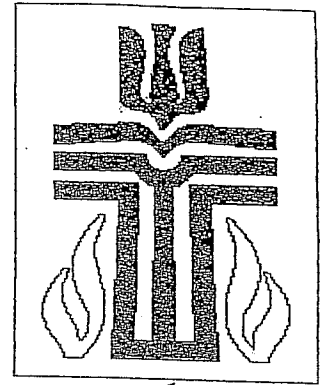


THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
Telephone: (708)598-3100
Email: HHPC2002@netzero.com
www.hickoryhillspres.org



JANUARY 2009

TWO, TWO, TWO, TWO – for us too!

We have 2 hands, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 feet.
When 2 eyes work together, we call it bifocal vision
When 2 hands work together, we call it coordination
When 2 ears work together, we call it direction
When 2 feet work together, we call it balance

Just ask someone with a cane what unsteady is,
when 2 feet don't.
Just ask one with a hearing aid what disoriented is,
when 2 ears don't.
Just ask one with glasses what distorted can be,
when 2 eyes don't.
Just ask one in a sling what uncoordinated is,
when 2 hands don't.

Churches are the same – we need both. Otherwise
we're unstable.

For the sake of this 'orientation' to a new year at
Hickory Hills, I take these 2 to be the two things that
shape what we're doing each day at HHPC:

The PAST

For reasons none of us can explain completely, God
chose to have a Presbyterian church started in
Hickory Hills back in the 1950's. What a gift! What
a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again for reasons that will always remain somewhat
obscure, God brought people, pastors, families,
leaders, children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons,
classes, choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this
congregation. What variety! What beauty! What
gifts! What power! What fun! What learning!
What worship!

The PAST has shaped who we are as we enter 2009.
My plea in this picture is quite simple – LOVE it. I
know there have been moments of deep pain. I know
there have been people who were a pain. I know
there have been pains that I have caused. OR we
could say there were mistakes people made, mistakes
leaders made, mistakes I've made. I believe that's
true.

My plea is still quite simple – LOVE this
congregation's past. The more we complain, bitch,
disparage, attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our past, the
more we put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,
uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to recite info
about our past; I pray that we LOVE it.

The FUTURE

This is even more obscure – When will our new
pastor come? Will we have enough income? What
will happen to our youth? Where will we be in fifty
years? God knows! GOD knows. What a gift!
What a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again, for reasons that will always remain obscure,
God will give us people, pastors, families, leaders,
children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons, classes,
choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this
congregation. What variety! What beauty! What
gifts! What power! What fun! What learning!
What worship!

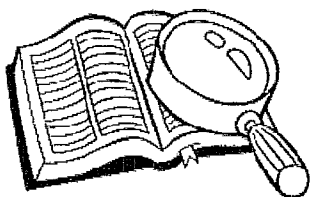
My plea is quite simple – LOVE this congregation's
future. The more we complain, bitch, disparage,
attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our future, the more we
put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,
uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to make plans
for our future, I pray that we LOVE it.

When we LOVE our PAST and our FUTURE
we'll be using both eyes to see clearly,
both hands to work beautifully,
both ears to hear all around us, and
both feet to follow where Jesus takes us.

Thank you for the gracious gift you give me of
allowing me to walk with you, to love with you, to
discover gifts in Chicago's south suburbs that I never
knew. You are wonderful!

Peace,

Warren Wiggins,
Interim Pastor



Listen for THE WORD of God

As a weekly habit, I invite you to read the Scripture
for the upcoming Sunday in a pattern that looks like
this:

Monday – read through the whole passage –
gently, without pausing

Tuesday – read through the whole passage
looking for 1 verse that's key

Wednesday – read the one verse over and
over until it's sunk in to you

Thursday – pick one word in that verse and
apply it to your life

Friday – use the one word and apply it to
others & the world around you

Saturday – read through the whole passage in
preparation for Sunday

January 4, 2009, Second Sunday of Christmas – Genesis 1

“In the beginning” – there's no better place to
begin at the beginning of a new year. This is
classical poetry, moving material that follows a
very disciplined pattern. Enjoy the repetitions, the
changes in pattern, the way the story covers
everything – in the beginning

January 11, 2009, Baptism of Christ Sunday – Colossians 1:15 – 2:19

This is theological poetry, verse after verse that
celebrates all we know and think and believe and
learn and hear and want in Jesus Christ – and the
struggle between the writer and the church in
Colossae, a town in what we call Western Turkey.

Enjoy the ‘high-falutin’ pictures of Jesus and the
‘down-to-earth’ challenge to make Jesus clear in a
congregation.

January 18, 2009, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 8:12-20 and 9

This is a story, a story about Jesus in controversy
with the Pharisees about his authority, then a story
about a blind man coming to see. The stories open
with the famous statement of Jesus, “I am the light
of the world,” and continue with helping us
wonder how well that light has dawned in our
lives.

January 25, 2009, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jeremiah 18:1-11

This is another story, a story of God using a local
craftsman to teach his prophet a lesson. Out of
that simple trip to the workshop of a specialist
who fashioned clay pots has come one of the most
powerful images of the relationship between God
and humans: Potter and Clay.

Looking ahead in February:

February 1, 2009 – Acts 9:1-31,

Saul Transformed – Paul

February 8, 2009 – Romans 1:1-17 and 8:1-39,

Faith -Living by Faith

February 15, 2009 – Deuteronomy 5:1-21

and 6:1-9 – The Ten – in Life

February 22, 2009 – Luke 15 – Lost sheep, coins,
sons – FOUND

February 25, 2009 – Ash Wednesday

You are invited . . . to commit yourself as a member
of Hickory Hills Pres.

At the beginning of January, Pastor Warren will offer
two opportunities for people who may be interested
in becoming members of Hickory Hills Presbyterian
Church:

Monday evening, **January 5**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday afternoon, **January 11**, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Each session will give time to hear an introduction
and ask questions about:

Being a Christian – and the practices that
sustain us in faith, hope, & love.

Being a participant – and the multitude of options for doing things here.

Being at home here – and how we invite others to be at home with God.

AND – if you are interested, but can't make either of those times: contact Pastor Warren and arrange a time that will suit you:

cell (847) 340-6671, or
email wigginswc@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, January 25, 2009,
following worship

Sure, it has all the 'normal' things that come with an annual meeting – reports, electing new leaders, settling on a budget for the year ahead. You can expect all this and more when we gather to take a snapshot of HHPC at age 57 and peek into the future she brings us.

Worship Planning Teams

You heard the invitation first in worship on December 14 – and it still stands! You are invited to be on a team of at least one adult and at least two youth who brainstorm together to prepare for at least one of the worship services coming up at HHPC.

Pastor Warren will meet with each group, help us focus around the scripture passage for the Sunday and then provide all kinds of leads for brainstorming suggestions on how this can be celebrated best in our worship services on a particular Sunday.

Once is great! More? – that's up to you.

Contact Pastor Warren soon with your interest and the week on which you'd like to work:

cell (847) 340-6671, or
email wigginswc@gmail.com.

Annual Reports

Hanna, our church secretary, has set January 4th as the deadline for annual reports. If you are an officer, if you are in a group, if you have been part of an event at HHPC during the past year – it needs to show up in a report.

If you think "I'm not the one to write it!" make sure you contact someone who is and be sure to help them

with all the information that needs to be included in the report.

Many thanks!

Orthodox Christmas – January 7th

I know, I know, you assumed that everyone in the world celebrated Christmas on December 25th – but that's just the custom in the 'western' Christianity that we've inherited from western Europe. For folks a little further east, in Greece and Egypt, in Russia and Rumania, in Persia and Arabia, another tradition reigns – Christmas is celebrated on January 7th.

Then, just to keep things confusing, we 'western Christians' hold on to something traditional called the

Twelve Days of Christmas – known to most of us simply because we competed to learn some nonsense verses once to a very long song by that name. AND we have a 'competing' celebration of

EPIPHANY on January 6th – the celebration of the coming of the LIGHT into the WORLD.

Go figure! But don't stop celebrating God's gift of Jesus for God's world – all of God's world, east and west, north and south, rich and poor, high and low, ins and outs, old and young, you and me.

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

PADS UPDATE

Winter months bring forth many visitors to PADS facilities. The warmth of friends and food set the scene as winter wind's howl around us. The warmth displayed by Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church members alone, warms my heart.

The support this year has been the strongest since our commitment many years ago. The month of December reflected a great increase in numbers at PADS as the economy continued its spiral downward. We served 72 persons with an allowance for a few late comers.

Thank you one and all for your support to our fellow man in need. The reward is in the hand of the giver as we set aside ourselves.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE



“But because of his great love for “us,” God, who is rich in mercy, made “us” alive with Christ, even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved.”

Ephesians 2:4-5

As I write this, Christmas is eleven days hence. What a glorious time of the year! On December 17, the 3 faithful prayer warriors will gather to pray for the last time in 2008, returning Jan. 7, God willing. Will you join “us”?

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - WEDNESDAYS

“The only gift is a portion of thyself...the poet brings his poem, the shepherd, his lamb...the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

TWILIGHT PRAYER

One of the greatest drawbacks to the life of prayer is that the answers are slow in coming and once answered, may not be the answer we expected.

Do we question the act of prayer? Are we doing it improperly? Are we not worthy of our requests?

Patience, my friend. Do not question one of the greatest gifts we have, to approach God at any time, in any place, in any state of mind. He is there for you, and your request will be answered, accordingly. Join us as we humble ourselves before him.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

BIBLES FOR BAPTISTS

In a wonderful, convoluted story this past fall, Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church made a gift of nearly two dozen Bibles to the Baptist Church of Willow Springs. Thanks be to Harry Hermansen and his contacts.

It all started with a request for choir robes to be provided to a congregation that got flooded out in the heavy rains of mid-September. Session, after several people looked up information and the robes, approved the donation. Then it turned out that the congregation did not need them!

In the same session conversation, a question was raised about Bibles. Harry Hermansen had been talking with his friend, Beverly Matthews. Both participate in some activities at the Willow Springs Baptist Church and discovered that the congregation needed some Bibles. Yes, HHPC would be glad to donate Bibles too!

The Bibles in question came to HHPC from Trinity Presbyterian Church in the merger at the beginning of this decade/century/millennium. The wonderful large-print pew editions of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible from the Presbyterian Church are in excellent condition.

So, we're delighted to report to HHPC that Baptists are learning the Good News from “Presbyterian” Bibles. What a joy!

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Phyllis Aplitz for health concerns
Barbara Brown's friend for health concerns
Mandy Goodeve's friend in the loss of her baby
Joe Lang in his job loss
Micki Kluska for healing
Donna Bredlau's mom for health concerns
Bob Nordstrom for health concerns
Karen Leake for strength to move forward
Gert Vickers for health concerns
Mary Tarter for health concerns
Darlene Kibort for health concerns
Rick & Debbie Raschke for healing
Marge Hayes for health concerns
Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Tanya Fox & her daughter, Hollie, for support during deployment
Our service men and women and their families
Amanda McGuire keeping the faith
Lindsey Taylor strength to move forward
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



ADDRESS CHANGES



Jennifer DelPrete- R79030
Lincoln Correctional Center
1098 1350th St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217)735-5411

Harry Hermansen
17200 W. Bell Rd. Lot #97
Surprise, AZ 85374

Kathleen Turner
9518 S. Tripp #2SW
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

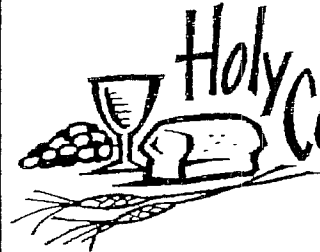
SESSION NOTES

At its regular meeting December 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., the Session of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC):

- Opened by sharing "The Law of the Garbage Truck"
- Noted 5 excused and 1 absent from the 12 – bare quorum of 6
- Thanked Cheryl Huenecke for taking minutes in Clerk's absence
- Brainstormed possible BHAG's – big hairy audacious goals 2009
- Approved the minutes for November 10 with typo corrections
- Received the clerk's report: pulpit to be filled by Dave LaCognata on 12/28/08, communion served 11/2/08 in all worship, weekly at 9, and brought to Gert Vickers with Deacon Patt Pilgrim
- Received the treasurer's report with note that bills are paid, no money taken from reserves, bills in Nov. were \$581 over receipts
- Received 2007 audit report from Theodore Atiedu & Jim Kupka
- Received no additional report from the Minister or Deacons
- Contemporary Worship (REV) Task Force:
 - Reported on move to sanctuary for 5pm service going well
 - Agreed to start worship planning teams as an experiment
 - Approved praise band participation in Christmas Eve 11pm

- Fellowship Committee
 - Noted new signups for January – March in worship 12/14
 - Set Junior High Pancake Breakfast for January 18, 2009
- Worship & Music Committee – no communion servers 1/4/09
- Mission Committee:
 - Celebrated people and food for Jones Center Saturday
 - Also 150 gifts collected for Jones Center kids
 - Noted possible difficulties from gift tags not numbered
 - Rejoiced in Kiwanis 3rd year to offer gifts to Jones Center
 - Arranged for cover \$ from Fund for Human Need for Xmas
- NLAAC Oversight Committee (Arabic congregation)
 - They plan to stay with us through 2009 and beyond, same rent
- Stewardship/Finance/Endowment Committee
 - Reviewed 2009 budget – delayed action for larger quorum 1/12/09
 - Received strong letter from Lisa Radetski on choices ahead
 - Celebrated increasing giving from 2009 estimates (pledges)
 - Allocated \$2000 in 2008 Mission Budget to 4 local groups
- Nominating Committee – informal news of their good work
- Outreach Committee – no report
- Christian Education Committee
 - Fabulous Sunday with children in Hanging of the Greens
 - Advent Night 12/5 brought over 111 participants, many young
 - Women's Tea this Thursday, 12/11 looking great at 80+
 - Anecdote of query at Michael's: "Can I come [to your church]?"
 - Plans moving for Women's Retreat and Meal & Movie Days
 - Annual Report being prepared by all working groups
 - Sunday School has a new start 12/14 with winter teachers
 - Attendance is not declining
- Buildings and Grounds – glad to see no snow before 12/1/08
- Old/New Business: Pastor Nominating Committee
 - Approved \$450 to do Congregational Life Survey again
 - Looking to revise CIF – Church Information Form
- Pastor's Report
 - Set Officers' Training for Saturday, January 10, 8am-1pm, including both old and new, Deacons and Elders
 - Set 1/12/09 regular meeting for approval of new officers
 - Set February 8, 2009 for Ordination/Installation of officers
 - Delayed conversation with Savior Divine till retreat 1/10/09
 - Noted "Order of Elders" daily devotional materials (plus) is being donated anonymously for all elders to participate
- Closed with sentence prayers and the Lord's Prayer at 10pm

Sacrament of Holy Communion- January 4, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP * HOSTS	LAY READER
January 4, 2009	A. Bentley, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	L. & A. Pearson, Neil, Taebel, Rehbock, Fox, Bastien	Please contact Scott Zimmerman if you are interested in leading worship the first Sunday of each month.
January 11, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Treccani, Sack, Taebel, Howe, Brunell, Rehbock	Michael Pettis
January 18, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	Cunningham, Sommerstorfer, Taebel, Kahn	Scott Zimmerman
January 25, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Dumke, Fox, Fogg, T. & N. Pearson, H. Zimmerman	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
January 4, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
January 11, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
January 18, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
January 25, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	

SOUPER SUNDAY

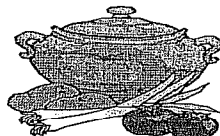
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE
SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Following Worship Service

All donations are used to help support
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support
Our Kids

KIDS CLUB

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

Christmas - A time of joy, a time of celebrations.

December has been a wonderful time for us. We made ornaments for the tree at the Brookfield Zoo and then decorated this tree, enjoyed time with our families at the Advent Family Night, participated in the Christmas program "Hanging of the Greens", invited new members to join us and together celebrated at our Christmas Party.

As I am writing this we have just completed our Christmas Party. It is always a special time. We thank Beth who was in the kitchen preparing and serving pizza, Patt and Amanda for supervising the decorating of gingerbread cookies and baking snowman cookies, Debbie in the gym with relay games, Cheryl leading us in song and Grace, Marilyn, Shannon at the craft tables helping the kids make reindeer ornaments. Our party is never complete without Linda leading us in the lighting of our Advent Candle and our lesson time. To student leaders Megan, Brittany, Sarah and Sam a huge thank you for always being ready to help where ever needed. It was a great day and of course no one left the party without gifts!

It is with pleasure that we announce the names of those who were given awards for their work in memorizing Bible verses during the month of November. These kids worked hard and we are thrilled that so many were able to participate. Winners are:

Gold Medal - Hollie Fox, Ashley Maranto, Kayla Wagner

Silver Medal - Emmes Kenny, Jessica Leake, Jenah Fox, Ashley Smith, Kylie Ward, GiGi Giancana, Jasmine Fox, Ryan Saeler, Neal Lancaster

Bronze Medal - Jacob Leake, Kaily Simpson, Breona Smith, Maya Garcia

The themes for study during the month of January are;

Big Top Olympics - Followers of Christ love and accept people

Respecting the Referees - May I serve you?

Worship Workout - Learning to become more like Christ

Hopping Mad - We learn how David and Saul dealt with their anger

Snack time is always a favorite time, so thank you to the following families for making this time special; Stewart Family, Stiegal Family and the KIDS CLUB staff for the Christmas party.

Welcome to our new staff member, Amanda. "Mandy" is very familiar with our program since she is a former member herself.

KIDS CLUB is closed for the holidays, but we will resume on Monday, January 5th.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



✠ SUNDAY SCHOOL ✠

You're always welcome! - 10:30 Every Sunday

During worship service, a fully staffed nursery is available for infants and toddlers. The nursery is on the lower level of the church. It is equipped with cribs, swings, high chairs, toys and books to keep the children happy and content while their parents participate in the worship service. The volunteer staff members find great joy in watching the children grow.

NEWS FROM OUR TEACHERS

Grades 5 - Linda Lavaretto

I was so happy to teach this month. But, instead of teaching my own fifth grade, I taught in the 3/4th grade filling in for Sue Orsic. Thank you to Ronnie, Ashley, Gigi, Kailey, LeAnne, Shaylin, Neal, Tierney, Yasmine, and Jenah for making me feel so welcome. On the first Sunday I was there, we talked about being thankful and rejoicing in God's gifts. We talked about Abraham and Sarah. We also made pinecone turkeys to help us remember all the gifts that God has given us this past year. On the second Sunday, we talked about trusting God to take care of us. We talked about Ishmal and his mother who needed to trust God when they were sent away from Abraham's camp to walk in the desert. God promised to watch over them and he took care of them in the desert. The fifth grade class will officially be added to the 3/4 grade class for the winter quarter. Perhaps Becky and Brian will feel more comfortable with more children so share their ideas and questions. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a most memorable New Year.

Junior High - Cindy Treccani

The kids Christmas program has come and gone for another year. Once again it was absolutely beautiful! We are just starting our new quarter and I'm really excited about it. The junior high class is always interesting and thought provoking. Alyssia, Ashley, Breona, Brittany, Gessica, Kyle, Natalee, Sarah and Tristan - thank you for making my first week a good one. To those of you who weren't able to be here, I'm looking forward to seeing you soon, as we "dig deeper" into Jesus' birth.

Senior High - Lou Pearson

May I Call You Friend!

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

To commit to a friendship takes much time. A friend well chosen is worth his weight in gold. The bridge that is built between friends is crossed often by both parties. A friend has fine regard for his friend who is trustworthy and virtuous, always there as is our father.

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Friends we will always be!

Regards,

C. Lou Pearson

THANK YOU

Our fall quarter of Sunday School has ended and we say thank you to our teachers for all they have given to the students in their classes. What a wonderful beginning to this church school year!

Debbie Zimmerman

Noelle Larsen

Sue Orsic

Linda Lavaretto

Patt Pilgrim

Gordon Home

Tom Lane

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

†

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up for the annual Advent Workshop. What a terrific way to begin the Advent season. There were close to 120 people who came and enjoyed the fellowship on Friday, December 5th. The food was delicious! It seems that all the people who attended had a great time making the decorations and gifts during the workshop. A special thanks to the people who stayed at the tables to answer questions and guide the guests in creating their decorations and gifts. How could this night be successful without your help? We hope you had fun singing around the piano at the end of the evening. Old favorites are always a wonderful way to begin preparing for the holidays.

Another year passes and we enjoy the children presenting the program of "Hanging of the Greens" one more time. It was a very special presentation as more of the children had leading roles in the story and explanation of Christmas. Thank you to the very capable readers and actors. Your gift to the congregation was very special indeed. Thank you to Cheryl and Gabriella for their gifts of song. Thank you to the children who not only sang so well under Cheryl's direction, but also helped to decorate the sanctuary. The pew bows were well placed, the greens went on perfectly for the candleabras, the pointsetta plants added a touch of color, and the Tree of Warmth looked beautiful filled with all sorts of articles to keep children warm. Thank you to the Simone family who trusted Gina and Sam to take good care of Lucia, our baby Jesus for the program. This was truly a program for us to remember.

The Christmas Tea was held on Thursday, December 11. Everyone who was able to get to the church on that day enjoyed a spectacular presentation by the Stagg Madrigal Singers. Our own Ciametti girls, Gina and Gabriella, were a part of this presentation. Alice Collins also entertained us with her personal reflections of Christmas. Everyone at the Tea had a wonderful

night enjoying the entertainment, tea and donated pasteries. Thank you to the hard working ladies who made sure the water was hot and refilled often. Thank you to those who had the hard job of setting up the tables and taking everything back down.

The Women's Bible Study will take a break and return after the holidays. Their planned Christmas luncheon was cancelled because of the weather. It will be rescheduled in January.

The Stampers are also taking a break in December. They will get back to making cards and decorating their scrapbooks in January. Everyone in the stampers is asked to do some homework and make two cards for their return meeting in January.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going strong. We have knitters who meet in the fifth grade classroom after the 10:30 AM worship service. Believe it or not, we also have some young students who want to learn to knit and are coming regularly each week, too. People who are interested in learning to knit or crochet are as welcome as the ones who already are proficient. We spend an hour or more talking and knitting or crocheting.

Just a reminder to bring in the White Gifts for the 10:30 AM worship service. All non-perishable items should be wrapped in white to make the presentation at the appropriate time of the service. Items will be delivered to the Jones Center in time for their patrons to celebrate the holidays.

The Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. But more than that, we wish you peace and comfort knowing that God gave his most precious gift to us that day in the manger, Jesus. We hope that sometime during the hustle and bustle of this season that you will have time to recall that small baby and rejoice in the gift of God's Love.

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



What a wonderful blessing to have all the voices at church for the youth choir anthem Sunday. In our culture it is sometimes difficult to keep the priority of Sunday morning focused on Christ, so I thank God for the calling in these young folks and pray for their growth in Him.

I always like to share the words to our Anthem for those who may have the tune playing in their head, but cannot put the words to it; and also for those that missed the service.

May you feel God's Blessing as you read these words...

There is a King who was born in a manger
Jesus was His name
Came to Earth, to His own was a stranger,
Jesus is His name.

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Sheep are grazing on the hillside
Shepherds watch their flock
Angels sing the King is Born
Jesus is His name

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Shepherds come to see the Child
Lamb of God so meek and mild
Jesus is His name

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Kids Club Bible Verses for January

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35†

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.."

Ephesians 5:21

†

"In the congregation I will praise you."

Psalms 22:22

†

"Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.."

Ephesians 4:26

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Woman's Bible Study is continuing with our study of 1st and 2nd Peter. The study is a little challenging but I believe we are all putting our time and effort into the study and every Monday we leave with a better understanding of God's Word. Our Christmas luncheon had to be postponed until sometime in January due to icy weather. Class resumes January 5th. Please join us.

Pat Brady

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

On December 13, 2008, nineteen of us met at the church. Fourteen junior highs and five adults went downtown for our annual outing for ice skating and viewing Christmas Windows.

We met at the Church at 9:00AM thank you to Emily's dad, Rick Raschke, and Tasha's mom, Melanie Swindle for going with us to help with the driving. We drove to the Orange Line and took the train downtown.

Our first stop was the Macy's Windows and then we went to Daley Plaza to see the Tree and shop at all the Christmas shops in the plaza. We bought a few things and then headed to McDonalds for lunch.

After lunch we headed to the ice skating rink at Millennium Park, saw the Bean and waited for one hour in line to skate. Boy was it worth it. There was a light drizzle but the temperature was great for December and we had a wonderful time. The lights the music and skate rental made skating fun for everyone there. We had a few hot chocolates and headed home after a full day of Christmas in Chicago.

Our junior highs that went were Alexis, Riley, Stephanie, Brianna, Jessica, Ashley, Breona, Sarah, Emily, Brittany, Alyssia, Natalie, Natasha, and Becky.

On December 18, 2008 at 6:30 PM we will have our Christmas movie and pizza night. We will not meet again until January 8, 2009 because of the holidays.

We wish all our junior highs and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. God bless us all.

Adam, Katie, Patt
Junior High Youth Leaders

CONGRATULATIONS

Perfect Attendance
for
November Sunday School

Grades 1/2	Jacob Morrell GiGi Giancana
Junior High	Sarah Swearingen
Senior High	Gina Ciametti Gabriella Ciametti Sam Swearingen Mike Swearingen Andrew Witek Matthew Witek



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Christopher Witek
16	Emmesis Kenny
10	Jacob Leake
20	Emily Raschke
21	Andrew Witek Matthew Witek
25	Ashley Smith
29	Haily Wreza



Make a Noisemaker to Celebrate Special Days

You will need:

- empty kitchen matchbox (NO matches)
- foil
- tape
- dried beans or rice
- unsharpened pencil
- 2 rubber bands
- stickers, glue and glitter (optional)

How to make the noisemaker:

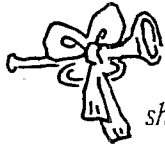
- Put beans or rice in the matchbox, so that it rattles when you shake it.
- Tape the box shut.
- Cover box with foil.
- Poke 2 small holes on opposite sides of the box near one end.
- Stick the pencil into one hole, through the box and out the other hole.
- Wrap rubber bands around the pencil on both sides of the box, so the pencil won't slip through the holes.
- If you want, you can decorate the box with stickers and glitter.

How to use:

- Hold the pencil and move your wrist to spin the box.
- Make lots of happy noise to celebrate special days throughout the year.



Special Times for the Israelites



"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it ..." Exodus 12:14

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events. Below are some of the special days observed by the Israelites.

Use the code to find the name of the special day and the month of the Jewish year in which they are celebrated.

CODE:

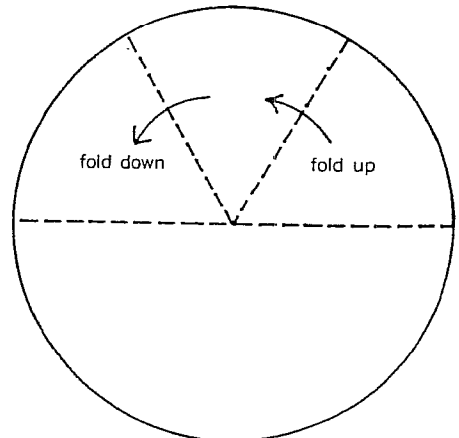
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ
ZYXWVUT SRQPONMLKJIHG FEDCBA

Season	Holiday	Month
1. End of Summer	(New Year)	GRSHIR
2. Fall	(Day of Atonement)	GRSHIR
3. Fall	(Festival of Booths)	GRHSIR
4. Winter	(Festival of Rededication)	PRHOVE
5. Winter	(Festival of Lots)	ZWZI
6. Spring	(Feast of Unleavened Bread)	MRHZM
7. Spring	(Feast of Weeks/Pentecost)	HREZM

SNOWFLAKES

Trace around a cup on a plain piece of paper. Or use this pattern to practice.

- 1 Fold circle in half.
- 2 Divide half circle into thirds.
- 3 Fold right third up.
- 4 Fold left third down.
- 5 Cut notches in sides and top to form design.
- 6 Carefully unfold.
- 7 Hang with white thread from Christmas tree branches or attach to a window or mirror.



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV NO Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7-9 p.m. New Member Class</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. CE Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stamps 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Honduras Mission Trip Returns</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 1-3 p.m. New Member Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>Feb. Newsletter Articles Due</u></p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Jr. High Pancake Fundraiser 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club NO Youth Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stamps 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Retreat Departs- Jan. 23-25</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30-2:30 MC8 Leadership Workshop</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education *11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting* 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

January Birthdays

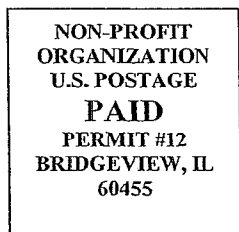
2 - Jean Somerstorfer
4 - Stan Flynn
5 - Virginia Zabelka
8- Sarah Adams
9 - Loretta Koch
11 - Mary Davis
11 - Enid Scholefield
16 - Alan Bentley
17 - Mary Pasquarella
17 - Susan Orsic
18 - Lou Pearson
18 - Richard E. Kahn
20 - Jennifer DelPrete
25 - Gwen Lopinski
26 - Charles Johnson
31 - Jim Kupka

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church
office...598-3100

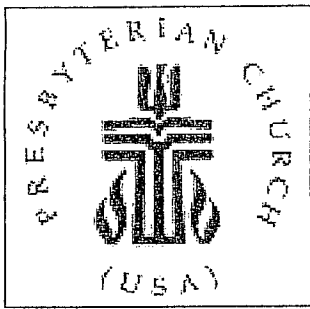
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

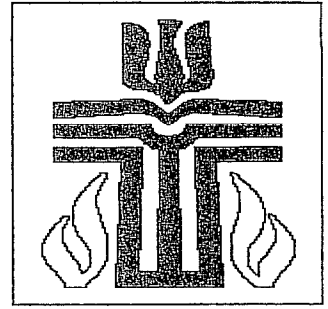
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457



**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
Telephone: (708)598-3100
Email: HHPC2002@netzero.com
www.hickoryhillspres.org

FEBRUARY 2009

Increase Membership & Stewardship

By the time you read this, many things will have happened with this phrase:

- reviewed by Session at their meeting January 12, 2009
- reviewed by the Congregation at their meeting January 25, 2009
- publicized in a newsletter article like this.

First, a little background. At their annual Leaders' Retreat on Saturday, January 10, 2009, elders and deacons, 'old' and new, got to know each other, pray for each other, look at the community around us, and brainstorm (58) ways that HHPC this year might choose a BHAG – a Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal. A simple 3-vote process quickly reduced 58 to 6, and personal choices for 'my best choice' cut that down to 5 options. After some work to flesh out each possibility and lively presentations to each other, the assembled group gathered in a traditional 'Jesuit-decision-making' to weigh the five ways God might be calling us into 2009. The comments were overwhelming and clear –

Increase Membership & Stewardship

A second question might be – Whaddaya mean? What are we going to do? An answer was in front of all the officers from the beginning – the presentation by the group that espoused this BHAG. They did a careful job of identifying several components to 'what it means to *Increase Membership & Stewardship*:'

1. Start an Outreach Committee to do (at least) advertising, website, community invitations, open houses (young families, young mothers/fathers)
2. Create Welcome Packets that include: church programs (including new ones like tutoring and ESL, history, staff, worship services)
3. Expand local mission programming: in the Southwest suburbs, with more diversity (food pantry, work days – Habitat), support groups for special interests, nursing homes
4. Begin a Young Adult Group for 18-25 year olds (What's next?), integrated in the church community.

Finally, how do I as interim pastor see this? Great! is easily my first response, noting several things that came out in the discussion January 10th (my emphases):

- "Increase" makes sense ONLY if we do it for others, for God – not HHPC
- Increase happens as we deepen the spiritual roots of each, of all
- Increase emerges as we open doors for each one to participate significantly
- Increase comes when every one has at least a handful of close friends
- "Membership" is shorthand for participation, connection, friendship, not #s
- "Stewardship" is caring wisely for self, for our planet, for our resources

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 25th

Soup – I love the many references I’ve heard over the past two weeks to SOUP – it seems to be on everyone’s diet in this ‘warm’ weather! So you will get soup when you come to HHPC on Ash

Wednesday – both at 12:00 noon and in the evening at 6:15 p.m.

Solace – I love the sound of that word. It carries the obvious meaning of comfort, relaxing, healing, restoration, being made whole again. And Ash Wednesday does that in a straightforward way as we take time to confess our sins in a leisurely way and hear the full assurance of God’s gracious grace that wipes them out and puts us together afresh. Oh – solace – the reason I love it so much – I think it’s because the Latin root for sun, sol, is the beginning of it – God’s Son heals all.

Solid – I can’t remember the first person on whom I imposed ashes, but I vividly remember one of the persons in that first service. How dramatically that moment changed me! We had talked. We had argued. We had created. We had laughed together. We had cried together. In that service I first touched this person’s face – to make an ashen cross on that forehead. We touched. We connected. I was shaken to realize how close we were brought by some wispy, burnt leftovers from last year’s Palm Sunday palms. How strangely God works! How deeply God roots us when we each start with God. You too can have a solid foundation from a passing moment of sharing ashes.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION – February 8th

Each year we welcome new leaders to the congregation by ordaining and installing them in a service of worship. After the Nominating Committee’s report, after the Session’s vote to find each candidate qualified to serve, after the Congregation’s vote to select new Elders and Deacons to start three-year terms – then we ordain and install.

We Presbyterians are fairly unique in ordaining people who are not clergy – we ordain elders to lead us in the work of the Session, and Deacons to care for us and the people around us through their Board. Once ordained, always ordained. The ordination is for life, even though the election to an office is for a three-year term.

Welcome the new Deacons. Encourage the new Elders. But be absolutely sure that you are in worship February 8 to participate with all formerly ordained persons and others in the ordination of the new deacons and elders for Hickory Hills Presbyterian.

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

What is that blue envelope for?



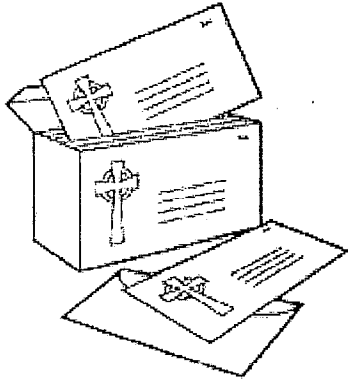
*A message about Per Capita giving from the
Stewardship-Finance Committee*

Per capita is a fund with a cost per member to which every congregation part of the PCUSA contributes. For each and every member an amount is calculated that is divided between the national General Assembly (national), the Synod of Lincoln Trails (a regional Presbyterian body to which our church belongs), and the Presbytery of Chicago. The funds from per capita apportionments help these bodies serve and support individual congregations and pastors across the country and help to hold Presbyterian congregations together in mission and fellowship.

Every church in the PCUSA is assessed per capita for every member. For 2009, it is **\$28.29** per member.

Last year, of the \$6,600 assessed to our church, we received gifts from members for per capita totaling

\$2,236. The result is that we had to take \$4,364 from the general fund to make up the difference. The result of that in these challenging economic times is that we had to take more from our dwindling reserves to cover the budget shortfall.



Please make a gift to per capita that covers the members in your household (*including confirmed youths*), and if you are able, an amount above that to help cover members who may not be able to make the gift themselves.

For more information on per capita, you may visit the PCUSA website at:
<https://www.pcusa.org/percapita/faq.htm>.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) News:

As time marches on, so does our committee. As I write this article we are scheduled to meet twice this week. Once with Mike Wolf from Chicago Presbytery, and then again with just our committee later in the week to continue our review of materials we have from candidates.

Planning also to be in attendance with Mike is our new Committee on Ministry (COM) Rep., Peggy Lindsey.

Just as our local church officers and committee people change with members rotating on and off the boards, the same takes place within the Presbytery. That is the case with Vickie Engelhardt, our previous COM Rep. who has graduated from her term on the COM.

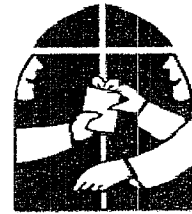
This meeting will not only provide us with the

opportunity to meet and talk with Peggy (and Mike) but also time to discuss our progress and look at possible ways of expanding our Search Process.

Our work continues, slowing only slightly through the busy Holiday Season. Not only due to our schedules, but also the schedules of Pastors from whom we would be receiving information from. So with great effort we carry on and will work toward the goal.

The PNC,
Theodore Atiedu, Cheryl Huenecke, Darlene Kibort,
Lou Pearson, Debbie Raschke, Adam Schwake &
Katie Treccani

NEW MEMBERS



Welcome
Our *New*
Members

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, we welcomed 9 new members into our congregation: **Richard Ambrosat, Kim Ambrosat, Bryan Ambrosat, Kyle Ambrosat, Jarett Ambrosat, Shannon Bastien, Harry Hermansen, Tom Pearson, & Nancy Pearson.**

Richard, Kim, Bryan, Kyle and Jarett Ambrosat have transferred their membership from Bayshore Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida.

Shannon Bastien professed her faith, having been previously baptized.

Harry Hermansen reaffirmed his faith, having been previously baptized and confirmed.

Tom & Nancy Pearson reaffirmed their faith, having been previously baptized and confirmed.

It is a joy and privilege to welcome these 9 new members into the mission and ministry of this church. Take an opportunity to introduce yourself to them.

DIRECTORY UPDATES & CHANGES

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ambrosat & Family
9100 Sycamore Dr.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-598-0523

Hamet Arif
7738 N. College Circle Apt. D
No. Richland Hills, TX 76180

Shannon Bastien
9455 S. 85th Ct. #1 South
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-233-5943

Harry Hermansen
17200 W. Bell Rd. Lot #97
Surprise, AZ 85374
708-296-4974

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pearson
8748 Pleasant Ave.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-598-5198

PADS UPDATE



Our winter records seem to indicate this season will have lasting impact upon us all, as we huddle together for warmth and comfort. These luxuries escape most of our PADS friends, for they have not the security we have within our comfortable abodes.

Thank you all, once again, in your wonderful support and giving of self to do the best we can for our brothers and sisters in need. Our count for the month of January was 70 adults and children. The count I am sure would be larger, but for the limitations put upon the church by the local fire department, as to the

occupancy law for the size of the facility, not to exceed 70 guests.

PADS has a situation which it has to face to solve this dilemma, as to where the extra guests will go? A solution is at hand I am sure; Let us do our part and remember our homeless as we hold them in our hearts and in our prayers.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing."
Genesis 12:2 (NIV)

America is no longer the super power she once was. As other countries buy up properties in our land, can our wonderful diversity in freedom become something else? The events of the past year have caused much shame, disbelief, anguish, sorrow. Join us in praying for a spiritual revival calling our country back into godly values.

"For all things come from you..." I Chronicles 29:14

TWILIGHT PRAYER

I, like you, call upon our Savior many times in the course of a day. How many times I don't know exactly. But be assured we have a direct line to Him and there is never a busy signal.

We specifically plug in our direct line each Tuesday evening as we gather together in the upper room at 6:30 p.m. Do you have room in your life to join us in the party line connection?
I pray you do. No cell phones needed.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sue Orsic's sister, Debbie Smith, for recovery from surgery and strength to move forward
 Millie Neil's daughter, Patty, for healing
 Josh Krueger for health concerns
 Tasha Swindle's friend,
 Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
 Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
 Bob Nordstrom for health concerns
 People experiencing hard times
 Karen Leake for strength to move forward
 Mary Tarter for strength to move forward
 Darlene Kibort for strength to move forward
 Marge Hayes for health concerns
 Dorothy Allen for strength to move forward
 Our service men and women and their families
 Amanda McGuire keeping the faith
 Lindsey Taylor strength to move forward
 DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

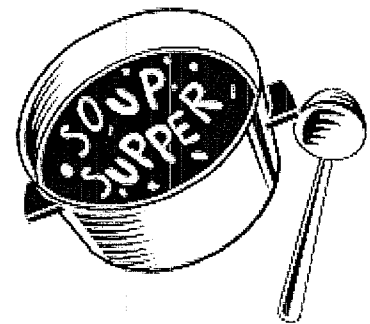


SESSION NOTES

At their regular meeting on the 2nd Monday, January 12, the elders on the Session of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer led by Pastor Warren
- Welcomed 5 new members to HHPC: Tom & Nancy Pearson, Shannon Bastien, Kim Ambrosat and her son Jarett
- Called a special meeting for Sunday, January 18 at 10 a.m. to meet with 4 more new members: Rich Ambrosat and his sons Bryan and Kyle, and Harry Hermansen (Affiliate Member)
- Approved the minutes for December 8th and January 10th
- Approved the Clerk's report of the 2007 audit, communion, Christmas Eve services, Dave LaCognata 12/28 preaching, and a workshop for all Elders and Deacons January 10th
- Approved the Treasurer's year-end report for 2008
- Received the Worship & Music report:
 - Blue Praise booklet will be revised

- Sound system will be improved –awaiting estimates
- Dave Delaney will be a new lay leader
- G.R. Snow's recital will be February 20th at 7:30pm
- Discussed praise band music in the morning service
- Enjoyed the Mission Committee report of : increases for PADS dollars and food, 87 Christmas gifts taken to Jones Center, Kentucky trip planning on 1/26 (likely starting July 11th), Dave Delaney headed for 10 days in Honduras later this month
- Heard of PNC's 2 meetings this week – meeting new representative from the Presbytery of Chicago; agreed to pray for individuals on the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)
- Learned Nominating Cmte checking with Alan Bentley
- Celebrated worlds covered by Christian Education:
 - Souper Sunday for camp scholarships (8/2-8) in summer
 - Sunday School staffed; confirmation held till next year
 - Youth choir running 14/15 – sing 4/5 not Easter
- Nursing home gifts taken on 3/29
- Junior High – maybe 18 to retreat 1/23
- Lenten series starts 2/25, Ash Wednesday – weekly soup!



- Evening Soup: 2/25 Session, 3/4 Fellowship, 3/11 Mission, 3/18 Stewardship, 3/25 Fundraising, 4/1 B & G, 4/9 Worship & Music
- Noontime Soup: Deacons 2/25 plus weekly volunteers
- Women's Retreat – not March, checking September

- Adopted the 2009 Budget to send to the congregation 1/25
- Approved using 'old' computer for GR and linking to internet
- Discussed getting SMART goals from planned goal for 2009: "increase membership and stewardship"
- Celebrated tutoring proposal and agreed to support getting it going
- Explored options for joint ministry with Savior Divine Lutheran
- Closed with prayer at 9:40

The Tate Family Members

Do you have any idea of how many members of the Tate family belong to your congregation?

There is old man Dic Tate who wants to run everything, while uncle Ro Tate tries to change everything. Their sister, Agi Tate, stirs up plenty of trouble with help from her husband, Irri Tate. Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi Tate and his wife Vegi Tate want to wait until next year.

Brother Facili Tate is quite helpful in church business. Cousins Cogi Tate and Medi Tate always think things over and lend a helpful steady hand. And, of course, there is the bad seed in the family, Ampu Tate, who has cut himself off completely from the Body of Christ.

