

SURPLUS UPDATE

WHAT IS THE SURPLUS?

After replenishing our reserves in our checking account, Oak Hills ended 2014 with a \$50,000 surplus. The Council was unified and passionately convinced that God is calling us to use these funds to invest in ministry partnerships outside the walls of our church – to put 90% of these funds toward advancing our purpose and mission as a church. The desire is to “deepen relationships.” This relational intent means that the money will not simply be given away in small bits to various ministries, but rather we would like to invest these funds into relationships with ministries that will require more of our actual involvement. Specifically, the Council has asked the Outreach & Global Partners Teams to form recommendations on what to do with the surplus funds.

WHO DEVELOPED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SURPLUS?

The membership of Oak Hills was encouraged to submit ideas for consideration. These ideas went to both the Oak Hills Outreach Team and Global Partners Team. Both teams committed to assessing the needs of our missionaries and outreach partners.

It became immediately clear that additional team members were needed to complete the task. A number of people were directly asked to commit to the process.

The Outreach Team includes: Randell Beck, Dave Cone, Kate Friesen, Ryan Friez, Brian Kolling, Josh & Sara Lewis, Michelle Nelson, Ryan O’Conner, Matt Peterson, Betty Poppens, Ryan Swanstrom, Mark Terveen & Pastor Paul.

The Global Partners team includes: Susan Bill, Marv Dewey, Ryan Friez, Josh & Sara Lewis, Ben Liscano, Derek Outland, Jimmy Thomas, Janna Thorson, Michael Van Driesen & Pastor Paul.

WHAT DID THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

The Outreach and Global Partners teams have spent hours praying, discussing, debating, evaluating, and formulating ideas before writing out a final set of recommendations. These discussions have been incredibly deep and encouraging. They have been perhaps the most energizing conversations about outreach in the history of Oak Hills.

Each team member committed to developing an initial proposal for a specific outreach partnership, idea, or missionary. In each case, we asked:

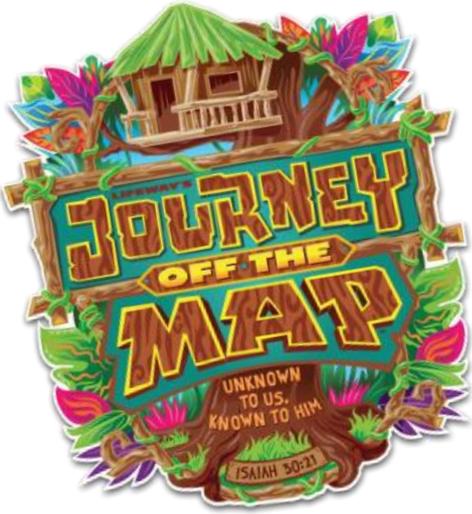
- What is God doing through your ministry?
- How could Oak Hills improve our current relationship?
- Are there any significant physical or financial needs that are currently not being met?

We then discussed each individual case as a group and prayed. Even when an idea was turned down, there was a profound unity.

A final set of recommendations was given to the Church Council in August.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE SURPLUS?

The Church Council is now prayerfully reviewing the formal recommendations that they have received from Outreach and Global Partners. This step will involve additional meetings and leadership discussion between Council, Staff, and the Surplus teams. We are very excited about these prayer times and conversations – please join us in prayer. We expect to finalize these partnership decisions by the end of September. We plan to host an Adult Forum in October to share conclusions of this exciting process.



Our Journey has Only Begun!!

With 170 amazing Explorers and 66 incredible Expedition Guides, we had such a wonderful Journey off the Map.

In addition to knowing our guide, trusting and following Him, we learned that Christ has a plan for each of us. It is His Way and we should walk in it.

Through our journey, we were also able to raise \$1451.35 to give to the Children's Inn. Check out the Oak Hills Facebook page for a video of the week!



Serving is just a part of what we do!!

Fall is right around the corner and with it comes the opportunity to serve in Children's Ministry. We are currently seeking volunteers to help in the Nursery, with Sunday School and during the Wednesday Night programming. The time commitment is not that great but the

Reward....it's incredible. Not only are you helping shape the spiritual life of a child, but you are being an example to kids of what it means to serve Christ.

