



Seeing the Fringe of God

*And these are but the
outer fringe of his works;
how faint the whisper we
hear of him! Who then
can understand the
thunder of his power?"*
(Job 26:14)

On a clear winter night, I love to look at the vast expanse of the stars in the sky. There's something about scanning the thousands of stars and realizing that they are not only millions of miles away, but that they represent only a fraction of the stars and galaxies God has created. In addition, I never cease to be amazed by the intricacies of the human body—the various systems in the body, its ability to fight off infection, the way that cuts heal and bones mend, the amazing processes of our minds to think and coordinate and do. God's creation is amazing and more awesome than we are truly able to explain and comprehend. All of this reminds us of our human limitations and of God's unlimited power.

As Job is attempting to process all of the tragedy and pain that has come to him as well as the arrogance of the men who are counseling him, he says to Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar:

*He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;
he suspends the earth over nothing.
He wraps up the waters in his clouds,
yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.
He covers the face of the full moon,
spreading his clouds over it.
He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters
for a boundary between light and darkness.
The pillars of the heavens quake,
aghast at his rebuke.
By his power he churned up the sea;
by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces.
By his breath the skies became fair;
his hand pierced the gliding serpent.
And these are but the outer fringe of his works;
how faint the whisper we hear of him!
Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"*

Like Job's friends, it's so easy for us to think that we have God all figured out. We believe that our theology has conquered an understanding of God. We are convinced that our minds are finally wrapped around who He is, what He does, and how He does it. We need to be reminded that whatever we know of God is just the *outer fringe of his works*. All we really know and hear of God is just a faint whisper compared to all that there is to know of Him!

As we continue to ponder God—his character and nature and his works—it's imperative that we put aside our arrogance and humble ourselves before Him. It's imperative that we fully admit that our calling is not to figure out God but to surrender our lives to Him.

Pastor Wes

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

If you have been thinking about becoming a member of the Houghton Wesleyan Church or would like to know more about what it means to be a member, you will want to take advantage of the membership opportunity, Monday, February 27, 6:30 pm. Pastor Wes will be leading this gathering where you will discover some of the history of our church, the vital things we believe, and where we are moving into the future. If you are interested in attending this gathering, contact the church office.



Our Annual Mission Weekend
February 11 & 12
Representing God in a Needy World

James 1:27

Schedule:

Saturday, 2/11 –

- Missions Brunch at the Houghton College Dining Hall 9:30-11:00 am Cost – \$3.00/person **RSVP** after service in the foyer, or contact the church office at 567-2264 or pstalker@hwchurch.org
- Session 1 – Update & stories regarding our HWC Faith Promise offering and the ministries funded by it. 9:30-9:50 – Paul Shea
- Brunch – 9:50-10:20
- Session 2 – Wellspring Ministries. 10:20-11:00–Jim Arthur

Sunday, 2/12 –

- Three morning services–Rich Avery, Director of WNM
 - Commissioning of South Dakota Team from HC
- 9:40 Sunday School Hour
 - Combined Sunday School Class Jr. High through Adults in Community Room – Panel on Social Justice Issues of Foster Care;
 - Wesleyan Kids For Missions will meet a real Native American, learn about our Wesleyan Native Ministries and locate the states on our big map where we have Wesleyan Natives communities.
- Evening Session at HWC Community Room – 6:00 pm
 - Rich Avery –Focus on Wesleyan Native Ministries, especially with a look to the future and our area
 - Apple crisp, ice cream and drinks (free will offering)




Ash
Wednesday Service

February 22, 6:30 pm.



With Sympathy

We offer our condolences to Kevin and Cindy Austin and their family following the unexpected death of Kevin's mother **Evelyn Austin** on December 21 in Long Lake, NY. We also offer our sympathy to the family of **Al Smith** who died December 30 here in Houghton.



From the Youth Pastor

YOUTH GROUP

High School Ministry (HSM)

HSM Sundays at 6:00pm

*In February we meet at the Pelletiers
on Centerville Road*

Middle School Ministry (MSM)

MSM –Wed. - 6:30 – 8:00pm

February

5 No HSM

12 Reaching out to your Friends

19 Making Significant Connections

26 Growing in Your Faith

1 A New Command

8 Daniel- Stand Against Peer Pressure

15 Esther- Stand Against Injustice!

22 Ash Wed. Service

29 Peter- Take a Step of Faith

HSM – *Life has a Purpose*

In Feb. we kick off a five-week study exploring God's purposes for us! **REACH** (12th) focuses on understanding that we are created in God's image and have the opportunity to share His love with the world. **CONNECT** (19th) focuses on understanding the basic need that people have to be deeply connected with others in significant relationships. **GROW** (26th) focuses on the truth that we were created to know God and grow spiritually by spending time with Him.

