

# THE WINDOW

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

September 2021

## OUR FIELD OF PLAY by Andy Hamer, Pastor

Let's talk a bit about Sunday morning soccer. Decades ago, we started seeing a few youth soccer tournaments on Sundays. Today Sunday mornings are filled with all kinds of youth and family events. We in the Church tend to get frustrated about how this pulls people away from traditional worship gatherings. We often get stuck somewhere between telling ourselves, "That stinks," and wanting to tell the organizers of these Sunday sporting events, "Hey, knock it off". Either way these thoughts don't seem to help the Church make much progress toward her mission.

Sunday soccer has become part of what we might call our "missional context". It's part of our surroundings just like the city of Omaha, Midwestern values, or Husker football. Trying to shift American culture away from Sunday soccer isn't a bad goal (pun intended); it's just that God might be calling us to ministry within our existing context. Here. Now. How is Jesus calling us to bring new life into this unique place and time? What makes the good news actually good for our particular neighbors and friends?

Recently, I shared these thoughts with a wise friend. A few minutes later, our conversation shifted to the challenges of the last 18 months and how they're affecting churches and society as a whole. Somewhere in the midst of all that, my friend connected the dots for me. She said, "This is just like the Sunday soccer conversation." In that moment I realized that my thinking about the last 18 months had been getting stuck somewhere between, "This stinks," and, "Everybody knock it off". My friend reminded me that our current global mess - with all the individual pain and confusion it causes - is actually part of our current missional context. That connection rang inside my head with the force of a Mexican soccer announcer screaming, "GOOOOOOOOOOAL!"

We live and follow Jesus in a particular context. Here. Now. The environment around us includes

democracy and polarization, a bull market and a shrinking middle class, handheld computers and rival sources of basic information, the miracles of modern medicine and a pandemic. It may seem strange or even overwhelming, but our up-and-down experiences are all part of the world that Jesus invites us into - to live and minister as he did. In one of Jesus' last prayers with his disciples he said to his Father, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one ... as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (John 17:15,18)

Some of you have already found new paths to God's mission and mercy in this crazy time, but many of us are hemmed in by our own hurt. Yes, our own individual healing is part of God's work, but our faith is made to function in multiple direction at once. We lean into God and the Church for our own healing and growth, and, **at the same time**, we can follow Jesus outside of ourselves, to join in his healing and growing work around us. Here. Now.

The mercy God shows to each of us should manifest itself to the people around us. Our gratitude for God's grace can spill over in warm words of thanks to a teacher, a food service worker, or a medical professional. We can let our fear and frustration rest in Jesus' capable hands for a moment, so that we're able listen wholeheartedly to a coworker or classmate who needs to share their hurt. We can consider how all this disruption affects other people: our mission partners, children, those who live alone or on the other side of town. How might we join God and stand beside them?

Is this how we end a pandemic and community shattering polarization? No. But this is what it means to be a missional church. This is how God draws us into making his reign a reality in the here and now. This is God's renewing power inside us and in our touch on the world.

## INTENTIONAL INVITATIONS by Linda Schuchmann, Elder of Membership

When was the last time you visited a church for the first time? Since we have had a pandemic during the past year and a half, some of us may not have even stepped foot in any church for the past year and a half. But, the pandemic, social distancing, wearing masks, and uncomfortableness we might feel being around others will someday pass. Even now, some folks are venturing out more and interacting more with others.

I believe at some point folks will start visiting churches in person again. They may not know Christ or what it means to be a Christian and visit a church to find out what Christianity is all about. They may have a relationship with Jesus Christ and be looking for a faith community to support them in their Christian walk.

How do people decide what church to visit? In today's world, it is most common for people to start any search by looking on the internet. In fact, before the pandemic, I remember talking to a family visiting West Hills, and they said they looked at church websites, and decided to come to West Hills based on our website. Another common way for people to decide to visit a certain church is by word of mouth or personal invitation. This past summer, I became acquainted with a family while at one of my grandchildren's sport events. My son was the coach of the boys' team and is a youth director at a church. I attended a service at my son's church and there was the family I had met at the baseball game. They visited that church because of talking to their son's baseball coach and family.



