

THE WINDOW

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

September 2020

Seasonal Reflections by Andy Hamer, Pastor



As the humidity grudgingly begins to drop and the nights start getting cooler, we realize that fall is upon us. For churches this is usually a time to ramp up discipleship

opportunities, introduce new programs, and catch up after summer vacations. Certainly, all of these things are happening here at West Hills, many of which you can read about in this Newsletter - including information about our return to live worship and our new Temporary Associate Pastor.

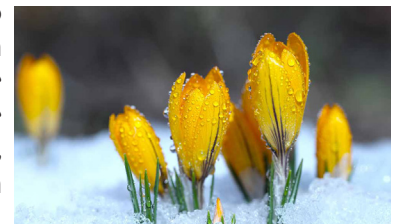
Of course, in many ways, this fall is not business as usual. We find ourselves wanting to shake off the aftereffects of a spring and summer that have tested our faith, our capacity for change, and the limits of our love for neighbor. As a church we've experienced some challenging months together. Remember the quick thinking and action that filled the month of March. We then gathered information throughout April and May to make adaptations to our fellowship and mission for the summer months. Then, just as summer temperatures started to soar, our local and national discourse began to boil over. Our ministry teams and church leadership wrestled with a path forward as our nation struggled to find common ground in our discussions about public health, science, economics, race, and politics. Through prayer and the wisdom of God experienced in the Body of Christ, we worked our way through the long hot summer.

Now, six months into the pandemic, we may only be at the halfway point. Experts tell us that vaccine progress is promising, but our shift to 'normal' is still months away, maybe longer. Although these words are hard to hear, we should remember what we've learned since March. A little reflection reveals that we're not the same people we were six months ago. In the words of Paul, we've been initiated. "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. *I have been initiated* in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in

want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:12-13, *my translation*)

So here we are, taking stock at the turning of summer into fall. Even as we consider the challenges of the last six months, we find that we have new tools for the next six months. It's not that we have everything figured out, but we do know enough to move forward. As a society, we know we need to connect with one another, to support the local economy, and to take simple precautions to slow the spread of a virus we don't fully understand. Likewise, as a church we've come to understand what we need to navigate these times. We need **one-anothering** - a commitment to relate to and care for each other in whatever ways are open to us. We also need to be engaged in **mission**. God made us to join him in Kingdom living. When we don't, our gifts and passions turn inward, and our church becomes something less. In order to achieve the above we need **adaptation**, even if it's awkward at a times. Finally, we need **grace**. Especially in a time of relational turmoil, we need to remember that none of us are our best selves, and that God loves each of us regardless of our imperfections.

Yes, we've all had hard days and hard weeks in the last six months. Even as we look ahead, we assume that there will be some rough patches. Yet, as we move forward, we can also bring with us the lessons learned from our initiation. One-anothering, mission, adaptation, and grace will support the vibrancy of our congregation - the living Body of Christ. We step into these next months as a community in which real life connects with real faith. Our community will be a refuge and an encouragement in the midst of crisis. We are a church that faithfully sows seeds even as the ground begins to freeze. Our growth continues despite the circumstances. In the midst of winter storms, Christ's strength makes us new.





We are so excited to regather as a congregation by live stream and in-person to worship together!

The COVID Task force recommended, and Session approved, the following measures that allow for the entire church to gather to worship in and out of the building from anywhere. We are excited to connect in this new way!