MSM in Feb. – *Dangerous People*

Jesus promised abundant and even eternal life. He did not, however, promise that our lives would always be easy or free of risks and dangers. *A life wholly devoted to God can be dangerous!* Christians must sometimes go against the ideas of the crowds and culture. This lifestyle isn't always popular or easy, but Jesus promises that ultimately it's the best lifestyle to pursue. This three week series introduces students to people who gave their lives completely to God. They faced tough, potentially dangerous situations, but in the end, they all experienced lives better than they could have ever imagined because of the amazing power of God.

Prayer Breakfast: *Tuesday Mornings in Feb. 7, 14, 28 - 7am*

Youth Committee Meeting- Feb. 13, 7:30pm – On the Agenda – Youth Budget

Upcoming Events:

March 10 – 11 - Junior/Senior Retreat; Leave after dinner on Sat. 10th – return 1pm on Sunday 11th.

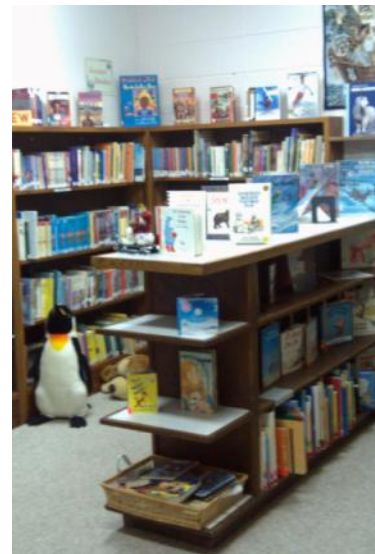
The WNY District plans to send a team to Haiti to complete a church building that has needed restoration since the 2010 earthquake. The team will plan to return to the same location our district team worked last June (Source Matelas). We also hope to convert an adjacent damaged parsonage into a safe building for office space and class rooms that will be used by the congregation and school. Dates of the trip are **May 19-26**, and the **deadline to apply is February 1st**. On the district web site wnydistrict.com, you can find applications and more information. You can also call or write Steve Strand 716-665-4070 (strandsc@gmail.com) or Jon Cole 585-567-2264 (jcole@hwchurch.org).

The Library Corner

A new addition to the library collection in 2012 is *Lightposts for Living: the Art of Choosing a Joyful Life*, the autobiography of Thomas Kinkade, "Painter of Light." In his book Mr. Kinkade reveals his quest to "share those special moments of life adorned with beauty and light" and his practice of keeping a "light diary" for moments when God touches his life with special inspiration or blessing. Three excellent resources for understanding our faith are the one-volume edition of Gonzalez's *The Story of Christianity*, Zondervan's *Handbook to the History of Christianity*, and a DVD of Lee Strobel's *The Case for Faith*.

After the holidays some might be interested in the books: *Dr. Colbert's "I Can Do This" Diet* or *Perfect Weight America: Change Your Diet, Change Your Life, Change Your World*, or the DVD series starring *The Galloping Gourmet: Health, Food Topics, Live Longer, Be Healthier* -volumes 1-4. Two other books of interest to adults are, *The Gospel According to Tolkien: Visions of the Kingdom in Middle-earth*, and *The Bible on the Big Screen: A Guide from Silent Films to The Passion of the Christ*.

For young people and children there is the DVD, *The Quail's First Christmas: the Quest for a King*, and new books: Tim Tebow's *Through My Eyes: A Quarterback's Journey* (youth edition), *Really Woolly: God Made Spring! A Touch-n-Feel* (lift-a-flap board book) and the picture book *Will, God's Mighty Warrior: The Mystery of Magillicuddy's Gold* by Sheila Walsh.



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

YOU can help Hephzibah Children's Home -

our Wesleyan home for children/teens/newborns in Macon, Georgia . There is a basket in the foyer of the Christian Ed. Bldg labeled for you to put your Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs (next to the box for soap and glasses for Haiti.) Just clip the UPCs from participating **Campbell's Labels for Education** products. The program has announced several new partners this year: Dannon yogurt, Glad food storage products, and Emerald snacks. If you need a complete list of participating products, go to www.labelsforeducation.com. Hephzibah's goal is 1.6 million for a **new van**. They have over 400,000 already collected, and an envelope was just sent in after Christmas from our church.

Remember, this is a different program than BOX TOPS for EDUCATION. They do not use those.

Thank you so much for putting them in the basket. Even this seemingly small act can bless our partners in love in Georgia.