HHPC'S LETTERS TO JIM BECKERING

In the December 2008 newsletter, Pastor Warren Wiggins invited us to write a public thank you note to Jim Beckering. The following articles were received and shared with Jim. Here they are for you to enjoy:

January 2, 2009

Dear Jim,

I want to thank you for your years of ministry at Hickory Hills Presbyterian church. There are many things that you gave to the church that I so enjoyed and benefited from.

Thank you for your sermons. They were of so much help to me as I struggled through hard times in my life, as I looked for direction in my life and for

learning to praise God for all my blessings. I felt many times sermons were directed specifically to me.

Thank you for reaching out to me in visitation and counseling. Thank you for making me feel a part of the HHPC family.

Thank you for adventures with senior highs youth and adults to Colorado, Tennessee, and the Boundary waters. Thank you for mountains and sunrises for the sound of loons, white water rafting and learning to steer a canoe. In those trips I saw God in nature and felt closer to Him than ever before.

Thank you for your vision of ministry to children. You had the vision that KIDS were #1 and directed our church to be a safe haven and place of Christian growth to children and youth. I found my niche and continue to enjoy working with youth in the Junior High youth group and in Sunday school. Thank you for youth programs such as Kid's club, Lenten learning and Advent nights. We have between 40 and 50 junior high and senior highs in our two youth groups meeting weekly using the gym that you envisioned and lead to completion for HHPC.

Thank you for adult learning programs. I enjoyed the videos and discussion groups afterward.

Thank you for your leadership in Mission Council 8. I enjoy the retreats to Saugatuck and community with members of the other churches. I enjoy going to Kentucky on mission trips and working at Jones center.

Thank you for initiating the cluster group concept for the Deacons. I enjoy being a Deacon and I love my cluster families. I hope to be a good Deacon to them all.

Thank you for the ministry to others that I never knew about but got a small insight to at your farewell dinner when others came forward to speak of how you helped them through difficult times in their lives.

Thank you for your love of the HHPC family. I and others have benefited from that love and care and will never forget those days. You are my friend and we shall always be family.

Patt

Dec., 2008

Thank you Jim,

When thoughts of you come to mind, I'd like to list a few. Your refusal to let polio stop you from being the best you could be. Our many double matches were great fun when we played tennis; however, you also engaged in single matches. The day you beat George Brumis gave you incredible joy and disbelief. Well done! Your going to the health club regularly knowing only one side of your body would get stronger from the exercises. Well done!

The open door policy you adopted in the manse to anyone who needed refuge. Well done!

Church family was foremost in your ministry perhaps because you didn't have the family life many of us take for granted. Under your pastorship KIDS CLUB was born. Your reaching out to a kid's welfare over the parents' needs. Well done!

May your journey with Christ continue to be boundless, your spirituality limitless and your love endless.

Love 'n' Hugs,
Ar

Shirley L. Fogg
8822 W. Nida Court
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

December, 2008

Here's to J. B.

His warm spirit embraced us.
His creative words inspired us.
His delightful sense of humor
lent sparkle to our lives. He
worked hard through the years
to mold us into a loving church
community, strong enough to
sustain itself and carry out
his vision for us. We gratefully
wish him well in every aspect
of his life.

Thank you J.B.
Shirley Fogg

There are many gifts I still cherish from Reverend Beckering's leadership and ministry. He always made time to see and care for others. He tried so very hard to have everyone love him and so few ever realized how endlessly he worked for all of us and for our church.

Jim gave Dottie & I (through God's help) strength to face nine tough years of cancer.

I pray Jim will forgive me for not staying in touch but I have kept him in my prayers -

God Bless

Jimmie Rehbeck

A MASTER'S DEGREE RECITAL AT HHPC

Friday evening, February 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

As you know, this fall G. R. went back to school to work on finishing his master's degree at the American Conservatory of Music in Hammond, Indiana. This program will result in a Master of Music degree in vocal



G. R. Snow, HHPC
director of music
and recitalist for
February 20, and
Charles T. Hayes,
director of music
at Maryland
Presbyterian
Church and
accompanist for
the recital.



performance, and with the credit he received from the Conservatory for master's level classes he had taken at Western Illinois University in Macomb when he was living near there, plus credit for extensive private study and choral/operatic experience he has achieved during the last twenty years (including singing with Grant Park Symphony Chorus, singing in operas with the Corneto Opera and Opera Theatre of DuPage, singing in and being a soloist/conductor/composer for the Chatham Choral Ensemble during their concert tour in 2000 of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, and serving as a conductor/composer/organist for HHPC, he was offered an opportunity to complete the remaining requirements of his master's degree in one year—a year including two master's degree recitals and one master's thesis. The first of the recitals will be held February 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., and he received permission (both from the Conservatory and from the HHPC Session) to hold the recital at HHPC. All members and friends of the HHPC congregation are encouraged to come; there will also be musicians attending from outside our congregation and it's a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with others and enjoy a program of fine music as well.

Accompanist for G. R. will be Charles T. Hayes, who will be flying in from Baltimore earlier that week and will be using piano, organ, and the harpsichord stop on an electronic piano to accompany the selections. This recital includes music from several different nationalities and time periods. Baroque music (from the 1600-1750 period) will include a sacred bass solo cantata by a relatively unknown composer named Giovanni Antonio Rossetti, a bass solo from the Magnificat by Johann Sebastian Bach, and an aria from Handel's opera *Berenice*, sung by Prince Demetrio when he is being led away in chains by the soldiers of the jealous Egyptian queen Berenice Cleopatra. A Beethoven song-cycle, one of the earliest historical examples of a song-cycle (which is a series of poems by the same poet set to different contrasting tunes by the composer), will follow; the six

pieces are love songs "to a distant beloved" and come from a time in Beethoven's life when, after the failure of the three great romances of his life, plus his approaching deafness, he was forced to accept that there were things he had hoped for that he would never have. The pieces in the first half are in Latin, Italian, and German, but written translations will be provided as part of the program.

The second section of the recital are all in English, and include pieces from 1880 through 1992. One is a Tchaikovsky piece, written during a retreat to the countryside after the success of two major operas, the failure of his marriage and a subsequent nervous breakdown, and less than six months before his writing the 1812 Overture. It's a setting of a text by the great Orthodox saint St. John Damascene. Two pieces from the British composer will follow – "Silent Noon", a poem written by D. G. Rossetti, and "The Vagabond", a poem written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Two Shakespeare songs set to music by Roger Quilter will follow, and the recital will conclude with a piece by G.R. himself, taken from his short Christmas oratorio "The Magi", which he premiered in 1992.

As with any master's degree recital, a lot of work goes into learning and polishing the music to be performed, and G.R. is especially looking forward to as many of the HHPC congregation and its friends coming as possible. He also has invited many of his college classmates, some of them members of the same music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. This is a great opportunity to show support for G. R. as well as hear some great music and welcome many attendees who may not know anything about HHPC, some of them from as close as Oak Lawn and at least from as far away as Baltimore. Please mark your calendars now for this event.

G. R. Snow grew up in rural Iowa and was heard as a soloist on the radio and in church as a teenager; he also was church pianist and organist as well as forming and directing an ethnically mixed choir. He received his organ/religion double major from Illinois Wesleyan University and subsequently studied voice with R. Bruce Gardner, Thomas Sillitti, and Winifred Faix Brown; he is currently a student of Dr. Brad Nitschke. In Chicago He has performed extensively in the Gaelic folksong and African-American musical repertoires and was coached on arias from *Porgy and Bess* by the late William Warfield. He is senior artistic director of the Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus, and was certified as a lay speaker in the United Methodist Church. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Alpha Lambda chapter).

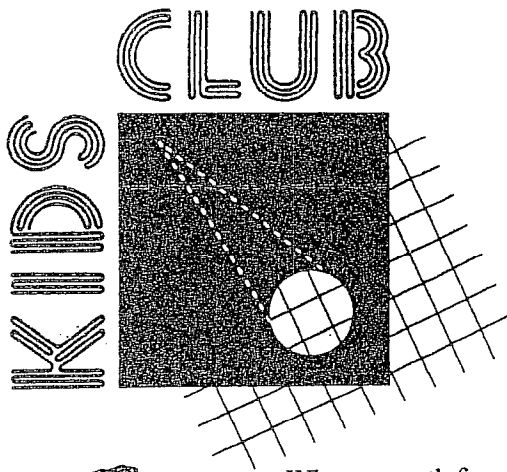
November 12, 2008

To All My Family, Friends, & Supporters,

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health, safe keeping & surrounded by those you love. My sweet "little" sister Summer asked me to write another letter for our yearly news letter. Has it been a year already? For as much as times seem to sit still, it also flies by. A lot has happened since my last newsletter. Unfortunately, I'm still behind prison gates awaiting for good news. I've gone through a lot this year. I had a nose job (compliments of Dwight) in October 2007 because 2 inmates broke my nose. It was a difficult surgery, but I survived & now have a new nose! I sat in protective custody from Nov. 2007 until July 2008, by choice. Although I was in a room 23 hours/day, I felt more at ease & most importantly safe. But in July 2008, I was transferred to Lincoln Correctional Center - a minimum/medium facility with more privileges. I tried to adapt from living with one roommate to living in a dorm with 19 other women. It has its pros & cons. We get ice & have air conditioning & cable which weren't furnished at Dwight. We are able to be outside more often. I got a teacher aid position & loved it, while it lasted! Now I sit in segregation because I had to defend myself against an inmate who was

constantly intimidating me with physical harm! I'm alone in a room 24 hrs/day except for Mon/Wed/Sat when I'm allowed 1 hour outside + a shower. Luckily, I'm used to being in a room all day. I've been in seg for 6 days now without my TV, radio, snacks, coffee, soda or the ability to "move around". Thanks to all of you, I have been able to enjoy such luxuries like coffee, soda, snacks and have the ability to buy laundry detergent hair products + soap, along with envelopes + paper. All of your donations are very much appreciated and desperately needed, not only for commissary, but also to pay my costly attorney fees as we continue to fight for my freedom. I try to be optimistic in this pessimistic place. I try so hard! If it weren't for my children Tia + Draven, my niece Zoe + all my friends + family, I'd have given up a long time ago. Thank you for standing by my side. My family thanks you, too, from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate + need all of your continued support. Please don't forget about me + my fight for justice! Until next time, Happy Holidays + God Bless all of you + you.

Jenni



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

What a month for our kids and their Bible verse memorization! Winners received gold medals for memorizing all the verses for this month. So, congratulations to this group of kids who worked hard to accomplish their goal. Keep up the good work.

Gold Medal winners - Yasmine Fox, Gigi Giancana, Jessica Leake, Neal Lancaster, Ashley Maranto, Ryan Saeler, Kaily Simpson, Ashley Smith.

Our learning time for the month of February will centered around the topics:

*Tripping on Your Tongue - Gossip - Stop it!
Winner Takes All - Overcoming Envy
The Ultimate High Jump - Retaliation
An Individual Event - Loneliness*

A highlight for the month of February will be our Valentines's Day Party to be held on Monday, February 9th. The staff has planned a special day for the kids and we hope that everyone will be with us on this day.

Sunday, February 22nd - "Our Kids Sing" The kids from KIDS CLUB will join our Church School kids for group singing during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Parents, we hope you and your child will join us and support the great things your kids are doing here. We will meet in the church basement at 10:15 for practice. See you there!

Snack time is a favorite part of our afternoon program. If you would like to provide snacks for one week, the sign up sheet is available during KIDS CLUB. Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Lenten Series - beginning Wednesday, February 25th. You will not want to miss this program which has been developed with a focus on the family. More information concerning the program can be found in this newsletter. Remember friends are always welcome here and this is a program that you will want to share. I hope you will make it a priority to join us -

*Wednesday evenings February 25 -April 1
Soup supper begins at 6:15 with program at 7:00 p.m.*

This month we welcomed Lisa as a new member to Kids Club. We are glad she chose to share Monday afternoons with us. We would like to remind everyone that KIDS CLUB is open to all kids age 5 through the 6th grade. If you know of someone who would like to be a part of this time together, please invite them to join us.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Just a reminder that *Souper Sunday* is coming. All the Jr. High class will serve delicious soups on February 1st. Thank you to the Jr. High for sponsoring this lunch and especially to all the wonderful people who donated their time and energy to bring us so many wonderful soups. If you are planning to watch Football in the afternoon, it is a great way to fill yourself before the Big Super Bowl Game. All proceeds from the free will offering will be used as camp scholarships for summer camp at Saugatuk. Please stop by the fellowship hall downstairs after the service and have a bowl or two of the soups served there.

The Spring quarter of Sunday school will begin on February 22. A teacher's meeting is scheduled for 9:15 AM. All current teachers and Spring quarter teachers are asked to attend. Dianne will be sure to have plenty of breakfast goodies available for you. Please be sure to attend this meeting. We welcome our new Spring teachers. Debbie and Jeanette will team teach the Pre-school/Kindergarten, as well as the grade 1/2. Melanie will teach the grade 3/4/5. Patt will teach the Jr. High and Angie will teach the Sr. High. Thank you for teaching the Spring quarter. A special thanks goes to all those who have volunteered to take more than one quarter this year.

The committee voted to postpone the confirmation class until 2010. This way there is a better chance to have the pastor teaching the class be the one who will confirm the students.

The Youth Choir will present their gift of music on March 8 and again on Palm Sunday, April 5. All students who are members of this choir are asked to mark your calendars and be in attendance for these two worship services.

The children of the church will be responsible for bringing the palms to the alter on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The children will also be singing for the

10:30 AM service.

Our Sunday school classes will make and fill Easter Baskets for the residents of the Palos Extended Care facility. The baskets will hold kleenex, combs, hand lotion and a very special wish for each resident inside a plastic egg. The children will decorate the baskets and fill them in class. March 29th the children from grades 3/4/5 will take the baskets and deliver them to the residents in Palos Hills.

The Senior High Youth Group took a trip to Brookfield Zoo before the winter break. They also enjoyed a New Year's Eve Party with some interesting team challenges.

The Junior High Youth Group took a trip downtown to go ice skating at Millenium Park. They have a retreat in Bloomington scheduled for January 23, 24, and 25. There is a lock-in scheduled at the church for February.

The Women's Bible Study had an After-Christmas Party on January 19th. There was a pot-luck luncheon and all the ladies were happy the weather was more cooperative than in December.

The committee is busy preparing the Lenten Series for February 25-April 1. There is a lunch and service for those who want to attend at 12 PM and another service at 7:00 PM with a dinner beginning at 6:15 PM. The evening service will also feature lessons for the children downstairs. They will walk the streets of the Jerusalem Marketplace. The children will be divided into age groups and experience one shop each of the six weeks. This series is designed for children ages 3 thru Jr. High. At the Jerusalem Marketplace you can find the Bakery and Confectioner shop, the JC Woodshop, the Tranquility Garden, Sails and Pails(a boat building shop), the Scribe, and a Storyteller. Each week will be a new adventure for the children who attend while the adults are free to worship and learn at the service in the sanctuary.

The committee hopes you will find the Wednesday Lenten series a welcome addition to your weekly activities. So mark your calendars and come to the Jerusalem Marketplace. You'll be so glad you did.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

On December 18, 2008 the Junior High Youth Group had a movie night at the church. We brought out the big pillows and blankets from the closet and made ourselves comfortable in the fellowship hall to watch the movie "Thank you Natalie Orsic for bringing the movie "Fred Claus".

On January 23, 2009 The Junior High youth Group will be going on our annual retreat to East Bay Camp in Hudson Illinois. The theme this year is "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT". Retreat leaders will be leading youth in exploration of Galatians "with the help of clips from a few of our favorite Will Ferrel movies." Key verse is Galatians 5:22. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"

Junior Highs from churches of the Presbyteries of Black hawk and Chicago will meet to play games, worship, sing, have free time in the gym and swimming pool, eat great food and build memories. Retreat leaders this year are Lynn Barger Elliott from Grand Rapids, MI and Bryan Keely a senior at Calvin College majoring in Recreational and youth ministry.

Dates are January 23-25. We will leave late Friday afternoon from the church and return Sunday afternoon. Transportation will be provided. Registration included completion of the covenant and medical release from and registration fee of \$100.00. See HHPC youth leaders for forms and further information. Talk to us if a scholarship is needed! We would like to take as many Junior Highs as we can to this worthwhile retreat. Contact us with any questions or for further information. (598-3100)

Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim

CONGRATULATIONS

Perfect Attendance

December Sunday School

Preschool/Kindergarten

Evan Grisko

Grades 1/2

Jacob Morrell

Danny Orsic

Grades 3/4

Gigi Giancana

Kaily Simpson

Junior High

Gessica Grisko

Tristan Grisko

Ashley Maranto

Natalie Orsic

Sarah Swearingen

Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High

Gina Ciametti

Gabriella Ciametti

Sam Swearingen

Mike Swearingen

Andrew Witek

Matthew Witek

Megan Zimmerman

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kaley Stewart

5 Sam Swearingen

Mike Swearingen

13 Kayla Wagner

20 Alyssia Kommenich

25 Austin McKinney

28 Kevin Lorenz

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS.....



Hearing that some of our previous members want to return to practice with us at Youth Choir, and learning that some of our new visitors will continue to be with us is such great news!

Our regular Monday Youth Choir practice continues to be a fun and fulfilling time together. As we enjoy dinner together each week, we are also blessed by the gifts of people that help by providing, preparing and serve dinner as part of our time together. Please invite others from 1st grade and up, to join us in spreading the love of God through the Gift of music.

With just coming out of a busy time of year with celebrations for Christmas and New years, vacations to warmer places, and rounding out the end of time off school, Youth Choir still worked hard to bring a beautiful gift of song to the congregation. Be blessed in reading these words if you were unable to hear them in song.

Jesus Has Time Medley

LINDA REBUCK

TOM FETTKE

People were standing in line to meet Jesus, waiting with little ones the Savior to bless.

Some said the Lord had no time for the children; He is too busy today.

"Let them come, let them come, let the children come to Me. I have time, I have time," said the Savior tenderly.

"Let them come, let them come; please don't send them away. I have time, let them come, let them stay."

Ev'ry body come and see, **ECHO** (Ev'ry body come and see)

God loves kids like you and me. (God loves kids like you and me)

He won't push us far away; (He won't push us far away;)

In His love He'll let us stay. (In His love He'll let us stay.)

(Chorus)

Don't you think it's great to know that God loves you and me?

In His holy word He says He always will.

He knows everything about me even knows my name;

When I make mistakes He loves me still.

I will sing a thank you song; **ECHO** (I will sing a thank you song;)

Maybe you can sing along. (Maybe you can sing along.)

Thank You God for loving me, (Thank You God for loving me,)

Loving me so per-fect-ly. (Loving me so per-fect-ly.)

JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE

LENT 2009



**A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25**

"YOU ARE THERE!"

Wednesday evening during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through Junior High. While adults are in worship, the kids will participate in a program designed with learning and fun. This hands on learning time provides the kids with a "YOU ARE THERE" bible time experience. They will relive bible time events while exploring and experiencing occupations and events of that time. During the six weeks the kids will;

- **SMELL** the aromas of the bakery and confectionery shop
- **HEAR** the sounds of carpenters in the wood shop
- **SEE** the villagers in Bible time attire
- **EXPERIENCE** and learn the occupational skills of the times by visiting the tranquility gardens and ship building shops
- **JOURNEY** with friends to visit the great storyteller
- **WRITE** in the Scribes Journal

Soup dinner is at 6:15. Freewill donations are accepted for this dinner and will be used for camp scholarship. We hope that you and your family will be a part of this Holy Land Adventure.

Family Lenten Series begins February 25

Soup Dinner 6:15

Worship in Sanctuary 7:00

Children's Learning Time 7:00

For those unable to worship in the evening, a worship service will be offered Wednesdays, with a Soup Luncheon at 12:00 noon and worship immediately following.

** There is no children's programming during this service.*

**We Invite You
to**

Join us Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 25

MIDDAY SERVICE

*Soup Luncheon – 12:00 noon
Worship immediately following*

EVENING SERVICE

(With Children's Program)

*Soup Dinner – 6:15 p.m.
Worship – 7:00 p.m.*

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 1, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
February 1, 2009	A. Bentley, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Hill, Kupka, Rehbock, Rys, Zimmerman, Simone, Haack	Rick Vogl
February 8, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Sack, Swearingen, Fogg, Orsic	Michael Pettis
February 15, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	Wiggins, Home, Kahn	Scott Zimmerman
February 22, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Brady, Harry, Richer, Pilgrim, Rys	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
February 1, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
February 8, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
February 15, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
February 22, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	



News From Our Teachers

Junior High - Cindy Treccani

The Junior High class is going strong. At last count we had 17 wonderful young people learning together. How awesome is that ?! We are reviewing the Ten Commandments as well as discussing John the Baptist, worship and faith. The group wrote an acrostic poem about faith...**F**orever **A**mazing **I**nfinite **T**rustworthy **H**ope. Great job! I look forward to every Sunday with these phenomenal kids. Together we are learning the Word of God.

Blessings,
Cindy

Senior High - Lou Pearson

Luke 12:32 *Fear not faithful ones, For your reward is the kingdom.*

Take from me my fears, I am weak, in you I have strength, and can handle all the world

has to confront me with. Fear not my friend for He is at your side as you walk your path. Fear has not fear when He is near!

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man brings problems, but those who put their faith in the Lord shall be safe.*

Each week we grow with the more we know.
Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

Adult Class - Tom Lane

We continue to study 1 Corinthians. Paul had a love for the church, and the pinnacle of this love came in the fifteenth chapter when Paul leads the Corinthians to depend upon the love and sacrifice of God and to know by remaining in Christ, they too would be raised to eternal life. We pray that we will stand united in friendship and love in these hard times in a world that will pass away. Please come and join us.

CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Updated Jan. 2009

Elders

Class of '09
 Alan Bentley 708-846-7698
 Jim Kupka 708-598-8068
 Rick Raschke 708-243-8088
 Scott Zimmerman 708-372-3516

Class of '10

Shirley Brunell 708-342-1797
 Cheryl Huenecke 708-598-2342
 Sue Orsic 708-839-0396
 Cindy Treccani 708-636-2237

Class of '11

Terry Brock 708-728-0453
 Gordon Home 708-599-8339
 Adam Schwake 708-516-9519
 Jeni Vogl 708-598-4893

Shirley Brunell, Clerk of Session 708-342-1797
 Karen Hoffman, Treasurer 815-838-4438

Deacons

Class of '09
 Patt Pilgrim 630-679-0963
 Debbie Zimmerman 708-458-1662
 Harold Zimmerman 708-599-1568

Class of '10

Dorothy Allen 708-458-2337
 Kim Brock 708-728-0453
 Lorraine Cunningham 708-857-9185
 Charles Huenecke 708-598-2342

Class of '11

Chris Maranto 708-599-5068
 Katie Treccani 708-636-2237
 Rick Vogl 708-598-4893

Committees	Chair	Session Rep.	Meeting Schedule
Building & Grounds	Charley Huenecke	Rick Raschke	2 nd Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Dianne Flynn	Cindy Treccani	1 st Tue. 7:30 p.m.
Endowment/ Stewardship/ Finance	Lisa Radetski	Jim Kupka	As needed
Fellowship	Debbie Raschke	Jeni Vogl	1 st Sun. 11:45 am *As needed
Fundraising	Susan Frangella	Shirley Brunell	As needed
Mission	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	4 th Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed
Nominating	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	As needed
Outreach	TBD	TBD	TBD
PNC	Cheryl Huenecke	Cheryl Huenecke	As needed
Personnel	Adam Schwake	Adam Schwake	As needed
Worship & Music	G.R. Snow	Scott Zimmerman	As needed
Praise Worship	Cindy Treccani	Cindy Treccani	2 nd Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed

Regular Meetings:

Session	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	2 nd Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Deacons	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	4 th Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Staff	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	2 nd Wed. 5:45 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Lavaretto	Sundays 11:45 a.m.
Sr. High Youth Group	Hanna Huenecke, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Josh Treccani, Rick & Jeni Vogl	Sundays 6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Pat Brady	Mondays 1:00 p.m.
Kid's Club	Dianne Flynn	Mondays 3:30 p.m.
Youth Choir	Dianne Flynn	Mondays 5:15 p.m.
Cancer Sewing	Lorraine Cunningham	1 st & 3 rd Tue. 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Care	Lou & Arlene Pearson	Tues. 6:30 p.m./ Wed. 9:00 a.m.
Stampers	Ruth Hill	Every other Wed. 10:30 a.m. (see calendar)
Senior Choir	G.R. Snow	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Jr. High Youth Group	Patt Pilgrim, Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani	Thursdays 6:30 p.m.
Handbells	G. R. Snow	Thursdays 8:00 p.m.

SOUPER SUNDAY



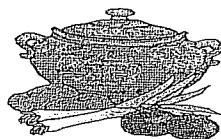
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE
SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Following Worship Service

All donations are used to help support
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support
Our Kids

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. <u>Souper Sunday</u> 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	2 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. CE Meeting	4 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	5 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>New Officers Installed</u> <u>March Newsletter Articles Due</u>	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	10 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	11 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir	12 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	13	14 8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds
15 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 Youth Choir	17 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	18 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	19 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	23 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons	24 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	25 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care <u>Lenten Series Begins</u> 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	26 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	27	28

February Birthdays

February 1 – Josh Krueger
5 – Scott Zimmerman
5 – Patricia Brady
7 – Julie Witek
7 - Tod Nargie
8 – Alice White
12 – Lorraine Cunningham
16 - Beverly Kahn
17 – Barbara Brown
17 – Shirley Fogg
17 – John Hall
20 – Al Lewington
22 – Chris Pilgrim
23- Eva Nestor
27 – Shirley Dragas
27- Rick Vogl
28- Ryan Brandt
28 – Sandy Beal
28 – Thomas D. Morrell

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church
office...598-3100

LENT 2009 Committee Soup Schedule

Lunch- 12:00 Noon (Deacons)
Dinner- 6:15 p.m.

- Feb. 25 - Session
- March 4 - Fellowship
- March 11 - Mission
- March 18 - Stewardship
- March 25 - Fundraising
- April 1 - B & G
- April 9 (Maundy Thurs) –
Worship & Music

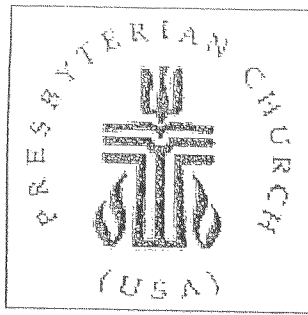
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

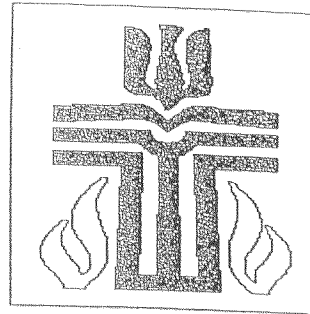
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

Dated Material
Do Not Hold



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
Telephone: (708)598-3100
Email: HHPC2002@netzero.com
www.hickoryhillspres.org



MARCH 2009

Now, what does 'LENT' mean?

Hmm – the Westminster Shorter Catechism enjoins us 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever.' So if we're going to enjoy God, maybe that's enjoying all God is– including words. Maybe even making up some new words for the fun of it.

Lent – according to my fancy dictionary it means 'lengthen, get longer' as in the daily shifting of the earth so we get more sunlight every day (at least in this hemisphere). So . . . maybe "I lent you" means that I'll lengthen the time I pay attention to you, listen to you, offer my ear to take in what matters most to you.

I'm sure 'lent' is also the past tense of 'lend,' so . . . maybe "I lent you" means that I'll hand over to you some good thing that I have that might benefit you – some money perhaps, a little food maybe, a few clothes, a job offer, a place to stay, a clutch of ideas, my special skills at making ____, a suggestion that we go out and have some fun together, take you along to my volunteer job. What have you lent?

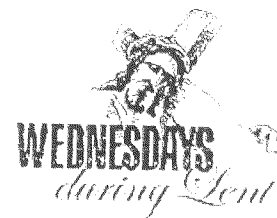
The Brits say the past tense of 'lean' is 'leant' and they pronounce it 'lent,' so . . . "I lent you" could mean I lean over to get closer to you, I sit down on the floor to play with you, I crawl off my high horse and work beside you, I get the starch out of my collar and show you what I'm passionate about, I bend my stiff upper lip and smile at you, I rest my exhausted body on your shoulder and sob aloud with you over life's cruelties. What have we lent?

Maybe only the musicians among us can imagine that 'lent' means slow. So . . . "I lent you" might indicate that I slow my speech so you can understand what I really mean, I slow my body so you aren't feeling

frenzied just being around me, I slow my hands so you can make out what I'm trying to say, I slow my feet so you aren't feeling rushed to keep up with me. Have we lent?

I've known several Scanderhoovians (my friend's favorite word for people from Scandinavia) named Len, so maybe "I lent you" is a way to say my favorite carpenter is available to fix your kitchen, or my best friend plumber is ready to install a new bathroom for you, or my most accomplished mason will put in that patio for you, or . . . What will we have lent, before Easter comes?

God lent us Jesus. Jesus lent us the Spirit. The Spirit lent us joy and hope and love and peace. Can we possibly do any less with our neighbors? I lent you.



**Lenten Wednesdays –
12 noon & 7 p.m. in Worship**

You won't believe your ears! You can't believe your eyes! These Lenten services at Hickory Hills in 2009 are just not the same!

Order of Worship – we adopted a Statement of Mission to guide our life in this congregation, so the worship services in lent start with SEEKING God's Word through prayer, scripture, song and interviews with Jesus' twelve disciples (otherwise known as apostles). SHARE...God's love with one another follows – with a daily examen (yes, that's spelled

correctly) and Passing the Peace. To SHARE God's love with others, we will offer prayers for the world, the whole world. Then it's on to CELEBRATE God's love in communion and a weekly hymn sing. We finish with an offering of ourselves to go and SERVE Jesus Christ in the world.

Woven into this full exposure to our MISSION, our statement of purpose, is that marvelous word from Paul about the fruit of the Spirit. Many people started that in February with daily directed prayers for each of the members of our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), so we'll keep up the good work through March with a weekly focus on a new part of the fruit the Spirit provides:

- February 25 (Ash Wednesday) – patience
- March 4 – kindness
- March 11 – goodness
- March 18 – faithfulness
- March 25 – humility
- April 1 – self-control

Then there are those disciples/apostles. We hear from a couple or so of them each week as they struggle to make sense of this Jesus we worship – what is it that God is doing their lives?

- March 4 – Andrew, Bartholomew, James the Less
- March 11 – Simon the Zealot, Matthew, Thaddaeus
- March 18 – Philip, Thomas
- March 25 – James, John
- April 1 – Peter, Judas

Quite a lineup of visitors, don't you think!

While children and youth, and a great corps of adults who lead them, are enjoying the Jerusalem Marketplace each evening, all of us in worship will be exploring all that God has in mind for the rich gifts with which God has blessed us. Enjoy!!

Sundays in Lent

Aren't words funny! We have Sundays of Advent, but Sundays in Lent! If you wonder why, just try counting the forty days of Lent starting from Ash Wednesday and landing accurately on Easter as #41.

There is simply joy in all the good things our scriptures for these Sundays in Lent bring us as we move toward the grand Hallelujah of EASTER:

Transfiguration Sunday – February 22
Luke 15 – Lost and Found, the Prodigal Son
OR God's Generosity

March 1 – First Sunday in Lent
Hosea 4 & 14 – Repentance & Forgiveness
OR the Lord's Love

March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent
Romans 12 – New Life in Christ OR Jesus' Joy

March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 – The Suffering Servant
OR Jesus Justifies

March 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent
Matthew 16:24 – 17:21 Identity and Purpose of Jesus OR Jesus Joists

March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55 – Invitation to Abundant Life OR Spirit Sizzles

And that brings us to Passion/Palm Sunday April 5th, Maundy Thursday shared with Savior Divine here at HHPC April 9th, Good Friday shared at Savior Divine Lutheran Church April 10th, and EASTER April 12th.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our annual Lenten program begins February 25th with soup and worship both at noon in Fellowship Hall and at 6:15/7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. You are invited to come once, come twice, come privately yourself to spend time in preparing yourself to welcome Easter's Alleluias.

Deep, deep thanks to the groups and individuals who provide so generously so that there is soup for all at every lunch and every supper. If you have a friend, invite them to join you for the great nourishment of body and soul.

Ashes. Yes, you can receive imposition of ashes at both services on February 25th. AND you have a choice – on the forehead as tradition has it most often or on the back of your hand if you prefer.

Can you imagine a better thing to do on Ash Wednesday?!



Daily Devotions

Take a bow HHPC'ers! So many of you provided meditations that we have a booklet of daily devotions ready for everyone to enjoy for the season of Lent this spring. You can pick up your copy on February 22nd or any day during Lent.

The daily meditations follow the readings suggested in A Year with the Bible 2009, so you can use that booklet as you already started to do and add the daily meditations to your personal prayer patterns.

Each day offers you a new 'way to pray' so that your conversation with God can stretch into new places, new dimensions, new depths, new heights during this Lenten season.

Looking Ahead – Holy Week



HOLY WEEK

Passion/Palm Sunday has so many rituals and habits that you may be wondering "Who remembers all these things?" Never fear! There is always someone at HHPC who has done it a dozen times already and NEVER will forget to help us enjoy the special joys of this Sunday.

What is new this year is a new tradition from the last half century of giving this Sunday a combined name – Passion/Palm Sunday. Since so many people go from the dizzy delights of Palm Sunday to the giddy heights of Easter directly, never touching the depths

of the cross and Jesus' death on Good Friday, Passion/Palm Sunday started in the early 1960's. We'll read through one entire account of Jesus' last day – from Upper Room to Stone Tomb – a 'passion' story from one of the gospels.



Passion? Isn't that, uh, oh, you know – something to do with sex or kinky stuff? Hardly! It's just a good English word that comes to us directly from the Latin – *passio* means suffering. It's just a good read through the story of Jesus' suffering – for us!

Maundy Thursday at HHPC this year will be like no other! First, we are sharing the evening with our neighborhood friends from Savior Divine Lutheran Church on 88th Avenue. Then, we are following a pattern of worship that comes directly from another gospel's passion story of Jesus, so . . . the offering comes first, communion comes next, and so on till we get Jesus wrapped in a linen cloth and buried in a tomb. And – you'll get to touch each part of the story.

Good Friday for HHPC will be at Savior Divine Lutheran Church, 10040 South 88th Avenue in Palos Hills. We will join our voices in song, our choirs in singing, our leaders in reading, and our hearts in praying through the story of Jesus' death on the cross as found in one of the four gospels.

EASTER

Start with worship at 8:30 (that's a half hour earlier) and then Breakfast, OR
Start with breakfast at 9:30 and worship at 10:30, OR
Come to worship at 10:30, OR
Join the rousing chorus of Hallelujah at 5:00 p.m. OR
– just do it all!

Whenever you come, bring along one neighbor, one friend, one family member, one stranger who needs to hear and live good news for one day at least.

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

PADS UPDATE

On February 1st (a very cold winter's evening) we served 66 men, women, and children a wonderful evening meal, as we do each 1st Sunday of the month.

As is often the case, many a guest popped his head into the kitchen to say "Thank You" for a wonderful meal. On your behalf we said "You are certainly welcome." Breakfast and lunch were also prepared for them as they prepared again to face a day not fully knowing what it had to offer, or what challenges lay ahead.

"Thank you" for all those hands and hearts that work together so well! Your gifts are always recognized and appreciated.



Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

"And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."
Ephesians 2:17-18

Access in one Spirit to the Father is what we claim on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We are not a church committee. We are a community channel. We often pray for people we've never met. We are open to your requests and your presence in the house of God.

"So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..."
Ephesians 2:19

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Prayer is an action on behalf of the heart. The answer to prayer is an action on behalf of our Savior.

Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

JANUARY 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

\$26,647.00

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENT

\$17,641.00

GENERAL FUND BALANCE

\$10,096.00

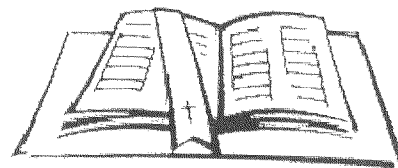
DIRECTORY UPDATE

Kathleen Turner
708-473-8129
9518 S. Tripp #2SW
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

FIREPROOF

At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind! At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever... rescuing his wife's heart.

Kirk Cameron stars as Capt. Caleb Holt. Please join us as we watch this exciting movie here at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. Tentative plans are being developed to offer several screenings of the movie in March to all who wish to attend.



Fireproof Your Marriage – A couple's discussion/study group

Fireproof Your Marriage will challenge you to love better, to love first, and to love for a lifetime.

This 6-week study integrates key scriptures, clips from the movie FIREPROOF, devotionals and thought provoking discussion questions to challenge couples to grow spiritually and relationally.

We are planning to offer this couples study group after Easter.

More information will be made available soon.

Neat Repeats!
RESALE

Proceeds benefit the Crisis Center for South Suburbia

DREAMING ABOUT SPRING?

Clean your house and help others at the same time. Neat Repeats Resale Shops are seeking donations at both store locations:

Orland Park: 9020 W. 159th Street
Worth: 7026 W. 111th Street

Make a difference in the lives of the women and children who are served by the programs of the Crisis Center for South Suburbia and create extra space in your home.

Stores accept donations from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Friday, and Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you need additional information, please call the store manager: Orland 708-364-7605 or Worth 708-361-6860.

Thank you.

The Cross Room

A young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped on his knees in prayer. "Lord, I cannot go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that door, and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."

Author: Unknown

SOUTH SUBURBAN PADS

Public Action to Deliver Shelter

P.O. Box 1176

Homewood, IL 60430

Dear Ms. Hoffman,

The Board of Directors of South Suburban PADS wish to thank you for your gift of

\$500.00 on behalf of Hickory

Hills Presbyterian Church

Your generosity aids us in our efforts to provide food, shelter and supportive services to those who are need.

SOUTH
SUBURBAN
PADS

With appreciation,



M. Hedgaard
For Pads

1/2/08

Date



Colleen Grant Schumann, RN
Supervisor
Palos Township

10802 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465

Office (708) 598-4418
Fax (708) 598-4473
Health Service (708) 598-2441
Fax (708) 598-2717

January 13, 2009

Karen Hoffman
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

Dear Ms. Hoffman,

Thank you and the wonderful people of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church for the generous donation of \$500.00 to the Palos Township Emergency Food Pantry. Your generous contribution will be used to assist the individuals and families who have requested assistance for food. With monetary donations the township is able to purchase gift cards from the local Jewel Food store which allows individuals and families opportunities to purchase meat, produce, fresh fruit and vegetables.


Our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

With warm regards,

Colleen Grant Schumann
Palos Township Supervisor

CGS/bo

Sacrament of Holy Communion- March 1, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
March 1, 2009	C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Tarter, Pilgrim	Dave Delaney
March 8, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Maryanne, Sack, T. & N. Pearson, Swearingen	Michael Pettis
March 15, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	Wiggins, Gordon, Kibort, Swindle, Fox	Scott Zimmerman
March 22, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Fogg, Lane, Kahn	Terry Brock
March 29, 2009	S. Zimmerman	Meyer, Swindle	Lisa Radetski
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
March 1, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
March 8, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
March 15, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
March 22, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	
March 29, 2009	Susan Frangella Grace Muszynski	If you are interested on the 5 th Sun, please see Dianne Flynn. Thanks.	

Communion Servers: G. Home, C. Huenecke, R. Raschke, I. Taebel, J. Vogl, H. Zimmerman



Wish List –

Outdoor Sign Update - \$280

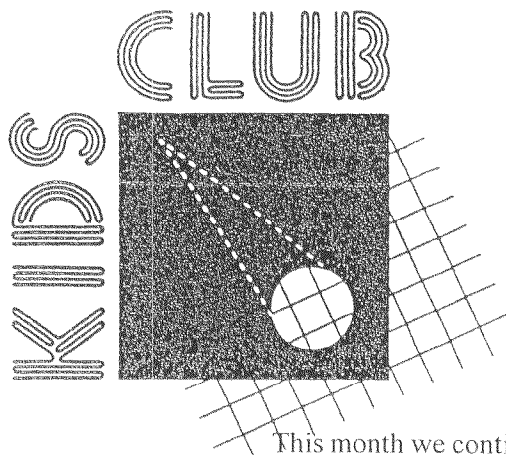
Session approved, at its meeting February 9th, putting a Wish List request before the congregation to update the Outdoor Sign.

The outdoor sign, that carries publicity and sayings, has become crowded, because the church's phone number and website have been added constantly to the adjustable white lines. Contact with the sign company revealed that they could create a new way to display the church's phone and website - make a reflective white vinyl sign on each side of the base (pole) of the sign. The new information would be on both sides of the sign.

The estimate from the sign company for this upgrade is \$280.

The Wish List is a way for the congregation to hear about special needs that are not part of the budget plan for the year. Your special donation, in whole or in part, for this project can make it possible.

The session thanks you for your contributions.



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
 708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

This month we continued to put emphasis on learning to put our trust in Christ. The Christian life is not a short-distance run, it is a life-long race. Our March topics of study are:

- A Losing Attitude - Self Pity*
- Run to a Loving God - God's Special Love*
- Losing Can Be Winning - Service*
- Re-Straining to Win - Self Control*
- Odd Ball Olympics - God gives us a second chance*

Congratulations to the Bible Verse Winners for the month of January;

Gold medals - Ashley Smith, Gigi Giancana, Kayla Wagner, Hollie Fox, Breona Smith, Jessica Leake, Kaily Simpson,

Silver medals - Neal Lancaster, Ashley Maranto, Jenah Fox, Tierney Tarleton, Lisa Krauss, Yasmine Fox

Bronze medals - Ryan Saeler

We hope you will be a part of this year's Lenten Program, "Jerusalem Marketplace." Together we will explore what it might have been like to live when Jesus did and explore some of the traditions that were part of everyday life in Jesus' day. We will become apprentices in carpentry, sample sweets at the bakery and much, much more. Traveling through the Market Place, we might even encounter a Roman Soldier and listen to stories from the famous Storyteller. We hope you have marked your calendars and plan to attend. You will not want to miss this family focused worship and learning experience. I encourage you to invite someone to attend with you. You will be blessed!

