

The Window

On a journey with the living Christ;
connecting with God, others, and the world.



August 2019

Changes! by Deena Candler, Interim Pastor



For the past nineteen months it has been my privilege to serve as the Interim Pastor of West Hills Church. We have all known that the purpose of this time was to prepare West Hills for what is ahead. We have prayed for healing, and prayed for the future pastor. For the past seven months, the Pastor Nominating Committee whom you elected has worked prayerfully discerning God's spirit for who He was calling to lead in ministry. On Sunday, July 28, that became clear as the Rev. Andy Hamer preached his candidating sermon. I am wondering if everyone else noticed what I did that morning—that as he preached the sun radiating through that beautiful window behind him began to shine brighter and brighter—almost as a visual statement from God that this is the one He has called. At the congregational meeting immediately after worship you unanimously elected Andy to serve as your pastor.

I am thrilled at what God is doing. In the little bit that I have had the opportunity to get to know Andy, I believe he is well suited for this call. I also know what few others do—that this church will be a great blessing to him and to his family. I can speak that through personal experience. Andy will begin his call at West Hills Church on September 2. His first Sunday preaching will be on September 8. The weeks ahead will be busy for him and his wife Theresa, and children Kathleen and Caroline. Please keep them in prayer for all the transitions they are making.

Rev. Gary Eller will preach and offer communion on September 1.

This means personal changes for me as well. After serving West Hills Church for almost twenty-two years I will be retiring. I plan to stay in Omaha for the foreseeable future. I suspect I will be doing some traveling and some volunteer work, and perhaps take my dog through therapy training.

My last Sunday at West Hills will be August 25. We will have one worship service at **10:00 a.m. followed by a retirement lunch.** I hope you can join us. It will not be easy to leave you...but I believe God is in the midst of all that is taking place and that He has called just the right person to minister with you and lead this church into the future...on the journey with the living Christ!



Skinner East-Block Party



THANK YOU to all that provided items for the Skinner East block party on June 15. On all accounts it was a great success and fun was had by all!! Unlike past Skinner East events, ABIDE joined forces with the Butler-Gast YMCA to hold the neighborhood party at the YMCA location. It was a beautiful evening with so much to see and do. There was face painting, jump houses, crafts, games, music, line dancing, and of course the hot dogs, chips, and cookies provided by West Hills members! With the help of our Light House resident, Marcia Kittrel, we served up food to over 300 attendees! The next event with our Skinner East friends is September 14, so stay tuned for more details!

Photos by @AbideOmaha

Celebrations Event



On June 21, several people from West Hills took a tour of the Durham Museum to see two special exhibits. One was the spectacular dinosaur exhibit and the other was the American democracy exhibit. As you entered the dinosaur exhibit you were met with a huge screen showing live dinosaurs running along the streets of Omaha along with the sound of their feet. As you turned the corner a live picture of each person was on the screen among the running dinosaurs. So realistic! Brodie Vermilyea (Jan and Galen's twelve year-old grandson) was really absorbed in this visual. Those in the group that were fascinated with dinosaurs got to experience the reality of their size and ferocity as full size structures of several dinosaurs were on exhibit.

The American democracy exhibit was very interesting also, with pictures and questions about the reasons behind amendments to our Constitution. It was a great lesson in some of the history of our country.

The tour ended with a trip to the old fashioned soda fountain located on the main floor of the museum, yum. Lots of ice cream and conversation was enjoyed by all.



Science & the Bible

The environmental devastation of our (could be) beautiful earth was foreseen in Revelation 11:18 where it says, "He will bring to ruin those ruining the earth." The earth was meant to be our home and we were commanded to subdue it and take care of it. However, what we see is pollution, destruction and corrupt dominion.



