

THE WINDOW

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

September 2023

Slow Learner by Steve Burgess, Elder for Mission



Over the past few weeks, I have encountered some writings about the lack of historical evidence documenting the life of Jesus. There is no physical or archeological evidence of His existence. There are some relics, such as the Crown of Thorns or the Shroud of Turin, that have been claimed as being worn or used to bury Jesus, but there is nothing to corroborate this. Other articles explain that the Gospels were written with an understandable bias on what they report. It wasn't until a few decades after Jesus' lifetime that he is mentioned by some Jewish and Roman historians.

So how do I know that Jesus is real? As the title of this piece suggests, I am a slow learner. Since I was a teenager, I have drifted in and out of my faith in Jesus. Chalk it up to a number of things: being young and dumb, being more interested in partying and other distractions, the list goes on. But mostly I think the problem was that I just hadn't really experienced God in my heart. I didn't have the "smarts" to realize that faith is a journey and that experiencing God is often about doing what He said. For me, coming to know that Jesus is real is about actually following him and doing the things He said. Whether it is praying on a regular basis, reading the Bible on a regular basis, or putting into action the things that He said one must do in order to follow Him.

Even though I am a "slow learner," I knew that something was missing in my life. So I started going back to church some 25 years ago. And gradually, I have come to know that Jesus is real and is present in my heart. The presence of Jesus in my heart has increased a lot in recent years. And, I think the biggest reason for that is because I started to put into practice the idea of becoming a servant to all. In Mark 9:35, Jesus tells his disciples that "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all" (NASB). This verse has always bothered me. What in the world is Jesus talking about! If you want to become great you must become the least? Seriously? Of course, Jesus is not talking about this world, but rather the Kingdom of Heaven. The priorities of this world, this finite, temporary world, should not be where we place our values. It is the Kingdom of Heaven, the eternal place, that we should use to set our values.

(continued on page 2)

Slow Learner, continued

As I have slowly started putting into practice the role of being a servant, the sense of Jesus in my heart has skyrocketed! Going out to the Abide campus and helping to distribute food and other necessities on their Second Saturday Serve events has brought me more joy, more fulfillment, more Jesus than I ever could have imagined. Giving a homeless person a ride leaves me filled with love and compassion and an overwhelming sense of the presence of Jesus – to the point of bringing tears of joy to my eyes. And I know this is not “me” but Jesus acting in me. I know this because all my life I have been the type of person who prefers to keep people at a distance, to not become too involved in the life around me. But now, I feel like I truly have new life. This is why I have become involved with things like the Matthew 25 Hand Up for Housing effort. The Hand Up For Housing walk raises money to help people in Omaha with housing insecurities. So, if you see me standing behind a table in the Geneva Lounge grinning like an idiot – please come up and ask me about it. Let me tell you what helping other people can do for your faith journey. Let me how tell you how servanthood brings Jesus deeper into my heart and brings joy beyond anything in this world.



Community Nights Will Return This Fall!

We are excited to gather together for another Community Nights seven-week session beginning **October 4!** We hope you will set aside your Wednesday nights to gather around a table to share a meal, listen to a story, and build friendships. Our theme: Love Jesus and share that love with others.

4:30-5:15 pm - Gym & Youth Lounge

Open gym time

Self-guided craft/activities in the Youth Lounge #307

5:30-6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

Dinner & Story Time

Table Activity

Worship & Closing

6:30-7:30 pm - See locations below

Puzzles, games, and a weekly activity in Fellowship Hall

Women's Beth Moore Bible study in the Chapel (main level)

Interactive Worship Space in the Youth Chapel (main level)

Men's Bible study in the lower level conference room #182 (7:00-8:00 pm)

The book used for story time is "*Love Does for Kids*" by Bob Goff and Lindsey Goff Vidulich with stories that have been tested and proven to touch all ages.

Register at whcomaha.org/events, we can't wait to see you again!!

September 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.
- A six-week DVD study begins September 10 on the book "Go Fish" by Andy Stanley. This class takes place in the Chapel at 9 a.m. and is facilitated by Rick Mason.
- 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.
- September 17 is HymnSing! at 9:45 a.m.

