



Where Do We Go From Here?

*Ask, seek, knock...
Pray without ceasing
Zephaniah 3:16-17 (NIV)*

By the time you receive this, the prayer vigil will have ended and from all of the reports we have received, the three-weeks of 24-hour-a-day prayer has been blessed by God's Spirit!

Of the 504 hours of prayer, year-round residents reserved the prayer room, 346 hours (69%), college students reserved the prayer room 136 hours (27%) and high school students and younger 22 hours (4%). A minimum of 339 different people signed up for the prayer vigil (237 residents/ 102 college students). Of course, this doesn't take into consideration that during many of the hours more than one person was in the room: we know that families, friends, classes, and a dorm floor were a common practice. I don't think that it's an exaggeration to assert that more than 400 people were in the prayer room during the vigil and probably more!



If you attended the closing celebration the evening of November 22, you heard just a slice of the stories of what God did in us during these days. You can read more stories on the prayer website (<http://hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com>). We encourage you to share your stories on the site, too. And if you read the expressions of concern on the Wailing Wall and the expressions of gratitude and adoration and commitment on the Worship Wall you would see even more of what God is doing. Of course, as wonderful as these weeks have been, my concern is that the momentum of prayer and openness and transformation will not stop simply because the official vigil has ended. So to help us maintain and even increase the momentum of the Spirit's work in our lives and church, here are some next steps for you to be aware of:

1. The Prayer Room will continue to be available for you (7:00 am – 9:00 pm daily). We have elected to eliminate the late night/early morning hours because of logistics related to the numerous hours of work behind the scenes that would be difficult to continue on a regular basis.
2. Sign ups to reserve the room will continue online or through the church office. You will receive an automated reminder when you complete your reservation, but you will not receive an additional follow-up reminder.
3. Walk-ins are welcome, but priority will be given to those who have reserved the room. Instructions are posted near the Prayer Room door regarding usage.
4. The prayer website will remain a tool for connecting to the prayer emphasis in the church. I will continue to post a blog a few times a week and a daily Twitter message (www.twitter.com/pastorwesoden) with a brief word of encouragement or challenge about prayer.
5. We encourage you to take home with you printed materials that are in the prayer room.
6. I am also in the process of organizing a team of people to pray in the prayer room during our Sunday morning worship services. I envision a large enough group of people so that 2-3 different people are praying one Sunday a month during each service each Sunday. If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, please contact me.
7. We are beginning plans for another prayer vigil during the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 17 – Easter morning, April 4). This vigil would more than double what we just did. So be in prayer for the planning of this event.

(continued, next page)

I want to thank the many people who were instrumental in the work of the prayer vigil and prayer rooms: those who designed, prepared, and maintained the prayer room, those who prepared the written materials, all who worked with scheduling and publicity, all who were willing to be on-call and all who sacrificed sleep to take shifts with all-night security, all who helped plan the opening service and the closing celebration, all who helped with cleaning the prayer rooms and replenishing supplies and whiteboards and other things, to everyone who helped with the website, and to all of you who came and prayed! Thank you.

But most of all, I want to thank our loving heavenly Father who heard our prayer, met with us, and started a work in us that we pray will not soon be forgotten.

And let me remind you of one more thing: when you walked out of the prayer room following your time of prayer and when the last person emerged from the prayer room at 6:00 pm on November 22, our praying didn't stop; coming out of the room and completing this vigil is not an end but a beginning. We pray that what we have done these three weeks will be a catalyst for what God is going to do in us and for us and with us and through us that we might live what we have prayed.

Let me leave you with the poem that was posted by the prayer room to be the last thing you saw as you left the room. It is from a prayer room wall in the original prayer room of the 24-7 prayer movement. May this be our prayer.