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. The prophet Ezra proclaimed a fast at this river: A. Nile B. Jordan C. Ahava D. Euphrates
2. Moses received the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments on this mountain: A. Zion B. Sinai C. Serbal D. Mountain is unknown
3. How many pieces of silver were given to Judas as a bribe to betray Jesus? A. 20 B. 30 C. 60 D. 100
4. What gift did the daughter of Herodias ask for after she danced for Herod? A. to conceive a child with her that would succeed him as king B. The head of John the Baptist C. The head of Paul D. The head of Jesus
5. Daniel and his companions proposed to eat and drink these instead of the royal food and wine at the court of King Nebuchadnezzar: A. vegetables and water B. vegetables and grape juice C. honey and water D. bread and water
6. How much money did Joseph's brothers receive when they sold him to a merchant caravan? A. 10 pieces of silver B. 7 pieces of silver C. 20 pieces of silver D. 30 pieces of silver
7. Jesus crossed this brook into a garden on the night that He was betrayed by Judas: A. Cedron B. Kishron C. Pishon D. Stony
8. How many jars of water did Jesus change into wine at the wedding in Cana? A. One B. Three C. Twelve D. Six
9. What was Jesus called in Revelation 5:5? (no peeking!) A. Capstone B. Lion of the tribe of Judah C. Horn of Salvation D. Man of Sorrows
10. Jesus found Matthew sitting here and asked him to become his disciple: A. At the city gate of Jerusalem B. A centurion's station C. A tax collector's station D. Near a fishing boat
11. Which of these statements is true about the Sadducees, one of the two major religious groups in Israel at the time of Christ: A. Did not believe all the Old Testament was God's Word B. Did not believe in a bodily resurrection or eternal life C. Did not believe in angels or demons D. All of the above
12. In Cyprus, when Paul was teaching an official and a sorcerer, a false prophet interfered, Paul told the false prophet this would be his punishment: A. He would be blinded. B. He would become a leper. C. He would become mute. D. He would die.



Westgate Elementary

Sunday, **August 11**, join us as we welcome Amanda Moon, principal and Jay Elliott, vice principal from Westgate Elementary. They will share about their role and the school and how we can be involved. It will be a great time of kicking off "Back to School!"

That morning we will write cards of encouragement for the staff and you can sign up to assist at the school. They welcome volunteers in the classrooms, media center and to assist with print jobs.

You can help **NOW** by checking out the list of school supplies needed and dropping your donations off in the tubs by the west and north doors.

Westgate Elementary

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

#2 yellow pencils*	scissors
dry erase markers*	glue sticks
*most needed	2 pocket folders
colored pencils	large pink erasers
crayons (24ct.)	highlighters
kleenex	pencil boxes
disinfectant wipes	pencil top erasers
markers (10ct.)	red & blue pens
spiral notebook (wide rule)	ziploc bags



DROP OFF IN RED BINS BY WEST & NORTH DOORS

Spiritual Correspondence by Jana Prescott



How often have you wondered which direction God is sending you? That's a thought that is hiding in my head pretty much constantly anymore. Am I full of some thoughts that end with "am I serving You in the midst of my coming and going"? Or is my heart set on answering Your request to me no matter what direction my head seems to want me to go? It is quite a challenge: your head saying "do this" while your heart says "no, do this." So which way do you go? For me, that's quite a challenge when my decision will really matter. In fact, I know Christ has led me to a place where my head was screaming a big "no" to repeating the process I had already gone through, but my heart was letting me know that I should swallow my fear and go through with this: an operation that really would bring my right leg to its God-made correct position. Of course, that would at first give me a couple months in rehab having therapy, and living my life for a time in a wheelchair and with home therapy, but that will come when all Christ has been telling me will come true! What kinds of issues have you had to deal with that Christ knows about and is helping you to deal with? And I am so grateful for all of your prayers! And please know that each of you is in my prayers.

Answers are on the back page.

