



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOS
May 2013

www.mankatohilltop.org

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Renewing Our Membership Covenant

Hilltop, in light of the great joy of receiving 7 new folks into our congregation this past April, I thought it might be a good for us all to remember our own membership covenant. At our last new member's meeting we looked at how I understand our vows of membership.

"As members of Hilltop will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness?"

PRAYERS: We commit ourselves to daily prayer or quiet time alone with God because United Methodists have a personal faith. Personal faith only comes through regular intimacy with God. So we will pray daily for the ministries at Hilltop, and ask God to show us how He can use us best through His church.

PRESENCE: Disciples of Jesus are engaged in the weekly practice of worship. Its our expectation that unless we are sick or out of town we will make every attempt to be in worship on Sunday. Worship is the lifeblood of our community. This is where we glorify God and get the marching orders for the week to live out our faith. Keeping the Sabbath is a commandment of God. If you are not here you are not cheating yourself but all of us, because we are body together.

GIFTS – We expect you to return 10% of what God has given you back to the Lord (tithe). This is the Old Testament example. Jesus however doesn't ask for 10% but rather ALL of you. Don't be deceived that anything less is enough. We tithe as a continual reminder that not only does our tithe belong to him, but our ALL also belongs to him and he may ask for it at anytime. I suspect this will be the most difficult for many of you. Know this, God doesn't need your money – He is infinitely rich - we give as a sign that we know HE gave it. Giving is a matter of discipleship. Be clear, you can tithe anyplace – give to the food shelf, a missionary, a seminary student, but do give. This church doesn't need your money in fact when Jesus sends out his disciples he says *"take no gold or silver with you"*. Carrying out God's mission is free. Tithing is not because God or his Church needs it; it is because you need it. It's a very real act of saying all that I am and all that I have belong to God. Many or you are far from this, so consider a percentage you can manage today and each year challenge yourself to increase it incrementally. Stacy and I did the same and do tithe today. God will meet you where you are at!

SERVICE – Hilltop will call on you to serve. It could be you already know where you want to serve. Maybe you want to help plan our social events, go on a mission trip, be part of our worship service, offer your musical gifts, or help grow our children's ministry. If so let us know today. But I promise you will be called on. We hope you will just try, you can always come back and say, that wasn't a good fit but what about this? Ultimately the goal is that your service is not inside the walls of the church, though that is needed, but outside the walls making a transforming impact in the community. We

never retire from service. The psalmist says "as long as I have breath, I will praise the Lord".

WITNESS - If you know me then you know I am most passionate about this. Early Methodists were known to be people who found every opportunity to share their faith. If God has changed your life in some way and you fail to tell another you stopped His channel of saving grace right there! Look Minnesotans, faith is personal, but it's not private. Those are two different words. Thank God Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John didn't keep their stories of faith quiet. You are a child of God today because people in your life talked about their faith. I expect Hilltop disciples to be the kind of people who can't wait to tell another that they have new life in Jesus, because Jesus is alive!

MEMBERSHIP IS HARD PASTOR FRED.... Yes, it is, but being his faithful disciples is so worth it. Its like marriage---very hard, but the benefits of such relationship is worth the continual submission and sacrifice. By the way when some of you committed to marriage you made strong vows in front of God at the altar, should your vows to wed Christ's church be less than those vows? By no means! I love you guys, and it's my commitment as well as the commitment of current members at Hilltop to do everything we can to help you live into these vows. You're not alone, silly, you're a body, a tribe, a heard, a pack, a pride, a flamboyance.... a church!

Can you believe 7 people said yes to this? Amazing! Oh Praise Him!

Be blessed,
Pastor Fred

The Missions Potluck on May 5 will benefit MCHS Hospice: What is Hospice? Hospice is an interdisciplinary care of patients who have a terminal illness and are felt to have a six month or less life expectancy. The goal of care is comfort rather than cure. As Dame Cicely Saunders, the founder of modern hospice care explained it, "You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but to live until you die."

Note: Change of -time-place!!!

Mary Martha will meet May 8th
11:30 for lunch out at Bakers
Square!



Pastor's report for April 18, 2013:

My deepest thanks to you for the many ways the leadership of this church has rallied together to ensure that our ministry continues uninterrupted and to provide me with love, encouragement, and space for healing. Stacy and I never cease to be amazed at the incredible ways this church loves us. We are blessed to be in this community of Christ with you.

New Members: 7 or 8 plan to join Hilltop on April 21st. Thank you to John Phelps and Terri Horn for facilitating the new Member meetings in my absence.

