

THE WINDOW

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

October 2023

Stewards of His Kingdom by Chris Neil, Elder for Stewardship



Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." Later in Psalm 50, it says, "for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you for the world is mine, and all that is in it."

These are just a few of the verses in the Bible where we learn that God owns it all and we are caretakers. God is enduring and we are temporary. Long after we leave this earth, God's work will carry on.

It is challenging to wrap our minds around the thought that God is the owner of everything we have. Our culture emphasizes ownership and possessions, but it all actually belongs to God. He is the one responsible for the gifts, talents, and abilities we have. If God is the owner of everything, the next logical question is, "What is our role?"

As stewards of something that is not ours, our role is to manage or administer the estate. Stewards are responsible for the property of someone else. The goal should be to take what we have been given and return it in good or better shape.

The parable of talents in Matthew 25 shows how we are stewards or managers of God's resources. In the parable, a master gave three of his managers bags of gold – to one he gave five bags, to another two bags, and to another one bag. We know the story. The managers receiving five bags and two bags went to work and doubled them. The man who received one bag dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. It is interesting to note that the manager returned and held the servants responsible for their stewardship. The master was pleased with the first two servants who managed his resources well but was unhappy with the third who only returned the original investment.

On a recent trip to Colorado, my wife, Stacy, and I went on a bike ride. I have a bike, but Stacy needed one, so we rented an electric bike. Our goal was to ride from Frisco, CO to the Vail pass, a 12-mile ride with an elevation gain of nearly 2,000 feet. As we pedaled on the trail on a magnificent sun-drenched fall day with a rushing river on one side of the trail and a steep mountain on the other, I asked Stacy how she liked the electric bike as she had never ridden on one before.

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Stewards of His Kingdom, continued

She loved the bike and said the extra power from the battery felt as if someone was gently pushing her from behind. This particular electric bike didn't move on its own, it simply aided the effort put forth by the rider. As we rode on the mountain path and took in the awe-inspiring beauty of the area, I couldn't help but think about how God is there gently pushing and supporting us as we face challenges in the valleys of life and as we celebrate mountain top moments!

As we turn our attention this fall to the upcoming annual stewardship and capital campaigns that are being conducted simultaneously, my prayer is that we can grow in our faith journey by considering how we might be good stewards of the many resources God has provided us. We all have time, talents, and treasures that can be used to further God's kingdom.

Like the electric bike that would not move without the rider taking an active role in pedaling, we, too, need to take an active role in stewardship. We can bury our treasures or ignore our opportunity to be good stewards, like the man in the parable, or we can take an active role in managing what God has given us like the first two managers in the parable who doubled what their master gave them.

Our tithes and offerings to the annual stewardship campaign are our first commitment to God. These pledges (to the annual stewardship campaign) fund the operating expenses of the church by supporting the church staff, its programs, ministries, and mission partners.

Through the capital campaign, we have an opportunity to make a three-year commitment (over and above our annual stewardship pledge) to care for the facility as we consider how West Hills might continue serving God and furthering His kingdom through our programs and outreach.

During the next few weeks leading up to **Commitment Sunday on November 19**, please join me in discerning how God might be calling you to use your time, talents, and treasures for the benefit of His kingdom.

Spiritual Correspondence by Jana Prescott

Psalm 8:1 - Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth!

Majesty and glory: that is how we know You! We are basically little kids compared to You. But we know that You see each one of us growing into the person You want us to be, whatever that is: a worker, with a job or a family...a retired person...a handicapped person...anybody. All any of us needs to remember is that as long as we keep You inside of us, keeping Your glory in our heart, we will keep growing from the little kid we started as into the glory that shines within us.



October 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 check-in at 8:50 a.m. in the lower level welcome area. Crosswalk will be on fall break October 15.
- A six-week DVD study on the book "Go Fish" by Andy Stanley continues until October 22. This class takes place in the Chapel at 9 a.m. and is facilitated by Rick Mason. No class on Oct. 15.
- 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.

