Houghton Wesleyan Church

Highlights

Joyfully loving God, wholeheartedly serving others
September 2024
Volume 57, No. 4

How It All Began

In the beginning…
Genesis 1:1

In his commentary on the Book of Genesis, Houghton University alum Victor Hamilton talks about *Genesis as a book concerned with origins—the origin of earth's creation, the origin of human beings, the origin of sin and its consequences on all of creation, especially human beings.*

The book of Genesis communicates these origins through the medium of story. The stories of Genesis reveal all of human nature—the good, the bad and the ugly. Quite frankly, this is not a book for the faint of heart, nor is it a book that provides easy answers to life's difficult and troubling questions. What it does provide is the truth about human beings and the truth about God.

As Hamilton points out: *Transcending all of these emphases on beginnings is God.*

Starting with the life of creation and ending with the death of God's leaders, the author provides us with selected stories that reveal the nature and character of God and of his interaction with human beings. In Genesis, we are introduced to people who brag about their sin and people who are trying to obey God. In Genesis we find people who seem to be driven by deception and people who surprise us with unexpected acts of compassion. In Genesis, we are drawn into the struggle of a rejected immigrant and the struggle of a betrayed brother. In Genesis, we come face to face with the jealousy and reconciliation of a troubled family. And through it all, there is God—identifying himself with people who are fallible in order to fulfill his mission of redeeming what is broken.

Sunday mornings this fall, starting September 1, we are going to be thinking about Genesis. We can't possibly cover all 50 chapters in 12 weeks, but we are going to look at some of the larger themes as we explore as many of the stories as we can.

I am excited about this book that is more often than not a mirror of our lives. I believe that though the stories are ancient, the people are as modern as you and me.

So, in preparation for these sermons, let me encourage you to start reading through Genesis. I hope that your journey—and our journey together—will open our eyes not only to who we are but even more importantly, to who God is.

In Christ,

Pastor Wes

Stewardship – A Life of Generosity

Financial Update for September 2024

Year-End Fiscal Report

Now that all of the information has been compiled, we want to give you an update on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. We ended the year about $13,700 below our anticipated giving goal. If you followed our giving through the year, you would note that at one point in December we were $46,000 behind! Thank you for your generous giving.

In addition, our other revenues were about $4,700 above the anticipated amount, and our expenses were a little more than $11,000 below budget. The difference in these figures means that we ended the year with a surplus of $2,145.

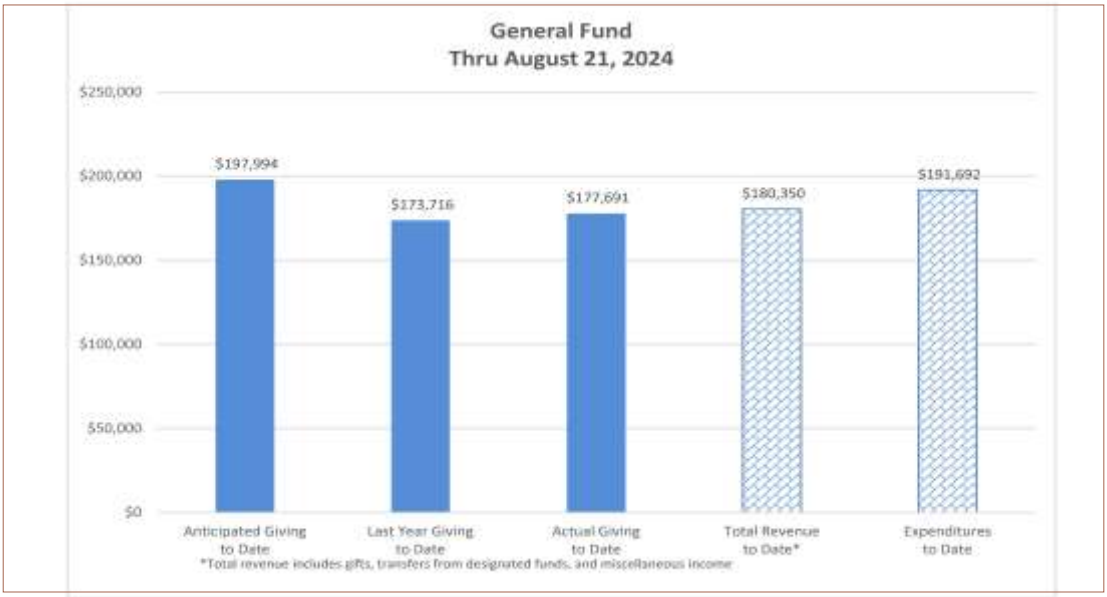
Now, as we move forward into another fiscal year, we are challenging all of us to consider our level of generosity. As you would assume, our fixed costs (utilities, insurance, office supplies, etc.) as well as our ministry costs have risen significantly. In the 2024-2025 Financial Plan we have accounted for these expenses and a modest raise for all of our church staff.