Children's Ministry by the Numbers by Beth Anderson, Elder

TEE PARTY	PARK DASH	VBS	MISSION	CROSSWALK
62-of all ages	20 dashed	Many students	18 going	About 10-15 students
18 holes	5 different families	Attendance stays firm	Pre-mission meetings	5-7 volunteers
Course designed by many	4 parks	Many God sightings		

But numbers do not tell the whole story

"This was the most fun ever"	"I haven't been on playground equipment is a long time, it was fun"	"It was a ROARing good time!"	"Our family is so looking forward to this."	"I love to see the smiles on the children's faces as they enter our room"
"We had so much fun planning and setting up the holes"	"I played with everyone"	"I began to see God all day, not just at VBS!"	I appreciate opportunities to grow spiritually as a family"	"The curriculum is easy to follow and very engaging for the children"
"We will definitely want to do this again"	"I was pleased at how they included my grandson, who they just met"	"I loved the campfire and manna and quail at Bible Adventures"	"Look out for many more stories"	"I can't wait to see the new greeting area and use the iPad check in system and all it offers"
"My grandkids enjoyed it as much as we did"	"When can I see the boys again?"	"My crew leader was awesome"		
		"I sang and danced to the music all day"		





Triple Berry Trifle

This Triple Berry Trifle recipe is delicious! Light in calories with fruity flavor, I could eat the entire thing myself. One of my favorite trifle recipes! Submitted by Caitlin O'Hare from Life, Love & Sugar.

Prep Time: 3 hours 30 minutes-NO bake

Yield: 10-12 Servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2- 3.4 oz packages instant cheesecake flavored pudding mix*
- 4 cups milk
- Angel food cake (about 12 oz), cut into pieces
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup chopped raspberries
- 12 oz. container cool whip (or homemade whipped cream)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add pudding mix and milk to a large bowl and make according to package directions.
2. Add about half of the angel food cake pieces to the trifle dish.
3. Top with about half of the prepared pudding.
4. Top pudding with about 1/2 cup of each kind of berry.
5. Top berries with about half of the cool whip.
6. Repeat steps 2-5.
7. Finish off trifle with additional berries on top.
8. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours, until ready to serve.

*could be replaced with vanilla flavored pudding if you can't find the cheesecake flavored pudding

NOTES

Amounts of berries listed are for inside the trifle. If you want to be able to use sliced strawberries to decorate the edges of the layers and have enough berries to add to the top, you'll need additional berries. I'd recommend a one pound container of strawberries. To add more blueberries and raspberries to the top, then an 11-12 oz. container of each.

Have a Recipe to Share?

Please send your recipes to Maralee Gifford:

giffordgr@msn.com

In the subject line please put "Recipe for Newsletter." (she will know it is a safe to open)

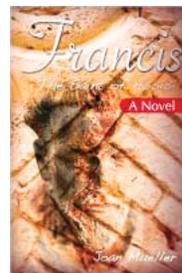


West Hills is fortunate to have this Veggie Tale in the Soul Café. This DVD set is no longer available for purchase.

The cast and crew of "VeggieTales" are at it again in the "Quadruple Adventure Set: Veggie Tales Funtastic Four."

In this approximately 152 minute, two DVD set, we are treated to the following four adventures:

1. Robin Good and his Not So Merry Men
Robin and his band of not so merry men fundraise from the rich and give to the poor. Your family will find out in this tale that there is no hurt "too big for God".
2. Tomato Sawyer and Huckleberry Larry's Big River Adventure
In this adventure when Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Larry stop to help a stranger they learn that when while helping others, is not always easy or convenient ...it is ALWAYS the right thing to do.
3. Minnesota Cuke and the Search for Noah's Umbrella
When Minnesota Cuke, a part time detective, is hired to find Noah's ark he learns of Noah's unusual umbrella, and a thief who wants it for himself. Will Minnesota Cuke find the confidence needed to recover the umbrella?
4. Sheerlock Holmes and the Golden Ruler
Larry the Cucumer and Bob the Tomato play Sheerlock Holmes and Watson in this tale. When Sheerlock tries to take all the credit in solving their mysteries he must apologize to Watson in order to save a national treasure.



Anovel by Joan Mueller, "Francis: The Saint of Assisi."

This book brings before us Sts. Francis and Claire as we have never seen nor heard of them before.

According to Wayne Hellman, of St. Louis University: "With lively imagination, Francis: The Saint of Assisi entices the reader to experience the dynamic of a family business, the squalor of a prison, and the intriguing gossip of thirteenth-century Assisi's town square. Carefully scripted according to new sources and contemporary historical research, Joan Mueller succeeds in offering "spirit and life" as she unfolds the social impact of the Gospel choices made by Francis of Assisi. This is a giant step forward in writing anew the life of St. Francis."

