

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, JULY 2016

## From the *Pastor's Perspective*

### Message Series

David

"The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him ruler of His people." -1 Samuel 13:14

My surname is David. It's a great name! I was named after the famous king in the Bible. Yet I have never really taken a full study of the biblical character of David. Yes, I know that his home town was Bethlehem, that he was a shepherd, that he was chosen to be king after Saul, that he killed the giant Goliath as a boy, that he played the harp, that he was a great soldier, that he founded Jerusalem as the new capital of Israel, that he is considered the greatest king of Israel, and that he wrote many of the Psalms. Yet there is much about this man that I have not thought about.

This year our church's focus is on growing spiritually. So, for this summer's message series, we're going to be taking a closer look at David as a way for us to see how we can grow more in love with God, and live more the way God desires of us. David is not always a positive example. Like us, he has his strong points, and he has his weaknesses (he was strong in battle, but weak at home). I hope we can learn from both.

David is the only person that the records was a "man after God's own heart." So, regardless what we learn about David's achievements, it is his heart that the Bible points out. David had a heart that was so in love with God. And he loved worshiping God.

I want to be more like that. I want to be a man after God's own heart. I want my heart to be swollen with love for God.

With David, I see three essential qualities of such a heart. The first is spirituality. God looks for those with a heart not just for God, but also for what God's desires. That means living in harmony with Him, being burdened by His burdens, obeying His commands in how we live and what we do.

When God fixes His gaze on you, does He find a heart fully committed to

## Church Events

<b>July 2</b>	9:00 a.m. United Methodist Men
<b>July 4</b>	9:00 a.m. Parade
<b>July 6</b>	6:30 p.m. Sanctify Rehearsal
<b>July 7</b>	12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle
<b>July 9</b>	10:00 a.m. Breakfast Club 6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship
<b>July 10</b>	11:30 a.m. Wild Fire Planning Meeting
<b>July 13</b>	Romeo's & Juliet's
<b>July 16</b>	Community Care
<b>July 23</b>	10:00 a.m. Breakfast Club 6:30 p.m. Sanctify Rehearsal
<b>July 20</b>	6:30 p.m. W.O.W
<b>July 21</b>	9:00 a.m. UMW Summer Outing 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle
<b>July 30</b>	Bluegrass Festival
<b>July 30</b>	YPA REHERSAL 7-24 THRU 8-11

### Staffing Changes

We are so excited to welcome Andrew Bonsell to a full-time staff position at Forest Hills UMC! We hired Andrew half time as Director of Children's Ministries, two years ago. He was a full-time student at Bethel Seminary pursuing his Masters of Divinity degree. He and his wife, Tracy, were also full-time parents of their four children.

A year ago, we added youth ministry to increase Andrew's position to three-quarters time, as Director of Children and Youth. This spring, however, Andrew completed his degree program at Bethel and was ready to take on more responsibility. More good news: he and his wife are expecting in August, and Tracy is wanting to spend more time at home.

So, starting this month, Andrew is Director of Children's Ministries (half-time) and Director of Worship (half-time). You will see him leading worship on Sundays, but he will also still be overseeing Kid's Church, VBS and AWANA. Please continue to pray for him and his ministry leadership among us. May the Lord continue to bring forth His blessing!

*continued on page 2*

# *Pastor's Perspective* (continued)

Him? The second essential quality of a heart for God is humility. Much of the time no one else noticed what David was doing, or how he was doing it. But God was watching! God trained David in years of obscurity and menial tasks. He was God's servant, content not with glory for himself but wanting God to be honored. How is your humility? How do you bear obscurity, hardship, when things seem to not go your way for long periods of time? Who do you want to get the glory?

The last essential quality is integrity. The word in Hebrew can mean "completeness," "fullness," innocence," "simplicity," "sound," "wholesome," or "unimpaired." Integrity is living for God's way no matter what happens. But it also leads to wholeness that brings steadiness. How steady are you? As you reflect on these meanings of integrity, how would you evaluate yourself?

You know, as I think about David's upbringing, with all those lonely years of shepherding the family's sheep, I see skills sharpening that serve him later in life. His bravery and inner sense of protection, his patience and love for stubborn sheep/people, and even his skills of playing the harp and using a sling, all become useful to him later. Those weren't wasted days or years. It was during those down times that David became prepared. How about you? How do you use your down time? Do you fill it with excessive entertainment and relaxations? Most of us do! And then we find ourselves ill equipped to face difficulties or challenges. We are not as useful for God when we waste our "down time." As J. Oswald Sanders said, "Many have missed God's best through a misuse of leisure." (Spiritual Manpower, p. 115)

Wow, looking at David has already started to push us in growing spiritually. This looks to be a great series. I know we're gone off and on during the summer, so when you can't attend on Sunday morning, you can still listen to the messages on our church's web site.

Finally, I'm going to be reading Charles R. Swindoll's David: A Man of Passion and Destiny. Perhaps you want to read it along with me.

This summer, let's seek after God's own heart!  
Pastor David

## **Job Posting: Director of Youth and Visual Media**

Forest Hills United Methodist Church (FHUMC) in Forest Lake (a northern suburb of the Twin Cities) is seeking to hire a half-time Director of Youth and Visual Media. FHUMC is a Bible-based United Methodist congregation worshipping about 110 on Sundays in one worship service.

The position will have primary responsibility in two areas: the youth ministry (one-quarter time), social and video media and outreach (one-quarter time). The youth ministry area (10 hours a week) will provide spiritual formation contexts for the youth of our community. This includes a weekly youth group, outreach events, community-building events, mission opportunities, and youth-led fund raisers. We currently have six active senior-high youth, as well as eight junior-high youth. This position is also an outreach position, and this person is encouraged to engage families with youth in our wider community.

