



**HILLTOP**  
United Methodist Church

**ECHOS**  
February 2012

www.mankatohilltop.org

facebook: hilltop united methodist church

office@mankatohilltop.org

## Condemnation and Conviction

A parishioner stopped over at my house last night for prayer. He shared with me that as he reads through the scripture he senses that God is calling him into a deeper commitment and sacrifice. While their spirit is willing and even craves deeper surrender to Jesus, his flesh is weak. He was broken because he is unable to do at this point what he believes God is calling him to do. He had a sense of shame, worthlessness, and CONDEMNATION. I want to offer a word of hope.

Paul says in Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* Jesus says it like this *“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in the Son are not condemned.”* The purpose of condemnation is to criticize and make you feel ashamed. This feeling is usually vague and mostly makes us feel worthless. It defeats us and causes us to want to quit. A sense of worthlessness is an invention of The Deceiver who wants us to feel we are not worthy of God’s love. It is not from God.

CONVICTION however comes from God and is not a bad thing. God convicts us in order to correct us. Conviction challenges us at the very core of our being. Condemnation paralyzes us, but conviction can move us to rise to the occasion. Conviction is motivated by God’s love to have us live a life that is significant. God will never attack us or make us feel unlovable. Did you hear that? Jesus paid the price for our condemnation. He served the punishment for our sins on the cross and we can live our lives free of condemnation. Christ brings life to us. The Evil One brings death.

A word to my friend. It may be that precisely because you are considering a deeper journey with Christ that you are being condemned by the Ruler of This World who so desperately wants you to believe you are falling short. A word to Hilltop too, every sermon I preach, every challenged laid down from the pulpit can be (and maybe even must be) convicting, but don’t allow the Devil to make it condemning. God is a loving Father and woos us, not condemns us to be our best.

Be blessed,  
Pastor Fred

Note: Thanks to Jeff Adams you can now watch Hilltop sermons online or share them with a friend at [www.youtube.com/HilltopUMC](http://www.youtube.com/HilltopUMC). By subscribing to the HilltopUMC youtube channel you can request an email notification when each new sermon is posted.

## Missions

Hilltop rang the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 10, from 10am-9pm at Hilltop HyVee. Ringers included Sandy Cooper, Mike and Dee Mattox, Herb and Marci Fast, Jean Jackson, Ron and Margaret Beaty, Carl Kiewatt, Merrill and Karen Frydendall, Jeanette Phillips, Fred and Madden Vanderwerf, Bob and Virginia Clark, and Steph and Eddie Putzier.

Christmas Eve offering - \$1,000 went to Imagine No Malaria and \$630.97 to Salvation Army

76 guests were served at the Salvation Army Sunday Noon Meal on January 8. Servers included Mark and Deb Oachs, Sandy Cooper, Bob and Char Kraywinkel, Phyllis Cole, Harry and Judy Argetsinger, Herb and Marci Fast, Jean Jackson, and Dexter Oswald. Additional people providing food included Steph Putzier, Jeanette Phillips, Bev Haring, Patti Cole, Terry Berg, Mike and Dee Mattox, Deb Michalski, Margaret Beaty, Janet Marble, Rhonda Friesen, and Karen Warmack.

Four people are signed up the Red Bird Mission Trip in conjunction w/Cross roads UMC Community Church from April 9-18. The February potluck proceeds will support supplies for this mission. There will be a collection box in the Narthex for supplies.

**Mary Martha Circle**

**February 8th, 1:30**

**Hostess: Lorraine Currie**

**Devotions: Joyce Bosard**



Attendance-Dec. '11		Attendance-Dec. '10	
	Su		Su
12/04	187	12/05	198
12/11	245	12/12	cancelled
12/18	166	12/19	205
12/24	345	12/24	297
12/25	77	12/26	90
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>197</b>

# Ad Council Minutes

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

CHARGE: HILLTOP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: REV. PHIL STROM  
 PASTOR: FRED VANDERWERF  
 ACTING RECORDING SECRETARY: KATIE GRUNLOH

January 19, 2012

PRESENT: Karin Gavin, Kari Juni, Jan Marble, Terri Horn, Paula Peterson, Mallory Westphal, Andrew Bittner, Karla Lassonde, Harry Argetsinger, Judy Argetsinger, Bill Scherer, Jean Jackson, Paulette Adams, Chris Aasen, Fred Vanderwerf, Don Putzier, Katie Grunloh

### WELCOME

Don Putzier called the meeting to order with a prayer. New committee chairs were introduced.