For In-person Worshipers

- Pre-registration (with screening questions) is required on whcomaha.org or by calling the office at 402-391-8788
- Masks must be worn
- Social distancing (6 ft) must be practiced, no hugs, high fives, handshakes...
- Even though there will be musical offerings, in-person worshipers are asked to sing in their hearts only

For Online Worshipers

- New online chat feature will allow for interaction before and during the worship service
- New prayer request feature will be available to submit prayer requests
- Worship will begin at 10 a.m. via live stream on whcomaha.org/live
- If you miss the 10 a.m. service, a recording will be posted to whcomaha.org by 3 p.m. on Sunday

For Families

- Sermon swag, tools to help your children engage during worship, will be available for all families, online or in-person
- Family Ministry Moments during worship will provide concrete insights to help kids and adults to connect with the week's message
- Faith @ Home resources contain simple activities and questions to enrich your family's experience with the biblical text and sermon topic each week. Find them at whcomaha.org
- Coming soon...video and written tips on how and why to worship with kids and teens

Safety Measures

- Enter through west or north doors (for those with handicapped tags)
- Building is only open for worship – access will be limited to the pathway to the sanctuary, the northeast restroom and the cry room (1 family per Sunday)
- Greeters will open doors and ushers will lead each household to and from your socially distanced seat
- Giving may be done online or via the collection boxes at the back of the sanctuary
- No fellowship, food, or coffee served
- Hand sanitizers have been placed strategically around the building – please use them when coming into and leaving the building

FACILITY PREPARATIONS FOR RE-OPENING by Don Glasgow, Elder of Building & Grounds

Welcome to the soon-to-be re-opening of live, in-person worship at West Hills Church. The facility coordinator, John Good, and his staff have been busy preparing the building for re-opening. Thank you to John, Ricardo Lopez, Don Good, and volunteers for their work this summer.

Below are a list of projects that have been completed:

- The walls in Fellowship Hall and kitchen have been painted and painting continues into the lower level hallway.
- Carpet has been shampooed and the building has been sanitized.
- The north entrance paving has been repaired, stripped and sealed. This will improve the safety for our worshipers. The west entrance railing has been anchored in the cement.
- Repairs have been made to the prayer garden benches and bridge. Light posts have been replaced and now have LED bulbs. Volunteers have planted and maintained flowers during the drought of this summer.
- We have saved on utilities by not using the lower level.
- The switch to COX has improved the speed of our computer communications.
- The security system and sprinkler system are now controlled by an app on the phones of the staff.

It will be a blessing to “see” each other at worship in the sanctuary or by live feed on Sunday services.

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. Even though life is different now, and we're connecting in new and different ways, here are notable dates this month in the life of our church.

September 6 - First live streaming worship service @ 10 a.m. This service will be without a congregation present. Please join us by going to the website to connect live! whcomaha.org/live

September 9 - Dr. Carolyn Grice begins as temporary associate pastor at West Hills. Welcome, Carolyn!

September 9 - Women's Wednesday morning Bible study begins! The group will be studying "Defiant Joy" by Candace Payne via Zoom Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. Tracy Enholm and Jane Loeck facilitate this six session study and it's open to all women. To join the discussion, contact Jane at jaloeck@cox.net

September 13 - First live streaming in-person worship service @ 10 a.m. For those who won't be joining in-person, go to the website to connect! whcomaha.org/live

September 13 - Rescheduled Picture Perfect Scavenger Hunt - This is a more-the-merrier event, so invite your friends and neighbors to join in on the fun. Bring your Bible and meet in the west parking lot at 1:00 p.m. (at the church) for socially distanced FUN for ALL AGES! Register at whcomaha.org/events and bring a group!

September 20 - Kids Connect small groups - A small group experience this school year led by teens and adults who are excited to help kids in preschool-6th grade connect with God, each other, and the world through activities, a short lesson, and a time to have fellowship and pray together. Small groups will meet for 30 minutes once a week on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. Pre-register please at whcomaha.org/groups.

September 20 - Confirmation Sunday - Postponed from April, the confirmation students will be confirmed and the recording will be shared.

September 23 - "On Beauty and Faith" study begins via Zoom for seven weeks. The group will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Kevin Gibson and Anna Hollingsworth will facilitate. If you're interested to join this discussion, contact Kevin at kevin@whcomaha.org or call/text 816-517-8270.

