
B) Lot and his youngest daughter C) one of Jacob's great-grandsons and a concubine D) Esau and a harlot
9. Who was the Israelite leader who conquered the Canaanites? A) Moses B) David C) Joshua D) Saul
10. What is the Promised Land called today?  
A) Egypt B) Israel C) Syria D) Arabia
11. Who was the first human to reject pagan or false gods in favor of the one true God?  
A) Jacob B) Noah C) Abraham D) Job
12. Who was Amos? A) Prophet to Israel B) Called by God to announce God's coming judgment on Israel C) Prophesied about the darkening of the sky at Jesus' death D) A shepherd and sycamore-fig farmer

*\*\*Answers are on the back.*

## - Book Suggestion -

### "Hooray for Grandparents: Ideas for Keeping Close, Building Traditions, Creating Lasting Memories"

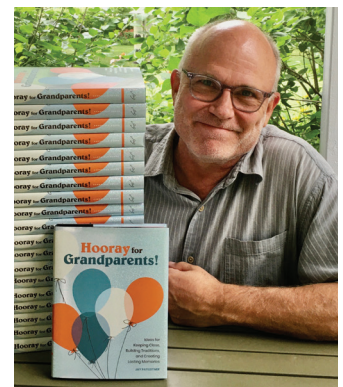
This book celebrates grandparents and the role they play in the lives of their grandchildren. You will find 50 ways to build relationships between the generations.

The book is good reading for people who currently have grandchildren as well as for friends of grandparents and grandparents-to-be.

Among these relationship enhancing ideas are:

- Fun activities to do together
- Ways to create special traditions
- Advice on how to support your grandchild in difficult times
- Ideas for building a legacy

Author Jay Payleitner has written over 30 books and is a nationally recognized speaker. Before becoming a full-time author and speaker he served as a freelance radio producer for a wide range of international ministries including The Salvation Army, Prison Fellowship, Bible League, and Voice of the Martyrs.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



#### **JUNE**

1-Beth Anderson  
Kim Sedivy  
2-Debra Chadwick  
4-Rhona Yetts  
5-Everly Hanna  
7-Michael Wohlgemuth  
9-Rosemary Frandeen  
10-Warren Powell  
11-Rene Padilla  
Andy Jansen

12-Kathy Leach  
15-Linda Springsted  
19-Roger Harned  
26-Mark Jacobsen  
28-Stan Owens  
29-Deb Johnson  
Jane Power  
Terry Topolski  
Josh Sauer

#### **JULY**

2-Bud Nelson  
Noreen Johnson  
Linda Schuchmann  
3-Alison Kopperud  
Caitlin O'Hare  
Alisha Sauer  
4-Gavin Wohlgemuth  
7-Greg Schuchmann  
Tim Weller

8-Jennifer Wohlgemuth  
9-Alex Jansen  
Mike Overby  
11-Jenn Julich  
14-Andy Hamer  
Karen Jarvis

*The complete list of July  
birthdays will be in the July  
newsletter.*