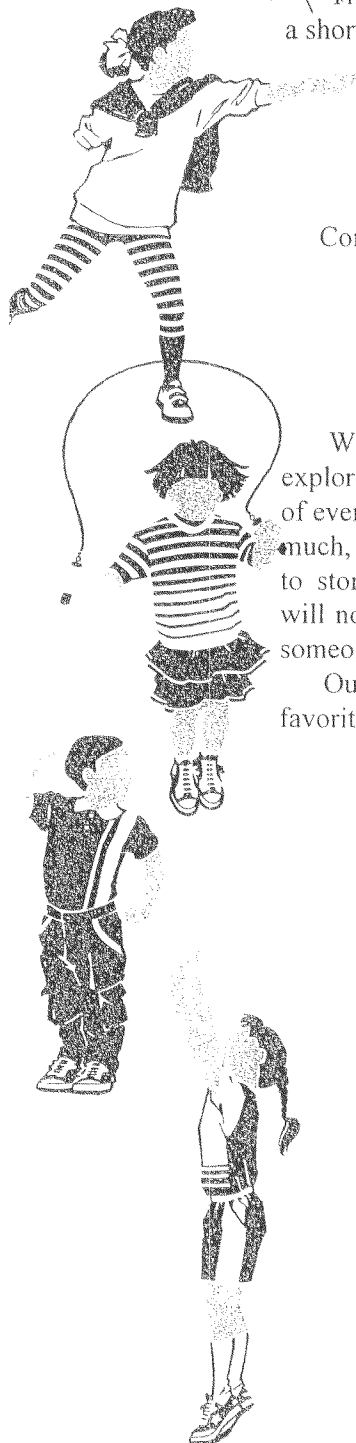
Our music here in KIDS CLUB is used as a tool of education and inspiration. This month one of our favorites was "Market Place" which tells the story on which our Lenten program is based. As the song says;

*We've been to the market place, like it was in days of old.
 We learned about Jesus and the stories that He told.
 Oh, Jesus, we are children, but we're not too young to know.
 We need you in our hearts.*

*When Jesus walked upon the earth, many years ago,
 He went to the market place where people bought and sold.
 There were sheep and goats and burning oil for everyone to buy.
 Jesus did many things just like you and I*

*Jesus went across the land. He healed people everywhere.
 The blind and the lepers, He showed them how He cared.
 Yes, He did many miracles, He loved them all the same.
 And did you know that Jesus is right here with us today?*

*Many years have come and gone, the market place has changed,
 But all the things that Jesus taught, today they're just the same.
 We live our lives to follow Him, so that everyone should know.
 Jesus still lives in our hearts, in the market and at home.*



LENT 2009
February 25 - April 1

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Have you marked your Wednesdays yet? The Jerusalem Marketplace Lenten Program for 2009 begins on February 25 and runs every Wednesday through April 1. A time for Lunch is scheduled before the worship service at noon. For the evening, a special program is designed for the children to explore crafts and work techniques which were common during the time Jesus walked through the town of Jerusalem. Dinner is served at 6:15 PM and then the children are taken downstairs for their program while the adults are invited to worship. Children age 3 - Jr. High are welcome to participate in the six weeks. There will be a Tranquility Garden, a Storyteller, a Leather Shop, a Confectioner and Bakery, J.C. Workshop, a Boat Builder and a special room for the Jr. High Students to work and learn. Those present on February 22, in the 10:30 AM worship service heard more about this Lenten program and saw the Adults who will supervise each room.

A Teachers Meeting was held on February 22 at 9:15 AM. Current teachers and the new Spring quarter teachers attended Dianne provided a delicious variety of rolls, bagels and muffins to fill us while we discussed the coming quarter, plans for Easter and Palm Sunday.

The Sunday School children will be creating Easter Baskets for the residents of Palos Extended Care again this year. Please help us by having your children attend Sunday School on March 22. Children from grades 3,4, and 5 will deliver the baskets on March 29. The residents look forward to our visit and really enjoy seeing and talking to the children. Help us spread some Easter cheer by having your child attend on March 29th.

The children will bring in the palm branches on Palm Sunday, April 5th for the 10:30 AM worship service.. Children from the Youth Choir will sing on that day too. Easter Sunday at both the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM service the children will be invited

to view a video downstairs. Breakfast will be served by the Youth groups and all donations will be used to scholarship children for Camp.

Is there anyone out there who can volunteer to make a batch or two of cookies for the Cookie Monster Bake Sale, May 10th? Please contact Dianne and let her know you will Bake. All proceeds from the Bake sale will be given to help scholarship children for Camp. With these difficult economic times it seems fitting that the Church is willing to help send the children to Camp.

An Informational Meeting on Camp Saugatuck was held on Sunday, February 8th. Thanks to Sue Orsik for being the contact person for camp. Children grade 3-5 are invited to attend August 2-8 at Discovery Camp II-Camp Gray. Children grade 6-8 are invited to attend August 2-8 at Outdoor Adventure Camp- Camp Kema.

The Junior High Youth Group is averaging about 20 students each meeting. At the retreat in Bloomington, 15 students and 3 adults attended. It was a spectacular retreat. The people who attended had a memorable experience. The group is planning a Lock-In at the church for sometime in the spring and a work-trip to "Feed the Starving Children" in Aurora, Il possibly in May when the weather warms up.

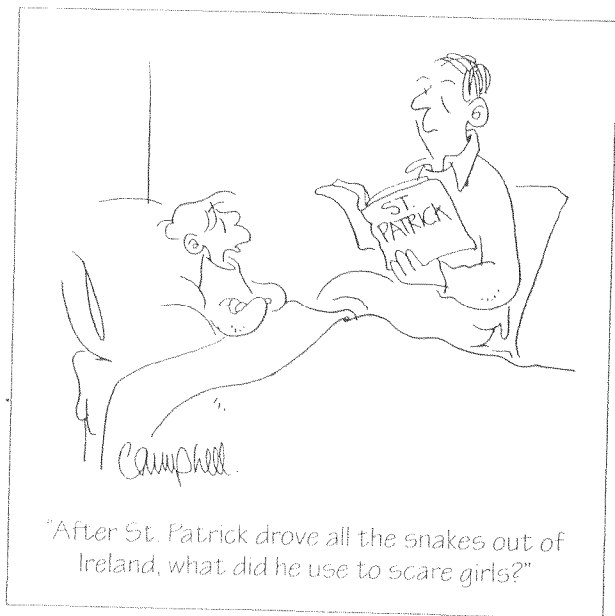
The Senior High Youth Group had an organizational meeting to see if the activities could better meet some of the needs of its members. They have added more discussion time for current issues. They spent two weeks watching the video, "Facing the Giants" and discussing the video. They also have had time for open gym. Upcoming events include a Spaghetti Dinner and a Lock-In at the church.

A new group is forming for Young Adults. The plan is to have a Bible Study called, "Living God's Will." The first meeting was held on February 6th.

The temporary meeting place is the Sr. High classroom at 6:30 PM. For more details contact Katie Treccani or Dianne. This is a great opportunity to grow in understanding of the Bible, yourself and God's message for you. The group is looking for interested people ages 19-28.

A great night of entertainment and learning is scheduled for the Family Night on May 1. Entertainment for the evening is the popular "Master Ron." We will see all sorts of balloon sculptures and hear great stories as Master Ron performs for us. Remember to sign up early for this great night the whole family can enjoy. You can find the sign up sheets downstairs in the hall across from the fellowship hall. We need to know approximately how many people we will need to cook for since this is a catered event. Try not to miss this great family night out.

The curriculum for VBS this year is titled, "Boomerang Express." Our scheduled dates for welcoming Trish and Company back to our church are June 15-19, 2009. We will be exploring Australia while we learn more about God and his plans for us. Please mark your calendars so your children can experience this week first hand. It looks like a great new adventure is coming our way.



Kids Club Bible Verses for March

"God works for the good of those who love him."
Romans 8:28

†

"There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents."
Luke 15:10

†

"Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."
1 John 2:16

†

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled...."
1 Peter 1:13

†

"But thanks be to God! He gives you victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

What is prayer?

If the Bible is our *food*, then prayer is our *air*. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in *worship and thanksgiving*. Sometimes we *ask God for help and grace* to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is *God* we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.

JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE

LENT 2009

**A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25**

"YOU ARE THERE"

On Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent, you are invited to something special for kids age 3 through Junior High. While adults are in worship, the kids will have fun learning about life in the time of Jesus. This hands-on learning time provides the kids with a "YOU ARE THERE" Bible time experience. They will relive Bible time events by experiencing occupations and events of that time. During the six weeks the kids will;

- **SMELL** the aromas of the bakery and confectionery shop
- **HEAR** the sounds of carpenters in the wood shop
- **SEE** the villagers in Bible time attire
- **EXPERIENCE** and learn the occupational skills of the times by visiting the tranquility gardens and ship building shops
- **JOURNEY** with friends to visit the great storyteller
- **WRITE** in the Scribes Journal

Soup supper is at 6:15. All freewill donations will be used for camp scholarships. We look forward to joining you and your family on this Holy Land Adventure.

Family Lenten Series begins February 25

Soup Supper 6:15

Worship in Sanctuary 7:00 - 8:00

Children's Learning Time 7:00 - 8:00

*For those unable to worship in the evening, a worship service will be offered Wednesdays, with a Soup Luncheon at 12:00 noon and worship immediately following.
* There is no children's programming during this service.*

**We Invite You
to
Join us Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 25**

MIDDAY SERVICE

*Soup Luncheon - 12:00 noon
Worship immediately following*

EVENING SERVICE (With Children's Program)

*Soup Supper - 6:15 p.m.
Worship - 7:00 p.m.*

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



The following song was presented by the Youth Choir on February 8. We hope you enjoyed the music and were blessed by the message.

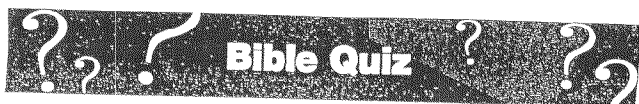
Love and Praise Medley

By Laurie Klein

I love You Lord and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear

I will bless the Lord
And give Him glory
Oh, I will bless His name
And give Him glory

The Lord is gracious and merciful
Great in kindness and good to all
The Lord is righteous in all His ways
Bless the Lord and give Him Praise



In the 8th century B.C., a prophet of God condemned the sinfulness of many of Jerusalem's citizens. On behalf of God, he chastised anyone who abused power, was unjust toward the poor and used bribes and position to gain money and status. He even condemned prideful women who walked "with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet." (He was referring to little bells attached to women's ankles.)

Who was that prophet?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Amos
- C. Hosea
- D. Jeremiah

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Proverbs 10:45

He who is idle is poor. The diligent are rich. He who gathers in summer is wise, but he that sleepeth causes shame.

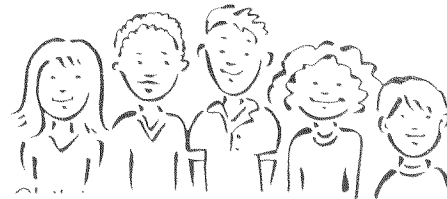
Laziness has no reward. Laziness is effortless, laziness is for the idle, be ye not lazy!

God blesses those who labor and there is always a place for them in the sun. Those who labor not have small reward and life remains an unobtainable dream. Build your life with your eyes open so your desires may be fully satisfied. Laziness ends in enslavement.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Regards,
C.Lou Pearson



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are now studying Proverbs. This book tells us that true wisdom cannot be gained apart from God. It helps us to discern between good and evil. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Humility enables us to see our inadequacies and need of our God. The wisest man in the world Solomon concluded : "Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man". Come and join us in our study.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Besides playing games and having fun in the gym Christian learning is an important part of our Thursday evening Junior High Youth group meetings. Katie Trecanni plans our Christian learning lessons. The junior highs use their bibles and work in small groups. Below are some responses to last Thursday's lesson to answer the question,

"What can you do as a Christian to follow Jesus' command, "Go, Baptise others in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?"

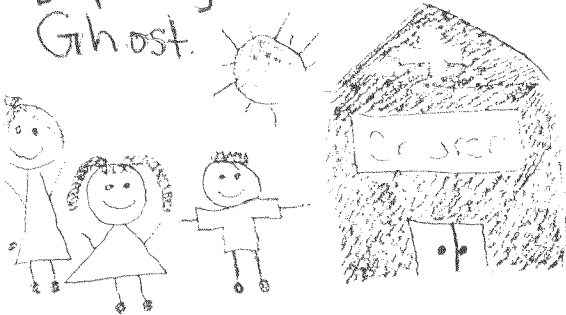
They wrote notes to friends or drew pictures of actions they could take and things they could say to fulfill Jesus' command. We invite all junior highs to join us on

Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at HHPC.

Adam, Katie and Patt

I was talking about Jesus' word and at Youth Group. I was thinking maybe you want to come one day. It's really fun and you do fun activities with Jesus.

Baptizing others in the name of Father Son and the Holy Ghost.



God is a great God and we should worship him everyday!

Are you a Christian? Good. You should really come to my church. God is great and we should all praise him. Also there is a lot of fun stuff at church including Christ.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Savannah Whicher
Holly Fox
- 3 Amani Judeh
- 14 Karl Haack
Jordan Hepburn
- 15 Daniel Orsic
Amanda Gulotta
Pat Boylan
- 22 Mark Matke
- 23 Victoria Pettis
- 27 Kyle Campbell

PERFECT ATTENDANCE JANUARY

Pre-school and Kindergarten

Trina Phillippo

1st and 2nd Grades

Danny Orsic

3rd and 4th Grades

Jenah Fox

Junior High

Leslie Ambrosat

Ashley Maranto

Brittany Maranto

Natalie Orsic

Halimah Prunty

Sarah Swearingen

Senior High

Gina Ciametti

Gabriella Ciametti

Mike Swearingen

Sam Swearingen

Andrew Witek

Matthew Witek

If Children Live With Acceptance, They Learn To Love

We use the word “love” to describe the most dynamic and vital human experience there is. What we call love is bigger than anything we can say about it. And most people would agree that there is nothing more important in life than to love and be loved.

When we wholeheartedly love our children and accept them unconditionally, they thrive. Love is the soil in which our children grow, the sunlight that determines their direction, the water that nourishes their growth.

Children need love from the moment they are born - and even before that . Newborns are totally dependent on our warmth, affection, and loving attention. Our active caring nurtures their feelings of being wanted and belonging. As children mature, they continue to rely on us to show them we love them. They best understand our love through our kind and caring actions. Our total acceptance of them is the wellspring of our love.

While it is imperative for our children to feel loved, love is a fundamental human need that we never outgrow. As adults we still want to be wanted. We still need human connection, closeness, affection, and a warm touch. We all want to be accepted for being who we are, and to have friends with whom we feel we belong.

Our children know they are wanted and loved when we treat them kindly, and when we accompany loving actions with loving words and nurturing touch. It is not enough to say “I love you.” In working with parents, I often talk about the three A’s of love: acceptance, affection, and appreciation. Our children need to live in an atmosphere where they feel confident that they will always be accepted and loved despite their shortcomings. When they are loved in this way, they will be able to mature in their ability to love others.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	2 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study	3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care NO C.E. Meeting	4 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	5 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	6 Adult Retreat- Saugatuck, MI- (Mar 6-8) 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	7
8 <u>Daylight Savings Time Begins-</u> (Turn clocks ahead) 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>April Newsletter Articles Due</u>	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study 7:30 p.m. Session	10 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	11 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:15 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	12 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	13 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study Sr. High Youth Group Lock-In	14 Sr. High Spaghetti Dinner- Time TBD
15 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study	17 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	18 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	19 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	20 Sr. High Youth Group Lock-In	21 8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds 4:00 p.m. Honduras Mission Reunion
22 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	23 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study 7:30 p.m. Deacons	24 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	25 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	26 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	27 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	28
29 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. FIREPROOF Showing	30 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study	31 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. FIREPROOF Showing				

March Birthdays

March 2 – Jean DeForest
2 – Mike Monczynski
2 – Christopher Pearson
3 – Dorothy Allen
4 – Joyce McKinney
5 – Dave Barker
5 – Donna Bredlau
6 – Melber Betterton
9 – Patricia Wheeler
11 – Michael E. Dragas
12 – Dorothy Scholefield
16 – Pat Lorenz
16 – Roy Hoffman
17- Luke Janchenko
18 – Darlene Krueger
20 – Marie Hoffman
22- Frank Esparza
22 – Walter Golema
22 – Harold Kahn
25 – Ron Robison
28 - Jeanette Grisko
29 – Dawn Matke
29 – Betty Kitching

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...598-3100

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Shannon Bastien and family in the loss of her cousin Grace Muszynski's neighbor, Art Escalona, for his battle with cancer
Carolyn Watson for health concerns
Dave LaCognata for strength to move forward
Eva Nestor at her request
Shirley Brunell's sister for health concerns
Jackie Gehle's friend, Leslie, in VA, for complications during pregnancy
Sue Orsic's sister, Debbie Smith, for recovery from surgery & strength to move forward
Ruth Hill's daughter, Tracy, for health concerns
Mary Richer's daughter in law, Robin, for health concerns
Mary Richer's brother in law, Joe, for health concerns
Mary Richer and family in the loss of their nephew and cousin
Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
Bob Nordstrom for health concerns
People experiencing hard times/ job loss
Karen Leake for strength to move forward
Mary Tarter for strength to move forward
Darlene Kibort for strength to move forward
Dorothy Allen for strength to move forward
Our service men and women and their families
Amanda McGuire keeping the faith
Lindsey Taylor strength to move forward
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

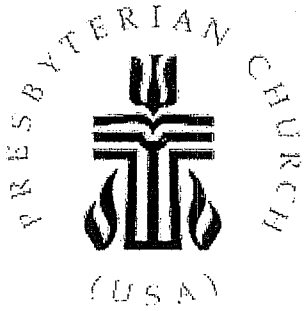
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



APRIL 2009

Let's see – do Jews believe in 'life after death'?

No. That's the answer I've heard all my life – Christians believe in life after death and Jews don't. When I got to seminary and preaching, I discovered plenty of fuel to fan the flames of my position.

Most fascinating was the irony that I discovered as I learned the stories of the New Testament against the background of "Second Temple Judaism," the period of Jewish history from the time of Jesus. All through the New Testament the Pharisees are identified as the Jewish group that believed in resurrection. In one sense they are the group most closely aligned with Christians in their beliefs about life after death – so say the Gospels, so says Paul, etc.

Then, in the disaster between Jews and Christians after the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans about 70 CE, all Jerusalem, all priestly, all temple-related leadership in Judaism 'disappeared.' The old leadership lost out to – the Pharisees! The ones who believed in the resurrection!

So...how is it that Judaism today, the descendant of those Pharisee leaders does not believe in resurrection?

This mystery began to unravel a few years ago when a local rabbi agreed to tutor me in the Jewish interpretation of the Ten Commandments. It was fascinating! And he constantly referred to 'the age to come.' As we touched on this 'age to come,' I began to hear echoes of everything I know about resurrection in my Christian traditions – life after death, restoration of all things, being with God.

Then it began to dawn on me. He is the first rabbi I've known who is clearly connected with the

Orthodox tradition of Judaism. All the others have been Reform or Conservative or Reconstructionist. Aha! In this most traditional life of Jewish ways, resurrection [never called that, but referred to as the 'age to come'] lives boldly in all their teaching, assumptions and practices.

Since this discovery, I find myself wincing every time I hear someone limiting resurrection to 'my being with my loved ones' after I die – nothing about God, nothing about others, nothing about all God's creation, nothing but me, me, me.

So I thank my Jewish rabbi friend for restoring me to a fuller picture of the promise God offers in Jesus, the offer to make all things new, the invitation to live now as if God had already made all things new. What a world of difference!

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5



with PALMS, of course!

and COMMUNION in all three services!

but what's that PASSION thing you all are talking about?

Good question!!

The palms are totally traditional for this Sunday before Easter because John's gospel tells the story of the people who "took branches of palm trees and

went out to meet [Jesus], shouting, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!" (12:13). People love to sing and celebrate and hit all the joyful notes.

Then (most) people come back a week later and throw another party for God because God raised Jesus from the dead.

Two Sundays. Two parties.

Hmm – there's something missing here. Ah – we've (most of us) managed to skirt around the bad stuff, the nasty things, the dark clouds, the downer of the story of Jesus' dying. Is that important? YOU BET!!!

So fifty years ago churches began to celebrate Passion/Palm Sunday as a way of telling the whole story of Jesus' last week – from triumphal entry, to the depths of death and burial, to the surprisingly new word from God who raises Jesus from the dead. Since we happen to be using the John story of resurrection (chapter 20) on April 12 (Easter), we will be using the lead-up to that story, chapters 18 and 19 of John's Gospel, as our reading on Palm Sunday in all three services.

Invite your extended family to join you for this triumphant-tragic day that witnesses to God's power to make new – under the worst of circumstances.

Oh – that word, *'passion.'* It's not talking about a fruit or frivolous longing. Passion comes directly from the Latin, passio, that means SUFFERING. We follow Jesus through his last days of suffering – even to death, death on a cross.



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Good Friday and Maundy Thursday

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church and Savior Divine Lutheran Church
Savior Divine Lutheran Church and Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

April 9 and April 10
April 10 and April 9

7:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Get the picture? They go together!!

Our friends at Savior Divine Lutheran Church will be sharing with us in the two services we are have

during Holy Week, in the days between Palm Sunday and Easter.

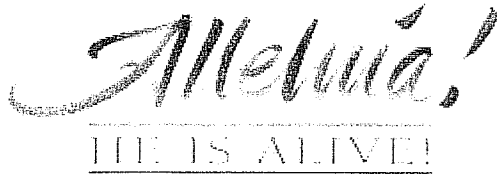
On **Maundy Thursday, April 9, at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church**, we start our evening together with a catered dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and beyond. Please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter and sign up for the dinner on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office (708) 598-3100. It's \$7 each – maximum \$25 for any family.

In the Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary at 7:30, we will read the Passion Story of Jesus' last hours, death, and burial. With each portion of the story we will stop and do something to participate now in the story we are telling of 'back then.' Communion will be served in table groups as people sit around the table on the platform and receive the bread and cup. We will greet one another with a kiss and pass around the cross and the cloth. Invite your friends to join you for the experience of Jesus' last evening and last day.

On **Good Friday evening, April 10, at 7:30**, in the **Savior Divine Lutheran Church, at 10040 South 88th Avenue, Palos Hills (708) 598-0700**, we all again gather for the celebration of God's gift to us in Jesus' death on the cross. We remember particularly the seven last words of Jesus spoken from the cross. Invite your neighbors to come along for this ecumenical experience with our fellow Christians.

On both evenings, pastors from each church will participate. On both evenings choirs and music directors from both churches will lead the singing. On both evenings, friends and members of both congregations will lift their voices in praise to God and listen for God speaking to us.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



EASTER

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

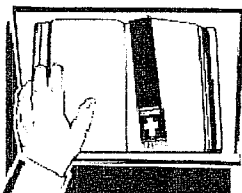
Worship opens our Easter morning at 8:30 on April 12. Come to the first service as we celebrate the light God is shedding across our world and the light that invites us to live in the God's world of new life. Be sure to let all the guests you bring with you know that communion will be served and they will be invited to participate if they wish to come to the Lord's Table.

Then Breakfast at 9:30! Be sure to extend this invitation to people at work and folks you see in the store. Pick up a bulletin or newsletter or flyer just to hand out to people and reinforce the specific details.

Before you can finish relishing all the delicacies put before you for the morning repast, you will be invited to the second worship service of the morning up in the sanctuary – bells, choirs, banners, music, flowers, singing, hymns, chants and high ALLELUIAS! to celebrate God's raising Jesus from the dead.

For some the best time for worship is 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary as the Praise Band leads us in raising our voices and hands in praise to God for all that God has done, is doing, and will make new in our lives. Our scripture reading for all three services is the twentieth chapter of the Gospel of John. Read and enjoy. Hear and do.

Guest Preachers



GUEST PREACHER

Pastor Warren will be on vacation for the three weeks after Easter, and we will have guest preachers on April 19, April 26, and May 3.

Emily Rosencrans will be the preacher at our three services on April 19 and on April 26. Emily is the chaplain at Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, IL, and her husband, Andrew Rosencrans, works across the street from her as chaplain at the Lake Forest Presbyterian Homes, a retirement center headquartered in Evanston. Emily and Andrew have come to the Midwest recently from the Philadelphia area.

The Rev. Emily Rosencrans is the Chaplain and Manager of Pastoral Care for Lake Forest Hospital. She is an ordained Presbyterian pastor with over 20 years of experience. After many years serving as a pastor of various churches in Philadelphia and North Carolina, she became the Chaplain of a large Presbyterian continuing care retirement community in the Philadelphia area before becoming the Chaplain at Lake Forest Hospital.

Rev. Rosencrans is certified in Marriage and Family counseling, specializing in grief and trauma recovery. In addition, she received training in spirituality and healing at Harvard University Medical School and has two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) from Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO and Duke Divinity School/Duke Medical Center in Durham, NC. Her Master of Divinity degree is from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Rosencrans is the wife of the Rev. Dr. Andrew Rosencrans, the Chaplain of Lake Forest Place. Together they have three children: Anne (19), Sarah (17) and John (14).

On May 3rd, our guest preacher will be the Rev. Linda Wygant. Linda, a pastor in the PC(USA), is founder of Grace Seeds Ministry and an avid gardener. Grace Seeds Ministry sponsors Share the Harvest, a ministry project that partners with local congregations and other community groups to grow and share fresh fruits and vegetables with hungry neighbors --via local food pantries. Share the Harvest is now "planted" in three regions in the Chicago area and looks forward to a great growing season in 2009.

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

Don't Forget:

We can reach our Interim Pastor, Warren Wiggins, any time on his cell phone (847) 340-6671, or at his email, Wigginswc@gmail.com.

Please feel free to contact him any time you have a question, suggestion, or just want to talk.

PADS UPDATE

Spring brings forth the return of the robin, surely one of the most significant signs that spring is on its way. We have but the month of April to serve our PADS friends. Last month, we served 68 children and adults and we anticipate the same amount for April.

Looking ahead to fall, we will again experience the departure of the robin and the return of our PADS ministry. New faces, old faces. All in need. We will be ready to serve, we servants all.



Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

“Praise is due to thee, O God, in Zion; and to thee shall vows be performed, O thou who hearest prayer! To thee shall all flesh come on account of sins. When our transgressions prevail over us, thou dost forgive them.” Psalms 65:1-3 (RSV)

Consider the importance of your role as a prayer warrior. Be the wise advisor giving us feedback. Your concerns are invaluable. We look forward to your participation.

“O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples!” Psalms 105:1

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.



TWILIGHT PRAYER

An acquaintance can lead to a relationship, can lead to a friendship, can lead to a partnership, can lead to ownership. Where has your ship taken you today? Why, it has taken you to me, what a destination. Remove your luggage, unpack, make yourself at home. Let's pray together, may I lead the way... Our father who...

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Jean DeForest
16457 W. 140th Pl.
Lockport, IL 60441
815-838-4574

Eva Nestor
9412 S. 77th Ave.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-598-5987

FEBRUARY 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income
\$15,431.00

General Fund Disbursements
\$21,632.00

General Fund Balance
\$1,709.00

One Great Hour of Sharing *Sharing resources, changing lives*

Since 1949, Presbyterians and millions of other Christians have joined together through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday or both. Many receive it throughout Lent.

Proceeds from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering support the ministries of Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Now more than

ever those people who are most vulnerable are counting on us to help them make a difference in their lives.

Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago says of the Presbyterian Hunger Program's support, "Your continued support truly makes our work possible... We have an excellent group of 60 interns this year for the summer seminarian undergraduate

Camden United, Inc., in a recent letter to Self-Development of People shared, "It is only through the generous support of organizations such as yours that we can help the people of Camden have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. We are currently tackling the problem of abandoned houses, which is a huge problem in our city. There are over 6,500 vacant houses and even more vacant lots in Camden. This blight is like a disease eating away at our community. Because of your support we have the capacity to take on such an immense problem.

"We wanted to write to thank you for the PDA grant we received to help provide grief counseling and support for the folks in Forest County impacted by the Crandon tragedy," write Dennis and Wendy Mannering, Pastors, Larger Forest Parish to their partners at Presbyterian Disaster Assistance... Many volunteer hours have been contributed to provide assistance to our school population, pastors, EMTs, law enforcement, funeral directors and families of those who were affected by the tragedy.

These are only a few of the many stories of people whose lives were touched and changed by your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing. By sharing your resources, you can change lives and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world.

On behalf of the Stewardship-Finance Committee, I urge you to open your heart and give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering using the envelope enclosed with this newsletter, or during worship anytime from now until Easter. Thank you.

GARDEN HELP NEEDED

Got a green thumb? We're looking for a helpful hand in the yards and flowerbeds around the church. Things grow by themselves, but it is not always

where we would like. Also, the beautiful flowers that we have need to be planted early and watered regularly...

So, if this is an area where you are blessed, or are called to help, please do! We welcome you. Please see Debbie Zimmerman for more details. Thanks!

KENTUCKY REGISTRATION

It's that time again...

The registration forms for the 2009 Kentucky Mission Trip are downstairs on the table. Jenn Vogl is the representative for HHPC this year. If you are planning on attending, **July 11-18**, please fill out the forms and give them to Jenn Vogl by May 24th with a \$50.00 down payment. They will be sent to Bob Zinkel as one "group" for HHPC. You may put them in my mailbox at church or give them to me personally.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly. Jenn Vogl, 708-525-4920 [cell], 708-598-4893 [home], rjvogl1990@sbcglobal.net.

FIREPROOF The Movie

At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind! At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever... rescuing his wife's heart.

Kirk Cameron stars as Capt. Caleb Holt, a heroic firefighter. Capt. Holt and his wife are struggling in their marriage. His father challenges him to take part in a 40-day experiment to teach him and his wife about commitment.

All are welcome to join us as we watch this exciting movie here at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. The movie is rated PG and is 119 minutes in length. We will show the movie on:

Sunday, March 29, 2009	2:00 PM
Tuesday, March 31, 2009	7:30 PM

Fireproof Your Marriage – A couple's discussion/study group

Fireproof Your Marriage will challenge you to love better, to love first, and to love for a lifetime. This 6-week study integrates key scriptures, clips from the movie FIREPROOF, devotionals and thought provoking discussion questions to challenge couples to grow spiritually and relationally.

We hope you will relate to and be inspired by Caleb and Catherine as they work through all-too-common struggles on their way to an enduring marriage based on God's great love.

We are planning to offer this couples study group on Tuesday evenings, beginning April 21. Class dates are April 21, April, 28, May 5, May 12, May 19, and May 26. We will meet from 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the lower level. We ask you to sign up in advance to allow the purchase of a sufficient quantity of Participant's Guide Books. Thank you.

New Twist on the Ten Commandments

The three foundational components of all Reformed catechisms are the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. We often recite these last two during worship, but **surprisingly few people can actually list all Ten Commandments.** A recent study indicates that 60 percent of Americans can list fewer than five of the ten. This same Web site offers a creative way to commit the commandments to memory using "I AM THE LORD" as a mnemonic device.

Idolatry

Adultery
Murder

Take (don't steal)
HONOR (your parents)

Envy

Lie
One (worship only the Lord your God)
Rest (Remember the Sabbath)
Disrespect (Don't take the Lord's name in vain)



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Melanie Swindle's friend, Laura DeVism & family, in the loss of her father 5 weeks after the loss of her mother
Scott Gehle for healing
Joe Costello for strength
Mattie Klos for health concerns
Shannon Bastien for health concerns
Christine Fox's mother for health concerns
The family of Jean Shea, in her loss
The First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette & Rev. Sarah Butter
Rick & Jeni Vogl's son Jason, for strength to move forward
Rick & Jeni Vogl's neighbor, Jeff Pappas, for healing
Frank Esparza's sister & brother in law, Ruth & Joe- Joe for health concerns
Darlene Kibort's son, Mark Murray, for recovery from surgery
Harry Hermansen for recovery from surgery
Debbie Raschke's brother, Rodney, for recovery from surgery
Gordon Home's brother in law, Tom Quinn, for health concerns
Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
Megan Waller for healing
Katie Treccani's friend, Eric, for health concerns & strength during radiation
Nicki Prachar for health concerns
Prachar girls for strength
Debbie Vaughn for strength/ clarity
Melanie Swindle's friends, Elaine & Frank Minniti, as Frank faces deployment to Afghanistan
Ron & Marie Robison for strength
Bobbie Murray for healing after surgery
Wife of Mike Culbertson for continued good health
Carolyn Watson for health concerns
Ruth Hill & her daughter, Tracy, for health concerns
Mary Richer's daughter in law, Robin, for health concerns
Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
People experiencing hard times/ job loss
Our service men and women and their families
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



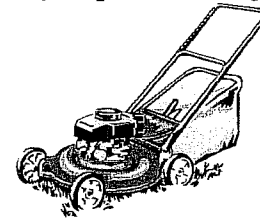
At its regular meeting March 9, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., the **Session** of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC):

- Opened with the prayer of Psalm 23 by Adam Schwake
- Approved minutes of Session February 9th with a few changes
- Received clerk's report: communion 3/1 at 10:30 & 5:00, communion at 9 weekly, death of Jean Shea March 3rd with memorial service at HHPC March 10th at 7pm
- Received Treasurer's Report from Karen Hoffman – February not as good as January, \$1700 in general fund, income at 18% of annual and spending at 17%, high bills for insurance (\$1900 quarterly) and gas for January (\$1100).
- Deacons Report (Cindy Treccani)
 - 3 attended L.E.A.D. training last week
 - Caregiving studies going – Monday eve and Thursday morn
 - Darlene Kibort continues for organizing funeral luncheons
 - Calling Tree set – Lorraine Mead, Debbie Zimmerman, Dorothy Allen
 - Deacons are receiving weekly prayer lists from worship
 - plans are in place for “Deacon-in-training”
- Mission Committee (Sue Orsic)
 - bringing soup for Lenten service 3/11
 - PADS will finish mid-April
 - other current programs going well
 - approved Honduras trip in December as part of our mission
 - selling shirts to begin support for the trip
- NLAAC oversight – no report
- Stewardship/Finance/Endowment (Karen Hoffman)
 - One Great Hour of Sharing – April 5th
- Nominating Cmte (Sue Orsic) – no report
- Outreach Cmte (Adam Schwake)
 - Welcome Packets available – use them with guests
 - first meeting 3/16 – everyone very interested
 - will produce mission/vision/goals
 - asked ‘ushers’ transferred from Worship to Outreach – ok
 - sermons will not be posted on website – audio too much now
 - working on electronic newsletter – replace some mailing
 - Adam came to 10:30 3/8 – no one talked to him on entry
- Christian Education Cmte (Dianne Flynn)
 - Lenten Jerusalem Marketplace – 50 kids a week
 - Kids will be taking gifts to nursing home
 - Easter Breakfast getting planned with JH and HS, donations
 - Getting ready for Mother's Day bake sale
 - Camp signups starting
 - Prayer Shawl ministry working ahead – off for summer
 - Young Adults going very well on Friday evenings
 - New mission – squares to Africa for children with AIDS
 - “Fireproof” movie showing 3/29 and 3/31; group starts 4/21
- Buildings & Grounds (Cheryl Huenecke)
 - Lawn maintenance survey, contract clear – approved
 - Estimate for damaged sanctuary window – this week
 - Outdoor plantings – who will help Deb this summer?
- Fellowship (Jeni Vogl)
 - Planned for bringing soup for Lent 3/4
 - Getting ready for Rally Day in the fall
 - Considering pieces for haunted hayride & ideas for fall

- Fundraising – no report
- Worship & Music
 - Communion servers 4/5 – J. Vogl, G. Home, C. Treccani
- Old Business
 - Mission: voted all new mission proposals – to Mission Cmte
 - Mission Council 8 – approved annual covenant with Presbytery
 - Child Protection policy – Pastor Warren will check
 - Committees – Pastor Warren helping each on vision by 4/12
- New Business
 - Camp Saugatuck – approved circulating support petition
 - Journey of Hope – noted advertisement received & shared
 - Order of Elders – session members now receiving
 - Communion Bread – approved Jeni Vogl making unleavened
- Pastor's Report
 - Visit with elder Jim Kupka
 - 3 delegates to Presbytery – add Jeni Vogl, Deb Zimmerman
 - Acts 16:5 initiative – need to attend May 1-2
- Closed with prayer shortly before 10 p.m.

Help Wanted:

Reliable High School student with knowledge of the operations of a push lawn mower with rear bag attachment. To do 3 lawns 1 time per weekend starting in April. Interested parties please contact Jackie at 708-526-1616. Must be willing to agree to our terms and be in the Hickory Hills, Palos Hills area. We will supply the mower and gas along with other tools necessary to perform the job. Thank you.




Senior High Youth Group

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and support of our first Spaghetti Dinner held on March 14. We collected 92 tickets at the door and received a profit of \$532.71.

We will be using the money toward a future retreat for the group. Thank you!

Sacrament of Holy Communion- April 5, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
April 5, 2009	C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Sack, Maranto	Dave Delaney
April 12, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	EASTER BREAKFAST	Rick Vogl
April 19, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	T. & N. Pearson	Scott Zimmerman
April 26, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Hoffman, Muszynski, Rys	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
April 5, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
April 12, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
April 19, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
April 26, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	

Communion Servers: Charley Huenecke, G. Home, J. Vogl, I. Taebel, C. Treccani, H. Zimmerman



Lansing Presbyterian Church will be hosting a seminar on April 18th 2009, from Cancer Treatment Centers of America. They feel it would be very helpful to deacons, Congregational Care Teams, or caregivers of any kind. Cancer is something we all face as a church family, so this workshop can be a vital piece of care giving.

“Our Journey of Hope” presented by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, will take place Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9:00-5:00, at Lansing Presbyterian Church, 2625 Ridge Rd. Lansing, IL 60438.

Look for the information and registration paperwork on the tables in the East Room and downstairs.



Flower Sale for Camp Scholarships

Spring is here! and what better way to raise money for camp scholarships than to have a flower sale? The Fundraising Committee is offering annual bedding flats, hanging baskets, geraniums, and potted plants. The 12” Deco-Pot geraniums, gorgeous hanging baskets, and hydrangeas make wonderful Mother’s Day gifts!

Order forms will be available Sunday, April 5. Flower orders must be prepaid and received no later than **Sunday, April 19th**. Please return your order form with payment ASAP to Debbie Zimmerman, Grace Muszynski, Susan Frangella, or the church office. 708-598-3100.

Pick up will be on Sunday, May 3, 2009, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm in the gym.

Please mark your calendars for this pick up date.

Just in time for Mother’s Day!

A limited quantity of extra flowers will be available for purchase on the pick up date.

3/8/09

To All a Dad's Extended Family
& Friends,

We would like to express our
heartfelt gratitude for each
one of you that has helped
in the care and love
that you have shown to
Harry. On behalf of Dad
he asked to express how
grateful he is for all
your prayers and the care
that you continue to give him.
You are all Truly Angels
of the Lord.

Dad knows he is Truly
Blessed. May the Lord be
with all of us.

...and you
are right
in the
middle.

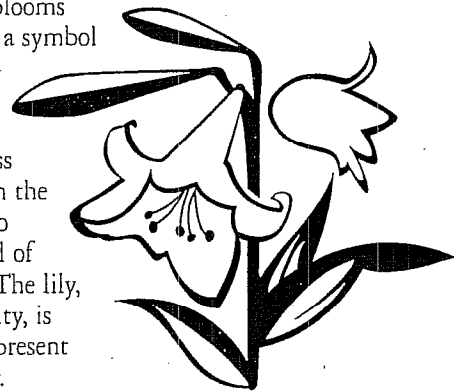
Thank You!

Love,

Harry Hermonson's Family

Lily

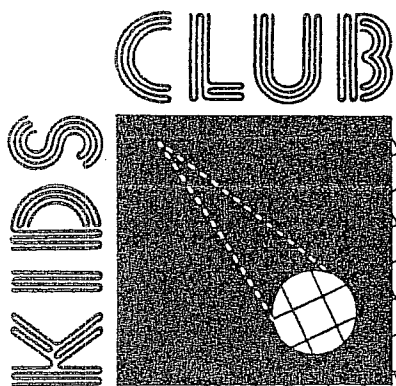
The lily that blooms
around Easter is a symbol
of Christ's resur-
rection because
it rises from a
seemingly lifeless
bulb decaying in the
ground. It is also
used as a symbol of
Christ himself. The lily,
a symbol of purity, is
often used to represent
the Virgin Mary.



Dear Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

On behalf of the entire
congregation of the First Presby-
terian Church of Wilmette,
I wish to extend to you our
thanks for all of your support in
you form of letters and prayers,
as partners in the faith.
we have appreciated it more
than you can know. It has
certainly been a time of
tragic loss. we really appreciate
your reaching out to our
congregation.

Blessings,
Dory Russell



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

This month we continued to put emphasis on what it means to be on God's team. In Kids Club we praise God together, pray together, share together and play together. That's the Christian team spirit. Our April topics of study are:

- Polaroid Olympics* - We can overcome insecurity as we follow Christ
- Team Spirit* - Followers of Christ seek unity with other believers
- Beat The Clock* - Living to serve
- Clear Signals* - Communication and clear signals

Congratulations to the Bible Verse Winners for the month of January;

- Gold medals* - Hollie Fox, Yasmine Fox, Jessica Leake, and Alexis Ternig
- Silver medals* - Gigi Giancana, Neal Lancaster, Lisa Krauss, Ashley Smith, Jenah Fox, and Ryan Saeler
- Bronze medals* - Breona Smith, Ashley Maranto, Kayla Wagner, Kaily Simpson, and Maya Garcia

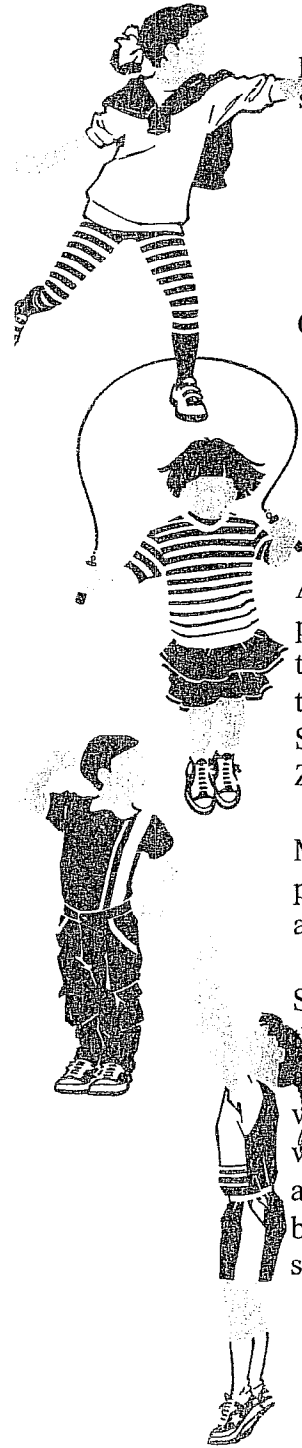
As I am writing this we have just completed week 3 of Lent 2009 - Jerusalem Marketplace. Our program will continue through April 1, so if you have not visited the Marketplace yet, there is still time. It is a wonderful time of learning and fun. It would not, could not have happened without the outstanding group of volunteers who give so much of themselves in His honor, for our kids. So for this wonderful experience we thank Jeanette G., Debbie Z., Linda R., Beth K., Dan C., Scott Z., Patt P., Donna B., Linda L., Jean S., Sam S., Adam S., Katie T., and Andrew W.

Mark your calendars now for our Spring Family night which will be held on Friday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m. This evening offers a catered dinner and entertainment. This will be a special treat for all ages. Everyone is welcome! Tickets for this evening will soon be available.

