



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
June 2015

www.mankatohilltop.org

facebook: [hilltop united methodist church](https://www.facebook.com/hilltop.united.methodist.church)

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FROM THE PASTOR

Offer Them Christ

There is a great painting by one of Methodism's best contemporary artists, Kenneth Wyatt, called "Offer Them Christ". I had the privilege of seeing a print of this painting just a few weeks ago as it was gifted to outgoing District Superintendent, Phil Strom, at a special celebration supper to recognize his years of service as DS.



In the painting John Wesley at 81 years of age had just consecrated Thomas Coke as General Superintendent and was sending him to the new world with the authority to ordain Francis Asbury to the same office. The painting depicts Wesley along the shore sending Coke off to the New World with these final and simple instructions "Offer Them Christ."

Those words are so simple, but they are, I believe, at the heart of the Methodist movement. I don't hear these words as some exclusive task given only to General Superintendents, but they are the words given to each and every believer as we engage in living out the call of God in our life.

Thomas Coke was incredibly faithful to Mr. Wesley's

advice, and Francis Asbury was faithful to Coke's ordination to that same work. In fact there was a time in American history where one in three folks in America were Methodists, and we were planting an average of 1 church a day for 50 years. That impact didn't happen on the backs of Coke and Asbury, but rather it was their zeal to offer others Christ, and those who had received Christ offered it to still more. This is how Methodism spreads, and this is how Christianity grows, and this is how God's Kingdom comes.

On my ordination I received a robe given to me from Stacy, a stole given to me by my parents, a leather bound United Methodist Hymnal given to me by the conference and a printed framed document given to me by Bishop John Hopkins. On the document it has about 10 names; the very last name is "Rev. Frederick S. E. Vanderwerf", the very first name is "Rev. John Wesley", and right after him is Thomas Coke and then Francis Asbury, and every name following are the names of bishops, each of whom were ordained by the name above them. It's a document of ordination succession.

Now on the document it ends with me, but only on the document. You see, Wesley instructions to Thomas Coke passes all the way down to me, and through me, and on to you. This is why God raised up the people called Methodists - that you along with me would "offer them Christ".

Hilltop, we are being sent, as Coke was, as the disciples were, to reach a new world of people who have no idea of the full life available to them. To borrow the words of another great Methodist pastor, Marlowe Potter, "get on with it!" Take hold of the task to "offer them Christ!" And I will too, as your DS and biggest supporter!

Be blessed,
Pastor Fred

HILLTOP AD COUNCIL

Minutes from April Ad Council

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7:30 pm

Present: Pastor Fred, Herb Fast, Paulette Booker, JoAnn Hutchinson, Paulette Adams, Michelle Behsman, Terri Horn, Karen Frydendall, EJ Scharmer, Judy Argetsinger, Eric Mundt and Margaret Beaty.

The meeting was called to order by Paulette Adams.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by JoAnn Hutchinson to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 Ad Council meeting, Eric Mundt seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report : Fred reminded council that even without trying, we ARE growing and he encouraged council to continue thinking about how to "Act our size" while preparing for growth. Fred shared his schedule through the end of June. The date to receive new members is May 24th. He will be at the Annual Conference Session May 27th-29th. Kent Clark will preach on May 31st. Confirmation Sunday will be June 7th and Fred's last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 14th. Pastor Neil Westby will be on call June 15th-28th, preaching on June 21st. Kelly's first Sunday in the pulpit will be June 28th. The McCuaigs will arrive mid-June, but he asks that Hilltop allow them time to get settled and to remember Kelly's first official day on the job is June 28th.

Trustees Report: Eric Mundt reported that the black dirt had been delivered, low areas are filled and grass seed planted. The grass is starting to come up and there are stakes to keep cars from driving over new grass.

The parsonage remodeling is going very well; painting is almost complete, the bathtub has been refinished, and the dishwasher will be delivered soon. There was an issue with the sump pump, but Jetter Clean was called for service. He thanks the Doug and Nate Smithson for treating the church lawn for dandelions.