Joan Mueller, Ph.D. is known for her work as a Franciscan scholar and writer, she has written numerous articles and five books.

Roar, West Hills by Kerri Stoffel, VBS Director

From June 23 - 27, West Hills was transformed into an African savanna to set the stage for this year's Vacation Bible School theme: ROAR! Life is wild...God is good!

Families began the evening with a delicious, homemade dinner each night, and the Fellowship Hall was filled with people making connections with new and old friends. At 6 o'clock each night, VBS roared to life in the sanctuary, and children explored different ways God is good through song, Bible lessons, play, art, and reflection with their peers. Children shared in showing others God's goodness by donating more than 450 food and personal care items to our mission partners at Heartland Hope Mission to support local flood victims.

We tried some new things this year, and we were really thrilled with what God did with them! First, we took a team approach to decorating, selecting five impact areas of the church to focus on, and asking ministry groups to adopt an area. Five groups responded

while they colored, journaled, and wrote their "God Sightings" on safari animals. You will want to take a minute to read these. You



can see them along the main and lower level hallways leading to the elevator. The kids and crew leaders each had a journal they used for this time, which they got to take home to help them remember that God is good all the time.

We also broadened our invitation base this year, reaching out to new families in OPS as well as in Westside. Through this and our personal invitations, we got to share the truth of God's goodness with a number of kids who were new friends for us! About a third of the children were new to West Hills, about half the kids who attended have come to VBS or another West Hills event before, and the remainder are kids who regularly celebrate God's love at West Hills on Sunday mornings. Let's be praying for opportunities

with enthusiasm, and the result was awesome! A lion-sized thank you goes to the Wednesday morning Bible study, Caregiving and Mission Ingathering Teams, West Hills Youth, and a committed core of Children's Ministry volunteers for creatively and colorfully setting the scene for kids and families to experience the truth that God is good!



The VBS leadership team made some changes to tailor ROAR to fit the West Hills Church mission and vision. One of the things we were particularly excited about was adding a time into the evenings called Crew Connect. This new station gave the crews a time to get to know each other better, to reflect together about the Bible Point, and to consider where they have seen God working



to continue to touch the lives of those kids who came and learned of God's goodness for the first time, as well as walking with those kids and families who have been on the journey but encountered His goodness in a new way at VBS this year.

Thank you to the countless volunteers who decorated, cooked, donated items, and of course to those of you who dedicated countless hours during the week of VBS! You are AWESOME! It takes the whole church family to deliver such an inviting, safe, wholesome, and life-changing week for our young people! God is SO good!

New Growth-New Beginnings by Karen Lofgren-Anderson, Deacon

Spring is a beautiful time of year. Flowers burst through the ground; blossoms begin to unfold. The fragrance of new growth is in the air. Trees branches reach out further and trunks grow in height and width. The sound of birdsong is heard.

The same is true of children: Growth spurts. With maturity, they set

aside toys and activities they enjoyed when they were younger and begin to learn new games and activities as they increase their knowledge and skill.

I believe in God and this adventure of life. There are new ideas and activities I like to pursue on an ongoing basis. Over the years I've learned how to paint landscapes and florals in oils and watercolors. More on this in a moment.

I began to sew when I was about 7-8 years old. Techniques, tips and tricks were taught by my mom, my Grandma Lofgren, Extension Educators, 4-H leaders, and professional seamstresses and quilters over the years. I've even begun to teach my 7-year-old granddaughter Elliot how to thread the sewing machine and how to sew simple projects.

Life with Christ is a journey. Just like learning an activity and becoming better at it each day, my walk with Christ today is different than my walk with Him was as a 10-year-old who had just turned my life over to Him. He has taught and surprised me along the way.

Recently God surprised me. I'll back up a little. God had nudged me to get creative with quilts; to combine paint and fibers into art. I signed up for and took an art quilt class winter 2019. I was in the process of interpretive quilting on that piece when Kevin Gibson asked if I would help come up with an idea to decorate the communion table for Pentecost Sunday. I felt honored to be asked.