Last month's minutes were reviewed. Bill Scherer motioned for approval of December 2011 Ad Council Meeting minutes, Paulette Adams seconded, all in favor, and motion carried.

### PASTOR'S COMMENTS

Pastor Fred explained the meaning and need for the Administrative Council and the importance of it. Pastor expresses the desire to establish a covenant for the Ad Council members, and a brainstorm session was held on what the Council would want in the covenant. This will be put together and presented at the February 2012 Ad Council meeting.

Pastor also brought up the idea of having Ad Council meetings start out with a book study or bible study. The general consensus was favorable, and Pastor Fred and Don Putzier will look further into this.

### Hilltops Discipleship Plan

The current discipleship plan was reviewed. The current plan is stated as Worship, Alpha, and Small Groups. The vision of adding Walk to Emmaus between Alpha and Small Groups was discussed and the opinion was that this would be a positive addition to the Discipleship Plan.

### Strategic Planning Retreat

This was held on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a strong vision of focusing on the youth ages 18-26, and a focus group was created, and they will be working on a plan to move forward with this goal.

### Reestablishment of Service Group

In the past, "Bird Groups" were formed and were grouped into months in which they were in charge of events happening within that month. The idea came up to reestablish these groups. Discussion was had and the decision was had that a task force committee was suggested to explore this idea further and will be visited again at future Ad Council Meetings.

## COMMITTEE AND TEAM REPORTS

### TRUSTEES- Bill Scherer

The Narthex painting was completed the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. Sim Sound was consulted regarding the acoustic issues in the fellowship hall. They provided a quote of \$5,768 for the acoustic panels with installation, and \$4495 without installation.

The nativity scene was taken down  
 Bob Berg met with Giersdorf's about the application of salt when we have icy conditions.

The boiler inspection was completed by Schwickert's.  
 The coat racks were re-hung, and staining of the Welcome Center and

podium will begin soon.

Bill Scherer motions that the Ad Council add an additional \$5,500 to the redecorating fund for the acoustic solutions in the Fellowship Hall, Jan Marble seconds, all were in favor, and motion carried.

### FINANCE- Jan Marble

December reports presented to the committee for review.

Christmas Eve offering - \$1,000 went to Imagine No Malaria and \$630.97 to Salvation Army

Additional sanctuary debt loan payment made in December, as discussed last month to spend total authorized budget of \$14,000. The current loan balance as of 1/3/12 was \$46,100.62.

Christmas Festival balance going into November was \$697.44. Adding income collected in November & December of \$6,912.25 and subtracting expenses of \$474.29, results in current balance of \$7,135.40.

The larger expenses paid in December includes \$2,700 to Independent Paint under the Carpet/Redecorating line item and \$7,345 to Bode under the Parsonage Roof Fund line item.

Year-end closeout of unbudgeted line items is in progress and will be reflected within the beginning balances shown for January to be reported next month.

There is still a balance under the line items of when shrubs were planted. The question arose if the balances should be transferred back to the Memorial fund or Carpet/Redecorating fund. This will be revisited next month.

Pastor Fred moves that the remainder of the parsonage roof fund be moved to the Carpet/Redecorating Fund. Motion carried.

Jan is working with Marj Blommel to get financial audit completed and up to date.

Jan will be visually checking the safe deposit box contents for annual confirmation/update of inventory soon.

UMYF leadership is being assisted in new procedures to help track and manage their finances.

Pastor Fred motioned that the year-end surplus of \$12,000 be designated to the Carpet/Redecorating fund. This will be revisited at next month's meeting.

### EVANGELISM – John Phelps

No report.

### FELLOWSHIP- Paula Peterson

Lefse making class, led by Karen Warmack, was held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Plan is set for Valentine Tea on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 12 (noon) – 2:30 pm. Invitations will be sent out.

### MISSIONS- Jean Jackson

Salvation Army bell ringing went well on December 10, 2011. 76 guests were served at Salvation Army on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Four people are signed up for the Red Bird Mission Trip in conjunction with Crossroads UMC Community Church from April 9-18. The February Potluck proceeds will support supplies for this mission. There will be a collection box in the Narthex for supplies.

### STAFF- Terri Horn

Will be meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2012, before Church conference.

