

What is C.H.O.W.?

If you are new to Richland Hills UMC, you've probably noticed that we sometimes have a language all our own! We talk about "apportionments", we mention "VBS", we refer to something being in the "covered walkway" or in "Reeves Hall", or we might even announce that "f.o.G." is playing next Wednesday night. And you say, "Huh?"

As you might suspect from the periods after each letter, C.H.O.W. is an acronym – short for **Church Happenings On Wednesday**. It starts with our Sanctuary being opened for prayer at 8:00 A.M., and later, the Prime Timers (another inside the church label – meaning a great group of *maybe* retired folks who get together for games and fellowship) meet at 3:00 P.M. to play Mexican Train or some other domino or board game. At 5:30 P.M., an event happens that you **might** think that C.H.O.W. is **all** about – we enjoy a catered meal (C.H.O.W. = meal = food, get it?)! But that's not all!! C.H.O.W. also includes things that happen after we eat: there're typically one or more small group studies, Crossover Youth Bible Study, Emmaus Reunion Group gatherings, Carillon Bell Choir practice and Chancel Choir practice. So, you see, C.H.O.W. is really about the "**H.**" – **the Happenings!**

Since the Stewardship Team is gearing up for the Fall Stewardship Campaign, this might be the place to say something about Stewardship in relation to C.H.O.W. Wednesdays are a really good time to practice Stewardship in many of its dimensions:

Stewardship of Prayers – you might pray not only for the success of C.H.O.W., but for guidance from God about whom to invite to join you on Wednesdays; you might pray about whether God would like for you to use one or more of your gifts in service on Wednesdays;

Stewardship of Presence – you might want to write C.H.O.W. down on your calendar and make plans to attend and participate not only in the meal time, but in one or more of the activities; you might want to consider being present with a friend who doesn't know about C.H.O.W.; and please remember to make reservations with the church office concerning your presence – it helps the church know how many meals to order so that all will be able to eat;

Stewardship of Gifts – you might consider what donation for the meal might be appropriate for you to give (the church has decided to encourage donations rather than charge a set amount. We order the food based on the number of reservations we have at a cost of \$7 per person, but we want to encourage everyone to attend and have a good meal whether they can afford it or not. C.H.O.W. is a ministry of Richland Hills UMC, and it should reflect God's Grace. If you've been blessed financially, perhaps God is calling on you to help underwrite this ministry.)

Stewardship of Service – you might want to consider assisting in some area of C.H.O.W., whether it be in leading a class, helping to serve food or clean-up afterward, working with the youth, or joining the bell or chancel choir for practice;

Stewardship of Witness – so bring a friend, bring a smile, and bring the joy you experience in "Responding to God's Grace".