We have the expectation that folks with kids in the program serve in the ministry. Volunteering, though, is not limited to parents. Please stop and see the volunteer sign ups in the lobby and talk to one of the Children's

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Shelly Haan
Director of Children's Ministries
shaan@oakhills.net

Exciting Changes are coming to Children's Ministry and FW Friends this fall

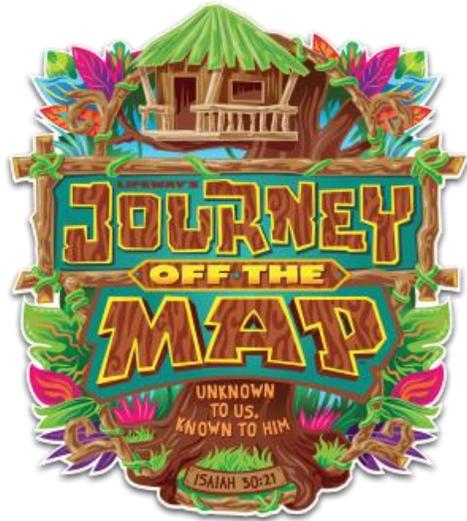
Join us for the **School Starts Late Party**
Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30pm.

Do some administrative stuff for fall!

Youth, Kids and parents can enjoy games, ice cream, and time outside together.

We will reveal a new look for Children's Ministry and Wednesday Night Programming.

VBS FUN!



STUDENT MINISTRIES



Dave Campbell
Assoc. Pastor of Student Ministries
dcampbell@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648

YOUTH STAFF

- John Gross
- Jeff Ballard
- Ashley Maturan
- Courtney Ballard
- Joy Karges
- Rachel Dewey
- Kate Friesen
- Mark Schmidt
- Carrie Schmidt
- Tammy McDowell
- Joel McDowell
- Colleen Thompson
- Laura Kunz
- Holly Kelly
- Steven Ballard

SUMMER 2015

The summer 2015 was an incredible one in Student Ministries at Oak Hills. We traveled 3,421 miles together, and shared incredible Holy Spirit moments. Our high school ministry sent a team of 27 students to serve in Antigua, Guatemala for a week, and our middle school students spent an awesome week at camp together in Iowa. One of the great blessings of summer in our ministry is the opportunity to get students out of their routine, and place them in an environment where they are compelled to work and grow together. Summer camp does that, and mission trips do that too. It was incredible to see students try new things, build relationships with one another and grow in their relationship with Jesus. I happen to be the one who gets to stand up in front a lot and talk about our students,

but you need to know that there is an incredible team of youth staff members here at Oak Hills. They are an incredible example to our young people, and they are an incredible encouragement and blessing to me. Ministry with this incredible staff is a huge gift to me, and to our church. These people aren't paid, but they serve like they are. Each week they come ready to invest deeply in the lives of teenagers, and connect with students in a way that is personal and powerful. As I think about the summer we had together, I am filled with gratitude for the team that God has assembled in this place to serve our students. When you see one of them in the hallway at church, give them a hug and tell them thank you. They've invested well this summer, and they have been used powerfully by God to build up young people. Thanks youth staff!! I love you!

STUDENT MINISTRIES FALL KICKOFF

In the coming weeks school is starting back up for students in our community, and that means that our weekly youth group gatherings are returning as well. Our first gathering of the year will be Wednesday night September 9th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. We are inviting the whole family to come out. I'll be sharing about our plans for the upcoming school year, and we'll have some ice cream too. It's a great way to learn about the year and to connect with other families in our youth ministry. Please plan on joining us on that night as we entrust another year of ministry in this place to our Lord Jesus.