Pastor Wes

**what have we begun,
when we pray like this?
What have we done?
Can we ever know—
what seeds we sow
what lights we show
what dreams we throw?
here playing like kids
in danger places
atomic seeds
hidden graces
radiation
kingdom come.
what have we begun?
here we see angels,
burning like the sun.
here we juggle destinies
what is this thing we've done?
what army gets commissioned
kneeling this way?
What passion finds expression
when wounded soldiers pray?
are nameless heroes rising?
tomorrow's chosen ones
carriers of Jesus
what plague have we begun?
What dreamer writes upon the wall?
What wonders hem me in?
When we lit that three-way candle
What fires did we begin?**

*Anonymous, found on prayer room wall, Chichester, U.K.
Red Moon Rising, pp. 248-49*



From Pastor Todd

Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness (Psalm 115:1).

We've had a great fall semester of ministry! Many of you deserve much credit for the time, talent and energy you gave to make ministry happen for the glory of our Lord. I want to highlight those with whom I've had the wonderful privilege of working. Special thanks to the following leaders for their love gifts to the Lord through various ministries this past semester:

COLLEGE MINISTRIES

- **College Ministries Committee:** Dan Brubaker, Shannon Daugherty, Bruce Brenneman, Jane Roeske, Beth Beardsley, Kevin Austin, Cindy Austin, Nancy Murphy, Dan Noyes, Ian Galloway
- **Koinonia:** Ruth Kenote, Emily DelGiorno, Andy Keller, Caitlin Cleland, Jordan Green, Chris Way, Mike Varriale, Matt Geeze, Audrey Kusasira
- **Nursing Home Ministry:** Christine Finnegan, Jennifer Huyett, John Ockrin
- **LOGOS Bible Studies:**
Leaders – Alissa Pocock, Audrey Kusasira, Christi Chamberlain, Darryl Lockie, Susie Skillman
Hosts – Doug & Judi Mayhle, Bruce & Donna Hess, Todd & Mary Leach, Jim & Karen Szymanski

In addition to these ministries, some of you are prayer partners with and for our college students. Thank you for serving in this way.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

- **Hosts:** Phil & Sue Brooks, Paul & Margaret Johnson, Doug & Judi Mayhle, Phil & Donnie Stockin, Carlos & TJ Gildemeister, Mike & Audra Beardsley
- **Leaders:** Steve Castor, Warren Woolsey, Doug Mayhle, John Fraser, Carlos Gildemeister, Dan Wartinger, Calvin & Paulette Schierer, Kevin Austin

Thanks to each of you – and to ALL of our ministry volunteers – for giving sacrificially of your time, talents, and energy to the Lord and His Kingdom. The spring semester looks full of promise as we build on the foundation you laid this past semester and continue to grow and mature in Christ. You are a blessing!

YOUTH NEWS

Check out the Youth Webpage for permission slips and info at <http://www.hwchurch.org/Youth.htm>

MSM – Wednesday - 6:30 – 8:00pm
16 - Christmas Party

Senior High Youth Group Sunday Evenings at 6:00pm
December 6– at the Webbs' home for Advent II
13 - at Church for Christmas Celebration
and Christmas Cookie Reception
20 – at Church for Christmas Carol Sing

Prayer Breakfast: Tuesday Mornings: December 1, 8, and 15,
7:00 AM in the Community Room.

Youth Committee Meeting - Monday, December 14, 7 –
8:30 PM in the Youth Room

EVENTS: Not Too Late to Sign Up!

December 28-31, 2009 the Houghton Youth Group is traveling to Baltimore to attend "Love Mercy," a Wesleyan Youth convention event. Not only will we have fun traveling and staying in a hotel together, but we will also get to hear terrific speakers such as Zach Hunter, Jeremy Kingsley and Scott Simmons; rock to music by LIFT and Group 1 Crew; and get wowed by illusionist Jared Hall. Check out http://mywycon.com/?page_id=45 for more details.



Thanks for Your Help!

