

# THE WINDOW

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

July 2023

## God's Love Remains Our Heritage by Lisa Backer, Elder for Nominating



Tom and I were driving home from Colorado this past week, listening to a broadcast on legacy. Perhaps the chore of updating our wills or the recent milestones in our family's lives (30 years of marriage and Michael's engagement to Lauren) have prompted us to be more attentive to this theme. We reflected on the legacies that our parents had left behind ... godliness, faithfulness, resilience, and generosity ... and gave thought as to what legacies we each might seek to leave in return.

The Scriptures refer to the word "heritage". A heritage is something that is possessed by one person and passed on to someone else who follows after. It represents those things that are worthy of preservation. While to the secular individual the word heritage may simply denote earthly or material possessions passed on through wills, trusts, and gifts, it has quite a different meaning to us as believers.

In the Bible you will find many verses that speak to the concept of heritage, such as Psalm 127:3 "Children are a heritage of the Lord" or Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children". For us in the family of God, it is the spiritual heritage that ultimately matters. It is the passing on of the heritage of the gospel, the teaching of God's Word and the upholding of the truths and principles reflected in the Scriptures in our everyday lives - both individually and as a body of believers - that constitute a true spiritual legacy.

Heritage helps us examine our history and traditions and enables us to weave that into an understanding and awareness of ourselves as we look into the future. In Psalm 16:6 the Psalmist declares that he has a delightful inheritance, that his boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places. As I reflect on the legacy of West Hills Church, I am reminded of this. Going back many decades, we have been blessed by a deep heritage of faith, marked by the bold preaching of the gospel, the faithful studying of God's Word and the purposeful living out of God's mission in the world. Woven into our fabric is a strong spiritual heritage of connectedness, of vision, and of determination to keep these goals as a legacy front and center in our choices.

As our Nominating Committee enters a new season of discernment this fall, we want to invite you to become a part of West Hills' legacy, to prayerfully explore how you may be called to join in leadership with us as we strive to live out our calling as faithful witnesses to God's love and redemptive grace. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". What might He have prepared for you to do this coming season? May you sense Him calling you into a deeper experience of the glorious inheritance that awaits those who fear and serve the Lord!

## Capital Campaign Survey Reminder!

Please complete the Feasibility Study Survey (15 questions) if you haven't already done so, by July 13. The survey will help to assess the readiness of West Hills for a Capital Campaign to address our much-needed maintenance issues and building updates.

This is your opportunity to provide feedback via a confidential online survey. Your responses 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.

## Calling All Men to a Brisket Cook-Off Showdown

Thursday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m.

WHC - East Parking Lot, green space

Men, join us for our first-ever brisket cook-off showdown with great fellowship and amazing food!

Optional activities will include a Home Run Derby and Long Drive Contest "Top Golf" (using wiffel balls).

Please sign up in advance for planning purposes in Geneva Lounge on Sunday or by contacting Les at: [lesandanne@cox.net](mailto:lesandanne@cox.net).

Bring your own lawn chair and enjoy a night out with other men. Invite a friend, all guys are welcome!



## Presbytery of Missouri River Valley (PMRV) Youth Events!

Did you know that our presbytery has a Youth Ministry Group whose purpose is to plan several annual events for YOUTH FROM ALL PMRV CHURCHES? Whether your church has a very few youth, or a large youth group, this is a wonderful opportunity for students from all of our churches to come together.

Youth and leaders from seven different PMRV churches attended a youth retreat at Camp Calvin Crest, and had a wonderful time! Mark your calendar for three upcoming events for your middle and highschoolers to attend:

- August 19-20, 2023 - Fun Day at Calvin Crest followed by Instaedium
- October 1, 2023 - Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch
- January 14, 2024 - Mission Project followed by Neon Night

These will be great opportunities for students to join with a larger number of youth from our presbytery to connect with God and one another.

## Footnotes From the Library

We have received a generous donation of materials for the Resource Library. Included are several DVD studies with study guides by Dr. David Jeremiah, several studies by Warren Weiersbe, and an assortment of other authors. These are available to borrow and could be used for group or individual study. So, stop by the Resource Library, down the hallway to the Chapel, and **Check It Out!**

## July 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 is offering a class 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.

Wednesday Mornings - Women's Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This group is studying "The Beatitudes" by Matt Chandler.

### Wednesday Evenings:

- Interactive Worship Space from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Chapel.
- Men's Bible study at 7 p.m. in the large conference room #182.

July 12 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

July 16 - Youth Sunday Funday - "The Great West Hills Baking Show" at 2 p.m.

July 20 - Sloppy Joe Ministry drop-off at the church. Come between 9-4 to the north circle drive and drop your cooked sloppy joe meat and hamburger buns in the bins. Make as much as you'd like and store in 1-gallon freezer bags. The food will be taken to the Stephen Center to be enjoyed by many.

