

NORTHERN
HILLS

Network

OCT-DEC
2017

The Demise of the Fall Stewardship Campaign

The traditional fall stewardship campaign has pretty much gone the way of the rotary dial phone. There was a day when churches could gear up a 3-4 week program, usually in the fall around “harvest” time, designed to raise pledges for the annual budget. Letters would go out. Testimonials on tithing would be given in worship. Pledge cards would be mailed or even delivered personally to homes. The preacher would (reluctantly) craft several sermons on tithing, giving, etc. A Pledge or Commitment or Consecration Sunday would be designated, and on that day the cards would be returned. The Finance After a 2-3 week follow-up, the “grand total” would be announced, and that total would become the basis for the coming year’s budget.

The age of the traditional campaign was an age of institutional loyalty, an age of duty and of belief in signing on the bottom line. That’s not the world we live in anymore, and it hasn’t been for some time. For example, the amount of money “pledged” to NHUMC annually is about the same, or a little lower, than in 2002 when we moved to our present location. (It has hovered around \$1 million for years). The actual number of pledges has gone down, from over 300 to under 300. What is pledged to the budget in the annual campaign is amounting to only about 55% of total contributions, which have gone up dramatically over the years, even as the pledged amount has remained about the same or actually gone down. The plain truth is that the way congregations raise funds for ministry has changed dramatically, whether we’ve acknowledged that change or not.

People don’t bring the value of institutional loyalty to the table anymore – that was a generational thing – but people can and do give generously to a cause they deem worthy. This all tells me that we need to move away from the traditional fall campaign and move toward a year ‘round emphasis on being good stewards of our resources and being generous sharers of what God has been given us. We need to teach our children not to be selfish but to be givers. We need to show the good that giving does, removing the guilt from fundraising and making it more an educational and inspirational effort. We need to hold up the value and joy of giving, and hold it up in February as much as we have historically held it up in October or November.

So, I intend to lead us away from a “campaign to raise pledges to the budget” and toward the continuing development of a culture of generosity, where people give gladly and generously to support the cause of Christ through our local church. We may send out a letter in the fall inviting you to pray about your personal commitment to the church, but there will be no campaign. I’ll share more later about how we will go about this change. It will move us to what giving is supposed to be: joyful and glad, not reluctant and guilt-ridden.

Milton Lewis
Senior Pastor

CALENDAR

October

- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 8 Bloodmobile
- 9 UMW La Roca Circulo de Esperanza, 6:15—8:15 p.m., Children's 15
- 10 UMW Circle of Love, noon—2 p.m., Wesley Annex
- 12 ESL Class, 9:15—10:15 a.m., B1&2
- 13 Mid High Retreat
- 14 Food, Fun & Follies, 2 p.m., Worship Center
- 17 Birthday card ministry, 9 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10 a.m., B1
- 21 Church Service Project Day, 8 a.m.
- 29 Trunk or Treat, 6—8 p.m.

November

- 4 NHUMC Golf Tournament, 9:30 a.m., The Bandit Golf Course
- 5 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 10 Bunco night, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Annex
- 13 UMW La Roca Circulo de Esperanza, 6:15—8:15 p.m., Children's 15
- 14 Birthday card ministry, 9 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Circle of Love and Faith, noon, B1
- 15 Scholastic Book Fair, 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Gathering Area (through Nov. 17)
- 18 Ad Board Meeting, 9—10:30 a.m., B1&2
- 21 UMW Faith Circle, 10 a.m., B1
Newsletter/Program Guide deadline (Jan.—March)
- 22 Church office closes at noon
- 23 Thanksgiving Day/church office closed
- 24 Church office closed
- 26 Giving Tree up
Church decorating, noon—2 p.m.
- 27 UMW Gift wrapping, 9 a.m., Wesley Annex
- 29 Hanging of the Greens service, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary

December

- 2 Breakfast with Santa
- 9 Parent's Night Out, 5:30—9:30 p.m.
- 10 Giving Tree gifts due
- 11 UMW La Roca Circulo de Esperanza, 6:15—8:15 p.m., Children's 15
- 12 Network Folders, 9 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Circle of Love, noon, B1
- 13 Blue Christmas service,
- 17 Children's Christmas Program (at The Current service), 9:30 a.m., Worship Center
- 19 Birthday card ministry, 9 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10 a.m., B1
- 24 See back page for list of worship services
- 25, 27, 29 Church office closed
- 26 Church office closes at noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Andrea

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee recently accepted with regret the resignation of Andrea Runnels as Director of Traditional Worship. Andrea has held that position since 2011. During that time she has worked tirelessly to build a sanctuary choir and a strong ministry of worship and music for our traditional worship services. She has been the consummate professional. Recently, Andrea applied for and accepted a position in choral music with Harris Middle School. We will miss her at NHUMC. For the interim, Abel Stewart has been assigned oversight of the entirety of Music and Worship and will be directing the Sanctuary Choir.