Monday Evenings - Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for Men, Women, and Children/Teens studying the book of John. Preregistration is required, go to: bsfinternational.org

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 at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel studying a video series where Pastor J.D. Greear walks through the second half of Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

Wednesday Evenings:

- Interactive Worship Space from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Chapel.
- Women's Bible study at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel studying I and II Thessalonians with a Beth Moore study called "*Children of the Day*."
- Men's Bible study at 7 p.m. in the large conference room #182.
- Emerging Adults Small Group from 8-9:15 p.m. for anyone 18-30 years of age. This group meets in the Youth Chapel.

Thursday Mornings - Men and Women Bible study meets in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

October 15 - Capital Campaign Prayer Walk at 9 a.m. will meet in north circle drive.

October 19 - 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.

October 20 - Lunch, Learn & Laugh from 11:30 - 1 p.m. to share about "Aging in the Grace of God" in the Chapel.

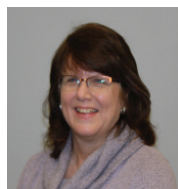
October 24 - Table Talk from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

October 26 - Men's Night Out at 5:30 p.m. at Tanner's on Pacific and 119th Street.

SAVE THE DATE for the Fall Back Pancake Breakfast on November 5 from 8:30-9:45a in Fellowship Hall provided by the Men's Ministry!

So Much More

by Deb Johnson, Deacon of Homebound Ministry



Homebound Deacons and many many faithful volunteers have been busy this year. There have been rides coordinated and given to the Westgate ladies, homebound partners have been paired, birthday cards have been sent, and many homebound members have been served communion.

We are in the process of bringing back the chili/caroling event and figuring out how we will get items to fill the beautiful stockings Linda Springsted makes in order to deliver to our homebound members during the caroling event. It always seems like we need so much more...more volunteers, more communion servers, more drivers, and more supplies.

Yet, when I'm out on a homebound communion visit or giving someone a ride to church or hearing about how much a birthday card meant that was received by one of our homebound members, I am the one that gets so much more.

If you would like to volunteer for so much more...please contact one of the homebound deacons; Angie Arner, Deb Johnson, or Barb Wooley and you can find out about that "so much more feeling" too! I guarantee you will receive so much more than you gave.

October Table Talk - "The Gift Of The Sabbath"

by Patti Brownlee

Do you often feel overly busy, weary, rushed, or unfulfilled? Well - God our Creator has given us instructions on how to live the kind of healthy and peaceful life He made us to live. A key foundation to being our best for God, others, and ourselves is by remembering the Sabbath. The Sabbath is not some obscure suggestion - it is a relevant, life changing difference maker.



At the next Table Talk on **Tuesday, October 24 from 6:30-8:00**, we will be exploring the topic of the Sabbath through some "food for thought" shared by Jessica Scheopner and small group discussion. We will consider what the Bible has to say about the Sabbath and the implications and practicalities of observing a Sabbath in 2023. The Sabbath is all about rest, worshipping God, and connecting with family and friends. Remembering the Sabbath can jump start our lives into the healthy rhythm God established for us, so please prayerfully consider joining us. **Bring a friend - A seat at the table is prepared for all who come!**

September Session Notes

- Ruling Elder Linda Reffert and Teaching Elder Marshall Ziemann from the Committee on Ministry attended Session for the Triennial Care Visit. Elders responded to or volunteered comments regarding:
 - What are some of the best things that happen in this congregation?
 - How do you feel about the spiritual health of this congregation?
 - What role does music play in your worship service?
 - How would you describe the level of harmony in the congregation?
- Approved the motion for West Hills Church to host the wedding of Jamie Carlson & Connor Mann on 11/4/23.
- A motion was made to move the Regular Session Meeting to Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be Hybrid - via Zoom & In-Person.
- Names for the **Clerk of Session** are being accepted.

