

THE WINDOW

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

November 2022

STEWARDSHIP 2022 by Matt Huck, Elder for Stewardship



What do Nebraska football, cooler temps, leaves changing color and stewardship season have in common? These are all things that happen in the fall. Stewardship postcards and letters were mailed to the congregation in October to

mark the beginning of the Stewardship season. In 2019 when I answered the call to be your elder of stewardship, I could not have imagined the disruptions in life we have experienced in the last 2½ years.

Each year I have asked you to dig deeper in stewardship. You might think that I was only asking for additional funds. I was, but I was also asking you to dig deeper in your faith. A web search definition of stewardship is:

The job of supervising or taking care of something.

The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Faith is not something that you might think of as a job that you need to take care of or something entrusted to your care. But when you think of the Church as a building, it makes perfect sense.

What might you do if you did think of your faith in that manner? This is what I would like you to consider along with your pledge this year. What can you do differently when you think of stewardship? We are supervising, and responsibly managing the following:

Money, wealth, and possessions

Testimony | Talents

Word/Bible | Time | Health

We easily think of the money, wealth and possessions as stewardship in church. But do we think of the others (Talents, Time, Testimony, the Word and Health) as a way to demonstrate stewardship to God? This year let's pledge our monetary gift to West Hills and also choose other areas to develop stewardship of our lives.

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it. - Psalm 24:1*



COMMUNITY NIGHTS!

by Heather Hipp

Community Nights are underway and will continue until November 23. It's been a great time of sharing a meal together with different generations and having fun conversations. Thank you to all the volunteers helping to make this night a way of connecting with new and old friends. If you haven't come yet, I strongly encourage you to jump in on the fun! See all the details on our website [here](#).



SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott



"Jesus Calling," August 12: "Come to Me when you are weak and weary. Rest snugly in My everlasting arms. I do not despise your weakness, My child. Weakness stirs up My compassion, My yearning to

help. Accept your weariness, knowing that I understand how difficult your journey has been."

Ever been on a difficult journey, one you can't understand why it seems to be so tough? Walking somewhere...riding your bike somewhere...driving somewhere...flying somewhere? Our journey to freedom in Christ came from that compassion He had on His final journey. Christ showed all the compassion, as well as the weakness, He had while He was in Jerusalem as Jesus, on His final journey towards the cross; so He could find the freedom He knew was waiting for Him on the other side of the cross, and waiting for all of His believers, too. His death and risen life from that cross! Accept your weakness as He accepted His, no matter what it may be, because it will help you become the Christian we all want to be! Just remember, you will always have Jesus in your heart!

Proposed Class of Elders, Deacons and Nominating Team Members

Mission Elder - Steve Burgess

Nominating Elder - Lisa Backer

Personnel Elder - Rene Padilla

Stewardship Elder - Chris Neil

Stephen Ministry Deacon - Dan O'Reilly

Caregiving Outreach Deacon - Ginny Jansen
(changing from class of '23 to class of '25)

Homebound Deacon - Angie Arner (3 yr. term)

Homebound Deacon - Barb Wooley (2 yr. term)

Nominating Team - Janet Laughlin

Nominating Team - Don Glasgow

A **Congregational Meeting** has been called for **Sunday, November 13**, following the worship service. We will meet for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nominating Team.

**THANKSGIVING
EVE SERVICE
& PIE FEST!**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23
7 P.M.
BRING A PIE TO SHARE!**

Join us for a special worship service of thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. Hear how God has touched the lives of friends at West Hills. After the service, enjoy a slice of pie at our annual PIE FEST! Drop off your pie before the service in Fellowship Hall.

November 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:

- Congregational Meeting called for November 13 following worship with the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and nominating team members.
- Crosswalk Kids and Youth will meet beginning at 8:50 a.m. in the lower level welcome area on November 13 & 20.
- "Do You Know Your Spiritual Gifts?" discussion on November 13 & 20 at 9 a.m. in the chapel.
- HymnSing! on November 20 from 9:35 - 9:55 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Worship @ 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 - Open Play Pickleball! A weekly rotational play from 6-8 p.m. Come when you want, leave when you want. Invite some friends!

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. This group is studying the book of Romans.

Wednesday Evenings - Community Nights (November 2 - November 23)

- Discussion Group at 6:30 p.m. in room #152. High school students and older are discussing questions from the book, "Can I Ask That?"
- Men's Bible Study at 7 p.m. in large conference room #182.

Thursday Mornings - Women's Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. This group is studying "Women of the Bible; The Good, The Bad, and The Wicked".

November 15 - Session meets at 6 p.m.

November 17 - Sloppy Joe Ministry Drop Off at the church. Come between 10-4 to the north circle drive and drop your cooked sloppy joe seasoned meat and hamburger buns in the bins. Make as much as you'd like. The food will be taken to the Stephen Center to be enjoyed by many!

November 20 - Youth & Preteens are going to TREERUSH ADVENTURES! See the details [here](#).

November 23 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service & Pie Fest at 7 p.m.