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

CLIP AND EARN
FREE STUFF
FOR YOUR SCHOOL

find out how
LabelsForEducation.com

Wednesday Evening Children's Ministries

Our children's ministries (BOOM! Club, King's Kids Club, & Boys' Club) will meet on February 1st, 8th, and 15th. These ministries will NOT meet on Wednesdays, February 22nd or February 29th due to the Fillmore Midwinter recess and the college break. They will resume their regular schedule on Wednesday, March 7th. Thank you.

W.K.F.M. Corner



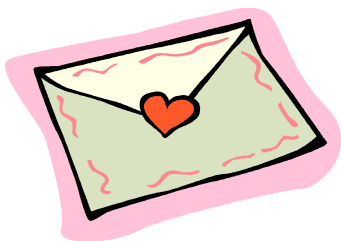
Boys and Girls - Come and be a part of our 2012 Missions Conference in WKFM. We will meet on February 12 at 9:40. That is not our usual 3rd Sunday in the month, but we are meeting then so our whole church can focus together on MISSIONS.

- We will meet a real Native American, study our Wesleyan Native Ministries, and locate the states on our big map where we have Wesleyan Native communities.
- Our **offering** will go toward **Wesleyan Native Ministry Funding**. The needs are great for these people. We are so excited that another team of college and community people will again be traveling to South Dakota the end of February to bless and be blessed by these fellow believers.

Thank you, boys and girls, for thinking of others. That is what makes the heart of Jesus glad. See you in February.

Congratulations!

- **Levi Benjamin Kitchen** was born January 17 at 9:30 A.M. to parents Ben and Shannon and sibling Lyndsay. Levi weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces at birth and was 20 1/2 inches long and had lots of hair! Congratulations, too, go to grandparents Ken and Barb Bates.
- **Ezra Gustave Schilke** was born January 24 to parents Stephan and Jan and siblings Anna, Tess, Micah, Lydia, Eben, and Claire. Ezra weighed 7 lb. 13 1/2 oz. at birth and was 21 inches long.



Ruth Hutton turns 90 on February 10th!
Celebrate with her by sending your greetings to
9763 Fancher Dr.
Houghton, NY 14744

Wellspring Ministries

Wellspring Ministries has been "recycling" clothing, household goods, and toys along with providing free lunches on Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each week. We are adding an evening time each month:

Notice! Wellspring Ministries clothing and household goods are open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month and on that evening dinner is available from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. Upcoming dates are February 21, March 20, April 17, May 21, and June 19. There is no cost for anything you receive at Wellspring Ministries.

Wellspring Ministries is located at 5993 County Road 16, Belfast NY, across the road from former Six-S Golf Course, just over the Transit Bridge off Route 19. Call 365-2250 for more information.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE RADIO: We have reconnected the low-watt transmitter enabling us to broadcast our services once again. Unfortunately, because of FCC regulations that limit the size of the transmitter, the coverage radius is limited to Houghton and areas just outside of Houghton village limits. A radio with a digital tuner and an antenna will give the best reception. You can access all of our Sunday morning services at **89.9 FM**. Please let us know if you are able to receive the services and/or if you have trouble with reception.

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE INTERNET: You may access our Sunday worship service on the church website (www.hwchurch.org) or on iTunes (www.itunes.com). The services are also available for reproduction in CD or mp3 format, which may be ordered through the church office. Most weeks the services are available by Monday afternoon. We are working on live streaming so that you may listen to the services as they happen.

CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP

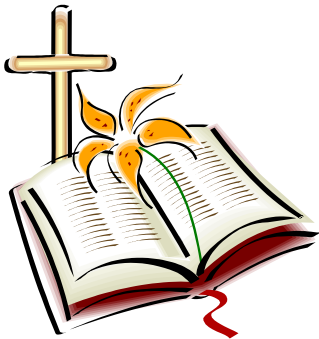
Tuesday, February 21, 7:00-8:30 PM, Room 9 under the sanctuary. Welcome to ANYONE who is a caregiver. This group will offer a Spiritual and Educational component as well as providing the opportunity for support in a confidential setting. Contact Sandy Blake at 567-8735.

Food Pantry

The shelves are beginning to look bare again.

Especially needed:

canned fruit, jelly, pancake syrup, pancake mix, flour, sugar, canned vegetables, kidney beans, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, coffee, creamer, mustard, ketchup, soup (all kinds - desperately needed!!), gravy, juice, rice, helpers, canned meats, crackers, pudding mixes, brownie mixes, frosting, and muffin mixes. *Your generosity has provided food for 38 people since Christmas!*



The family of Al Smith would like to thank the community for its many kindnesses during this time of sorrow and celebration. Thank you for food brought in, cards, flowers, kind words, a wonderful luncheon, and special music. We feel so blessed and loved. Thank you.