September 25 - Picnic Praise and Popsicles in the Park! Everyone is invited to this end of summer, socially distanced, event 5:30 pm at Lake Zorinsky (156th St. & Aquatic entrance), shelter # 3. Bring a meal for you/your family, play some games and sit back and listen to praise songs.

Save the date: October 10 - 406 Spotlight - That's right, the second 406 Spotlight. In case you missed the first one it's an outside event with our youth leading us through scripture and song. Roll up to the west parking lot and tune your radio to 107.9 as they share an encouraging word.

WEST HILLS WELCOMES...

Worship Resident - Anna Hollingsworth



Hello, my name is Anna Hollingsworth. I am currently in my final year at Hope International University studying worship arts with the goal of becoming a worship director. Over the past year, I have been searching for the perfect place to complete a residency in a local church as a part of my program requirements, and I am excited to be the new **worship resident** at West Hills Church.

I grew up in Omaha and attended preschool here. I attended Brownell-Talbot School where I was in choir with Kathy Leach accompanying. I was also involved in the youth worship team at King of Kings Church. It was during a night prayer vigil where I was part of the worship team for extended worship that I distinctly remember thinking to myself that I could do this forever, but did not consider a career in worship at that time.

I went to Calvin College and received a BA in interdisciplinary studies in social work, sociology, and education. Upon graduating, I began praying about it and felt called to move back to Omaha where I spent some time volunteering with the Hope Center for Kids. It was during this time that I really started praying about what God would want me to pursue as a career. It became increasingly obvious that worship was where my heart was and where God was calling me, so I pursued the practical training that a worship arts program would offer.

My goal as a worship leader is to facilitate an atmosphere of worship where people can encounter God in deeper ways because I believe that God wants to connect personally with every believer.

I am looking forward to working here and getting to know you all!

Anna will spend a minimum of sixteen weeks at West Hills fulfilling her degree requirements and we're blessed to have her with us.

Temporary Associate Pastor - Carolyn Grice

The specific duties of the Temporary Supply Pastor Search Task Force were:

- To coordinate the search process
- To communicate updates to the Session and the Congregation
- To recommend candidate for approval by the session



On August 18, 2020, the Task Force recommended and the Session approved **Dr. Carolyn Grice as the temporary associate pastor for West Hills Church**. On August 25, 2020, the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley approved the hiring of Carolyn at West Hills.

Carolyn will serve as temporary supply pastor at West Hills Church until a permanent associate pastor is called or through December of 2021.

Carolyn is a native of Omaha and a lifelong Presbyterian. She is retired from Omaha Public Schools where she held a variety of positions. Carolyn has a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a doctoral degree in education. She has a master's of Divinity from Dubuque Theological Seminary. Most recently, Carolyn held a position as community activist with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Nebraska Synod.

She has been active in the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley for over forty years, including serving as moderator. In her role as moderator, Carolyn installed George Moore as senior pastor at West Hills Church. She is a member of New Life Presbyterian Church in Omaha and has served her church in many capacities.

Additional information about this exciting addition to West Hills pastoral staff will be coming soon. We are pleased to welcome Carolyn to West Hills Church. Carolyn's start date is September 9. Her email address will be carolyn@whcomaha.org.

WORSHIPING WITH YOUR KIDS

by Erika Hanna, Nursery Coordinator

At West Hills, we understand the importance of worship and how it connects us to the Holy Spirit. It may take place while you are driving in your car or listening to a worship song. It may happen in the stillness of your morning quiet time, coffee in hand. But what if I told you it could take place while attending church service (virtual or in person) with your littles sitting right next to you? It can be intimidating, but it is possible!



Here are some tips and tricks to help you make this work for your family.

