



February 2012

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From the Desk of Dr. Smith . . . .

## It is good to be back home!

I must have heard it a hundred times, those heartfelt words, “Thank you for your service.” Each time I hear this sentiment I am humbled beyond words. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to have served as an Air Force chaplain in a combat war zone and to have led our troops in matters related to their faith. I have come to realize that expressions of gratitude must flow both ways. Not only am I humbled to have served my nation’s cause, but I am thankful for the opportunity to do so. I could not have performed my duties without your support and prayers. It is not every day that your senior minister requests time off to perform military duty. Moreover, when I made this request you were very kind to endorse this decision. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and for welcoming me back.

Six months is a long time to be away from your home, from your family, and from your church family. I cannot even begin to imagine what our troops and their families must go through when their separation and their deployment extend beyond the standard, once in a career six months. Unfortunately, this is the case with many of our military members who are called on to make family sacrifices to support our nation’s defense mission. Having spent the past six months in the Iraq combat zone I have a much deeper appreciation for the sacrifices that veterans from previous wars made. I also have a deeper understanding of the stress that is placed on marriages and families when a military member has to perform multiple deployments. May God bless those families and marriages that are often the victims of extended military service.

My return from Iraq now brings to a close my 27 years of military service. On Sunday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m. I will officially retire from duty as a chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserves. My retirement ceremony will be conducted at Christ of the Hills with full honors and fanfare. This retirement ceremony is NOT to be confused as my retirement from the United Methodist Church and Christ of the Hills. This ceremony is still several years away!

Thank you again for allowing me the honor of serving our United States of America. And don’t forget, May God Bless America so that America might be a blessing to others.

*Dr. Walter L. Smith*  
*Sr. Pastor*



## Habitat Completes an Apostle Build House

It was a cold, windy Saturday but that didn't stop 40 or more people coming out to dedicate and and bless a house and the owner, Fedett Johnson. The Apostle Build Churches and ReStore, a Habitat retail store, sponsored the house that was built. COH-UMC was one of the sponsors of this Apostle Build. Glen Phillips Habitat Coordinator, and his crew of Rob Bracke, Jerry Bewer, Ade Dehaan, Paul Grasse, Bob Huebschman, Lloyd Koby, Allen Williams and James Williams volunteered their building skills and represented COH in building the habitat house. Gene Lichliter, Landscape Coordinator, and his crew of Ron Auvil, Steve Blasche, Don Matthews and Bob Schappek completed the landscaping around the house.

The dedication program started off with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Ralph Farese, Commander, VFW Post 2278. Remarks were made by John Goodman, Executive Director Garland County Habitat for Humanity. Prayers were offered by the participants and a Bible presented to the home owner. Various presentations were made from the Arkansas Rice Depot, "Sew What" Quilt Bee, Brush Strokes, Community of Christ Church, Whitfield Garden Club and from the neighborhood. Fedett Johnson gave thanks to God and all the people involved by singing a special song. A praise dance was led by the Sisters 'N Praise, Berniezha and LaChaundra Tidwell, granddaughters of Ms. Johnson.

### *The Wilsons say "Thank You"*

*Carolyn joins me in being deeply grateful for the many expressions of kindness and love you have extended to us during our time with you. Your prayers, kind words, cards, gifts to the Caring Place in honor of us, and other acts of love have lifted our spirits. Christ of the Hills is a great church because it's full of great people!*

*We thank Dr. Smith for giving us the opportunity to come to you, first as an associate pastor and wife, and then the opportunity to serve as pastor during his deployment. Across the years, we have had deep respect for him, and that continues. We treasure the friendship we have with him, Diane and their children.*

*I also want to publically thank the staff for their support and cooperation during our time with you. Working with them has been a joy. Each has enriched the church's ministry.*

*The elected lay officials have also very cooperative and helpful. Christ of the Hills is so blessed to have the lay leadership you have.*

*Though we are leaving the official capacity here, we will worship with you occasionally and you will be in our prayers.*

*Again, thanks for what you mean to us, and for your many expressions of love.*

*"Grace and Peace"  
David B. Wilson*



## February Food Donations

### UM Outreach

Place items in the baskets at the front door and at the Fellowship Hall door.

