

The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, OCTOBER 2016

From the *Pastor's Perspective*

Being a Healthy Church

This past Saturday nine leaders from our church attended the first Healthy Church Initiative seminar. This initiative is a journey that select congregations are invited to take in order to guide them into their next chapter of being a healthy and vital church. This will be a three-year process that includes lots of training, research, collaborative discernment, and prayer! It strikes to our core desire to be the church that God calls us to be, in our current time and place. Healthy churches are vibrant and relevant.

At the seminar we learned that the first part of our journey is a deep analysis of: who we are as a local church, our context (community) and the vision we discern from God. As we do this, the Conference leaders are providing us with the scope of what healthy churches look like. Here's a summary for what it means to be a healthy church:

Our mission, as United Methodists express it, is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We at Forest Hills say it this way, "We are a church that seeks to reach people for Christ and make disciples by being the visible love of Jesus Christ in our communities."

How we do this—live out this mission—is grounded on three core understandings: 1) What we do, 2) Why we do it, and 3) How we do it.

1) What we do: What we do to live out our mission. This comes from our core identity (church do what they are!). The three Scriptural Imperatives identified by our Conference as pathways to accomplish are to A. Reach New People (The Great Commission, Matt. 28:16-20), B. Grow in love of God and neighbor (The Great Commission, Matt. 22:36-40), and C. Heal a broken world (Serving our neighbor as Jesus, Matt. 25:31-46). At Forest Hills we use the words: Love, Grow, and Serve to mark these three key imperatives.

2) Why we do it: Our vision (the fuel that gives energy to the mission). This comes in the alignment of our context (who we are by), our strengths/assets (what we have), and our God-given passion (what we are good at). Where these three intersect, this is our "sweet spot" - our unique calling in our time and place. Put

...continued on page 2

Monthly Church Events

* For weekly events see the
calendar

Oct 1	9 am United Methodist Men
Oct 2	12 pm Seminar of the Holy Lands
Oct 3	6:30 pm LLMT Meeting
Oct 6	12 pm Sarah Circle
Oct 7	Red Rock Lock-In
Oct 8	10 am Breakfast Club 5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
Oct 9	Ella Kelmensen Baptism
Oct 12	11:30 am Romeos & Juliets
Oct 13	1 pm United Methodist Women 6pm SPRT Meeting
Oct 15	6 am Community Care Set- Up 7 am Community Care
Oct 16	Hymn Sing Potluck Hosted By LLMT
Oct 17	6:30 pm Finance Meeting 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Oct 18	10 am Rebecca Circle
Oct 19	6:30 pm W.O.W
Oct 20	6:30 pm MLT Meeting
Oct 22	10 am Breakfast Club
Oct 23	12 pm Seminar of the Holy Lands
Oct 27	10 am MOMS Club
Oct 28	7 pm Unite Night of Worship
Oct 29	8:30 am Highway Clean Up 9:00 am UMW Craft Show
Oct 30	Action Pack
Oct 31	5: 30 pm Trunk Or Treat

Pastor's Perspective *(continued)*

another way, it's the difference we're here to make, and for whom.

3) How we do it: Our practices/activities. These are "the delivery systems" that we are busy doing as a congregation. These include radical hospitality, intentional faith formation, risk taking service and mission, extravagant generosity, passionate worship, empowered leadership, and effective governance.

Andrew and I were talking about this journey we have started as a church. It is a lot of work to do the deep analysis that we will need to do. But we agreed it is worth it. It is something we *want* to do. It is energizing, because it keeps us focused on who we as a church are supposed to be, and what we are supposed to be doing. As church leaders, this is what we "signed up for" in the first place! This is why we fell in love with the church, and why we want to devote our careers to it. We believe in the church, being this kind of church.

I hope you get impassioned about this as well. We are doing so many things well. I'm excited that this journey will help us to really focus on our "sweet spot" as a church. Let's join together and move forward!

Hang on...it's going to be a fantastic adventure!

Pastor David

Worship's Word

Ephesians 3:14-19

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

As we continue to progress into fall, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a new song that we will be introducing to Forest Hills. Though it has been some years since its initial release, "Forever Reign" is a song that has endured and stood above many others. When it comes to worship songs, I am really only interested in the lyrics. Ideally, a song should have a good melody and be easy enough to sing, but if it comes up short lyrically, then we would be better off singing something else.

"Forever Reign" takes us on a journey of God's attributes: You are good, You are love, You are life, You are hope, etc. It is such a benefit for us as the gathered people of God to lift up together the truth of God's unmatched quality. But the song goes on to bring us into the equation. "You are good/when there's nothing good in me ... You are true/even in my wandering" This is an apt description of what it means to know the width and length and depth and height of Christ's love.