Some of the highlights during our time here at KIDS CLUB for the month of March included; the first warm day and our recreation time at the park, preparing and enjoying Shamrock Shakes and watching Sam help us turn our ice cream into those delicious treats, knitting with Linda as we work to help kids in Africa, lots and lots of messy but fun painting projects during our craft time with Grace, Marilyn and Shannon, making individual pizzas for snack time, music with Cheryl, and Christian Learning time with Linda and her helpers. Only two months of KIDS CLUB remain before we break for the summer. We hope everyone will be in attendance and be a part of the surprises we have planned for this time together

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



✠ SUNDAY SCHOOL ✠

You're always welcome! - 10:30 Every Sunday

During worship service, a fully staffed nursery is available for infants and toddlers. The nursery is on the lower level of the church. It is equipped with cribs, swings, high chairs, toys and books to keep the children happy and content while their parents participate in the worship service. The volunteer staff members find great joy in watching the children grow.

NEWS FROM OUR TEACHERS

Preschool and Kindergarten -

Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Jeanette Grisko

Things have been going great this year. Mrs. Grisko and I have been team teaching. We are getting ready for Easter. The kids will be making Easter baskets for the nursing home. We had a great time the last couple weeks. We spent time in the gym learning how to follow Jesus while not being able to see, like the story when Jesus healed the blind man. Last week the kids made some noise while playing musical instruments. They had a great time. I would like to say Happy Birthday to Holly and Kevin. I hope to see you all next week.

Love,

Miss Debbie

Mrs. Grisko

Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th - Melanie Swindle

We have a great mix of kids in our classroom. There are some new faces which warms my heart because new people bring new ideas to our discussions. I've only been working with this group for a couple of weeks but I look forward to learning with them during Lent. So far, we've talked about faith and how faith alone was the reason Jesus healed a blind man named "Bart". He called out to Jesus, the Son of man through the crowds and Jesus heard his call.

We talked about how we react to the love of Jesus. We don't hide it. We don't keep it to ourselves. It fills our heart and overflows and we can't help but share it. Thanks for sharing your light and your lives with me. See you on Sunday morning!

Junior High - Patt Pilgrim

We have only met twice this semester and have talked about Jesus helping a blind man to see and Jesus telling his disciples that he will die. We look up the places on the map where he went with his disciples, read stories and events about Jesus and may do some hand on activity to show what we learned about the day's lesson.

Leslie, Sarah, Halimah and Ashley love to read from the Bible. Their hands are always raised when I ask for volunteers. Brittany, Emily, Tasha and John are always ready to answer questions about what we read or what it means to them.

Kyle and Tristan are creative in the way they visualize and draw to demonstrate what they have learned. I love their questions. It shows they are thinking about what we have read. Alyssia, Natalie and Gessica help in all the above areas and always participate in projects.

We are missing some of our regulars and hope to see Katie, Kyle, Stephanie, Adam, Jessica, Breona, Jordan, Becky, Kayee, Megan, Rachel, Erik and Kate soon.

Adult Sunday School - Tom Lane

We continue to study Proverbs. This book gives us God's wisdom. We seek that our minds be transformed and to develop this by hearing God's Word. We invite anyone. Please join us.

* * * * *

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



We are half way through the season of Lent. Our noon worship service is well attended. Everyone seems to enjoy sitting around the tables to have fellowship and soup. There is room at the 7:00 PM service for those of you who wish to come. Everyone at the 6:15 PM dinner seems to enjoy the fellowship and delicious variety of soups. Thank you to those people who have taken it upon themselves to move the tables and clean-up while the rest of us enjoy the worship service. Thank you to everyone who has donated a pot or two of soup. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help Pastor Wiggins with the readings. If you have not experienced the worship services at noon or at 7:00 PM you still have time to come. The Lenten Program will continue until April 1. The groups of children ages 3 years to grade 8 have been learning about life in the Jerusalem Marketplace. They have created stepping stones, harps and tambourines, sailboats, stories for their scrolls, a bird feeder, and delicious bakery items. Don't let a week go by without bringing your children to this unique learning experience.

The Sunday school classes will be making baskets and filling them for the Palos Extended Care facility on Roberts Road on March 22. The more children who can help with this gift, the easier it is to share God's love with the residents there. Children from grades 3-4-5 will visit the Care facility on March 29 instead of going to Sunday class. They will be back in class before the end of worship and will be supervised by their teachers and the adults who drive. Please be sure your child has this experience of sharing God's love by getting him/her to class on March 29.

Easter morning, April 12, we will have the Jr. and Sr. High students serve breakfast. You are invited to join them for the breakfast and are asked to donate some of the food we will need to serve breakfast. There is a list of items needed for breakfast on the table downstairs. Please be sure to

make a donation for Camp Scholarships when you come.

Another Family Night is scheduled for May 1. This is a great event for the entire family. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us. Dinner will be a catered event so please sign the list in the hallway near the fellowship room so we can have enough food for everyone. Christian entertainment will follow the dinner. Family night begins promptly at 6:30 PM. Try not to miss it!

Do you enjoy creating delicious cookies? Do you have a no-fail recipe you love to bake? Would you volunteer to make a batch or more to help with the camp fund-raiser on May 10th? Please contact Dianne. Bakers are needed for the annual Monster Cookie Sale. All proceeds will go to the camp scholarships. We feel it is a very important way the entire congregation can help needy families give their children a life changing experience. If you choose not to bake, we hope you will buy the cookies which have been generously donated.

This may be the last summer that Camp Saugatuck is open. If you did not attend the informational meeting with Sue Orsic there is only a short time left to have your child register to attend. Camp Scholarships are available for a limited time. Children who attend grades 3-5 will go to Discovery Camp 11 at Camp Grey during August 2-8. During the same time youth who attend grades 6-8 will go to Outdoor Adventure Camp II at Kema. The cost is \$360. We urge you to make all attempts to be heard at the future meetings scheduled to close the camp and sell it. With your support, we can keep the camp open for many generations to enjoy.

Another adventure is right around the corner as we gear up for Vacation Bible School, June 15 - 19. We will travel to Australia this year. Trish and Company have agreed to return for this week. They are already planning the music and lessons! They

will bring their passion and energy to VBS. Each day is a new adventure as Trish and Company lead us in worship. Be a part of this adventure and join us June 15 - 19 for Vacation Bible School. Registration for children ages 4-grade 6 is available by contacting Dianne. DON'T MISS IT!

Kids Club Bible Verses for April

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who make us and we are his.” Psalm 100:3-5

†

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.” Psalm 133:1

†

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11

†

“ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful in building others up.”

1 Peter 1:13

†

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

- 1 Norma Grabayskaie
- 12 Vittorio Simone
Celina Panko
- 20 Charlotte Gamble
- 21 Jessica Leake
- 23 Veronica Swindle
- 25 Petar Ilic
- 26 T.K. Knox
- 28 Draven DelPrete
- 30 Rebecca Gehle

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY

1st and 2nd Grades

Jacob Morrell
Danny Orsic

3rd and 4th Grades

Gigi Giancana
Alexis Ternit

Junior High

Natalie Orsic
Sarah Swearingen
Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High

Gina Ciametti
Gabriella Ciametti
Mike Swearingen
Sam Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek

Junior High Youth Group

We continue to have over 20 junior highs on Thursday evenings at 6:30 to 8:00PM. We welcome new junior highs and their friends to join us.

Typically we start out in the gym. Adam is a master at active group games in the gym. Some games we typically play are volleyball, dodge ball, nuke em or sardines. We play anything that involves running and balls and teams.

Next we move to circle chair games for a quieter type game. Patt leads in games such as Tidal Wave, Train wreck, best friend, or killer.

Katie leads us in our Christian lesson for the evening. Sometimes Katie divides the junior highs into small groups to discuss a particular subject. Topics are based on the survey junior completed at the beginning of the year.

We end with snack. We greatly appreciate the donation made by parents of a couple bags of cookies or chips.

Upcoming events are:

- April 12- helping with the Easter breakfast
- April 17, 18 - the Lock in at the church
- May 2 - one day mission trip to "Feed my Starving Children" in Aurora
- May 10 - Mother's day cookie sale
- May 21 - pot luck with parents and last week of junior High youth meeting until September

Adam Schwake, Katie Trecanni , Patt Pilgrim
Junior high Youth leaders



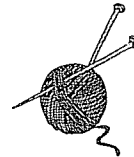
KIDS HELPING KIDS

We can make a difference!

Millions of kids in Africa are suffering from AIDS. With the help of a new mission project our kids will help to bring warmth and comfort to kids through a project called
*"Knit a square...
and make a cold child warm."*

We have a mission!! Monday afternoons in KIDS CLUB we are knitting - after church on Sundays we are knitting. We are knitting 8 inch squares which when completed will be packed up and sent to the Soweto Comfort Club in South Africa. Here squares from all over the country are received, joined into blankets and presented to kids in need in Africa. So the next time you pass the 5th grade classroom and see it filled with kids and adults knitting, know that we are working together to make a difference.

For more information or instructions on this knitting project contact Linda Lavaretto or Dianne.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The kids in our Sunday School are participating in the O.G.H.S. Beginning Sunday, March 8th the children were given a fish bank and a sharing calendar. This calendar is a fun way for kids and their families to make an offering to this mission project. Please return the fish banks on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Music from our Youth Choir



Our Monday afternoons are good as we share and learn more about God through our music. We hope you were with us to hear our Youth Choir present the following song on Sunday, March 8th. It is one of our favorites.

Show His Love Medley

By: Debbie Rettino

You and I've got to have a heart to change the world.
Let the song start to sing in every boy and girl.
Start to share, start to care. From a heart of love.
Let the world know that Jesus loves them.

How will the people know? How will the people know?
How will the people know, unless we show them?

Jesus us to go and share in every land.
Over seas, through the hills, across the desert sand.
By God's grace, in God's strength, we can change the world.
Let the world know that Jesus loves them.

My hands are the hands that God will use, to show the world His love.
When people look at me they'll see a bit of Heaven above.

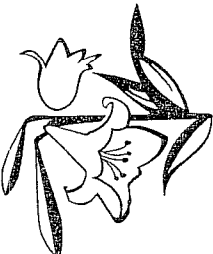

My feet are the feet that God will use to carry for the light
If people will believe in Him, They can have eternal life.

Oh Lord fill my heart that I might be a vessel fit for You
To share with the world what You did for me that You did it for them too.

My voice is the voice that God will use to tell the world he cares
To let them know he loves them so all people everywhere.

Oh Lord fill my heart that I might be a vessel fit for You
To share with the world what You did for me,
That You did it for them too.
That You did it for them too!

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 5 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	6 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study	7 Election Day- Polling Place 5 am-9 pm 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 6:30 p.m. Catered Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship	10 <u>Good Friday</u> 7:30 p.m. Worship at Savior Divine Lutheran Church 10040 S. 88 th Ave. Patos Hills	11 8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds
12 <u>Easter</u> 8:30 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV NO Sr. High Youth Group May Newsletter Articles Due	13 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club NO Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study 7:30 p.m. Session	14 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care NO Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	16 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	17 Jr. High Youth Group Lock-In 6:30 p.m. -----	18 Jr. High Youth Group Lock-In ---10:00 a.m.
19 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	20 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study 7:00 p.m. Outreach	21 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study Group	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	23 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	24 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	27 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Deacons Study 8:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study Group	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	30 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells		

EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

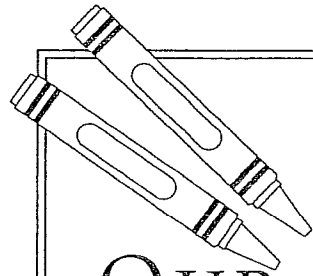
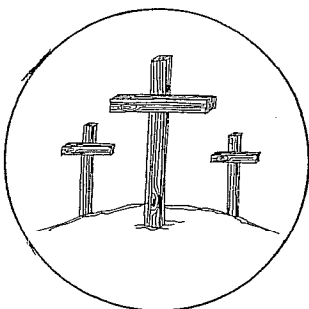
What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.



Just for KIDS

OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the bold words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the **God and Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**! In his great **mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil or fade** — kept in heaven for you"

P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
E	V	E	A	R	G

R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W

H	O	P	N	S	E
H	O	P	E	P	L
L	I	V	V	O	I
J	E	S	E	I	V
E	V	E	R	L	I
S	U	F	F	E	N
U	T	A	S	I	G
S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y



WORD CHALLENGE

Can you make at least 50 words from the letters in "JESUS HAS RISEN"?



April Birthdays

April 3 – Phyllis Bentley
4 – Lottie Gambla
5 – Cecily Schilling
5 – Justin Lohrer
5 – Zhenita Semani
7 – Sharon Molton
8 – Grace Muszynski
10 – Josh Treccani
11 – Laura Curtis
11 – Christopher Kupka
12 – Kyle Krueger
13 – Lelia Keene
14 – Kelly Bredlau
15 – Kim Brock
17 – Eva Mason
18 – Linda Haag
20 – Hamet Arif
20 – David Krueger
24 – Michael Dragas
25 – Stacey Flynn
28 – David Koch Jr.
30 – Marie Robison

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office... 708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

Palm Sunday, April 5

9:00 a.m. *Worship*

10:30 a.m. *Worship*

Kids Sing

Youth Choir Sings

Children Bring in Palms

5:00 p.m. *REV Worship*



Maundy Thursday, April 9

6:30 p.m. *Catered Dinner*

7:30 p.m. *Worship & Communion*

Good Friday, April 10

7:30 p.m. *Worship at Savior Divine*

Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. *Worship*

9:30 a.m. *Community Breakfast*

10:30 a.m. *Worship*

5:00 p.m. *REV Worship*

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



MAY 2009

Celebrating HHPC!

I knew a little about HHPC in the first moments of arriving here and hearing stories of this congregation's life. The opening rounds went to the kids because they were everywhere – Kids Club, Sunday School, Junior High, High School, kids in worship morning and night, kids eager for the Haunted House, kids at Family Night. As the months have unfolded, kids keep showing up in new places – reading in worship, teaching in Sunday School, speaking out at Children's Time, joining the church, going to a nursing home, taking over Lent on Wednesday evenings. Kids, kids, kids – so many great ways to enjoy HHPC.

What I didn't know when I first touched HHPC was the dedicated corps of volunteers who reach out locally to carry out the mission, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ serving our neighbors. We soon reached the beginning of PADS last fall and I was bowled over by the loyal legion who give money, prepare food, show up and give some scores of homeless folk satisfaction. Later I realized where the Jones Center is, who's going weekly, what special events draw our time and money and gifts and prayers to make life good for scores of children and families in Chicago Heights. And all along I kept learning more and more about the Fund for Human Need and the easy way HHPC has of helping people in need – one by one by one by one.

I heard about Kentucky in those opening days, but it was still vague beyond the overflowing enthusiasm and widespread participation. Then I heard stories – stories of lives changed, stories of eyes opened, stories of souls transformed, stories of dreams awakened. Only gradually could I comprehend the impact on our daily life as a congregation, our

extension into Honduras, our living God's love here on the southwest side of Chicagoland.

And my beginning info never included any appreciation for all the groups I'd keep running into all week – Cancer Sewing, Stampers, Prayer and Care, Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Prayer Shawl. And they keep expanding – Christian Caregiving, Fireproofing your Marriage. What a pleasure to tell a new guest on Maundy Thursday – YES, there's a group for you – when do you want to come?

So, my friends, wherever we go – HHPC will be sure to show.

We have 2 hands, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 feet.
When 2 eyes work together, we call it bifocal vision.
When 2 hands work together, we call it coordination.
When 2 ears work together, we call it directional hearing.
When 2 feet work together, we call it balance.

Just ask someone with a cane what unsteady is, when 2 feet don't.
Just ask one with a hearing aid what disoriented is, when 2 ears don't.
Just ask one with glasses what distorted can be, when 2 eyes don't.
Just ask one in a sling what uncoordinated is, when 2 hands don't.

Churches are the same – we need both. Otherwise we're unstable.

For the sake of this 'orientation' to a new year at Hickory Hills, I take these 2 to be the two things that shape what we're doing each day at HHPC:

The PAST

For reasons none of us can explain completely, God chose to have a Presbyterian church started in Hickory Hills back in the 1950's. What a gift! What a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again for reasons that will always remain somewhat obscure, God brought people, pastors, families, leaders, children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons, classes, choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this congregation. What variety! What beauty! What gifts! What power! What fun! What learning! What worship!

The PAST has shaped who we are as we enter 2009. My plea in this picture is quite simple – LOVE it. I know there have been moments of deep pain. I know there have been people who were a pain. I know there have been pains that I have caused. OR we could say there were mistakes people made, mistakes leaders made, mistakes I've made. I believe that's true.

My plea is still quite simple – LOVE this congregation's past. The more we complain, bitch, disparage, attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our past, the more we put ourselves out of balance, misdirected, uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to recite information about our past, it is another to LOVE it.

The FUTURE

This is even more obscure – When will our new pastor come? Will we have enough income? What will happen to our youth? Where will we be in fifty years? God knows! GOD knows. What a gift! What a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again, for reasons that will always remain obscure, God will give us people, pastors, families, leaders, children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons, classes, choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this congregation. What variety! What beauty! What gifts! What power! What fun! What learning! What worship!

My plea is quite simple – LOVE this congregation's future. The more we complain, bitch, disparage, attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our future, the more we put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,

uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to make plans for our future, it is another to LOVE it.

When we LOVE our PAST and our FUTURE we'll be using both eyes to see clearly, both hands to work beautifully, both ears to hear all around us, and both feet to follow wherever Jesus takes us.

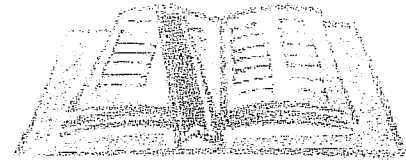
Thank you for the gracious gift you give me of allowing me to walk with you, to love with you, to discover gifts in Chicago's south suburbs that I never knew. You are wonderful!

Peace,

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

We are called . . . to SEEK God's WORD

One of the great things about Hickory Hills is the readiness of people to dig into the readings from the Bible – to ask questions, to see connections, to hear God speaking to us. So I invite you to consider your time well spent in taking a few moments each day to read part of the passage for Sunday's sermon and let it seep into your soul.



May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Mark 10:1-31 & John 8:1-11

Divorce, adultery, children, money – yes, Jesus does have a lot of things to say about families. On this day for the Festival of the Christian Home, on this Mother's Day, on this opening for Family Week – can we listen, can we hear, can we live what Jesus says?

May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday – Proverbs 3

Prosperity, Medicine, Corrections, Happiness, Long Life, Safety – otherwise known as WISDOM. We have a whole book in our Bible that specializes in being wise, how to get it, how to keep it, and what benefits it brings. Do we recognize these things in ourselves?

**May 24 – Seventh Sunday of Easter /
Memorial Day –**

Genesis 17:1 – 18:15

Covenant, agreement, contract, promise, offer, deal – what is God offering us? The story of Abraham always pulls us back into the center of God's ways and the focus of God's plans. This story circles around the issue of children – will we have them? Then what?

May 31 – PENTECOST - Acts 2 & 3 & 4:32-37

Whew! When the Spirit comes, watch out! People speak out. Folks gather. Leaders speak up. Essentials get shared. God and people connect. Life tingles. When we walk into this story, heads turn, bodies move, feet dance, hands wave, and voices are lifted in strange new ways to announce the fullness of God's powerful presence. Join the party!!

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

PADS UPDATE

The Hickory Hills Restaurant is closed for vacation. All our employees are certainly deserving of some time off as they have worked diligently for the past seven months. All the dishes are stacked neatly in the pantry along with the pots and pans. The silverware, by the way, was plastic, no need to save. It's very evident there is no food left for another meal as our guests consumed every morsel.

It's time for a special thank you to each and every supporter of our restaurant. You know who you are and how you have contributed to this worthy cause. The job you have done could not have been done by anyone else as you have put your signature to your purpose and desire to serve. I salute you all and say, "A job well done."

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER & CARE

"Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded..."
Jeremiah 31:16

In these troubled times let us not forget God doesn't overlook what we have to offer. In Christ, God will use us if we stick to Him like glue. We will not become undone.

Come to the library to show your support in praise/petition: Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.

"Prepare your hearts..." I Samuel 7:3

Love 'N' Hugs, Arlene

TWILIGHT PRAYER

We pray for a neighbor recovering from a recent heart attack.

We pray for a soldier recently injured in the line of duty.

We pray for a ghetto child who has lost all hope.

We pray for that murderer who by mistake killed a friend.

We pray for a world in crisis, the problem will be solved.

We pray for "You" because you have a need and we love you!

Have we missed anyone? Maybe you have a special friend who needs our prayers and support? Join us please:

Tuesday Evenings 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Summer (DelPrete), Aaron, & Zoe Neal
9020 W. 93rd St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Helen Recktenwald
Manor Care
600 W. Ogden Ave.
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630-325-9630

Dorothy Scholefield
Villa Franciscan
210 Springfield
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-3400
Her room # 815-553-1315

Dave Ulrich
557 Huntsbridge Rd.
Matteson, IL 60443
708-720-2977

MARCH 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income
\$18,522.00

General Fund Disbursements
\$18,527.00

General Fund Account Balance
\$1,704.00

Building and Grounds Update

As a result of some recent security issues we are implementing new safety procedures with our offering and our church building.

The locks have been changed. New keys have been issued and we have record of them by number.

We are asking that each committee and group be sure doors are locked and closed tightly each night, after their meetings or events.

Everyone's cooperation will help us keep our building more secure.

Thank you,
Building and Grounds Committee

How to Welcome Visitors

Here are some comments I have received recently about Sunday welcoming:

- "The associate stood at the door and said, 'Have a nice day,' in a voice that clearly showed the person cared not a whit who we were."
- "We were ignored."
- "The pastor couldn't muster the courage to ask for my name."

These could be exceptions, and exceptions don't prove rules, as they say. But they do underscore the importance of solid fundamentals in Sunday greeting.

Here are seven basics for welcoming visitors:

1. Greet at the front door (and at other doors people regularly use). Exchange names.
2. Practice will vary, but in my opinion, primary greeters should include the clergy. They need to know who is worshiping today.
3. Don't pounce on the visitor. Extend a warm, respectful welcome.
4. If adults arrive with children, explain where children normally go (to a pew with their parents, or to a children's service, or to a class). This should be brief and intended to be helpful, not to impose barriers. An escort could be helpful.
5. After worship, greet again at all exits. This time, ask the visitor to fill out a card with two blanks: name and e-mail address. Perhaps telephone number, too, if that isn't considered intrusive in your context. You can get other information later. Some churches put these cards in the pews. Either way, you want to capture this information before they leave. Otherwise, you can't make a response.
6. During the next 24 hours, make a personal contact with the visitor. This could be an e-mail, a telephone call, or a drop-by visit. Whatever works best in your context. The point is to acknowledge their visit right away, invite them to come again, direct them to your web site for more information, and offer to meet with them, perhaps for coffee.
7. Enter data in a tracking system, so that you can follow their movement toward affiliation.

Every context is different, of course, and you will want to "test and measure" what works in yours. Be assured, however, that ignoring visitors will never work.

Moreover, a church that executes well in greeting visitors is more likely to handle other membership development ministries well. On the other hand, a church that can't be bothered to greet visitors won't communicate trustworthiness and openness.

Reaching Within to Reach Out...GET READY!

"It's difficult to see yourself as others see you." ... "Perception is reality". ... "The only constant is change..."

Have you ever heard those old sayings? I know I have, many times. There is a great deal of insight in these statements, and it certainly holds true for all of us at HHPC.

Have you ever wondered how "others" see us? Or maybe you've thought about the Church's perception in the eyes of the community? Your family? A Guest? A Visitor? Or even the person sitting next to you?

And that *dreadful* "C" word.... CHANGE. Think about your life. Where would you be without change? Sociologists have studied this very subject for many years, as well as the reaction, acceptance (or lack thereof), and how to properly influence change. Undoubtedly, those who choose to embrace change for the reason of improving circumstances or situations, and not just for the sake of change, end up having a more positive outlook. Conversely, those who do not are left bitter and embattled.

We all have a certain degree of fear, hesitation or trepidation when asked to step out of our "comfort zone" and do new things or meet new people...however, economic times, the state of our Church, the community, and our polity require us to explore and change...are you ready and willing to accept it?

So the question is...what role do you play in the

future of our Church? Where is your talent (and we all have one)?

- Is it serving on the Mission, Fellowship, or Building and Grounds Committee?
- Is it singing in the Choir?
- Is it mentoring a Junior High youth or a Young Adult?
- Is it leading a couples group or a young mothers group?
- Is it creating a LOCAL mission?
- Is it becoming an Usher?
- Is it greeting members and visitors, or following up with them after a visit?

The steps we take over the next year will be critical in determining the future of this Church and of this congregation; a progressive movement has to take place...and it involves every single member of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

Do we stay complacent, and just "hope for the best"? The answer is an unequivocal and resounding, "NO!"

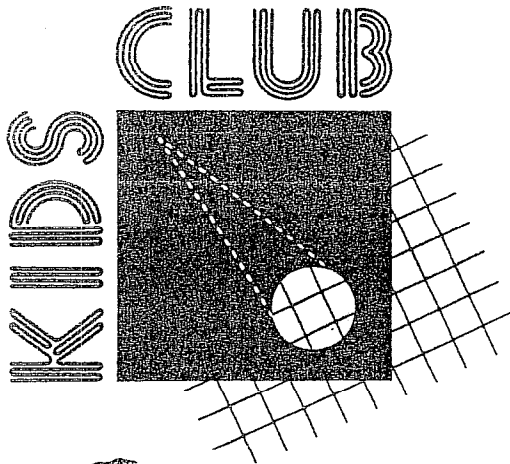
There are a multitude of dreams and aspirations floating through the minds of this congregation, big and small, of what we can become; the potential is here, the talent is here, the giving of one's time is here...the time to do it is **NOW!**

So what's within you? How can you reach out to be more open, more inclusive, more inspirational, more welcoming, more connected to those ideas and people you may not know "all that well"? How do you do it? Just look around you at all this place has to offer-reach out to someone!

Only by looking and reaching inward can we seek to reach out to others...**GET READY, GET SET, GO!!**

Wishing you all Peace,
Adam Schwake





Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

During the month of May our weekly lesson time will be centered around the following story lines:

Beat the Clock - Learning to Serve

Clear Signals - Communication

Pep Rally - Encouraging Others

Congratulations to the winners of Bible Memorization for the month of March.
Good Work!

Gold winners - Jessica Leake, Alexis Ternig, Ryan Saeler, Hollie Fox, Kayla Wagner, Ashley Smith, Yasmine Fox, and Christy Caruso.

Silver winners - Kaily Simpson, Jenah Fox, Neal Lancaster, Maya Garcia

Bronze winners - Ashley Maranto, Breona Smith, and Vittorio Simone

Just a reminder that our Spring Family Night will be held Friday, May 1st. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a catered dinner. We are honored to welcome the Roberts Marionettes. Their presentation of the "Secret Garden" is an event you will be sure to remember. After the show we will be allowed to see the puppets up close and ask questions. During the next few weeks we will be preparing for this event in KIDS CLUB by reading the story and participating in crafts and other activities centered around the "Secret Garden". We encourage you to invite friends and enjoy this extraordinary evening together. The program is designed for young and old alike. Tickets for this event are on sale now.

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 15 - 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For a week kids from our church and our community will join together for "Boomerang Express - It All Comes Back to Jesus". Our excursions will take us on an adventure as we participate in Bible stories, recreation, snacks, learn great songs, crafts, and much more! Tricia and Co. will be returning as our special guests for this week. Tell others about this week!!

The last day of KIDS CLUB for this school year will be Monday, May 18th. This will be a day of celebration as we rejoice in all that we have shared this year. KIDS CLUB will resume in September.

Peace and Joy,

Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

Have you set aside May 1st to attend the Family Night at the church? The dinner menu is set, all that is missing is your reservation for the evening of fun and great fellowship. The Roberts Marionettes are coming to present "Secret Garden." Your children will delight at this performance with actual puppets. It will be a version specially designed for the children. The Roberts Marionette theatre has been performing in the area for at least 20 years, maybe more, and they have delighted hundreds of children wherever they perform. We are sure that this is an evening worth remembering and you would not want to miss the fellowship and great food planned for the evening. So be sure to sign up so we can prepare enough seating for everyone. Dinner will be served before the show at 6:30 PM.

Our Cookie Monster Bake Sale is scheduled for May 10th. It is just in time to make some of your favorite recipes and bring them for sale at the church bake sale. All proceeds will go to Camp Scholarships. Be sure to treat Mom on her Special day with a dozen or more of her favorite cookies. The members of the Jr. High Youth Group will be waiting behind the tables loaded with delicious cookies to assist you in choosing only the best cookies available. Be sure to stop downstairs after the 10:30 AM worship service to make your purchases. Anyone who has not volunteered to make a batch of cookies but is still interested in doing that may wish to contact Dianne.

Both youth groups are busy in following months. The Sr. High Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped setup, take down, cook and serve dinner. All the proceeds were given to help finance future activities for the Sr. High Youth Group. The Jr. High Youth Group just enjoyed the weekend at the church in a lock-in on April 17-18. It seems that everyone involved had a wonderful time of fellowship, well, maybe almost everyone. I guess not many people had

time to sleep at the lock-in so maybe the adults did not have as great a time as the Jr. Highs. Both youth groups are planning mission trips in early May. They will attend "Feed My Starving Children" on May 2nd. and will attend the AWOL on May 8-9 where they will receive their work assignments and proceed to their site for the work day.

Recognition Sunday is scheduled for May 17th during the 10:30 AM worship service. It is a day to thank all those who worked so hard to make the Christian Education programs so successful. This year as in years past, the lists of workers seems endless. Their dedication to the programs designed for the adults and children of the church shows their great passion and energy. We encourage anyone who wishes to join us with their new ideas and energy to join us. On this special Sunday, the Graduates will be recognized as well as all the children from the Youth Choir and those with Perfect Attendance in Sunday School. Children who are members of the Youth Choir will be joined by the local children for "Our Kids Sing" during the worship service. Please have your children at church to join their voices and give a final gift to the congregation for the 2008-2009 worship.

Women of the Women's Bible Study will miss Pat Brady as she steps down in her leadership role. A final meeting will be on May 11th. The group will miss her leadership and her ideas but sincerely hope that she can still be a part of the discussions.

Good news for children interested in going to camp. Sue Orsic has reported that there are close to 20 children registered for camp this summer.

Another way to help promote camp for the children is to purchase flowers from the Fund Raiser. Final orders were taken on April 19th. Pick up for the orders is May 3 between the hours of 9 AM and 1:00 PM. There will be a limited selection of flowers in case you forgot to

**TOP OFF YOUR SUNDAY
IN STYLE**

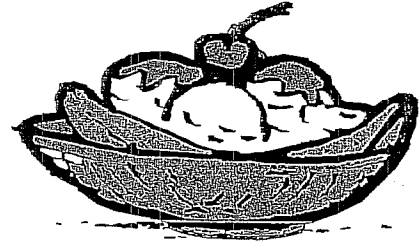
With an evening of

MUSIC...

FELLOWSHIP...

&

ICE CREAM!!



Sunday, June 14, 2009

6:30 p.m. following REV Worship

An annual event sponsored by the

Senior Choir

get your order in on time. All the proceeds will benefit the camp scholarship fund.

June 15-19 is the week we will have Tricia and Company join us for Vacation Bible School. Our trip will take us to Australia on the "Boomerang Express." It will be a week filled with new songs, crafts, and lessons. Be sure to register with Dianne so your children won't miss this week of fun and adventure. Anyone interested in becoming a guide for one group or helping in a craft room should speak to Dianne. Children ages 4 to grade 6 are invited to attend. Anyone of the Jr. or Sr. High group is invited to speak to Dianne to be a guide or helper. We meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM to divide into groups and leave around 8:30 PM.

The cost for the week is \$6.00 and a donation of one package of cookies.

**COOKIE MONSTER
BAKE SALE**

MAY 10

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

*Hosted by the Junior High Youth to
Benefit the camp scholarship fund*

- * Remember, it is Mothers Day! Wouldn't it be nice to surprise her with a gift of homemade cookies?
- * Stop by on your way out of church and pick up some cookies to enjoy all week!! The money raised from this cookie sale will help to fund the week of summer camping at Camp Saugatuck.
- * If you are interested in making cookies for this event, please contact Dianne at the church office 598-3100

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The month of May has two great opportunities for community service for the Junior High Youth Group

On May 2

We will meet at the church at 12:30 PM. We will car pool for mission work at **"Feed My Starving Children" in Aurora, IL**. Our shift to work is from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. There is no cost to the junior highs to go except if you want to bring a small amount of money to stop at McDonalds afterwards for a snack and to talk about our day. We need a signed permission slip from your parent or guardian for you to go. There is a limit of 20 junior highs so get your permission slip in early! Below is a quote from their website.

" At FMSC your session will begin with an orientation. As you package meals by hand for the world's hungriest children, you will discover a deep sense of service and community. Volunteers often are surprised at the number of meals they are able to pack in a short time, realizing that each meal feeds a child for a day. In 2007 volunteers packed 40 million meals that were distributed in 60 countries."

On May 8-9

We will meet at the church at 4:30 PM. We will car pool to Fourth Presbyterian church, Chicago IL for mission project **"A.W.O.L."(A Work Of Love)**. The even starts at 6:00PM on Friday and ends at 4:30 PM on Saturday. The cost is \$25.00. The covenant and medical release forms (signed by parent or guardian) must be returned to the Hickory Hills youth leaders by May 1st. there is no limit to amount of junior highs that can go.

"A Work of Love is a one-day mission immersion experience sponsored by the Presbytery of Chicago. Friday includes games, group bonding and worship in preparation for Saturday's mission project"

We will be working with the ICH (Interfaith Council for the Homeless) that ends homelessness for families and individuals by offering hope, help and housing. On Saturday we will serve lunch and continue service projects until 4:30 PM.

On May 21st

potluck dinner with junior highs and their parents at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian church. This will be our last meeting until September, 2009.

Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim
Junior High Youth leaders

JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We continue to study the life of Jesus and the different lessons he taught through parables he told, healings he did and his death and resurrection. We read from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We have begun work on a banner to depict these events and will be working on the banner for the next several weeks.

Some of the stories on our banner will be:

Feeding the 5000
Healing a Blind man
Healing a Leper
Calming the Sea
The Lost Sheep
The Mustard Seed
The good Samaritan
The Prodigal Son
The Lost Coin

We thank Kim Ambersat and Melanie Swindle for helping us put the banner together. All the junior highs will be working in community to complete the banner. They are Kyle, Sarah, Brittany, Ashley, Emily, Kaylee, Tristian, Halimah, Natalie, Alyssia, Natasha, Jessica, Adam, John, Becky, Stephanie, Erik, Megan, Kyle and Katie.

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 David Hall
John Kemp
3 Courtney Freiberg
8 Noah Krueger
9 Adam Fox
17 Tom Krumpolc
20 Gigi Gianaca

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES FOR MAY

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Romans 12:11

†

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up.”

Ephesians 4:29

†

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

How many medals can you win?

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

MARCH PERFECT ATTENDANCE

3rd and 4th Grades
Veronica Swindle

Junior High
Sarah Swearingen
Natasha Swindle

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Gina Ciametti
Mike Swearingen
Sam Swearingen
Amanda Swindle
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
Megan Zimmerman

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

When in sorrow - *read John 14*
When people fail you - *read Psalm 27*
When you have sinned - *read Psalm 51*
When you worry - *read Matthew 6:25-34*
Before the church service - *read Psalm 84*
When you are in danger - *read Psalm 91*
For the blues - *read Psalm 34*
When God seems distant - *read Psalm 139*
When discouraged - *read Isaiah 40*
When doubts come - *read John 7:17*
When you are lonely or fearful -
read Psalm 23
When you forget your blessings -
read Psalm 103
For Jesus' idea of a Christian -
read Matthew 5
If faith needs stirring - *read Hebrews 11*
When you feel down and out -
read Romans 8:31-39

Sacrament of Holy Communion- May 3, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
May 3, 2009	C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Majersky, Orsic	Dave Delaney
May 10, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Richer, Sack	Rick Vogl
May 17, 2009	If you are interested in Usher on 3 rd Sun., see Scott Zimmerman	Wiggins, Rys	Scott Zimmerman
May 24, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell		Terry Brock
May 31, 2009	S. Zimmerman		Lisa Radetski
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
May 3, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	Terry Brock
May 10, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
May 17, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
May 24, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	Gina Ciametti
May 31, 2009	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski	If you are interested for the 5 th Sun., see Dianne Flynn	

Communion Servers: Kim Brock, Gordon Home, Charley Huenecke, Rick Raschke, Harry Zimmerman

Raising funds for Honduras

A new group of missionaries will be heading off to Honduras this year to complete the last project for the folks in the tiny Village of Los Ranchos.

Their request is to have a Church. Not a church like ours: a big building, with carpeting, padded pews, an organ and air conditioning. Not even windows. But to them an answer to prayers.

Just a building approximately 25 x 60, assembled out of hand made Cinder blocks.

Along with this mission project we are able to exchange the materials for a house for the land owner that donated the property for the church, masons, interpreters and the family who donated the land necessary for the church to be built.

So along with the church project there will be a water pila, 2 latrines and a small cinder block house.

Not everyone can go to Honduras understandably, but anyone is welcome to be a part of the Mission. We will be having various fundraisers as the year goes on. The proceeds will be helping to enable those that will be going to build the church, encourage the village people and build up the lives of those in Los Ranchos.

SPRING FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, May 1
6:30 p.m.

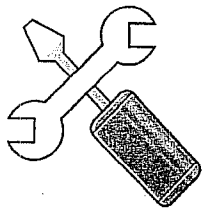
Mark your calendars now and begin planning for our Spring Family Night, the last family night for this year.

On Friday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m., we will host a fun filled evening complete with a catered dinner and entertainment by Roberts Marionettes Puppets. Their presentation of "The Secret Garden" is sure to be long remembered by all. After the play, we will be treated to a demonstration of the puppets and how they work. A question and answer time will follow the program.

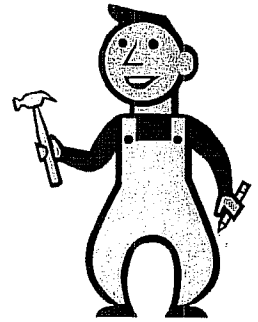
This evening is open to everyone. The tickets can be purchased after church on Sundays, or during KIDS CLUB hours on Mondays. Cost for the evening;

Adults -	\$6.00
Students (12 and under) -	\$3.00
Children (4 and under) -	no cost
Maximum of \$20.00 per immediate family	

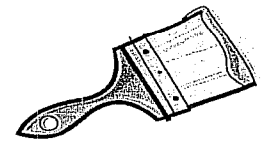
Questions? - Call the church office and ask for Dianne



Mission Council 8
WORK DAY
At Jones Center



Saturday, May 9th
8:00-1:00



We'll have breakfast and then begin doing some maintenance projects at the Center.

Come join us.
It is a great day of fellowship
and
a wonderful way to serve.

Please email debbiedennis@comcast.net by May 1st if you plan to attend. We need to be able to plan for food and jobs to be done.

YARD SALE DONATIONS

It is time again for HHPC's Annual Indoor Yard Sale to raise money for the Kentucky Mission Trip!!

We will be accepting donations during the following days and times:

Wednesday, May 20th thru Sunday, May 24th
Dropoff only-please place donations in lower level classrooms

Dropoff and Pricing (we need helpers)

Monday, May 25th 9:00am to 12:00pm

Tuesday, May 26th 9:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 27th 9:00am to 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 28th 9:00am to 7:00pm

ACTUAL YARD SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 29 9:00AM—3:00PM

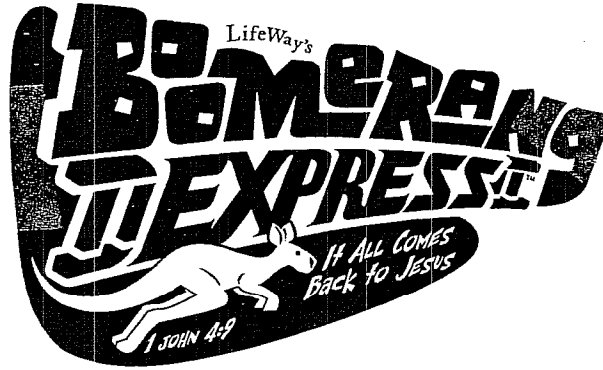
SATURDAY, MAY 30 9:00AM—1:00PM

IN ADDITION TO DONATIONS, WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SALE THE WEEK OF MAY 25TH THRU MAY 30th.

TOGETHER WE CAN HOST A WONDERFUL FUNDRAISER!!!!



Just a Reminder



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday through Friday
June 15 - 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Special Guests - Tricia and Company

TALK ABOUT ADVENTURE!!!

Mark your calendars
And tell your kids to invite their friends!!!

Vacation Bible School - A Week Not to be Missed!!

For a week kids from our church and community will join together for "Boomerang Express - It All Comes back to Jesus". Pack your gear, prepare to take a thrilling ride across the land down under. As kids wind their way across Australia, they'll discover the vastness of God's love, and learn that no matter where they go or what they do in life - it all comes back to Jesus. Our five day adventure includes story and discussion time, crafts, recreation, snacks and music.

This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6. .

Cost for this week of fun is \$6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time. Call the church office (598-3100) to register.

MAY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 9am-1pm Flower Sale Pick Up 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Family Night 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Cookie Monster Sale 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV NO Sr. High Youth Group June Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>11 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>12 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p>	<p>13 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>14 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>15 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Recognition Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>18 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>19 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p>	<p>20 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>21 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>22 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>23 Plant Sale Outside- Honduras Fundraiser</p>
<p>24 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV Plant Sale outside</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day</p>	<p>26 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p>	<p>27 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>28 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>29 Indoor Yard Sale 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Indoor Yard Sale 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.</p>
<p>31 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV</p>						

Katie Treccani
6011 Birmingham
Chicago Ridge, IL
(708) 650-6618
Email: Trop82@yahoo.com

Dear Family and Friends

I hope that God has been treating you all well. This letter is in regards to an opportunity that I have to go on a mission trip to New York City from July 18-July 24, 2009 with SpreadTruth Ministries. While there, we are going to be working on various tracks. We will be working in a basketball camp, soccer camp, a vacation bible school as well as a group in the streets working prayer stations for the people in New York. For more information on the trip and what each "track" will entail please visit http://nycm.spreadtruth.com/?link=trips_summer.

I would like you to become personally involved with me in the short-term mission trip in two ways: financial support and prayer support. Most importantly, this trip will not be possible without prayer support. I need you to pray concerning:

1. we do not know what all we will face spiritually
2. that God would protect us financially and make this trip possible for everyone going
3. that finances at home will be covered during the time we are away
4. safety on the trip there and back
5. safety on all of the "tracks"
6. for us to spread the word of God to those there that do not know Him.

If you would be willing to partner with us in prayer or financial support would you please let me know by filling out the bottom part of this letter and mailing your commitment to my home address which is listed at the top by June 1, 2009. If you would like to talk to me about this mission, please feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance.

