



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
January 2012

www.mankatohilltop.org

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Fred's Fond Memories of 2011

The New Year is always a good time to reflect over the old year. Thanks for 2011 and the honor of being your pastor. Here are some of my fond memories of 2011 in alphabetical order:

A- Alpha Course, nothing better than watching people grow in faith, thanks to the numerous alpha servants all committed to making disciples.

B- Born to Hilltop families were: Cameron, Celia, Jackson, Jorie, Kaiya, Stacy, and Zach. And still more on the way!

C- Confirmed an awesome group of students: Grayson, Emma, Everett, Jack, Mackenzie, Mariah, and Michael. Still can't decide who my favorite is... probably Debby!

D- Dan Rivers leading us in a flash mob prayer service at the doors of Steph Putzier's house.

E- Easter: because of the resurrection we celebrate Christmas, had Jesus not risen we certainly wouldn't celebrate his birth, nor know of his teachings. The resurrection is everything!

F- Faith Stories: I love it when Hilltop people get up before the church and share what God is doing in their lives. Highlights include: Herb, Karla, Mallory, Adam, Dexter, Emma, and did you hear, Chris!?!

G-Growing: Nothing better than being a part of a growing movement of God. Our worship attendance continues to show a steady increase. I love being swarmed by kids during the children's message!

H-Harvest Home is always a highlight because of the awesome food and fellowship. And each year more of you commit your support to God's mission for Hilltop.

I-Imagine No Malaria? I am beginning to!

J-Jesus is Lord!

K: Kids' Kinection – nothing better than having your son interrupt you and finish the story when you just began about Moses. The kids are really getting it, and the teachers are fabulous!

L- Leadership: We got some amazing leaders all committed to our mission invite all to celebrate God (Upward), grow in Christ (Inward), and serve others (Outward).

M-Members join: Adam, Alexa, Amber, Christina, David, Dexter, Glenn, Jim, JoAnn, Kerry and Linda.

N- O-Operation Christmas Child: Paulette leading us through another great collection week!

P-Peanut Brittle: This has moved beyond science and into art. The dedication of the crew is awesome!

Q-Quality: that's what I have to say about our musicians. Love having Jo, Jeanette, Paulette, and Scott. And I thank the choir for the surprise of Grace when I heard "Coming Home", or as Levi calls it- "The Giraffe Song."

R-Retreat, as in Men's retreat – "Do you know him?"

S- Saints: The privilege of celebrating the lives of Betty, Carol, June, and Sharon. Rick, thank you for making me a better pastor.

T-Three Hundred Sixty Five Days of Christmas. Watching Brayden was a hoot!

V-Vision: Out of our strategic planning session last year came Kids'

Kinection, a stellar Pastoral Care Team, and coming this January renovation to the narthex, the halls, and fellowship hall.

W: Wedding Dances – So fun to watch Hunter rock out at the Wagner/Goebel wedding dance.

Y: Youch! The sound youth make when struck with a paintball! I make no sound when I cry.

Z- Zoey moves to KY, okay, that's actually a lowlight, but the good news is it's because her dad is in seminary! Praying for you J.J.

What's great about this list is that much of it will not be forgotten because though it happened in 2011 it has eternal significance!

Be God's
Pastor Fred

January Birthdays:

Lucas Peterson	1/01
Micaylia Kraywinkel	1/02
Caden Clark	1/03
John Mell	1/09
Marge Guentzel	1/10
Ron Blommel	1/10
Matt Rausch	1/10
Audrey Berg	1/11
Tara Swalve	1/11
Mary Gaskins	1/12
Kelly Rivers	1/12
Don Bohn	1/14
Adam Brown	1/14
Debby Westby	1/15
Lois Reese	1/18
Peter Jarnstrom	1/18
George Lindsay	1/24
Betty Goebel	1/25

Dianne Mell	1/25
Dennis Thorsen	1/25
Logan Swalve	1/26
Donna Gavin	1/28
Brandon Page	1/28
Neil Westby	1/29
JJ Morgan	1/30
Neil Westby	1/30
Del Goebel	1/31

January Anniversaries:

Bill & Adela Scherer	1/01
John & Judy Harrington	1/04
Andrew & Mary Bittner	1/05
Taylor & Kim Waknitz	1/08
James & Kathleen Mehrman	1/22
Jeff & Jill Klaseus	1/25
Bob & Char Kraywinkel	1/26



Mary Martha will meet January 11, 1:30

Hostess: Betty Goebel

Devotions: Wanda Allevan

Attendance-Nov. '11

	Su
11/06	187
11/13	180
11/20	188
11/27	160
Avg.	179

Attendance-Nov. '10

	Su
11/07	184
11/14	151
11/21	158
11/28	173
Avg.	167

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

CHARGE: HILLTOP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: REV. PHIL STROM
 PASTOR: FRED VANDERWERF
 ACTING RECORDING SECRETARY: KATIE GRUNLOH

December 15, 2011

PRESENT: Jan Marble, Katie Grunloh, Fred Vanderwerf, Jeff Adams, Paulette Adams, Bill Scherer, Don Putzier

WELCOME

Don Putzier called the meeting to order with a prayer.