When was the last time you talked about West Hills Church to an acquaintance, or invited someone to church? I believe that we all have been through trying, stressful times these past 18 months. People are weary of conflict, whether it is political, race related, or social media banter. People are looking for a safe place where they feel welcomed, accepted, and can build meaningful relationships. Many of us have found that place at West Hills. Let's be intentional about sharing that place with others. Who knows, our invitations or conversations with someone might just make an eternal difference in someone's life.

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## SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott



*"We live by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7)*

Why is fear a way to glory? I'm thinking that each person who has been freed of something in their life considers themselves truly free because they took their

fear and took it to Christ, knowing that He would stand by their side and turn their fear into a new kind of glory. He has turned my fear of living in a rehab environment to one of living where the rehab staff really care for those they're helping; helping their patients get well enough that they will be able to leave. I've seen several people get strong enough to go home to family and friends, and I think I can truly say that Christ has always been with me, through easy times and hard times, helping me celebrate that my toughest times are past. I know I still have tough times probably for a long time, but with Christ standing beside me, I know I'll be living my life in His grace!

# 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 in September - Livestreaming and in-person worship service @ 10 a.m. Following the service join us for fellowship outside in the garden area.** For those who won't be joining in-person, you can watch the service at: [whcomaha.org/live](http://whcomaha.org/live)

## **Discipleship Opportunities Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 a.m.:**

- \* Crosswalk Kids meeting in-person and outside
- \* Youth 406 Journey Groups meeting in-person and outside
- \* Serendipity Bible study on the book of Acts until Sept. 12 in the chapel
- \* "What If Jesus Was Serious?" book study begins Sept. 19 in the chapel

**Wednesdays - Women's Bible study begins Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. This six-session study on prayer is from the book called The Sacred Echo by Margaret Feinberg.**

Wednesdays - 406 Youth Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in-person

**Thursdays - Women's Bible study begins Sept. 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. The Serendipity Bible study of the book of Genesis continues.**

September 6 - InterVarsity Labor Day BBQ at West Hills 12-3 p.m. on the west lawn. There will be a 70 foot slip n' slide! All are welcome to attend and interact with the student!

**September 11 - Deliver flyers, pick up trash, and pray with the Skinner East neighbors in preparation for the picnic the following week.**

September 16 - Sloppy Joe Ministry Drop Off at the church. Come between 10-3 to the north circle drive and drop your cooked sloppy joe meat and buns in the bins located outside. The food will be taken to the Stephen Center to be enjoyed by many!

**September 18 - Skinner East Picnic @ Abide Lighthouse at 12 p.m.**

September 26 - FALL FUN FEST! 11:30 a.m. - Food, activities and fellowship following the worship service.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...October 2 for the All Church Clean Up 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

# INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY - SOMETHING OLD,

## SOMETHING NEW, PART 1 by Jessica Scheopner, Director of Family Ministries

West Hills Church is unique in many ways, but one of the distinctive things about West Hills is that we have a history and practice of being an intergenerational church. Intergenerational ministry is not a usual thing in most churches, but for us it's one of the basic parts of who we are and how we make disciples. Like being relational, incarnational, and missional, being intergenerational is part of our DNA.

But wait. You might be wondering: "Aren't all churches intergenerational?"

Actually, no. Most churches are multigenerational, meaning that there are two or more generations present. The difference between multigenerational and intergenerational is the difference between a distant roommate relationship and a connected family relationship. Multigenerational means that people of different generations share the space and split the rent. Intergenerational means that people of different generations come together for shared experiences, ideas, and growth, helping one another as members of a family. The definition of intergenerational is much more compelling and descriptive of West Hills, where we value spiritual growth, discipleship, and relationships—with God, others, and the world. Take a look at this definition of intergenerational ministry from GenOn ministries (emphasis mine):

*Intergenerational ministry develops disciples and energizes churches by bringing together any combination of at least two generations in planned and purposeful settings, empowering these generations to mutually invest in each other and in their faith community, and intentionally encouraging Christian relationships among the generations.*

I love this definition, because it assumes that every person has a gift to bring to the table, no matter our age or stage in life. We each have something special and important to offer to the larger family of God and to its smaller expressions in one another. Intergenerational ministry makes a way for us to do that. And let's not miss the reason for intergenerational ministry laid out in this definition – **developing disciples and energizing churches**. These are inviting, dynamic, growth

expressions that are at the core of the way West Hills works to fulfill God's mission in the world.