Finance Report: JoAnn stated that the Dean Marble annuity paperwork had been completed and mailed. Concerning the April finance report, the Easter flower income was \$78.04 short and there was question as to

whether all received income was accounted for accurately. We are averaging \$22,8800 in monthly income, which is \$3500 more than 2012. In June we will move half of the budgeted amounts from Church Roof Fund, Landscaping, and Future Maintenance from General Checking into the Building Improvement Fund. We have been moving donations received for the Increase Fund from General Checking into a separate savings account and we currently have just over \$22,000 in that account. Terri Horn motioned to approve the finance report. Judy Argetsinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Endowment: JoAnn reported the United Methodist Foundation is paying Hilltop 75% of the dividends and reinvesting 25% in the endowment. We received a dividend payment of \$147.62 and it will be designated for either Equipping Leaders or Ministry Candidate Support.

Missions: Margaret Beaty reported that the beam had been collected by Habitat for Humanity with approximately \$18.00 in donations. She praised Mark & Deb Oachs for their leadership in serving the Salvation Army Noon Meal scheduled for May 31st. Hilltop will serve again on August 16th and November 15th. The mission focus for July-September will be school supplies and the Backpack Food Program. They will collect school supplies in July and food/donations for Backpack in August and September. The team is still deciding on a mission focus for the fourth quarter.

SPRC: Fred shared Kari Juni's report from SPRC. The team has scheduled a farewell reception for Pastor Fred on June 14th following worship. The McCuaigs arrive June 19th and asked for help with childcare, which EJ has lined up youth to help. His first Sunday is June 28th and there will be a welcome reception following worship that Sunday. The team will meet June 2nd to discuss summer "Meet & Greet" gatherings for Pastor Kelly and family to become better acquainted with members of Hilltop.

Education: Paulette shared Karin's report. Recognition Day occurred on May 17th, 2015. All students received a certificate for attending Kids' Kinection. The students that were not in attendance were mailed their certifi-

HILLTOP AD COUNCIL

cates. Volunteers received a thank and small gift for their dedication to Kids' Kinection. Kids' Kinection donated their offering to Heifer International with a total amount of \$95.84. Jocelin Reynolds and Karin will be meeting in June to review the responsibilities of Education Coordinator for Kids' Kinection.

Worship: Paulette Booker reported that the team is focusing on special worship services - Confirmation Sunday and Pastor Kelly's first Sunday.

Youth: EJ reported that she will continue to meet with students over the summer on Wednesday nights.

Parish Nurse: Judy reported that 38 units of blood were collected at the last blood drive. The next drive is scheduled for October 9th and she is looking for someone to take the lead on future blood drives.

Pastoral Care: Paulette Adams reported that a couple of volunteers have prepared and frozen meals to be kept at Hilltop for members in need. Fred mentioned that Mary Martha may also prepare meals to freeze during one of their monthly meetings.

Technology: Sim Sound has been called to check out the hearing assist devices. There are some areas of interference in the sanctuary which hopefully can be eliminated. People who use the devices should be told they might need to move a few feet one way or another after they turn on the device to be sure they have a clear signal in the meantime.

New Business: Fred motioned to award \$750 in scholarship to JJ Morgan and Kelly McCuaig. Eric seconded. Motion carried. There was discussion of increasing this budget item for 2016. JoAnn made a motion to cover licensing expenses for Terri Horn from the Unforeseen Ministry budget line item. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting/Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Pastor Fred closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Behsman.

Mission Update

Thank you to those who "got on the beam" and had the opportunity to sign the beam in our narthex that will become part of someone's house while donating money to Habitat for Humanity.

Also, thank you to those who donated food and/or helped serve the noon meal to guests at the Salvation Army on May 31. Your gifts were a blessing to those in need!

Increase Fund

A friendly reminder to those of you who generously donate to our Increase Fund. **Each time** you make a donation, please remember to mark on your check or envelope the amount that is designated for the Increase Fund. If a check is not marked it is directed to the General checking account. Including a note on the memo line of your check will ensure that your gift is directed to the correct account. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Any questions can be directed to the Finance Chair, JoAnn Hutchinson at 625-4631.