Last month's minutes were reviewed and approved.

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

Reminder that there will be a second annual Leadership Retreat on January 14, 2011, from 9 am – 12pm (noon), with the goals of equipping and establishing a covenant, short and long-range visioning, and goal setting for 2012.

Nominations Committee has met and 2012 Servant Leadership are set.

Pastor Fred and Karen Frydendall have been working together to update our records.

Church conference is January 22, 2012. Staff parish will meet directly following worship at 11:15

The office will be closed from December 26 – January 2nd, as Pastor Fred and Tricia will be on vacation. The Pastoral Care Team Visitation Coordinator, Terry Berg, can handle visit requests. Rev. Jim Roe will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. Andrew Bittner will be preaching.

Sermon Series, "Why Church" will be presented throughout January.

Alpha course will re-launch on January 10th.

Christmas radio advertising is going on right now on stations New Country 93 and Hot 96.7.

Pastor Fred had an interview for the ATS Doctor of Ministry Program

COMMITTEE AND TEAM REPORTS

TRUSTEES- Bill Scherer

Bruce Long has asked the Trustees to take over responsibility for setting up the Christmas Manger scene. The Trustees will take care of doing it in the future. Many thanks to Bruce Long.

Throldal's plan to start the narthex project the second full week of January.

Safe sanctuary policy has been approved and Protect My Ministry has been hired to do the background investigations. A total of 8 individuals who have direct contact with the youth and four individuals who have financial responsibilities are being backgrounded.

There was a problem with one of the kitchen ranges; Karl's Appliance was contacted and two igniters were replaced.

Insulation was added to the Parsonage to bring it up to an R50 level.

D&M electric replaced the light bulbs on the two outside security lights.

Two shelves added to storage room

FINANCE- Jan Marble

Reports presented to the committee.

Jan questioned if a motion was needed to apply the remaining of the \$14,000 budgeted line item to the sanctuary debt. Since

this is budgeted, no is no need for motion and the remaining balance will be put toward the sanctuary debt.

EVANGELISM – Pastor Fred

Time and talent surveys are being performed and radio ads have been put in place (as above).

FELLOWSHIP- Jill Klaseus

In January, there will hopefully be a Lefse class given by Karen Warmack. Date to be announced.

Valentine's Day Tea will be on February 11th from 12:30-3:00. Christmas decorations in the Narthex will be taken down after Christmas.

MISSIONS- Stephanie

Agree with resuming serving groups

Next missions potluck will be January 22, 2011, with the free-will offering going to the Doris Acton Community Health Center in Manonkoh, Sierra Leone

The December potluck offering was \$360.00 and benefitted Compatible Technology, International.

We'll serve the noon meal at Salvation Army on January 8, 2012.

STAFF- Jeff Adams

No report

EDUCATION-Karin Gavin

No report.

WORSHIP – Paulette Adams

List of things was created that will be needed for Christmas Eve. Undecorating will be January 7, 2012. The leftover poinsettias, and those designated for donation, will be taken care of for by the Pastoral Care Team for the shut-ins.

YOUTH – Andrew Bittner

No report other than the lock-in that was held December 17th – 18th.

PARISH NURSE- Judy Argetsinger

No report.

STEWARDSHIP – Jeanette Phillips

No report

TECHNOLOGY – Don Putzier

Sim's sound was out last month and is coming back Friday afternoon to meet with the Trustees for acoustic checks and recommendations.

A new monitor was purchased for recording purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on progress goals for 2011: Going very well. All the goals have been worked out and in progress

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Adams is working towards an Emmaus group and is making many phone calls regarding this.

AJOURNMENT

Pastor Fred leads us in closing prayer.

Mission

\$360.00 was donated at the December Missions potluck for Compatible Technology, International.

Hilltop will serve the Noon Meal at the Salvation Army on January 8, 2012. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to help cook, donate food, &/or serve. This is a great service, and very much appreciated by our lunchtime guests.

The next potluck will be on January 22, 2012, the day of our church conference. (Please note the change from the usual potluck date!) The freewill offering at this potluck will go to Africa Uplifted.

Africa Uplifted enriches the lives of the people of Sierra Leone through support of initiatives in the areas of basic healthcare, primary education, essential physical needs, spiritual nurturing, and economic development. The first phase of the Doris Acton Community Health Center in Manonkoh, Sierra Leone was completed in June 2010. Bob Berg and Steph Putzier have served on a total of six medical mission trips to Manonkoh.