You're invited to attend one of the last two events! Each event will include a presentation on potential capital projects, information about the Annual Stewardship Campaign, and church-wide input to launch the visioning process. We encourage each family to attend one event.

Wednesday, October 11
Dinner at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM in Geneva Lounge

Sunday, October 22
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Adults in Geneva Lounge
Children playground party

Light refreshments at all events.
Childcare provided.

Please RSVP: Click the [Sign Up Genius Link](#), sign up in Geneva Lounge on Sunday, or call the church office at 402-391-8788.

Capital Campaign Prayer

*Gracious God,
You have been so faithful to us!
Unite us.*

*Give us strength to remain
faithful to Your will as You
renew us and restore our
facility for Your mission.*

*Help us to discern Your call for
our time, talents, and treasures
that You have provided.*

*Guide us by Your Holy Spirit
as we join together on this
journey with the living Christ,
connecting with God, others
and the world.*

Hallelujah, Amen.

A Moment In History by Gloria Zinn

The congregation from the Third Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1894 on the southwest corner of 20th and Leavenworth, knew their church building was growing too old to maintain and would soon fall into disrepair. According to Walt Kunold, Sr., many elders, the Sunday School Superintendent, and even the pastor, along with a number of Third Presbyterian Church members had left the church. Mr. Kunold noted "we had very little membership and very little money to build a new church." However, they had a great amount of determination "not to let our church die."

Their strong commitment to keep Third Presbyterian Church moving forward paid off and in 1954 they were able to raise enough money to purchase a piece of land on the corner of 82nd and Hascall. Their next step was to appeal to the National Board of the Presbytery for help. Mr. Kunold stated that "we were told they do not loan or help existing churches financially and so we would have to dissolve the congregation of Third Presbyterian Church in order to receive money for a new church." A contest was held to name the new church, and **Ron Swanda** won with the new church name of **West Hills Presbyterian Church**. Since the Presbytery would only loan a certain amount of money for this new church, an aggressive building campaign was launched. In the meantime, the congregation held services at the 84th and Center drive-in theater, across the street from the 82nd and Hascall property already purchased. The theater's speakers were attached to each car when you drove in, and the minister stood on the projection booth giving his sermon. Elders would walk to each car to collect tithes. When it became too cold to use the drive-in, the congregation worshipped at the First Federal building located at Countryside Village. The first sanctuary (our present Chapel) was built in 1960 at a cost of \$60,000, and Walt Kunold, Sr.'s granddaughter, **Sharon, was the first baby baptized in the new church in January 1961.** If you have a West Hills history memory you would like to share, please email the church at info@whcomaha.org.

The Story Table



West Hills Church observers had a unique experience on a warm September evening to sit back in a comfortable living room type setting and "eavesdrop" as friends from our congregation shared memories of meaningful relationships in their lives with each other. We observers were drawn into each life story and then as we later made our way back into our own reality were left to contemplate memories of our own God-given relationships.

Here's what a few observers had to say: **Joanne Topolski** shared, "It was a delightful way to hear experiences of how God shaped different lives through relationships. There was a graceful thread woven between the folks sharing the stories, the questions put forth by the moderator and the listeners...and as the stories were shared, heard, and retold God was glorified anew for His power and faithfulness.

"The Story Table was a special and unique evening. The format invited us to step into the experiences of our presenters and reflect on how we are blessed with relationships that guide us through the hills and valleys of our lives. Everyone who took part did a wonderful job putting together a great new experience for West Hills" said **Courtney Tabor**.

Linda Springsted said "I was inspired by Barb Wooley's story of sisterly love. She spoke so well and it was clear how much she loves both of her sisters."

Thank you to Tom Backer, Julie Burgess, Mike Kelley, Kathy Padilla, Josh Sauer, and Barb Wooley for sharing their stories with us, and to Andy Hamer for moderating the conversation.