Monday Evening - 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 Morning:

- 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.

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

September 13 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

September 17 - Youth Sunday Funday for 5th-12th graders.

September 21 - 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.

September 22 - Lunch, Learn & Laugh from 11:30 - 1 p.m. to share about "Aging in the Grace of God" in the Chapel.

September 23 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

September 26 - Table Talk from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Who is Stephen Anyway?

by Daniel Patrick O'Reilly, Deacon of Stephen Ministry



Well, hello fellow West Hillians.

I am one of your deacons for Stephen Ministry Leadership.

I know what you're thinking. What is a deacon, what is a Stephen Minister and who is Stephen?

How about we start at the beginning. Who was Saint Stephen? We read about Stephen in Acts 6 and 7. Jesus had ascended into heaven and the disciples were spreading the Good News and caring for the poor. Well, some widows complained that some certain widows were getting the preferred fresh bread and they were getting day old. The disciples panicked. They decided, we need to find someone who can deal with angry widows. Let's get Stephen! Thus, Stephen became the first deacon. I'm a deacon. Stephen loved Jesus and loved God's children. I love Jesus and I love God's children. Stephen sometimes said things that upset people. Hmmmm... Stephen got called in front of the Sanhedrin for some of the things he said about Jesus. Stephen gave a great speech and ended it by saying, "yeah, God sent us the Messiah and you yahoos murdered him." Well, people don't like being told they murdered the son of God. So, they stoned Stephen. Now, this is where Stephen and I diverge. I was good at dodge ball. If someone threw a rock at me, I'd catch it and give a, "Right back at ya, Bro!" However, after some research, I did find out that when someone was stoned, they really didn't get a chance to throw back. In fact, some were tied up and thrown in a pit and then the jerks threw rocks at them. How fair is that? Amazingly, in the midst of being martyred, Stephen asked God not to hold this sin against his murderers. Stephen followed Christ's model of forgiveness. Anyway, Stephen was the first martyr. And the first deacon. He cared for people. And he was bad at dodge ball. (An aside: while Stephen was being killed, a young man named Saul (aka Paul) held the coats of the people stoning him.)

What is a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers are lay people (in our congregation, maybe the person sitting next to you) who are trained to provide one-on-one care to anyone experiencing a difficult time in life. Like what? Grief, divorce, job loss, illness, or loneliness (we've been talking about that recently). Stephen Ministers care for people and bring Christ's love to them in a time of need.

What is a deacon? That's me. And Judy Nelson and Linda Gadwood. We can put you in touch with a Stephen Minister. If you are experiencing a tough time in life and would like to talk to a Stephen Minister, contact one of us or contact the church office.

Stephen Ministry. Probably more questions than answers, but there you have it. Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay hopeful. See you in church.

Capital Campaign Events begin soon!

Please attend one of these informational events. Check the list below and RSVP to the one that works best for your schedule. You can RSVP on Sunday mornings in Geneva Lounge or call the church office at 402-391-8788.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN ME at one of the upcoming Capital Campaign Informational Events. Each event will include the following:

- A presentation of the potential capital projects, with estimated costs, visuals and Q&As.
- Information about the Annual Stewardship Campaign which will be combined with the Capital Campaign this fall.
- Church-wide input to launch the visioning process.

I'm encouraging every church family to attend one of the campaign events listed on the backside of this postcard.

In Christ, Andy Hamer, Pastor

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 23

6:30 - 7:30 PM
Home of Boyd & Diana Dingman
2234 S. 86th Avenue, Omaha

Sunday, September 24

9:00 - 9:50 AM
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 7

6:30 - 7:30 PM
Home of Don & Candy Glasgow
9514 Honey Locust Circle, LaVista

Wednesday, October 11

Dinner at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM in Geneva Lounge

Monday, October 16

6:30 - 7:30 PM
Home of Dick & Rosemary Frandeen
7129 N. 121st Street, Omaha

Sunday, October 22

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Adults in Geneva Lounge
Children playground party

Light refreshments at all events

Childcare provided at church held events

✚ Please RSVP: Sign up in Geneva Lounge 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.