Dear Hilltop Family, Thank you for your generous kindness and giving. The gift card is much appreciated.
Jo Breckenridge

Hilltop Family, Thank you so much for the gift card!! I also appreciate all of the words of kindness and support during my many years of serving Hilltop. What a blessing to have a great church family.
Tricia Woitas

Thank you to all who responded to our request for Christmas gifts designated for SPRTC. Many appropriate gifts were donated--gifts that will brighten the hearts of patients that have no family or friends that remember them at Christmas. Thanks, Mary Martha Circle



Why Church? Beginning January 8th Pastor Fred will lead us in a three-part sermon series answering the question "why church?". This series will be based on honest conversations Pastor Fred has had with folks who grew up in church but no longer attend, and will help answer questions like *Can I be a Christian and not be a part of a church? Whose idea was church anyway? What's the point of church if I already have Jesus? And should the church always be asking for money?*

Hilltop Strategic Planning Retreat: All of Hilltop is invited to our annual leadership retreat on Jan 14, 2012 from 9 to Noon. This year we will meet at Belgrade Ave United Methodist Church to get some fresh surroundings as we do a bit of equipping, work on short & long range visioning, and establish goals for 2012. Hilltop 2012 servant leadership for 2012 is especially encouraged to attend. RSVP with Pastor Fred so we can properly plan for copies, snacks, and seating.



Thank you For Serving

The new year is here, and with it a new year begins at Hilltop. As we look to the future, it is always a good thing to remember the past, as the future is building on the work of the past. As Hilltop moves into the coming year, it is a good time to recognize and appreciate the dedicated service that members of Hilltop United Methodist church have given over the past year. Much has been accomplished, including the beginning of the Pastoral Care Team, Kids Kinection, and a plan for redesigning/redecorating areas of the building.

The 2012 Servant Leadership roster will be approved at the upcoming Charge Conference, and certainly we thank those who will be continuing their service, or who have agreed to fill new positions for the coming year. However, there are a number of people who have completed their terms, or may be moving on to a new assignment, and we need to recognize the leadership and work completed by these servants. The names and positions listed below represent many hours of time (in some cases over many years), many wonderful ideas, much elbow grease and hard work, and the sharing of their God-given talents, willingly given to keep Hilltop running and to further God's Kingdom on earth.

Our sincere thank you to these members of the Hilltop family for the work that you have completed, and for the time that you have dedicated to the work of the church:

Scott Page, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Bob Berg, Trustee Chair

Jill Klaseus, Fellowship Chair

Steph Putzier, Missions Chair

JJ Morgan, Worship Chair

Jeff Adams, S/PPR Chair

Anita Riese, Ad Council Member at Large

Jill Brink, Youth Director,

Ad Council Member at Larger

Al Prosser, Ad Council Member at Large

Alan Roseberry, Finance Committee

Bryan Pratt, Finance Committee

Dan Rivers, Trustees Committee

Kevin Phillips, Nominating Committee

Jan Marble, Nominating Committee

Shari Schroeder, Nominating Committee

Whitney Page, Evangelism Team

Chriss Page, Evangelism Team

Paula Steinbauer, Fellowship Team

Shirley Courier, Missions Team

Jeff Klaseus, Missions Team

Robyn Smithson, Missions Team

Shannon Anderson, Missions Team

Mary Bittner, Worship Team

Karen Warmack, Worship Team / Communion Steward

Deb Oachs, Worship Team / Communion Steward

Stef Morgan, Stewardship Team

Thank you for your service and for work well done!

Paulette Redman Adams

Lay Leader



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Alpha: We will be offering the Alpha Course at Hilltop on Tuesday evenings for ten weeks, starting in January 2012. The Introductory Dinner is Tuesday, January 10 at 6:15 pm, with the 10 sessions starting the following Tuesday, January 17, and going through March 20. This ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith offers answers to some key questions such

as: Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us? Each weekly session begins with a light supper, and includes watching a video about the evening's topic and then breaking out into small groups for discussion. Child care is provided. For more information or to register, contact Pastor Fred or Barb Keith (345-6687).

Kids' Kinection

Kids' Kinection. Consider enrolling your child, grandchild, in our rotational style Sunday School. Each week the Bible is made real to them through, story, drama, games, and cooking. Kids' Kinection meets each Sunday at 9am. The current theme is "Gift of Jesus" followed by "Who is Jesus?".

HILLTOP CHURCH CONFERENCE: will follow worship and potluck on January 22nd

The primary responsibilities of the Church Conference at the annual meeting is *"to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church."* (BOD 2004 P247.3)

Every year United Methodist pastors and church members review their church for the past year, document their current status and resources, reflect on the work that has been done, and develop plans to deepen and broaden their ministry.

All professing members of Hilltop are encouraged to attend and have a vote. Please prayerfully consider being present. Our SW District Superintendent, Phil Strom will be presiding.



Redecorating Beginning: Part of what came out of our strategic planning for 2011 was renovating our facility a bit to update our space. You will gradually see a new look to the Narthex, the hallways, and the fellowship hall. We expect some work to begin during

the week of Jan 9th. We have a great task force working on this comprised of Bill & Karen Warmack, Bob & Char Kraywinkel, Mark and Deb Oachs, Paula Smithson, and Jeanette Phillips. Together they have been working hard to put the best possible plan together that is faithful to our mission and our resources. Thanks for your patience during the remodel.