We recognize that God is the ultimate source of meeting our needs. We also recognize that God has generously given to all who follow him the joy and privilege of being stewards of what he has given us. Therefore, we challenge all of us who are connected to HWC to prayerfully consider how God might want us to express our generosity toward our church.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to be generous with God's gifts and thank you for your prayers for wisdom in using these gifts as agents of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Please note that all financial reports are always available by contacting the church office.

The Stewardship Committee



The Chapman Family, Jess, Jimmy, Evelyn, Owen, and Avery, at the death of Jess's father Tim Lexer on July 29.

HWC Kids

- Kids Connect kicks off on Sunday, September 8th at 9:45am! See you then!

September Series: "Under Construction"
King Solomon is best known for his wisdom and for building God's temple. Thankfully, he passed on his wisdom so others could have a strong foundation for building up their faith. In this 5-week series, kids will hear from Solomon and the wisdom he shared about the kind of life God wants to help us build. They'll see that God gives them directions to follow, listens to their requests, is worthy of their worship, gives them true wisdom, and helps them do big things!

September Memory Verse: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."—James 1:5 (NIV)

- Kids Club: Saturday, September 21st from 9:30-11:00am, grades PreK-6th grade

- Stewards of Children training is being offered Saturday, September 21st at 8:00am. Anyone is welcome to participate in our sexual abuse prevention training; training is required for all youth and children's ministry volunteers. Help us create a safe community for our kids!

- NEW this year - Preteen Hangout!!
HWC Kids in grades 5 and 6 can join us on the 3rd Sundays of the month during Youth Group time, 6-8pm, at the Church for a time of food, friends, faith, and fun! Bring your friends and join us for an informal time of relationship building where we'll play games, eat food, and pray together!

Congratulations!

Henry Reusser was born July 26 to parents Alison and George, siblings Izzy, Aggie, Paul and Frederick and grandparents Paul and Debbie Young.

We are gearing up for a new year at Valley Preschool!
We still have some room for students, particularly in our fours/fives class. Right now we are expecting 16 students this fall - twelve in our three morning program, four in our two morning program, and nine who will come all five mornings.

Did You Know...?
• Full tuition for 10 months of Valley Preschool costs families
- $115.00/month for the two days/wk. program (average of 7 days/month)
- $165.00/month for the three days/wk. program (average of 10 days/month)
- $275.00/month for the five days/wk. program (average of 17 days/month)
• We have twelve students getting a combined tuition reduction of $125 per month from the **Stone Soup Fund.**

There are six families who have applied for financial assistance beyond that basic tuition reduction. Funding for that additional assistance comes from our scholarship fund..

Please pray for our staff and students as we begin our 56th year!

Prayer Chain Opportunities

Prayer changes things. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. This admonition is a powerful reminder to us as Christians that prayer is essential in our lives. With this in mind, we invite women and men to become involved in the prayer chain ministry of the church. If you already on the prayer chain, your name will remain on the list unless you contact us otherwise. If you want to receive prayer chain requests via phone or email, please contact the church office at 567-2264. Thank you.

From the
Library Shelves

Did you know Houghton Wesleyan Church has a library? It is located in the CE building, just down the hall from the church offices. Did you know there are three rooms to the church library? The first room is where the check-out counter, card catalog, CDs, DVDs and most of the adult books are kept. The second room has shelves for the adult biographies, DVD Bible studies, reference books, and a work area for processing new books. Leading off from the first room is the third room, which houses the children's/junior library shelves.

Our library is self-serve, and is open whenever the church is. Please follow the instructions on the board at the check-out desk for any items you wish to take out. Return your items through the slots in the front of the check-out desk when you have finished them.

Come in and see what we have to offer!

Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped with the Barbeque following church on Sunday, August 15th. We had a great turn-out and a wonderful time together. We are grateful for the family who raised and donated the pig. We so appreciate all who helped with roasting the pig, the set-up, helping in the kitchen and with the food, and with clean-up.

Thank you to all who helped with the Ice Cream Kick-off on Sunday afternoon, August 25. We had a beautiful afternoon and a great time. Again, thank you to all who helped with set-up, scooping ice cream, helping in the kitchen, and with clean-up.

We appreciate all the time and energy that went into both of these special events.

September 2024 HWC Youth News:

Youth Group in September

- Sept 1 – No YG
- Sept 8 – Foam Party and Hotdog roast – 3:33-5:55pm
- Sept 15 – Listening is Worth Repeating!
- Sept 22 – Love is Worth Repeating!
- Sept 29 - Caring is Worth Repeating!

