



**HILLTOP**  
United Methodist Church

**ECHOS**  
June 2011

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## The Winning Team

A couple of weeks ago, I bailed after 3 innings in a church softball game. We had enough players and I had another engagement. When I left, the game was getting away from us. It was about 10 to 4 and climbing with no outs. Apparently the game got so bad, that we were down 17-4. About an hour later my phone was vibrating frantically with all sorts of text messages that read:

*“You should have stuck around!” “You sure missed a good game!” “You won’t believe it!” “Awesome Comeback!” “I hit the game winning walk-off two-run single with bases loaded, 2 outs, bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>!” “Hilltop wins! 19-18!!!”*

I was flabbergasted. I left that game thinking, *“O boy, here we go again. Gonna let another one get away from us.”* But even though I wasn’t there it was such good news to hear we had pulled out an amazing victory. What really elated me, was all the text messages my teammates sent me, the first chance they got to let me know we won.

This reminded me of something District Superintendent Rufus Campbell said, that really struck me in his Sunday message at Hilltop:

*“God is doing marvelous things and we keep our mouths shut! We need to be like Stephen and start talking more about what God is doing! And we need to celebrate that! Our lives are under new management! And the resurrection of Jesus continues to transform each and every one of our lives and we ought not to be ashamed to celebrate that. There is something about when you feel good about what God is doing in your life! There is something about that being contagious when you begin to tell others about it, because everybody wants to be with a winner. Everybody wants to be on a WINNING TEAM! Nobody wants to be on a losing team! And let me tell you... if you are part of God’s ministry in the world, then you are indeed on the WINNING TEAM, and you ought to celebrate that Sunday after Sunday after Sunday.”*

When Rufus said that, I got goose bumps. Everybody does want to be on a winning team. And in our day to day living troubles, difficulties, and stressors, come to us and we begin to believe in lies. When life happens we walk off believing we are down 10 to 4 and counting with no shot at victory. We think to ourselves that things don’t look good. We begin to feel like we are on a losing team, or maybe worse, we feel we are on no team at all. So how important is it that when God does something wonderful in your life, that you tell me? It’s absolutely vital! I need you to tell me. We need to continually share with each other what God is doing in our lives, so that we can provide the assurance that no matter what it looks like now, I am on the winning team.




My softball teammates were so eager to let me know the score had change, and we had won. What if we had that same kind of exuberance Sunday after Sunday after Sunday sharing with each other that the score has in fact changed, because we are on Jesus’ team, and we are winning?


Rufus convicted me to ask more of you over the course of this year to share during worship on how God is breaking into your lives and giving victory to his people. If, in reading this, you already feel the nudge of the Spirit to share a personal victory of God in your life, let me know ASAP and I will work you into the Sunday starting line-up.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Fred

Thanks to all of our designated greeters for their welcoming smiles and warm handshakes during our Sunday services. And thank you to all who have filled in when we have not had anyone assigned to that very much needed role. With the return of our 9:00 a.m. service and Sip-N-Say, we will need people to serve as greeters throughout the summer months. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.



Thank you, The Worship Committee



**Mary Martha Circle will NOT be meeting in the months of June, July or August**

Attendance-April '11		Attendance-April '10	
	Su		Su
4/03	177	4/04 (Sunrise)	154
4/10	158	4/04 (10:15)	174
4/17	202	4/11	161
4/24 (Sunrise)	178	4/18	178
4/24 (10:15)	164	4/25	164
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>166</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

CHARGE: HILLTOP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: RUFUS CAMPBELL  
 PASTOR: FRED VANDERWERF  
 RECORDING SECRETARY: KATIE GRUNLOH

May 19, 2011

PRESENT: Fred Vanderwerf, Katie Grunloh, Jill Klaseus, Bob Berg, Jan Marble, John Phelps, JJ Morgan, Jill Brink, Jeanette Phillips, Jeff Adams, Paulette Adams

## WELCOME

John Phelps called the meeting to order and opened with a word of prayer.