July 22 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

July 27 - Men's Brisket Cook-Off Showdown at 6:30 p.m. meeting at WHC East Parking Lot green space. Bring your own lawn chair. Optional activities include a Home Run Derby and Long Drive Contest "Top Golf".

## Summertime Connections

### Marilyn Moore, Deacon of Caregiving

*Now that summer is here, it is a good time to connect with people.*

Wayne and I took a bus trip the end of May to Waco, Texas. We went to see the Magnolia Market at the Silos. It was an interesting village with shops, gardens, a church, and food trucks. We also took a tour of Waco and saw several houses from the "Fixer Upper" show, along with a castle that was newly renovated.

While on the bus, we had a friendly and caring bus driver/tour guide. Every morning we had a short devotional to set the mood of the day. Everyone had a chance to introduce themselves and we became a family for five days on the trip. There was one couple in their 80s who flew in from the New York City area for the tour. They came to finish seeing all fifty states. They said they really enjoyed the midwest hospitality.

We shared several meals together including a fabulous meal at The Pioneer Woman Mercantile in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. We had a homestyle dinner of comfort foods including chicken fried chicken, Dr. Pepper pulled pork, green beans, and six different desserts. While there, Lee Drummond was very gracious and took time to talk to people, sign cookbooks, and have her picture taken with guests. That was my favorite part of the trip.

On the next to last day, our tour guide's father passed away in St. Louis. She was not able to go be with her family till after the tour. I was able to spend time listening to her and praying together. Other people on the trip were very supportive also. It is important to share our caregiving skills when we have the opportunity. Philippians 2:3-4 says "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others."

If you are in need of caregiving, please let the church know (402-391-8788) or give me a call (402-660-7247).

## Spiritual Correspondence by Jana Prescott



### Psalm 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, O God...

So, how are you all doing this month? I guess it's back to heat and rain instead of cold and snow... At least we can have new "jobs": planting beautiful flowers and mowing grass instead of shoveling snow...going on vacations and sitting in our backyards, enjoying the sunshine. Whatever we do, wherever we go, just remember that Christ is with you, wherever you take yourself! He is always with you, through sun and rain; through joy and sorrow; through anything this life leads any of us through.

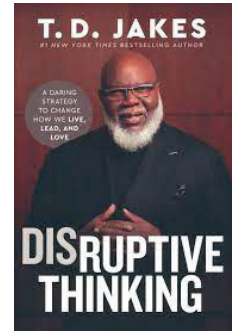
## - Book Suggestion -

Author, T.D. Jakes' new book, released May 9, 2023, "Disruptive Thinking: A Daring Strategy to Change How We Live, Lead and Love", urges us to think differently and find the courage to challenge the status quo.

According to Jakes we seek out the "worn paths of those who came before us." We are taught from an early age to "learn the rules". We learn the rules in our families, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our churches. This message tells us that following the rules will give us the lives we want. However, when change becomes necessary "following the rules" is no longer helpful.

Jakes points out that in the 1960s we experienced racial tension and Viet Nam war protests. He states in his book that those who counter social norms may face critics and "standing up requires standing out". Jakes describes Jesus as a disrupter. He said that by washing his disciples' feet, Jesus upended leadership dynamics and "demonstrated that HE was strong enough to be weak". The author also emphasized that our current cultural moment is ripe for disruption and urges readers to effect social change.

Bishop T.D. Jakes is the author of several books and has a daily morning show, "The Potter's Touch" and weekly broadcast, the "Potters House," airing on Trinity Broadcasting Network and Black Entertainment Television. Bishop Jakes is the founder and pastor of "The Potter's House", one of the fastest growing churches in the nation, where he leads an interracial congregation of more than 28,000 members. He and his wife live in Dallas with their five children.



## Bible Quiz compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. After the death of Judas who was chosen to be the 12th disciple? A) Justus B) Matthias C) Barsabbas D) Joseph
2. What 3 rewards did Saul promise the person who killed Goliath? A) gold, a crown, Saul's daughter B) family is tax-exempt, given a golden crown, move in with Saul C) marry Saul's daughter, given wealth, family tax-exempt D) given wealth, marry Saul's daughter, live in the palace
3. Who was the last Judge for the Israelites? A) Samuel B) Gideon C) Samson D) Ehud
- \* 4. What Old Testament person is mentioned more than anyone else in the New Testament? A) Abraham B) Jacob C) David D) Moses
5. Who was David's best friend? A) Nathan B) Jonathan C) Abner D) Michael
6. What 2 disciples asked Jesus to let one sit on his right and one sit on his left when Jesus is glorified? A) John and Peter B) Andrew and James C) Philip and Peter D) James and John
7. Which disciple often refers to himself as the one Jesus loved? A) Peter B) John C) Matthew D) James
8. Which of the four gospel writers had a mother who allowed the disciples to use her house as a meeting place? A) Matthew B) John C) Mark D) Luke
9. Which enemy of the Israelites stole the Ark of the Covenant after defeating the Israelites in a war but returned it after experiencing afflictions? A) Philistines B) Amalekites C) Babylonians D) Assyrians
10. Who conquered Judah and took Daniel to their country? A) Babylonians B) Amalekites C) Canaanites D) Philistines
11. Who warned Paul about a group of Jews who were plotting to kill him? A) Timothy B) Barnabas C) his nephew D) Silas
12. According to God's law who should not be mistreated or oppressed? A) widows B) foreigners C) the fatherless D) children