Jesus calls us to live for others. This fall we start off with a series that calls us to actions that are worth repeating! We'll take a look at how we can make "loving like Jesus" a daily part of our lives. Can't wait to see you in Youth Group!

Prayer Breakfast begins on Wednesday, Sept 11, 7am in the Community Room

Sept 11,18,25

(For the HWCYG annual permission slip click here. Or scan here*!)* ----------→

Discipleship Hour (SS) in Sept: *This year in SS we are focusing on the OT and will begin in Exodus!*

- Sept 1 – **Parents meeting in the Community Room! 9:45 am**

Ask questions, get critical info, listen to the plan for the year, and sign an annual permission slip. Youth Group parents, this one is for you. (Also…donuts.) 😊

- Sept 8 – Youth Staff Meeting! Students go to Sunday School with their parents.
- Sept 15 – Youth will attend Kaleidoscope
- Sept 22 - Exodus – Passover
- Sept 29 – Exodus - Moses

Upcoming Events:

-Sept 8 – Foam Party and Hotdog Roast – 3:33-5:55pm

-Oct 6 – Storm the Heights – 3:33-5:55pm

-Dec 8 – Progressive Dinner

Wellspring Words

What's **DOWNSTAIRS** at Wellspring?
Well, lots of things, and some you would not believe!
Here are the rooms -
Linens, Kitchen, Books, Sundries, Toys (kids' stuff), Holiday Items (and scissors lift housing), Staff sorting areas, Christmas Room (in Nov.-Dec.), 3 Restrooms, Jim's Office, Storage, Furnace, etc.

I hope this will whet your appetite to come, explore, have coffee, lunch... or just stop in to see what your church is supporting. We are open Wednesdays and Fridays only, from 10am to 1:15, with lunch at 11:55. Families are welcome, and there is no charge for anything. You just may find what you NEED or WANT! What about a good book to read at summer's end? Back to school items?

We gratefully welcomed our own *Denise Zambrano* as a volunteer this summer, currently helping in the sorting area. God has heard our prayers for Jim's health in his recovery from Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and now we pray for God's direction as we anticipate *a successor for the Director position* in HIs timing. Jim has served 17-18 yrs. and is nearing 80. Please pray with us for this important position to be filled by God's person. We also are praying for additional Board members.

Would you pray, too, for our **volunteers** to have hearts of humility and graciousness as we serve and interact with people who come and go. May our conversations be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so we may know how to answer everyone, with the goal to represent Jesus well. Thank you for your **prayers,** and for **extra garden produce** that we can share, or serve at a meal.

NOTE: We are closed Friday, August 30 for Labor Day Weekend!