Motion made to approve last month's minutes, and minutes approved.

## FAITH STORY

JJ Morgan shared his praise of how the Lord is working within his life at this time with life's hurdles and changes.

## PASTOR'S COMMENTS

- The softball team is asking to perform some type of fundraiser to raise money for their softball team. The council has no objection.
- Men's retreat October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A deposit of \$513 is being requested from the Pastor's Honorarium Fund. There is also \$377.25 in the Men's Retreat fund which can also be used towards this deposit.
- The Strategic Planning group updates:
  1. Pastoral care focus area; two meetings have taken place, with the third on May 31, 2011, and progress is being made. Terry Berg, Karla Lassonde, Tricia Woitas, and Pastor Fred will look at a possible structure and file system.
  2. Building enhancement/redecoration; task force has been formed with Paula Smithson as chair person. Task force members are Jeanette Phillips, Bob & Char Kraywinkel, Bill & Karen Warmack, Mark & Deb Oachs.
  3. Christian education/youth; The nomination committee would like to nominate Andrew Bittner as Director and interns being Mallory Westphal and Dexter Oswald. All in favor, motion carried.
- Pulpit supply has been requested for June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>. JJ Morgan has agreed for June 19<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> possibly Andrew Bittner
- This summer Kato Camp is July 5-7 for 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Typically, camp is \$60 a day per camper, and Hilltop usually offers assistance. The issue is brought up that the camp fund is low, and suggestions on how to propose this issue to the congregation. Suggestion of bringing it up to the congregation for an offering for this purpose. It was also proposed that there may be up to \$1,000 remaining in the parsonage roof fund. Pastor Fred will bring this to the congregation and ask for an offering.
- There is a Healthy Church Initiative Pilot Project from the conference and Hilltop fits the requirements. This was pre-

sented to the Ad Council to see if there would be any interest in pursuing this. They are accepting 6 to 8 congregations. This is to establish church growth and vitality. Pastor Fred thinks that it is a great coaching tool. Concerns were that it is a large time commitment for Pastor Fred and is a small timeframe to implement such a large change. Advantages are that of implementing structure to what we are trying to implement already and using this as a coaching tool. Pastor Fred will call Cindy Gregorson regarding further questions and to inquire more information and will then send a mass email and make a further decision. The deadline for submission is June 8<sup>th</sup>.  
 - New member meeting will be June 5<sup>th</sup>, reception of new members will be June 12<sup>th</sup>.

COMMITTEE AND TEAM REPORTS

## TRUSTEES- Bob Berg

Padded chairs have not arrived as of yet and will possibly arrive next month.

A contract has been signed with Bode & Lieske Construction for parsonage roof, and total cost will be \$7,345.00.

Bids came in for the furnaces. Trustees recommend we go with the low bid. Motion requested for \$7,187.75 to be transferred from the Memorial Fund money to pay for furnaces. If a rebate is received, the Memorial Fund will be repaid. To get the rebate from carrier on the furnaces, the warranty expires in July. Jeff moved for approval, and the motion carried to transfer \$7,187.75 from the Memorial Fund to pay for the furnaces.

## FINANCE- Jan Marble

Reports presented. Pork feed money is not reflected on reports. \$3400 - \$3500 made on the Pork Feed after expenses.

## EVANGELISM – John Phelps

Continuing to work on Walk with Jesus which will take place on August 13, 2011. An organizational meeting for volunteers will take place Sunday, May 22, 2011.

## FELLOWSHIP- Jill Klaseus

35 people attend Ladies Day Out. Very positive feedback was received. Summer planning will consist of preparing for six senior quilts for 2012 graduates. Looking ahead to the September fall garage sale.

## MISSIONS- Steph Putzier

\$313.00 was collected at the May Missions potluck to benefit VINE, Faith in Action.

The Love Offering for Annual Conference totaled \$609.92.

The Community Garden is up and running, with all ten plots rented out.