Hilltop Office

During the summer, beginning June 1st, the office will not be staffed on Mondays. If you have questions for Michelle you can find her in the office **Tuesday—Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Due to demands of her district position and the need to have dedicated time to work without interruption, the Hilltop office hours will be limited to 20 hours a week.

Newsletter Submissions

When submitting newsletter articles, be sure to include the date, time, location, other details, contact name and number, and the name of the team or committee hosting the event. There is a submission form on the shelf by the copier or submit to office@mankatohilltop.org and include "newsletter article" in the subject line. The deadline for the July newsletter is **Monday, June 22, 2015**.

HILLTOP NEWS

MoonDogs Outing

The fellowship team would like to "take you out to the ball-game" on Tuesday, June 9th.

The game begins at 7:05 pm but we will tailgate in the Madison East parking lot (near the back gate) at 5:30 pm. Please bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverages, and dish to pass. We will supply paper plates, napkins, and silverware. We have 40 tickets available and ask that you sign up at the Welcome Center to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$8.00, make your check payable to Mankato MoonDogs and give it to Judy Harrington. Contact Judy at 380-2385 or Terry Berg at 625-1865 with any questions.



Cheer on Hilltop Men's Slowpitch

The fellowship team will be serving up ice cream sundaes as the Hilltop softball team takes on Christ the King at Caswell Park field 3 on Monday, July 13th. The game begins at 6:15 pm—come cheer on the team!

Encouragement Cards

Have you ever . . .

. . .heard a prayer request during church and thought "I should send them a card"

. . .noticed the beautiful sanctuary decor and thought "I need to remember to say something to _____!"

. . .been really moved by a prayer OR even the sermon and thought "I should tell them how much their words meant to me."

. . .noticed how well the beautiful music fit the 'theme' for the day and thought "I need to tell someone."

Have you ever forgotten to do any of these by the time you leave church? Several times in Paul's letters to the churches and individuals he wants certain people to be greeted because they need to be encouraged or because of what they have done to further the kingdom. Now you will have this same opportunity and you can act on your 'thoughts' during church!

Yellow Encouragement Cards will be available in the

pew racks for you to use. Simply enter the person's full name, write your lovely message, and put the card in the offering plate OR hand it to an usher. All cards will be gathered in the office and mailed out the following week.

May God Bless you as you minister to each other!

Save the date...

Please mark your calendars and join us for two Hilltop receptions in June.

June 14th- Join us to thank Pastor Fred for his service at Hilltop and offer your blessings on his new position as District Superintendent. The reception will follow the 9:00 am worship service.

June 28th- This will be Pastor Kelly's first Sunday in the pulpit. Join us in welcoming Kelly, Shannon, August and Edie McCuaig to Hilltop at a reception following the 9:00 am worship service.

We will also be sending out a letter with additional details as to how we can welcome the McCuaig's and make them feel at home at Hilltop. If you have any questions please reach out to Kari Juni or any other SPRC members.

God's Blessing, The SPRC team

Share your talent!



Opportunities are available for singers and musicians to provide music for our services during the summer. A sign up sheet with available dates can be found at the Welcome Center or contact

Paulette at pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com or 345-6097.

Flower Beds

Do you have a green thumb? Do you live near the church? We are looking for someone to care for the flower beds around the church sign over the summer. Contact Judy Argetsinger at 507-243-3252 if you are able to assist.



HILLTOP YOUTH

What's E.J. listening to on her iPod....



Spirit Break Out, Kim Walker-Smith

Holy Spirit - Francesca Battistelli

Forever - Kari Jobe

Great Are You Lord - All Sons & Daughters

On Fire - Sanctus Real

Summer Youth Group

I know many churches have been done with youth group for a week or two now and do not meet during the summer. However, I would like to offer summer get-togethers because Jesus is important all year around! And I would miss everyone too much :) I know summers get busy, but I hope to see many youths come, as well as bring their friends!