Baptisms: 3 baptisms are planned for April 28th. I intend to be present.

District Superintendent Phil Strom will preach on April 28th – please plan on attending.

Confirmation Sunday is May 5th. We anticipate ten youth will be confirmed. A special thanks to Mallory Westphal and Debby Westby who have been helping all year and have been filling in beautifully in my absence.

Annual Conference: Our Lay delegate Karla Lassonde and I will be attending May 29-31. One day prior, May 28th, the Bishop has asked clergy to join him for a Soul Leader's conference.

Wedding: I will be officiating the wedding of our very own Erin Deutchman to John Anderson on June 15th.

Vacation: Stacy and I anticipate a family vacation from June 17 through the 23rd. With pulpit supply needed on the 23rd.

Summer Seminary Session: My Dmin degree program through Asbury Theological Seminary has me away at school this summer again from July 8 through July 27th. I anticipate the need for pulpit supply on July 7, 14, and 21st.

Trustees Report for April 2013:

- We have two bids for Parking Lot rebuilding –
 - WW Blacktopping approx. \$60,000 for redoing all but the addition from 4 years ago.
 - Nielsen Blacktopping – two options:
 - Redo all but addition from 4 years ago - \$49,280
 - Above plus new base with drainage (very long life) - \$101,505
 - We should tweak both to include drainage along the west wall
 - Redecorating progress: info on West wall repairs.
- Bid from R Henry Construction for rebuilding west wall – \$9744 (Bob) – they will also install the accordion wall. Start date May 20th.
- Bid from Acoustic Associates for “accordion dividers” - \$3178 (Bob) – these have some sound deadening. R. Henry Const will install.
- All committees/teams should go through items stored in the Sunday School storage area and the Choir room before May 15th. That is BEFORE the next council meeting. Karin & Cindy went through Sunday School materials on Saturday, April 16th (many thanks!!)

Finance for April 2013:

Giving for the General Fund through the 1st quarter was \$56,447 compared to \$54,665 through the 1st quarter in 2012 and the 3-year average of \$50,729.

- 2) As the end of the 1st quarter, expenses are 23% of budget.
- 3) 3/31/13 church mortgage balance is \$31,601.40.

Evangelism Report for April 2013:

Committee did not meet this month.

We have delivered cookies to 3 couples and 4 individual visitors during March 2013. We have assigned “mentors” for most of the visitors and will be pairing the rest of the people up soon.

We will be receiving at least 7 new members on Sunday, 4/21/13.

Fellowship Committee April 2013:

A scheduling conflict was noticed for May 19th. Therefore we will be postponing the parish picnic. At the May fellowship committee meet-

ing we will discuss dates to reschedule the picnic. A couple of ideas that may be options are: the end of vacation bible school and the kick off to Sunday school starting up in September. Of course these are just preliminary ideas and we can discuss more in May. The fellowship committee is looking to ways we can help promote attendance for the softball team games. We may consider hosting a root beer float night for Hilltop attendees, or some other type of casual event. We are also exploring the possibility of parish hayrides in the fall.

SPRC Update for April 2013:

1. Pastor Sick Leave: Terri reviewed pastor sick leave policy as discussed with DS Phil Strom. Fred is currently on sick leave and is not taking vacation.

2. For informational purposes, short term and extended sick leave was reviewed:

The church is responsible for providing sick time for pastors. This is not to be considered, or taken from vacation time.

Extended sick leave up to 13 weeks:

The church will cover the pastors salary, housing, and related expenses as normal.

The conference will support up to \$50/week for pulpit supply. Will need to request this.

- c. Extended sick leave 13 weeks and following

The church will cover expenses for pulpit supply

The conference will cover the pastor's salary, housing and related expenses

3. Youth Director Orientation

Reviewed Youth Director's orientation for first week at Hilltop

New Youth Director job description reviewed

4. Continued to work on other staff job descriptions.

Youth:

Hello Hilltop Church! My husband (Collin) and I (Ashley) are so thankful and blessed to be able to serve at Hilltop church. As many of you may know, I received the youth director position here and was able to lead our first youth group meeting on April 17. It was wonderful to get to meet each student and I am looking forward to seeing how the Lord is going to stretch us and how we are going to grow in our faith. After receiving the position, I began to pray that the Lord would place a vision on our hearts here to help us accomplish some goals. It is still a work in progress, but this is what the Lord has placed on our hearts so far. I want to thank all of you who we have met for being so welcoming and encouraging. We are looking forward to getting to know all of you better. Have a blessed week!