- **Talk about it before it happens.** Explain the order of how things will take place and any expectations you have.
- **Come equipped.** West Hills will be providing each child with a sermon swag bag. This little bag will have items to help your child connect to the service, as well as items to keep their hands busy.
- **Expect wiggles and chatter.** Your child will most likely need time to adjust. It may be hard to sit through the entire service the very first week. Remind yourself it is okay to have whispered conversations and tip-toed exits.
- **Give yourself grace.** Our kiddos are not tiny adults. They are full of energy and curiosity. One week might go really well while the next week feels not so great. That's okay! Start fresh the next week.

It is an adjustment but even during the discouraging moments, you've got a whole loving support system behind you. With a little effort, you'll be worshipping right alongside your kids.

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott

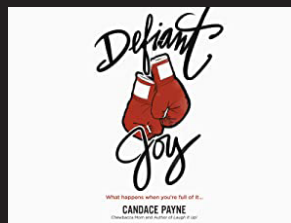
You don't quit on those you love (Everyday Psalms 13, by Peter Santucci): parents, kids, relatives, friends. Your heart just won't let you give up on them. Quitting is one of those attitudes that comes when no one realizes it, or isn't expecting it. I was given a book on the Psalms. It's a good book, that is going to take me quite some time to read it start to finish. I actually looked in my Bible at first to compare verses as I was reading this book, but this book really takes each Psalm and says it in a totally different way, giving each reader a new perspective on what each Psalm is saying. As Psalm 14 in this book says: "Worship is where salvation begins; it's also where salvation ends. Worshiping eyes see a God-filled world, Restoring our hope, restoring our heart, restoring our lives, looping us back into worship again."



Survey Results

Thank you for providing input on the recent survey. These results will help determine next steps for the four task forces. To view the results click [here](#).

New Women's Wednesday Bible Study Begins



Sept. 9 @ 9:15 a.m.

for six sessions on Zoom

Register at whcomaha.org/groups

OUR BEAUTIFUL PRAYER GARDEN by Wendi Meyer

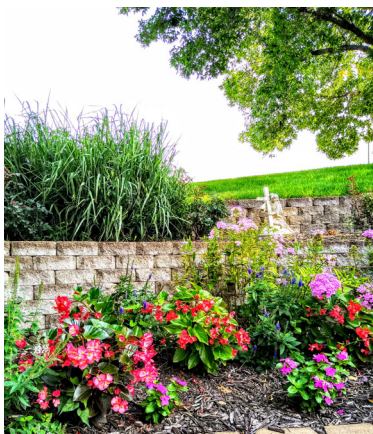


Last month, I went to West Hills Church to put the finishing touches on the boxes of school supplies that were en route to Westgate School. It was a joy to work with Linda Springsted and see all of the wonderful contributions that our congregation made.

Upon entering and exiting the small area between our north doors and the actual entrance to the church with other members, I couldn't help but be dazzled by the bursts of color provided by the flowers, the deep emerald-green of the trees and plants, along with the grass and other foliage clusters in our prayer garden. Clusters of rocks and a natural wooden plank bridge certainly make our treasured church garden a place of healing for the soul. Gardens can improve our moods, help with depression and increase the overall feelings of well being.



Curious about who takes care of the garden and what the history has been, I visited with some of the gardeners. Pam Culek likes to plant, prune and weed. Her efforts certainly helped to create a precious environment, a place to wander and enjoy the interaction with nature. Pam enjoys getting out for the fresh air and special connection with God. Shopping and planning the garden has brought her so much joy. Pam even traveled to Mennonite country and brought back some of the unique flowers we enjoy.

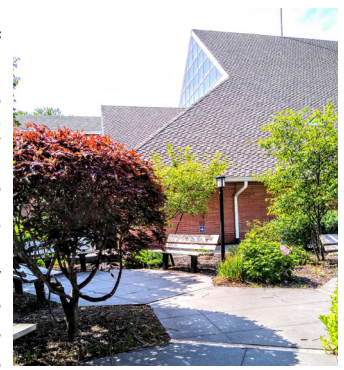


Another dedicated gardener is Kelly Latimer-Briggs. Kelly and her husband, Tim, responded to a request in church that asked for new helpers. Kelly picked blossoms she liked in a pallet of her favorite colors. Joining with Pam Culek, they created a gardening partnership. Along with Tim, Kelly also transplanted flowers, theirs coming from Osage Beach. The Briggs' car was literally packed with blooms and blossoms. Dragon wing begonias quickly became Kelly's favorite.

