



HILLTOP
United Methodist Church

ECHOES
August 2015

www.mankatohilltop.org

facebook: [hilltop.united.methodist.church](https://www.facebook.com/hilltop.united.methodist.church)

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FROM THE PASTOR

Memorable Maturity

The past few weeks have been some of the most memorable of my life. Not only have we moved to a place we've never lived in order to do ministry in an all-new way for us, but mainly it has been so memorable because of the people we've met. The warm welcome we have received by both this church as well as the greater Minnesota Annual Conference has been phenomenal, and we know without a shadow of a doubt that we are in the right place.

One other way it has been so memorable has been in the way I've witnessed such a humble and mature Christian faith since we've been here. It's not that I didn't expect it, but rather I think it should always be a memorable occasion to be impacted by the Holy Spirit in such a way. First there was the occasion at our first Meet & Greet of the summer. When I asked the people there to share their dreams and visions for our church I was blown away by the responses. For instance, one response which came from an 80+ year old member of our church simply said (yet powerfully) that they were wishing that we would all continue to grow and mature in our faith as we journey deeper and deeper into the heart of God.

Secondly, I was able to attend a seminar in Minneapolis for Methodist clergy entering into a new appointment, and sitting at my table was our former District Superintendent, Phil Strom. There he was, sitting there just like me, freshly appointed at a new church, and learning right along with the rest of us as to how we should best enter into a church as the new pastor. The humility given by the Holy Spirit was palpable in Phil while we sat there, just as it was at the Meet & Greet, and I know I learned much from his witness that day.

So I challenge you as I challenge myself: May we all continue to seek holiness in our own lives, to be holy as

God is holy. In the midst of the great changes here at Hilltop, and as we start an exciting new school year, may we humble ourselves to see God's desire for Hilltop, casting aside our own preferences or dreams, and only dreams God's dreams. May we seek God's vision—God's plans for this blessed church—and may we continue to live humble lives that point to him and him alone!

Kelly

Meet and Greet

Kelly & Shannon are looking forward to meeting all of the members of Hilltop! Please sign up at the Welcome Center for one of the following meet and greet opportunities:

Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m. Debby and Neil Westby

Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. Mark and Dianne Daby

Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. - Dan and Kelly Rivers

Friday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. - Holly and Chris Aasen

Monday, August 3 at 6 p.m. Wendy Pearson

Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. - Paulette and Jeff Adams

Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m. JoAnn Hutchinson

Vacation Bible School - Time Change

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME

CHANGE. VBS will be Thursday

August 20 - Saturday August

22 from **5:00 pm - 8:30 pm,**

instead of 9:00 am - Noon.

This will be followed by the

kids singing at the August 23rd 9:00 am service. Register

your K-6th grade student online at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/gW12R4KdCi> or fill out a form at the

Welcome Center. We are still in need of teachers and

support staff, fill out the google form at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/8y4iHCzUEU> or contact Sarah Hess

at 28musicalnotes@gmail.com or 262-689-6434 .



HILLTOP ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes from April Ad Council

Thursday, July 16, 2015, 7:30 pm

Present: Kelly McCuaig, Kari Juni, Michelle Behsman, Herb Fast, Jeff Adams, Karen Frydendall, Peggy Phelps, Kerry Rausch, Rolly Utzinger, Don Putzier, JoAnn Hutchinson, Paulette Booker, Eric Mundt, John Phelps, Judy Argetsinger.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Adams.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by John to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2015 Ad Council meeting, Jo Ann seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Kelly invited the council to share their vision for Hilltop in the coming year, writing down what they hoped would be the best thing about Hilltop in 2015. He pointed the council to Ephesians 3:20, which states, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine."

Kelly also provided an update of his activities, which included pre-marital counseling training and new clergy orientation at the conference office. He stated that he has received requests from four different couples who seek to be married. He also shared that he is currently taking online classes through Asbury and expects to finish his MDiv in one year.