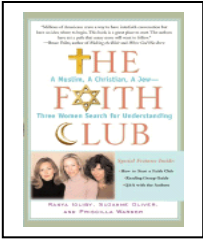
***If you wish, monetary donations are always accepted.***  
*Just put your donation in the offering envelope found in the pew and label it "Food Pantry or bring it by the office.*

## Youth Sunday School Class

We will begin a Youth Sunday School class February 12 at 9:10 a.m. We invite youth grades 6-12 to join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher for this class or have any questions please e-mail our youth director, Brooke Crumpler at [brookecrumpler@gmail.com](mailto:brookecrumpler@gmail.com).



# Growing In Grace



## LENTEN STUDY

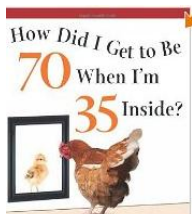
### The Faith Club

February 23-March 29 - 6 weeks  
Thursdays 9:30 to 11AM.  
Led by Ione Bartells & Helen Stegall

After September 11, Ranya Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, faced constant questions about Islam, God, and death from her children, the only Muslims in their classrooms. Ranya reached out to two other mothers and set out to write an interfaith children's book that would highlight the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the process the women realized they needed an environment to discuss their concerns and misunderstandings.

This book is a memoir of spiritual reflections in three voices, "The Faith Club" has spawned interfaith discussion groups in churches, temples, mosques, and other community settings. Pioneering, timely, deeply thoughtful, and full of hope, "The Faith Club's" caring message will resonate with people of all faiths. This is one of the most important topics in our time; the need to develop mutual respect and the quest to understand one another. Join us in a study of this groundbreaking book

Cost of book is \$8.  
Register in the Information Center



## SPRING STUDY

### SAVE the DATE

**How Did I Get to Be 70 When I'm 35 Inside? Spiritual Surprises of Later Life** by Linda Douty

April 12-May 17, 6 weeks  
Thursday mornings 9:30 to 11AM.

Have the courage and curiosity to face the *inner* changes of aging— and learn how they can help you find meaning in your later years.

In a warm, down-to-earth voice, Douty offers a spiritually grounded method to adjust to the unexpected as you grow older. There is no one-size-fits-all here, but a variety of responses to the inner and outer transformations of aging and new ways of looking at them.

Cost of book is \$10.  
Register in the Information Center after March 1.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN a Basic COMPUTER CLASS?

To address the many requests we have had for computer classes for members of Christ of the Hills UMC, your Web Ministry team will offer a "Basic Computer" class, but first we need your input.

If you are interested, please fill out the form in the Information Center. The date for the sessions has not been set because we wanted to understand your interest first. You may attend one or all of the sessions. After you sign up, one of our team members will telephone you to discuss your individual requirements.

For Sessions 1 & 2, we will either provide one-on-one training to you in your home on your computer or we will provide training in a classroom setting at the church. If you don't have a computer, we will bring one of our computers to your home/church for training purposes.

In the "Basic Computer" class, we would cover the following:

### Session 1:

- What is hardware/software?
- What do we mean by a computer's desktop?
- What are the icons on the desktop used for?
- What is a mouse? What does a mouse have to do with a computer? How do I use it?

### Session 2:

- What are files/documents/folders and how are they organized?
- How do I create a basic document and what program do I use to create it?
  - If needed, how do I change my page layout? (margins, tabs, portrait, landscape, paper size)
  - How do I change my fonts (type, size, color)?
  - How do I create lists (bullets, numbered)?
  - How do I copy/paste and cut/paste?
  - What is the difference between "save" and "save as"?
- How do I print a basic document?

### Session 3: (Taught only in classroom setting at the church due to the requirement for an internet connection)

- What are the ways to share a document with others?
  - Email and attachments
    - Web-based vs. client-based email
  - Upload to cloud (concept only)
- How do I access the church's website?
- How do I listen to the Sunday Worship Service on the website?
- How do I email a patient on the website?
- How do I access the church's Facebook account?

Please remember to sign up in the Information Center.