If you have been in the new youth room upstairs in the CE building you may have seen *two brand new computer monitors!* These were purchased with funds from the used printer cartridge and cell phone fundraiser! Thanks for giving the youth group your old cell phones and used printer cartridges! *You are making a difference!!*

FINANCIAL REPORT: As of November 15, we are \$13,500 behind our giving budget for the fiscal year which began on June 1. The good news is that this is a significant improvement since the last report given in the October Highlights and expenses continue to remain within budget. Our thanks to all who have made this possible. We continue to encourage you to pray concerning the church finances and to give as you are led in order that the remaining shortfall can be eliminated.

REMINDER: Year-end donations must be either postmarked or delivered to the church office on or before noon on December 31 in order to be counted as a 2009 contribution -The Elders



CORNER

DECEMBER 20 is the date to circle on your busy calendar. WKFMers will be going to "cheerleading camp" and learn how people in CROATIA come to know Jesus through cheerleading. We'll also focus on the greatest promise- John 3:16.

W.K.F.M. Offering will go to the MISSIONARY STOREHOUSE where missionaries can visit and make selections of new linens, Tupperware, household and personal care items. Also the OVERSEAS LITERATURE FUND will receive a portion of our offering. This fund purchases books, magazines, videos, and Bibles to encourage missionary families. Thank you for helping your child remember his offering. In September-October we sent in \$40.00.

P.S. A GREAT IDEA that some families have done in the past instills in your child the TRUE meaning of Christmas. Simply take one or two 8 1/2 x 11 pieces of tagboard and print Luke 2: 1-14 clearly. Bring this out each night at supper or bedtime and read together in the month of December. It is amazing how easily this portion of Scripture is memorized, making the meaning of Christmas very clear. make reading it a tradition year after year!



In Our Library

"What if the Grinch had a gavel? What if Christmas was ruled unconstitutional? You'll find out in this stirring Christmas tale involving a family that must fight for the right to celebrate the season." Randy Singer, who writes legal thrillers, shares this story in a book called, *The Judge Who Stole Christmas*. Earlier this year we reviewed *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojcichowski. Our collection has the book and the DVD. For the Christmas season there will be worksheets available on a table in the library. Children may take these to work on as they enjoy the book. Hopefully, this will make the Christmas season more meaningful to them. Another children's book has been added that is related to the Christmas season. It is called *Saint Nicholas, 'The Real Story of the Christmas Legend* by Julie Stiegemeyer. *Overcoming Emotions that Destroy* is a new book by Chip Ingram, president of Living on the Edge Ministry and Dr. Becca Johnson. Are You "a Spewer, a Leaker or Stuffer?" Find the tools that can be used by God to transform you and your relationships. *Sent to the River God Forgot* by Jim and Janice Walton is the story of a missionary couple who took their family to the jungle of Colombia. "They thought they were going to a forsaken land but instead found God's footprints on those jungle trails."

Save The Date: District Women's Event on Saturday, **April 24** from 9:30-3:00

Levant Wesleyan Church

Guest Speaker - Kathy Coleman

A Silent Auction is planned to help benefit Hope Refugee Services. Begin planning now to take part in this.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

THANK YOU to everyone who filled an Operation Christmas Child shoebox! A special thank you to each member of the youth group who helped to load the boxes for transport to the relay center. A record high of 300 children will be blessed by the efforts of this community. Let's continue to pray for these little ones as they receive their boxes and the Gospel message.

A special thank you to Terri Bradbury for once again heading up the Operation Christmas Child ministry. We appreciate her dedication and commitment to this important ministry and for all of her behind-the-scene work to make this ministry possible. Thank you!

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:

The apostle Paul in Colossians 4:2 admonishes us to, "Devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." This admonition is also a powerful reminder to us as Christians that prayer is essential in our lives. The prayer chain continues to be a vital part of our prayer ministry as we share in one another's burdens. With this in mind, we invite more men and women to become involved in the prayer chain ministry of our church. If you are already on the prayer chain, your name will remain on the list unless you contact us otherwise. If you want to receive the prayer chain requests via the phone or via e-mail, please contact the church office as soon as possible. Our new prayer chain booklet will be out soon. Thank you.