He shared links with pictures of what a few other churches had done and brought a piece of red and orange fabric for color concept. He explained how various religions use different colors to represent Pentecost. The color red is used to signify the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit set upon the disciples of Jesus on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is a day of celebration



occurring fifty days after Easter. It's a celebration of new beginning for all, it's a day of the new spirit.

First I prayed and then set out that evening by drawing in pencil, then colored pencils. Different concepts on different pages. None of which seemed like 'the one.' Things were left to percolate over

night. The next morning, I prayed again. Over breakfast I began a new drawing in colored pencils with reds, oranges, and yellows. When I set down the colored pencils and looked at the drawing, a cross appeared on its own in the center of the lower third of the drawing within the yellows. It's the first time that has ever happened to me. I was blown away in surprise and knew God wanted a cross on the quilt.

Through collaboration with Kevin, the drawing was selected in concept and fabric was chosen. The process of cutting up perfectly good fabric into pieces, fabric layout and placement, then sewing pieces together began. The quilt evolved into a parallelogram shape. Only God could make a quilt into that shape effectively. Fellow quilters, you know what I'm saying! Cut Up and Quilt in Council Bluffs, Iowa, did the longarm quilting of the cross and dove of peace. The gold binding and cross are in gold lame.

I call the quilt The Parallelogram. Yellow represents the light of the Holy Spirit radiating and rising up. Red represents the tongues of fire. Orange represents wind blending light and fire. Gold represents pure refinement. The Holy Spirit made this quilt. I was merely the hands He used.

Isaiah 43: 18-19

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



3015 S 82ND AVE
 Omaha NE 68124
 Tel: 402-391-8788
 Fax: 402-391-1812

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Men's Breakfast and ALL Church Clean-up!



If you want to be part of a vital group of men at West Hills, then attend the **MEN'S BREAKFAST** on September 21, 8 -10 a.m. You will enjoy a delicious breakfast and meet very interesting men you may not have met before, we will listen to a dynamic military speaker describe his experiences while serving in the armed services. After breakfast those

willing and anxious to work off some calories will be assisting John Good, and others, in the All Church Work Day. If you have teenage sons or grandsons, invite them to the Men's Breakfast, and to stay for the clean-up activities!



ALL WEST HILLS FAMILIES are invited to join the clean-up at 10:30a.m.-1 p.m. The general cleanup will include activities both inside and outside our church. What better way to listen to Nebraska beat Illinois than doing Saturday chores with your church?! Reservations are not needed. Questions? Call Wayne Moore 402-330-5195 or Ron Wells

402-333-9547. We look forward to seeing you on Sat., September 21.

ANSWERS "TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE"

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 4. B | 7. A | 10. C |
| 2. B | 5. A | 8. D | 11. D |
| 3. B | 6. C | 9. B | 12. A |

Got all 12 right? YOU GET A GOLD CROWN!

July Session *notes*

- Continued the study of Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors by David Keck.
- Approved forming a team to plan and facilitate the transition of the new pastor.
- Reviewed and discussed the proposed transition schedule.
- Approved the minutes from the Special Session Meeting called on July 11, 2019, which included discussion of the terms of call for the new pastor.
- Approved having one service on Sunday, July 28, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to hear a sermon from the PNC's nomination for new pastor to West Hills.
- Called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on July 28, 2019, following one worship service at 9:30 a.m., for the purpose of voting on the call and the terms of the call for the new pastor.



First Sunday of each month.