Thank you,  
Sheila McCallum  
Web Minister



## *Plan to attend 1<sup>st</sup> UMW Meeting for 2012*

On **February 6 at 10:30 am**, the United Methodist Women of Christ of the Hills UMC will gather in fellowship hall for the first meeting of 2012, Mission Giving Day. After time for coffee and fellowship, the meeting will begin followed by a guest speaker from Haven United Methodist Church which received a donation from the church's dollar-a-week offering.

The theme for the programs this year is "Walking in Wholeness," chosen in response to requests for programs that challenge members to discover avenues of spiritual growth. Speaking will be *Rev. Harold J. Eichelberger*, senior pastor of Haven United Methodist Church in Hot Springs. Because he believes the gospel is best spread through service, his church is involved in numerous projects and programming aimed to meet needs throughout Hot Springs.

Since graduating from the Harvard School of Divinity in 2007, Rev. Eichelberger has served on the staff of several churches while also serving as hospice chaplain in Boston, MA and as director of Prevention Resources Center in Pine Bluff, AR focusing on alcohol and drug prevention for teens throughout Arkansas. He joined the staff at Haven UMC in July, 2011.

All women of the church are invited to come and hear Rev. Eichelberger as he shares his zeal for ministry and spiritual growth through service.

### *Christ of the Hills United Methodist Women's Executive Board for 2012*

The PURPOSE and program of the United Methodist Women (UMW) have evolved out of a history of more than a century of women whose primary concern has been mission. The total program is extensive and encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, concerns, issues, challenges and opportunities.

These women leaders plan programs that incorporate the four mission emphases: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education and Interpretation and Membership Nurture and Outreach. They interpret the need for and use of funds for missions and support the mission of United Methodist Women and the Women's Division.

Paula Matthews is the President of UMW. Martha Altom, Membership Nurture and Outreach Chair, invites you to join in a circle that interests you or join in events sponsored by the UMW. Call Martha at 915-0814 to obtain information about the circles. You do not have to be a member of the church to be in UMW. Martha states that "You will find a warm welcome and friends to share with that have common interests." It is a great way to make friends especially if you are new to the Village.



### *UMW RICE DEPOT WORK DATES*

The scheduled work dates for February are the second Thursday, February 9, and the second Tuesday, February 14. If you can work either day please contact Barbara Larson at 922-6970 ([bandr13437@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandr13437@sbcglobal.net)). The deadline for volunteering is February 6. We will leave from the lower parking lot at 8 a.m. each day. All COH women are welcome to participate in this volunteer opportunity.

### *UMW Circle Leaders and event chairs--The Heart of UMW.*

Nancy Blevins, Marilyn Olson, Carole, Wilson, June Jensen, Kathy Townsend, Phillis Ruggieri, Pat Pasley, Jean Schooler, Sue Allen, Kaz Finney, Ginger Griffith, Lorraine Dickenscheidt and Marlene Binkley.



All Christ of the Hills men (members and visitors) are invited to attend our monthly breakfast meetings, the second Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come and join us for a great breakfast, a devotion, interesting speakers and good fellowship!

### RICE DEPOT VOLUNTEERS

1st Thursday and Friday

3rd Thursday and Friday

Leave the Upper Parking Lot at 8:00 a.m. All COH men are welcome to come and help

**Be sure to join us**  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 10<sup>TH</sup> at 7:30 a.m.**

Our guest speaker will be

**DR. WALTER SMITH**

Dr. Smith will share some of his experiences during his tour of duty in Iraq. Don't miss this entertaining and thought-provoking program.

### UMM meeting report of Jan. 13

There were 56 fellas who thoroughly enjoyed a great breakfast and meeting, even though it was a 'Friday the Thirteenth!' It was our first meeting with Bubba Smith back home and 'in the fold', so that alone made it a very special UMM gathering.

President Jay Chandler told a few important reports ... and asked for 5 or 6 truck-van owners to help carry into Hot Springs the huge amount of clothing we'd brought that morning. Bags and bags were full of such and destined for the employees of Oaklawn Race Track. He especially thanked Dan Stockford for being Santa Claus at our Sweethearts Breakfast in December. Dan received \$400 in tips that day and bought gifts for needy kids with it. Dan plays the role wonderfully!