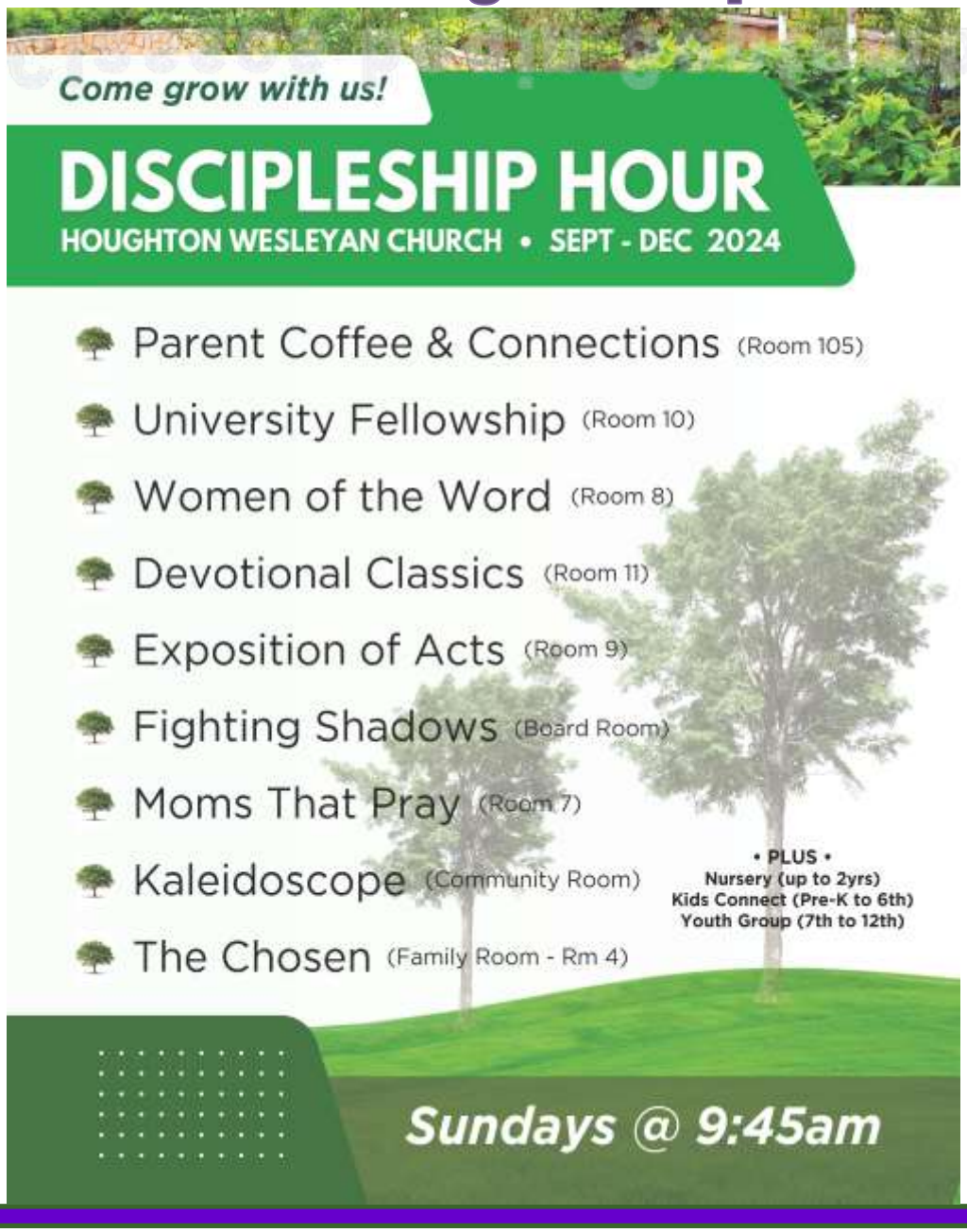
For the Bd. - Beth Beardsley
"All God's thrones are reached by going **DOWNSTAIRS.**" G.Campbell Morgan

The Wednesday morning **Women's Bible Study** will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 9:30-10:45 am in the Good Shepherd Room (under the sanctuary). This first session will be a time of getting acquainted, introducing the study and having a time of prayer. We will be finishing Profiles of Perseverance using Melanie Newton's easy to follow study guide. Then we will start a study of Habakkuk. Since we don't have a permanent leader, each member will participate in facilitating sessions throughout the year. If you are interested, please come join us.

Ladies Healing Journey Bible Study offered at Fillmore Wesleyan Church

Are you seeking a peaceful mind, healed heart, and a life that is filled with joy and hope? Then please join us for the Ladies Healing Journey Bible Study offered at Fillmore Wesleyan Church. This study is a wonderful opportunity to heal from emotional, mental, and spiritual wounds. We will begin Thursday September 12 and you can choose a morning or evening class. Times are 9:30-11:30am and 6:00-8:00pm. The cost of $75 covers the materials for the 29-week study. We would love to have you join us. For questions or to register, contact Gloria Poorman (585)610-3871 or Vaughn Hark (585)567-4893. Sign up soon to reserve your spot.

Most Classes begin September 8



October 5 -- 1:00-3:00 -- Houghton Academy Car Wash at Houghton Wesleyan Church parking lot .

Let us wash your car & tell you about our upcoming service opportunity to do sports ministry in Nicaragua with Ignite International.
Donations accepted.

October 22 -- 5:30-6:30 --
Houghton Academy Chicken Dinners!
Athletes will be selling tickets for chicken dinners (supplied by Krolicks BBQ). Purchase tickets by October 11 for $17/dinner and pick the dinners up at Houghton Academy between 5:30 and 6:30. Dinners include chicken, salt potatoes, macaroni salad, a roll, and a dessert cookie! Thank you for supporting our service opportunity coming up in April to Nicaragua.

Grace Deitrick and Cody Johnson were married August 17, 2024. Congratulations!

Celebrate Recovery Meets
Thursdays, 7:00 PM in Room 105 across from the Church Library
CR is safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

September 1 (8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming) a.m. *Creation Delight* (Genesis 1-2)

September 8 (8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming) a.m. *This Is Going to Cost You* (Genesis 3)

September 15 (8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming) a.m. *Sorry, Not Sorry* (Genesis 4)

September 22 (8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming) a.m. *Speaking God's Language* (Genesis 11)

September 29 (8:30 a.m. (Outdoor) / 11:00 a.m. (Indoor/Streaming) a.m. *The Wisdom that Defines Us* (Genesis 14)

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Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon & 1 to 4 p.m.