November 29 - Table Talk from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Women are invited to gather around the table to draw closer to God and one another with dessert. Invite a friend!

**** SAVE THE DATE: Cookies & Cocoa from 6:30-8 p.m. on December 9 ****

GOD WAS ALREADY AT WORK

by Marti Bloes, Building Use Team Member

Sunday morning as I was spending time with my youngest friends at West Hills, the subject was prayer. We talked about how God is always with us – not too near and not too far. As we prayed, we thanked Him for many things.

One thing that I pray and thank God for is the way He has answered a prayer for the Building Use/Facility Stewardship committee. This committee was formed at the beginning of 2022 to look at ways our facility could be best used to glorify God. We want to promote mission opportunities, become more visible to the community, and spread the Good News of Christ. As the committee discussed the basic ground rules for the types of partners we would look for, we decided they must be a non-profit, their use must meet the mission, ministry and values of West Hills and their scheduling of use must not interfere with normal church activities.

Various ministry teams, staff and members of the congregation were asked to dream big about what partners would fit into the parameters that were set. The input we received made it clear that a childcare/preschool was thought to be a good opportunity for sharing under-utilized space in our facility.

Here's where God was already at work. At the time we were beginning to search for a childcare/preschool, Atonement Child Care was notified that the church in which they were currently housed was not going to renew their lease. After more than 20 years of operating in the same facility, they were being asked to relocate. A member of our congregation heard this and relayed the information to the committee.

As we began our research into Atonement, we read, "Children will learn through play and be taught through love." This is from the Atonement website. They also say, "We will share our love of God, our community, and each other in a positive manner so the children will learn through our example."

When we met the directors of Atonement, we knew these were not just words, but the truth of how they live and interact with the children.

It is apparent our missions align well with one another. Atonement is a non-profit and their hours of operation won't interfere with normal church activities. They will be a partner like the other groups currently using parts of our facility.

And this is a wonderful way to connect with our community. Atonement will have space available for new families when they relocate to West Hills. Just think of the new relationships that will be built. The possibilities are so exciting.

September Session notes

Session passed the following motions during the regular monthly meeting held on September 20, 2022.

- A motion to approve having a Congregational Meeting on November 13, 2022 for the purpose of the Election of Officers and reporting about the potential partnership with Atonement Child Care, and Q&A.
- The Capital Fund saw \$1,500 in donated giving in September. THANK YOU! Stewardship of our facility is ongoing, please prayerfully consider additional giving and designate those contributions accordingly.
- A motion to accept the resignation from Boyd Dingman, Elder of Building and Grounds, with thanks for his service.

To contact the Session, send an email to: clerkofsession@whcomaha.org

CALLING ALL WOMEN!

by Patti Brownlee



Gather around the table to draw closer to God and one another.

Experiencing God's Peace

At our next Table Talk scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m., Michaella Dunn will present some food for thought on the topic - **"Experiencing God's Peace."** As we enter the Christmas season, we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, but the kind of peace that Michaella will be talking about isn't seasonal. It's the kind of peace that God offers us each and every day all year long. Peace is not merely the absence of external troubles. It is the presence of a Savior, and in our follow-up discussions, we will consider how to more fully unwrap and accept the life-changing gift of peace.

As you read this, your calendar is probably getting fuller and busier, and that is exactly the reason you should circle **November 29th** on your calendar now and come. God is preparing a seat at the table for you!

Childcare available upon request. Contact jessica@whcomaha.org to arrange.

GO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

by Mary Jirak, Caregiving Outreach Deacon

Go build relationships! That has been our call to mission this year. And that is a big part of what being a Caregiving deacon is all about; building relationships with others as we care for them spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. We all want to matter, to feel we are of some value to others, and that others care about us.



In the October newsletter, Ginny Jansen did an amazing job describing what that might look like in her article, "Making a Connection." She was also honest about some of the things that can get in the way of our good intentions when attempting to make those connections and show people we care. But we are blessed to be a part of a church family that does its best to care for our friends and family. In the early years, the sign out front identifying West Hills read "West Hills Presbyterian Church ... where every person is a minister" or something like that. It would have been appropriate to add "and a caregiving ambassador" because that has been a huge part of our story, too. Meals have been made and shared, cards and notes with heartfelt messages have been sent, hugs and kind words have been exchanged and prayers offered. Prayers of joy and thanksgiving, prayers of sorrow and tears, and prayers of intercession. We have enveloped each other in prayer. I know, because I have experienced it all, especially this past year. This month, November, marks the one-year anniversary of the death of my husband, Bob. It has been a year of heartbreak and overwhelming sorrow, but you have been my ministers and caregivers in so many, many ways. And I am forever grateful.

Let us all continue to try our best to be there for each other in whatever way we are able, and go build relationships!

MOVIE & BOOK SUGGESTIONS by Debbie Chadwick



"Paul's Promise" is an independent movie making its way through Omaha theaters.