5 key Points/Values for Youth:

Evangelism-Proclaiming the Gospel/Living out their faith
Matthew 28:18-20

Fellowship-

Colossians 3:16, Matthew 22:39,

Ministry-Serving, Outreach

1 Peter 4:10, Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 4:11

Discipleship-mentoring/accountability/student leadership

Matthew 28:18-20

Worship-prayer, scripture/teaching, music, lifestyle

Colossians 3:16, Matthew 22:37-38

Vision for Youth Ministry:

Our ministry exists to encourage students to live out their faith by meeting them where they are at with the hope that they will EMERGE/ARISE in the Body of Christ by allowing the Lord to use them to serve and reach others for His Kingdom.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Baptism of Avery Johnson Baptism of Joseph Eckert Baptism of Raegan Dasch 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re 6:30p Emmaus 4th Day 7p Community Garden Mee	30 5:15p Confirmation 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 8p Faith Growers	May 1 5:15p Confirmation 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 8p Faith Growers	2 12p Bulletin Deadline 6p Lasting Imprint	3 7 Men's Morning Risers 5p Craft Club	4 9 Craft Club 1p Organist Practice
5 Confirmation Sunday Cinco de Mayo 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship w/ Potluck fi	6 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	7 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	8 11:30 M M Circle @ Bakers 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 8p Faith Growers	9 12p Bulletin Deadline	10 7 Men's Morning Risers	11 9 GS Training Event 12p Private Event- Mallory 1p Organist Practice
12 Mothers Day 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	13 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast 7p Staff/Parish Mtg	14 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	15 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 8p Faith Growers	16 12p Bulletin Deadline 6:30p Com. Meetings 7:30p Ad Council	17 7 Men's Morning Risers	18 8:30 Spring clean up 1p Organist Practice 1p Piano Recital Practice
19 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 2p Piano Recital	20 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast 8 Newsletter Deadline 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	21 8 Newsletter Deadline 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	22 6:30p Youth Group	23 12p Bulletin Deadline	24 7 Men's Morning Risers	25
26 9 Worship with Sip-N-Say	27 Memorial Day 12p CCTV Worship Broadcast	28 Soul Leaders Mtg W/Bishc 1:30p Women's Bible Study 5:30p Prayer and Share Re	29 MIN Annual Conference of UMC John F. Kennedy's Birthda 6:30p Youth Group	30 12p Bulletin Deadline	31 7 Men's Morning Risers	Jun 1

Mission

“A Tisket A Tasket We’re In Need Of Baskets”

A basket can be used for many different things. It can be filled to lighten the load of carrying items; it can be a container to give other items. It can be used for decorative purposes where we hold flowers, pictures, cards, cones, whatever we find beautiful.

As we have gathered baskets through the generosity of our church family, givers have asked “Is it a secret with what you are doing with these or can you tell?”

How does one decide what is a worthy Mission? Do we make that decision? Does it come through a request? Is it Spirit driven? This mission is a beautiful blending of all the above. On May 12, the Sunday school will fill these baskets with items that are being donated through Hospice and other church family givers to give to caregivers of people in their program. It is a way for all of us to see the fruit of the “Spirit” moving in all ages.

Hospice will receive the baskets that will have prayer shawls or lap robes, information about the program, memory boxes, journals and other items.
Praise God!

Community Garden

April Showers bring... Er. snow blowers. Despite the recent bad weather it is almost time for the HUMC community garden to get under way. If you are interested in participating or will donate an item listed below please contact Rhonda at 245-3321. Sign up on one of the clip boards in the Narthex or simply show up to the meeting that will be held at 7pm on April 30 to discuss organizational needs such as volunteers which are needed for tilling, spreading compost, setting up the fence and laying out the pathways with landscape fabric and wood chips.

Much appreciated and needed donations are tools such as shovels, hoes and rakes, watering cans or pails free of holes, fencing to keep out the critters, and landscape fabric. Possible dates for beginning work are may 2 or 3 with planting days not recommended until later in month of May.

If you would like a plot there is a \$15 donation to pay for materials and a \$10 deposit that will be returned at the end of the season. Priority is given to former gardener and community members.

Attendance-Mar. '12		Attendance-Mar. '13	
	Su		Su
3/04	126	3/03	157
3/11	149	3/10	141
3/18	158	3/17	180
3/25	189	3/24	209
		3/31(Sunrise)	143
		3/31	212
Avg.	156	Avg.	174



Dear Parents of 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders,

We are excited to once again offer an amazing first camping experience for your child! Kato Kamp is open to all students who have completed 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade from Belgrade, Centenary, and Hilltop United Methodist Churches. This is a wonderful chance for your child to experience camp with people they know.