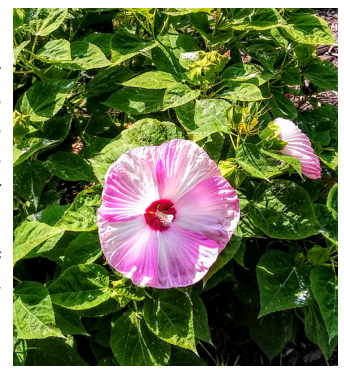
Her contributions, along with those of others, have helped us to "slow down time a bit," as we soak up the beauty of nature. Kelly's hard work allows a precious setting to connect peacefully with the Lord. There is an aura of gentleness in the prayer garden.



My visit with Daryl and Kathy Greger provided more background and precious information about the prayer garden by the north entrance of our church. The Gregers shared memories of the important hard work provided by Les and Helen Stanley, Henry Burke and Jim Love. Certainly, John Good has helped a great deal as well. Kathy shared with me that she receives more than she gives in this work for the church. I certainly could have visited with them for a long time. It is very evident that they have lots of dedication and love in their efforts to provide a gorgeous setting for church members.



My favorite elements of the garden are certainly the benches. They afford places for individual Bible study and prayer, conversations with others or even lunch and coffee with friends. Our Pastor Andy has used the garden as a setting for several sermons. With all of the things that we have experienced in 2020 so far, I urge you to find some solace outside. I urge you to soak up the serenity and peace that God provides. I urge you to come to the garden alone or with others. God bless you along your journey.



BACK TO SCHOOL PARADE

Our Crosswalk Crew kicked off the 2020-2021 school year in a unique way this year with a parade! Our mission was to connect with families in a safe way while blessing their start to the school year. The night was filled with lots of silly costumes adorned by our volunteers, cotton candy treats, silly string madness, a goodie bag for kids and parents, and a personal blessing over the family in their vehicle. Thank you to all of our volunteers who came out and to our families for driving through and giving us a big smile! Here's just a few families that attended the parade! **GOD'S GOT THIS!**



REACHING OUT TO GOD by Gloria Zinn

Do you remember when you fell in love with that special person you knew you wanted to spend the rest of your life with? Do you recall how the two of you could talk for hours, couldn't wait to see one another again, and found that person on your mind all the time? You also found you were interested in learning everything about him/her, and the more you learned, the more your love grew. It seemed easy to overlook any flaws because you loved this person with all your heart. God loves us in a very similar way, flaws and all, but do we seek Him with the same passion and love that we poured into that person we wanted to spend the rest of our life with? For many of us, probably not. Our world has a constant pull toward secularism with so many interruptions, so many choices for our time, so many "things" to accomplish. Yet our God remains very faithful to us, with a great deal of love, patience, and understanding of what we face in this world, and the challenges we encounter. Are we that understanding with others in our lives that we love?

In Psalm 103:8 we are told that *"the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."* In our current time of living in this pandemic world, anxious for our "normal" to return, do we seek God's word in order to be "merciful and gracious" to others?

For some of us the answer would be "yes" to that question. They have used these last five months as a rare opportunity to increase their contact with others.

However, for some of us the anxiety and stress has propelled us in a different direction and we may experience an increase in our isolation, using the excuse that we no longer have the opportunities since our church is closed. We may find ourselves angry or annoyed when we enter a store with our mask in place, and glare at others who have chosen not to wear a mask. We find we are becoming more complacent about buying extra food and delivering it to Heartland Hope, even though we know we can afford it. If we hear of a need for a volunteer we find ourselves hoping someone will step up, even though we know we could. We may have also lost the interest, or ignored calling or sending cards to those who have been living in isolation in a locked facility since March. Are these simple acts showing God's love in us?

