

FOREST HILLS  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# THE EDGE

JANUARY  
2012

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 13	7pm Youth Performing Arts presents: <i>Children of Eden</i>
Jan. 14	6pm Adult Fellowship 3 & 7pm <i>Children of Eden</i> performance
Jan. 15	3pm <i>Children of Eden</i> performance
Jan. 16	6:45pm Peace of Mind Seminar
Jan. 18	11:30am ROMEO's (retired old men eating out)
Jan. 20	Community Care set-up
Jan. 21	Community Care 3 & 7pm <i>Children of Eden</i> performance
Jan. 22	3pm <i>Children of Eden</i> performance

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

*Outside the Box: The Gift that Can't Be Contained!*

2012 is a gift from God, a new year and a new start. Will you treat 2012 just like you did 2011, or are you ready to get "out of the box" this time around? Expect God to show up and make a difference in your year. Accept His plans for your life in the months ahead. Open up yourself and your year to what He wants to give you.

As you begin 2012, designate a special "blessing box" (or jar) somewhere in your home. Each time you experience one of God's special blessings or answered prayers, write it down on a slip of paper, date it, and place it in the box. As the year progresses, you will notice the box will overflow with story after story of God's grace and goodness. You can count on it, because God has a lot of "out of the box" experiences planned for you.

I can also warn your that there will be many discouraging and painful days ahead this next year. On those days, you can go to that not-so-empty box, pull "out of the box" all kinds of reminders of God's answered prayers and blessings, and they will encouraged you that the same God that gave you those will take care of what you are going through.

We serve a God who is faithful, and He will be faithful to you. So, designate an empty box and start filling it up with God's grace and goodness in your life. You could also display it in a prominent place in your home. That way, when someone visits and asks, "What in the world is that?" you've got a perfect opportunity to share your faith!

So, let's start our new year together by designating a box, and then getting out of it! By that I mean, getting everything out of our lives that keeps our attention away from our God. Then, let's spend the year filling our special boxes with His blessings and answered prayers. Before long, our boxes won't be big enough! We will find that 2012 will be a gift of blessing that cannot be contained!

Happy New Year!  
Pastor David

**\* LOUISIANA TEAM \***

Come join us in serving the fine folks in Louisiana during our work trip **February 27- March 2**. We will work under the direction of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and welcome people with all types of skills: carpenters, plumbers, electricians, homeowners, golfers, etc. We will also be delivering UMCOR kits as part of our trip. If you would like to help by donating items for the kits, there is a collection box in the lobby with school bags waiting to be filled along with a list of the items needed. If you are interested in joining the Louisiana team this year or would like to know more about this program, please contact Jerry Gustafson, Chuck or Lois Werhan, or Kay or Bergie Bergerson (651-462-5601).

NURTURE NEWS

The start of a new year and moving forward in God's ministry in 2012 will be a new and exciting journey, just as it was in 2011. I want to thank everyone for all you did last year to allow God's ministry to continue to move in new and exciting directions. Only each of you could help make that possible.

I would like to thank all the families who chose to sponsor a family this past Christmas. Each of you made a difference in the lives of the families you sponsored and I'm sure it was a blessing to you to be able to reach out to families other than your own at Christmas. I know for me it took hardly any time to have my list completed. Once again, it fit the theme "out of the box". Thank you so much to all the volunteers that made the Teen Challenge Sunday an awesome success. That was so much of what Christmas is all about.

I am looking forward to another awesome year here at Forest Hills in all of God's ministry areas of the church. Thank you all for the many special gifts and thank you all for everything you do every week here at the church as well as in the community.

Your friend in Christ,

Steve Ruter– Nurture Director



WORSHIP'S WORD

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We've had a great 2011! Our ministry plan *Renew.Rethink.Refresh* continued to move us toward being attractive to families with children, youth and young adults and being the tangible love of Christ in our community.

An evaluation went out to the congregation this fall that prompted great feedback for every ministry area at Forest Hills. As one of our biggest changes this last year was the move from two services to one, the Worship Team has continued to evaluate its progress-not toward our own preferences for worship, but its progress toward reaching new people for Christ and helping move us all toward a deeper relationship with God.