I also appreciate what is missing in this definition. There is no assumption that every ministry opportunity must include two or more generations. At West Hills, we know that there are times when it is important, necessary, or valuable to connect with people of the same age and stage of life. This definition also omits the expectation that one group is assumed to be an expert. The idea of mutual investment removes the burden of sole leadership and replaces it with the freedom for each person to bring their contributions, allowing the community to grow together.

West Hills has been living into this definition both the included and the missing components for many years – **even before this GenOn definition was crafted!** Here are a few ways West Hills has been practicing intergenerational ministry for decades. I bet you have your own list of examples. If you have some stories to add, I would love to hear them!

### LOGOS MIDWEEK MINISTRY



My cousins grew up attending LOGOS at West Hills each week with their grandparents. Their grandparents joined many others in using their gifts to make this cooperative midweek ministry an impactful and enjoyable time for everyone – kids and adults. LOGOS (now called GenOn ministries) was an intentionally intergenerational ministry before intergenerational ministry even had a name. In the past few years, I have spoken



## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY, continued

to some of those kids who sat around those tables—who are parents themselves now—about their experience. What I have learned is that their lives were impacted in deep ways by the constancy and love of their table “parents.” Those relationships with church-family adults who cared for and listened to them with acceptance and constancy added another source of love during the childhood and adolescent years that are characterized by perpetual growth and change. I have also spoken to some of the leaders for whom LOGOS was a highlight of the week because they saw and enjoyed the relationships, faith, and fun memories that grew for kids and adults.

### SERVANT SUNDAY



More recently, my older children have grown up participating in Servant Sunday twice a year, working alongside family and non-family adults to accomplish a shared mission. Each person on the team brings their various gifts of skills, experience, energy, and muscle to offer to the homeowner and to one another along with shared stories and the fun of making new friends. These times together have given my teenage and adult children bonds with people in our congregation. Those connections made over weeds and rakes have been the root of several relationships that grew in the Geneva Lounge, in a weekday Bible study, on a mission trip, and at other church life gatherings—and beyond. Those friendships have gone both ways, imparting wisdom, perspective, vitality, and hope.

### ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



As a young woman, young mom, and new West Hills attendee, I also “grew up” at West Hills, participating in the Thursday morning Bible studies and the Monday morning moms’ group. The women in these groups who were a little or a long way ahead on their journeys welcomed and invested in each other and in the younger women in the groups, week after week and year after year. I don’t think my experience or transformation is unique, but I can definitively say that these intergenerational friendships changed the way I understand Jesus, community, and calling through the questions, laughter, and stories shared in our time together.

***Coming next month: Something Old, Something New Part 2.*** If you have a story or two of how an intergenerational relationship has impacted your faith, I’d love to hear about it by email, phone, or over a cup of coffee.

### ***Whispers, Wiggles, and Wonder in Worship***

It is a joy to our West Hills family to gather with all generations to worship Jesus. We believe that God put wiggles and giggles in His small image bearers, and He is neither offended nor distracted by sound and movement, but delights in their presence. So do we! If you find your young child needs a little more space and the cry room is under use, an adult can accompany a child/children to the large room in the nursery. The worship service will be livestreamed and you’re welcome to stay until they are ready to step back into worship.

# WHO IS LUKE BURNS?

by Maralee Gifford



After the Sunday sermon on August 8th (Youth Sunday) the question “Who was that man giving the sermon?” was overheard. If you don’t have teens in your household or if the pandemic has turned your brains to mush (like mine), it might be nice to reacquaint ourselves with our Youth Coordinator, Luke Burns. Luke has been with West Hills since 2016. While serving at West Hills, Luke has married Nicole and they have two children, Theo and Silas. If you are familiar with Grace Burns, Luke is her grandson.