Pastor Fred was accepted into the Doctoral Ministry program. We will need to provide pulpit supply in August 2012, July 2013, and March 2014.

### EDUCATION-Karin Gavin

Kids Kinection is halfway through the first year and is going very well. Attendance is good and the response is very positive.

## Ad Council continued

### WORSHIP – Kari Juni

Lent and Easter is being focused on, with a meal being served at 5:30 with a 6:15 service.

Help will be needed by committees in splitting the meals. This will be planned on and committees will be assigned.

### YOUTH – Andrew Bittner

The youth gathered at WOW zone for a year-end event.

A lock-in was held the week before winter break

2012 focuses are the Shareholders dinner and the mission trip in July.

Wednesday nights are the meeting times for the youth instead of Sunday mornings and has been a very positive change.

Dexter and Mallory will be taking a group up to the Xcel Energy Center for a Christian rock concert.

UMYS is Feb 3 – 5, and four kids and two adults will be going.

### PARISH NURSE- Judy Argetsinger

The first aid kit was updated.

A blood mobile will be held in April.

### STEWARDSHIP – Jeanette Phillips

No report

### TECHNOLOGY – Don Putzier

No report

### OLD BUSINESS

Pastor Fred motions for Ad council's of \$2,000 go for the furniture in the Narthex and \$1,000 to Imagine No Malaria. Jean Jackson seconds this, all in favor and motion carried. \$650 will be put aside for peanut brittle prep next year, and also money for shipping OCC Christmas Boxes.

### NEW BUSINESS

SWOT analysis was performed at the Strategic Planning retreat and Task Force groups will be formed to follow through with goals.

Jo Breckenridge requested recital dates, which were approved.

### AJOURNMENT

Pastor Fred leads us in closing prayer.

Women of Faith conference is coming October 19-20, 2012, at the Xcel Center in St Paul. Prayerfully consider driving with us to experience this incredible, renewing conference! More details will be forthcoming. Any questions now, contact Paula Peterson at 507-317-5794



## Operation Christmas Child Wrap Up

Here are the numbers:

Shoebboxes from Hilltop: 138.

Boxes dropped off at Hilltop: 2,384.

Boxes coming from Mankato's Relay Centers: 1,595.  
(Relay Centers – Waseca, Blue Earth, LeSueur and Cleveland)

Total shoebboxes shipped from Mankato: 4,117.

Cartons shipped from Mankato: 280.

Volunteers working at the Mankato Collection Center: 33 + Youth Group and leaders.

Hilltop volunteers working at Twin Cities Processing Center: 4.

Hilltop members who packed boxes or donated money: Many!

Destination for boxes shipped from Minnesota: Tanzania and India.

Thanks to our volunteers: Angie Marble, Jan Marble, Chris Aasen, Holly Aasen, Zac Aasen, Alyssa Aasen, Jenna Aasen, Terry Berg, Bob Berg, Shari Schroeder, Carolyn Vance, Patrick Vance, Abigail Vance, George Lindsay, Chris Scherer, Cindy Scherer, Alec Scherer, Karen Frydendall, Anita Riese, Jeanette Phillips, Adela Scherer, Bill Scherer, Karla Lassonde, Mary Bittner, Andrew Bittner, Dexter Oswald, Susan Buzick, Pam Sandland, Benjamin Anderson, Sam Rausch, Kris Kearney and Joshua Adams. Special thanks to the Youth Group and their leaders, who went shopping and then packed boxes. Thanks also to Pastor Fred and to Tricia Woitas for their help with the project.

Although Christmas is over, the work of Operation Christmas Child continues. Not to burst any bubbles, but not all Christmas boxes arrive in a child's hands by Christmas. Because of regulations, logistics and travel time involved, boxes are delivered as soon as they can be, but that might be next summer! As an example, the boxes that went to India last year had their first deliveries on June 9. So Christmas in July is a reality for some of the kids! It's also a reminder that the good news of Jesus Christ is year-round good news – it's not reserved exclusively for December 25.

Your Sister in Christ,

Paulette Redman Adams  
Lay Leader



# Redbird Mission Trip 2012



COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE REDBIRD MISSION!

Redbird Mission Trip – April 9 -18, 2012

For those of you still sitting on the fence, wondering if you should make the leap and come along on this mission trip, here is a little info that might be helpful for you to make up your mind.