Trustees Report: Eric reported that the trustees have completed work on the parsonage and the landscaping. They are waiting to see if the drainage system around the main entrance will address the water problems before beginning any new landscaping in that area. He also reported that Peter's Lawn Service is now contracted for mowing, as prior contractor resigned due to relocation. The trustees have reviewed recent expenses and are anticipating an increase in utilities expenses for the 2016 budget, adding an additional \$2000 to church utilities and \$1000 to the parsonage utilities.

Finance Report: In review of the June finance report, JoAnn reported while expenses appeared to be higher than average, \$19,316.66 of the \$45,454.67 in reported

expenses were actually transfers (Major Repairs - \$4,250.00, Church Roof Fund - \$5,000.00, Future Maintenance - \$5,000.00, Increase Fund - \$5066.66). JoAnn suggested that the Ministry Candidate Support should be increased in the 2016 budget as we expect to have two requests for scholarship from Andrew Bittner and Kelly McCuaig.

Missions: Missions did not report, but there was discussion initiated by Judy concerning mission potlucks during the summer. It was suggested that the newsletter and bulletin should state that there is no potluck just to be clear.

SPRC: Kari reported that a few "Meet & Greets" have been scheduled and more will be publicized in the August newsletter. Sign up sheets have been available at the Welcome Center for these events. Kari also shared that a meeting with Kelly resulted in a discussion of organizational structure. Upon reviewing the Hilltop leadership list, Kelly wondered how Hilltop functioned as an organization and how decisions were made. He suggested reorganizing teams that aligned with our mission of upward, inward, and outward. Kelly provided an explanation of what the book of discipline requires from the ad council and he sketched a flow chart on the whiteboard to show how the realignment would work. Jeff asked for input from council members. Questions included: how many members will be on a team, how will members be assigned to teams, will the team members need to attend council meetings. After a brief discussion, SPRC was asked to work out the details and report back to council.

Worship: Paulette reported that the worship team had met with Kelly and were excited to focus their energies on creating an excellent worship experience that provides a process for change.

Parish Nurse: Judy reported that the first aid kit was up-to-date.

Evangelism: Peggy reported that the team has decided to try do it yourself nametags.

Pastoral Care Team: Kelly reported that he and Marj

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would be visiting and serving communion to home-bound members in the coming week. Kelly expressed his hope to grow this particular team.

Technology: Don asked for input on the placement of the extra speakers, whether they should be installed in the narthex or the fellowship hall. It was suggested that the kitchen is another place of need. Kelly would like to see additional monitors/screens in the narthex. Tech will gather more input from the team on these issues. Michelle mentioned the need to shop for new membership software, stating there are better options available.

Next Meeting/Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Kelly closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Behsman

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas—Operation Christmas Child, that is! Hilltop will again be serving as an OCC Collection Center in November, receiving and packing shoeboxes to be sent to bless children all over the world. In preparation for the upcoming OCC season, Hilltop will be hosting a gathering for southern Minnesota OCC volunteers. Following a light supper, regional OCC representatives will share information, including: the inroads OCC is making in unreached peoples groups, the Greatest Journey's impact, packing boxes on a budget, prayer network opportunities, GO boxes and OCC door prizes. If you have an interest in participating in Hilltop's OCC ministry this year, please consider attending this get-together, which will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP to Paulette Adams at 507-345-6097 or pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com.

Salvation Army

Hilltop is blessed with the opportunity to serve the Sunday Noon Meal at the Salvation Army on Sunday, August 16. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to donate food and/or help serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Nametags

For years Hilltop has expressed all kinds of ideas around wearing nametags on Sundays as many churches are doing. Some of us want lanyards, some pin-on nametags, some magnetic nametags, some stick-on nametags and some, of course don't want to wear a nametag at all. Recently the Lord laid an idea on my heart which the Evangelism Committee believes can appeal to everyone. DIY (Do It Yourself) nametags! The Lord used Paulette Booker to deliver this idea a couple Sundays ago when she came into church wearing her lanyard nametag from the Women's Retreat. It is colorful with some flowers drawn on it along with her name. This was a light-bulb moment for me. Why not let those who want pin-on nametags wear pin-on nametags, those who want lanyards wear lanyards, those who want magnetic nametags wear magnetic nametags....etc. We can even use nametags from our place of business which says a little about us and helps us connect. For those who choose not to participate in wearing a nametag, they can opt out.