Luke has done an amazing job teaching our teens about God, encouraging them in their spiritual and personal lives, and arranging activities for them to participate in as a means of working together as a team. He’s also been known to be willing to be dunked in a huge vat of cold water, go down a slip ‘n slide in a bucket, drop off little gift bags for the kids during the pandemic, and play guitar with the worship team.

Luke is very much qualified to work with our kids as he has a degree in religion and ancient history. Most importantly though, the kids really like Luke and they are able to really relate to him. The kids enjoy spending time with Luke—“He makes boring things fun and fun things funner” and it’s obvious Luke enjoys his time with the kids as well. We are very pleased to reacquaint you with Luke.

## AUGUST *Session notes*

- The annual Skinner East Block Party will be held on September 18th.
- Erika Hanna has resigned in order to be a Graduate Assistant in counseling at UNO.
- Congregational nominations for the new class of Deacons, Elders, and Nominating Team are due September 5th.
- New bids are being accepted for the east and west parking lot repair.
- The Covid-19 Task Force recommended, for the sake of consistency with public practices, that overall West Hills use the same level of safety measures as Douglas County and the City of Omaha have in existence. In addition, it was recommended that staff and ministry teams make decisions about the use of safety measures for their activities/events going forward.
- Consistent with CDC and DCHD recommendations, the Covid-19 Task Force strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear a mask at indoor events.
- A motion was made to remove the current job description for Children’s Elder and the job description for Youth Elder and to accept and replace them with new job descriptions for Elder for Children and Youth and Elder for Intergenerational Impact.

**To contact Session, send an email to:  
[clerkofsession@whcomaha.org](mailto:clerkofsession@whcomaha.org)**



## SHARING OUR BROKENNESS by Laura Meyers, Deacon of Stephen Ministry

In Sunday's sermon on 7/25 Pastor Andy talked about listening to God and how God sometimes talks to those on the fringes of society. For those who are unfamiliar with my story, I am one of those "on the fringes of society" individuals. While I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was a young child, things started going off course around the time I went to college. I was hospitalized twice in my college years. Once with an eating disorder and another time for being suicidal. I then found alcohol and most of my 20's was lived unchurched, deep in sin. I'll spare you the non-Christian details. Let's just say that Grace is a beautiful thing. Even since being reacquainted with Jesus, my Christian journey hasn't exactly looked "pretty". While I am now a devoted Christian, I'm also a medicated, bi-polar, recovering alcoholic. I have wrestled with God regarding my alcoholism and mental illness diagnosis. I have asked if God created me, and I am His masterpiece, why did He make me "broken"? I have also had my fair share of questioning God's will. After getting sober and turning my life around, my husband and I went through fertility issues, medical issues, and had an adoption fall through (the birth mother changed her mind after having the baby). I was hurting, lonely, and very angry with God during this time. Currently, I am taking care of my aging Mom. It is difficult and exhausting. All too often I go barreling into a situation running on Laura's will versus pausing and asking for God's guidance.

So why am I telling you all this? Many may think that these are embarrassing, shameful things that should be kept private. But I don't believe they are. In my experience, growth and beauty can even come from difficult times. A few years ago, I was feeling sorry myself as I was experiencing yet another medication change and it wasn't going well. As I cried out to God in despair, He told me to use my "brokenness" for His Glory. The message was clear, and it was loud. And that is what I have tried to do, to the best of my ability, every day since. It's been transforming.

I became a Stephen Minister for that very reason. As one who has had a bumpy walk with Christ, I want to be there for others who may be going through a struggle of their own. I want them to know that it is OK for a Christian to hurt or get angry. They do not need to feel weak or be ashamed and they

do not need to walk through these times alone. It is OK to ask for help. A Stephen Minister provides high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. It is a tangible way our congregation can share God's love with those going through painful times in life. Think of all the hurting people in our congregation as well as the unchurched people in our community dealing with these issues:

- Experiencing grief after losing a loved one
- Dealing with cancer, heart disease, or other major illness
- Caring for a parent or spouse with a chronic condition
- Picking up the pieces after a divorce or broken relationship
- Coping with the pain of unemployment or financial difficulties
- Struggling with infertility, miscarriage, or pregnancy complications
- Or facing other life difficulties

With Stephen Ministry, our congregation has a great opportunity to reach out to people who are hurting and minister to them during their times of need by matching them with a Stephen Minister who can provide confidential, emotional and spiritual support for as long as it is needed.