Paul Brown gave a fine devotional based upon Matthew 20:28. He stressed that Christ taught 'greatness comes from servanthood' and is measured the opposite way from the world's standards.

Treasurer Gene Phillips passed out copies of our 2012 budget proposal. Gene Litchlitter asked for physical help for a Habitat for Humanity project on Jan 20 & 21. Pete Johnson told us about some details of the Rice Depot's recent problems. That organization feeds over 35,000 kids all across Arkansas and needs an increase in support right now, folks.

Rev. David Wilson filled in for Don Wallace by telling a funny, then introduced our fine speaker, a young pastor who has been David's associate in years past. Rev. Scott Galamore of Piney Grove Methodist in Hot Springs is a former thoroughbred race jockey (8 years)...and his father was, as well. His life 'turned from the Devil's ways' after he witnessed another jockey stand up for his Christian walk in an unforgettable way one day...and Scott turned to Him completely. In time he managed to graduate from Asbury Seminary in Kentucky and has been a pastor for two decades. He told us several details of the racing life we didn't know...but inspired us with his dedication to Christian work and pastoring. His story is so interestingly unique that it ought to be written as a book, which just might happen someday!

Next meeting will be February 10. We sure do hope you can be there @ 7:30 AM.

### ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION:

Please support the mission work of the United Methodist Men by depositing your empty aluminum cans in the UMM trailer located in the far corner of the upper parking lot. Drive by any day of the week and make your deposit. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



**NOTE: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CANS ARE SECURELY BAGGED—NO LOOSE CANS!!**

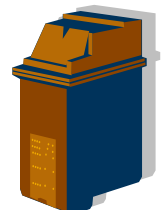
UMM are able to accept **ALL types** of aluminum including but not limited to drink cans. This aluminum may be included with your bag of aluminum drink cans.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE FOOD CANS ARE CLEAN...**No lingering food inside or

### Used Printer Cartridges

Please support the mission work of the United Methodist Men by recycling used printer cartridges. A recycle box has been placed in Fellowship Hall (under the table by the office door) for the collection of used cartridges by our church members, friends and neighbors. These cartridges must be genuine cartridges with print heads (HP, Canon, Dell, Apple Compaq, Lexmark, etc.).

They cannot be damaged, remanufactured or refilled.  
NO INK TANKS (without print head). No laser toners, please.



# Fabulous Valentine's Day Breakfast Buffet

Tuesday, February 14

8:00-9:30 A.M. Fellowship Hall

Tickets: \$5.00 per Person

*Bring your sweetheart, friends, neighbors or care zone*

- ♥ Live Music      ♥ Door Prizes
- ♥ Best Valentine Fashion
- ♥ Couple who has been married the longest time
- ♥ Couple who has been married the shortest time
- ♥ Prizes for singles too!!!



Tickets are available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday or in the office during the week.  
Call Jean Schooler at 922-5249 to make arrangements for group seating



## Birds of the Village

Mark your calendars! **The February 15<sup>th</sup> WWW Program** will feature **Lu Otto** and his slide presentation on

*"Birds of the Village"*. As many of you know, he is famous in the village for his beautiful photography of golf courses, lakes, birds and other interesting things in and around the village. You can see his portraits hanging in various places in the village. Mr. Otto is a former Lutheran pastor, has a wonderful personality and presentation persona.

He and his wife Nancy have many friends here at Christ of the Hills and he looks forward to meeting with us on **February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

## CHRIST OF THE HILLS NIGHT AT JESSIEVILLE



February 3, 2012 is "Christ of the Hills UMC Night" at the Jessieville HS basketball games. All COH members will be admitted FREE. Three games will be played, beginning at 5:00 PM.

**GO LIONS!!!**

## We Care Inreach Ministry

PRAYER...PRAY...PRAYING....All applying to the WE CARE Inreach Ministry's commitment to support Christ of the Hills members through prayer. In addition to the PRAYER CONCERN list that appears in our weekly church bulletin, there are teams of members who focus prayer energy with special effort. Unique PRAYER BEARS are lovingly made by nimble fingers and, along with a specially made card, are available for members to pick up and share with someone who needs. In the quiet and solitude of the prayer chapel located off the sanctuary, A PRAYER CHAPEL team member is at the church every day to pray for those for whom prayers have been asked. The CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER CHAIN provides prayer by its team members on a confidential, daily basis. Names of these folks are not published in the bulletin nor shared with staff or others. All of these ministries make a world of difference to us on a daily basis. Might you consider being a part of one of these prayer ministries? You would be most welcome. Please call Carol Freeland at 915-8961 for further information.