Truth be known, I used to be somewhat anti-nametag but have had to admit that I still don't know everyone's names and I should never assume that others know who I am. Nametags say "I want us to know each other. I want to connect". The visual aid of actually seeing someone's name is really helpful in remembering it.

One of the positives that our committee believes would come from "DIY" opposed to "matching nametags" is that it will help keep guests from feeling like an outsider. When a guest enters a church where church members are all wearing matching nametags it is almost as though church members are part of a "club" from which guests are excluded. However, wearing a variety of DIY nametags exhibits a fun-loving attitude about identifying ourselves and might even be somewhat amusing. We will also provide stick-on nametags at the Welcome Center for both members and guests to use if they like. Let's give it a try Hilltoppers, no time like the present. It might be more fun than you think!

Thank you, Peggy Phelps (Evangelism Committee)

HILLTOP NOTES

Happy Birthday!

Deb Birr	8/2	Peggy Phelps	8/22
Michael Kraywinkel	8/2	Wendy Pearson	8/22
Jackson Maday	8/3	Christina Ross	8/23
Shirley Ashpole	8/3	Fiona Swanson	8/23
Taylor Wacholz	8/3	Laura Thoms	8/23
Karla Lassonde	8/4	Dale Ashpole	8/24
Wanda Allevan	8/4	Joyce Long	8/24
Becky Steinbauer	8/5	Leslie Putzier	8/24
Carolyn Allen	8/5	Jack Larson	8/25
Maggie Steinbauer	8/5	Sasha Jakovich	8/25
Chris Flesner	8/7	Chriss Page	8/26
Sandy Allen	8/7	Deb Oachs	8/26
Bill Warmack	8/8	Jamison Daby	8/27
Jordan Phillips	8/8	Karen Warmack	8/27
Josh Adams	8/8	Patti Cole	8/27
Avery Johnson	8/10	Debra Burns	8/28
Mason Oswald	8/11	Jan Marble	8/28
Bill Scherer	8/13	Kerry Rausch	8/28
Harry Argetsinger	8/13	Thomas Drake	8/28
Renate Carlson	8/16	Bradley Mundt	8/29
Sydney Maday	8/16	Arlene Wilson	8/30
Jorie Mundt	8/18	Jack Olinger	8/30
Jenny Winters	8/19	Madden Vanderwerf	8/30
Jenna Aasen	8/20		

Happy Anniversary!



Shane & Mandy Gerhart	8/1
Kent & Allison Bass	8/4
Abbie & Colin Weerts	8/6
Dan & Heather Gowanlock	8/6
Del & Betty Goebel	8/6
Sandy & Wendy Allen	8/6
Scott & Chriss Page	8/11
Karen & Merrill Frydendall	8/16
Karin & Todd Gavin	8/18
Karin Ambros-Ward/Denny Ward	8/20
Scott & Laura Thoms	8/20
David & Christina Ross	8/21
Kevin & Shari Schroeder	8/21
Herb & Marci Fast	8/24
Mike & Kari Juni	8/26
Kerry & Jim Rausch	8/27
Deb & Will Michalski	8/28
Dan & Lana Held	8/30
John & Peggy Phelps	8/31

Attention: Emmaus, Cursillo, and other 3-day weekend folks!

Please join in a special gala event Saturday, August 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Spirit River Community Church in Isanti. Join fellow Christians in a gathering and dinner to support future pilgrims. Contact Don Putzier, Barb Keith, or Jeff Adams for further details.

