

WEST HILLS WINDOW

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

October 2025



Generosity in Action

By Chris Neil; Elder of Stewardship

As I approach the last few months of serving as Stewardship Elder, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the experience. It has been a privilege to serve alongside and learn from other elders and church staff, all of whom are such faithful servants.

It has been an incredible journey and so encouraging to reflect on God's faithfulness and your generosity as you steward the gifts God has given you by faithfully funding the ongoing operations of the church while also contributing to the capital campaign that started in 2024. \$530,000 or 60% of capital campaign pledges have been received to date as we pass the halfway point of the three-year campaign.

How exciting it has been to see our facility and grounds refurbished and upgraded! Capital campaign funds have been used for new carpet in the Geneva Lounge, a resurfaced west parking lot, a new stove and freezer for the kitchen, new windows, and maintenance and emergency

reserve accounts have been bolstered.

As contributions continue to flow in, projects on deck include replacing more windows on the west side of the building (Fall 25), east parking lot repairs (Fall 25), and upgrades to ceiling tiles and lighting in the Fellowship Hall (25/26). The projects that have been completed and the ones on deck are consistent with the priorities the congregation set forth during the capital campaign planning process. We will proceed with the next projects as funds are available.

I encourage you to review your pledge commitment and consider making additional contributions as the year comes to a close. Like those who invested in the facility before

In This Issue

Elder Article	1
Deacon Article	2
Table Talk	3
Book Suggestions	4
Session Notes	4
Memories	5
Bible Quiz	6
October At A Glance	7
Birthdays	8

us, how exciting it is to see our facility improved and enhanced for successive generations. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of West Hills Church.

One of my favorite verses about giving is 2 Corinthians 9:7 which says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things and at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

The first part of the verse emphasizes personal intention. Paul signals that giving should be carefully and prayerfully considered; it should be based on an internal decision-making process. Paul's words also remind us that it goes beyond the act of giving; it speaks to our attitude and motivation behind our actions. Generous giving can transform us when it comes from a place of joy and a happy heart. Not only does our generosity help others in need, but it uplifts us.

I am grateful to be part of a congregation who recognizes stewardship is not solely about financial giving. Stewardship is more about the posture of your heart and spiritual growth than money. West Hills has always believed that when we focus on God and follow Him, we experience His love which leads us to show generosity and be joyful givers.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 9th, I encourage you to reflect on the resources and abundance God has given you and prayerfully consider how you might best use your time, talents and treasures in God's service.

Deep Dive into Generations

By Les Peterson; Congregational Care

West Hills Church is all about bringing different generations together. We want to bridge the gaps between age groups by encouraging understanding and respectful conversations. This article talks about the unique traits and religious views of seven different generations, offering tips on how to create unity and effective communication within the church community.

- Intergenerational vibe: West Hills is big on including all ages in worship and activities, showing their commitment to growing together as a diverse community.
- Generation gap: This term became popular in the 60s and 70s, highlighting the differences in beliefs and experiences between age groups. I want to share a personal story about family tension over cultural symbols. I was ten years old when my brother came home from college for the first time with a bumper sticker popular at the time. It was a peace sign. It was 1967, during the height of Vietnam war and campus unrest. I experienced firsthand the generation gap; my father was not happy with bumper stickers. Our Dad told my brother to remove it before he even said Hi son, glad you are home. What I did not realize is that this encounter changed their relationship for a very long time.
- Seven generations: Each generation is shaped by historical and cultural events, giving them distinct worldviews and influences on faith and society.
- Greatest Generation (1901–1927): These folks are known for their perseverance through tough times like the Great Depression and WWII, with a strong emphasis on formal religious practices.
- Silent Generation (1928–1945): Raised during global conflicts, they contributed to civil rights and cultural advancements, characterized by resilience and modesty.
- Baby Boomers (1946–1964): Marked by social change and optimism, boomers value in-person fellowship and see the church as a place for worship and community relationships.
- Younger generations: Millennials and Gen Z engage with religion through digital tech and social justice, often viewing the church as a movement rather than a building, with new forms of worship like online services.
- Cross-generational dialogue: This article emphasizes active listening, empathy, inclusive language, patience, and focus

on shared values to foster respectful conversations and strengthen relationships within the church.