In His name,

Katie Treccani
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

I will partner with you and begin praying for your trip

I will partner with you financially

(You may make your checks payable to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church and please put Katie Treccani in the memo line, this way your donation will be tax deductible. Otherwise make them payable to Katie Treccani)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

May Birthdays

May 3 – Myrnalyn Delalamon
4 – Adam Schwake
5 – Ken Dritz
6 – Mildred Neil
6 – Kady Raschke
9 – Jennifer Ross
10 – Francine Costello
10 – Colleen Hall
11 – Wilda Duncan
11 – Michael Watson
13 – Kathleen Freeman
14 – Paulina Zharare
15 – Ginger Mercer
25 – Terry Brock
25 – Pat Crowley
26 – Greg Majersky
27 – Darlene Kibort
29 – Karen Golema

Any omissions or errors should be reported
to the church office...
708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically
and no longer receive a paper version,
please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org
and we will place you on the mailing list.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Mary Richer & family in the loss of her
son in law, Terry
Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns
The Krueger Family in the loss of
David's nephew, Cody Krueger
Dorothy Scholefield for healing
Mary Tarter for health concerns
Helen Recktenwald for healing
Scott Gehle for healing &
Jackie Gehle for strength
Joe Costello for strength
Christine Fox's mother for health concerns
Frank Esparza's sister & brother in law, Ruth & Joe-
Joe for health concerns
Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
Carolyn Watson for health concerns
Ruth Hill & her daughter, Tracy, for health concerns
Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby,
for strength while battling leukemia
People experiencing hard times/ job loss
Our service men and women and their families
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope
during Jen's battle

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

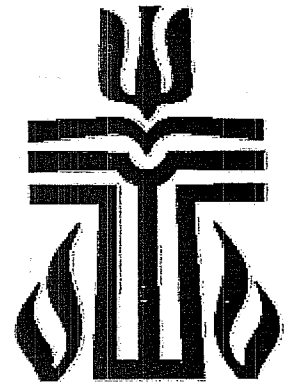
Dated Material

Do Not Hold



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
Telephone: (708)598-3100
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



JUNE 2009

Good-bye?

Yes, I'm going to assume that your hearing of a candidate for pastor on May 31 will result in my leaving Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church soon.

The wonderful ways of God's moving mean that I'll be leading worship at HHPC on June 7th for the last time, a guest preacher will be with us on June 14th, and the new pastor will lead worship for the first time on June 21st.

Just as my first sermon here was "Hello," so my last is "Goodbye." Because the scripture reading for June 7 will be Micah 6, my taking leave will be colored by all the prophet has to say about our purpose in life and how we conduct ourselves.



It is a staple of ministerial ethics that once a pastor leaves a congregation, there is no future contact. I know how harsh that seems in the moment of parting, but I've lived through enough 'violations' to know that it is a wise and helpful practice.

But for now, I invite you to practice a four-fold formula for goodbye that I learned many years ago.

It's honesty and simplicity makes it easy for me to remember as I (and hopefully you) end this relationship: own up, celebrate, let go, restore.

OWN UP – this is simply adding up, making lists, checking off items, clearly toting up all the goods and bads, the positives and negatives, the helps and the hindrances that have come with my interim pastorate in this congregation.

CELEBRATE – (I like this part!) Sing and dance, shout and party for all the good things in our

relationship. What's 'false' is going right to this stage 2 without making a careful listing of all the negatives in stage 1.

LET GO – Hard as it is in the moment, stage 3 asks me to open my grasp, fling wide my arms, puff gently and send all the goods and bads, negatives and positives, connections and hard feelings away. I can't say that I'm good at this, but I've learned over and over the wisdom of this choice and behavior.

RESTORE – This is a little like the admonition for trail hiking – whatever you take in, bring it all out. For me it means clearing out everything that gives a sign, a token, a reminder of my presence. It means wiping the slate clean so that you can give your hearts and minds fully into the relationship with a new pastor.

I invite you to practice this practice of saying goodbye over the next few days.

Peace,
Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

To my HHPC family:

By the time you read this, I will have left HHPC and will be settling down to my new home in Michigan. For those that are hearing this for the first time (I'm sure that's not too many by this point), I do apologize. Sometimes it's hard to share such big things with limited contact.

Writing this is very difficult for me; HHPC has been my "home away from home" for nearly 10 tumultuous and challenging, yet formative and rewarding years. It certainly is the people I will miss the most. Don't ever underestimate or fail to use the power of the human connection that you, as a congregation, possess.

My time here has been at times frustrating, but the experiences and the knowledge taken away will stay with me for life.... Mission Committee, Personnel Committee, Mission Study Report Committee, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Outreach Committee, PNC, Session, and most of all, Junior High Youth Group.

Many positive changes will be coming your way; embrace them with open arms, they are for the good of this congregation, now and for future generations.

I wish I could pick up the entire church with everyone inside and put it in my U-Haul. Physically impossible, yes.... but the U-Haul in my body, brain and soul is packed full of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church and all the cherished memories I will never forget.

Lastly, to my Junior Highs (past and current): Please, please, please...never forget that you are loved by so many. Do not ever forget that your role in the church is so important, one we CANNOT live without. Do not stray from what you have learned...it's the basis for a faith and purpose driven life. **I WILL MISS YOU ALL TERRIBLY, AND THURSDAY NIGHTS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.**

So that's it folks. It's not goodbye, it's "I'll see 'ya later!"

Adam Schwake
(708) 269-6102
aschwake@yahoo.com

PRAYER & CARE

There is no vacation time granted on Wednesdays.
We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Library.
See ya there!

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Father, thank you for all you have done for me. But what about my neighbor? I bring to you my neighbor, Father, because he is in need. Yes, he can read me as a Christian, but many times he gets lost in definitions.

Help me to be humble, merciful, and just in my daily walk and as I bring to you those in need. I pray you will touch their life in a special way.

Join us as we reach out to our neighbors in a special way. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Marge Hayes
Lexington Health Care Center of Lombard
2100 S. Finley Road- Room 234A
Lombard, IL 60148
630-495-0064

Karen Leake
8440 Commons Dr. Unit #9
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Janet Cescato-Webber
225 Bell Rock Blvd.
Sedona, AZ 86351

APRIL 2009 Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS
\$13,257.00

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS
\$18,555.00

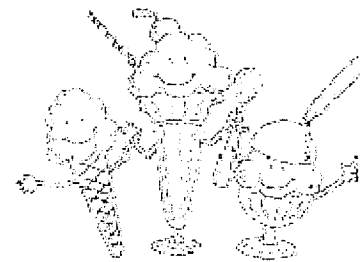
Due to the incident on Easter Sunday our disbursements for the month of April exceeded our income by \$5,298.00 causing us to have a deficit balance in our General Fund Account of \$3,594.00. If those of you that wrote checks for the offering for April 12th could find it in your hearts to write a replacement check it would greatly help our financial situation.

ARE YOU 18-29?



If so, come join our new Young Adult Group on Friday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. for Laser Tag!

See Katie Treccani for more information.
708-650-6618

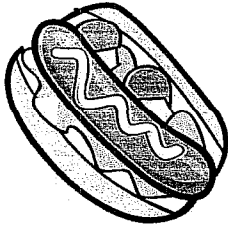


Ice Cream Social

Come join the Senior Choir, Handbell Choir & Youth Choir for our Annual Ice Cream Social, an evening of Music, Fellowship, and Ice Cream!

**Sunday, June 14, 2009-
6:30 p.m.** (immediately following REV service)

HELP BUILD A CHURCH IN HONDURAS



Building a church in Honduras is part of our Mission Trip in December 2009. We are working to help make that happen with our summer time fundraisers.

We hope you will join us and support our hot dog lunch cookouts after Sunday morning fellowship. We are targeting one or two Sundays a month, when the weather cooperates. You can stay and enjoy your lunch out on the picnic table or take it and eat on the go if you choose. More details later.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS *Please Pray For:*

- The family of Ron Robison, in his loss
- Dave Flegel at home with hospice care
- Safe travels to his new home in Michigan for Adam Schwake
- Kim Ambrosat's co-worker, Yvette, for health concerns
- Darlene Kibort's step son, Tom, for strength to move forward
- Melanie Swindle & family in the loss of her grandmother
- Grace Muszynski's daughter in law's mother, Nancy Eklund for healing & selling her property in Michigan
- Grace Muszynski's neighbor, Robert Kurecki, for healing
- Donna Bredlau & family in the loss of her mom
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
- Barb Brown's friend, Kurt Sklenar, for health concerns
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns
- Dorothy Scholefield for healing
- Mary Tarter for health concerns
- Helen Recktenwald for healing
- Dorothy Allen for health concerns
- Scott Gehle for healing & Jackie Gehle for strength
- Joe Costello for strength

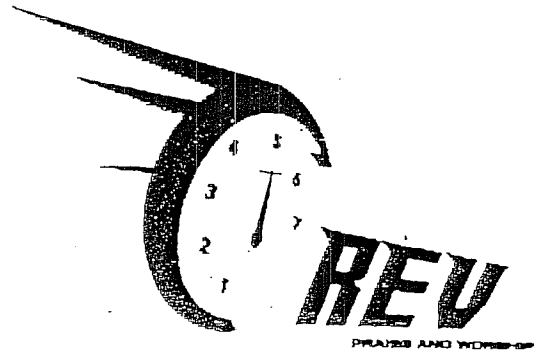
- Christine Fox's mother for health concerns
- Frank Esparza's sister & brother in law, Ruth & Joe-Joe for health concerns
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



MAY 2009 SESSION NOTES

At its regular meeting May 11, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., the Session of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC):

- Opened with prayer by interim pastor, Warren Wiggins
- Approved minutes of Session Mar 9 & Apr 13 with a few changes
- Received clerk's report:
 - communion 3/1 & 4/5 & 5/3 at all 3 services, communion at 9 weekly, communion 4/9 Maundy with Savior Divine, combined Good Friday 4/10 at Savior Divine with no communion
 - Pulpit supply 4/19 Rev. Emily Rosencrans, 4/26 Rev Andrew Rosencrans, 5/3 Rev Linda Wygant
 - Moved Pat Brady to the inactive roll
 - Transferred Mark & Sara Eldridge Esquivel to First Presbyterian Church, Libertyville
 - Received resignation of Adam Schwake as Ruling Elder 5/11
 - Received resignation of Lisa Radetski as chair of Stewardship – Budget – Finance Committee
- Received Treasurer's Report from Karen Hoffman – April giving continued slightly behind expenses for the year (\$-3,594 to date); approved combining Easter offering with One Great Hour of Sharing to make \$2,298 total given to OGHS; assume break-in 4/12 probably brought a loss of \$5,500-6,000 for all funds.
- Received the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee, and
 - approved terms of call to recommend to the congregation,
 - set May 31 at 10:30 to hear candidate Derek Morrison during worship and vote in a meeting to follow (secret ballot)
 - moved all worship 5/31 to 10:30 only (no 9am or 5pm worship)
 - if the call is extended to Rev. Derek Morrison, to vote as a congregation to dismiss the PNC with thanks.
 - if called, set 6/17 as Rev. Morrison's first day, first Sun. 6/21, & 6/7 as Pastor Warren's last Sun. & 6/16 as his last day of employment.
- Board of Deacons: updated cluster lists; decided not to offer rides formally, do as individuals; completed Christian



STAY "REV'D" UP FOR THE SUMMER

The REV worship service will be continuing through the summer months.

Come join us on Sundays at 5 PM in the Sanctuary.

Experience worship in a casual setting, with praise music from our Praise Band and great fellowship. Bring a friend! See ya there!

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009

After REV

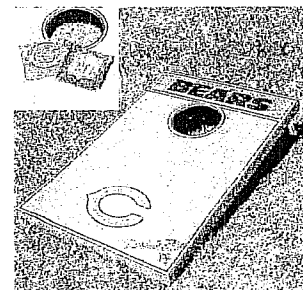
Church Parking Lot

Help raise funds to build a church in Honduras!

\$20.00 Entry Donation- Cash prizes!

We are seeking participants as teams of 2 and donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help or know someone who can?
Contact Debbie Zimmerman (708) 458-1662 or
Angie Simone (708) 638-1054



Caregiving study; talking about Stephen Ministry training with Thursday group, set 5/4 to finish mission-vision-goals

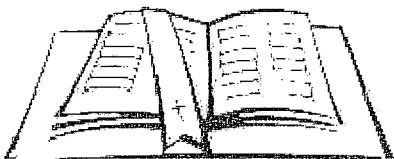
- Committee Reports:

- Stewardship/Finance/Endowment: changed counting process following break-in; approved receiving 1 gift of a safe
- Nominating – will nominate replacement for Adam on Session
- Outreach – Alissa Raschke Janchenko new chair; Gordon Home or Terry Brock new session link; met twice; using ideas from First Pres Chicago; adapted "How to Welcome Visitors;" trimmed 10 goals to 4 SMART goals; defer some ideas to Worship & Music; used "ONE" list from last fall to start inviting participation; have each of 10 members on 2 of 4 goal teams; set chart of 4 goals for teams to report monthly on objectives/tasks; plan nametags for officers (Gordon Home donated cost); reviewed guest information cards; Approved their request of c. \$310 for Street Fair 6/28; Approved \$45 for signs at entry doors.
- Christian Education – cookie sale netted \$470, Recognition Sunday coming 5/17, fall teachers being received, Scot Orsic doing spaghetti packages to replace lost camp money (getting HHPC publicity), Saugatuck up to 17 campers + 2 at mini-camp; no Sunday School during summer but activity packets provided; Rick & Jeni Vogl lead High School Youth in the fall; Junior High potluck with parents 5/21, Arlene Pearson will lead

Women's Bible Study; Young Adults consistent; set goals; exploring tutoring program for fall; Vacation Bible School 6/15-19; making changes in Kids' Club for fall; 2 displays of Knitting Squares; 2 new Prayer Shawls delivered; Family Night great

- Fellowship – no meeting
- Fundraising – Yard Sale May 29-30
- Worship & Music – Communion servers 6/7 – Rick Raschke, Terry Brock, Shirley Brunell, Cheryl Huenecke
- Mission – Kentucky trip 7/11-18 has 42/44 signed up, Honduras doing summer fundraising – Perennials, Hot Dogs, Bean Bag
- NLAAC Oversight – will change form to new format from Presbytery of Chicago for all leases
- New Business
 - Annual Statistics – need help for Shirley – Karen Hoffman
 - "Green" focus starting – recycle bins, less trash
 - Bylaws – still in draft form, but being updated
 - Inquire from family of Summer Del Prete on gym rental
- Pastor Warren: noted work to be done on History, Goals, Good-bye

Closed with group prayers and Lord's Prayer



Young Adult Dust Devotions starting Friday 5/22



“May you be covered in the dust of your Rabbi”

As believers in Christ we are called to walk so closely to Jesus Christ that we should be “Covered in the dust of our Rabbi”. This six week study will be leading us through the life of Christ and events that happened during his time on this earth. We are going to be challenged as well as informed each week.

Come out and join us any Friday that you can. We are also starting to plan summer activities/outings.

We meet every Friday at 6:30 in the library at Hickory Hills Pres. Church.

Any questions please call or ask me at church. We’re looking forward to seeing you on Friday.

Katie Treccani 708-650-6618

Sacrament of Holy Communion- June 7, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
June 7, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Pearson, Hill, Vickers	Dave Delaney
June 14, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Sack, Fogg	Rick Vogl
June 21, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray	Wiggins, Prunty	Scott Zimmerman
June 28, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciamenti, T. Morrell	Maryanne, Lane	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
June 7, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	Gordon Home
June 14, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	Carol Sack
June 21, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	C. Sack, R. Raschke, D. Kibort
June 28, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	Carol Sack

**Communion Servers: Terry Brock, Shirley Brunell, Charley Huenecke, Cheryl Huenecke,
Katie Treccani, Rick Raschke, Harry Zimmerman**

*Love Prayer & Care
of Church family*

*It is because of the kindness
you so freely give,
that makes the world a
nicer place to live.*

Thank You

*for all your prayers
and cards. I really
appreciate it more than
I can stay sincerely:*

Nicole M. K. or K. or K. or K.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

+

First on the agenda was the Cookie Monster Bake Sale, May 10th. The variety of cookies made your head swim in anticipation of what choices to make. Thanks to Jean, Cheryl and Patt for working behind the tables with weighing the cookies and collecting the profits. Thanks to the Jr. High students who volunteered to fill the containers with the homemade goodies after the worship service. A very special thanks to those people who volunteered to set up and take down all the tables. This money will be added to the Saugatuk Camp Scholarships. Thank you to everyone who baked and especially to those who purchased the delicious cookies.

While we were preparing for the Recognition Sunday, we were amazed at how many graduates we will have this year. Congratulations to all those who succeeded to graduate this year. May God bless your next step in life and give you confidence to keep learning. On Recognition Sunday, May 17, we will not only recognize those students who are graduated but recognize those who have perfect attendance for the entire 2008-2009 Sunday School year. We will recognize those who have been diligent in attending the Youth Choir, too. We thank Stacy Flynn, for the fantastic slide show presentation. It is so nice to have the entire congregation see all the wonderful smiling faces of those who participate in the variety of programs we sponsor throughout the year. I hope you had an opportunity to see and hear the children sing. Children from the community joined the Youth Choir to sing one more time for the 10:30 AM worship service.

May 17th is the official end of Sunday classes. Children who attend worship during the summer should stay with their family in worship. May 18th is the last official meeting of the Kids Club. Both activities are scheduled to resume in September at Rally Day.

Scott Orsic and his family have volunteered to make spaghetti dinner for an extra Camp Scholarship fund raiser. Thanks to Scott and his delicious spaghetti sauce, we now have a little extra money to offer the children who are interested in going to camp this summer. See any of the Orsic family if you want to thank them for this act of pure love.

Thank you to Beth Kommenich and Linda Rys for staffing the nursery for most of this month. If there are any children under the age of 3 years, our committee will be willing to stay with them in the nursery while the parents have a time of quiet and peace in the worship service at 10:30 AM. this summer.

There will be a small change in the leadership roles at the Sr.High Youth Group. Hanna Huenecke and Josh Treccani will become the support staff while Jenni and Rick Vogel will be the leaders. The group enjoyed a roller skating party to say good-bye to Kaela and Kara. They played kickball in the park. They viewed the "Passion of Christ" and held a lively discussion afterwards. They attended the "Feed My Starving Children" with the Jr. High Group and they are scheduled to attend the AWOL weekend. Last meeting is scheduled for May 17th.

The Jr. High Youth Group is also having a change in leadership. Adam Schwake is moving to Michigan. Everyone will miss his energy and talents. The group is currently looking for another leader who can be as dynamic and giving as Adam. The group played shoe golf. There has been a large turn-out of 10-20 students at the meetings. The group had a scavenger hunt which took them to all kinds of locations in and around Hickory Hills.

The Women's Bible Study had it's last meeting for this year on May 4th. They had a luncheon

to say THANK YOU to Pat Brady who has served as the discussion leader for the past 5 years. Arlene Pearson has agreed to be the new discussion leader for the 2009-2010 year.

We are making plans to offer tutoring to school age children. Patt Pilgrim is doing some of the ground work to help make this happen. She will be talking to various sources to find out the best way to get this dream off the ground. Hopefully, there will be a program in place for the 2009-2010 school year. Keep watching for additional information as it becomes available.

Planning is underway for the Vacation Bible School. You may notice changes in the decor as we prepare the hallways and rooms for this event. Volunteers to help decorate are always welcome. Talk to Dianne if you wish to help decorate. Vacation Bible School will travel to Australia this year. We welcome Trisha and company to help us learn new songs and teach us lessons designed for this year. Be prepared for a new adventure the week of June 15-19. All children from ages 4 to grade 6 are welcome. There will be a \$6.00 fee at registration and you will need to donate one big bag of cookies which we use at snacktime during the week. We begin at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Parents are welcome come back at the closing around 8:15 PM. We will be in the sanctuary again singing and praising God for his many blessings. Children who are too old to participate in the actual activities are welcome to contact Dianne about being a guide or helper in the craft rooms. We will need adults to act as guides and help with registration, too. Please contact Dianne if you feel you can help in some way. This is one event that your child will be talking about all year long. Don't miss the fun. Join us for the "Boomerang Express", June 15-19, 2009.



KIDS CLUB

KIDS CLUB has ended for another year, but the memories remain as a part of the joy of this school year.

Mark your calendars now - we will be back Monday, September 14th with a new look and new activities. Join us, invite a friend and make a commitment to share Monday afternoons at KIDS CLUB.

Last Minute Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The last-minute spaghetti dinner fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who purchased dinners. We sold 58 dinners netting a profit of \$580.00 that will go directly to our children for Champ Saugatuck scholarships. The following local area businesses also donated, so please frequent these stores as you can.

Jewel (95th & Roberts Road) - \$25.00 gift card

Tony's Finer Foods (87th and Harlem) -

\$20.00 gift card

Brookhaven Marketpleace (County Line Road & I-55) - \$30.00 in meat products

Labriola Bakery - donated all of the bread

Scot Orsic - Prepared the spaghetti sauce

(6 double batches)



Junior High Youth Group

What a wonderful mission day we spent at Feed My Starving children!

- We saw a movie about the poverty in countries in the world that this Christian organization services.
- We packed Chicken, Vegetables, Soy and Rice in packets and sealed them and packed them.
- We went into the warehouse and saw the pallet of food ready for delivery to a country like Haiti to feed children for months.
- We tasted the food and thought it was good.
- We prayed for all who would receive the food.

On May 21 we will have our end of the year family pot luck and say good bye to Adam Schwake. Adam is one of our junior high leaders and he is moving to Farmington Michigan. We will miss him so much. Adam is JH coordinator working with Katie and myself to plan the year's activities. He loves working in the gym and has a million games up his sleeve. Adam is loved by all and has a special gift for leading and relating to the Junior High Group. His enthusiasm and creativity will be missed. He worked hard to increase our group attendance and under his direction our junior high group grew to over 20 junior highs attending on Thursday evenings.

We had a great year with three special events, a retreat in Bloomington, Illinois, a Lock in at the church and a mission day. We played many games made many new friends and discussed Christian ways to deal with real life concerns and problems.

We hope in September all junior Highs will return for another great year. There will be new outings, repeat outings, new games and lessons on life. We pray everyone has a save and fun

summer. See you in September.

God bless you,
Adam, Katie and Patt

Junior High Sunday School

This quarter we concentrated reading and talking about the parables Jesus told and the miracles Jesus performed. We read from Matthew, Mark and Luke in the New Testament of our bibles.

The junior highs made a banner to bring stories from the bible to you. On the banner you will find the following as illustrated by the Junior High class:

- Faith of a Mustard Seed by Natalie
- Calming the Sea by Brittany, Sarah and Leslie
- The Good Samaritan by Emily
- Feeding the 5000 by Halimah
- The Lost or Prodigal son by Kyle
- The Lost Coin by Natasha
- Curing the Leper by Ashley
- The Paraplegic by Alyssia
- The Lost sheep by Stephanie and John
- The Blind man by Tristan and Kaylee

Thank you and God bless all my junior high friends. I have so enjoyed my time with you. Have a wonderful summer. See you in September.

Patt Pilgrim

**YOUTH
TALK**

Music Page



Youth Choir News

The end of winter and view of spring leads us to the end of another Youth Choir Season.

We have worked hard and learned a lot of music again this year. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of kids. Busy high school schedules keep some of them from being with us each and every week, but they are still a regular part of our group that brings in special harmonies and variety that we all can learn from.

Springtime gives us a lot of rain, but out of that comes great beauty in green grass, healthy trees, colorful flowers and sometimes a rainbow.

In our lives, we often times have some tough stuff to deal with. Our Faith in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit gives us hope of a new beginning.

The words of our Anthem this month remind us of that hope. They are here for you to read and enjoy.

The Rainbow of Life

By: Sandy Wilkinson

The rainbow of life will bring sunshine, child of joy, child of joy.

The rainbow of life will bring sunshine, child of joy, child of joy.

Roses bloom, the bluebirds sing; celebrate the gifts of spring.

Praise God for the rainbow of life; Praise God for the rainbow of life.

The rain of the rainbow brings sorrow, child of faith, child of faith.

The rain of the rainbow brings sorrow, child of faith, child of faith.

Grow in faith, grow strong and true; Angel wings will shelter you.

Praise God for the rainbow of life. Praise God for the rainbow of life.

The rainbow of life is before you child of God, child of God.

The rainbow of life is before you, child of God, child of God.

Love and peace be yours, we pray; grow in wisdom day by day.

Praise God for the rainbow of life. Praise God for the rainbow of life.



Congratulations To Our Graduates

*Rachel Brown
 Adam Fox
 Jessica Grisko
 John Kemp
 Brittany Maranto
 Emily Raschke
 Megan Waller
 Kyle Wheeler
 Sarah Swearingen
 Gina Ciametti
 Bryan Ambrosat
 Courtney Freiberg
 Alyssa Gambla
 Amanda Gulotta
 David Hall
 Sam Swearingen
 Mike Swearingen
 Christopher Witek*

*Conrady Junior High
 Conrady Junior High
 Wilkins Junior High
 Martino Junior High
 Conrady Junior High
 Wilkins Junior High
 Conrady Junior High
 Conrady Junior High
 Conrady Junior High
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School
 Argo High School
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School
 Stagg High School*



2009 CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

To 1st/2nd Grade

Hollie Fox
 Evan Grisko
 Kevin Lorenz
 Amani Judeh
 Kayla Wagner

To 3rd/4th Grade

Gabriel Meyer
 Danny Orsic

To 5th Grade

Yasmine Fox
 Joshua Hall
 Petar Ilic
 LeAnne
 Kommenich
 Stacey Lorenz
 Riley McKinney
 Nellie Prunty
 Ashley Smith
 Veronica Swindle

To Junior High

Rebecca Gehle
 Brian Haack

To Senior High

Rachel Brown
 Adam Fox
 Jessica Grisko
 John Kemp
 Brittany Maranto
 Emily Raschke
 Megan Waller
 Kyle Wheeler



It is with pleasure that on this day we give special recognition to the following students. Throughout the year they have made it a priority to be a part of our Sunday morning church school. The consistency and dedication they have shown to this program have helped them grow spiritually as they learned to follow God's way.

We also recognize their parents and give thanks for the assistance they have provided which enabled their child to reach this goal. Children learn from examples. The encouragement and values this group of parents has displayed will help their child set a pattern of life long Christian commitment.

Congratulations to the students receiving this award.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

+

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

for the

2008 - 09 CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR

SARAH SWEARINGEN - Junior High

ANDREW WITEK - Senior High

MIKE SWEARINGEN - Senior High



ALMOST PERFECT ATTENDANCE

For The

2008 -2009 CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR

GABRIELLA CIAMETTI - Senior High

GINA CIAMETTI - Senior High

MATTHEW WITEK - Senior High

RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2009

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRESCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

Debbie Zimmerman

GRADES 1,2

*Noelle Larsen
Jeanette Grisko*

GRADES 3,4

*Sue Orsic
Katie Treccani
Melanie Swindle*

GRADE 5

Linda Lavaretto

JUNIOR HIGH

*Patt Pilgrim
Cindy Treccani*

SENIOR HIGH

*Gordon Home
Lou Pearson
Angie Simone*

ADULT CLASS

Tom Lane

MUSIC

Cheryl Huenecke, Dianne Flynn

ASSISTANT

SUPERINTENDENTS

*Donna Bredlau
Wilda Duncan*

SUPERINTENDENT

Dianne Flynn

JUNIOR HIGH

YOUTH GROUP

*Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani,
Patt Pilgrim*

SENIOR HIGH

YOUTH GROUP

*Hanna Huenecke, Josh Treccani,
Noelle Larsen, Mitch Huenecke
Jeni Vogl, Rick Vogl*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pat Brady

*YOUNG ADULT BIBLE
STUDY*

Katie Treccani

STAMPERS

Ruth Hill

PRAYER SHAWL

MINISTRY

Linda Lavaretto

SMALL GROUP STUDY

*Rick Vogl
Patt Pilgrim*

KIDS CLUB STAFF

*Shannon Bastien
Marilyn Betterton
Cheryl Huenecke
Linda Lavaretto
Grace Muszynski
Patt Pilgrim
Debbie Zimmerman
Student Assistants
Leslie Ambrosat
Jarett Ambrosat
Brittany Maranto
Sam Swearingen
Sarah Swearingen
Megan Zimmerman*

Director - Dianne Flynn

NURSERY STAFF

*Sarah Adams
Lori Haack
Beth Kommenich
Carri McKinney
Linda Rys*

YOUTH CHOIR STAFF

*Diane Ciametti
Dianne Flynn
Cheryl Huenecke
Jean Swearingen*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**

*Shannon Bastien
Donna Bredlau
Jeanette Grisko
Cheryl Huenecke
Linda Lavaretto
Patt Pilgrim
Debbie Raschke
Jean Swearingen
Sam Swearingen
Cindy Treccani
Debbie Zimmerman
Chairperson - Dianne Flynn*

Just a Reminder



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday through Friday
June 15 - 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Special Guests - Tricia and Company

TALK ABOUT ADVENTURE!!!

Mark your calendars
And tell your kids to invite their friends!!!

Vacation Bible School - A Week Not to be Missed!!

For a week kids from our church and community will join together for "Boomerang Express - It All Comes back to Jesus". Pack your gear, prepare to take a thrilling ride across the land down under. As kids wind their way across Australia, they'll discover the vastness of God's love, and learn that no matter where they go or what they do in life - it all comes back to Jesus. Our five day adventure includes story and discussion time, crafts, recreation, snacks and music.

This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6. .

Cost for this week of fun is \$6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time. Call the church office (598-3100) to register.

Make a "Zoo Treat"



You will need:

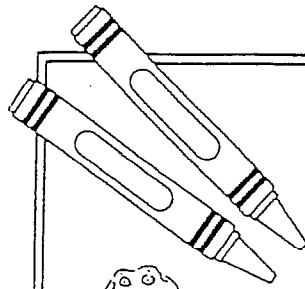
- ⊙ a medium bowl
- ⊙ a mixing spoon
- ⊙ sandwich bags with zip tops
- ⊙ measuring cups

Mix:

- 1/2 C. raisins
- 1/2 C. round candy-coated chocolate candies (M&M's)
- 1 C. peanuts
- 2 C. animal crackers (graham or plain)

Mix all together in a bowl. Put in bags to take with you.

Enjoy!



Just for KIDS



Let's Take a Trip!

Imagine that you are visiting a zoo in biblical times. What kind of animals would you find?

Unscramble the letters below to find some biblical animals. Check the verses to check your answers.

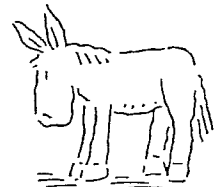


- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| _____ pae | _____ ntlaoepe |
| _____ atb | _____ lcmae |
| _____ dnyoke | _____ eplorad |
| _____ gfor | _____ roshe |
| _____ wlo | _____ aotg |
| _____ brae | _____ eder |
| _____ xo | _____ zirald |
| _____ otksr | _____ gzleael |
| _____ niol | _____ yearh |
| _____ art | _____ eswale |
| _____ whak | _____ hesep |
| _____ mra | _____ iepgno |
| _____ dveo | _____ aclett |



- Deuteronomy 14:3-5
- Deuteronomy 14:15-18
- Genesis 12:16
- Genesis 15:9
- Isaiah 13:22
- Leviticus 11:29-30

- 1 Kings 10:22
- 1 Samuel 17:34
- Genesis 22:3
- Genesis 47:17
- Revelation 13:2
- Exodus 8:3



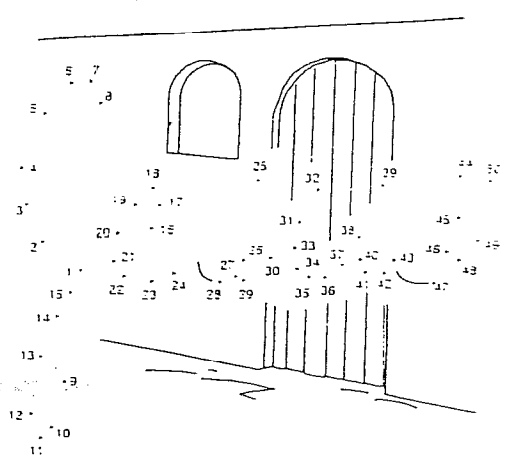
Unscramble the words below. Write the words on the numbered lines.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1. LA | SITV |
| 2. H | H |
| 3. EAR | SIP |
| 4. TH | EBLS |
| 5. WI | FO |
| 6. OD | |

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

The disciples were in a room together. The door was locked. Suddenly someone was with them!

CONNECT THE DOTS



JUNE 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting	3 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	4 8:00 p.m. Handbells	5 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	6
7 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	8 7:30 p.m. Session	9 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	10 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir	11 8:00 p.m. Handbells	12 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	13 8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds
14 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social July Newsletter Articles Due	15 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Outreach	16 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	17 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:30 p.m.	18 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:30 p.m.	19 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	20
21 <u>Father's Day</u> 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	22 7:30 p.m. Deacons	23 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	24 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	25	26 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	29	30 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care				

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 – Lisa Radetski
2 – Ed Zabelka
3 – Ivy Taebel
3- Mark Gulotta
4- Trevor Hepburn
6- Driton Semani
8 – Barbara Monczynski
8- Alyssa Gambla
9 – Kathie Anderson
11 – Candice Schwake
11- Katelin Wheeler
12- Amanda Swindle
14 – Cheryl Huenecke
14 – Alvin Swearingen
15 – Ryan Krueger
15 – Samuel Shaeffer
16 – Karen Hoffman
16 – Joseph Koch
19 – Bob Nordstrom
20 – Leonard Van Vossen
23 – Roger Patterson
23 – Mary Richer
23- Megan Zimmerman
25 – Stephen Matke
27 - Linda Lavaretto
29 – Hanna Huenecke
29 - Thomas M. Morrell
29 – Joe Simone

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...
708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to:
newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org
and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #12 BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455
--

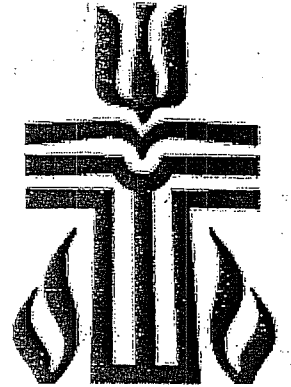
Dated Material

Do Not Hold



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



JULY 2009

From the Pastoral Nominating Committee

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

In November of 2007, seven members of this congregation were elected into a sacred trust to embark on a process of spiritual discernment to find God's direction for us in the next phase of our ministry.

In the hands of a few, you placed your trust, loyalty, prayer and faith. In return, we vowed to put forth significant time, energy, wisdom, and a desire to find the person that God has called to move Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church forward.

We knew it wouldn't be easy. Most of us were unfamiliar with the process, and wrestled with internal questions. Were we adequate enough to perform such a daunting task? Were we willing to give the time? The energy? The effort? What would the congregation think of the new pastor once introduced?

Over the months, as we built trust and fellowship, the process of discernment gained more clarity. We constantly reminded ourselves of what qualities the congregation wanted in a pastor, and how each candidate would fair in meeting those needs.

After reviewing nearly 200 Personal Information Forms (PIF's) of candidates from nearly all geographic areas of the country, male and female, different levels of experience, education, theological ideology and leadership skills; listening to taped recordings of sermon's, viewing sermons online, conducting conference call conversations, having face to face interviews, and having pulpit observations in nearby churches we knew God had led us to Rev. Derek Morrison.

Throughout the process, we experienced just about every emotion: hesitation, anxiety, frustration, indecisiveness, sadness, anger, worry, laughter and best of all joy as we came to realize God had led us to Rev. Derek Morrison.

We are very pleased to announce the return of a favorable congregational vote, to issue a call to Derek Morrison as Pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

Derek was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he lived through his high school years. After completing his engineering apprenticeship, he lived and worked in various parts of Scotland. Before being called to serve Christ, Derek was an engineer for 21 years for W.L. Gore and Associates (Gore-Tex), in England and in Newark, Delaware.

Derek came to know Christ as his savior through the ministry of a local Presbyterian Church in Newark, as well as the witness of some of his fellow workers who were committed believers.

After his conversion, Derek became very involved in ministries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Newark. The Lord slowly convinced him to return to Scotland to witness to his two daughters, and that is where he met his present wife, Loraine. They were married and two years later their daughter Ruth was born.

Although Derek and his wife were active in the Charlotte Baptist Chapel in Edinburgh, the Lord convinced him to resign from his business position and pursue theological education, with a view of entering full-time Christian service. Derek attended seminary in Northern Ireland and in St. Louis, Missouri. After earning his Master's in Theology from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, Derek accepted his first call at St. James Presbyterian in New Brunswick, Canada.

He joins us most recently from Westminster Presbyterian in Yakima, Washington. Prior to his interim position in Washington, Derek served in numerous capacities in several churches in Manteno, Illinois; Baxter Springs, Kansas; Springfield, Missouri; and as a pastoral intern at Olive Branch Presbyterian in St. Louis, Missouri. Although challenging at times, Derek believes that the longer he serves, the more he is aware of the Grace of God in his life, and the confirmation of His call to serve Him in a leadership role in His Church.

Aside from his pastoral calls, Derek has performed numerous other services, including being a member of the Administrative Commission of John Calvin Presbytery, a faculty member for Lay Pastor training in the John Calvin Presbytery, and President of the Baxter Springs Ministerial Alliance.

Derek believes strongly in the principles of the Reformed Faith through conviction, and has very strong skills in preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and visitation. His leadership style centers on relationship building, as well as equipping and training members to use their gifts to take part in the leadership of their church through committee membership or ordained office. Derek has extensive experience and loves teaching adult Sunday school, yet loves children and relates well to all age groups; he has initiated ALPHA courses, inner city children's ministries, pre-school and young family programs. In addition to his pastoral skills and experience, Derek brings with him a strong business background, including a high degree of administrative, organizational, human resource, conflict management, and management skill.

It is the strong belief of the PNC that Derek's gifts, personality, and experience are ideal to move us forward.

Lastly, the PNC wishes to thank you and pay gratitude for your unwavering prayers and patience during the entire process. It certainly provided a continued impetus for us to discern God's call. To God be the Glory.

HHPC Pastoral Nominating Committee

PRAYER & CARE

“When the people willingly offer themselves-
Praise the Lord!” Judges 5:2

Are we willing to offer ourselves in the library on Wednesdays at 9:00 am? To uphold others in prayer is such an easy ministry. We are to follow Christ by imitating His life, obeying His commands, and praying. See you on Wednesday morning...

Love ‘N’ Hugs,
Arlene

TWILIGHT PRAYER

If we lived in a perfect world, would we need prayer? I totally leave that decision to you. We find ourselves in an imperfect world my friend, and our circumstances are not noticeably improving. Help we do need! He listens, He cares, He loves you, He lives today. Join us if you please. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with the Indoor Yard Sale. All the monies raised will go to help defray costs for the Kentucky Mission Trip.

We were able to raise \$3600 with everyone’s help.

The Spring Flower Sale was also a successful event for us. We were able to raise \$1200. This money will go to help with camp scholarships.

HONDURAS FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who helped in any way by purchasing perennials, or eating the hot dogs that were sold the day of the Yard Sale. We were able to raise \$1650 which will go to help build a church in Honduras.

Please continue to help support our BBQ sales after 10:30 church services this summer. Keep your eyes and taste buds open for future dates.

MAY 2009 Treasurer’s Report

General Fund Income
\$22,730.00

General Fund Disbursements
\$16,994.37

General Fund Balance
\$2,142.00

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS ***Please Pray For:***

- The family of Ron Robison, in his loss
- The family of Dave Flegel in his loss
- Sue & Scott Orsic and family in the loss of his father
- The family of Chad & Christopher Miller in their loss
- Debbie Zimmerman’s mother, Carolyn, for health concerns
- Larry Haack’s father, Bill, for health concerns
- Rev. Muriel Miller for healing
- Rene Meyer and kids- concern for father and grandfather
- Carolyn Watson for healing
- John Morgucz for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
- Carol Sack’s sister, Ruth, for health concerns
- Mary Tarter for health concerns
- Helen Recktenwald for healing
- Dorothy Allen for health concerns
- Joe Costello for strength
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- Tasha Swindle’s friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen’s battle



BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

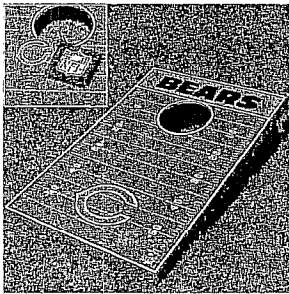
Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009
After REV
Church Parking Lot

Help raise funds to build a church in Honduras!

\$20.00 Entry Donation- Cash prizes!

We are seeking participants as teams of 2 and donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help or know someone who can?
Contact Debbie Zimmerman (708) 458-1662 or
Angie Simone (708) 638-1054



JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Let's finish the "Lessons of Jesus" Banner!

Junior highs that worked on a square for the "Lessons of Jesus" banner, but did not complete attaching all of the parts to the story they were illustrating, can finish in the Junior High Sunday school room during church over the next few weeks.

Once the banner is finished, we can hang it up. Many thanks to all junior highs involved in this project for your creativity and hard work. It looks great!

Stories that may not yet be completed are:

- Faith of a Mustard Seed
- Calming the Sea
- The Good Samaritan
- The Lost or Prodigal son
- The Lost Coin
- Curing the Leper
- The Paraplegic
- The Lost sheep
- The Blind man

Have a great summer! Class will start again in September. Check out the Junior High Youth group article for a summer outing.

Patt Pilgrim



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Mark Your Calendars for:

Friday, August 14, 2009

for a return trip to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.

We will be leaving the church at 1:30 PM and will work from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. We will stop for a snack at McDonald's afterward, before returning to Hickory Hills around 5:30 or 6:00 PM.

We went there in May of this year and had a great time filling plastic bags with dried food consisting of chicken, vegetables, soy and rice.

The sealed packets are packed by us and sent to relief organizations in any one of 60 countries around the world.

The relief organization adds water and cooks up the packets and serves them to children they service in their country. Haiti is one of the countries that they service where there are many starving children.

This is a Christian organization doing a worthwhile service, but is dependent on volunteers to package and pack the food. It is a rewarding way to spend an afternoon. Hope we see you there!!!

Anyone interested in going, please contact Katie or Patt or call the church at 708-598-3100.

God bless you,
Katie and Patt

A NOBLER SONG . . .

by G. R. Snow

As it is July and we are in the throes of patriotic observances, with appropriate hymns and celebratory music, it may be appropriate to remember some of the origins of great national hymns—our own, and others'. One of those multi-application hymns is "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", and in our own congregation the tune's multi-national significance was emphasized when I had played some of the Charles Ives variations on the tune and one Canadian citizen approached me after the service thanking me for playing "God Save the Queen" for her. While it was a running joke between us for a few years, with each of us fully cognizant of the dual nature of the piece, nevertheless it may be important to realize that the song we learn in grade school (at least, I did—I don't know whether children still do) has a completely different significance to residents of past or present environs of the Commonwealth of Great Britain.