This year, Kato Kamp will be held at The Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds in Paynesville. Decision Hills has been closed and our camp has been relocated to Koronis. We are excited for the opportunity to explore this beautiful camp! Our dates for camp this year are **August 5th-8th**. Campers will meet at Belgrade on Monday morning at 9 am. Campers return to the Belgrade parking lot around 4 pm on Thursday. The cost of camp is **\$175**. This cost includes transportation costs, all meals, and programming. There is an opportunity for campers to purchase snacks from the Koronis Canteen throughout our time there. We ask that campers bring no more than \$10. Camperships are available through each congregation. Please do not let financial difficulty prevent your child from registering.

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

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays:

Brady Phillips	5/01
John Harrington	5/02
Herb Fast	5/03
Kim Waknitz	5/04
Doug Smithson	5/05
Wayne Baumgartner	5/05
Katie Grunloh	5/06
Scott Page	5/07
Jeff Adams; Brady Andersen	5/08
Darlene Gullickson	5/10
Kari Pratt	5/10
Peter Bittner	5/12
Scott Harmon	5/13
William Allevan	5/14
Norman Wilson	5/14
Marc Birr	5/16
Janet Marble; Bill Goebel	5/17
Evelyn Roseberry	5/17
Adela Scherer	5/18
JoAnn Hutchinson	5/18
Judy Argetsinger	5/19
Bruce Long	5/19
Amber Cole	5/20
Dewey Marble	5/21
Don Putzier; Cindy Scherer	5/23
Scott Johnson; Whitney Page	5/23
Darlene Meyer	5/23
Jeffrey Brown; Tyler Klose	5/24
John Steinbauer	5/25
Marty Saigh; Eddie Putzier	5/28
P.P. Phillip; Bob Zimprich	5/28
Mary Bittner; Heather Medd	5/29
Paulette Wilson-Steinbauer	5/30
Leah Baumbach; Mike Berg	5/30

May Anniversaries:

Ron & Margaret Beaty	5/04
Bob & Sara Heller-Zimprich	5/15
Dale & Shirley Ashpole	5/20
Howard & Rhonda Friesen	5/20
Don & Stephanie Putzier	5/21
John & Paulette	
Wilson-Steinbauer	5/23
John & Kim Beaty	5/26
Mike & Kelly Vandermuss	5/29
Mike & Amy Daufenbach	5/30

Sunday, May 19 Sunday School Recognition

Sunday School students will be given their attendance pins. Teachers will be recognized for their ministry.

Graduate Recognition

2013 Graduates; Retta Gavin, Hailey Nelson, Aaron Wall



Musical opportunities are available through the summer for instrumentalists or singers to grace our services. If you, or your friends or family, would like to share your talents during our summer services, we would welcome your gifts. Please check out the sign-up sheet that is available at the Welcome Center.



If you have questions, please contact Paulette Adams -- phone 345-6097, or e-mail pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com

With Thanks

Hilltop, thank you for your cards, gifts, meals, texts, emails, calls, and visits while I've been recovering. Thanks also to Tricia, staff parish committee, lay preachers, and worship team for stepping up and out in the leadership of our church. My whole family feels and appreciates your love.

Pastor Fred

Thank you to everyone that sent a card or said a prayer, gave a hug or expressed sympathy for the recent passing of my sister. A loss is so much easier when it is shared by such a strong faith family!

Jean Jackson

Dear Pastor Fred and Congregation,
Heartfelt thanks for the many prayers and cards during my recent surgery. I can't adequately express how much it meant and how much Len and I felt God's love and caring through each of you. I am on the road to recovery and though future surgery will be needed I know I am blessed by your continued caring and prayers.

Kaye Herth, Former member

I can not thank the Board of Trustee's enough for the gift I received on Administrative Professional's Day!! It was so thoughtful for you to acknowledge and appreciate my ministry. Your kind words of praise lift my spirit, not only on this day, but throughout the entire year!

Tricia Woitas



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Summer Sip N Say's! Our tradition of fellowship, coffee and pastries after the 9:00 am summer worship services resume on Sunday, May 26th. Join us in making deeper friendships over a cup of coffee.

Beginning in the month of June, your Service Group Chair will be calling you to assist by bringing treats or providing the hospitality of set up, service, and clean up during your month. If you have any questions, contact the service group coordinator Judy Harrington at 345-6743.

Take Note of
Time Change
Sunday, May 19 the
Sunday School classes
will end until fall



Sunday, May 26th
Worship will begin
at 9:00 a.m.
Followed by
Sip-N-Say