WHC Summer Fun!



Adventure
BEGINS



VBS!



TreeRush
Adventure!

Bon
Appétit

Great West Hills
Baking Show



Faith
Hope
Love



Youth Retreat



Family Fun Day at
Camp Calvin Crest



Sensing Nature



Wonderful
Beautiful
Amazing

What A Summer!

Here are a few comments from **WHC Summer Fun** participants:

TREE RUSH ADVENTURE - June 22 - Pam Thomas

West Hills youth and their buddies got a rush from zipping through the canopy of trees at Fontenelle Forest in June. The forest's Tree Rush adventure allows participants to navigate ziplines, rope ladders, suspended bridges, and more on multiple trails through the air. Most of the 10 or so young people accomplished multiple courses. The format encourages determination and teamwork. The youth got to enjoy a fresh perspective on the beauty of God's creation - and share the experience with friends. We hope they remember that God is watching their footing, whether they are on the ground or in the air.

SENSING NATURE - August 7-9 - Juliana Scheopner & Rylee Zimmerman

The grounds around West Hills Church became a nature camp for about 30 participants who wanted to experience nature by using their five senses: vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste. Juliana Scheopner and Rylee Zimmerman were in charge of the program and each of the three days provided a short lesson for the group about one of their senses, and developed art projects that would augment their lessons. About half of the participants were from the Atonement school-age summer program, while the other half were made up of Westgate neighbors and West Hills children. Each day they would close their time together by singing a worship song celebrating how God is our artist and potter, and we are the canvas and the clay. It was a very rewarding camp, not only for the participants but also for the volunteers and leaders.

Connect and Grow at Table Talk

Table Talk, an outreach of Women's Ministry, kicks off on **Tuesday, September 26th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**. Table Talk is an intentional response to God's call to draw closer to Him and to one another. Its format is simple. After some time of fellowship, one of our friends shares what God has put on her heart about a topic and then related questions are posed by a "Table Host" to a small group. The resulting 30-45 minute discussions are honest and heartfelt so everyone feels comfortable. We all learn from and support one another.



Lisa Backer will be speaking in September on "Spiritual Heritage: Our Christian Family Tree." Lisa will lead us in considering how we have come to be the person in Christ we are today. How has believing in the Bible as God's love story to me shaped me? Who have been my faith influencers - parents, teachers, pastors, friends, authors, men and women in the Bible, etc.? And then after considering our own priceless spiritual heritage, we will be challenged to consider our spiritual legacy - how God equips us to eternally affect others.

So please circle **September 26th** on your calendar now. Come expecting to be renewed and blessed! You will be warmly welcomed! ***There is a seat prepared for YOU at Table Talk!***



This fall at West Hills, how will you . . .

Sunday Morning 9-9:50 a.m. in the Chapel starting Sept. 10

"Go Fish" by Andy Stanley is a study geared to help discern what Jesus meant to be fishers of men. Andy explores the motivation behind sharing your faith and how it can become a natural part of your life. Following "Go Fish" is "Fire on the Mountain" by Ray Vanderlaan starting Oct. 22. Leader - Rick Mason

Sunday Morning Crosswalk Kids and Crosswalk Youth 9:00 a.m. starting Sept. 10

Check-in begins at 8:50 a.m. in the lower level welcome area. Crosswalk Kids 4 years through 4th grade will study "The Heart of God - Reflecting God in Everyday Life." 5th & 6th graders will explore how their lives fit into God's Big Story. Youth will explore the building blocks of faith in action and consider next steps on their faith journey. 5/6 and Youth Crosswalk content lays the foundation for students to decide to be confirmed when they are ready.

Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1:30 on the 1st Sunday of the month

7th-12th graders in the Youth Lounge for Lunch | Play | Learn | Pray

Monday Evening 6:40-8:10 p.m. in various rooms starting Sept. 11

West Hills will continue to host Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) to study the Gospel of John. Diving into the truth claims that Jesus boldly proclaims about Himself and the implications of His claims on your life. For the first time ever, BSF is offering classes for women, men and children (5-18) on the same night, under the same roof. Learn more and access enrollment information at: bsfinternational.org

Tuesday Morning for Men 7-8:15 a.m. in the lower level Conf. Rm #182

Men's Bible study on the sermon text for the upcoming week, and prayer for one another.