We will have movie nights like last summer - these are such great opportunities to bring friends. There will always be snacks and drinks provided. We will have a small discussion after each film, going through different themes, lessons, etc. A very easy thing to invite someone to who has never been to church! What a great way to get them introduced. The films are always good messages! We will have frozen yogurt nights for fellowship and fun. And we also will have some games/message nights which will be similar to normal youth group nights. But more outside time and hopefully inviting more friends!

Wednesday, June 10 Hilltop Movie Night

Wednesday, June 17 Frozen Yogurt Creations

Wednesday, June 24 Games/Message

Youth Mission Trip

July 19th-25th is our mission trip for the summer. We will be doing this mission through STORM ministries. Contact E.J. if you would like to donate toward registration costs for this trip! (It is \$250 per youth)

Our mission is to "Serve Jesus by Serving Others"

(SjxSO). We do two things: work and worship. This is our focus. This is what we do. In the process students get a good vision of what the early followers of Jesus might have done as they experience transformation in their own lives and see transformation in a local community.

We have students attending various camps this summer, including Trout Lake Camp, LYFE camp and a few others. There is still time to sign up for camps - let me know if you want information or guidance regarding camps!

We will be doing a fundraising event in June, so be watching for more information on that!

Confirmation Sunday

We will be celebrating Confirmation on Sunday, June 7th at 9:00am (summer schedule). Please be praying for the following students who have attended Confirmation class this year.

Zac Aasen
MacKenzie Daby
Hunter Goebel
Brooke Hartman
Kaitlyn Juni
Jackson Maday
Brodie Nelson
Madison Nelson
Abbie Page
Rose Prosser
Alec Scherer
Kira Wall



Vacation Bible School

We'll be trying something new this year and having VBS in the morning, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Thursday August 20 - Saturday August 22. This will be followed by the kids singing in the August 23rd 9:00 am service. Registration for K-6th grade will be available on the website and in the narthex. If you are willing to help volunteer to teach or help with VBS in some other way, please contact Sarah Hess at 28musicalnotes@gmail.com or 262-689-6434. More information will be coming soon.

HILLTOP YOUTH

Thank you

Hilltop - Thank you for your support, love and prayers over the past 4 years. JJ graduates on Saturday, May 23rd and we are so excited for him to finish this part of his journey. He has been appointed to Thief River Falls UMC beginning July 1, though his first time preaching there will be June 28. This has been quite a journey for us here at Asbury, and we are grateful for all of your support during our time here.

Love, JJ & Stefanie Morgan & family

Dear Hilltop family, Thank you for the homemade quilt for my graduation. It will get a lot of use over the years. It will be a good memory of my home church!

Thanks, Grayson

Vanderwerfs' new address:

Fred and Stacy are now at home at: 141 Flagstone Ln., Mankato, MN 56001. Their phone and email remains the same. Fred: 507-720-9091 Stacy: 507-304-0969 Email: thewerfs@gmail.com

2015 Annual Conference

View live streaming of Bishop Ough's Episcopal address and celebrations on Wednesday, May 27th from 7-9pm. Sit in on learning sessions with Rev. Anita Phillips and Rev. Jorge Acevedo on Thursday, May 28th and Friday, May 29th. Go to: <http://www.gntv.info/minnesotaumc/>

Other news stories can be found at <https://minnesotaumc.org/news/conference-session/conference-news/>

Worship Attendance Statistics			
Sundays:	2015	2014	2013
Easter 4	200	215	168
Easter 5	170	181	233
Easter 6	193	115	276
Easter 7	220	135	191
Average	195	161	217

Happy Birthday!

Hannah Feuling	6/2	Kathleen Mehrman	6/15
Tara Wagner	6/2	Nancy Meyer	6/16
Evan McDonough	6/3	Allison Bass	6/17
Abbie Weerts	6/5	James Booker	6/17
Tayler Swalve	6/5	Shae Gavin	6/17
Terri Horn	6/8	Mackenzie Page	6/19
Connie Baumgartner	6/9	Amber Bumann	6/20
Noah Written	6/9	Linda Vogel	6/20
Hunter Goebel	6/11	Pat Bohn	6/21
Marj Blommel	6/11	Ron Sniff	6/21
Regan Burke	6/11	Robert Reed	6/22
Eric Mundt	6/13	Amber Bruender	6/25
Dan Rivers	6/14	Zac Aasen	6/25
Mike Juni	6/14	Phyllis Cole	6/27
Nate Allen	6/14	Allie Rivers	6/28
Don Winters	6/15	Retta Gavin	6/28

Happy Anniversary!