Moving On Group

The Moving On group is a fellowship group for widows and widowers. We meet once a month for lunch and fellowship at different restaurants. Come join us for the fun and camaraderie. Call Maxine Webber for more info or reservations @ 210-451-9162 or email maxinewebber@att.net

October: at Delicious Garden
November: at La Hacienda
December: at Chili's

Attendance

These figures include Wednesday and Sunday worship services.

JUNE:

6/4: 814
6/11: 813
6/18: 721
6/25: 885

JULY:

7/2: 837
7/9: 868
7/16: 867
7/23: 783
7/30: 902

AUGUST:

8/6: 823
8/13: 870
8/20: 891
8/27: 779

Church Work Day

Mark your calendar for the annual Fall Church Work Day: Saturday, October 21. More information to follow.

NHUMC Golf Tournament

Mark your calendar for the NHUMC Golf Tournament on November 4 at The Bandit Golf Course.

Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.
4-man scramble
\$75/person

What Could you or Your Family do with a Healthy Temple?

Join us for a series of classes on Healthy Eating at the NHUMC Ministry Center, 4306 Naco Pass.

Learn to shop, cook and eat well to keep your family well.

Tuesdays evenings starting October 3, 2017 for 8 weeks.

Class will be held from 6 pm to 7:30 pm and child care will be available.

Exercise at the Ministry Center: Stay tuned for information about weekly exercise classes to help you Build a Healthy Temple.

For information: Abby Kurth 210-392-5500, kurthlink@sbcglobal.net



MINISTRY AND MORE

This summer, our Boy Scout troop painted striping with red fire lane paint at the Lighthouse for the Blind. Thanks to all who helped with this service project!



Staff Spotlights

Each newsletter, we'll highlight a few NHUMC staff members and get to know them a little better! With 8 different weekly worship services and multiple other ministries within the church, it's likely there are staff members that you've never met. We're blessed with a capable, hard-working staff at Northern Hills. Enjoy getting to know a little more about them!

Katrina Gonzalez

Traditional Worship
Administrative Assistant



I am the media and volunteer coordinator for the traditional worship services at NHUMC. I am a San Antonio native and a graduate from St. Mary's University. I am married to, Josh, a * newly licensed local Pastor in the Rio Texas Conference!* I have a 3-Rex named Kaleb who attends the day school and I am a bonus mom to Abby, who is a senior at Antonian College Prep. Together, our family owns and operates "9Round" a kickboxing gym in Helotes and will be opening our second location in the Alamo Ranch area later this year. We moved back to San Antonio in 2015 after living in the Carolinas for a few years. Because the Carolinas are now considered "our second home," we travel back as often as we can and are hoping to send one of our kids to college out there! We love Northern Hills and are truly blessed by the congregation and the leadership staff, we know that the best is yet to come!

Susan Bartlett-Fernandez

Contemporary Worship
Administrative Assistant



As a Worship Administrative Assistant my duties are to support all worship activities held in the Worship Center. To assist with the Sunday contemporary worship services for both Current and Oasis. This includes coordinating our volunteers for The Current Breakfast Club and Youth Scripture Readers; running media slides in the booth, video taping and helping to keep services running smoothly. I also assist Pastor Lupina with meetings, phone calls, emails and support the Music worship teams with song slides, scheduling vocalists & musicians and printing music. Additional duties include managing 4 of our facebook social media pages and assisting all church staff in the front office.

Outside of NHUMC, I am a wife of 26 years to my husband David Fernandez, Jr. and a mother of 3 boys; Zackery (23), Bradley (17), and Reilly (13). We have been Northern Hills church members since 1996 where we joined at the Higgins Rd location. I have worked here at NHUMC for 3 yrs, just recently moving to full-time in May 2017.

My passions are my family, my relationship with God, listening to Christian contemporary music, reading, eating good food and spending time with friends. I love to vacation anywhere near the water, hiking, and watching my sons play basketball and soccer. We are a sports family.

KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT

This summer, we embarked on a challenge based on the book, Kingdom Assignment. We gave 100 of our congregation members \$100 each, with the instruction to use that money to further the kingdom of God. Below are a few of the stories about how the money was used and how people were reached for the glory of God. Whether it's money or abilities or life experiences, God has given us talents that he wants to multiply. The Kingdom Assignment has stirred us to big dreams, big faith and big deeds, and a much bigger vision of how God can use us. More stories to come!

I took this money and "increased" this amount to \$1,100 and donated the money to Camp Awana, "Where Christ is First" with the stated intent that the funds be used for "any camper(s) who are not able to pay their camp fees due to economic hardship." It was at this camp that I was introduced to the Savior in 1977.

I wanted to let you know I spent the \$100 given to me on a friend of mine. Mary is a single mom of 3 special needs teens. They were on their way to a long awaited vacation in CO when Mary got sick & had to be hospitalized in Abilene. She stayed in the hospital several weeks but is home now & recuperating. I bought her a Walmart gift card with the money. I can only imagine how tight money is for them.

We were able to bless a total of eight families on our trip to Acuna with food and most importantly the Word of God with the \$100 investment. The smiles on their faces tell it all. I thank God for giving us this opportunity to give to the people. Even though I hear that Acuna is a dangerous place to be, at no time did we feel fear. No spirit of fear here, God gave us the spirit of love, and with that, the spirit to give.

We were able to purchase socks and underwear for the Battered Women's Shelter with the \$100 we received.



We didn't take the \$100, but decided that there was enough in our budget to look for opportunities to help. We sometimes send contributions to the food bank and SAMM shelter, but don't step out. We talked on the way home that we'd try and be aware of where we could help. My wife mentioned that there are people that need grocery help, but we don't know how to offer that help. God provides; He showed me how it works. Two days later I was checking out at HEB. The lady in front of me had a baby in her arms and her WIC and Lone Star cards would not work. I asked if I could pay for her groceries. She asked, "why?" I told her I thought I was supposed to, so I did. She thanked me profusely. I explained that our church was trying to become more aware of situations where we can help and she had helped me by allowing this.



SERVICE & MINISTRY ... IN ACTION

This summer, we gathered together for Acts of Service on Wednesday evenings after worship. It was a wonderful time of intergenerational fellowship and service. Thanks to all who participated!



Assembling care bags



Shopping for items for the teacher blessing baskets



Creating door hangers with information about the Ministry Center

Over 300 backpacks and countless school supplies were donated through our annual SONshine Project. They were distributed at the Ministry Center Back-to-School event.



What happens when different congregations decide to serve together? Transformation of the community happens! MacArthur Park Church of Christ and Northern Hills UMC beautify the outdoor classroom of Oak Grove Elementary.



First official La Roca worship service at the Ministry Center. It has doubled since that time.



Outdoor Baptism



This summer, the Ministry Center was home to Project Transformation, a reading-focused day camp organized by the Rio Texas Conference. Many volunteers from NHUMC participated by reading with children to improve or maintain their reading skills during the summer. We also hosted Family Nights and other fun activities as part of Project Transformation, which allowed us to connect with new families in the community.



MINISTRY CENTER

As I write this article in August, it seems hard to believe it has only been four months since the Ministry Center opened on Easter Sunday. During this time, the Lord provided many opportunities for our congregation to connect with and serve our community. Take a look at how the Lord has called our congregation to serve.

Ministry Center opened on Easter Sunday for Sunrise Worship Service - 180+ in attendance.

Saturday Meal and Worship: This service began in April. Initial attendance was approximately 30 and we currently average 60 in worship. There are many people from the community who join us for a meal, fellowship, community service, and worship.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Evening Classes at the Ministry Center began in April and this ministry continues to grow. We are expecting even more new student registrations for the Fall 2017 session which begins September 25th.

Tuesday Night Adult Special Needs Activities and Chapel Services: This Ministry serves the Adult special needs community and has experienced growth in attendance since relocating to the Ministry Center.

The Children's Day Celebration at the Ministry Center: provided an opportunity to meet and connect with many families who live near the Ministry Center.

Outdoor classroom at Oak Grove Elementary: NHUMC Ministry Center partnered with The Oak Grove PTA and another church to create an outdoor classroom at this NEISD Title 1 School. The outdoor classroom enables teachers to hold classes in a unique outdoor learning environment. Many of the students who attend Oak Grove Elementary live near the Ministry Center.