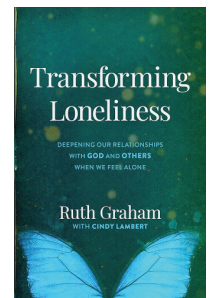
Bible Quiz compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. **Who are Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar?**
A) Names of the 3 wise men who came to see Jesus when he was born B) Names of 3 of Jonah's sons C) Names of the 3 friends who visited Job D) Names of the 3 men who accompanied Abraham when he went to Mount Moriah with Isaac
2. **When Jonah ran away from God to avoid preaching what city was he running to?**
A) Jericho B) Tarshish C) Joppa D) Nineveh
3. **What name did the prophet Enoch give to his son?** A) Methuselah B) Nephilim C) Gershom D) Eliezer
4. **In Ephesians we are told to put on the full armor of God. What is the significance of the belt?** A) peace B) truth C) faith D) salvation
5. **Who was Lot's grandfather?** A) Manasseh B) Terah C) Abraham D) Gad
6. **Who were Zilpah and Bilhah?** A) The daughters of Zelophehad who made a petition for their father's property after he died. B) Two of the handmaidens who gave birth to 4 of Jacob's 12 sons C) Two of the daughters of the priest of Midian D) The names of two of Enoch's 3 daughters
7. **Fill in the blank: "Without _____ it is impossible to please God."** A) love B) righteousness C) commitment D) faith
8. **Who was told by God, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"?** A) Peter B) Jacob C) Paul D) Joseph
9. **Who was the father of the twins, Perez and Zerah, (Perez became an ancestor of King David)?** A) Levi B) Benjamin C) Judah D) Asher
10. **Fill in the blank from John 8:12: "Whoever follows me will not walk in _____, but will have the _____ of life."** A) sin, fullness B) darkness, fullness C) darkness, light D) shadows, abundance
11. **What was the Day of Atonement in the Bible?** A) Only day when the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies B) Sacrifice of a bull and two goats for forgiveness of sins C) Same as Yom Kippur, the Jewish holy day D) Sacrifices for the High Priest's sins and the sins of the entire nation of Israel
12. **In the Old Testament what did God use to rid the Israelites of their guilt from their sins?** A) burning incense B) releasing a scapegoat C) killing a bull D) releasing smoke from the burning incense over the Ark's cover

**Answers are on the back.

October Book Suggestion by Debbie Chadwick

Transforming Loneliness: Deepening Our Relationships with God and Others When We Feel Alone. This book, by Ruth Graham and Cindy Lambert, explains how to meet your individual needs to be chosen, known, and valued. Graham believes that by surrendering to God, following biblical principles, and making healthy choices we can all meet our core needs. An issue with loneliness is that it can attack you when you have a FULL calendar OR when your calendar is empty. In addition, Graham points out that we would be surprised to know how common loneliness is in our circle of friends, in our family, AND in our work place. Graham's message includes that (loneliness) is not inevitable AND it is not forever. Ruth Graham has written ten books including, "In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart", and "Step into the Bible." Cindy Lambert is the executive editor for Baker Publishing Group. In addition, she is an author, collaborative writer, and speaker.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OCTOBER

1-Kaitlyn Barnes
Luke Freeman
Arlo Grafton
Kenneth Kopperud
2-Diana Dingman
Dan Freeman
Sunny Lundgren
Trish Mathia
Dale Obermiller

3-Owen Boyd
6-Bill Spiecker
7-Aedan Madigan
9-Macklin Hanna
12-Ginny Lakin
13-Peggy Kelley
14-Helen Jacobsen
17-Katrina Thede
18-Ben Sedivy
19-Darcie Willie

20-Tom Backer
21-Bill Heise
Aaron Schaffer
26-Marilyn Grafton
27-Charlie Wenck
30-Tracey Mason

NOVEMBER

1-Rod Hansen
2-Beckett Dunn

Judy Schnabel
5-Claire Neil
7-Dorthea Brady
Carolyn Reeves
Bruce Workman
8-Hannah Weller
9-Juliana Scheopner
10-Catie Scheopner

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