The movie is set in the 1960's during the height of the Civil Rights movement, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"Paul's Promise" is based on the true story of Paul Holderfield. A firefighter, who is NOT present for his family. Paul's mother, Minnie, is a fervent Christian who prays for her son daily to enter into a strong relationship with Jesus. With racial tensions climbing within their community, Minnie is diagnosed with cancer, which significantly changed Paul's world. Paul struggles with himself, to change from the man he is, to become the man he so desperately wants to be.

The Dove Foundation, which endorses movies, considers it suitable for family audiences.

"Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer: A True Story of How You Can Talk with God (Tales That Tell the Truth)" is a winner of the Christian Today Children's Book Award.

This book was written by Laura Wifler, with the hope that after reading this book children will know that they can talk to God about anything and everything, because Jesus makes that possible.

This is an illustrated Bible storybook created by the author, a co-founder of Risen Motherhood.

According to its publisher, "The Good Book Company", the book takes children from the beginning, in Eden, with God's presence through the fall, redemption, and the Spirit's presence with us now, to our presence with God in the future, God has always made a way for His people to talk with Him.

This book, and the discussion which it can generate, can lay the foundation of a biblical presence in a child's life.



WELCOME ABOARD!

Welcome two new staff members to West Hills: Courtney Tabor and Han Wagoner!

Courtney was hired in October to assist with Communications in a 10 hours per week capacity. And, recently, Han joined the staff in a 30 hours a week, Spiritual Formation Assistant position. Han will be working with the logistics and coordination of all spiritual formation and discipleship programs from kids to adults.

We're thrilled to have both Courtney and Han as part of our team and thank God for leading them here to West Hills. Welcome to you both!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

provided by Maralee Gifford



This delicious Beef Tips and Gravy recipe is super easy to make! You just mix your ingredients in a casserole dish, cover and bake 'til it's finished!

BEEF TIPS AND GRAVY

Prep Time 10 minutes
Cook Time 3 hours
Total Time 3 hours 5 minutes

Ingredients:

2 lb cubed beef stew meat
1 envelope brown gravy mix
1 envelope onion soup mix
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 small can of mushrooms (4 oz, optional!)
1 cup ginger ale or water

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 300 F.
2. Spray 9x13 pan with cooking spray and then place beef on bottom of pan.
3. In a medium bowl mix ginger ale, mushroom soup, onion soup and brown gravy. If you opted for mushrooms add those in as well.
4. Pour the mixture over the meat.
5. Wrap dish TIGHTLY in aluminum foil.
6. Bake for 3 hours and NO PEEKING!
7. Serve with your favorite sides and enjoy!

BIBLE QUIZ compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. **What was the name of Ruth's first husband?**
A) Obed B) Mahlon C) Chilion D) Salmon
2. **What was the custom in Israel when two men transferred a right of purchase?**
A) to give your tunic to the other party B) to cut a piece of your hair and hand it to the other party C) to shake both hands with the other party D) to remove your sandal and hand it to the other party
3. **Who was lowered in a basket to escape being murdered by Jewish leaders?**
A) Paul B) Peter C) Philip D) John
4. **Who cut Samson's hair?** A) the Philistines
B) Jezebel C) a barber D) Delilah
5. **Who was the mother of Boaz?** A) Rahab the Harlot B) Esther C) Deborah D) Ruth
6. **After Jesus fed the 5000 how many baskets of food were left?** A) 24 B) 12 C) 10 D) 6
7. **Who was told by an angel, before anyone else, that God was setting in motion his own visit to earth?** A) king of Judea B) Elizabeth
C) Zachariah D) Mary
8. **Who was only 7 years old when he became king of Israel?** A) Joash B) Zechariah C) Jeroboam
D) Ahab
9. **Who was Athaliah in the Bible?**
A) The mythical moon god worshiped by the Phoenicians B) a follower and supporter of Paul
C) the daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel
D) one of Solomon's wives
10. **Who was Orpah in the Bible?**
A) Naomi's daughter-in-law B) Samson's mother
C) Boaz's first wife D) Caleb's daughter
11. **Who moved Naomi and their two sons to Moab due to a famine in Judah?**
A) Obed B) Elimelech C) Barak D) Boaz
12. **Who placed someone in a basket and placed it in a river?** A) Elizabeth B) Jochebed
C) Miriam D) Samson's mother

(answers on the back page)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER

1-Rod Hansen
2-Beckett Dunn
Judy Schnabel
7-Dorothea Brady
Carolyn Reeves
Bruce Workman
8-Hannah Weller
9-Juliana Scheopner
10-Catie Scheopner
11-Denise Dolezal

Corrine Wenck
12-Virginia Pickett
13-Bonnie Aden
Ginny Jansen
Rick Reeves
15-Charissa Wells
19-Jana Prescott
22-Kelly Briggs
23-Mary Jirak
Cheryl Stout
24-Julianne Gill

25-Jeff Smith
26-Donna Peterson
Kaden Kopperud
Doug Stout
Cleo Snyder
27-Tricia Freeman

DECEMBER

1-Zoe Dozier
Candy Glasgow
5-Wayne Moore

9-Joanne Topolski
11-Branden O'Hare
Mary Turner

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