Leader - Greg Schuchmann: gkschuch@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning for Women 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel starting Sept. 13

Romans is considered by many to be one of the most important books ever written on the Christian faith. This group will be studying a video series where Pastor J.D. Greear walks chapter by chapter through the second half of Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

Leaders - Tracy Enholm: huskertracy@cox.net & Jane Loock: jaloock@cox.net

Wednesday Evening for Women - 6:30-8 p.m. in the Chapel starting Sept. 13

This group will be studying I and II Thessalonians with a Beth Moore video series called "Children of the Day." You'll learn how to let go of past mistakes and discover your circumstances are not coincidental. Leader - Leann Schaffer: ls@qualityfirstconst.com

Wednesday Evening for Men - 7-8 p.m. in the lower level Conf. Rm #182 starting Sept. 6

This group will rotate discussing a favorite Psalm each week. Leader - Les Peterson: lesandanne@cox.net

Thursday Morning for Men and Women 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel starting Sept. 7

This group will study Paul by examining Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon. They will also study Hebrews. On Nov. 30, they will watch the movie "Paul, Apostle of Christ."

Leader - Gloria Zinn: gbennett34@cox.net

CONNECT

The Story Table: Traveling Together - Sept. 5 6-7:30 p.m.

An event where a small group of "Storytellers"—comprised of West Hills friends—share stories on a particular theme,

with a room full of silent but invested "Witnesses." The audience has the opportunity to hear, interpret the stories, and just like the disciples, share them with others.

CONNECT

Lunch, Learn & Laugh - Sept. 8 & 22 and Oct. 6 & 20 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Let's get together to share about **Aging in the Grace of God**. We will be encouraged to attack aging head on and, as Christians, we will explore this stage of our spiritual journey as God continues to fit us for his kingdom.

Women's Walk & Talk - Sept. 13 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and Sept. 23 from 9-9:45 a.m.

Step into faith, fellowship, and fitness! After a short devotion, we will enjoy God's creation and the fellowship of others as we walk around beautiful **Walnut Grove Park**.

Youth Sunday Fundays - Sept. 17, Oct. 1, November 19 (times differ by event)

Just-fun-events for 5th-12th graders. Bring a friend!

Women's 'Table Talk' - Sept. 26, Oct. 24, and Nov. 28 6:30-8 pm in Fellowship Hall

After listening to a brief talk on an everyday topic rooted in Scripture and real life, we'll discuss the topic in small table groups. Using questions designed to generate a deeper level of sharing, a table host will lead these discussions.

Community Nights - Oct. 4-Nov. 22 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come for open gym, a free family-style dinner, and time to make new or existing friendships. We've noticed these are hectic times, and we want to provide a time for us to get together just as we are. **Play. Eat. Gather. Belong.**

Women's Silent Retreat - Oct. 6-8 at Saint Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE

It is the perfect place to get away from the world and just spend some time with the Lord.

Men's Night Out - Oct. 26 5:30 p.m. Location is TBD

Social gathering at a local pub with games and prizes. Come and go as you'd like.

Fall Back Pancake Breakfast - Nov. 5 8:30-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Hot pancakes and sausages served up by Men's Ministry. Everyone welcome!

Interactive Worship Space - Ongoing Wednesdays in the Youth Chapel

September 6-8 p.m., October & November 6:30-8 p.m. Whether you play an instrument, sing, or simply want to spend time in reflection, this space is open to everyone.

World Communion & International Mission Sunday - Oct. 1 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Geneva Lounge

A celebration of our international mission partners and recognize their ongoing work efforts.

Worship Night - Oct. 7 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Chapel

Spend some time with God during this time of worship with song and scripture!

Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fest - Nov. 22 7 p.m.

A special service of thanksgiving; sharing what we're grateful for. Following the service, join us in Fellowship Hall for lots of PIE!