We read in 1 John 4:7 *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever*

loves has been born of God and knows God." Sometimes when our life has changed from a normal, everyday existence to something we've never experienced before we find ourselves being tested in the midst of our stress, to be able to become the person God wants us to be. We also, sometimes, lose our way. How often do we seek to know God more intimately the same way we were so excited to know the love of our life more intimately? Dr. David Jeremiah stated, "cultivating our relationship with God should be our #1 priority." God gave us a wonderful book to "cultivate our relationship" with Him, but how often during the week do we use it? We also have access to a plethora of other resources at our fingertips, it just means we have to want a relationship with God and need to make the effort, as we have done with others in our lives.



Have you ever studied a copy of Michelangelo's painting on the Sistine Chapel of Adam and God? We have a copy of that famous painting downstairs in our church. In studying that painting one may wonder if Adam is making an effort to truly reach out to God...and we may think "if he could only extend his arm and hand as much as we see God extending His."

In researching this painting many commentators have given varied views concerning Adam's response to God's outstretched arm and hand. One commentator suggested "unlike the figure of God who is outstretched and aloft, Adam is depicted as a lounging figure who rather lackadaisically responds to God's imminent touch..." Was Adam putting forth the effort to reach God as much as God is putting forth the effort to reach Adam? Do we, as followers of Christianity, put forth the effort to reach God as much as He puts forth the effort to reach us?

Another interpreter suggested that Adam is "moving away from God's touch," something we know a number of people have done over the years.

Another interpretation of this painting is "Adam's limp hand has not received God's touch, a touch that would ignite Adam with the gift of life." You may have experienced this "gift of

REACHING OUT TO GOD continued

life” from God sometime in your own life. Perhaps you have felt God’s touch in a dark or depressive time in your life and have never been the same since. In Psalm 138:7 we read of God’s love and faithfulness: *“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.”*

Make a short timeline this week which will show you how much time you made the effort to build your relationship with the God who loves you with an everlasting love. You may be satisfied with the results, or you may become more aware of just how much time you are seeking a relationship with the one you will be spending an eternity with.

References:

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist/michelangelo/>
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-creation-of-adam-by-michelangelo-analysis-lesson-quiz.html>
<http://www.microneurosurgery-roma.com/>
<http://www.italianrenaissance.org/michelangelo-creation-of-adam/>



ON BEAUTY
AND FAITH
discussion group

What is beauty? What is the connection between beauty and the Christian faith?

A newly released book, **“On Beauty and Faith,”** will be the springboard for our discussion. In each chapter, the meaning of beauty is explored through the story of Jesus being anointed with the expensive perfume (Mark 14).

Chapters include:

1. On Beauty and Art
2. On Beauty and Identity
3. On Beauty and Generosity
4. On Beauty and Vulnerability
5. On Beauty and Mystery
6. On Beauty and Justice
7. On Beauty and Changing the World

This 7-week Zoom discussion group begins on Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Kevin Gibson, the facilitator, will be assisted by our worship resident, Anna Hollingsworth. Don't worry, you don't need a degree in art history or philosophy to participate!

If you're interested, please contact Kevin at kevin@whcomaha.org, or call/text at 816.517.8270.

THANK YOU WEST HILLS!

Thank you for your food donations that went to our mission partner **ABIDE**, to be given out during their food hamper.

There are several ways to serve in September at ABIDE; check out the list of volunteer opportunities at: <https://abideomaha.volunteerhub.com/>



Canned goods and boxed meals loaded up and ready to go!

A LOAD OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Thank you West Hills for the bags of school supplies donated to the students of Westgate School. Your generosity was apparent by the overflowing amounts of pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, rulers, markers, and glue they received from you! Please pray for the health and safety of the teachers, staff, and students as they begin the school year in a new and different way.