The Praise Team, the group of musicians who lead worship with me on a weekly basis, added four new members! Kevin Grinnell plays the saxophone and clarinet, Ryan Smith plays any kind of drum, Ben Valine plays the guitar and viola (along with few other instruments!), and Luke Valine plays the bass and acoustic guitars. We are excited to grow our team and decided that it was time for a name change this year. The group is now known as *Sanctify*. This is a word that means the process of becoming holy, or set apart. As a team, we want to be continually seeking sanctification in our own lives so that we can lead the congregation into genuine and meaningful worship. "*Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you*" Joshua 3:5.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving service with Hosanna Lutheran Church, combining our church communities for preaching, music and fellowship. It was an awesome way to celebrate the body of Christ alive in Forest Lake.

Our Christmas events at Forest Hills looked a bit different this year as we embraced our "Outside the Box" theme. We performed our first ever Flash Mob at Wal-Mart and Rainbow Foods, much to the delight of many harried Christmas shoppers! We also engaged families on Christmas Eve with a live petting zoo at the church and "Passport to Bethlehem: An Interactive Family Adventure."

Christmas Day was welcomed in with the congregational midnight singing of *Silent Night* by candlelight. Just a few (short!) hours later, we gathered again in the sanctuary with 37 guests from Teen Challenge who worshipped with us during the service and then stayed for a Christmas dinner and party that had been planned for them in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a glorious afternoon and a huge thank you to all who were involved in any way for these events this year!

As the band Green Day says in their song *Closing Time*, "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end". As 2012 opens, we anticipate the end of some things and the beginning of others, but all with the wonder of what God will do among us.

Happy New Year!

Julie Graham  
Director of Music and Worship



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all have a God filled 2012. I am so thankful for Debit cards so I don't have to void my first ten checks because I write in the wrong year. I would like to review some of the Outreach highlights with you that happened in 2011.

**Community Care** / What an explosion of guest we had in the last six months of 2011. In June we served 118 guests and in December we served some 230 guests. A couple of reasons for the increase in numbers would be switching to the third weekend of each month and new signs posted a week before each Community Care weekend. We are creating an e-mail list to send out reminders of upcoming food distribution dates. We also have created an Envisioning Team to brainstorm new ideas and evaluate our current procedures.

**Connect** / We currently have seven teams staffing our Welcome Center and have procedures in place to follow returning guests through their faith journey at Forest Hills. Our goal is to have twelve teams staffing the Welcome Center. If you enjoy meeting new people and showing off our church let me know and I will gladly find a place for you in our Connect Team.

**Missions** / Our goal has been to offer you many opportunities to give or participate in a variety of different missions. What I love about Forest Hills is that missions aren't just driven by a Mission Team but also by groups and individuals within the church who care about the lives and living conditions of people in our community and through out the world. Look for even more opportunities in 2012.

To all of the dedicated people who work so hard to make Outreach so great I pray for God's blessings and peace for all of you.

Reaching out for Christ

Wayne Buehner-Outreach Team Leader

### ~Missions Moment~

We have had a very exciting and Blessed Christmas with so many women coming to our church from Minnesota Teen Challenge. This Christmas we were able to minister to them. What a wonderful feeling it is to give at Christmas time just like the Wise Men gave to Baby Jesus on our First Christmas.

We have a new Mission Moment for January 15<sup>th</sup>. It is one of the UMC's Church-wide Special Sundays. January 15<sup>th</sup> is Human Relations Day.

*Your generous gifts on Human Relations Day support:*

\* *Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services programs, related to the General Board of Global Ministries*

\* *Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, General Board of Church and Society.*

God Bless and if you have any questions or feel the need to become more involved in missions please see me or call me at 651-464-7918.

### Thank You!

This congregation really shared the joy and celebration of Christmas with us this year through all the wonderful well-wishes, words of appreciation and encouragement, and all the generous gifts. Thank you! We are certainly blessed to be part of such a kind and loving congregation! May the Lord continue to bless our church and ministry in 2012.

~Pastor David, Julie Graham, and Steve Ruter

### \*NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR\*

*Be sure to welcome Liz Stigall, our new office administrator! Liz will be in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact her in the office or at [foresthills.office@gmail.com](mailto:foresthills.office@gmail.com) for all of your office needs in 2012!*

