



**HILLTOP**  
United Methodist Church

**ECHOS**

April 2013

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## What you could do to Welcome Visitors

Hilltop in 2013 has named three areas we want to particularly focus on as we seek to carry out our mission to invite all to worship God (Upward), thrive in Christ (Inward), and serve others (Outward). Those areas all start with the letter “w”. They are increase our WORSHIP space, improve our WEBSITE, and retain our VISITORS (actually “visitors” but that’s not as fun).

I would like to talk to you about this last one – Visitor Retention. Have you noticed that on any given Sunday we have 3 to 4 first-time visitors?

What a gift! My best estimate is we get roughly 100 first time visitors a year looking for a church home. These persons for whatever reason have braved our doorstep in search for God, community, or meaning. What if we could retain even half of them? How blessed would our body be with new gifts for greater Kingdom impact? As a church council we are always looking to aim our ministry at the spiritual needs these folks might have as we seek to be faithful to God’s commission on us to ‘make disciples’. Our first step to making disciples, is welcoming those who don our doorstep.

Here are some very easy ways to help us welcome first-time visitors.

**Claim who you are – a Host.** For many of us we still feel new. I’ve been here nearly 5 years and I still feel like I’m the new guy. That’s a normal feeling. You could be here 20 years and still feel that way! If most everyone feels they are a guest than we all look to a small handful to be the hosts. The reality is the moment you joined Hilltop you became a host. So a good first step is simply changing your mind to see yourself as a Host at Hilltop, and that will make you more attentive to guests.

**Pew Pad Etiquette:** Sign your name, address, email, and phone number in the pew pad, even if it hasn’t changed. When you fill out the form guests are more likely to do the same. Guests will follow your lead.

**Introduce and Reintroduce:** Always introduce yourself to others. “Hi I’m Fred, I don’t think we have met.” You can do this in the Narthex during coffee, during greeting time, or at the potluck. A great next step is to introduce that person to someone else. “Jerry, I would like you to meet Sylvia.” Introducing them to others increases their chance of plugging in, and by the way, it helps you remember their names.

**Offer your seat:** Visitors tend to come in at the last minute. We often still have seats, but if you are a guest will you really feel comfortable climbing into the middle of the front row pew one minute before service begins? Probably not. So just like we would at home, we give up our best seat, and offer it to them. It’s just a great way to make a friend.

**VISITOR**

My name is

If I look lost, I probably am!

**Walk along side:** I’ve decided not to point. If a visitor is looking for the nursery, the restroom, or a place to sit, take them there. It’s so much more hospitable than pointing. Besides as you walk along side of them you can learn more about each other.

**Parking Places:** Hosts give up the best parking spots. Remember visitors are apt to come later for worship, and therefore the only spots available are far from the door.

Well, I just brainstormed these 6 tips. I bet you can think of dozens more!

Some of you may be especially interested in the task of hospitality to our visitors and so we would invite you to consider being a greeter, and usher, a welcome center host, or a mentor. Just contact me and I will be glad to connect you with that ministry.

Be blessed,  
Pastor Fred



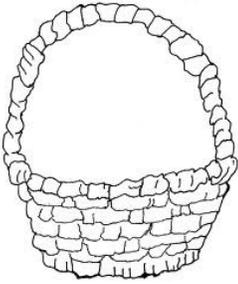
**Mary Martha Circle will meet April 10th at 1:30 p.m.**

**Hostess: Betty Goebel  
Devotions: Lucy Lamphear**

**Greetings Hilltop family from the Morgans! Thanks you so much for the blessings that many of you recently sent to us, through words of support and acts of generosity. Your presence in our lives during this seminary journey is so very much appreciated, and we covet your prayers over us. We continue to thank Jesus for all that He is doing in you and for what He is doing in our family. From Wilmore, Kentucky we send blessings and our gratitude. We look forward to our next visit home, and the opportunity to visit with all of you again!**

**Last summer was hot and dry. If we have another summer like it, we need people who are willing to water plants and trees in the church yard. Please let the office know if this is something you would be willing to do. We will try to coordinate several people so we can keep the grounds looking good.**

## Missions



### A Tisket, A Tasket, We're In Need of Baskets!

The Sunday School and Mission Committee will be doing a project in May that will need medium to large size baskets. If you have baskets that you are willing to donate (non-returnable), please contact Rhonda Friesen at 245-3321 or leave at church in the bin area. Thanks so much!

### A Huge Thanks to the Congregation for stepping up to the Echo Food Shelf Challenge for the month of March.



We collected 400 lbs of food and personal hygiene items along with approximately \$780.00 to send to Echo. We will continue to collect through out the year in this area and have a bin available for donations that will be collected monthly.

Again, GREAT JOB IN SERVING!