AUGUST Session notes

- The 2019 - 2020 Confirmation class will be confirmed on Sunday, September 20 during the 10 a.m. worship service.
- Session approved returning to live in-person worship with live streaming beginning Sunday, September 13 with one service at 10:00 am.
- Approval was given to proceed with hiring Dr. Carolyn Grice recommended by the Temporary Supply Associate Pastor Task Force for the position of temporary part-time associate pastor.
- Approved the request from the Worship and Music Team to financially compensate Anna Hollingsworth for serving as a Worship Resident this fall for 16 weeks.

To contact Session,
send an email to:

clerkofsession@whcomaha.org



BIBLE QUIZ

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

1. What king threatened to cut a baby in half?
A. King Abimelech B. King Ahab C. King Herod
D. King Solomon
2. Which one of these is not a beatitude Jesus gave us in the sermon on the mount?
A. Blessed are the poor in spirit B. Blessed are those who are tired C. Blessed are the meek
D. Blessed are the peacemakers
3. Which is not listed as one of the 10 commandments?
A. Love thy God with all thy heart B. Honor thy father and thy mother
C. Thou shalt not steal D. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me
4. Which name listed is not one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus?
A. Philip B. Thaddaeus
C. Paul D. Bartholomew
5. Who said: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" ?
A. Jesus B. Peter
C. John D. Paul
6. Where was John when he wrote Revelation?
A. Jerusalem B. Patmos C. Petra D. Tyre
7. *Where did Jesus spend his boyhood?
A. Egypt B. Jerusalem C. Nazareth D. Bethlehem
8. What tax collector climbed a tree to see Jesus?
A. Matthew B. Ishmael C. Shimei D. Zacchaeus
9. *What does Satan masquerade as in the present world?
A. An angel of darkness B. An angel of light
C. A demon D. A false prophet
10. Of all the qualities of love listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, which comes first?
A. love is kind B. love does not boast
C. love is patient D. love is not self-seeking
11. * Which woman did Peter raise from the dead at Lydda?
A. Phebe B. Miriam C. Euodia
D. Tabitha
12. Who said to Jesus: "Thou art the Christ"?
A. John B. Peter C. Matthew D. Judas

* Denotes Bible quiz questions from Brain Games

(answers on the back page)

BOOK SUGGESTIONS compiled by Gloria Zinn

We have asked some of the ladies from the Thursday morning Bible study class to write a review of a book they have enjoyed reading, either recently or in the past. Below are the results of that request.

Joyce Haynes: "A year ago my father-in-law died in hospice. Since then I have gone back to Trudy Harris's two books, *Glimpses of Heaven* and *More Glimpses of Heaven*. These books, recently re-released, helped me further understand hospice and what people of all different ages and walks of life experience in the dying process. Each chapter is a joyous and hope-filled individual true story told by a Christian hospice worker. I will read these books again and again."

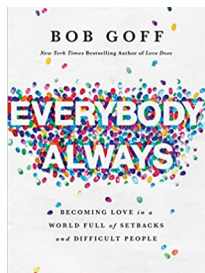
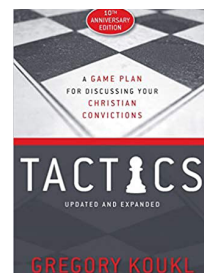
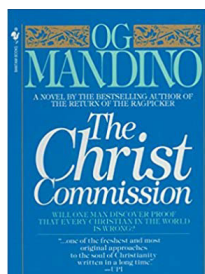
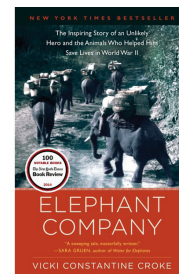
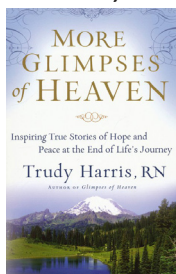
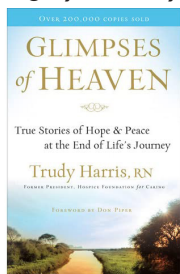
Barb Spiecker: "I have read this book several times, and plan on reading it again soon. *The Christ Commission*, by Og Mandino is a fictionalized author trying to write a fictionalized inquiry by a commission of Roman tribunes in 6 AD, but admits the more he researches, the more doubts he has about Jesus rising from the dead. He admits that if he could travel back in time, he could discover what had really happened to the body. Soon after saying that he finds himself back in Jerusalem in 6 AD among the enemies and followers of Jesus."