End of School Field Day at Northern Hills Elementary: Northern Hills Elementary suffered significant storm damage due to tornados that hit San Antonio this Spring. Many of the school's outdoor facilities were rendered unusable because of the storm damage. Our Ministry Center volunteers helped prevent the cancellation of the school's Annual Field Day event by providing inflatable obstacle courses for the students to enjoy during their recess time.

La Roca Service: The La Roca Bilingual Worship Service congregation chose to relocate to the Ministry Center so that more people would have the opportunity to attend. Attendance quickly doubled as the service became more accessible to families in the community and more people became aware of the service through the Ministry Center events. We also began Sunday School classes for the La Roca children and youth in July.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Service at the Ministry Center has continued to grow as volunteers offer fellowship, prayer and worship to early morning bus travelers.

City Camp Mission Project: The Ministry Center hosted the NHUMC mid-high youth during their City Camp Mission

week. During this time our youth participated in various mission projects throughout San Antonio that benefitted the community.

Project Transformation Summer Camp (June and July): This reading-focused summer camp program enabled children to enhance their reading skills throughout the summer by providing a variety of fun and educational activities to children in the community. Many of the students and their families had no previous connection to Northern Hills UMC or the Ministry Center.

The Reading Buddies program at Project Transformation provided an opportunity for many of our members to read with up to 3 children each day. This helped the children to improve or maintain their reading skills so that they will be better prepared for the next school year.

The Family Fun Night events at the Ministry Center (June and July) helped NHUMC connect to the families whose children attended Project Transformation. As a result of this and other Ministry Center events, several families have become regular worshippers at the La Roca bilingual services.

The Ministry Center Vacation Bible School was another highlight of the summer. Our VBS program provided worship, fun and learning for a new group of children and their families who had no previous affiliation with Northern Hills UMC.

Our Back to School Celebration provided much needed backpacks and school supplies to children in the community and enabled us to meet, fellowship, and minister to more families in the community. Several parents from our ESL Classes, VBS, and Project Transformation volunteered and served at this event.

Our Good Neighbor Day event at Oak Grove Elementary enabled volunteers from NHUMC and another Church to work together to prepare the outdoor classroom for the new school year.

Our Tuesday Morning Service for Special Needs Adults is providing an opportunity for fun, games, activities, fellowship, and worship services with our friends from Sterling Adult Day care.

Beginning this September Northeast ISD Adult Education will begin ESL and Spanish GED Classes at the Ministry Center, Mondays-Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Citizenship Classes will begin on Tuesday evenings beginning September 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Health and Fitness Classes will begin in October.

I am so excited about what God has enabled this congregation to do and I can't wait to see all the new things that will be coming soon.

Blessings,
Abdon Garza, Community Pastor, Ministry Center

FROM PASTOR LUPINA

*"Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray."*

I love this song! I love how it is a prayer to be the Church set on fire and asking God for help to have His Kingdom here.

The words of this song are the prayer, desire, vision, goal that we have for Northern Hills UMC. In many ways, you have been already doing it by stepping out of your comfort zone and becoming involved in different and radical ministries. While this has been a powerful transforming experience, I believe that God will keep on equipping us and challenging us more. As we have heard before, the journey to get to that vision is part of the growth for us.

It is our desire to participate in this process of growth for all of you and all of the staff at NHUMC. We will be intentional in presenting opportunities to serve, learn and grow during this fall. I encourage you to pray and explore where God wants you to belong in this process. Remember, it may not always will be the easiest or the most comfortable, because it will stretch us so we can grow, but it will be the healthiest place for you and I to be.

I pray that we will walk together this fall praying loudly: "Set your church on fire, win this nation back, change the atmosphere, build your kingdom here, we pray ... and tell me my role in it!"

You are an amazing congregation. It is an honor to serve the Lord with you, let's keep growing and take the challenge! May His Kingdom be here!

Bendiciones de Dios,
Pastor Lupina

English *as a* Second Language



ESL classes offered this Fall through
Northern Hills UMC:

At The Ministry Center

(4306 Naco Pass, 78217)

Mondays, September 25—November 13, 6:30—8 p.m.

At Stahl Elementary

(5222 Stahl Road, 78247)

and Steubing Ranch Elementary

(5100 Knoll Creek Dr., 78247)

Wednesdays, Sept. 27—Nov. 15, 9:30—11 a.m.

At NHUMC

(3703 N Loop 1604 East, 78247)

Thursdays, Sept. 28—Nov. 16, 9:15—10:45 a.m.