Here are some practical tips for having effective cross-generational conversations:

1. **Practice Active Listening:** Give the other person your full attention, avoid interruption, and try to understand their point of view before responding. Ask open-ended questions to encourage sharing and clarify any misunderstandings. This approach shows respect for their beliefs and fosters a supportive environment.
2. **Show Empathy and Respect:** Acknowledge the emotional significance that faith may hold for your conversation partner. Even if you disagree, respect their beliefs and experiences. Avoid dismissive language or making assumptions about their values.
3. **Use Inclusive Language:** Words matter. Use language that is inclusive and avoids jargon or terminology that may not be familiar or comfortable. Explain your view clearly and be open to learning new perspectives or terms.
4. **Focus on Shared Values:** Emphasize the common values you share with the other person. This can help build a stronger connection and understanding.
5. **Be Patient and Open-Minded:** Allow time for reflection and avoid pressuring anyone to accept your viewpoint. The goal is dialogue, not debate.
6. **Maintain Relationships:** Ensure that your conversations do not negatively impact your relationship. Avoid interactions that could cause long-term tension or conflict.
7. **Express Gratitude:** Let the other person know that you appreciate their presence and are interested in building a stronger relationship with them.
8. **Recognize Individuality:** Remember that everyone is unique, even within generational groups. Our shared faith tells us that we are all children of God, saints, and sinners.

By following these tips, you can foster respectful and meaningful conversations across generations within your church community.

An Invitation to Table Talk

At our next Table Talk on Tuesday, October 28, we will dive into the book of Jonah with our special speaker, Adam Hu, West Hills Church's new Director of Worship and Music. Although Jonah is only four chapters long, it is a unique account in the minor prophets that's filled with irony and humor. Come and join Adam as he discusses his relationship with music through the themes of obedience, worship, resentment, repentance, and above all, God's faithfulness. Come and find out what God wants to share with you through the pages of Jonah and Adam's reflections.

Table Talk endeavors to draw women closer to God and one another. Its format is welcoming and informal. Bring a friend! After Adam's talk, small groups will be lead by a Table Host in discussing related questions, and undoubtedly there will be more to discuss than there is time. There is no sign up. You just show up. There will be a place at the table waiting for you!

2025 - 2026 Table Talks

Each Table Talk is approximately 90 minutes long and usually held in the Fellowship Hall. Please note the November & April Table Talks are on Saturday mornings — a change which we hope will make participating easier for some ladies.

- Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, November 22 at 9:00 am
- Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am

Book Suggestions

By Debbie Chadwick

The book "Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life" was initially published in 1982, by three Catholic priests.

They began the book while meeting in a Greek restaurant in Washington D.C. That was the first of nine meetings where "Compassion" was looked at in regard to today's society. Occasionally they invited others; priests, sociologists, state senators, and religious sisters to provide their input.

According to doubleday.com, the authors looked at the following three questions.

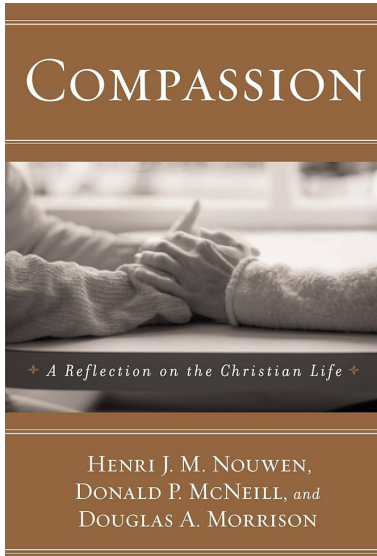
1. Where do we place compassion in our lives?
2. Is it enough to live a life where we hurt one another as little as possible?
3. Is our guiding ideal a life of maximum pleasure and minimum pain? Compassion says "no."

The authors believe that, "Compassion is no longer merely an eraser of human mistakes, but is a form of prayer and action — the expressions of God's love for us and our love for God and one another."

In the conclusion of the book the authors site Revelation 21:1-4. They believe these verses guide us. "This vision makes us share one another's burdens, carry our crosses together, and unite for a better world."

Authors: Henri Nouwen was a priest of the Archdiocese of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Donald McNeill is currently a Senior Fellow living and ministering in Chicago with the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies.



Douglas A. Morrison is a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford. He is presently Deputy Director and CEO of Unity Health Care, Inc. This book has been added to the church library collection.

September 2025 Session Notes

- Updates have been made to the WHC Bulletin and Newsletter
- Ongoing updates to communications are in processes, e.g. workflows, software, submission deadlines, and small edits to staff job descriptions
- Session reviewed the building security procedures necessary because of our ongoing partnership with a childcare provider.
- Session approved a change to the meeting pattern of our Large Group InGathering (the regular meeting of all our different Ministry Teams). Instead of meeting monthly for 30 minutes, InGathering will now meet quarterly for 60 minutes. This change should increase attendance and the overall impact of InGathering, e.g., more opportunity for ministry training and collaboration between Teams.
- Elders were encouraged to participate in a prayer blessing at the new home of one of the families in our congregation.
- A new member class will be conducted in the Chapel on Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm.