And our response? Well, that's in the bridge: "My heart will sing/no other name ... Jesus." I will admit, it sounds a bit tasteless to simply read on paper, but if we think through and apply such a focused and fervent sentiment, we will find two things to be true:

1.) Our hearts are so often not fixated on Christ. We live like children in a toy store; always jumping from aisle to aisle unable to assign real value to anything. We want it all, but only because we are so infatuated in the moment. To stop and to sing only the name of Jesus is to let the flashing lights and glitter fade away, and ascribe to him the value to which he is worthy.

2.) We can be content. Knowing the riches of God's love allows us to live free from a constant desire for more. We find peace and gratitude when we sing no other name.

Christ is our end-all-be-all. Everything else is distraction. Sure, we have to attend to mundane matters and daily responsibilities, but life is all about learning how to accomplish these while still keeping the refrain of Christ within us.

For the King,

Andrew

A Word From Scott

Hello all!

As many of you have heard by now, I am the new Director of Youth Ministry and Visual Media at Forest Hills Church. First of all, I am so excited to join the staff and the overall ministry here at Forest Hills! Secondly, I am amazed at the intentionality of which ministry is being done. Many churches just go through the motions, but I think the people of this church are very focused on trying to be an active part of the community of Forest Lake.

With the school year already started, youth ministry has been my focus so far. A large part of this process has been trying to figure out what has been done in the past, what worked, and what did not. I have also worked towards planning out the year from a big picture perspective. This year, we will be worshipping together and with larger groups, serving in a variety of ways, learning about God, equipping our youth for a life of service and relation with Jesus, and much more. I have been truly blessed to already have some great volunteers to assist me. Sandy Coley, Cassi Betker, Jenny Richter, and Tracy Bonsell have been a great help to me along with Andrew Bonsell and Pastor David!

Scott Van Daalen

"History of The Holy Land" Seminar

Join Pastor David on a learning journey tracing the history of the lands of the Bible from creation through today. We'll use maps, time lines, and archaeological findings to trace the events, people and stories of the Bible, as well as unpack the historical account after the Bible. Six 2-hour sessions, starting October 2nd at noon (Bring a bag lunch).

Free @ Forest Hills Church, everyone is welcome!

Future Dates: Oct 23, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8, and Feb 12

Highway clean up

We will be meeting on October 29th @ 8:30 am for Donuts before the clean up... Stay after for the

Craft show and Luncheon

On October 29th at Forest Hills Church. Craft show starts @ 9 am all proceeds go to missions.

Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

Will be meeting at The Golden Crown October 8th at 5:45 pm.

14587 60th St. N Stillwater, MN 55082 (651)439-7801
Please sign up in the lobby by October 6th

Romeo's and Juliet's

Will be October 12th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; Watch for updates on locations.

Joyce Meyer Conference

October 27-29, 2016
Minneapolis Convention Center
SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 27, 7:00 PM

Friday, October 28, 10:00 AM

Friday, October 28, 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM

Admission is free.

Kid's Korner



Trunk or Treat

Why: To build bridges

When: Mon. Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Forest Hills Church parking lot

Who: YOU and neighborhood families

The fact that Halloween is coming is already old news. Stores have been pushing their candy and ghastly decorations for weeks now. By the time the 31st actually rolls around, we are already weary of all the hype. But fear not! There is now a reason to partake in the festivities, a purpose behind the madness, a cause that you can get behind: TRUNK OR TREAT!

Many in our church have taken part in our annual candy give away. We meet nearly 200 hundred people each year! It is fun and it beats staying home having to repeatedly answer the door for little princesses and goblins. Trunk or Treat provides us as a church the chance to be present and relevant in the lives of the families who surround us. We want to be able to build bridges into our community, to meet people where they are. And it just so happens, people are dressing up and looking for candy. We want to be there to begin a relationship, to start a conversation, to share a smile and a treat.

Paul talked about being all things to all people so that, by all *possible* means, he might save some (1 Cor. 9:22). This is where our calling lies. This is where we begin to build bridges. When a family walks away from our event feeling glad they came, they will be more likely to come to the next event, more likely to join Awana, more likely to come on Sunday mornings, until finally they have come to know Jesus as their Savior and become a part of our family!

Maybe Halloween is not your thing (my hand is raised), or maybe you enjoy it, either way, we have an opportunity to become all things so that we might save some. Please make plans this Halloween to bring your car, some bags of candy, a costume and a smile and come serve in Truck or Treat 2016!

Register online: www.foresthillsumc.net



What is AWANA?

Our Wednesday nights begin at 5:30pm with dinner for the whole family. Kids then go to their classrooms where they dive into their handbooks and work on learning their verse for the week. They will then enjoy some friendly competition with their teams. Finally, in assembly time, they will learn new songs and hear Biblical teaching. We are all done by 7:30pm!

5:30 Dinner – Cubbies: Preschool – Sparks: K-2 – T&T: 3-6