\* Taken from Bible Trivia by J. Stephen Lang



## VBS FUN by Jessica Scheopner, Director of Family Ministries

Enjoy a window into West Hills' Summer Celebration Weekend, June 23-25. Children, parents, grandparents, neighbors, and a host of enthusiastic West Hills Church volunteers had a great time at the **VBS Food Truck Party** on Friday and Saturday, with over 150 people gathering after worship to celebrate God's provision at the all-church lunch on Sunday! Through the combined efforts of many gifted volunteers, West Hills welcomed eight new families to a festive and fun VBS weekend, our church family worked together to make a space where children and their adults could encounter God's Word together, and we got to celebrate God's provision as a big church family on Sunday morning! Many people mentioned how much they loved seeing the kids leading in worship with the songs that they learned, with one member adding, **"their enthusiasm was very contagious!!"** One VBS leader perfectly expressed how the team work in preparing for VBS was reflected in the tone of the whole weekend celebration: **"I loved seeing the joy of everyone involved to make this a fun event for kids and families!"**

# VBS Fun!



## WHC Financial Report - Update as of June 30, 2023

		YTD23 Actual	YTD23 Budget	PYTD22 Actual	Over/(Under) 2023 Actual v Budget	2023 Annual Budget
Revenue	Pledged & Unpledged					
	Giving	\$341,909	\$364,000	\$363,345	(\$22,091)	\$740,000
	Building Use*	\$16,925	\$20,500	\$8,226	(\$3,575)	\$50,000
	Ministry Specific**	\$35,941	\$12,822	\$18,967	\$23,119	\$20,117
	Total Operating Revenue	\$394,775	\$397,322	\$390,538	(\$2,547)	\$810,117
Expenses	Total Operating Exps	\$402,227	\$412,800	\$381,460	(\$10,573)	\$845,117
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		(\$7,452)	(\$15,478)	\$9,078	\$8,026	(\$35,000)

### 2023 Budget - Capital Fund Component for PROPERTY

2023 Annual Budget: \$30,000

YTD June Needs/Uses:	Repair fire sprinkler system leak in Soul Café	\$4,938
	Replace Nursery area 85 gallon electric water heater	\$4,041
	Upgrade/replace church lighting...primarily Sanctuary and gym	\$2,300
	Replace broken/split 3" sewer line	\$2,018
	Rebuild/replace kitchen backflow preventer to meet city codes	\$932
		<u>\$14,229</u>

### FUND Asset Balances (Net Available):

Operating Fund: \$99,041 / Capital Fund: \$7,768 / Memorial Fund: \$27,414 / Congregational Emergency Fund: \$4,193

### Financial impact observations/activities:

\* Atonement Child Care lease pro-rated in March, with full lease payments to continue over balance of 2023.

\*\* 2023 actual includes Komarek Trust grant of \$2,575, and Atonement Childcare payment of \$10,795 toward childcare startup costs

**RECEIVED \$25,000 grant** from Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation toward WHC's *Outside Activities for All* project!! To be used toward Phase I of project to include: installation of playground equipment, fencing upgrades, and ADA compliant walkway.

Capital Campaign is now in feasibility study stage! **"Thank you!!"** to all who have participated in the survey process! The information provided is being assessed, and will be presented to Session at their July 18th meeting to move us forward to our next steps.

During June a 10-ton HVAC unit quit working. Bids were obtained, and Session approved the \$32,000 funding at a special meeting. The work to replace the unit is planned for July.

The last work to complete our new roof is planned for July. This will include submitting the final insurance documents for the remaining proceeds to cover the entire \$610,000 project.

Gifts beyond pledged giving can be made anytime to Capital/Memorial/Emergency Funds. Please prayerfully consider a gift.

*For questions or additional information reach out to Mike Alfieri (x1008), or Mike Overby (402-415-8110).*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## **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  
17-Julie Wollen  
20-Terry Gadwood  
21-Caroline Hamer  
Heather Hipp  
23-Michaella Dunn  
Janet Laughlin

27-Joe Robb  
Paul Springsted  
28-Sarah Weller  
29-Sunny Gill  
30-Jeanette Capps  
Jay Scheopner

## **AUGUST**

1-Patti Brownlee  
Brayden Gill  
2-Hal Capps

4-Sandy Jernigan  
9-Theresa Hamer  
10-Ken Blatny  
Megan Boyd  
12-Luke Burns  
16-Stan Parker  
17-Liz Woodworth

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