Memories

The Big Drop



Bible Quiz

By Gloria Zinn

1. What kind of trees did God make on the third day of creation? A) Oak B) Acacia C) Fruit D) Cedar (Genesis 1:10)

2. Where did Moses go after killing an Egyptian? A) Pithom B) Midian (Exodus 2:15)

3. In what book in the Bible did God give the Israelites detailed instructions on how to live a holy life? A) 1 Peter B) Ephesians C) 1 Thessalonians D) Leviticus

4. From whom did the Israelites descend? A) Jacob B) Esau C) Edom D) Ephraim (Exodus 1:1-4)

5. Whose bones were taken to Shechem for burial? A) Moses B) Joseph C) Jacob D) Abraham (Joshua 24:32)

6. Who died on Mount Hur and was not allowed to enter the Promised Land? A) Eleazar B) Miriam C) Aaron D) Moses (Numbers 20:28)

7. Which book in the Old Testament tells of Moses relating the story of the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert? A) Exodus B) Numbers C) Deuteronomy D) Joshua

8. Where was Moses buried? A) Moab B) Jerico C) Gilead D) Shiloh (Deuteronomy 34:5-6)

9. Who led the Israelites into the Promised land? A) Caleb B) Moses C) Aaron D) Joshua

10. What body of water did the Israelites have to cross in order to enter the Promised Land? A) Dead Sea B) Jordan River C) Arnon River D) Sea of Galilee (Joshua 1:1-2)

11. What was the Israelites first major military victory in the Promised Land? A) Captured Jerico B) Captured Ai C) Captured Hazor D) Captured Hebron (Joshua 6:2-20)

12. What event marked a significant change in Israel's relationship with God after entering the Promised Land? A) breaking their covenant with God B) failing to destroy the pagan altars C) making covenants with the Canaanites D) spiritual decline and moral decay (Judges 2:1-23)

****Bible Quiz Answers are on page 12/back****

West Hills Church October At A Glance

*Recurring Weekly Events Recurring Monthly Events One Time Events				1	2	3
				*Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11:30 am *Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 6 - 7:30 pm *Men's Bible Study (275): 7 - 9 pm	*Thursday Morning Men & Women's Bible Study (Chapel): 9:30 - 11 am *Younglife Capernaum (326): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	Fall Fun Night (Off-site): 5:30 - 8 pm
*Discipleship Classes: 8:45 - 9:45 am *Worship: 10 am Youth Group (307): 11:30 am - 1:30 pm No YETIs	6	7	8	9	10	11
	New Community Dinner (Off-site): 6 pm *Bible Study Fellowship: 6:40 - 8:10 pm	*Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am				
12 New Member Class (Chapel): 11:30 am - 2 pm No YETIs	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Dominos Fun Club (204): 1 - 3 pm	Heartland Hope Volunteer (Off-site): 9:30 - 11:30 am	Sloppy Joe Drop Off (North Entrance): 9 am - 4 pm Men's Ministry Team Meeting (182): 7 - 8:30pm	November Newsletter Deadline	
19 Youth Group (307): 11:30 am - 1:30 pm *YETIs (Off-site): 4 pm	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Session Meeting (275): 6 - 8 pm			Women's Silent Retreat (Off-site): Oct 24 - 26	Women's Silent Retreat (Off-site): Oct 24 - 26
26 Women's Silent Retreat (Off-site): Oct 24 - 26 No YETIs	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
		Table Talk (Fellowship Hall): 6:30 - 8 pm				Youth Overnight: Nov 1, 4 pm - Nov 2, 9 am
Nov 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends Youth Overnight: Nov 1, 4 pm - Nov 2, 9 am Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship Hall): 9 - 10 am No Discipleship Classes	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8
					Lego Night: 5:30 - 8 pm	



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) C 2) B 3) D 4) A 5) B 6) C 7) C 8) A 9) D 10) B 11) A 12) A,B,C,D



Happy Birthday!

Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."



October

1 - Arlo Grafton
Kenneth Kopperud
Luke Freeman
2 - Dan Freeman
Diana Dingman
Briann Bailey
Trish Mathia
Dale Obermiller
6 - Bill Spiecker
7 - Aedan Madigan
8 - Adam Weaver
9 - Mack Hanna

12 - Ginny Lakin
13 - Peggy Kelley
14 - Helen Jacobsen
15 - Chris Cook
Annie O'Reilly
16 - Blake Anders
17 - Katrina Thede
Blaze Garcia
18 - Ben Sedivy
20 - Tom Backer
Jackie Madigan
21 - Bill Heise
Aaron Schaffer

25 - Aalilah Rios
26 - Marilyn Grafton
27 - Roxie Frazier

November

2 - Judy Schnabel
Beckett Dunn
5 - Nathanael O'Reilly
7 - Bruce Workman
Dorothea Brady
Carolyn Reeves
8 - Hannah Weller
9 - Juliana Scheopner

10 - Rich Voshell
Catie Scheopner
11 - Denise Dolezal
13 - Ginny Jansen
Nicole Burns
15 - John Kotouc
Charissa Wells

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