Services: 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Nursery: 8:45a-11:30a

Children's Crosswalk: 9:00-10:00a

Youth & Young Adults: 9:00-10:00a

August

* denotes meets weekly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p>hello MY NAME IS Name Tag Sunday</p> <p>Discipleship Class: 10:30a</p>	<p>Youth-Monday Funday: 1p</p> <p>AA mtg: 8p*</p>	<p>Men's Bible: 6:30a*</p> <p>Knit, Chat, Sew: 9a</p> <p>Newsletter Team: 1:30a</p> <p>Worship Team: 6:30p*</p> <p>Clips & Conversations: 7p</p>	<p>Wednesday Night Youth Group 6:30p-8p*</p>	<p>Al-Anon 12p*</p> <p>PNC: 6P*</p>	<p>AA: 7:30p*</p> <p>Al-Anon: new 7:30 & reg. 8p*</p>	<p>Arabic Fellowship Service: 5:30p*</p>																																																																																				
<p>11</p> <p>Westgate School in Worship</p> <p>Discipleship Class: 10:30a</p>	12	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>Siena Francis sloppy joe pick up: 9:30a</p>	16	17																																																																																				
<p>18</p> <p>Discipleship Class: 10:30a</p>	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
<p>One Service 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>No classes</p> <p>Journey of Caregiving Celebrate Deena! follows service</p>	26	27	29	29	30	31																																																																																				

AUGUST

1-Patti Brownlee
 2-Hal Capps
 3-Steve Reese
 Cleo Wells
 4-Sandy Jernigan
 7-Sara Jansen
 10-Ken Blatny
 12-Luke Burns
 13-Zane Czerwinski
 Fred Morgensen
 14-Abby Olson
 Sherry Reese
 Melanie Smith
 15-Dick Burrows
 16-Rennie Grossoehme
 Madisyn Moore
 Ethel Owens
 Stan Parker

17-Hazel Sauer
 Liz Woodworth
 18-Lynsey Curran
 Al Jansen
 John O'Donovan
 19-June Rogers
 Kristina Schaffer
 Lloyd Woodworth
 21-Mary Wagner
 Elina Willie
 22-Hal Waller
 24-Carolyn Collins
 Jim Jobeun
 Dan Travaille
 25-Lisa Harrison
 26-Donald Good
 Sarah Sedivy
 27-Nicole Burns
 Connie Schobert

28-Marti Bloes
 Sherry Heldt
 28-Leann Schaffer
 29-Carolyn Bonner
 Stacy Neil
 30-Ethan Neil
 31-Kurt Grossoehme
 Jasmine King
 Dave Krahrmer
 Missy Simmons

SEPTEMBER

1-Pat King
 1-Mary Ann Olig
 Peggy Wheeler
 3-Gladys Rumbaugh
 Ted Tromler
 4-Jan Drake
 Samuel Nodes
 Rebecca Olson
 5-Jack Culek
 Dennis Swanson
 Luke Weller




www.whcomaha.org
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Westgate Elementary

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

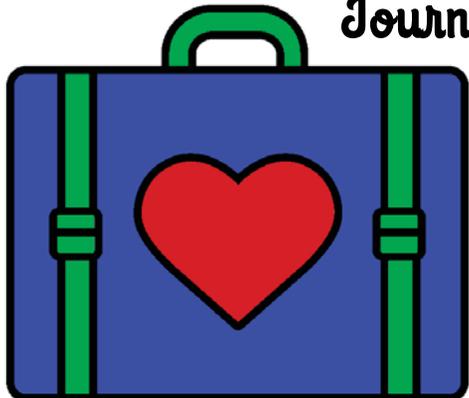
#2 yellow pencils*	scissors
dry erase markers*	glue sticks
*most needed	2 pocket folders
colored pencils	large pink erasers
crayons (24ct.)	highlighters
kleenex	pencil boxes
disinfectant wipes	pencil top erasers
markers (10ct.)	red & blue pens
spiral notebook (wide rule)	ziploc bags
loose leaf paper (wide rule)	



DROP OFF IN RED BINS BY WEST & NORTH DOORS



Volunteer: Ask **HyVee** shoppers to purchase a bag of food to donate to the pantry.
 Volunteer shifts available. **August 15 & 16 (Thurs. and Fri.): 4:30 - 7 p.m.**
August 17 & August 18 (Sat. and Sun.) 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.-6 p.m.
 *Kids of all ages are welcome to volunteer alongside a parent at Stuff a Truck.



Journey of Caregiving

August 25
 Celebrate
 Deena Candler
 Fellowship Hall