Wednesday Evening Children's Ministries in December & January

December 2, 9, and 16, all of our children's ministries will meet (this includes AWANA Puggles & Cubbies, Girls' AWANA Club, and Boys' AWANA Club). Due to the holidays, our children's ministries will NOT meet on December 23, 30, and January 6. They will resume their regular schedule on Wednesday, January 13. Thank you.

Sunday School Schedule:

Due to the holidays and people away visiting family, we will NOT have Sunday School on December 20, 27 or January 3. We will resume our regular schedule on Sunday, January 10. Thank you.

FOOD PANTRY:

Thank you to all who contributed to our church food pantry during our November 22 collection. During the past year we have helped more than 118 people from Houghton and surrounding communities through this ministry. If you are still interested in donating, please feel free to drop off items at the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Phil and Rea Holcomb** at the birth of their daughter **Maiya** on **October 29** in Olean General Hospital. Maiya weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long.

The Flower Committee Welcomes Your Christmas Poinsettias



to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. We have purchased a number of WHITE POINSETTIAS (our color theme this year), which you may purchase for \$9.00 each, or you may bring your own on December 19. If you care to purchase one, please leave \$9.00 with Patty Stalker in the church office and fill out a reservation form indicating your preferences. If you wish to honor a loved one, please leave this information with Patty by December 17.



Christmas Celebration

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

AT 6 O'CLOCK ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

which will include the Children's Choir, the Adult Choir, and several other small ensembles and will be followed by a Christmas Cookie Reception in the Community Room.

Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share and drop them off at the Community Room before the service. The Seymour/Thayer Streets Lay Shepherd groups will be hosting this event.

Anyone interested in participating in the Adult Choir for Christmas season, contact Amanda Cox by phone (567-2264/4870) or e-mail (acox@hwchurch.org).

Thank you for praying for us and the six college students who are going with us on our 6th missions trip to Eleuthera during Christmas break. We thank the Lord for your prayers and for the support we received through the short term missions fund. You are a blessing in many ways!

*In Christ,
Bob, Laurie, Angie and Zac Smalley*

**We made it and all is well!
Ken and Doris Nielsen
6350 Winter Park Drive
North Richland Hills TX 76180**

Dear Church Family -

Thank you so much for your response to towels and blankets for Wellspring. What a joy to see others benefitting from what you supply - sometimes almost immediately! Wellspring accepts almost anything: Christmas decorations, cards, books, housewares, toys, baby equipment, coats, candles, and on it goes. Keep remembering Wellspring in prayer, too. It is on the verge of a building extension project in 2010. Contact person: Elizabeth Beardsley (567-8117)

OUR FAMILY IN MINISTRY: Cory and Kris Thede – Haiti

The Thedes live in Fauche at the Northern District conference center which is full of activity. The ministry center serves as a school, a church and a six-bed medical clinic. The property also hosts a compassionate ministries program for women and children, several district conferences and is home to two mission families, two pastors' families and medical personnel.

EDUCATION: Advanced and beginning English classes are held three times a week. Gardening classes are held twice a month. There are over 400 students at the Fauche mission school. And the clinic is teaching their patients to improve their health. The district has 17 primary schools with 5,200 students and seven secondary schools with 770 students.

ENCOURAGING THE CHURCHES: Pastors of the 26 district churches meet monthly at the conference center. The Thedes are visiting churches throughout the year and have only six more to go.

TREE NURSERY: Cory is growing exotic trees to improve the lives of Haitians such as Peach Palms used for fruit and fencing material; Mangosteen, Durian and Cupuasú trees used for their fruit; and Acai Palms whose fruit is enjoyed in fruit drinks and ice pops. Moringa Tree seeds are handed out with instructions at the conferences.