MINNI-APPLE EXPERIENCE: THIS SEPTEMBER



Each year to welcome our incoming 6th graders to Student Ministries at Oak Hills, we take all of the middle school students to Minneapolis for the weekend. We go to a Twins game, we serve at Feed My Starving Children, we go to the Mall of America too. It is a great weekend. This year it is happening September 18-20th. We'll leave Friday September 19th at 1:00pm, and we'll return Sunday evening at 7:00pm. This is a great event to invite a friend to, and it's a great way to kick-start the year together! Plan on joining us! The cost for the weekend is \$85.00 which includes ALL meals. I'll send out a registration form in the coming weeks!

ADULT MINISTRIES



Pastor Paul, Associate Pastor
of Discipleship & Community Life
ppankratz@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648

FALL LEADERSHIP

ADULT FORUMS

OCT. 25, NOV. 1, 8

Mid-fall, we will have three Leadership Adult Forums that will run at both 9:30am & 11am.

Each Sunday there will be a presentation by separate group.

- Surplus Report (Council)
- Teaming Up for the Future (Staff)
- Beck report on mission in Japan (Randell & Linda)

FALL LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are the essence of core ministry and discipleship at Oak Hills. Life Groups are the place in which relationships and deep conversation are forged.

As a church, we offer a variety of Life Groups on various days of the week. Some Life Groups have setup childcare while others focus on a particular issue or stage of life. There are LG's for men, women, marrieds, "seasoned veterans," and there are LG's that span multiple categories. **There is a LG with an open seat ready for you.** Our brochure will list all the current



LG's at Oak Hills and give you instructions as to how to learn more. You can also contact Pastor Paul directly.

The commitment is ten weeks, from about September 13 - November 22.

WHAT IS AN ADULT FORUM?

Adult Forums allow us to have deep conversations about specific issues. We have four main categories of Forums: 1) the study of a particular Bible text, 2) discipleship (core skill), 3) hot Topic, and 4) intergenerational. Every year, Oak Hills hosts some of the most profound conversations in each of these categories. This fall, we will offer several Adult Forum options concurrent with both worship services at 9:30am & 11am. Mid-way through the fall, most of the AF's will flip the time they are offered.

FALL AF SCHEDULE: SEP. 13 - OCT. 18

Discipleship: Sacred Marriage, with the Marriage Ministry Team @ 9:30am (then @ 11am in Nov)

What if God gave us marriage not to make us happy but rather to make us holy? Marriage is a spiritual discipline that can enable us to know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. Join us for the DVD discussion of Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas.

Intergenerational: "Can I ask that? - volume 2" with Pastor Dave & Craig Dewey @ 9:30am

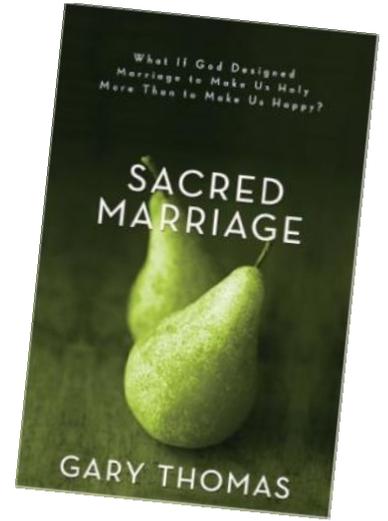
Teenagers and adults alike are tired of vague, superficial, or nonexistent answers to their tough questions about God, the Bible, and Christianity. It's not doubt or hard questions that are toxic to faith, it's silence. The Fuller Youth Institute provides us tools both to start conversations about hard questions, as well as to lead others toward discovering their own faith convictions.

Bible: Philippians with Dr. John Hiigel @ 11am (then @ 9:30am in Nov)

From his prison cell, Paul wrote "I am hard pressed," living under the stresses of gloating rivals, bickering friends, political persecution, sick loved ones, and deadly peril. Yet he has "learned the secret of contentment" and presses on to "take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Let us read Paul's testimony and counsel together and consider how to be partakers together of God's grace.