The social and video media area of this position (10 hours per week) will help our church continue to grow in our engagement with the wider community through varied media, including social media and producing videos to be used in worship and various other forms of communication. Again, this is an outreach position and will include offering leadership for our bluegrass festival and monthly food distribution ministries.

We crafted this position to be attractive for a student. Qualifications we are looking for include:

- A passionate heart for Jesus
- A growing reliance on the Holy Spirit
- A primacy of authority on the Bible
- A heart and passion for youth to experience a personal relationship with Jesus
- A desire and competency to use social and video media
- Thinking creatively and "outside the box" in exploring new ways of engaging the wider community
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to engage and maintain healthy and motivating relationships with others, and
- A willingness to learn from the senior pastor and other mentors.

Those seeking to open a discussion about this ministry position are invited to send a resume and letter of interest to Rev. David Werner at [pastordavidwerner@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavidwerner@gmail.com), or call at 651-464-5249

# Events and Info

## Romeo's and Juliet's

Romeo's are meeting at Gorman's in Oakdale,  
Juliet's are meeting at Vanelli's in Forest Lake  
Both are on Wednesday July 13th at 11:30 a.m.

## Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, July  
9th at 5:45 p.m.

Sal's Angus Grill 12010 Keystone Ave, Withrow,  
MN 55082 (651)-439-6625

Everyone is welcome to join the fun—Great Food-  
and wonderful fellowship, please sign up if you are  
planning to be there or contact Rozanne Foster at  
(651)-433-5296

## Wildfire Mission Trip

July 17th thru 22nd

Prayers for our mission members:

Erik Kargel, Conner Keintz, Emily Masterjohn,  
James Richter, Jenny Richter (Chaperone), Tess  
Walker, Rebekah Werner, Nathan Werner, David  
Werner (Chaperone)

## A Day With Bishop Ough

### Big Waters District: Change The World Day

Saturday September 17, 2016

@ Coon Rapids United Methodist Church

For more information and to register go to  
<https://mnumc-reg.brapp.com/BigWatersDay>

**United Methodist Day at the Twins:** August 23rd, 7:10 p.m. at Target Field, Minneapolis.

Join other United Methodists for an evening of Big-League actions and fun as the Twins play the Detroit Tigers. Bishop Bruce Ough will throw out the honorary first pitch before the game and will lead the 7th inning stretch.

# FOREST LAKE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 30th, 2016

Lakeside Park, Forest Lake, MN 3 - 8 p.m.

*Hosted By Forest Hills United Methodist Church and other local  
area churches.*

**Bands Performing:** Sawtooth Brothers, Porcupine Creek and North  
Shore Trail

There will be a silent auction, food, crafts and games for the kids!

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS:** Funds raised by the silent auc-  
tion will support the outreach programs of Haven Home with Forest Lake  
Area Mission for Families (Local); Father Hoppenjans "Our Lady of the  
Mountains School" in Paintsville, KY (National)' and Feed My Starving  
Children—Food Distribution to the Philippines Project (International Mis-





# Spiritual Growth



The Summer Devotional Packet is designed to give us all as members of a community of believers a way to stay connected to God, and one another during the summer. It can be used by individuals, small groups, and families. It is designed to be enjoyed by all age groups and has a weekly practice to help you rest and find renewal as well as a daily devotional that helps you connect where God was in your day. I hope you enjoy this resource and find it a way to connect with your community and God throughout the summer.

Go to [www.foresthillsumc.net/spiritual-practices](http://www.foresthillsumc.net/spiritual-practices) to download a copy of your Summer Devotional Packet or call the Office at 651-464-5249 to get a copy.

## Worship's Word

"For this God is our God forever and ever,  
He will be our guide even to the end."  
Psalm 48:14

I have come to realize that transitions are just a part of everyday life. Something is always in flux and new experiences are always around the corner. This summer has already been a whirlwind of transition in my life personally. I was able to experience a week long mission trip through ASP (Appalachian Service Project) as we took the youth group down to Trade TN. My whole family and I were blessed to be able to attend Red Rock camp, a new experience for all of us. As a church, we are undergoing some alterations to our lobby's design and function. And finally, our whole church is in the process of taking me on as our new worship director as well as seeking to fill our youth leadership role. Certainly, in all of these changes, we as a staff hope to maintain some sort of consistency and instill a sense of certainty as we ride some of these waves.

The truth is, as we move forward and carry on, we seek to surrender all to God. Often it is easier to grasp for control in certain situations and to feel as though we have the upper hand on any changes that might come our way. I think we are called to act and to stand firm on the truth God has provided for us, but there is also a sense in which we acknowledge our inabilities and hand the keys over to God. He alone can navigate our path; all we have to do is obey.

Change is inevitable and sometimes unexpected. What we can bank on is God's unrelenting guidance and his desire to use us as his people in accomplishing the work he seeks to finish in this earth. Thank you for being a wonderful church family. Thank you for being willing to move forward in worshiping our good God together. As we seek his guidance and depend on his Spirit there is literally nothing on this planet or outside of it that can stop us!

For the King,  
-Andrew

## Kid's Korner

\* Starting Wednesday August 3rd till August 31st Come join the Neighborhood BBQ from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in our backyard at Forest Hills United Methodist Church.

\* Vacation Bible School Starts August 8th thru August 12th, from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Forest Hills United Methodist Church, for more information and to pre-register please visit our website at <http://www.foresthillsumc.net/> You may also contact Andrew at (651)464-5249 or Email him at [andrewbonsell@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbonsell@gmail.com)

**"For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;  
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."**