Some of us know the origins of the tune we know to the great text "The Star Spangled Banner". This was originally of much more humble origins before a nobler song was made of it—like many rousing songs which are part of our heritage, it was a drinking song entitled "Anacreon in Heaven." As mentioned at the ice-cream social, "Yankee Doodle" was originally a taunting song conceived by the British to poke fun at the (in their minds) crude rebels, but with typical American ingenuity the rebels adopted it as a marching song and composed many, many more verses (I encountered one version which listed twenty-seven verses telling about a young boy's visit to the bluecoats' military camp, including seeing a cannon fired and meeting Captain Washington).

Lest any should believe that the borrowing of folk songs and hymns for use as military and patriotic goes only one way, let me assure you this is not so. The great Irish bards' song "The Minstrel Boy" became a hymn extolling the saving power of the crimson blood of the Lamb. "Deutschland, Deutschland, über alles" appears in our hymnal as "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken", and the great Russian Hymn appears in many American hymnals as "God the Omnipotent". And, of course, various folk songs from the Isles appear with contemporary American hymntexts, including "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (to the tune for "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon") and the Londonderry Air, which has had so many texts set to it that one loses track. The gentle Scots folksong

"Jon Anderson, my Jo" became a political satire against John Adams. "Greensleeves" became "What Child Is This"; the Welsh "The Ash Grove" became "To You, Lord, We Are Bringing A Song of Thanksgiving". American folk songs meet the same fate, as seen by the metamorphosis of "I Am Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" into the American gospel song "Great Speckled Bird".

Research into the first known church service in Marion County, Iowa (where I grew up; the service was held at the home of my great-great-great-grandfather), revealed that a hymn sung there was "Oh, Brothers, Will You Meet Me On Canaan's Happy Shore?" Imagine my surprise when I discovered it in an ancient and crumbling hymnal of my great-aunt's, to the tune we know as "Battle Hymn Of The Republic"! Many of us if asked could cite other texts for this tune, including "John Brown's Body" (and its parody which makes me cringe, "John Brown's Baby").

Obviously this is not an exhaustive list, and I am very afraid I would bore tremendously if I tried to compile such a list. But let us also remember that certain pieces which are rousing patriotic hymns were actually composed as such, including "God Bless America," written at the request of the celebrated soprano Kate Smith by composer Irving Berlin. She asked him for a song; when he brought it to her, she said, "You haven't written me a song. You've written me a new national anthem." And how many fireworks displays would be complete without a recording of this beloved American musical icon performing the piece written for her?

BRAIN TEASER: Which of the following lines appear in the "Star-Spangled Banner" text (remember, there are four verses!)? From what patriotic songs or hymns do the others come?

1. Our fathers' God, to thee...
2. O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand...
3. No refuge can save the hireling and slave...
4. Our fathers, chained in prisons dark...
5. In full glory reflected now shines on the stream...
6. Who more than self their country loved...
7. It was he who drew the fire of the enemy...
8. Make him one of America's best...
9. Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam
10. "Roderick vich Alpine, dhu, o! ieroe!"
11. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way...
12. Between their loved homes and the war's desolation
13. To shape our dreams, our destinies...
14. And ring through all the trees sweet freedom's song..
15. Thy mandates make tyranny tremble...
16. The thistle, shamrock, rose entwine...
17. A home and a country would leave us no more...
18. Stand beside her and guide her...
19. Our faith in mankind and the right!
20. And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

We are looking ahead to Rally Day on September 13. Therefore the discussion on people available and willing to take one or more Sunday School classes came up during the meeting. If you are interested in working with the children, please contact Dianne. She is in need of teachers for all three of the Sunday School quarters. She is especially interested in someone to work the first quarter, September to November. A teacher's meeting is scheduled for September 1st during the regular CE meeting at 7:30 PM. Teachers need to attend to pick up their curriculum and discuss the variety of resources available to them.

New and interesting changes have been made to the activities of Kids Club. It is scheduled to begin on September 14. Children will have more choices this year. There is time set aside for cooking, knitting, games, computer, and stories along with the favorites of snacks, gym games and crafts. The children who attend will still have a time for Christian Learning and songs. Thanks to Lou Pearson for designing a new brochure for us. Kids Club begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00 PM.

Immediately following Kids Club is the Youth Choir. Children who join the Youth Choir are treated to dinner. The Youth Choir learns new songs, harmony and even some elementary note reading. These children perform for the congregation on scheduled Sunday worship services. Children in the Youth Choir are expected to come to the practices each week and perform on the scheduled Sundays.

Patt Pilgrim is heading the task force for the new tutoring program at the Church. She is in the process of connecting with the local elementary schools. She plans to have tutoring offered to children in grades K- 2. There will

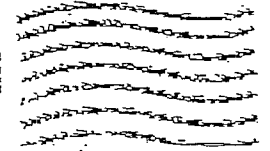
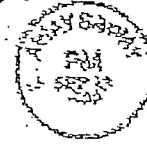
be opportunities for these young children to have stories read to them as well as a time to use puppets and their imaginations as they make stories for the group. School age children will have adults available to help them with homework activities and build reading skills. Patt plans to staff the tutoring program with people 3 days a week. If you are someone who can help in this new endeavor please contact Patt Pilgrim.

Well, the decorations are up. The children are registering for a week of adventure as we travel to Australia with Tricia and company. The group leaders are assembled and ready to guide their children as we travel through the church on our adventure. Thank you to Scott for the magnificent lighthouse. Thank you to all the people who volunteered hours to decorate the rooms. A special thanks to the ladies and their helpers who are going to teach us new and exciting crafts. Thank you to our favorite ladies in the gym who planned the recreation games we enjoy so much. June 15-19 looks like a very memorable week for everyone who attends. Hope you can be a part of this very special program.

A huge thank you to the people who donated to the emergency fund raiser for Camp Scholarships. More children who enjoy your loving kindness now have an opportunity to go to camp. Thank you to the several people who have anonymously donated money to Camp Scholarships. The children who received their scholarship money will enjoy new experiences and lifetime of memories, thanks to you.



Write to Our Children at Camp This Summer



This is the information needed to send mail to our HHPC campers. Camp mail is delayed so please mail early. We recommend no later than July 20th for Mission Council 8 discovery and Adventure camp.

The format to use is:

Presbyterian Camps
Child's Name (Specify MC8 Discovery or MC8 Jr. High)
631 Perryman Street
Saugatuck MI 49453

Every child appreciates mail while away from home.

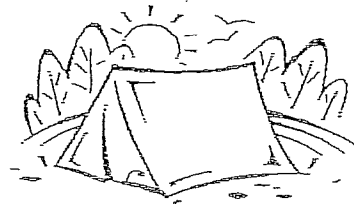
Thank you for taking the time to let them know you care.

Please remember NO FOOD is allowed - it invites unwelcome critters.

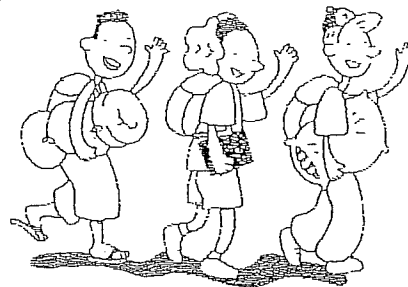
Discovery 11
Mission Council 8
August 2 - August 8

Yasmine Fox
Jenah Fox
Petar Ilic
LeAnne Kommenich
Stacey Lorenz
Riley McKinney
Nellie Prunty
Veronica Swindle

Mini Camp
June 23 - 27
Eamonn Prunty
Danny Orsic



CAMP SAUGATUCK



Adventure Camp 11
August 2 - August 8

Leslie Ambrosat
Tristan Grisko
Gessica Grisko
Alyssia Kommenich
Brittany Maranto
Ashley Maranto
Natalie Orsic
Halimah Prunty
Natasha Swindle
Kyle Zimmerman

Sacrament of Holy Communion- July 5, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
July 5, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke		Dave Delaney
July 12, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman		Rick Vogl
July 19, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray		Scott Zimmerman
July 26, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell		Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
July 5, 2009	Susan Frangella		Carol Sack
July 12, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman		Carol Sack
July 19, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal		C. Sack, G. Ciametti, D. Kibort
July 26, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell		Carol Sack

Communion Servers: Terry Brock, Chris Maranto, Patt Pilgrim, Rick Raschke, Harry Zimmerman



JULY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	2	3 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	6	7 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	9	10 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	11 Kentucky Mission Trip Departs
12 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV Aug. Newsletter Articles Due	13	14 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	16	17 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	18 Kentucky Mission Trip Returns
19 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship Honduras Fundraiser Hot Dog Cookout during Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	20 7:30 p.m. Session	21 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:00 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	23	24 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	25 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
26 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	30	31	

July Birthdays

July 1 – Kaylee Rys
2 – Anne Pasquarella
4 – Robert Swindle
6 – Toni Kenealy
7 – Theodore Atiedu
7 – Gabriella Ciametti
8- Joann Jackson
8 – Elaine Molenaar
8 – Becky Kusina
11 – Hannah Bentley
11- Hannah Bianchi
13 – Gessica Grisko
15 – Nellie Prunty
18 – Matthew Moore
19 – Andy Betterton
22 – Dianne Flynn
22 – Lucy Dumke
23 – Diane Ciametti
23 – Richard Anderson
23- Brooke Bianchi
23 – Justin Rellinger
24 – Jack Costello
26- Michael Crowley
27 – Cindy Treccani
28 – Eleanor Watson
29 – Carri McKinney
31 – Jared Anderson

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

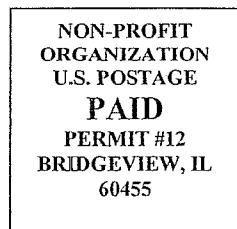
*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457



**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



AUGUST 2009

From your Pastor We are on a Journey

I have vivid memories as a child, of travelling on railway trains to the various places where we spent our vacations, usually somewhere near the sea. I was full of excitement and anticipation as we boarded the train, which was pulled along by, what seemed to me at that time, a huge iron monster that belched smoke and steam as we sped along. We usually departed from the main terminal in Edinburgh, Scotland, called “Waverly Station” which was the point of origin for trains going to many different destinations. The trains were usually packed with people when we left the station, with many people standing in the corridor, who would ask those in seats “where are you traveling to?” in the hope that they would get a seat if that person was not travelling to the final destination. We would make many stops on our journey and at each station, some people would get off, whilst others boarded for the next part of the journey. Those who were still standing would rush to get a seat before the new people came on board, but usually by the time we got to our final destination everyone had a seat and all was calm.

You know, churches are somewhat like those trains in some respects, as pastors and people join them and leave them, all under the sovereign control of God who has already planned the Journey for us before the beginning of time. We sometimes get anxious when changes take place in leadership and membership, but we must take reassurance from God’s Word as we embark upon the next part of the journey which God has planned for us, and face it with excitement and anticipation as I did, as a child standing on the platform ready to board the train.

Let us reflect briefly on *1 Peter 2: 9-12*:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

Verses 9 – 10 reassures us that God has chosen us both as individuals , but also as a people “holy”, set apart to praise Him for showing us mercy, in taking us from the darkness of our self-centered lives to the light of life in Christ. This is the starting point of our Journey. God has put us on the right tracks and is at the head of the train taking us to our final destination.

Verses 11 – 12 presents us with a challenge by first saying we are strangers (or the older term “sojourners”) in the world. This means that our life on earth is only a short part in life eternal for those who have turned to Christ in faith and repentance, and we must reflect His light to those in the world around us by our conduct in front of them.

We have nothing to fear as we join together for the next part of our Journey and strive to show Christ's love to those around us, so they too, will want to join us and share in the exciting plans God has already laid out for us.

In Christ's Service,

Derek Morrison

Sermon Titles - August 2009

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Am Services</u>
2	Don't Be Afraid! Rev. 1:9-20
9	Fall Back in Love! Rev. 2:1-7
16	Poor Yet Rich? Rev. 28-11
23	Repent Now! Rev. 2:12-17
30	Hold Onto Christ! Rev. 2:18-29

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Rev Services</u>
2	Running From God Jonah 1:1-17
9	Fickle Man – Faithful God Jonah 2:1-10
16	A Compassionate Judge Jonah 3:1-10
23	Gods Way – Not Mans Way Jonah 4:1-11
30	Defend the Faith! Jude 1-14

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Prayer is a gift not a given.
Prayer is a blessing to share with others.
Prayer is a life line when your boat is sinking.
Prayer is a request from the heart.
Prayer is a call from you that only you can make.
Prayer is a

Join us Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 PM.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

“I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it...” Revelation 3:8

Although the above may need to be clarified, please pay attention to the words “open door.” HHPC has an open door policy and so do the prayer groups. We are not committees but we are community. With all that is going on in the world (which should bring us to our knees), where are you?

Come. Wednesdays. 9:00 AM
Love “N” Hugs, Arlene



THANK YOU to all in this congregation who supported me in The Midway Relay for Life.

The event was Friday night 7 pm thru 7 am Saturday morning.

So far this year, I have raised \$900 for The American Cancer Society.

Thank you again,
Beverly Kahn

JUNE 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income: \$14,504.00

General Fund Disbursements: \$16,945.00

Financial Statements are being prepared and mailed reflecting offerings for the first six months of 2009.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has been busy! In June, we had a table at the Hickory Hills Street Fair, where church volunteers handed out pencils, ice water and information about all that HHPC has to offer! It was a great day of fellowship with each other and a fun way to get out into the community.

You might also have noticed some of the congregation sporting name tags at Sunday services. The Outreach Committee asked Elders, Deacons and members of the Outreach Committee to start wearing the tags, in hopes that in the future we can expand to other committees and eventually all members.

We've also been working on getting a set plan in place for following up with visitors to HHPC. More information will be coming about that, but in the mean time, a kind "hello" will do wonders for making visitors feel welcome.

The Outreach Committee has lots of ideas in the works, so look for more information in the coming months about opportunities to help spread the word about HHPC. Have ideas, comments or suggestions for us? Just e-mail outreach@hickoryhillspres.org.

MORE FROM OUTREACH...

Outreach is looking for a few good people!

Are you friendly, outgoing, like to talk to others? If so, the outreach committee could use your help. We are looking for people to be greeters (**not** ushers) and/or to make contact with visitors via letters, cards or phone calls.

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact : Gordon Home 708-599-8339, Cheryl Huenecke 708-598-2342 or Cindy Treccani 708-636-2237.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For:

- Frank Esparza's sister and her husband for health concerns
- Families dealing with Burr Oak Cemetery
- Dorothy Scholefield for continued healing

-Coz & Francine Costello & family in their loss of Joe

-Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns

-Debbie Zimmerman's mother, Carolyn, for health concerns

-Renee Meyer and kids- concern for father and grandfather

-John Morgucz for health concerns

-Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns

-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns

-Dorothy Allen for health concerns

-Jim Kupka for healing

-Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia

-People experiencing hard times/ job loss

-Our service men and women and their families

-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009

After REV

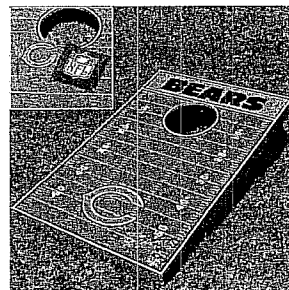
Church Parking Lot

Help raise funds to build a church in Honduras!

\$20.00 Entry Donation- Cash prizes!

We are seeking participants as teams of 2 and donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help or know someone who can?
Contact Debbie Zimmerman (708) 458-1662 or
Angie Simone (708) 638-1054



Hymning and Hawing

3 & 3 & 3 equal 729...

by G. R. Snow

How well I recall mathematical brain-teasers like the one above posed by imaginative math teachers saying “Arrange the three threes in a mathematical equation so they will equal 729.” We all know that $3+3+3=9$, and $3 \times 3 \times 3=27$. The required formula turned out to be $(3 \times 3)^3$, or nine to the third power—in other words, nine times nine times nine, which gives you the elusive 729. But you needed to be careful about how you set up the equation, because you could over-achieve—you could produce the formula $((3)^3)^3$, which would give you three raised to the third power, or 27, raised again to the third power ($27 \times 27 \times 27$, or 19,683). Such is the power of three little threes!

In a memorable lecture by a professor at Iowa Wesleyan University, which two days later I had to recapitulate to a professor at Illinois Wesleyan University, I learned of the overtone series and how hitting a pitch creates one primary harmonic plus many higher overtones, and when two pitches are sounded together the number of overtones produced is more than the sum of the overtones produced by the two individual pitches when sounded singly. If you sounded four pitches together, the number of overtones created boggles the mind, and with the addition of any pitch a geometrically greater number occurs. And now, lest some readers be yawning and laying the column aside out of sheer boredom, let me tie this to the concept of our choir, not solely based on the number of pitches sung at one time by the assembled group.

If twelve singers meet to rehearse, you would logically expect four times the enthusiasm, four times the energy, four times the work done that you would have if only three meet—right? Well, I have to tell you (and most of you have already figured it out)—our choir defies logic. If three people meet, and then a fourth shows up, it seems like the energy and enthusiasm double. Another appears—and it seems to double again. When we have eight appear for rehearsal on a Wednesday night, it seems like there’s a lot more power there than any eight people ought to be able to generate. When twelve show up for practice before service on a Sunday morning, it seems that miracles occur. And when we have sixteen, the rocks break, the mountains shout, and the song of redemption resounds through our church. The sheer energy makes it seem that our choir loft is bursting at the seams, and not because it’s too small for the number of people in it—it’s too small a space for the amount of energy in it.

The message behind all this philosophy (some might call it hyperbole)? Every person in our choirs is important, and that applies to our senior choir, our handbell choir, our junior choir, and in fact every other group in our church as well. If people come home from work and are exhausted, and say, “I just can’t make it to choir practice tonight,” it’s excusable, it’s understandable, but it impacts every member of the choir. And, when the member makes the extra effort and comes to choir, not only is the effort sincerely appreciated by the choir members and their director, but the presence of that one person seems to double the energy and enthusiasm in the rehearsal, and often a great deal more gets accomplished.

This is especially important to consider as we begin choir rehearsals again. Senior choir rehearsals will start the first Wednesday of September, with our first musical offering on Rally Day. Handbell choir will begin rehearsing on the first Thursday following Rally Day, and junior choir members will receive notice from Dianne and Cheryl about starting rehearsals. (If you know of anyone who is interested in singing or playing, and the directors don’t know about them, please let one of us know about them!) Each singer or player can approach rehearsal commitment with one of two attitudes. One person says, “Well, I don’t need to go tonight, I know the anthem, I read music well, and I’ll be fine Sunday morning.” The other person says, “Yes, I read music well and I can work out the part on my own, but I gain a lot of enthusiasm from going to practice and singing with the others in the choir, and to be honest I think they gain something from my being there too.” And so that person goes, even though he or she has had an absolutely rotten day at work, and comes home even tired—but it’s a “good tired”, a “tired” that lets him/her drop off to sleep at night feeling good about the fact that he/she was there.

So, how about coming to choir practice???

BRAIN TEASER: The brain teaser last month proved so popular that I’ve done one of phrases from familiar hymns, largely taken from second, third, and fourth verses. See if you can figure out all the hymns!

1. Till from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height . . .
2. The Lord has promised good to me . . .
3. Your loosened tongues employ . . .
4. I would fain from this spot of my childhood . . .
5. Precious Savior, still our refuge . . .
6. Sinner, do you love my Jesus? . . .
7. Its shame and reproach gladly bear . . .
8. His rage we can endure, for lo! His doom is sure . . .
9. Finish, then, Thy new creation . . .
10. God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die . . .

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Aug. 2, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Aug. 2, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Bredlau, Lavaretto	Dave Delaney
Aug. 9, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Muszynski, Delaney	Rick Vogl
Aug. 16, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray	Rehbock, Fogg	Scott Zimmerman
Aug. 23, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciarnetti, T. Morrell	Vickers, Kahn	Terry Brock
Aug. 30, 2009	S. Zimmerman	Pettis	Lisa Radetski
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
Aug. 2, 2009	Susan Frangella		Carol Sack
Aug. 9, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman		C. Sack, R. Raschke
Aug. 16, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal		C. Sack, D. Kibort
Aug. 23, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell		C. Sack, A. Simone
Aug. 30, 2009	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski		

Communion Servers: Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rev. Derek Morrison's Installation Service

SUNDAY, AUG. 23, 2009- 2:30 pm

The Elders are inviting you to attend Rev. Morrison's Installation Service at HHPC.

Members of the Presbytery of Chicago will be conducting the service. Be there to witness our Pastor's Installation.

RALLY DAY 2009

Sunday, Sept. 13- 10:30 am

Beginning of our Church School Year

KID'S CLUB begins

Monday, Sept. 14- 3:30 pm

For kids age 5- grade 6

YOUTH CHOIR begins

Monday, Sept. 14- 5:15 pm

For kids and youth in grades 1-12

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins

Sunday, Sept. 13- 6:30 pm

For youth grades 9-12

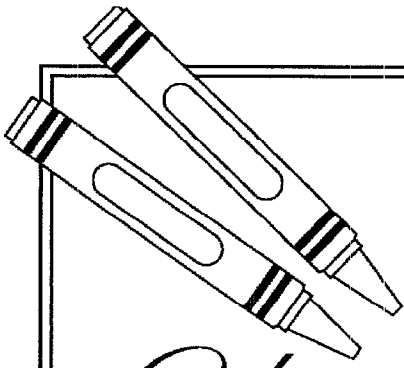
JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins

Thursday, Sept. 17- 6:30 pm

For youth grades 6-8

AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	3	4 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	5 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	6	7 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	8 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
9 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Honduras Bean Bag Tournament Sept. Newsletter Articles Due	10 7:30 p.m. Session	11 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	12 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	13	14 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	15
16 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	17 7:00 p.m. Outreach	18 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	19 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:30 p.m. Installation Service 4:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons	25 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	26 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	27	28 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	29
30 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	31					



Just for **KIDS**

Upon your hearts

The Bible is the perfect guidebook for living God-pleasing lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (NIV) tells us how to remember the Scriptures.

Use the picture clues and Word Bank below to finish the verses.

WORD BANK

children	road
commandments	sit
down	Talk
foreheads	Tie
hands	up
hearts	walk
home	



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



“These (1) _____ that I give you today
 are to be upon your (2) _____. Impress them on your
 (3) _____. (4) _____ about them when you
 (5) _____ at (6) _____ and when you (7) _____
 along the (8) _____, when you lie (9) _____ and when
 you get (10) _____. (11) _____ them as symbols on
 your (12) _____ and bind them on your
 (13) _____.”

Answers: (1) commandments; (2) hearts; (3) children; (4) Talk; (5) sit; (6) home; (7) walk;
 (8) road; (9) down; (10) up; (11) Tie; (12) hands; (13) foreheads

August Birthdays

August 1 – Anthony Lavaretto
1 – Patricia Pilgrim
2 – Jennifer DiFoggio
2 – Susan Beal Frangella
2- Jeni Vogl
3- Shannon Bastien
5 – Carolyn Watson
5 – Gary Tesinsky
5 – Dave Ulrich
6- Ashley Maranto
10 – Jimmy Kupka
11 – Gertrude Vickers
12 – David Semani
12 – Don Rys
13 – Agnes Davidson
14 – Tia Del Prete
17 – Paul Bredlau
18 – Jimmie Rehbock
20- Megan Waller
21 – Angie Simone
22 – Christine Fox
23 – Abigail Rellinger
24 – Pat Naujoks
25- Kathleen Turner
25 – Art Davis
27 – Joshua J. Hall
27 – Helen Recktenwald
29 – Micki Kluska
30 – Marilyn Betterton

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

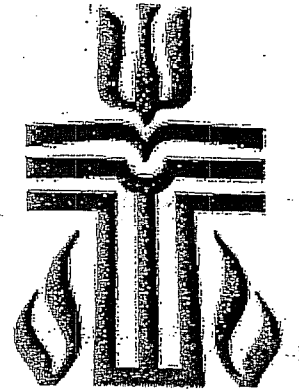
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #12 BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455
--

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

SEPTEMBER 2009

From Your Pastor: "Let the Little Children Come to Me"

A few weeks ago, I was talking one Sunday afternoon to my young granddaughter who is three years old (almost four) about her day. She proudly showed me the craft she had made at Sunday School, and I asked her if she liked Sunday School – she replied "I love my Sunday School!" I know this is true, because on the occasions when I have attended her parents' church, I have observed her as she proudly marches out to her class, after the children's moment in the service, and then afterwards as she rushes into the fellowship hall to show her family what she has learned and the craft she has made that day in her class.

This reminded me of my childhood, being brought up by wonderful parents. My grandmother who I believe was a Christian, persuaded my mother (as my parents did not attend church) to allow me to attend a mid-week meeting called the "Band of Hope", a para - church outreach to children. I do not remember a lot about it, except getting prizes for attendance etc, and the annual picnic, when we all got on a double-decker bus and went to a large park in another part of the city. I do not think I was the most attentive or well-behaved child in the group, but when I became a Christian many years later, the Words of Scripture and songs I had been taught, came back to me. God had used these meetings to plant a seed, which blossomed after all that time had elapsed, which makes the words of Jesus even more poignant to me:

Mark 10: 13 – 16: ¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Jesus is highlighting His call to us all to minister to the children we are under our care in our Sunday School, and midweek Programs. As we start a new church year, we should give our thanks and support to all who have volunteered to teach our children and youth, and consider the possibility of volunteering to help in some way to share the load with them. Also, to those of us who are parents and grandparents, we should reflect very carefully on God's Command in Deuteronomy to bring up our children and grandchildren and teach them His ways.

Deut 6: 5 – 7: ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

This presents us with many challenges and competing priorities, with school and sports activities, many of which are now held on a Sunday. It is a matter of evaluating which imparts the most long lasting, even hopefully eternal, values on our children. I would contend that it is our clear duty as Christians to make tough choices at times, which may disappoint our children or a sports coach etc, at this moment in time, but I believe, as in my case looking back, when I thank my grandmother from the bottom of my heart for sending me to the Band of Hope even when I did not want to go, similarly our children may do the same one day. As we approach Rally Day, let us all echo Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me". This means we make them feel welcome and at home in all the activities of our church, including our worship services, reminding ourselves of the old saying: "a Church that has the voices of children in the worship service is a healthy church".

Sermon Titles - September 2009

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>AM Services</u>
Sept. 6	“Alive But Dead”	Revelation 3:1-6
Sept. 13	“Have Faith!”	Matthew 8:23-27
Sept. 20	“Return to God!”	Luke 15:11-30
Sept. 27	“Who Is Your Neighbor?”	Luke 10:25-37

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Newsletter Articles are due to the church office the **2nd SUNDAY** of each month, for the following month's newsletter. For example, October articles will be due Sept. 13.

You can turn in handwritten articles to the Newsletter Mailbox in the church office, leave on the Secretary's desk, or email your articles to HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

It is imperative that this deadline is followed, to avoid spending time following up, and to get our newsletter out on time.

If articles are not in by the deadline, unfortunately they will be put in the next month.

Thank you everyone, for your cooperation.

TWILIGHT PRAYER

When I listen, I learn. When I close my eyes to reality, I see not the truth of virtuous actions. If my heart is open to my fellow man, I can do great things through him.

When I bow my head in prayer, the earth slips away and only the words laid upon my heart remain. Father, I give these words to you. Do you have words upon your heart?

Come and give these words to your Creator. Great things can happen.

See you in the Upper Room on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

I dream that I will some day see an over-crowded library.

Eager Warriors gasp for air, Giving God each prayer and care.

Can this become reality?
Will loving folk respond and be
The driving force of Victory-
Proclaiming there's NO VACANCY.

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2 Timothy 2:15

With
Open
Minds
Envelop
New
Studies

Being
Inquisitive
Becoming
Learned
Eagerly

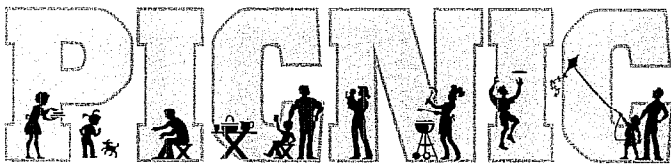
Searching
Trusting
Understanding
Doing
Yielding

Begins Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For:

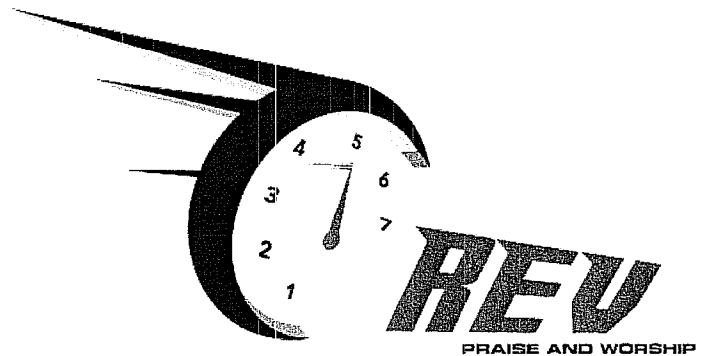
- Christine Fox, her fiancé, and his family in the loss of his mom
- Kim Ambrosat's cousin, Anna Lisa Swagor, for health concerns
- Adam Schwake, Delina, and baby Payton Laura, for health concerns- born premature, on the road to good health
- Mary Tarter for continuous health
- Karen Hoffman's cousin, Elaine, for health concerns
- Grace Muszynski's cousin, Carol Brouwer, for test results
- Matthew Joniak and his Special Forces squadron on current maneuvers in Afghanistan
- Clayton Case's grandma for surgery and follow up treatment
- Amy Edward's sister, Gabrielle, for health concerns
- Helen Recktenwald for health concerns
- Dorothy Scholefield for continued healing
- Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns
- Renee Meyer and kids- concern for father and grandfather
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns
- Dorothy Allen for health concerns
- Jim Kupka for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



It's time for Rally Day!!

Please join us for an
"Old Fashioned Family Picnic" on
Sunday, September 13th
following the 10:30 service.
We'll have food, and games and

tons of fun! Please check out the sign-up sheet downstairs if you would like to bring some delicious picnic food, or if you would like to volunteer to help out. Please join us rain or shine. See you at the picnic!!!!



**Are you looking for a place
to share your gifts?**

If so, REV wants you!

We are looking for people who would like to be a part of the REV worship service team. There are many ways you can glorify God with the gifts He has given you. Training will be provided.

Come join us!

Please contact Pastor Derek Morrison if you are interested in being part of the REV worship service team.
708-598-3100
pastor@hickoryhillspres.org

Hymning and Hawing
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost
by G. R. Snow

*"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
"Praise God, all creatures here below,
"Praise God above, O heav'nly host,
"Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen."*

Most regular church attendees would read the above verse and recognize it as the words to the Doxology, which we sing at second service every Sunday. However, the words are a little different from what we normally sing. And an awareness of trends in today's doctrines, and socio-political trends in general, lead one to draw the (correct) conclusion that the church using this text is being very careful to observe the non-gender conception of God, in all Three Persons. Hence, they refer to God as Creator rather than Father and Jesus as Christ rather than Son.

Some people are greatly offended by this sort of inclusive language, some are greatly offended by those who don't use it, and some really aren't too offended by it either way. I personally don't find too much that is offensive in the above verse, nor in the traditional one which we sing. I would find it more offensive to see obvious degradation or non-inclusion of women in the church today, or if the modifications made in texts reflected what I feel to be an inaccurate concept of God. He is Creator, so I don't find it offensive to say that rather than Father—but neither do I find it offensive to call Him Father. Jesus is Christ—I find nothing offensive about that, any more than I do to call Him the Son. But, since I am a hymn textwriter and actively compose texts for hymn contests and other events, in several denominations, I find it necessary to be aware of these trends. As responsible churchgoers, it is appropriate that we are similarly aware of concerns and conditions in our brother and sister churches and denominations.

Many respond negatively simply out of familiarity with a certain text or terminology—how many of us would stumble a little over saying, "trespasses" instead of "debts" in the Lord's Prayer? I grew up with "trespasses", so I always feel a little hesitation when I get to that portion of the Lord's Prayer. Some churches have "updated" the language—they start with "Our Father in Heaven" rather than "Our Father, Who art in Heaven". I don't find it offensive, but I do find it unfamiliar.

I read a very interesting essay called "Proper Praise" some years ago in which the idea was defended that God's love for us is both father-like

and mother-like, and that therefore we should address Him as "Father and Mother God". It didn't significantly change the way I worship, write hymntexts, or think of God. In fact, one solo I do sometimes has a phrase, "Father, Mother, God above," and I have consistently changed it to "Father God above", singing the same notes but not on as many syllables. Logic yields to comfort level here, just as I have for many years sung the Malotte setting of the Lord's Prayer and sung "debts" instead of "trespasses"—primarily because the music was composed for that version of the text, and fitting the notes written for "as we forgive our debtors" to the words "as we forgive those who trespass against us" makes one a little crazy.

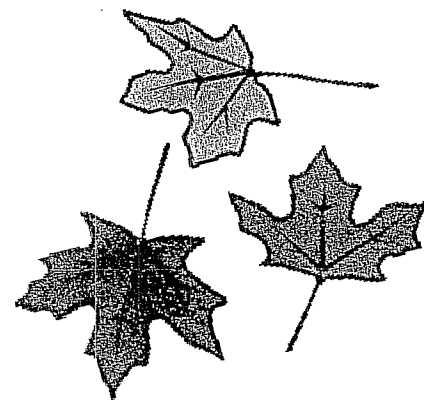
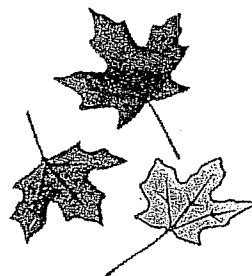
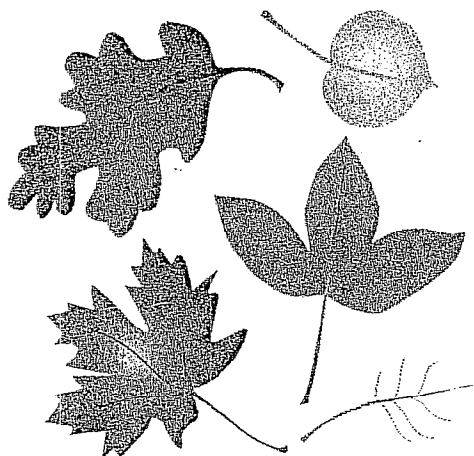
I personally don't find it offensive to realize that God has many natures, and a masculine God was the only God the early Jews would have respected. Christ couldn't have functioned effectively in Jewish society as a teacher and, ultimately, a Messiah candidate had he been born in a female body—women were treated differently then. I also have read St. Paul's comments about women not being allowed to speak in church, keeping their heads covered, and "if they would know any thing, let them ask their husbands at home." I know some people whose centers of worship still keep these practices, and raise their daughters to wear long dresses, never pants, and have their heads covered at all times. But I live in a different time, and am thankful for it.

In spite of the doctrines of political correctness and gender inclusionism, I probably will not rifle through every anthem in the choir library and burn anything that refers to God as Father, or Jesus as Son, or "brethren", or "mankind", or any of the other buzz-words which so inflame many people, lay and clergy alike, in today's church. But neither will I be writing hymntexts that emphasize a strong masculine bias for God, or archaic language such as "Thou" and "art". I further welcome the opportunity to participate in hymntext competitions which emphasize a truly inclusive theme, and any events which recognize the importance of women in the church without in any way decreasing the importance of men in the church. I think it's a little inappropriate to select someone for a task just because they are female, or male, but I do greatly support the presence of women and men both on Session, board of deacons, on nearly all committees, and as caregivers, childcare workers, wedding organizers, and visitors to the shut-in and the elderly. And I would welcome increased participation of men in our senior choir!

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Sept. 6, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Sept. 6, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke		Dave Delaney
Sept. 13, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman		Rick Vogl
Sept. 20, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray		Scott Zimmerman
Sept. 27, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell		Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
Sept. 6, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	C. Sack, A. Witek
Sept. 13, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffinan	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	C. Sack, T. Brock, C. Treccani
Sept. 20, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	C. Sack, G. Home, D. Kibort
Sept. 27, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	C. Sack, G. Home

Communion in September will be served by Intinction.

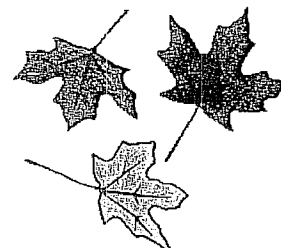
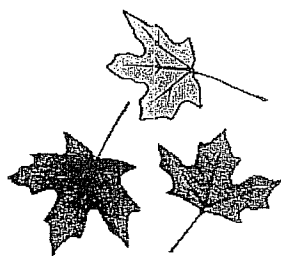


Bones of the church

The "body" of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?



A CHURCH FAMILY

HARVEST CELEBRATION



The harvest is the Lord's!

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
and into His courts with praise.*

PSALM 100:4

Dear Parents,

Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything under heaven. The time of planting and growing is gone. We look now to the harvest season, a time of gathering and thankfulness to God.

This year, we want to help you start a special harvest tradition that you will remember for years to come. Come join us as we praise God at our Church Family Harvest Celebration.

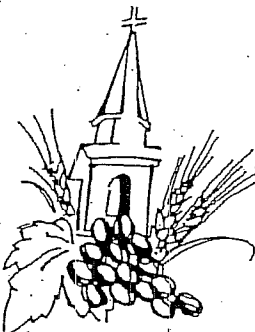
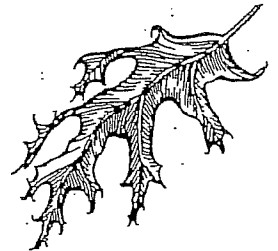
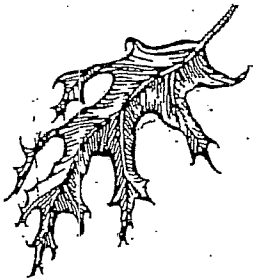
Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to come as we focus on giving thanks to God for the blessings He has given us.



FALL FAMILY NIGHT AT HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
7:00 PM**

*Souvenir Photos Available
for \$1.00 donation*



DEVOTIONS

CRAFTS

GAMES

PUPPETS

**PUMPKIN CARVING
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO A CHURCH FAMILY**

HARVEST CELEBRATION



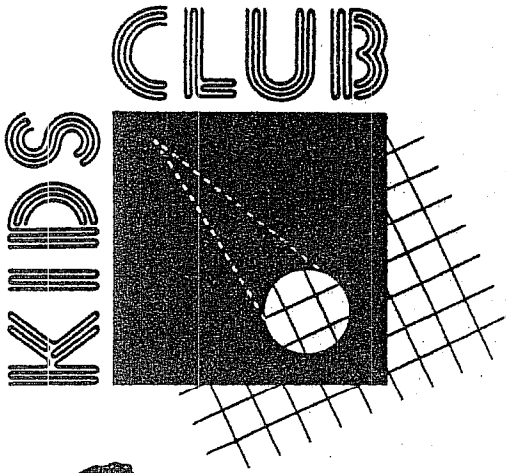
*A special
Harvest event
with game booths,
devotions, singing,
craft making,
fun and fellowship
... for families, singles,
seniors and everyone!*

SNACKS

MUSIC

FACE PAINTING

FAMILY PHOTOS



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

KIDS CLUB

STARTING

MONDAY, September 14th

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Laughter, games in our gym, crafts, music,
snacks, new friends, building a good self
esteem, and learning more about the love of
God.

This is what KIDS CLUB is all about!

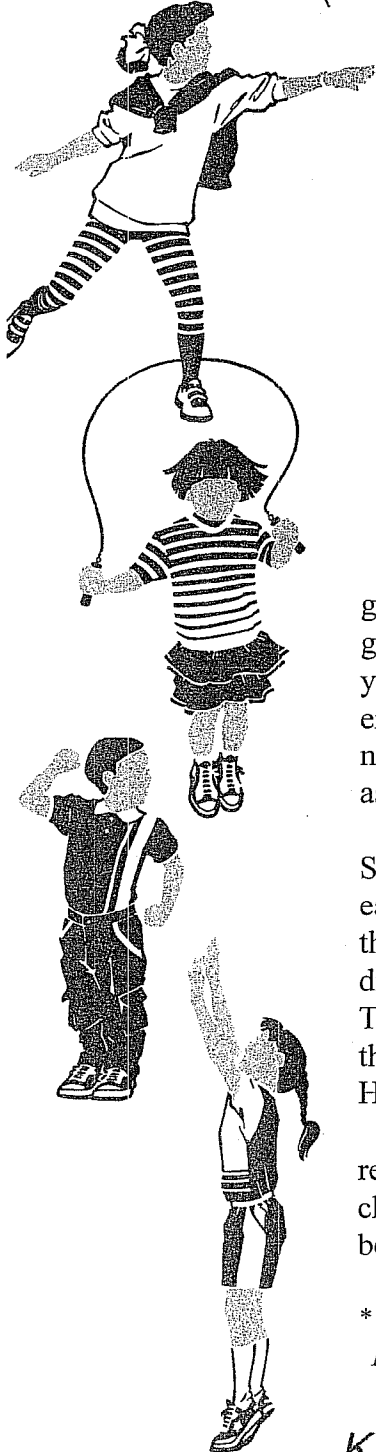
Monday, September 14th KIDS CLUB begins. We are back with more great activities for all kids age 5 through grade 6. We come together for a time of games in our gym, craft projects, music, snacks, and Christian Life studies. This year we have added time each month to cook, participate in a knitting group, and enjoy stories with our storyteller. This program has been structured in a nondenominational way so that we may reach out to all children in our community as well as those in our church family.

The theme for this year is "In Search of God's Power - The Mystery of the Seed." We will meet the bumbling scientist Ed Ventue who is trying to save the earth. He does not trust in God, he believes science has all the answers. However, through the use of his "virtual-reality device" Ed meets many bible characters and discovers God already has a plan to save the earth through His Son, Jesus. Throughout the year we will learn how God demonstrated His love and power through the loves of many chosen servants. We will discover God wants to work His power in our lives.

Registrations are being accepted in this program now. There is no cost, but registration is necessary. The forms are available in the fellowship room of the church or can be obtained by calling the church office (598-3100). Invite others to be a part of this outstanding outreach of our church.

** Mark you calendars now for our fall family night to be held Friday, September 25th.
More information will be available soon.*

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church



RALLY DAY 2009

Sunday, September 13

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it
Proverbs 22:6*

Parents:

Our Church School year begins Sunday, September 13th. Join us as together we share the joy of this new beginning, a year filled with the learning of God's love and the adventure that is life.

On This Day:

- ✧ Registration of children in their age appropriate classes for our new year.
- ✧ Classes for all ages 3 years - 12th grade are held during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
- ✧ Nursery is provided for children under age three during the 10:30 service.
- ✧ Adults grow spiritually in an adult class at 9:00 a.m.
- ✧ Adults share in a time of worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- ✧ Rally Day Picnic for the entire family at 11:45 a.m. at the church.