Houghton Area



February 9 ~ 12:15 p.m. Potluck

PROGRAM: County Historian Craig Braack

“The Causes of the American Civil War”

Please bring your table service and the dish designated by the initial of your last name:

A-F, Salad.....G-O, Dessert.....P-Z, Casserole

Senior Citizens

Anyone age 55+ is welcome to join us.

Reminder: March 8 meeting will be catered by the Black Eyed Susan with R.S.V.P. by March 1

March~Musical program in the HWC sanctuary by Dr. Cory Renbarger and students from his studio.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wedding Shower

April 15 at 2:00 PM

in the

HWC Community Room for

Zac Smalley

and

Erin Greenlee.

A June 2nd wedding will take place in Connecticut.



FOR SALE

AVAILABLE ONLY ON MARCH 9—10:

Washer (\$150), gas dryer (\$150, 3-year-old refrigerator (\$200), and Sanyo Flat Screen TV (\$100)

AVAILABLE NOW TO MARCH 9—10

a huge hand-made wood table and benches (\$200), a long coffee table (\$25), and an end table (\$20), two tall storage cabinets (\$30 each).

Contact Paul Johnson, 567-8329.

Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church invites Seniors 55+ to the Sight & Sound Millennium Theater for the new show

JONAH

Tour price per person is \$245.00 and includes ticket, double occupancy, overnight accommodations at LaQuinta Inn with expanded continental breakfast at the hotel, motor coach transportation, dinner at Plain & Fancy Family Restaurant visits to a pretzel factory, a canning company, shopping village, and Biblical Tabernacle. The tour departs Eastern Hills Wesleyan at 7:30 a.m. on May 22 and estimated arrival back is 9:30 p.m. on May 23.

See the poster outside the church office for more information.

HELP NEEDED

Mother with three young children needs the following items (free or low cost): sofa, lamps, twin beds or bunk beds, table and chairs. We will be moving to Hume on February 1. Please call April at (585) 808-2783.

Men and Women of the community are invited to
a Come and Go Wedding Shower for
Emily Gaerte
and

Michael Spateholts

Saturday, March 24 from 1:30 – 4 pm at
Zollers, 9800 Seymour St.

Hostesses: Donna Zoller, Kaitlin Erikson, Carol Fuller, Rebecca Fuller

The couple is registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

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

Church Office: 567-2264
info@hwchurch.org

The Houghton Community Association and

The Houghton Movement and Arts Center

are proud to announce our first joint community event: a Swing Dance Night! On Saturday, February 18 at 7:30, come on down to the HMAAC (next to China Star) for a night of music and fun.

HMAAC's owner and director, Sarah Badger, will be there to teach some basic steps and offer pointers. So whether you're an old pro or a beginner, you're sure to have a swinging time. Space is limited, so please send reservation requests to HoughtonCommunityAssociation@gmail.com as soon as possible. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$8 per couple. Grab your partner and come on down!

FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR 2011 RETURNS

sponsored by Houghton College in cooperation with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Tax services for Federal and NYS tax returns for taxpayers of low to moderate income (generally income of \$49,000 or less).

Available Mondays, February 6 through March 26 from 6:00-8:00 PM (except 2/27) and Saturday, March 10, from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Houghton College, Library Room 303.

Make an appointment by emailing Philip.Christensen12@houghton.edu or by calling the HC Public Events at (585) 567-9210 Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM.

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 5 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Which is More Important, Rest or Work?*

p.m. Small Groups

February 12 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am / 6:00 pm)

a.m. Missions Convention: Rich Avery

p.m. Rich Avery — Wesleyan Native Ministries (Community Room)

February 19 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Is the Church About the Past or the Present?*

p.m. Small Groups

February 26 (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *How Could God's People Turn on God's Son?* (Luke 22:1-23)

p.m. Small Groups

Are you looking for something classy and romantic to do this Valentine's Day?

Come to the Valentine's Banquet!

Sponsored by HWC College Ministries



Who: Married couples who attend Houghton Wesleyan

When: Saturday, February 11th at 6:00pm

Where: The Community Room at Houghton Wesleyan Church

Cost: \$10.00 per couple, which includes

an elegant sit down dinner, childcare, and entertainment

Don't worry about finding a babysitter; childcare will be provided!



Please fill out this half of this form and return it, along with \$10.00, to the Houghton Wesleyan Church office no later than Tuesday, January 31st.

Checks can be made out to Houghton Wesleyan Church. Memo- Valentine's Banquet

Names: _____

Entrée Choice (please check one per person):

Chicken French over rice pilaf and seasonal vegetable _____

Roasted Eggplant Bruschetta with lemony-herb cous-cous (vegetarian) _____

Dessert Choice (please check one per person):

Cheesecake _____

Chocolate Mousse _____

Childcare? YES NO

Dinner will be provided for children as well



If yes, how many children (names and ages)? _____