Red Bird Mission and Clinic have been providing ministries in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky since 1921. The Henderson Settlement was founded by the UMC in 1925. They are both located in one of the poorest parts of the state. We will be touring this whole area and visiting many of the area churches.

Camp O’Cumberlands, where we have stayed in the past, and will stay again, is a summer camp for children. These children have nothing at all and most of the time they come to camp with only the clothes on their backs. Donations help to pay for the camper fee to allow these children to go to camp at all.

The donations and work that we have provided in the past, to us, seems like such a little bit for us to give. But for them, it means the world. Without our help last time, they would not have even been able to open the camp for the summer because they would not have passed their inspection. The work is not hard at all and can be done by young and old alike.

The February Potluck will be dedicated to the Redbird Mission trip. All monies received will go toward the “wish list” for a Camp O’Cumberlands. During the potluck, we will show a short movie about the Mission and what it does for the people in Kentucky. This may help you to make up your mind and come with us on the trip. We still have room for a few more

Please prayerfully consider coming along. It is not too late to sign up.

Information can be found at the Welcome Center or you can contact me anytime at 507-381-3450 or [sharischroeder@gmail.com](mailto:sharischroeder@gmail.com).

### February Lay Readers:

- Feb. 5 Kari Juni
- Feb. 12 Deb Michalski
- Feb. 19 Don Putzier



# With Appreciation

.I would like to thank all the people that showed so much kindness to me last month!

Erma Juliar

Thank You to Karen Warmack for teaching six of us to make lefse! The results were tasty! And we enjoyed the time spent with each other stirring, rolling out dough, cooking and flipping the lefse, all while sharing and laughing!

Dear Hilltop family – We want to sincerely thank you for the many gifts we received from you over the Christmas holiday. From the yummy treats to the money treats – and even treats for our dog! – you have been so generous! How blessed we are to know the One who is the greatest gift – JESUS – and to worship, follow, and serve Him together with you! Our prayers for a wonderful 2012 – that each of us may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way (Colossians 1:9-14).

The Vanderwerfs-Fred, Stacy, Levi, Madden & Bo



### February Birthdays:

Donna Wagner	2/02
Alyssa Wacholz	2/03
Lauren Menne	2/04
Lorraine Lundin	2/06
Kinsey Fitzloff	2/08
Heather Olinger	2/09
Jackson Wagner	2/10
Jim Rausch	2/11
Anita Riese	2/13
Finley Halls	2/13
Virgil Juliar	2/14
Steph Putzier	2/15
Mallory Westphal	2/15
Jim Hewett	2/16
Charlie Strey	2/16
Angela Blais	2/16
Abbie Page	2/16
Audrey Key	2/19
Marci Fast	2/21
Lenny Written	2/24
Rhonda Friesen	2/27
Todd Gavin	2/28
Glenn Hutchinson	2/28

### February Anniversaries:

Jim & Arlene Hewett	2/02
Dan & Clare Rivers	2/02





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108 S. Manitou Drive  
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 387 3877

## Youth Happenings

2012 Hilltop Youth Mission Trip:

- Who? Hilltop Youth 7th to 12th graders
- What? STORM Camp
  - STORM= "Service To Others in Rural Minnesota"
  - Christian youth from all over Minnesota gather at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, MN
  - From this "base camp" of operations work groups visit homes and work sites to offer their labor and support to those in the community in need.
  - Chapel and free time each night
- When? 7/22/2012—7/28/2012
- How to register?
  - Registration forms and information will be available from the Youth Leaders in the coming weeks.
- How much does it cost to go?
  - The base per-person cost is \$400.00
  - With the church helping fund the trip, the cost will drop to \$200.
  - All mission trip goers will be expected to help with the Shareholders Dinner and any other fundraising activities.



## Journey with us through Lent



renewing opportunities.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd 2012 we invite you to pilgrimage with us on a spiritual journey towards the cross. This year, each Wednesday will begin with a light meal in the fellowship hall at 5:30pm with a Lenten service to follow at 6:15pm. In addition and as an added Lenten discipline you will be challenged to follow along a daily Experiential Calendar (enclosed) which includes fasting, service, and spirit-

## Joining Hilltop

Pastor Fred invites persons exploring membership to coffee in his study on Sundays from 9am to 9:45am beginning Feb 12th. During this time we will share each other stories of faith, and find out what expectations of membership are at Hilltop United Methodist Church. If this time doesn't work for you contact Pastor Fred.