To be successful in this mission, we need Stephen Ministers. We are looking for people with the gifts of caring, compassion, patience, faith, listening—who want to be part of a life-transforming ministry. I encourage you to take some time to listen to God and to consider where He may be calling you. If you feel that calling is to serve as a Stephen Minister, or if you are wondering if a Stephen Minister could be beneficial for you or a loved one, please contact any pastor or someone on the Stephen Ministry leadership team:

**Cathy Voshell**

phone: 402-301-9434

email: rvcav85@gmail.com

**Laura Meyers**

phone: 402-490-0974

email: meyersla@cox.net

## WESTGATE ELEM. MISSION PARTNER UPDATE by Linda Springsted

West Hills' generosity shows through again! Last week a mountain of school supplies were delivered to our mission partner, **Westgate Elementary**. Just think of all the happy faces of children and their families who have the supplies they need to begin their journey of learning. A list of the items we donated is included below and it is **amazing**!

We were also able to deliver gifts to the Westgate Staff. It included: microwave popcorn, theatre candy, Redbox rental gift card as well as words of encouragement sent from West Hills friends. So, they were provided with an evening at the movies (at home).

As explained in the video last Sunday by Principal Amanda and Vice Principal Jay, they are waiting until after September 17th District Board meeting to make a decision on when volunteers can again be in the school to assist with mentoring, reading, and library help.

So, **THANK YOU AGAIN West Hills** for your generosity and we hope to announce soon that we will also be able to be in the school to continue to build relationships.



#2 yellow pencils \* - 1,014  
Dry erase markers \* - 118  
Colored pencils - 1,032  
Crayons (24 ct.) - 101 boxes.  
Disinfectant wipes - 16  
Markers (10 ct.) - 740  
Spiral notebooks (wide rule) - 128  
Loose leaf paper (wide rule) - 4  
Scissors - 64  
Glue sticks - 234  
2 pocket folders - 106  
Large pink erasers - 109  
Highlighters - 120

Pencil boxes - 28  
Pencil top erasers - 435  
Red & blue pens - 313  
Ziploc bags (Qt. & Gal.) - 150  
\*\*\* Watercolors - 32  
Kleenex - 15 boxes  
Comp Books - 4  
\*\*\* 3 x 5 index cards – 8 pk  
\*\*\* Rulers - 3  
\*\*\* Where the Wild Things Are - 4 copies  
  
\*most needed  
\*\*\*not on original list



**by Rick Mason, Elder for Spiritual Formation & Discipleship**

We have been averaging roughly eight people per Sunday, with a lot of comings and goings as is the norm in the summer months. Gloria Zinn has done a fantastic job of presenting and we have had the benefit of Marti Bloes facilitating a couple of studies fresh off of her trip to the Mediterranean. It has been fascinating to learn first-hand the region where all of Paul's missions had taken place. And it has been a delight to present along with these two giving me a little experience leading a study.

As that study concludes, Peg Shirley and Marti Bloes are working on a Sunday presentation to summarize their trip as they explored the

2 Peter 3:18 – *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen*

## Registration information in Thursday Thoughts

## #FAMCAMP2021 by Juliana Scheopner

On July 30th, 44 campers, ranging in age from infants to grandparents, came together at Camp Calvin Crest for a weekend of worship, intergenerational connection, and fun! The theme was our mission statement; ***On a Journey with the Living Christ: Connecting with God, others, and the world.*** We gathered at meals for some group discussions and teachings centered around the mission statement. Between meal times there were opportunities for individual activities or group games. We ended each day with s'mores and worship around the campfire. The weekend culminated in worship and communion on Sunday morning. It was amazing to see God's provision throughout the weekend; temperatures were expected to be over 100 degrees but it ended up being pleasant enough to be outside during the mornings and evenings while still warm enough that an afternoon of swimming was appreciated! Overall, **#famcamp2021** was a wonderful time to disconnect from the rush of day-to-day life and to connect with God and the body of Christ in a beautiful nature setting.