Linda Springsted: "This book, *Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People*, by Bob Goff, is a follow-up to his book *Love Does*. The title pretty much speaks for itself, and seems very appropriate with what we are all currently experiencing. Bob, who visited West Hills many years ago, is an incredible storyteller whose truths come to life as he relates his experiences and life lessons. I also enjoy genres in Christian historical fiction. Recently I read a three-book series by Nancy Moser: *The Pattern Artist*, *The Fashion Designer*, and *The Shop Keeper*. The

series takes place in the early 1900s and the main character is a young servant girl who comes to America with a wealthy British family. With only her God-given talents, the will to work hard, and her faith in God, she knows the future holds very little for a housemaid in servitude. Risking everything, she ventures out on her own to discover if America can offer more than a life of service."

Jane Power: "I LOVED THIS BOOK! *Elephant Company*, by Vicki Constantine Croke is a true story about Billy Williams who, in 1942 was in the elite British Forces, working with the elephants who helped build bridges and carried supplies and people over the treacherous mountain trails to India. The exciting adventures and descriptions of the bond that formed between the elephants and Billy Williams gave him the name Elephant Bill. The author also included pictures, which enhanced this exciting story even more."

Anita Evans: "I am often hesitant in speaking up in groups where I know others in the group are not believers. A book I found which addresses my hesitancy is *Tactics* by Gregory Koukl. It is based on Paul's teaching in Colossians 4:5-6 *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you know how to answer everyone.* This book offers many concepts, which the author expands on and gives useful examples. It is a book which teaches you how to present the gospel to others in a kind, non-confrontational manner so that they will listen. The author points out that before there can be a harvest, there is always a season of gardening, in other words you may not change a person's mind but you can plant seeds."



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER

- 1-Pat King
- Mary Ann Olig
- Peggy Wheeler
- 3-Gladys Rumbaugh
- Ted Tromler
- 4-Jan Drake
- Sam Nodes
- 5-Jack Culek
- Luke Weller
- 6-Karen Garvey
- Brian Moore
- 7-Don Anderson
- Marilyn Moore
- 8-David Burns
- Walt Kunold
- Karen Lofgren-Anderson
- 9-Jacque Bandiera
- Martha Hal
- Bill Tatel
- 12-Myrtle Heise
- 13-Rick Mason



- Avery Loewens
- 16-Nancy Kehrli
- Judy Nelson
- 17-Peg Shirley
- Ty Dingman
- Marcia Allen
- 21-Lee Bridgman
- 23-Gary Anders
- Christy Gibson
- 24-Jack Pagel
- Emma Neil
- Jocelyn Anderson
- Martha Hansen

- 25-Julie Zimmerman
- 26-William Scheopner
- 27-Tammy Rogers
- 28-Carol Love
- Marion Entz-Harris
- 30-Chris Hanna
- Jeff Meyers
- Esther Smith

OCTOBER

- 1-Kaitlyn Barnes
- Arlo Grafton
- Kenneth Kopperud
- 2-Diana Dingman
- Sunny Lundgren
- Trish Mathia
- Dale Obermiller
- Bob Jirak

(the remaining October birthdays will be listed in the October newsletter)