We Care  
Support  
Ministries

## *“Dear COH Friends . . . . Your caring helps”*

How do you say “Thank You” for all the love, caring, and support that my family and I received from Christ of the Hills members? The wonderful hugs, the help and assistance you each so freely gave made a very difficult time of my life go smoothly. A very special thanks to Dr. Smith, who was my rock and inspiration, without whom I would never have made it. To all those who helped in the service and baked cookies. For all those who sent cards and called and to my Care Group 15 who have been by my side, a very grateful “Thank You”. My sons felt secure leaving me knowing I am supported in my wonderful Christ of the Hills family. Sincere gratitude from my family and me.

In Christian love,  
Shirley Schweser and family

*We want to personally thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and support you have shown our mother, Shirley Schweser in our time of grief. The food, phone calls, hugs and concern that was extended to us was incredible. We felt such love and God’s presence when we were there. You are all truly a blessing! Thank you so much again for your love and support and we look forward to visiting again when we are in Hot Springs Village.*

*John & Corie Schweser*

*What a wonderful caring congregation is COH. Thank you for all your cards, e-mails, calls, visits, food and especially your prayers you provided us during my recent illness. We were both overwhelmed at the outpouring of love. Thanks also to Rev. Stegall and Rev. Wilson for their hospital visits which lifted our spirits and filled us with gratitude for being a part of this extremely supportive Christian congregation.*

*Jim & Sally Crawford*

The family of Russell Pettit would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, thoughts, and condolences during our time of loss. Our family especially appreciates the concerns of all the pastors who guided us on this journey. We are so grateful to our church family for their support during our time of need. As our family gathered last month to celebrate his life, we were blessed by your generosity. We miss him greatly, but the love you continue to share sustains us through this difficult time.

God’s richest blessings to you,  
Carole Pettit and family

Dear COH family,  
Thank you so much for the prayers and notes through Ron’s hospitalization. We have truly felt supported by all of our church family.

It may e awhile before we can attend church because of the risk of Ron catching something. Thanks for being so supportive.

Ron & Katie Jones



A new training class for Stephen Ministers began January 30 with several COH members dedicated to the 50 hour sessions. Dr. Kenneth Haugk founded the organization in 1975 in St. Louis, MO with just 11 trainees. Since then it has grown to be present in 11,000 congregations, 150 denominations, 500,000 lay have been trained as Stephen Ministers and 1,000,000 care receivers have benefitted from the Christian care giving offered.

The headquarters in St. Louis has a staff of 45 who are pastors, laity, men and women who represent all denominations.

What is the mission of our congregation? Do we truly want to “love one another” as Jesus loves us? Do we really want to reach people for Jesus Christ? Stephen Ministry is a great way to be the kind of church God has called us to be.

Should you need a Stephen Minister to help you through a difficult time or know someone else who could benefit contact Pastor Helen Stegall at (501) 922-4503.



Stephen  
Ministry

# February



## Valentine's Day

## PRESIDENT'S DAY



### Bell Ringer

*The monthly newsletter of*  
Christ of the Hills  
United Methodist Church  
700 Balearic Road  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

*We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation*



Dr. Walter "Bubba" Smith, Senior Minister  
Rev. Helen Stegall, Associate Minister  
Rev. Pat Henry, Associate Minister  
Rev. John Atherton, Minister of Visitation  
Office telephone: 501-922-4503  
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m.-Noon

Website - [www.cohumc.com](http://www.cohumc.com)  
e-mail - [cothumc@cohumc.com](mailto:cothumc@cohumc.com)

Sunday Morning Worship  
8:50 a.m. Traditional Service  
10:30 a.m. Hillsong Service  
Village Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Sunday

Mid-Week Worship  
5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening

Sunday Nursery available

Adult & Children Education classes