Register online at www.nhumc.org or
contact ESL@nhumc.org with questions

If you would like to be a mentor for one of our ESL classes this fall, please plan to attend the corresponding training:
September 18th at the Ministry Center (for the classes at the Ministry Center): 6:30 p.m.
September 20th at NHUMC (for the Wednesday classes at the elementary schools): 9:30 a.m.
September 21st at NHUMC (for the Thursday classes at NHUMC): 9:30 a.m.

NEW MEMBERS



Rufus and Johanna Allen



Beau and Neesa Broussard



Cecelia Dornfield



Susan Craig & Vicki Craig



Paul Higgs



Anthony and Janine Sears



Donald and Joyce Glessner



Michael Barton & Edith Parker



Skip and Shirley Whitehill

Welcome to our church family!



CHILDREN

3rd Grade Bibles

If you have a 3rd grader that has not received their Bible, please see Ms. Wanda.

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29, 6-8 p.m.

Trunk or Treat is a fun, safe alternative to trick-or-treating. You park your car, open your trunk and kids go from trunk to trunk to collect candy. You're welcome to decorate your car or trunk. Prizes are given for the best decorations! Join us for hot dogs, a cupcake walk, the trunk decoration contest and FUN!

(No witches, ghosts or scary stuff please)

Breakfast with Santa

Join us on Saturday, December 2nd for Breakfast with Santa, 9-11 a.m. Bring your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, your camera and your Christmas spirit! A light breakfast will be served and Santa will be there for pictures. Take this time to choose an ornament from the Giving Tree.

Wednesday Nights

Beginning September 13th

6:15-6:45 p.m. Cherub Choir

(4 years old—kindergarten, room 14)

6:15-7:00 p.m. Kings Kids Choir

(1st-5th grade, Children's room 10)

7:00 p.m. Godly Play (1st-3rd graders)

Bible Activity Time (BAT) Bible lessons/fun (4th-5th graders)

The Giving Tree

The greatest gift at Christmas is to share His love! Be a blessing to others and receive the joy of giving for yourself. Choose an ornament from the Giving Tree this Christmas. We will have items needed by the children at the Miller Child Development Center, Jireh House and the Ministry Center written on the hanging ornaments. The Giving Tree will be in the Gathering Area starting November 26th. Choose one or more ornaments, purchase the item, attach the ornament to the wrapped gift, and return to the Gathering Area by December 10.

"Good News, Great Joy!"

Advent books and family activities will be given out in Sunday School November 26 and December 3. Please encourage your children to use them in your home to remind them that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas and prepare their hearts for our Savior's birth.



Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our Kings Kids and Cherub Choirs have started working on the music. If you would like your child to be a part of our Christmas program, please plan to have them here for choir practice on Wednesday nights. Refer to Wednesday night schedule below for choir practice times.

Important Rehearsal Dates:

Wednesdays in November: 1, 8, 15

Dress Rehearsal: Wed., Nov 29, 6:15 p.m.

Christmas Program: Wed, Dec 6, 6:15 p.m.

YOUTH

As we near the end of the year, I want to make sure that you are all getting the information you need about what is going on in the youth program. We have small groups meeting all over at different times throughout the week. You can find the information online at www.nhumc.org/connect/youth or email Carly at carlyp@nhumc.org to be added to the email list. We send out weekly updates, announcements and emails. We want you to be involved in the youth program, so please contact us so that we can make sure you have the info you need.

October

- 1 Confirmation begins for 8th graders and above.
- 13-15 Middle School Retreat at Camp Buckner
- 29 Fall Fun Day! Corn Maze and Trunk or Treat

November

- 17-18 Greatest All Nighter Ever: Threepeat
- 20-26 Fall Break. No youth group or small groups

December

- 12 Senior High Christmas Party (Last youth group until January)
- 13 Middle School Christmas Party (Last youth group until January)

We had a blast at Summer camps! Thanks for your support!



Northern Hills United Methodist Church
3703 N Loop 1604 E
San Antonio, TX 78247

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Sunday, December 24, 2017

Sunday morning worship:

Sanctuary: 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.

Worship Center: 9:45, 11 a.m.

Afternoon/evening Christmas Eve worship:

Worship Center: 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.—Traditional Worship

Sanctuary: 11 p.m.—Traditional Worship

At the Ministry Center (4306 Naco Pass):

2 p.m.—Christmas for All Nations

7 p.m.—Contemporary Worship

For more information, please call the church office at 210-654-0881.