The Missions potluck on June 5 will benefit Kids Against Hunger.

"Imagine No Malaria" is a movement partially sponsored by the Minnesota Annual Conference whose goal is to eliminate death from malaria by the year 2015. The conference would

## Cont. Ad Council Minutes

like at least 10 lay members from Hilltop to attend a training event within the next month.

STAFF- Jeff Adams  
No report

EDUCATION- Karin Gavin  
No Report

WORSHIP – JJ Morgan  
New song books are coming shortly which will be filled with familiar songs. JJ Morgan will be stepping down as Worship Committee Chair in preparation for his family's move to Kentucky.

YOUTH – Jill Brink  
Andrew Bittner has stepped forward to be the Youth Group chair along with Mallory Westphal and Dexter Oswald assisting. A mentoring program is being brainstormed and will see if there is a congregational interest in this.

PARISH NURSE- Judy Argetsinger  
No report

STEWARDSHIP – Jeanette Phillips  
No report

TECHNOLOGY – Don Putzier  
Sim's Sound visited Hilltop on May 12. The technology group has agreed to move forward with a digital video recorder, monitor speakers, new speaker and connections for the fellowship hall, and two new microphones. This will provide better reliability for recording services, improved ability for musicians to hear and adjust during performances, and provide versatility with microphone and speaker use in the fellowship hall, while retaining portability for other needs. The funds have already been approved in the past from the technology budget and the Christmas Festival funds, so no action by Ad Council is required. Total cost is \$5085.96.

### OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF GOALS FOR 2011  
As above in Pastor Freds report.

PORK FEED RECAP  
As above in Bob's report

NEW B BUSINESS  
As above/Healthy Church Initiative Pilot Project

Jeanette closes in prayer

AJOURNMENT

## Kato Kamp's Got Talent



If you have a 4th, 5th or 6th grader in your home, you may want to have them participate in this year's Kato Kamp. Kato Kamp (July 5-7) is 3 day/2 night camp at Decision Hills near Spicer, MN. This year the camp

theme is Kato Kamp's Got Talent!

While at camp, the children can expect to swim, bike, do crafts, expand their Christian knowledge, sing, play games, canoe and overall have a great time. Please pick up your registration form from the narthex or contact Pastor Fred for more information. Please have all forms to the church office by June 15th so we can get an idea of how many are attending.

### Sip-N-Say

**We will again continue** our tradition of fellowship, coffee and pastries after the 9:00 am summer worship services, better known as Sip N Say. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center if you are willing to take charge of one of the Sip N Say Sundays. You may do everything by yourself or recruit one or more people to help you with the Sunday you choose. Basically what you will need to do is bring treats, put them out, along with coffee and juice, and clean up afterwards. If you have any questions, contact Peggy Phelps at 345-0764 or [psphelps@chartermi.net](mailto:psphelps@chartermi.net)



**Connect with God**  
**Connect with Family**  
**Connect with Friends**

Sonshine Festival is one of Minnesota's largest family camping and music festivals. Sonshine Festival offers four days of fun, fellowship, ministry and many of the best bands in Christian music - with great camping facilities and youth group activities. It is the perfect choice for a four day family camping get away!

This event will take place July 13-16th in Willmar. Any parents or youth interested in going, should contact Jill Brink.

## Mission

\$313.00 was collected at the May Missions potluck to benefit VINE, Faith in Action.

The Love Offering for Annual Conference totaled \$609.92.

The Community Garden is up and running. All ten plots were rented out, with two of the gardeners returning from last year. A big THANK YOU to Howard & Rhonda Friesen, Harry Argetsinger, Scott Foss, Pastor Fred, Bob Berg, JJ Morgan, Eddie Putzier, Sam Daufenbach, Zac Aasen, Jean Jackson, and Maggie & Becky Steinbauer for all of their work hauling and spreading compost, chipping wood, spreading mulch, fixing the sign, and other labor involved in preparing the garden for another season. Thank you to anyone who was inadvertently omitted from this list, as well as those who donated seeds for the gardeners.