COMMUNITY PAGE

Houghton Area Senior Citizens

Luncheon December 10 at 12:00 Noon followed by the Annual Houghton Academy Music Program at the Academy

Please bring your table service and the dish designated by the initial of your last name: A-F, Casserole G-O, Salad P-Z, Dessert



MAKING IT HOME

House cleaning & organizing services.
Kirsten Jeffers 808-2831

Peter W. Roeske
Snowplowing Services,
585-689-0368

HOUSE SITTING NEXT SUMMER: Cam and Esther Arensen work as pastors/missionaries in the Arab Emirates. They would like to take a short sabbatical next summer in the Houghton area (June 29-Aug 8) They are looking for a house sitting situation. If anyone knows of a house that might be available, please contact Jon Arensen at 567-2020.

The Church Kitchen needs more kitchen towels. If you have some that belong to our kitchen, please return them. Perhaps you have extras you wouldn't mind donating. Please leave them in the kitchen. Thank you.

The Kitchen Committee

23rd Annual Houghton College
**Christmas
Craft & Gift Fair**
Wednesday & Thursday, December 9 & 10
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Reinhold Campus Center

Two Christmas ornaments hanging from strings. The top one is yellow with a red star, and the bottom one is blue with a yellow star.

Campus Bookstore Christmas Sale: 20% Off Trade Books, Bibles, Journals

During December shop the Campus Store. Special orders from major distributors also receive the 20% discount and free shipping! **and...Visit the Bargain Book Sale** – Hundreds of titles including fiction, nonfiction, children's, young adult, bestsellers, cookbooks, reference, Bibles, and more are discounted 40%-80%. The sale continues through December 23.

FOR SALE: Kodak EasyShare P880 Digital SLR Camera for Sale.

Used lightly for one year and in perfect condition.

Easy to use and good for portraits, scenery, action, close-ups, etc.

Package includes camera, case, battery charger, printer dock, software, and user's manual.

Asking \$350 (originally sold for \$599) or best offer. Call 567-2788 for more details.

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 6 (8:20am, 9:40am and 11:00am, 6:00 pm)
a.m. *Remembering Christ In Our Past* (Matthew 1)
p.m. Church Service

December 13 (8:20am, 9:40 and 11:00am, 6:00 pm)
a.m. *You Are a Christ-Bearer* (Matthew 1)
p.m. Music Celebration/Cookie Fellowship

December 20 (10:00 am, 6:00 pm)
a.m. *What So Important about Incarnation?* (John 1:14)
p.m. Carol Sing

December 27 (10:00 am)
a.m. *God's Christmas Surprises* (Mt. 1; Lk. 2)
p.m. NO ACTIVITIES



You are invited to our annual Christmas Eve celebration at 7:00 pm. The service will include music, scripture, and the lighting of candles.

CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, Senior Pastor, 567-2024, woden@hwchurch.org

Todd Leach, Assistant Pastor, 567-8288, tleach@hwchurch.org

Jon Cole, Youth Pastor, 307-9950, jcole@hwchurch.org

Cindy Oden, Discipleship Pastor, 567-2024, coden@hwchurch.org

Amanda Cox, Worship Director, 567-4870, acox@hwchurch.org

Laurie Smalley, Volunteer Pastor for Outreach, 567-8302, lsmalley@hwchurch.org

3rd Annual Christmas Prism

To the World - Joy

December 4 & 5, 8:00 PM

FRIDAY ONLY: Concert and Dessert: 8 pm — Artist circle seating for the concert, dessert following concert, Adelman Atrium, Center for the Arts ~ **\$20**

SATURDAY ONLY: Dinner and Concert: 6 pm — Dinner in the dining hall, Reinhold Campus Center with artist circle seating for the concert at 8pm ~ **\$30**

CONCERT ONLY TICKET \$10

CONCERT FAMILY TICKET (2 adults & children in immediate family) **\$25**

CONCERT HOUGHTON COLLEGE STUDENT TICKET \$5

Make your reservation at the Houghton College Welcome Center Desk. For more information go to

www.houghton.edu/events/prism



High School Basketball Tournament @ Houghton College

The annual Counselors' Classic basketball tournament will be held at HC on (Tues & Wed) December 29 & 30. Boys and girls varsity teams from four county schools will be playing; proceeds support college scholarships for local students. Game times — 2:45, 4:30, 6:30 & 8:00 each day.