Gaga ball was a hit, no pun intended



Relaxation? No way!



Worship time - "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."



Nortoon and Miss Marti



## #FAMCAMP2021, continued



Connecting with God scavenger hunt



Is my s'more done yet?



Family camp was a splashing success!



Intergenerational fun



The whole crew

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE SKINNER EAST PICNIC!

This year's picnic will be held on **Saturday, September 18th**, at the Abide Lighthouse at 3204 Taylor Street. As in years past, we are looking for volunteers to sign up to bring/donate food. For food, we need chips, side dishes, salads, fruit, and cookies/dessert. Your food items can be dropped off at church by September 17th. Or, if you plan on attending the picnic, just bring them to the Lighthouse.

**The picnic starts at 12:00 p.m.**

– We are also seeking volunteers to deliver flyers about the picnic, pick up trash, and pray with neighbors on **Saturday, September 11th**.

If you are interested in attending, providing food, or delivering flyers, please email Steve Burgess at: [sburgess@dlrgroup.com](mailto:sburgess@dlrgroup.com)



**We're firing up the grills!** Join us after worship as we celebrate the fall season with food and fellowship with friends right here at West Hills! Save room for ice cream because the ice cream truck will be stopping by after lunch. We'll have some activities and lawn games available as well. *Families are encouraged to bring a blanket or folding chairs for use in the playground area.* We will also have tables and chairs available in the north circle drive if sitting on the ground isn't your thing.

To help us prepare and purchase food, please let us know you'll be there by signing up in Geneva Lounge on Sunday morning or by [clicking here](#).

**We can't wait for this time together as a big church family!**



## BIBLE QUIZ compiled by Gloria Zinn

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANGELS IN THE BIBLE?

1. Who is the angel of the Lord as referenced in the Old Testament? A. Gabriel B. Michael C. Lucifer D. Jesus
2. What prophet had a burning coal placed on his lips by an angel? A. Samuel B. Isaiah C. Joel D. Jeremiah
3. Which angels were used as decorations on the Arc of the Covenant? A. Serephim B. Michael and Gabriel C. Cherubim D. Various unnamed angels
4. What angel provided proof that angels have free will? A. Michael B. Lucifer C. Gabriel D. Abaddon
5. What angel told Mary about her pregnancy? A. Michael B. Lucifer C. Gabriel D. an unnamed angel
6. What angel did God send to tell Zechariah that his wife was going to have a baby? A. Gabriel B. one of the Seraphim C. Michael D. one of the Cherubim
7. What are demons? A. Satan's servants B. fallen angels C. unclean spirits D. all of the above
8. What angels guarded the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were banished? A. Michael and Gabriel B. Two Serephim C. Michael and the Angel of God D. Two Cherubim
9. What angel appeared to Daniel as a man? A. an unnamed angel B. Jesus C. Gabriel D. Michael
10. What angel was given the key to the bottomless pit? A. Michael B. Lucifer C. Abaddon D. an unnamed angel
11. Which angel is referred to as chief prince, one who works to protect God's people? A. an unnamed archangel B. Michael C. a Serephim D. Gabriel
12. Which angel argued with Satan about Moses' body? A. Gabriel B. an unnamed Serephim C. Michael D. Abaddon

(answers on the back page)

## SCIENCE & THE BIBLE

compiled by Maralee Gifford

### A SIMPLE TRUTH IN CREATION



Plants need sunlight, water and minerals in order to grow and to make their own energy and food. If plants do not get sunlight, and yet have water and minerals, they cannot produce chlorophyll. They will then die. It is interesting to notice therefore the chronological order of the Genesis creation. God created light first (Genesis 1:3). He then created water (Genesis 1:6), then soil (Genesis 1:9) and then He created life (Genesis 1:11).