**Kids Against Hunger**<sup>(TM)</sup>  
An international food relief campaign

The Missions Potluck on June 5 will benefit Kids Against Hunger. Since we will be on our summer schedule for church, consider bringing "brunchy" items to share.

Remembering the Haitian proverb "A belly empty has no ears", this national nonprofit organization has the mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the US and to feed starving children throughout the world. Last year the local organization packaged almost 3 million meals using 10,000 volunteers.

Many HUMC groups have volunteered time and money to help package food at the local site which has been at 500 Patterson Ave. for over 6 years. This is one of 86 food packaging stations in 27 US states and Canada. Each satellite is an individual nonprofit organization licensed through headquarters in New Hope, MN, to use the name, meal formula, and food packaging process. Tim Stromer is the head of the local organization.

The highly nutritious rice-soy casserole being packaged has been developed by some of the world's leading food scientists at Cargill, Pillsbury, General Mills and ADM. One package provides six nutritionally-complete servings for only 23 cents per serving.

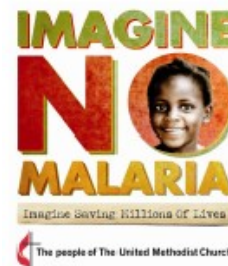
The Kids Against Hunger organization asks us all to become partners by;

- 1) praying for them,
- 2) donating money so they can package more food,
- and 3) volunteering time and packing food.

For more information visit [kidsagainsthungermankato.com/](http://kidsagainsthungermankato.com/).

## Imagine No Malaria

**Imagine No Malaria** is a Global Health Initiative in partnership with the United Nations, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and others with the goal of eliminating death due to malaria by the year 2015. Every 45 seconds a child dies from malaria. The United Methodist Church is committed to working to eliminate death due to this dreaded disease.



\$10 will save a life. The Minnesota Annual Conference has been asked to raise \$1,800,000 which translates into 180,000 lives saved. The conference would like at least 10 lay members from Hilltop to attend a 90 minute training event at one of the five locations listed below. Please prayerfully consider attending a session &/or committing to help in other ways to eradicate malaria.

- (Bethlehem UMC, Hutchinson, Sunday, May 22, 4:30-6:00 pm (RSVP by May 13))
- FUMC, Windom, Wednesday, June 8, 6:30-8:00 (RSVP by May 27)
- UMC of Albert Lea, Thursday, May 27, 6:30-8:00 (RSVP by June 17)
- Wesley UMC, Marshall, Monday, June 27, 6:30-8:00 (RSVP by June 17)
- **Centenary UMC, Mankato, Tuesday, June 28, 6:30-8:00 (RSVP by June 17)**

The training will focus on malaria, the UMC Response: Imagine No Malaria, and engaging local congregations.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.minnesotaucm.org/MissionsMinistries/Missions/ImagineNoMalaria>



United Methodist Day with the Minnesota Twins to Benefit Imagine No Malaria. Cheer for the Twins and save lives! \$4 from each \$21 grandstand ticket and \$6 from each \$25 home plate view ticket will benefit Imagine No Malaria.

Hilltop has an opportunity to share transportation with Belgrade Ave United Methodist in North Mankato. To reserve your spot email [pastor.hilltop@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.hilltop@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex. Last year, we found that demand for tickets is high, and orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please sign up soon!

## Walk with Jesus Retreat



Have you ever wanted to do some mission work, go to church camp, or even a retreat but never had the time or money? Hilltop United Methodist is opening and opportunity for you to do a retreat without leaving town. This event in experiencing God's Love is designed exclusively for the developmentally disabled. This ecumenical retreat, to be held August 13th 2011 from 9:00 to 3:15 will emphasize God's Love and acceptance of each person.