Hilltop Choir

Time to re-establish our choir connections and begin rehearsals for the fall worship services! First choir rehearsal of the season will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Interested singers are always welcome, and we love to have new vocalists join us! For more information, contact Paulette Adams at 507-345-6097, or pauletteredman.adams@gmail.com.

Worship Attendance Statistics

Sundays:	2015	2014	2013
June 21	110	173	109
June 28	156	147	128
July 5	134	107	125
July 12	126	206	96
July 19	148	146	125
Average	134	155	116

August Calendar at Hilltop

Details for calendar events can be found at <http://mankatohilltop.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00a Worship	3	4 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share	5 9:00p KTV Worship	6 12:00p Bulletin Deadline	7 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Worship	8 Schlueter/Schutz Wedding 9a-12p Organist Practice
9 9:00a Worship	10	11 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share	12 6:30p Operation Christmas Child Mtg. 6:30p CG-The Me I Want To Be 9:00p KTV Worship	13 12:00p Bulletin Deadline	14 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Worship	15 9am CG Max Life for Men 9a-12p Organist Practice
16 9:00a Worship 12p Salvation Army Noon Meal	17	18 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share	19 9:00p KTV Worship	20 12:00p Bulletin Deadline 5-8:30p Vacation Bible School 6:30p Committee Mtgs. 7:30p Ad Council Mtg.	21 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Worship 5-8:30p Vacation Bible School	22 9a-12p Organist Practice 5-8:30p Vacation Bible School
23 9:00a Worship	24 8:00a Newsletter Deadline	25 1:30p CG-Women's Group 5:30p Prayer & Share	26 9:00p KTV Worship	27 12:00p Bulletin Deadline	28 7:00a Men's Morning Risers 12:30p KTV Worship	29 9a-12p Organist Practice
30 9:00a Worship	31	Summer Office Hours Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Please note the office will not be staffed the last week of July, the 27th-31st. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Kelly McCuaig at 806-782-8017.				



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Hilltop United Methodist Church

SUMMER MISSION FOCUS

The Hilltop Mission Team is asking that you consider the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and the Backpack Food Program as you do your back to school shopping. The MMDC is a United Methodist disaster relief facility located on near Springfield, Illinois. They put together school supply bags for students and teachers, in addition to other outreach projects. Please bring your school supply donations to church by the last week in September. Some of these supplies may also be distributed to Mankato area schools.

MMDC needs:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Spiral Notebooks | Blunt Scissors |
| Stick Pens (blue, black, red) | Filler Paper |
| Unsharpened Pencils | Boxes of White Chalk |
| Pencil Sharpeners | Chalkboard Erasers |
| Pencil Erasers | Boxes of paper clips |
| 12" Rulers | Rubber Bands |
| 24 Box of Crayons | Magic Markers |
| 6" Protractors | |

You can support the Backpack Food Program by making a monetary donation during August or September (write Backpack Food Program on the memo line) or you can donate any of the food items listed below. Donations can be brought to Hilltop by September 27, 2015 and placed in designated box at the Welcome Center.

- Maruchan Instant Lunch (2.25 oz any variety, cups only)
- Kraft Easy Mac packets
- Chef Boyardee Microwave Pasta Bowl or Rice Bowl (*must be meat variety i.e. Spaghetti with Meatballs or Chicken with Rice*)
- Instant Oatmeal packets (*fun kid varieties, other than maple and brown sugar*)
- 100% juice boxes (6 oz)
- Apple sauce cups (4 oz, any variety i.e. Strawberry, peach)
- Fruit cups in light syrup (4 oz)
- Peanut Butter Snack Cracker Packs (1.38 oz)
- Nabisco Teddy Grahams (.5 - 1.0 oz ind. packaged)
- Granola Bars (1 oz any variety)
- Pudding Cups (3.5 oz non-refrigerated, fun flavors)
- Gluten Free Snacks (1 oz ind. packaged i.e. raisins, raisins, gluten free crispy rice bars)