The emphasis of Genesis 1 is that "God created the heavens and the earth" in an orderly way, giving form to what was "formless and empty." Praise be to our Creator God! (S. Brownlee)

Comfort, R 2001 *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible Is Supernatural in Origin*, Bridge-Logos Publishers



#### Prayer Power

James tells us that the prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective (James 5:16). During the coming weeks, we invite you to pray about our congregation's Stephen Ministry. Specifically, please pray for those God is calling to serve as caregivers in this ministry. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact:

Cathy at 402-301-9434, rcvcav85@gmail.com

Laura at 402-490-0974, meyersla@cox.net

# ASK THE PASTOR

Ever have a question about something you read in the Bible? Or, maybe you don't understand why we say or do something during worship? Well here's your chance to ask a pastor the question you've wondering about. In this newsletter segment we will include a question from the congregation and the response from one of the pastors. To submit a question, email it to: [info@whcomaha.org](mailto:info@whcomaha.org)

## Q: Why is the Bible called the Bible?

**A:** Jack Wellman is a Christian author and pastor. He has an interesting perspective on what the Bible is. The Bible comes from the Greek word *ta biblia* which means books. We know there are 66 of them to be exact. Wellman says it's a collection of 40 authors written over at least 1,500 years. Most authors of the different books of the Bible did not know each other, yet the accuracy and consistency is miraculous.

For those who like numbers or are looking for great Bible trivia questions, here is some other information from Wellman. The Bible is God speaking. Why do we say that? Because there are 418 times that the Bible uses the term "Thus says the Lord" and then there are 48 sayings of "God said", but if you add the times when it said, "And Jesus said" we have over a thousand more sayings that the Bible is God's Word or God speaking. The total amounts to about 2,000 times that the Bible declares that God is speaking, either in the text or by Jesus Christ Himself, Who is also God. For reflection Wellman offers this: Here is what the Word means to me:

*I read the Bible, but the Bible reads me.*

*I go through the Bible, but the Bible also goes through me.*

*I have gone from cover to cover in the Bible, but the Bible uncovers me.*

*I know the Bible, but the Bible also knows me.*

*The Bible gets to the heart of the matter and the matter gets to my heart.*

Is the Bible holy? Other than the fact that nearly every translation you see has Holy Bible on the cover,

Wellman answers yes. *Yes, the Bible is holy because God is holy and His word is holy. The fact is that anything that is of God is holy and that absolutely includes the Bible, which is the Word of God and nothing less.*

Each month our pastors attempt to briefly answer your tough questions. They would be happy to continue these conversations with anyone, and or to provide further biblical and theological resources.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Dan O'Rielly



This recipe is great to use up leftovers and garden tomatoes. It is based on the dish, Voodoo Stew, from the now defunct Butsy LeDoux's in the Old Market.

### Swamp Stew

#### Ingredients:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 white onion - chopped  
1 clove garlic - chopped  
4 stalks celery - chopped  
32 oz diced tomatoes - or chopped garden tomatoes  
16 oz canned chopped spinach - or chopped fresh spinach leaves (thus the swamp)  
Leftover pork, beef or chicken - cut into bite size pieces  
2 lbs smoked rope sausage - cut into quarter inch thick coin size  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
3 cubes beef bullion

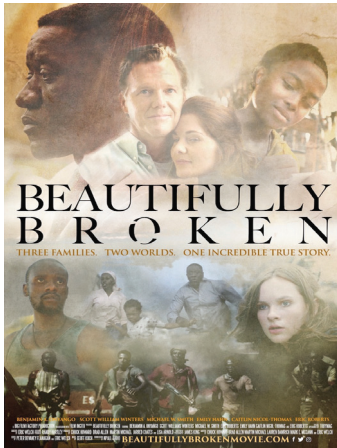
#### Instructions:

In a 6+ quart pan, heat vegetable oil to medium high. Sauté onion until it is translucent, pops and smells great. Throw in everything else and stir. Once it starts to boil, turn the heat down to simmer or low and simmer for an hour or two. Stir occasionally. Serve and enjoy.