The day will begin with music and song and end about 3:15 with a candle light service and prayer. Through out the day you will have many opportunities to help others. You can be a person who works behind the scenes.....opportunities to cook, do agape, sing, show your talents in story telling and acting, setting or cleaning and packing up, or just watch from the side. You will have the opportunity to be a hands on type of missionary, a provider of food, music, or a gift of silence and prayer. There is a task for everyone of all ages whether great or small all things are appreciated.

If you would like to donate food, talent, time, or monetary gift all is accepted with an open heart of Thank You. As you pray fully consider this retreat think of the opportunity that God is giving you to help others find their path to him our Saviour. There will be many opportunities' to for you to learn more about where you best fit so come to a planning meeting on May 26th at 6:30 at the church to see where your opportunity lies.

Any question please contact Mike or Dee Mattox @ 720-0312 or email [mmattoxmn@hotmail.com](mailto:mmattoxmn@hotmail.com)



### Who are the people called "Methodists"?



Join Pastor Fred this summer for a lecture and discussion series on the history, theology, principles, practice, and people of the Methodist movement. The class meetings will be held on Wednesdays with the first to begin July 13, at 6:30pm.

Thank you to the entire Hilltop Congregation for the gift of the dove. It will always remind me of the years that I have spent growing up in our church.

Mariah Brown

### June Birthdays:

Tara Goebel	6/02
Evan McDonough	6/03
Abbie Goebel	6/05
Taylor Swalve	6/05
June Hubmer	6/06
Fred Vanderwerf	6/08
Terri Horn	6/08
Connie Baumgartner	6/09
Noah Written	6/09
Hunter Goebel	6/11
Marj Blommel	6/11
Regan Burke	6/11
Eric Mundt	6/13
Nathan Allen	6/14
Mike Juni; Dan Rivers	6/14
Kathleen Mehrman	6/15
Don Winters	6/15
Nancy Meyer	6/16
Shae Gavin	6/17
Nate Smithson	6/17
Mackenzie Page	6/19
Ron Sniff; Pat Bohn	6/21
Ethan Gergen	6/22
Robert Reed	6/22
Annie Cole	6/24
Zacary Aasen	6/25
Robyn Smithson	6/26
Phyllis Cole	6/27
Retta Gavin; Allie Rivers	6/28

### June Anniversaries:

Kevin & Sarah Burke	6/04
Art & Barb Keith	6/05
Alan & Phyllis Roseberry	6/07
Robert & Audrey Key	6/08
Chris & Cindy Scherer	6/12
Duane & Gloria Hubmer	6/18
Leonard & Kaye Herth	6/19
Robert & Amie Reed	6/22
Bill & Karen Warmack	6/23
Louis & Carolyn Allen	6/26
Mark & Deb Oachs	6/26
Fred & Stacy Vanderwerf	6/27
Charlie & Mary Strey	6/28
Doug & Paula Smithson	6/29



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### VBS 2011 Shake it Up Cafe!

Welcome to the Shake It Up Café  
Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe!  
Dates are Aug. 5, 6 and 7.

Many volunteers will be needed to pull off another exciting year. Please contact Cindy Scherer at 625-8309 or [cscherer@hickorytech.net](mailto:cscherer@hickorytech.net) if you are interested in volunteering or watch the welcome center for sign-up sheets.



### They Did Their Share

On Veteran's Day we honor  
Soldiers who protect our nation.  
For their service as our warriors,  
They deserve our admiration.

Some of them were drafted;  
Some were volunteers;  
For some it was just yesterday;  
For some it's been many years;

In the jungle or the desert,  
On land or on the sea,  
They did whatever was assigned  
To produce a victory.

Some came back; some didn't.  
They defended us everywhere.  
Some saw combat; some rode a desk;  
All of them did their share.

No matter what the duty,  
For low pay and little glory,  
These soldiers gave up normal lives,  
For duties mundane and gory.

Let every veteran be honored;  
Don't let politics get in the way.  
Without them, freedom would have died;  
What they did, we can't repay.

We owe so much to them,  
Who kept us safe from terror,  
So when we see a uniform,  
Let's say "thank you" to every wearer.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