Questions? Call the church office at 586-3100

JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR TOGETHER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

Welcome to the Fall Quarter teachers! Your curriculum is in! Dianne is waiting to have you come to get it and begin our new year. Anyone who is interested in teaching the children during Sunday worship should contact Dianne. We need teachers in all areas. Thanks to our Fall Quarter volunteers, we have a place to begin. Pastor Morrison has asked that teachers set an example and attend the morning service along with their students. That means getting the room ready earlier and having a lesson planned ahead of time. He will dismiss the classes in church and the teachers will come to the front to pick up their group. Children will get used to seeing their teachers in worship and that will be beneficial for them as well. **Sunday School** September 13.

Sixteen people took a tour of the new Ronald McDonald House which is located near the Hope Children's Hospital. It can house up to 16 families. Our Church donated over 700 lbs. of pop tops. The children who took the tour poured the **pop tops** from our storage jars into plastic kitchen bags. They loaded and unloaded the vans. The ladies who received the pop tops were so surprised and happy. They said they had never received so many pop tops. Rick and Jenny Vogel took our collection of **school supplies** to three areas. Mission Council 8 is asking for school supplies to help the Pullman Church. Palos Township is asking for school supplies this year, too. Our Kids will be asked to collect pop tops as well as school supplies this year as their mission of **Kids Helping Kids**

With **Rally Day** on September 13th, also begins all the programs our Church sponsors. We will have a picnic following the 10:30 AM worship service. The Sunday School classes will begin that day as well.

Kids Club begins on September 14th. Children are treated to a variety of music, crafts, organized

games in the gym, a snack, and a time for Christian education. Changes in the program will include a time each month to cook something with Patt, learn to knit for the mission projects with Linda, or story time with one of the storytellers.

Youth Choir will have a change in their program also. Children will begin choir at 5:15 PM and be released at 6:00PM. No dinner will be served. More time will be devoted to learning new songs and music.

The **Junior High Youth Group** welcomes Bryan Ambrosat as a leader. Katie and Patt are excited to have him join the leadership and know he will bring with him many new and exciting ideas for the group. They will have a meeting on Thursday, September 17th. On August 14, the Junior High Youth Group visited Feed My Starving Children where they packed food packages for the day. Plans to return again in February are being made.

The **Senior High Youth Group** will have a meeting on Sunday, September 13th. The meeting will be used to make plans for the year. Please attend to help with the planning.

Young Adults have an opportunity to have fellowship as well as delve into the Bible with their group meeting on Fridays at 6:30 PM. Katie has material she thinks will not only interest you but help you grow spiritually. Anyone ages 19 to 29 is welcome to attend and add their opinion to the discussion. New ideas for opportunities to build the fellowship are always welcomed.

Arlene Pearson has agreed to lead the **Women's Bible Study** on Mondays. They will begin on September 14 at 1:00 PM.

Tom Lane has agreed to lead the **Adult Sunday School** again this year. They meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM.

The Church will begin a new program which will

focus on children ages 4 to 6 years old.

Stories and More is a six week program held on Tuesdays at 1 to 2 PM. The children will be treated to a storytime with associated activities, organized games in the gym, and a time set aside to strengthen basic Kindergarten skills. The program will be limited to 12 children. We hope it will grow in popularity and we will need to increase the days it is offered to fill the demand. Children will be served on a first come basis. Our new program begins on September 22.

Our **Stampers** program will begin again on September 16. Members from last year will recall that you were set a task to create 2 new cards and bring them to the meeting. Don't forget that you now have a reminder and no excuses. Stampers meet in the library at 10:30 AM every other Wednesday. If you are interested, we hope to see you as we learn new and exciting ways to create cards for ourselves and the Prayer and Care Group Ministry.

Anyone interested in Knitting or Crocheting will want to attend the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** which will begin on September 20 at 11:45 AM. We'll be in the fifth grade classroom at the bottom of the stairs waiting for you. This small group of volunteers has created over 10 Prayer Shawls last year. We will work on Squares for Africa, Scarves and Mittens for the Tree of Warmth, as well as the beautiful Prayer Shawls. Don't be shy. If you have a desire to learn a new skill, we even have people willing to help you learn the stitches. We can always find more chairs to fit around the table.

Mark the calendar for the first **Family Night**. We will have the annual *Fall Harvest Celebration* on September 25th. It will be complete with games the children love, as well as a place to take a picture as a souvenir, food, a storyteller, and some music. Don't miss this entertainment for the entire family.

Junior High Sunday School

WELCOME back returning Junior Highs!
WELCOME new Junior Highs! I am so excited about our time together on Sunday mornings in Junior High Sunday School class.

This semester we will be studying stories from the Old Testament in our Bibles. We will **read and do fun things** to learn about how God helped people who had problems long ago and how he helps each of us every day.

We will all **make new friends, work together in small groups and talk about what it means to believe in God.**

So come and bring your friends. All are welcome. I'll be looking for you all – Leslie, Kate, Tristan, Brian, Jordan, Alyssia, Becky, Jessica, Stephanie, Ashley, Erik, Natalie, Halimah, Kaylee, Breona, Natasha, Katelin, and Kyle.

Growing is fun, growing as a Christian is fun, come and join us.
God Bless You,
Patt

Junior High Youth Group

Leaders Katie and Patt will be back this year and joining us is our new leader Bryan Ambrosat. Bryan is currently a student at Moraine Valley College. We are so excited to have him on staff and we know you will be too.

So come and meet Bryan at our first meeting on **Thursday, September 17, 2009**. We meet at the church every **Thursday from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.**

We play games in the gym, in the fellowship hall and sometimes throughout the church.

We have a Christian study time and talk about things that concern us and discuss what Jesus would do if he were here. We will have snacks and lots of fun.

In August we went to "Feed My Starving Children." This is our twice a year mission trip to Aurora, Illinois. We package food that is sent to 60 countries where there are starving children. If you could not come this time, we hope you can make the next trip.

Throughout the year we will do various things like Mission, and fundraising activities to fund junior high events. We will go on a retreat to Bloomington, Illinois and have a lock-in at church. We will go ice skating downtown and enjoy the Christmas decorations. There will be parties too, for Halloween and Christmas. There is much more to come. So come join us and bring your friends.

Look for a calendar of events. It will be mailed to you each month starting in October. Any questions call the church at 708-598-3100.

Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani and Bryan Ambrosat



Attention Sr. Highs

Watch your Facebook, Email, and Snail Mail for information coming your way!

Sept. 13 is the first day of Youth Group!

YOUTH CHOIR KICKS OFF AGAIN THIS FALL

It's the time of year when we begin planning and getting ready for so many new things, and Youth Choir is one of them – and it will be new!

Some changes have been made and we feel it will improve our ability to concentrate on music and getting ourselves ready for the Anthem that we will share with our congregation each month. We will still meet on Monday's following Kids Club but we will not have a dinner factored in. Practice time will be shortened to finish at 6PM. This will allow us enough time to practice and not keep you away from home too long on a weeknight.

Our regular Anthem will be the second Sunday of each month at the 10:30 Worship Service. (with a few exceptions due to days off, holidays, or special events.) We will provide a finalized calendar soon. Certainly there are times when some of us cannot attend, and we understand, but regular participation in the Sunday Anthem is encouraged and it is important to be at practice on Monday's regularly, in order to learn the songs.

We extend this invitation to all our kids **first grade and up. Come join us and sing!**

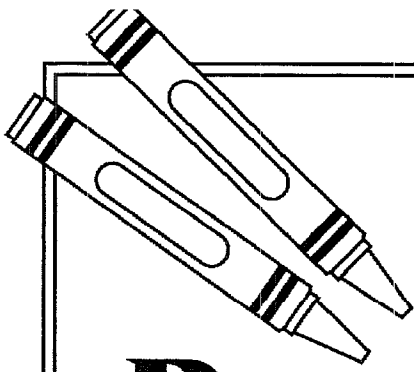
We have a great time learning together, practicing and sharing our gift of voice with others in church each month.

We meet each week on **Monday** from **5:15 until 6PM.**

Youth Choir practice for the new season begins on **September 14th** along with Kid's Club. Our members from last season will share a choral anthem with the congregation on Rally Day to give you an idea of what to look forward to if you have not joined us in the past. Please see Dianne Flynn or Cheryl Huenecke with any questions.

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E.	2 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	3	4 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	7 Labor Day	8 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	10 8:00 p.m. Handbells	11 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	12 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
13 <u>RALLY DAY</u> 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education RALLY DAY PICNIC 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Oct. Newsletter Articles Due	14 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	15 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	16 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	17 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	18 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	21 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Outreach	22 12:30 p.m. Friendship Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee	23 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	24 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	25 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Fall Family Night	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	28 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons	29 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	30 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir			



Just for **KIDS**

Be transformed

It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (*).

Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

c	h*	o	n	d*	f	t*	q*	o	s*	r	a*	b*	r*	m
x*	p	j*	e*	a	t	m*	t	o*	c*	p*	e	r	k*	n
w	d*	o	s*	r*	j*	r	g*	l	b*	l*	i*	n*	d	y*
t	r	i*	a	t*	n	s	r*	f	o	r	v*	m	e	d
r	d*	e	n	h*	s*	o*	e	r*	w	i	t*	n	m*	g
c*	a*	m	b*	u*	i	p*	z*	n	j*	r*	d	y*	o*	u*
a*	r*	s*	t	e	o*	w*	s	k*	v*	f*	l*	t	e*	a*
a	p	e*	r*	p	i*	r	g*	o	n*	v	h*	j*	p*	e
n*	o*	G	b*	i*	o	s*	d	a*	l*	l*	s	e*	t*	h*
s*	p	l	m*	e	y*	a	s	o*	r*	i	n	c*	g	n*
p	e	t*	i*	r	f	w*	t*	e	m*	l*	c	d*	a*	t

"Do not _____ any longer to the _____
of this _____, but be _____
by the _____ of your _____. Then you will be able
to _____ and _____ what _____ will is — his good,
_____ and _____ will." *Romans 12:2, NIV*

Answers: conform, pattern, world, transformed, renewing, mind, rest, approve, God's, pleasing, perfect

Birthdays

September

1 – Lil Resner
4 – Erin Rose Prunty
5 – Mary Lewington
7- Noelle Larsen
7 – Eamon Prunty
7 – Grace Matke
8 – Lenora Warren
8 – Terri Lorenz
8 – Sarah Wreza
10 – Frances Nelson
11 – Debbie Raschke
11- Aga Rosa
12 – Evan Grisko
13 – Kyle Zimmerman
14 – Marge Hayes
15- Stacey Lorenz
15- Cheryl Howe
16 – Joseph Monczynski
17 – Shirley Brunell
17 – Alice Gust
17 – Norene Krbecek

17 – Kyle Wheeler
18 – Stephanie Lorenz
18 – Dawn Rellinger
18 – Norm VanVossen
19 – Charles Huenecke
19 – Andreas Mueller
20 – Dave Delaney
21 – Coleen Petkus
21 – David Koch
22 – Debbie Zimmerman
22 – Jessica Moore
26 – Ellen Betcher
26 – Akpene Atiedu
26 – Kathie Wheeler
27 – Rhett Golema
27 – Louise Coventry
29 – Eileen Freeman
29 – John Morgucz
30 – Barbara Hepburn
30 – Doug McKinney

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to:
newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org
and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

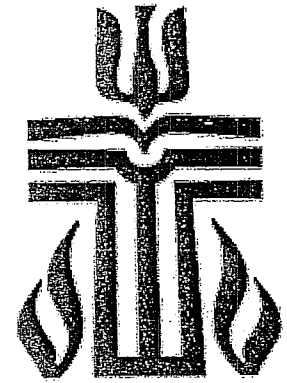
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #12
BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



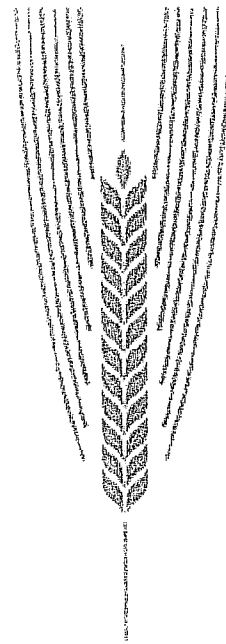
OCTOBER 2009

A prayer for pumpkin people

After Liz Curtis Higgs wrote the popular children's book "The Pumpkin Patch Parable," people began using her analogies to say a prayer while carving their Halloween pumpkins. The pumpkin prayer, a Christian alternative to Halloween traditions, reminds people of all ages what God has done for us. Use it this fall when your family makes jack-o'-lanterns.

- While cutting off the top of the pumpkin, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you."
(See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do, and help me forgive others."
(See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me."
(See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts."
(See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you."
(See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do."
(See Matthew 5:16.)

After carving your pumpkins, display them as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)



Wheat is used to represent the bread (the body of Christ) in Holy Communion.
"I am the bread of life" (John 6:48).

In the parable of the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30), Jesus uses wheat to represent believers, while weeds, or tares, represent unbelievers.

TWILIGHT PRAYER

To pray or not to pray, is that the question? Should there be a question of this nature? Yet, we find those who pray and those who do not. I question not their sincerity, but I do question their lack of interest in reaching out to our Savior in this most personal way.

The gift of prayer is always there, what lies upon your heart, I know not. I care for you in a special way. I will carry you to God today. Will you reach out to Him with a special need, or just to say "Thank you, yes indeed?" What is your answer?

Sincerely,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE


"I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

John 14:27

Our prayer meetings end with "peace of mind and heart" because we give our cares up to our heavenly Father. What better place to gather, but in the library on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.? (to experience quiet freedom).

(By the way, if we remove your prayer request from our list too soon, please let us know. Many of you already have. Also, please let us know when we may remove your requests.) Thanks.

Love, 'N' Hugs,
Arlene



Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For:

- Grace Muszynski's friend, Dennis Weithman, for health concerns
- Frank Esparza's sister, Ruth & her husband, for health concerns
- Gert Vickers' son in law, Aldon, for health concerns
- Patt Pilgrim's sister, Pauline, for health concerns
- Jackie Gehle for health concerns
- Fran Nelson and daughter Kay, for health concerns
- Renee Meyer and family- through a stressful time & needed change
- Mary Richer for continuing strength through family losses
- Kim Ambrosat's cousin, Annalisa Smagor, for health concerns
- Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous health
- Clayton Case's grandma for surgery and follow up treatment
- Amy Edward's sister, Gabrielle, for health concerns
- Helen Recktenwald for health concerns
- Dorothy Scholefield for continued healing
- Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns
- Dorothy Allen for health concerns
- Jim Kupka for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



August 2009 Treasurer's Report

Income: \$15,519.00
Disbursed: \$18,748.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Family Night October 2
Church Bazaar November 7
Advent Family Night December 4
Hanging of the Greens December 6
Women's Christmas Tea December 10

JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

This quarter we will be studying the Old Testament and during the month of September we will be reading from the book of Exodus.

On our first Sunday, September 13, 2009 it was so good to see Tasha, Alyssia, Leslie, Kaylee, Katie, Ashley, Jessica, Natalie, Erik, Tom and Kyle in class. We hope to see them back all month and hope other junior highs join us for the fun of learning and growing in our faith.

We talked about the fear the Israelites had when Moses parted the Red Sea and asked them to follow him across. WOW! That had to be scary. We talked about scary times in our lives and that God is with us in scary times.

On September 20th we will be making "manna" in class. The Israelites were hungry in the wilderness and God sent food called "manna". You will have to ask our junior highs how it tasted to them. We will be talking about how God provides for our needs.

Hope to see all junior highs this Sunday.

Patt

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Mission Statement

Leadership will provide programming that enables junior highs to:

- Know and Celebrate the fact that they are loved by Jesus
- Share the Good News of Jesus' love with each other by the way they respect and treat each other
- Seek to learn how God would have them Serve others.

We filled out information sheets so that leaders know junior high student's contact information and what they would like to do for games and activities.

We talked about the year ahead and what mission activities we have planned. We will be sending out monthly calendars starting in October to all junior high homes with **upcoming events** noted.

October 10, 2009

Youth Sunday - All Mission Council 8 churches. - 3:00 – 5:00 PM - youth will gather at Hickory Hills to hear Rev. Doug Orbaker speak on mission in Nicaragua. Pizza afterwards.

December 12, 2009 (date to be decided)

Ice Skating downtown and Christmas windows trip

January 29 – 31, 2010

Junior High Winter Retreat, East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL. All junior highs from churches in the Presbyteries of Chicago and Blackhawk

We look forward to spending the year with all junior highs from our church and all of their friends. They do not have to be a member of our church to attend Junior High youth Group. Please meet with us on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Hickory Hills church. Our first meeting was September 17, 2009.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Youth Leaders,
Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani and Bryan Ambrosat

Hymning and Hawing

The Sound Is Gone Out To All Lands

by G. R. Snow

When I was taking my undergraduate degree, it was not, in any recital hall, studio, or classroom, considered acceptable to use a microphone for performance. Most of the auditoriums, recital halls, chapel, and so on were considered acoustically resonant enough that no microphone would be needed for performances, be they vocal or instrumental. That, indeed, was also the case (and is also the case) in many of the churches I have toured when in Europe. The beautiful marble walls, lack of carpet or pew-cushions, and stone joists and ceilings make for a very resonant space. But, though we are blessedly more comfortable with the innovation of cushions on our pews and carpets on our floors, these creature comforts do not enhance the resonance of our worship space.

For some singers it is still a matter of pride that they need never use a microphone when singing in a church or recital hall—they have a powerful enough voice to fill the space. At least, so they believe. In some churches they are correct—I recently attended a memorial service in a very acoustically “live” sanctuary, and no microphone was necessary. I took notice of the walls, how instead of being flat they had a regular pattern of angles and non-parallel flat surfaces for the specific purpose of reflecting sound. I am certain this measure was much more expensive than a flat wall, and it made the space beautifully resonant. One truly did not need a microphone to sing in that sanctuary. But, as was discussed in a conversation with a performing concert tenor soloist recently, no longer is that the norm in churches and recital halls.

Many churches, in fact, rather than spending money on an acoustically designed resonant space, sink their funds into an elaborate sound system—one that requires specially trained technicians to operate it. This training has become a part of church ministry, in the same way that being trained as an organist or cantor is. But a great number of sanctuaries just aren’t acoustically “live” enough for all singers to be heard without microphones, and it is not shameful for singers to admit that listeners hear them more clearly with the aid of electronic devices. Non-acoustic designs, coupled with the natural absorbency of cushions, carpets, and people—and their clothing—create an utterly different venue for singing from that enjoyed (?) by singers of Handel’s day or even Mozart’s day.

Having recently done my master’s degree recital at HHPC, I was under the traditional constraints not to use microphones, except for recording purposes. I have also observed, in the last several years of service from different pastors in our church, the number of them who state, “Oh, I have a big voice, they can hear me all right if I don’t use a microphone.” Well, I can hear them, but there are some whose hearing “isn’t as good as it used to be,” and those people hear the sermon—and anything else the pastor says, no matter how big-voiced—if a microphone is used. And even if some can hear the pastor, they get more out of the sermon if they don’t have to strain to hear it.

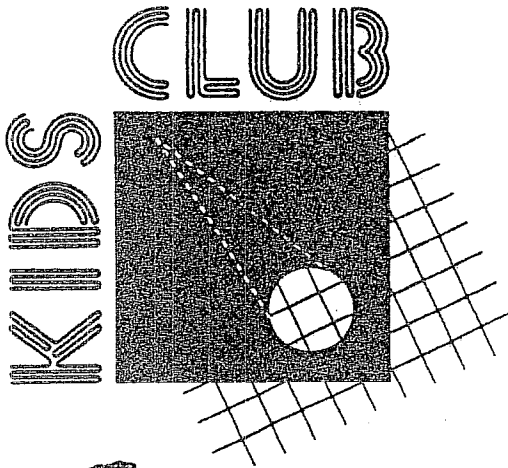
The same is true of singing. We’ve all heard what some people thought they heard as permutations and parodies of song words, and it’s not necessary for me to go into some of those here (though if you’d enjoy revisiting some of those, see the brain-teaser at the end of this column). What we all must accept, ministers of Word and Music alike, is that it enhances the worship experience for all to be able to participate with not only the hearing but the understanding also. If someone is deaf, we would be sure and turn toward them when speaking so they could read our lips. If someone is a little less able to hear, therefore, we use a microphone for their comfort. Their being included, and being able to participate, is far more important than our self-image that we don’t need a microphone to be heard. Truly, the sound of the Gospel will be “gone out to all lands”—and to all corners of our church as well—and in all corners it will be heard and understood.

Brain-teaser: *These are a few of the “mis-heard” phrases from popular hymns. Can you correct each one, and guess what hymn it’s from?*

1. Christ, the royal Master, leans against the phone. . .
2. The complicated cross I’ll bear . . .
3. Through the night with the light from a bulb . . .
4. Gladly, the cross-eyed bear . . .
5. Surely good Mrs. Murphy shall follow me . . .

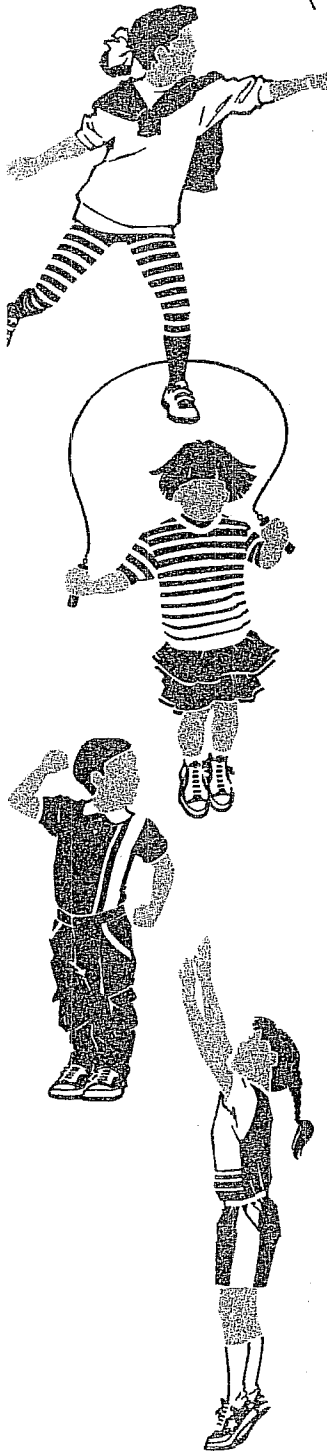
I can’t say for sure that this ever was a seriously mis-heard phrase, but one anthem, based on a hymn and using the hymn text, was referred to in the HHPC Senior Choir for years as the “purple-headed monster”. This was a permutation of the actual phrase starting out one verse. What is the actual phrase, and what is the hymn?

And one notorious clergyman who lived many years ago was noted for a particular type of “slip of the tongue”, having introduced hymns such as “Kinquering Kongs Their Titles Take” and “Shall We Rather At The Giver?” Who was the clergyman, and what is the name of the “slip of the tongue” forever associated with him?



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
 708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



As I am writing this we are preparing for our first day of Kids Club 2009. The kids have been away for the summer and now it is time to welcome them back. We are beginning a new year filled with new activities and programs that will help us grow as Christians. It is a joy to look at the potential our future brings.

Kids Club 2009 is new! In addition to our crafts, music and Christian Learning time, our program will include a knitting club which focuses on creating warming squares for kids in Africa, monthly cooking projects, new equipment in our gym, and a story corner with our famous storyteller. Join us for this new adventure.

Our Christian Learning time is important in Kids Club. Learning is always fun as we are guided by the creative teaching of Linda. The themes for our study during the month of September include;

- The Sky is Falling! The Sky is Falling!* - God is holy and just
- Looking Back to See Ahead* - God has a plan for each and everyone of us.
- Promise of a True Seed* - We need Jesus in our life.

Our Fall Family Night will be held Friday, October 2nd, 7:00 p.m. (*Please note the change in date*) This family night has become another one of our traditions here in the church. The "Church Family Harvest Celebration" is an event that brings our "family" together for a time of fun and spiritual growth. We will participate in devotions, crafts, games, face painting, puppets, family souvenir photos, music, door prizes and much, much more. Everyone is welcome; invite your friends! Hope to see you there!

During the month of October we will spent some time talking about Fall and Halloween. We will share the fun of this time together by hosting a safe and positive Halloween party for our kids on Monday, October 26th. For all who wish, costumes are the dress for the day. Come join in the fun. Games, face painting, balloons, crafts are just some of the activities available on this day. If possible, we ask those attending on this day to bring a bag of candy to be shared in their "trick or treat" take home bags.

A big thank you to our KIDS CLUB staff; Cheryl H., Debbie Z, Grace M., Linda L., Marilyn B., Shannon B. and our student helpers They are an outstanding group of caring adults. If you would like to volunteer to assist in our kitchen, gym area, or craft area, please talk to Dianne.

We have grown and changed in many ways over the years, but one thing has remained constant - "Kids are # 1". Have you invited a child to be a part of this program?

Peace and Joy,
 Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



What a fantastic turnout for Rally Day. Everyone seemed to enjoy the picnic after the 10:30 AM worship services. There were children in church!!!! It was such a nice way to begin the 2009-2010 *Sunday School* Year. Be sure to thank the fall quarter teachers who work so hard to make the lessons enjoyable and interesting for your children. Thank you to Debbie Zimmerman, Cheryl Huennecke, Jeni Vogel, Linda Lavaretto, Patt Pilgrim, Lou Pearson, and Tom Lane. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and all those who worked to make the day so very special. I am sure the children and adults enjoyed the festivities equally.

As you know many of the church programs began this week. *Kids Club* started on Monday, September 14. There was a great turn out for our first day. We had time to renew acquaintances and meet some new friends. The Professor is back to tell you exciting tales and help you have a better understanding of how God can be a part of your life. The Kids Club staff has added some new activities such as knitting for the Squares for Africa Mission project, cooking with Patt, and story telling with Cheryl. The favorites like crafts, singing, open gym, computer, table games are still available, too. We hope you can visit us each Monday afternoon at 3:30-5:00. Maybe you will want to stay for *Youth Choir*. It begins at 5:15-6:00 on Mondays right after Kids Club.

We are trying a new program for children ages 4-6 years old. It begins on September 22 at 1-2PM. *Stories and More* is just that. The children will listen to a story and try some activities designed to build early Kindergarten skills. We will have games in the gym, some fingerplays and songs for them. Anyone interested in this new program should be sure to talk to Patt Pilgrim, the program director or Dianne Flynn, the Director of Children's Ministries.

Stampers had their first meeting on September 16th at 10:30 AM. They will continue to meet every other Wednesday. Anyone who is creative

or just interested in learning a new hobby should come see what Ruth has brought to the meeting. She is always ready to help, encourage you, and explore your creativity.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is also ready to begin. September 20th at 11:45 AM we will meet to knit and crochet beautiful prayer shawls as well as items for the warming tree and squares for Africa. There are knitting needles and several skeins of yarn donated for the gloves, mittens, hats, scarves or squares you want to make. Beginners will be happy to know that there will be people willing to help you learn or perfect your skills. So don't be shy. Come join us each Sunday afternoon for an hour to make a shawl, or something for the mission projects we sponsor.

The Adult Sunday School and the Women's Bible Study have also started this year. They are always interested in having new people join them for discussion. It is a very good way to have fellowship with other Christians.

The *Young Adult group* continues to meet on Friday evenings at 6:30 PM. They have a new curriculum called Known. It combines video clips with journal writing and thoughtful discussions on current topics. The group ages span 19 years to 30 years. Outtings are scheduled periodically to build a stronger more cohesive group.

October 2nd is the first Family Night. We will have a *Fall Harvest Celebration* beginning at 7:00 PM. There will be games to play, crafts to make, souvenir pictures will be available for \$1.00.

Time will be set aside for some favorite foods like popcorn, taffy apples and apple juice. There will even be singing around the piano. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for the Fall Harvest Celebration. You will have a great time. Don't forget to bring a friend and share the excitement.

“KIDS HELPING KIDS”

2009-2010 Mission Project

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Our Sunday School kids are helping kids in need. We hope that throughout the year we will see kids bringing school supplies and other items that a needy child could use in school. This past year we proudly donated to the “Apple Tree” program in Worth and “Together We Cope” in Tinley Park. Just imagine the joy the children felt as they were able to walk through the school doors with new school supplies. Thank you to our kids and their parents for making this happen.

We are again asking members of our Sunday School, KIDS CLUB, and our adult congregation to think of these kids in need and search for ways that you might help. Starting September 13th and continuing for the next church school year, we will be collecting for this project. School supplies, school clothes, sweatshirts, umbrellas, book bags are just a few items that might help these kids. The drop off point for the supplies will be the school desk that is located in the church basement or school box located in the East Room. So while the school supplies are on sale, think of these kids and if possible purchase extras for donations.

PULL TABS

A second mission project will again be a part of our program. We are collecting pull tabs from aluminum cans to help support the Ronald McDonald House. Use a convenient container at your home or place of work and then deposit the tabs in our Ronald McDonald collection jar here at the church. The Ronald McDonald house supplies families of young cancer victims a place to stay while the child is undergoing treatments. Please take time to save the pop-tops for this worthy cause.

This past summer a group of children and adults visited the Ronald McDonald House located near Hope Hospital. We contributed 735 pounds of pull tops, and toured this outstanding facility.

Thank you for your continued support in the mission work of our kids.



You're invited to join the



Youth Choir of H.H.P.C.

We practice Mondays, 5:15 - 6:00 PM

This choir is open to all youth Grades 1 - 12. A commitment to this practice time and singing as a youth choir during our worship service the second Sunday of each month, is imperative to joining. Meeting every Monday, this program will offer quality music, the opportunity to learn some basic music theory and a time for fellowship with others. *Please note the changes in this program. Our practice will end at 6:00 and we will not be serving dinner.* Leaders are Cheryl and Dianne.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

This year the kids in our church school will once again be recognized for perfect attendance in their classes. These awards will be given on a monthly basis. Those with perfect attendance for the month will receive a certificate and will have their name printed in the church bulletin and Newsletter. Remember that special surprise that was presented to those who were able to achieve perfect attendance for the whole year.

Let's all work together to make this a wonderful year.

It's New!

STORIES AND MORE

Where Learning is Fun!

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church is offering a six week program intended to reinforce Kindergarten Concepts. This program will be offered on **Tuesdays** for **children ages 4-6 years old**. It will last **one hour between the times of 1-2 pm**. Class size is limited to 12 children for the day. Children will be supervised by a staff of loving adults. The staff has undergone a background check.

Our goals for this program include giving the community children an opportunity to hear stories and build skills needed for a successful school experience.

Those enrolled in the program will be treated to a story time and associated activities, organized games in the gym, and time set aside to strengthen basic Kindergarten skills.

Registration is required. If you have any questions about this program, or about registration, please contact:

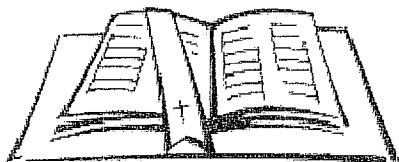
Patt Pilgrim, Program Director, at our website:
www.hickoryhillspres.org

or
Dianne Flynn, Director of Children's Ministries, at
708-598-3100.

Children will benefit from regular attendance. No transportation is available.

Cost: No Cost
This is provided as a Community Service, but registration is required.

Starting Date: Tues, Sept. 22, 2009



KIDS CLUB OCTOBER BIBLE VERSES

“Our God is a God who saves.”

Psalm 68:20

†

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the
Lord.” *Psalm 33:12*

†

“God is not a man, that he should lie.”

Numbers 23:19

†

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

*Memorize all the verses for the month to win the
Gold medal*

Thank you, God, for Children

Thank you, God for children...

- ...whose sparkling eyes do not search for flaws,
but look for love;
- ...whose loving arms are not withheld from
those who look or think differently;
- ...whose creative minds are not stifled by the
desire to make more money;
- ...whose candid words do not say one thing and
mean another;
- ...whose hopes and dreams are not hampered by
what the neighbors may think;
- ...whose gentle kisses share the tenderness and
the need for loving security.

—The First Christian Church
Portland, Oregon



**WORTH TOWNSHIP
YOUTH COMMISSION OFFICE**

11601 S. PULASKI RD • ALSIP, IL 60803 • 708-371-2900 • FAX 708-371-2144

JOHN F. MURPHY
Supervisor
THOMAS "Bud" GAVIN
Clerk
JOHN Z. TOSCAS
Assessor
STEVE LOULOUSIS
Highway Commissioner

Trustees
ROGER BENSON
MICHAEL MAHONEY
JOHN "Jack" LIND
MICHAEL B. STILLMAN

DAVID WALSH
Collector

June 18, 2009

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

Attn: Diane Flynn

Dear Ms. Flynn:

Thank you very much for your generous donation to our "Apple Tree" Program.

As you know, we get many requests for assistance, and your generosity will help many children as they return to school. It is very difficult for some parents to meet the financial demands placed on them, and the this donation will help ease this burden. So many families are extremely grateful and appreciative when they receive school supplies.

Again, thank you for this donation and for your support of our program. I appreciate your coordinating this effort, and thinking of Worth Township.

Sincerely,

Sue Sortino
Youth Commission Director



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE®
NEAR ADVOCATE HOPE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

4410 W. 93rd St.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Phone: 708-423-5285
Fax: 708-423-5658

7/30/2009

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
c/o Dianne Flynn
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60451

Dear Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the children and families served by Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI), I would like to thank you for your generous donation of 735 pounds of pop tabs in support of Ronald McDonald House® near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital.

It's because of friends like you, that we are able to provide a, "home away from home," for the families of children being treated at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. The new House allows families a place of comfort and rest after a long and stressful day at the hospital. On behalf of the many families who find encouragement, hope and a warm meal at the new House, I say thank you. The generosity of your donation will impact many families to come.

Sincerely,

Kelly Evans
House Manager
RMH near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital

RMHC-CNI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and since no goods or services were received for this donation, it is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

A CHURCH FAMILY

HARVEST CELEBRATION

The harvest is the Lord's!

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
and into His courts with praise.*

PSALM 100:4



Dear Parents,

Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything under heaven. The time of planting and growing is gone. We look now to the harvest season, a time of gathering and thankfulness to God.

This year, we want to help you start a special harvest tradition that you will remember for years to come. Come join us as we praise God at our Church Family Harvest Celebration.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to come as we focus on giving thanks to God for the blessings He has given us.



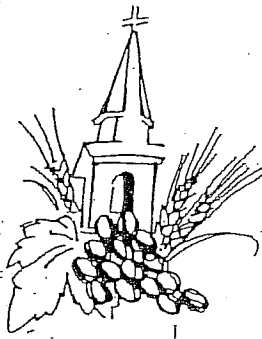
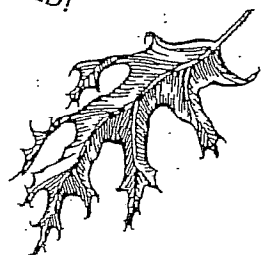
ATTENTION!
DATE HAS CHANGED!

FALL FAMILY NIGHT AT HICKORY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ATTENTION!
DATE HAS CHANGED!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
7:00 P.M.

*Souvenir Photos Available
for \$1.00 donation*



DEVOTIONS

CRAFTS

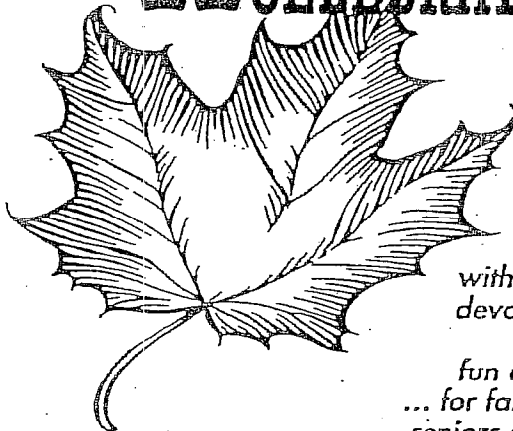
GAMES

PUPPETS

PUMPKIN CARVING
DEMONSTRATIONS

EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO A CHURCH FAMILY

HARVEST CELEBRATION



*A special
Harvest event
with game booths,
devotions, singing,
craft making,
fun and fellowship
... for families, singles,
seniors and everyone!*

SNACKS

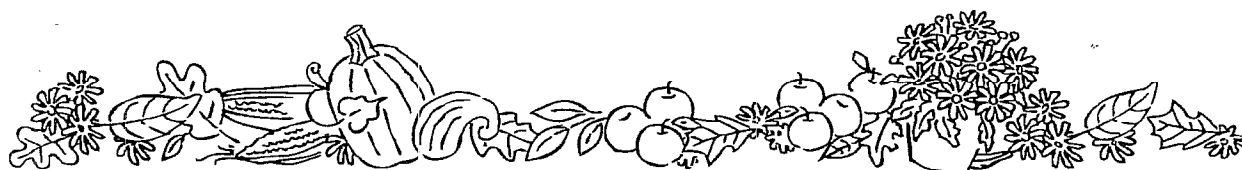
MUSIC

FACE PAINTING

FAMILY PHOTOS

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Oct. 4, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Oct. 4, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dritz, Rys	Dave Delaney
Oct. 11, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Somerstorfer, Swearingen, Ambrosat	Rick Vogl
Oct. 18, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray	Fogg, Muszynski, Bastien	Scott Zimmerman
Oct. 25, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Kahn	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
Oct. 4, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	C. Sack
Oct. 11, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	C. Sack
Oct. 18, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	C. Sack, D. Kibort
Oct. 25, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	C. Sack



October 4, 2009

OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:00-4:00 p.m. Honduras Fundraiser Concert 5:30 p.m. Kentucky Reunion</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Nov. Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>16</p> <p>MC8 Adult Retreat- 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>-Saugatuck, MI</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Outreach</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30 Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>

October Birthdays

October

- 1- Leslie Ambrosat
- 3 – Michael Pettis
- 5 – Rob Nordstrom
- 5- Kate Crowley
- 6– Larry Haack
- 8-- Sarah Swearingen
- 8-- LeAnne Kommenich
- 13- Savino Simone
- 13 – Cathy Pasquarella
- 14- Frank Rodriguez
- 16 – Arlene Pearson
- 22 – Danny Pasquarella
- 24- Danielle Tracy
- 26 – Chris Rellinger
- 28 – Scott Flynn
- 28 – Lori Haack
- 29 – Daniel Ciametti
- 31 – Susan Cunningham

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

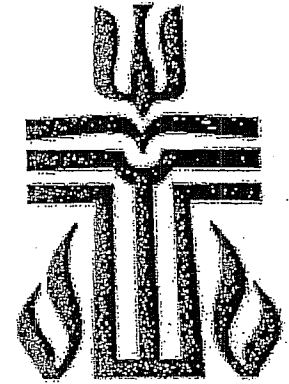
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #12 BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455
--

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



NOVEMBER 2009

Transitions are hard and we sure have had a lot of them over the last several years. BUT I believe that it makes us stronger and more sure of who we are.

Just as Scripture tells us, God is with us always and He will carry us through those times we don't know what to do. That will make us more aware of God's presence. More aware of what we do and what we need to continue and what we may need to re-evaluate.

At this point we do not know all that is in order ahead of us, but if we all work together for the good of the whole church family, and work through each step prayerfully; we will be where God wants us to be.

Session will meet with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry in two weeks from this writing and we will be acting as quickly as possible, not only to get a solid plan, and work toward getting a Pastor as a stable leader and guide for

us, but also to keep the congregation informed as much as we can along the way.

Session will work to keep you informed and to accomplish the tasks ahead of us quickly and to the best of our ability.

Have a blessed day.
Cheryl Huenecke

(Note from the Editor)
The day this was typed, "The Verse of the Day" on Biblegateway.com was:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."-
Jeremiah 29:11

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Fall is a time of departures and expected changes. We find ourselves adjusting to the coolness of fall and the glorious colors nature displays in a most spectacular way.

Are you anticipating a change this fall? Do you find yourself full of gratitude and love for family and friends? Do you wish to thank God for the small rewards of life that come your way daily? How about that sick neighbor who lays heavy upon your heart? Do you find yourself going through a difficult time and you need a friend to share the experience with?

Change is good for the soul. Change revitalizes, change alters lives. Change the boredom of your Tuesday evening routine. Share an hour of warmth as you let go of yourself and wrap your self in His love. We all have different needs but we all speak the same language and "HE" has an engaging ear.

Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 p.m. It's time for a "CHANGE."

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

"But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding." JOB 32:8

As Thanksgiving draws near, may the spirit within us overcome the disappointments we are experiencing. The prayer room is open. Come.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene

PADS UPDATE

My experience has always been to think of autumn as the end of the season, "Wrong." Autumn is the beginning of the season and the reason for PADS.

With the sound of rusting leaves under foot and a coolness in the air, many times our thoughts linger to festive home-cooked meals shared with loved ones and friends. Thanks to you, loyal supporters, that's exactly what we did.

On Sunday Oct. 4, the first Sunday of the month, we shared our bounty with 48 needy friends. They arrived via foot, bike, bus, or vehicle, all anticipating a nice evening meal, lest I say none were disappointed. In the morning, breakfast was served at a leisurely pace as many prepared to face another day without the security of family ties and rewarding activities. Upon departure all received their brown bag containing lunch for the day and a fond farewell from the caregivers who prepared their breakfast and lunch. So the process repeats itself. And in the evening their day's journey ends at the doorsteps of yet another church with open doors and hearts to help those in need.

For those who wish to donate to this ministry there is a sign up sheet downstairs for the remaining six months of the season. If you cannot prepare a meal, but you wish to donate, please see Sue Orsic or myself. Thank you for thinking of your fellow man in their hour of need.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For:

- Rev. Andrew Rosencrans for health concerns
- Michael Pettis' daughter, Amber McNulty and family for the loss of Amber's grandmother Connie
- G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
- Darlene Delaney's grandson, Alex, for upcoming surgery
- Rob Swindle's friend, Alex Petrou, for health concerns
- Shirley Brunell for recovery from surgery
- Al & Mary Lewington for healing
- Grandma Fern Lapp for health concerns
- Erin Rose Prunty for healing after skin cancer surgery

- Grace Muszynski's friend, Dennis Weithman, for health concerns
- Patt Pilgrim's sister, Pauline, for health concerns
- Jackie Gehle for health concerns
- Fran Nelson and daughter, Kay, for health concerns
- Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
- Helen Recktenwald for health concerns
- Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing
- Dorothy Allen for strength
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



September 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income \$22,738.00

This amount includes \$5,000 transferred from the Money Market

General Fund Disbursements \$19,887.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

Church Bazaar November 7

Advent Family Night December 4

Hanging of the Greens December 6

DATE CHANGE:

Women's Christmas Tea December 17

Getting to know YOUth...

My Name is Mitch Huenecke. I am 19 years old, and a sophomore at Moraine Valley Community College. I am going to school to be a welder.

I Love Doing Mission Work.

I am Presbyterian because that is where my parents go.

I believe in being a follower of Jesus Christ.

I am passionate about my friends and family.

One thing that makes me sad is missing time at youth group.