My kids love this dish. This stuff is great plain or over rice and improves with age. Get it out of the fridge a week later and it will taste even better.

It looks terrible but tastes great.

## MOVIE SUGGESTION



The 2018 movie, “Beautifully Broken”, is the story of a refugee’s escape, a prisoner’s promise, and a daughter’s painful secret.

When three fathers fight to save their families, they come together in a journey across the world, and each learn the power

of forgiveness and reconciliation.

“Beautifully Broken”, tells the true story of three families impacted by the horror of Rwanda’s killing fields—two from Rwanda and one from Nashville, Tennessee. These families are very different but we find out that families everywhere live through hardships. Those who believe in God must decide whether to keep trusting him even in truly dark times.

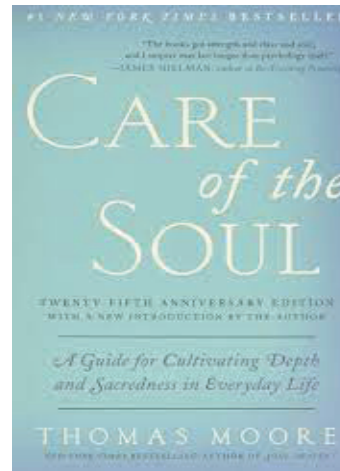
This movie features the title song, “Beautifully Broken”, performed by Grammy Award winning country singer John Berry, Dove Award-winning singer Plumb and Grammy Award-winning gospel singer CeCe Winans.

The cast of “Beautifully Broken” includes Scott William Winters, Benjamin A. Onyango, Emily Hahn, and Eric Roberts.

Filmed on location in Port Alfred, South Africa, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the movie is written by Brad Allen, Chuck Howard, and Martin Michael (I Am Not Alone). “Beautifully Broken” is available to watch, stream, download and buy on demand at Google Play and YouTube VOD.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick

## BOOK SUGGESTION



Sometimes it is helpful, to all of us, to look back and remember #1 New York Times bestseller books from long ago. In this instance the book is “Care of the Soul: A Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life” by Thomas Moore.

The 25th anniversary of this book was re-

released in January, 2016, with an introduction and additional material.

In this book readers are “presented with a revolutionary approach to thinking about daily life—everyday activities, events, problems, and creative opportunities—and a therapeutics lifestyle is proposed that focuses on looking more deeply into emotional problems and learning how to sense sacredness in even ordinary things.”

The original book was said to provide a religious context for viewing life events. The updated book brings the original information into the twenty-first century and hopefully will expand the reader’s perspectives on their individual lives.

Author Thomas Moore has spent his life as a lecturer and writer in both North America and Europe working in the areas of archetypal psychology, and mythology. He lived as a monk in a Catholic religious order for twelve years. In addition, Moore has degrees in theology, musicology, and philosophy.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



#### SEPTEMBER

1-Pat King  
Peggy Wheeler  
Mary Ann Olig  
3-Ted Tromler  
Gladys Rumbaugh  
4-Jan Drake  
Sam Nodes  
5-Jack Culek  
Luke Weller  
6-Karen Garvey  
Brian Moore  
7-Don Anderson  
Marilyn Moore

8-Walt Kunold  
Karen Lofgren-Anderson  
9-Jacque Bandiera  
Bill Tate  
Martha Hall  
12-Myrtle Heise  
Silvia Lopez  
13-Rick Mason  
16-Nancy Kehrli  
Judy Nelson  
17-Peg Shirley  
Ty Dingman  
Marcia Allen

23-Gary Anders  
Christy Gibson  
24-Jack Pagel  
Jocelyn Anderson  
Martha Hansen  
25-Ricardo Lopez  
Julie Zimmerman  
26-William Scheopner  
27-Tammy Rogers  
28-Carol Love  
Marion Entz-Harris  
Carolyn Grice  
30-Chris Hanna

Jeff Meyers  
Esther Smith

#### OCTOBER

1-Arlo Grafton  
Kaitlyn Barnes  
2-Sunny Lundgren  
Briann Bailey  
Dan Freeman  
3- Owen Boyd  
6- Bill Spiecker

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