### Mission Focus: Faith In Action

John Wesley presented for us to follow . “Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, in all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”



We have an Organization in the Mankato Area that is called “Vine Faith in Action”. The service provides services in the area of chores, meals on wheels, transportation, care for caregivers and needs around the home to keep elderly in their home longer. When you look at the information about the organization, it shows the compassion for the people they service along with the providers they need.

Here is an opportunity to check out what you can give to a mission with the need of our own communities. It can be done in so many ways.

- Prayer- set this organization in your prayers for the month of April to fulfill God’s will in our space on earth
- Financially- give what you can through the Mission Potluck fund-Potluck to be held on April 7th following worship
- Look into use of your time on what you can give
- Spread the opportunity to others that may be interested in this mission.

Just like their name, “Vine Faith In Action”, we too can be the Vine of the Earth to spread the news of Jesus Christ and his salvation for us. Whether we are seen as the vine that is providing or dying, is a choice we all can make!

Post the date – Salvation Army Noon Meal will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers so check your calendar and put it in there to help! Sign up sheet will be placed in the narthex in late April. Need more information- contact Mark Oachs.



### Bloodmobile at HUMC April 24th

Our church is again hosting the American Red Cross bloodmobile Wednesday, April 24th from 1PM to 6PM.

Thank you to all who donate blood and to those who help at the blood drive. Every two seconds, or about 5,000,000 people in America will need blood this year. Your donation can help save up to 3 lives, accident victims, a child with leukemia, surgical patients and others. Your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. You will get a mini physical (blood pressure, hemoglobin, pulse) and feel good knowing you've helped save lives.

Sign up at the Welcome Center to: call for donations, serve in registration or canteen, or set-up/take-down. Any questions may be directed to Judy Argetsinger 243-3252

### April Birthdays:

Halle Blais	4/01
Cathy Andela-Ruth	4/01
Mark Kraywinkel; Kira Wall	4/03
Larry Haring; Virginia Clark	4/03
Randy Goebel	4/04
Tony Wagner	4/04
John Written IV	4/06
Brett Meyer	4/07
Zaden Kirkbride	4/07
Debra Michalski; Bryan Pratt	4/09
Katie Medd; Don Meyer	4/10
Pam Saigh	4/11
Rusty Ruth	4/12
Barb Reed; James Zierdt	4/14
Sarah Steinbauer	4/14
Stacy Vanderwerf	4/16
Erma Juliar; Terry Halls	4/16
Char Kraywinkel	4/18
Amber Wall; Julie Cole	4/18
Calin Lassonde	4/19
Jill Brink	4/21
Norman Gullickson	4/22
Katie Cole	4/22
Megan Juni	4/23
Shirley Courier	4/24
Russell Flowers	4/24
Dee Mattox	4/25
Selena Janzen	4/25
Beverly Cox; Kevin Held	4/26
Paul Young; Alyssa George	4/26
Travis Berg; Scott Thoms	4/27
Matt Lassonde	4/27
Ella Gergan	4/28
Duane Hubmer; Zoey Morgan	4/29





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### Pork Feed

Whatever your talents are, everyone is invited to help with this fundraiser. We serve a buffet style pork dinner including, Prairie Pride pulled pork, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots, applesauce and homemade cake for dessert. All of this for only \$12 for adult, school age children-\$6.00 and children 6 and under eat for free!

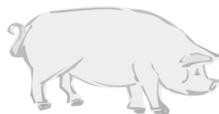
Please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27th. We will be serving from 4:00—7:00 p.m.

Please sign up to at the Welcome Center to help in:

- Dining room
- Cake serving
- Food prep
- Serving table
- Set up or take down
- Kitchen dishes
- Donating a cake

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Imagine No Malaria Campaign and the Redecorating Project !

Contact Mark Oachs at 507-381-3801 if you have any questions.



As many of you may know, there has been an interior moisture problem along the west walls of the building for several years. This problem has kept the renovation of the Sunday School rooms on the west end from proceeding. RHenry Construction will begin repairs to the west wall to remedy the moisture issue the week of May 20th

The entire project will include:

- Entire west wall renovation
- Drywall, tape, mudding and prep for painting
- Carpet for all Sunday School rooms and installation
- Paint and labor for walls and ceilings
- Updated electrical
- Updated light fixtures
- New room divider

There is a total of \$24,000 available to use for this project. The current estimates will require an additional \$5,000. It is our hope to complete this project during the summer months when there is limited use required of this space. If you would like to contribute to this project, it would be greatly appreciated! Contributions can be made to HUMC by indicating "Building Renovation" in the memo line on the check. You may mail your check to the church office, or drop it in the Sunday morning offering plate

HUMC Trustees and Renovation Task Force