WORSHIP

get all the details at: whcomaha.org
under "Groups" and/or "Events"



West Hills Church 3015 S 82 Ave, Omaha 68124 | 402-391-8788

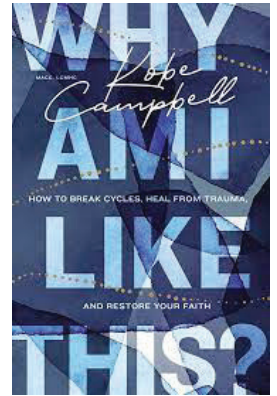
Book Suggestion

Seminary Trained, licensed trauma therapist, and author Kobe Campbell tackles the subject of "patterns of brokenness in our lives," in her new book, "Why Am I Like This?: How to Break Cycles, Heal From Trauma, and Restore Your Faith."

In an interview with popsugar.com Campbell revealed, "in 2013, after years of pushing her own trauma under the rug, she attempted to end her life." Campbell reveals that even "Good Christians have bad days, and that God loves you anyway."

In Campbell's book you will:

- Gain an understanding of what trauma and healing really are,
- Explore the roots of your dysfunctional patterns,
- Learn how your trauma shows up in everyday life,
- Find trauma-informed, faith based coping mechanisms to heal your mind and deepen your intimacy with God.



One of the coping skills the author utilizes is an easy-to-learn breathing technique while simultaneously calling on God to enter your life. Campbell is an award-winning licensed trauma therapist, Christian counselor, writer, media expert, and speaker. She received her MA in Christian counseling from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

Bible Quiz *compiled by Gloria Zinn*

1. Who touched the ark of the covenant to steady it as it made its way on a cart to Jerusalem? A) David B) Samuel C) Ahio D) Uzzah

2. Who made a covenant with David that David would take care of his family if anything happened to him? A) Mephibosheth B) Adnah C) Jonathan D) Nathan

3. Who raped David's daughter, Tamar? A) Amnon B) Adonijah C) Absalom D) Ibhaz

4. Which Gospel writer does not report John the Baptist's death? A) Matthew B) Mark C) Luke D) John

5. Which mountain did God give Moses the 10 Commandments? A) Carmel B) Sinai C) Moriah D) Zion

6. Which mountain did Elijah challenge the prophets of Baal? A) Nebo B) Tabor C) Sinai D) Carmel

7. Which mountain did the Prophet and female Judge, Deborah, lead her troops to free the Israelites from the Canaanites? A) Tabor B) Zion C) Ararat D) Moriah

8. Which mountain did God direct Moses to so he could see the promised land before he died? A) Gerizim B) Ararat C) Nebo D) Tabor

9. Which mountain did Abraham travel to in order to sacrifice his son Isaac? A) Tabor B) Zion C) Moriah D) Ararat

10. Which mountain did Noah's Ark rest on until the flood receded? A) Gerizim B) Nebo C) Moriah D) Ararat

11. Which mountain did the Israelites proclaim their blessings before entering the promised land? A) Gerizim B) Tabor C) Moriah D) Sinai

12. Which mountain did Solomon build his temple to God? A) Zion B) Moriah C) Sinai D) Carmel

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SEPTEMBER

1-Pat King
Peggy Wheeler
3-Ted Tromler
4-Jan Drake
5-Jack Culek
Luke Weller
6-Karen Garvey
Brian Moore
7-Don Anderson
Marilyn Moore
8-Walt Kunold

Karen Lofgren-Anderson
9-Connie Fethkenher
Martha Hall
Bill Tate
12-Silvia Avelar Estrada
Myrtle Heise
13-Rick Mason
14-Sue Shea
16-Nancy Kehrli
Judy Nelson
17-Marcia Allen
Ty Dingman

Peg Shirley
23-Gary Anders
Christy Gibson
24-Marth Hansen
Jack Pagel
25-Ricardo Lopez
Julie Zimmerman
26-William Scheopner
28-Marion Entz-Harris
30-Chris Hanna
Esther Smith

OCTOBER

1-Kaitlyn Barnes
Arlo Grafton
Kenneth Kopperud
2-Diana Dingman
Sunny Lundgren
Trish Mathia

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