SACRED MARRIAGE BOOK REVIEW *by Kelly Pankratz*

What if God gave us marriage not to make us happy but rather to make us holy? The book *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas explores marriage as a spiritual discipline that can enable us to know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. There are plenty of marriage books in the marketplace, but this one calls the reader to focus on how the challenges, joys, struggles, and celebrations of marriage can cause one to draw closer to God and grow in Christian character. To succeed demands self-examination and humility but promises deeper intimacy both with creator and spouse. Reading this book as a couple can result in a unified understanding of your call and purpose as a married couple. Do you feel a need to re-charge your marriage? Is there a gnawing sense inside that your marriage should be deeper and more spiritual? This Fall, the marriage committee will be conducting an Adult Forum using the DVD discussion of the book. Please consider joining us as we venture into developing sacred marriages.



Paul & Melissa Ewing

Field directors for missionaries in Japan
with the North American Baptist Conference

OAK HILLS IS GOING TO JAPAN!!!

Imagine! You are in a strange land where they do not speak the same language as you. You are tasked to do a job at which you work very hard but see little reward. You must have incredible patience and not be easily discouraged. Just a visit from someone from your own home country can be an amazing encouragement. Just to be able to talk freely in your own language can be such a huge gift. That is what Randall and Linda Beck hope to do for Paul and Melissa Ewing when they go to Japan from **September 7-22**. Commissioning: Aug 30.

While visiting at Oak Hills a number of years ago, Paul Ewing identified a desire for more of a relationship with us, rather than just our financial support. The Becks hope to initiate that relationship, to more fully understand their situation and to be able to pray with them in a more knowledgeable way.

Prayer requests for the Becks: 1) Productive encouragement for the Ewing family, 2) Travel logistics, 3) Language barrier

Those that want to be included in hearing about our journey along the way, please give your e-mail address to the Becks at lindabeck4@hotmail.com.



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OAK HILLS
WEEKLY
UPDATES ?

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**OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**



Pastor Paul, Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Community Life
ppankratz@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648

USHERS

Serving as an usher is much more important than handing out a few worship folders and collecting an offering. Ushering shapes the first impressions people will form about our church. Ushers must also be careful in dealing with people, attentive to and able to respond appropriately to a large variety of circumstances. Even though ushering can be a big responsibility, it is very much intended to be fun and a meaningful ministry.

We are looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers. Please contact Pastor Paul to get more information about this vital ministry.

WINGS: Women In God's SERVICE

"LOVED"

WOMEN OF FAITH FAREWELL TOUR!

Friday - Saturday

October 16-17

The women of Oak Hills, along with Hillcrest and Trinity ladies, will have the opportunity to participate in the final Women Of Faith tour...from the comfort and convenience of our own church facility! We will be hosting the simulcast!

The mini-retreat will be Friday evening and

Saturday morning, October 16 and 17...mark your calendar now, and be thinking of a friend to invite, so you do not miss this opportunity to experience "Loved"! More details will follow in coming months!



DOOR HANGERS & NEW RESIDENT MAILERS

We continue to show our presence in the neighborhood of 1200 homes near the Oak Hills campus. A door hanger went out just before Easter week and VBS. Both produced obvious results. The neighborhood has been very appreciative. We are planning a door hanger for the Fall Festival. **Please consider helping out!**

Additionally, we mail out about 100 oversized postcards to people who have moved into the 57108 area code each month. These cards go out automatically with the help of D2Design. We designed the card and they do all the processing. **Please be in prayer for our neighborhood.**

CHERUB'S CLOSET

Exciting new developments are planned for Cherub's Closet this fall. While we will still give out our "Baby Shower In A Box" boxes at the local hospitals as we have been, we hope to expand to a monthly give-away on the campus of Oak Hills.

While Oak Hills' involvement has been limited until now to donating of supplies and writing the devotion booklet that we give to the moms who receive our boxes, there will be a greater need for your involvement as this ministry expands. We will need people to help prepare for the distribution, including men to be available on distribution days for

security purposes. We are in the early stages of planning for the execution of this expansion.

While we have big dreams for the future of Cherub's Closet, we want to stay true to our original Baby Shower In A Box mission. Our most recent box was given to a young 14 year old. She is too young to become a mother, but that is her reality. We are certain that Cherub's Closet met a need for this young new mother. Look for updates this fall on how you can become more involved in this ministry.