Randy & Vicki Goebel	6/1
Sarah & Kevin Burke	6/4
Barb & Art Keith	6/5
Carissa & David Lick	6/5
Alan & Phyllis Roseberry	6/7
Jason & Heather Sellner	6/11
Chris & Cindy Scherer	6/12
Charles & Debra Burns	6/13
Erin & John Anderson	6/15
Duane & Gloria Hubmer	6/18
Bill & Karen Warmack	6/23
Derrick & Jamie Galinat	6/26
Louis & Carolyn Allen	6/26
Mark & Deb Oachs	6/26
Stacy & Fred Vanderwerf	6/27
Doug & Paula Smithson	6/29
Nate & Amber Bumann	6/29

June Calendar at Hilltop

Details for calendar events can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/>


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 6:15p Hilltop v. Hosanna (JC2) 7:15p Hilltop v. Christ the King (JC3)</p>	<p>2 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share</p>	<p>3 No Youth Group 6:30p CG-The Me I Want To Be 9:00p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>4 12:00p Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>5 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>6 9a-12p Organist Practice</p>
<p>7 9:00a Worship with Confirmation</p>	<p>8 6:15p Hilltop v. K of C (Caswell 2) 7:15p Hilltop v. E-free (Caswell 1)</p>	<p>9 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share</p>	<p>10 6:15p-8p Youth Group— Movie Night 9:00p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>11 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:00p Lasting Imprint</p>	<p>12 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>13 9a-12p Organist Practice</p>
<p>14 9:00a Worship 10:00a Farewell Reception for Pastor Fred</p>	<p>15 8:15p Hilltop v. St. John's (JC3) 9:15p Hilltop v. New Creation (JC3)</p>	<p>16 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share</p>	<p>17 6:15p-8p Youth Group - Frozen Yogurt Creations 6:30p CG-The Me I Want To Be 9:00p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>18 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Committee Mtgs. 7:30p Ad Council Mtg.</p>	<p>19 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>20 9a-12p Organist Practice</p>
<p>21 Fathers' Day 9:00a Worship</p>	<p>22 7:15p Hilltop v. St. Paul's (Caswell 2)</p>	<p>23 8:00a Newsletter Deadline 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share</p>	<p>24 6:15p-8p Youth Group - Games/Message 9:00p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>25 12:00p Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p>26 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p CCTV Worship</p>	<p>27 9a-12p Organist Practice</p>
<p>28 9:00a Worship 10:00a Welcome Reception for Pastor Kelly, Shannon, August, and Edie</p>	<p>29 7:15p Hilltop v. First Presb. (JC2)</p>	<p>30 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share</p>	<p>Summer Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm</p>			



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 find us on facebook:
Hilltop United Methodist Church

MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Putting Our Faith Into Action

"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree... You only need a heart full of grace...a soul generated by love." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

United Methodists have believed, from the beginning, that each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: "Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can."

Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of our Christian calling. By volunteering to serve through programs such as United Methodist Volunteers in Mission or the Mission Volunteers program of The General Board of Global Ministries, every person in the church has the opportunity to serve and to live their calling more faithfully.

Volunteers embody Christian love in action by bringing

their diverse talents to mission programs, local outreach ministries, and emergency response and recovery work around the world.

- Find out more about the many volunteer opportunities and programs available through The United Methodist Church, both at home and abroad. (<http://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved>)
- Explore regional United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) opportunities by region (<http://www.umvimncj.org/NCJVM/Home.html>)
- Find a Volunteer Project for an Individual or a Team (<http://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer-Opportunities/Find-a-Volunteer-Project/Find-a-Volunteer-Project>)

**CHANGE
THE WORLD**