One thing that makes me happy is riding my dirt bike.

The person I most admire is my friend Clayton Case.

I never deny that I am a Christian.

I always try to witness to people and talk about my missions.

The Bible is something that I try to live by (it goes everywhere with me).

God is my Number One Love.

My prayer is non-believers find Christ.

I want to be the best I can be at what I do.

I read Motocross Magazines and My Bible.

The Deacon Board

In this newsletter is the complete list of family clusters and the name of each family's deacon. Please contact your deacon with any care giving concerns or need for prayer that you may have.

If you are not listed in a family cluster please contact Patt Pilgrim, deacon moderator, at home 630-679-0963 or at the church 708-598-3100.

We would like to make sure everyone has a deacon and is part of a family cluster. Thank you.

Patt Pilgrim

Hickory Hills - Family Lists - Deacons

7/01/2009

LAST	First	DEACON	
Adams	Barbara	Kim	Brock
Adams	Sarah, Jeremy, Alexander	Kim	Brock
Allen	Dorothy	Katic	Treccani
Ambrosat	Kim, Leslie	Chris	Maranto
Ambrosat	Rich	Chris	Maranto
Ambrosat	Bryan	Chris	Maranto
Ambrosat	Kyle	Chris	Maranto
Ambrosat	Jarett	Chris	Maranto
Anderson	Jane	Harold	Zimmerman
Anderson	Rich& Kathy, Jared	Patt	Pilgrim
Apitz	Phyllis	Chris	Maranto
Arif	Hamet, & son	Katie	Treccani
Atiedu	Theodore & Beatrice, & Akpene, Selorm	Charley	Huenecke
Barker	Dave	Patt	Pilgrim
Bastien	Shannon	Debbie	Zimmerman
Beal	Sandy	Debbie	Zimmerman
Bentley	Alan & Phyllis, & Hannah, Alan	Debbie	Zimmerman
Betcher	Ellen	Charley	Huenecke
Betterton	Marilyn & Melber, & Andy	Debbie	Zimmerman
Brady	Pat & John	Rick	Vogl
Brandt	Ryan	Debbie	Zimmerman
Bredlau	Donna & Paul	Rick	Vogl
Brock	Terry & Kim (and Mark Gulotta)	Patt	Pilgrim
Brown	Barb	Katie	Treccani
Brown	Rachel	Debbie	Zimmerman
Brumis	Marge	Patt	Pilgrim
Brunnell	Shirley	Charley	Huenecke
Ciametti	Dan, Diane, Gina, Gabriella	Patt	Pilgrim
Crowley	Julie & Mike, & Pat, Mike, Katie	Chris	Maranto
Cunningham	Lorraine	Rick	Vogl
Curtis	Laura	Harold	Zimmerman
Davis	Art & Mary	Rick	Vogl
DeForest	Jean	Debbie	Zimmerman
Delalamon	Myrnalyn	Dorothy	Allen
Delaney	Dave & Darlene	Rick	Vogl
Delprete	Jennifer, Tia, Draven	Kim	Brock
Dragas	Michael	Chris	Maranto
Dragas	Shirley	Katie	Treccani
Dritz	Ken, JoAnn Jackson	Chris	Maranto
Dumke	Lucy	Katie	Treccani
Duncan	Wilda	Dorothy	Allen
Esparza	Frank	Harold	Zimmerman
Fellers	Maryann	Harold	Zimmerman
Fikac	Jim	Dorothy	Allen
Flynn	Scott & Agnes, & Sara & Victoria	Patt	Pilgrim
Flynn	Stacey	Dorothy	Allen
Flynn	Stan & Dianne	Dorothy	Allen
Fogg	Shirley	Patt	Pilgrim
Fox	Christine, & Adam, Jasmine, Jenah	Katie	Treccani
Frangella	Susan & Pat	Dorothy	Allen
Freiberg	Delorus, & Courtney, Kyle	Kim	Brock

Hickory Hills - Family Lists - Deacons

7/01/2009

Gehle	Scott and Jackie & Rebecca, Sarah	Rick	Vogl
Gleespen	Tanya, Hollie (Fox)	Chris	Maranto
Grisko	Jeanette, & Gessica, Tristan, Evan	Debbie	Zimmerman
Gulotta	Amanda [Brock]	Patt	Pilgrim
Gust	Alice	Harold	Zimmerman
Haack	Lori and Larry & Karl, Brian	Katie	Treccani
Haag	Linda	Harold	Zimmerman
Hall	Colleen & John, & David, Joshua	Kim	Brock
Hepburn	Barb, & Trevor, Jordan	Chris	Maranto
Hermansen	Harry	Charley	Huenecke
Hill	Ruth & Granville	Rick	Vogl
Hillenbrand	Mark	Harold	Zimmerman
Hoffman	Karen	Debbie	Zimmerman
Hoffman	Marie	Debbie	Zimmerman
Home	Gordon	Harold	Zimmerman
Howe	Cheryl	Patt	Pilgrim
Huenecke	Charley & Cheryl	Dorothy	Allen
Huenecke	Hanna	Patt	Pilgrim
Huenecke	Mitch	Debbie	Zimmerman
Janchenko	Alissa & Luke	Debbie	Zimmerman
Kahn	Beverly & Rich	Debbie	Zimmerman
Kemp	Lynn & John, & John	Charley	Huenecke
Kenealy	Toni	Katie	Treccani
Kibort	Darlene	Dorothy	Allen
Kitching	Betty	Katie	Treccani
Kluska	Micki	Charley	Huenecke
Kommenich	Beth & Ray, & Alyssia, Leanne	Katie	Treccani
Kowalcze	Amanda	Kim	Brock
Krajewski	Leslie, Amani	Kim	Brock
Krbecek	Norene	Patt	Pilgrim
Krueger	Dave & Darlene, & Noah	Rick	Vogl
Krueger	Josh	Kim	Brock
Krueger	Kyle	Harold	Zimmerman
Krueger	Ryan	Chris	Maranto
Krumpolc	Judy, & Michelle, Tommy	Debbie	Zimmerman
Kupka	Jim & Marcia, & Jim & Chris	Debbie	Zimmerman
LaCognata	Dave	Debbie	Zimmerman
Lane	Tom & Cora & T.K.	Charley	Huenecke
Larson	Noelle	Debbie	Zimmerman
Lavaretto	Linda	Charley	Huenecke
Lavaretto	Tony	Charley	Huenecke
Leake	Karen & Jessica, Jacob	Rick	Vogl
Lewington	Al & Mary	Harold	Zimmerman
Lopinski	Gwen	Rick	Vogl
Lorenz	Pat & Terri, & Stephanie, Stacey, Kevin	Kim	Brock
Majersky	Greg & Lynn	Rick	Vogl
Maranto	Mark & Christine, & Brittany, Ashley	Charley	Huenecke
Mason	Eva	Rick	Vogl
Matke	Dawn, & Grace, Mark	Charley	Huenecke
McKinney	Carrie & Austin, Riley	Charley	Huenecke
McKinney	Doug & Susan, & Austin, Riley, baby	Debbie	Zimmerman
McKinney	Joyce	Debbie	Zimmerman

Hickory Hills - Family Lists - Deacons

7/01/2009

Mead	Lorraine	Rick	Vogl
Meyer	Rene, & Erik, Gabriel	Debbie	Zimmerman
Mocarski	Laverne	Chris	Maranto
Molenaar	Elaine	Katie	Treccani
Morgucz	Jackie	Patt	Pilgrim
Morgucz	John & Dawn	Charley	Huenecke
Morrell, Jr	Tom & Sharon, & Jacob	Dorothy	Allen
Morrell, Sr	Thomas & Mary	Dorothy	Allen
Murray	Mike	Rick	Vogl
Muszynski	Grace	Chris	Maranto
Neil	Mildred	Debbie	Zimmerman
Nelson	Fran	Rick	Vogl
Nestor	Eva	Chris	Maranto
Nilles	Tammie & Michael, & dau	Debbie	Zimmerman
Nordstrom	Bob	Harold	Zimmerman
Nordstrom	Rob	Harold	Zimmerman
Orsic	Sue & Scott, & Natalie, Danny	Charley	Huenecke
Panko	Joan	Katie	Treccani
Panteleo	Marge	Harold	Zimmerman
Pearson	Lou & Arlene	Rick	Vogl
Pearson	Tom & Nancy	Patt	Pilgrim
Petkus	Colleen & Paul, & Jennifer	Kim	Brock
Pettis	Mike & Tanya, & Victoria	Dorothy	Allen
Pilgrim	Chris	Charley	Huenecke
Pilgrim	Cliff & Patt	Dorothy	Allen
Porter	Steve & Aga Rosa	Debbie	Zimmerman
Pretto	Dave	Harold	Zimmerman
Prunty	Erin Rose, & Halimah, Nellie, Eamon	Kim	Brock
Radetski	Lisa	Charley	Huenecke
Raschke	Kady	Patt	Pilgrim
Raschke	Rick & Debbie, & Emily	Rick	Vogl
Recktenwald	Helen	Katie	Treccani
Rehbock	Jimmie	Harold	Zimmerman
Rellinger	Dawn, & Justin, Abby	Dorothy	Allen
Resner	Fred & Lil	Debbie	Zimmerman
Richer	Harry	Rick	Vogl
Richer	Mary	Rick	Vogl
Robison	Marie	Rick	Vogl
Rodriquez	Mary, & Danny, Mandy, Frank	Dorothy	Allen
Ross	Jennifer, & son Petar Ilic	Kim	Brock
Rys	Linda & Don, & Kaylee, Shaylin	Katie	Treccani
Sack	Carol	Kim	Brock
Schilling	Cecily	Rick	Vogl
Scholefield	Enid, Dorothy	Patt	Pilgrim
Schwake	Adam	Rick	Vogl
Schwake	Candice	Rick	Vogl
Seeger	Heather	Chris	Maranto
Shenbarger	Betty	Katie	Treccani
Simone	Angie	Patt	Pilgrim
Smith	Breona, Ashley	Katie	Treccani
Snow	G. R.	Dorothy	Allen
Snow	Eloise	Dorothy	Allen

Somerstorfer	Jean	Chris	Maranto
Swearingen	Jean & Alvin, & Sam, Mike, Sarah	Katie	Treccani
Swindle	Melanie & Bert & Amanda, Natasha, Veronica	Debbie	Zimmerman
Taebel	Ivy	Kim	Brock
Tartar	Mary	Katie	Treccani
Taylor	Fen	Patt	Pilgrim
Treccani	Cindy & Tom	Kim	Brock
Treccani	Josh	Rick	Vogl
Treccani	Katie	Patt	Pilgrim
Turner	Kathleen	Rick	Vogl
Ulrich	Dave	Charley	Huenecke
Van Vossen	Len	Patt	Pilgrim
Van Vossen	Norm	Patt	Pilgrim
Vickers	Gert	Patt	Pilgrim
Vinalek	George	Katie	Treccani
Vogl	Jeni & Rick	Patt	Pilgrim
Waller	Joyce & Jerry	Harold	Zimmerman
Waller	Megan	Harold	Zimmerman
Warren	Lenora	Charley	Huenecke
Watson	Carolyn & Kent, & Michael	Dorothy	Allen
Watson	Eleanor	Patt	Pilgrim
Wheeler	Cathie, & Kyle, Katie	Charley	Huenecke
Witek	Julie & Chris, & Andrew, Matt	Katie	Treccani
Wreza	Sarah & Bryant, & Hailey, Leo	Kim	Brock
Zabelka	Ed & Carla	Harold	Zimmerman
Zabelka	Virginia	Rick	Vogl
Zharare	Pauline, & dau Becky Kusina	Chris	Maranto
Zimmerman	Debbie & Scott, & Megan, Kyle	Kim	Brock
Zimmerman	Harold	Kim	Brock

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Nov. 1, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Nov. 1, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Tom & Nancy Pearson	Dave Delaney
Nov. 8, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman		Rick Vogl
Nov. 15, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray		Scott Zimmerman
Nov. 22, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell		Terry Brock
Nov. 29, 2009	S. Zimmerman		
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
Nov. 1, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
Nov. 8, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Nov. 15, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	D. Kibort
Nov. 22, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	
Nov. 29, 2009	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski		

In Praise of the Organ

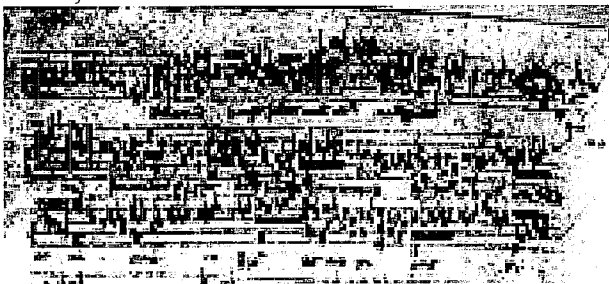
by G. R. Snow

When we think of Biblical instruments, we think of those enumerated in the book of Psalms—the lyre, the harp, the flute, the pipes, the timbrel—but there are also translations which make reference to “Praise Him on the organ and stringed instruments”.

The organ as we know it today would look a bit out-of-place in the time of David, or of the renowned choirs of the sons of Asaph or the sons of Korah. Electricity was in short supply, Allen and Hammond and Rodgers weren’t just in the next suburb over to come and repair the instrument when it got out of tune or had a cipher (a key keeps making sound even when no one is playing it), and as for installing pipe organs with their stop-tablets or drawknobs, their blower chests and their multiple ranks of pipes—well, that wasn’t about to happen.

Or was it? It might not have been the first year after David or the next choir season after the sons of Asaph finished the last Psalm inscribed to them, but it was definitely before the time of Christ that experiments were done to create water pressure forcing air through tuned reeds. And, lest we believe that the Emperor Nero spent all his time fiddling while Rome burned, let the record be set straight—he also played a version of the organ. It didn’t have Leslie speakers or a keyboard anything like what we know today, of course. But it was a “hydraulic”, a water-pressure driven organ.

Organ music, by comparison, is not really known until the advent of the Robertsbridge Codex (ca. 1360 A.D.). Six dance movements called estampie (cf. “stamp”, as in stamping your foot), have survived as the earliest organ music known to contemporary musicology. It is almost certain that organ music existed before this Codex, but none has survived so far as modern historians are aware. They didn’t look much like contemporary organ music, either.



Most pipe organs in America today show definite influence of some particular nation’s organ development. Stops with names like “Röhrgedeckt” and “Nachthorn” demonstrate some German influence, while names like “Cor de Nuit” and

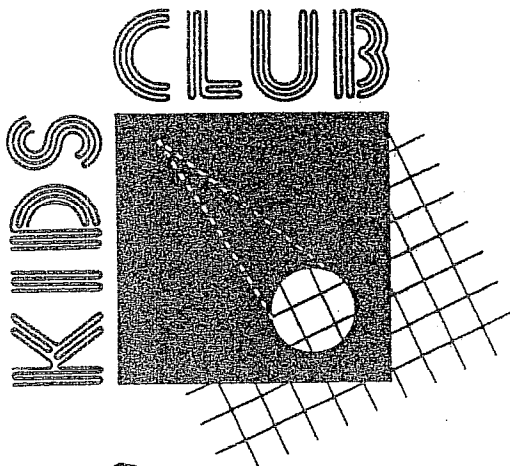
“Voix Celeste” show more French influence. Though many American churches have organs with keyboard names like “Great”, “Swell”, and “Choir”, it is possible to find organs with a “Hauptwerk”, an “Oberwerk”, a “Ruckpositiv”, and a “Brustwerk” (as in House of Hope Presbyterian in St. Paul, Minnesota). The four divisions each have specific purposes and a complement of sounds and stops appropriate to these purposes, though of course it is possible to set the different manuals with different registrations for variety from verse to verse of hymn accompaniments.

Before organs achieved the features and stage development they enjoy today, different organ development schools of thought took different turns. Sometimes a single manual was all an organ had, but different registrations could be set for the upper half and the lower half. Sometimes an organist who wanted a low B, below the lowest note on the pedalboard, would sacrifice a low C# and have it tuned a step flat so he could play the low B. And, of course, there were no electrical outlets or extension cords in the time of Buxtehude and Tunder—instead, the organ bellows was pumped by hand all through the operation of the organ, whether for hymnleading (yes, the organ traditionally leads the hymns, not accompanies them) or for service music such as prelude or postlude. Pumping those long wooden levers may have been the chosen punishment for altar boys or choir boys who had misbehaved during a previous service.

Pumping bellows, of course, doesn’t occur in this age of electrification except as a novelty. Our church’s Allen organ has never required bellows pumpers, because it is electronic. Most electronic organs manufactured today contain digital sampling, a highly-sophisticated way of making each stop quite accurately simulate the sound of classic pipe organ stops or, sometimes, the orchestral instrument imitated. With all the different stops and stop-combinations how easy it is to see why the organ is historically termed “The King of Instruments”!

BRAIN-TEASER: Can you guess what each organ stop listed below is meant to sound like by its name?

1. Trompette
2. Hautbois
3. Voix Humaine
4. Nachthorn
5. Basson
6. Vox Angelicus
7. Flöte
8. Clairon
9. Trombe
10. Cornet (be careful--this is a trick one)



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

"Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8

God is at work in our hearts and in our lives. Our time together on Monday afternoon helps us to grow into a wonderful child of God. The themes for our study in November are;

- A Bountiful Harvest* - God blesses His people.
- Seed Selection* - God is like the potter and we are the clay.
- A Major Transplant* - God's purpose prevails regardless of our actions.
- Preserving the Fruit* - God preserves His people.
- Weeping Willows* - God hears His people cry.

Congratulations to the following kids for their achievement as winners of the Bible Verse Memorization for the month of September. The Silver Medal was presented to Frank R. and Savino S. Receiving Gold Medals for memorizing all the verses for the month are Maya G., Danielle T., Jasmine F., LeAnne K., Christy C. and Angel F. Great work!!

This year we are celebrating with those who receive perfect attendance for the month. Each month we have an exciting and unusual activity planned for the winner. This month Michael was chosen to participate in the Candy Bar Balance. Want to know more this ask any of the kids. Michael was able to balance 7 Snickers, which he then got to take home, but because we were celebrating everyone received a candy bar.

Final preparations are underway for our Halloween Party to be held on Monday, October 26th. This is always a day with good safe fun shared with friends. It will be an afternoon filled with games, crafts, face painting, lots of music, and surprises! If possible, we ask those attending on this day to bring a bag of candy to be shared in the take home 'trick or treat bags'.

Our Family Advent Night is coming up so mark your calendar now for this favorite family night to be held on Friday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. We will feature a shared potluck dinner, holiday crafts for all age groups, and singing of Christmas carols. This is a great evening for everyone, so plan for it now. What a wonderful way to begin the season of Advent! The sign up sheet and a display of crafts will be located on the lower level of the church beginning November 8th. We encourage you to invite family and friends.

If you wish to provide snacks, juice or other supplies for our kids, a sign up sheet is located at KIDS CLUB. This is a favorite time and thank you for helping to make it happen.

We continue to welcome new kids to this program, so if you know of someone who would enjoy sharing Monday afternoons with us at KIDS CLUB, please invite them.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



Christian Education

†

There was a great turn-out for the *Fall Harvest Celebration*. Everyone seems to have had a great time creating their own pumpkins for the pumpkin patch. The people who made the scarecrow face have something cute to decorate their doors and celebrate fall, too. Did you ever think anyone could carve a pumpkin as intricately as Dan Ciametti? What a special time to play some games. Did everyone manage to get a picture to celebrate the night? Wasn't singing around the piano the most fun you've had in years? Thank you to all the volunteers for the decorations, clean up, food, crafts, pictures and music. It was a night for the entire family to remember.

Attendance for *Sunday school* this month has been lower than in the past. Perhaps the word has not reached all the members' families. Our Sunday classes for the children are scheduled at the 10:30 worship service. Children from age 3 thru Seniors in High School are welcome to attend these classes. Adults meet at 9:00 AM each Sunday for their class. If you know a child or adult who would enjoy these classes, please pass along this information. **A teacher's meeting will be held on November 22, at 9:30 AM.** All current teachers and those who will teach the winter quarter are asked to make this a priority and attend. Dianne will have a delicious treat for you accompanied with hot coffee, tea, or juice.

A special thanks to all the older *Youth Choir* members who have donated their time on Sunday mornings to help work out harmony for the younger Youth Choir members. You are a valuable asset to this young singing group. Thank you so much for helping out.

Kids Club is going again. Children who are familiar with the program are bringing friends to join them but more children are always

welcome. New to the program this year is a special time set aside to knit, cook and hear stories. Children are still welcome to play in the gym, make a craft, play table and computer games, as well as sing and experience a lesson in Christian Learning. A Celebration of Perfect Attendance in each month has been added. In September, Michael was chosen from the children with Perfect Attendance to do the Candy Bar Balance. He managed to balance 7 full size Snickers Bars before they all came tumbling down. Everyone who attended that day received a candy bar. Who knows what stunt Dianne will think up for next month?

Planning for the ornaments to place on the *Zoo Tree* is underway. Children in Kids Club will be asked to help design ornaments to place on our tree. Families interested in coming to help decorate are asked to contact Dianne. We will be decorating at the Zoo on Saturday, November 21.

A wonderful family night is planned for December 4. There will be over a dozen crafts to make. Some will require adult supervision while others will be simple enough for children to finish independently. The night usually ends with a sing-a-long around the piano. Come and start your holiday decorating with us on the *Advent Family Night* at 6:30 PM.

Did I mention that we will begin our holiday celebrations? On December 6th, we will again present *The Hanging of the Greens*. The children will help decorate the church and retell the story of Christmas. They will explain some of the familiar traditions and get everyone into the holiday mood with familiar songs. Come, join us for a spectacular worship service at 10:30 AM, December 6th.

Our annual *Christmas Tea* will be held on December 17th. It begins promptly at 7:00 PM. We will enjoy fellowship, games, singing by the Stagg Madrigal Singers, a special speaker, and of course, delicious baked goodies with our tea. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite friends to this annual event. It is a great way to relax after the hectic activities to prepare for Christmas.

The Youth Groups invited Doug Orbaker to speak on October 10. He told the audience many stories about his experiences in Nicaragua. There was a pizza party after his talk on real missionary work. Everyone who came on Saturday had an eye-opening experience.

The Women's Bible Study is currently studying the book of Psalms. It meets every Monday at 1:00 PM. Monday, December 14th, the ladies will celebrate Christmas with a special luncheon. Talk to Arlene for more information. No meetings will be held on November 23 or December 21 and 28th.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is back working in the fifth grade classroom every Sunday after the 10:30 AM worship service. The group is working on items for the warming tree, squares for Africa, as well as Prayer Shawls, afghans, and lap blankets. The group sent 425 knitted squares to Africa. A special thank you to all the people who helped make these squares. Don't panic if you still have squares at home and did not make the first mailing. We will send more accumulated squares in about six months. Just keep knitting and bring them down to the fifth grade classroom for storage or drop them off with Dianne or Linda. Anyone who is interested in knitting or crocheting is welcome to join in the discussions and fun. You do not need to be an expert to join us. There is plenty of yarn and a variety of needle sizes if you do not have your own.

The Stampers are also meeting on a regular basis again. They meet every other Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the Jr. High Classroom upstairs. Several people have

brought new and creative ways to the group so you can learn new techniques and share your own creativity with others. Come join us on October 28 or November 11. See what the buzz is all about.

Stories and More is off to a great start. The children ages 4,5, and 6 are offered a story, activities for the story, a time to move to music, lessons in color identification, counting, and letter identification. The children have used puppets to retell the story, made cookies, and retold the story using face masks. Everyone, including the teaching staff is having a wonderful time learning together. *Stories and More* is held on Tuesdays 1-2 PM and has a class size limited to 12 children. Please pass this information on to anyone with children who would benefit from learning kindergarten skills. They can contact Patt Pilgrim the program director at www.hickoryhillspres.org. or Dianne Flynn, Director of Children's Ministries at 598-3100.

TREE OF WARMTH

This is commonly known as our Scarf and Mitten Tree. The articles on this tree help to physically warm a child who comes to the Jones Center in need. It emotionally warms our souls to be able to provide this necessity to someone less fortunate than ourselves. So, this holiday season try to remember these kids.

Our own kids will be decorating the tree with these items during the "Hanging of the Greens" program on December 6th. Please try to bring your items to the church on or before November 29th. Remember-our warming tree can be decorated with anything that can keep a child warm - hats, earmuffs, socks, scarves, etc. You too will feel warmth in this giving.



✠ SUNDAY SCHOOL ✠
You're always welcome! - 10:30 Every Sunday

During worship service, a fully staffed nursery is available for infants and toddlers. The nursery is on the lower level of the church. It is equipped with cribs, swings, high chairs, toys and books to keep the children happy and content while their parents participate in the worship service. The volunteer staff members find great joy in watching the children grow.

Preschool/Kindergarten –

Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Cheryl Huenecke

Hi -

This year has started off a little slow. Ms. Cheryl and I have been team teaching. We have had some fun learning how, like the Israelites we must trust in God to provide us with what we need, like parents to care for us. The last two weeks we've been working on the 10 Commandments, God's rules for his people, and how we should do our best to keep them. Thanks to all the parents who make it a priority to bring these beautiful kids to our class; Katrina, Karrington, Leo, Jayden and can't forget Jacob.

Great Job Kids.

Love,

Ms. Debbie

Ms. Cheryl

Grades 3 and 4 - Jeni Vogel

We have had between 3-5 kids so far. Having fun getting to know them and get into the routine of teaching again.

Grade 5 - Linda Lavaretto

What an exciting time to be studying the Ten Commandments. We have been talking about how the first four commandments show us how to honor God and the last six commandments help us to honor others. It was so nice to see LeAnne, Frankie, Veronica, Riley, and Kyle. I am a bit

disappointed that we have not seen the other children on the class list. Perhaps you will come visit us soon. It is so much more fun to have discussions and play games when there are more than one or two of us.

Hope to see you sometime in the future.

Linda

Junior High - Patt Pilgrim

OK it wasn't fair but it did get the message across. I put pretzels and popcorn out for the class to eat – as much as they wanted. After a few minutes they started getting thirsty. There was nothing to drink in site.

It was then we opened our bibles and began our lesson (Exodus 17:1-7) about the Israelites in the desert complaining to Moses about being thirsty after God sent manna and quail when they complained about being hungry. Moses went to God and asked what to do. God told Moses to go to a rock and reach out his staff and water came out. We reenacted the passage and like the Israelites we found water (a pitcher full hidden in the credenza). It was a relief not to be thirsty anymore.

We then talked about how the Israelites felt and how God provided. We talked about times in our lives when we were going through hard times and family, friends and God were there to talk to and help us through stuff.

We will be studying the Ten Commandments the next few weeks. It is such a pleasure to

have Ashley, Natalie, Tasha, Leslie, Alyssia, Kyle, Tom and Katelin, Jessica, Erik and Kate in class. We miss Halimah, Tristan, Kaylee, John, Brian, Jordan, Becky, Stephanie, Rebecca, Celina, Danny and Mandy. Hope to see you all next week.

God bless you,
Patt Pilgrim

Senior High – Gordon Home

The Senior High Class is working on a project with a camera taking pictures of what God created. This helps give them a better appreciation of what God created and how it

affects their own lives. They are also creating a Holy Scroll depicting each lesson they learn in the classroom. The Holy Scroll helps them focus and record their thoughts in a spiritual manner and keeps them drawn to the Scripture. The Holy Scroll will be held in the Archives.

Adult Class – Tom Lane

To our Church,

We continue to gain wisdom and seek God's righteousness. Please come and join us. We meet Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Church Library. In this room everyone speaks freely and learns from one other.

Adult Sunday School Class

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

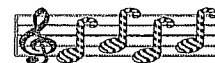
Friday, December 4

6:30 P.M.

POTLUCK DINNER

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE PIANO



COST:

FOOD DISH TO SHARE FOR OUR MEAL

AND

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CRAFTS PROJECTS



Sign up today for this wonderful family event



Junior High Youth Group

All 6, 7 and 8 grade students and their friends are invited to join us on Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the church for Youth Group.

FOOD: Thank you Leslie and Mallory for wonderful homemade cake and chex snack these last few weeks. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for one week of treats for snack time.

GAMES : Games we have played so far are Nuke um, Spud, towel toss, Shoe golf and Tag on chips. Next week we are playing Salamander which is almost everyone's favorite game.

LEARNING: Once a month we plan to show a video. Several weeks ago we watched a video entitled "Rain" about God being with us in hard times. We are also using "Known", a Christian curriculum.

We enjoyed hearing missionary Rev. Doug Orbaker from Nicaragua, speak to us about mission work on Saturday October 10th at the church. We had pizza afterwards.

Upcoming events are:	Date
Haunted House Outing	October 17
HHPC Haunted House	Oct. 23, 24, 30, 31
Downtown Ice Skating Outing on	December 13
Youth Retreat to Bloomington, Il.	January 29, 30, 31

For further information - leave us a message at the church and we will get back to you as soon as we get the message (708-598-3100).

Patt Pilgrim, Katie Trecanni, Bryan Ambrosat

Senior High Youth Group

The 2009 – 2010 Season is off to a good start. A regular group of involved and excited youth are meeting on Sunday nights, after the REV service. After an organizational meeting to get ourselves oriented, we have jumped into learning more about our relationship with God and those around us. We might even be learning more about ourselves in the process.

Our first topic was “Which way do I go?” We discussed having God as a companion on our decision-making journey. As Christians, we make decisions about which directions we take in our lives, every day. It seems the senior high years are jammed full of choices and cross roads. A Christian method of decision making is called Spiritual Discernment, a process we use in seeking God to be part of the decision-making journey. It is not so much problem-solving, but rather listening for God’s voice as part of the decision process. We learned that it is less important that we always know the “right” choice and more important that we continue to consciously seek God in the decision process.

Another activity we have introduced to our meetings is sharing music. If you haven’t noticed, music is a big part of, and influence on, our youth, today. Each week, one of the youth presents a song to the group. They share their thoughts on why they like it, what it says to them, or how it presents Christ in the world. We are only a couple weeks into this and we are already hearing a good variety of musical styles, and seeing God and his grace in many places.

The Sr. High Youth Group is planning some outings, a retreat, a lock-in, and concessions for the Haunted House. We are also thinking about that wonderful spaghetti dinner we had last year.

If you are of high school age, please come and join us. If you know someone that might like to join us, please let them know about us, or let us know who they are. We would love to reach out to them and share the fun with them.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen,

SQUARES FOR AFRICA

So many of you have been generous with your time and talents. We collected 435 squares for Africa. Beginning knitters as well as the more experienced ones have made this mission very well received. Our problem now, is the cost of the postage. UPS asked for \$1600 to ship the squares in two boxes. Fed Ex asked for \$1200 to ship them. Our USPS estimated \$400 for the boxes and wants them packed into boxes which are no more than a total of 79 inches HxWxD. This will probably raise the cost for sending them through the USPS. We still believe this is a mission we should continue to support. There are over 11 million children orphaned in sub Saharan Africa due to the extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS epidemic. Our squares may not seem like a great amount when you compare it to the need BUT they can help make a small difference in the life of a child who is cold and alone. Please fill the colored squares you find in the bulletins and hand them in at the time of offering. Even a small donation of \$1 will help us to raise money to keep sending Squares for Africa.

Yours through Christ,

The Knitters for the *Squares for Africa* mission

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



Red Yellow Black and White

Je - sus

Loves the little children

All the

Children of the wo-rld

Red Yellow Black and White, they are precious in His sight.

Je-sus Loves, Je-sus Loves

The Children of the World

This is a strong message in such simple terms going back to the old days of "Jesus love me this I know for the Bible tells me so"! So do we believe it? Sometimes maybe, but our kids help us to remember with these words. God has made each and every one of us in His sight – that means we are perfect. Not in the way that we see each other or even in the way we see ourselves, but the way HE sees us – we are perfect.

Our message at REV last week echoed this too. So in respecting others we are showing the respect that God deserves -because He is Perfect.

Peace,

Cheryl & Dianne

Jesus Loves Me - The History

This popular song has been loved among children and adults alike since it was written in 1860. Anna B. Warner wrote the original version and later David Rutherford McGuire added stanzas two and three. Anna's sister Susan had asked her to write a song for a Sunday School teacher who wanted to cheer a dying boy. No wonder the lyrics have brought a smile to many children and assurance to adults! The song first appeared in a novel, *Say and Seal*. In 1862, William B. Bradbury composed the music and added the refrain.

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Erik Meyer
- 3 Michelle Krumpolc
- 5 Sebastian Blankenship
- 6 Brittany Maranto
- 14 Leo Wreza
- 15 Jacob Morrell
- 23 Mandy Rodriguez
- 27 Shaylin Rys
Alan Bentley

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES NOVEMBER

God will bless us. Psalm 67:7



It does not, therefore, depend on man's
desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 9:16



God reigns over the nations.

Psalm 47:8



For this God is our God. Psalm 48:14



Trust in him at all times. Psalm 62:8



PERFECT ATTENDANCE SEPTEMBER

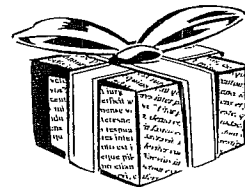
1st and 2nd Grades
Jacob Morrell

3rd and 4th Grades
Danny Orsic

5th Grade
LeAnne Kommenich

Junior High
Alyssia Kommenich
Natalie Orsic
Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High
Kyle Ambrosat
Gabriella Ciametti
Sarah Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
Megan Zimmerman



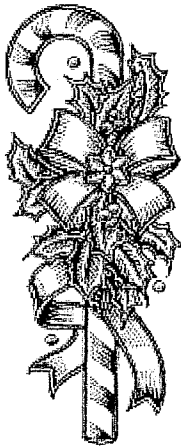
Please Join Us for our

Annual Craft Bazaar

Saturday, November 7, 2009

9 AM- 3 PM

HHPC
8426 West 95th St.
Hickory Hills
708-598-3100



There is something for everyone—

Great Gift Ideas and Crafts, a Bake Sale, “The Penny Social,” and of course our “Snack Shop” where you have several options for lunch such as:

Chili, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Soups, Slice of Pie etc.

Stop by and enjoy a great day of fellowship and good food!!!

See you on November 7th.



ADVENT PROGRAM

Our kids tell the story of the Nativity and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sound of Christmas.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6
10:30 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 4th



5:30 p.m. Children meet in Sanctuary to Practice for Advent program

6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night
Potluck Dinner and Crafts

Sunday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program
10:30 a.m. Advent Program Presented
"Hanging of the Greens"



God sees us as we can be,
but loves us as we are.

Just for Kids

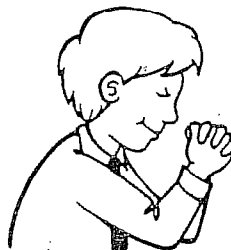
Give thanks

Find the words that are missing from the verses below. Use the graph to find the letters. For example: 3, 11 = b.

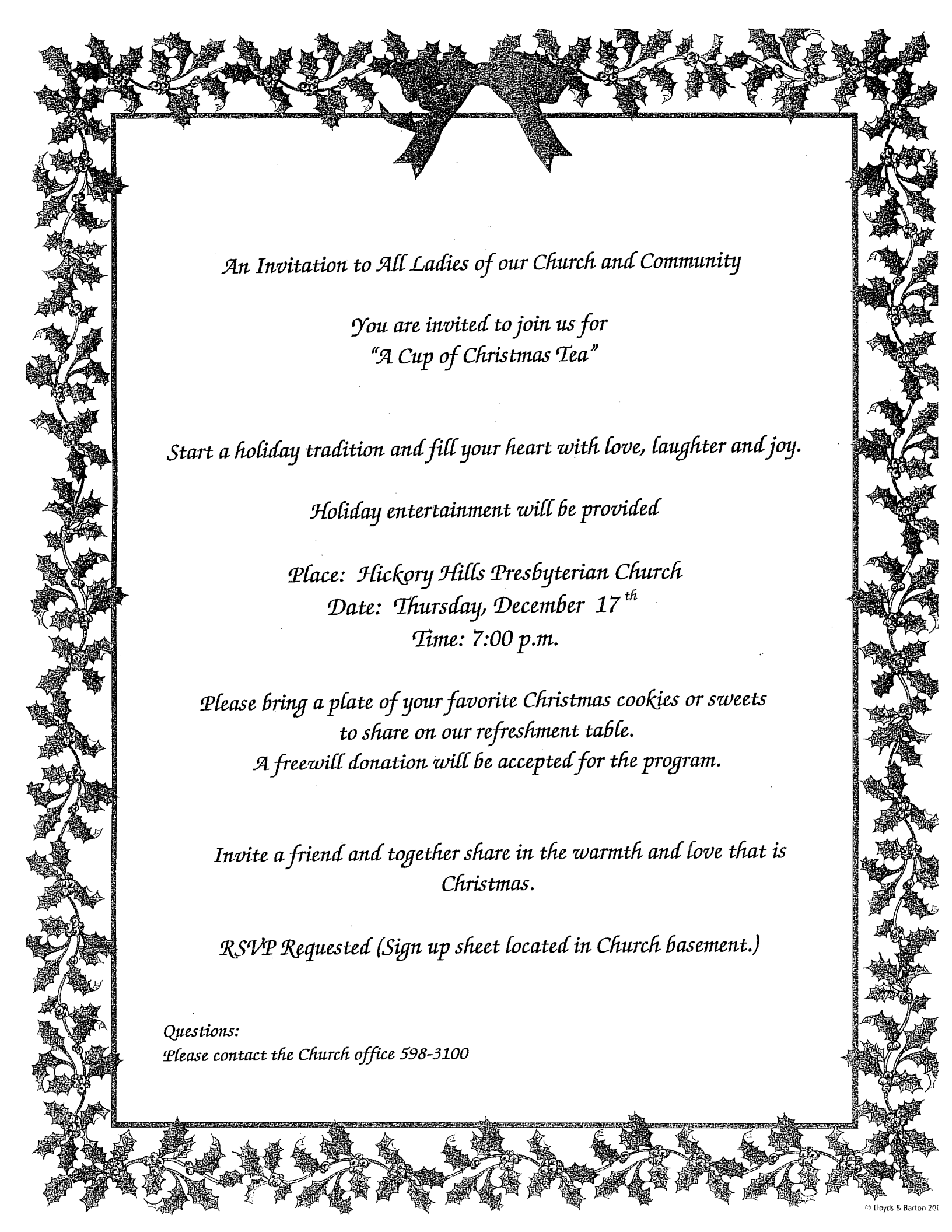
1) "I 3,5 2,6 3,4 1,7 2,7 my 1,10 2,5 2,8
3,4 1,4 3,8 3,4 1,9 1,6 when I 2,9 2,4 3,9 2,4 3,9 3,11 2,4 2,9
you in my 2,10 2,9 3,4 1,9 2,4 2,9 1,6" (Philemon 1:4)

2) "Be 3,10 1,11 1,4 1,4 2,4 2,8 with the
1,6 2,10 1,11 2,9 1,11 3,5 ... always and for
2,4 3,6 2,4 2,9 1,9 3,5 2,6 1,11 1,7 1,8 giving
3,5 2,6 3,4 1,7 2,7 1,6" (Ephesians 5:18, 20)

3) "Give 3,5 2,6 3,4 1,7 2,7 1,6 in all
2,11 1,11 2,9 2,11 3,7 3,9 1,6 3,5 3,4 1,7 2,11 2,4 1,6"
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)



Graph										
1	l	J	s	n	g	y	G	i		
2	e	o	h	k	d	r	p	c		
3	a	t	v	u	w	m	f	b		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			



An Invitation to All Ladies of our Church and Community

*You are invited to join us for
"A Cup of Christmas Tea"*

Start a holiday tradition and fill your heart with love, laughter and joy.

Holiday entertainment will be provided

Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

Date: Thursday, December 17th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

*Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies or sweets
to share on our refreshment table.*

A freewill donation will be accepted for the program.

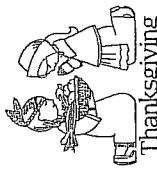
*Invite a friend and together share in the warmth and love that is
Christmas.*

RSVP Requested (Sign up sheet located in Church basement.)

Questions:

Please contact the Church office 598-3100

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Dawnlight Savings Time Ends 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	2 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	4 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	5 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	6 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	7 BAZAAR 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
8 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Dec. Newsletter Articles Due	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	10 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting	11 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	12 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	13 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	14 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
15 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Outreach	17 6:00 p.m. C.E. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	18 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	19 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	20 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	23 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons	24 12:30 p.m. Friendship Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	25 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	26 Thanksgiving  Thanksgiving	27 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	28
29 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	30 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir					

November Birthdays

November 1 – Marcia Kupka
 5 – Katie Treccani
 5- Steve Porter
 6 – Delorus Freiberg
 6 – Jean Swearingen
 7 – Fen Taylor
 8 – Renee Meyer
 8 – Mitchell Huenecke
 11 – John Freeman
 14 – Alissa Raschke-Janchenko
 16 – Marge Pantaleo
 17 – Selorm Atiedu
 24 – Danielle Koch
 26 – Beth Ann Kommenich
 26 – Linda Rys
 27 – Lorraine Mead
 27 – Mary Tartar
 30 – Ken Naujoks
 30 – Jacqueline Morgucz
 30- Amanda Kowalcze

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

Fundraising

Please join us on **Saturday, November 7th** from **9am to 3pm** for our **Annual Craft Bazaar**. There is something for everyone—great gift ideas and crafts, a bake sale, large raffle area otherwise known as “The Penny Social,” and of course our “Snack Shop” where you have several options for lunch such as: chili, sloppy joes, hot dogs, chili dogs, soups, slice of pie etc.

So stop by and enjoy a great day of fellowship and good food!!! See you on November 7th.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

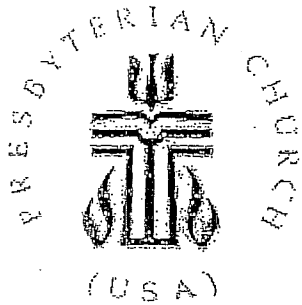
8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

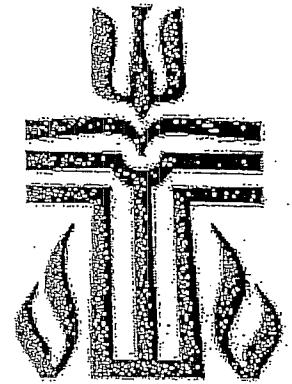
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #12 BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455
--

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**

THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708) 598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org



DECEMBER 2009

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Good morning, Father.
Thank you for giving to me
the gift of another day of
life. I know not what this
day holds, but my intentions
are to live for you in all I
do.

As my day progresses,
Father, I am sure you will
lay upon my heart a person
or two in need and I in turn
will call upon you. What a blessing to think of a
friend, or a family member or a stranger, knowing
you care for them as much as I. Their specific needs
may vary, but granted Father, you will touch their
lives in a wonderful way and that warmth will
certainly linger in their lives.

Yes, Dear Friend, I think of you but I am not alone.
Do we not think of each other in special ways, many
times throughout the course of the day?

Father, you are the reason I arise each day, and turn
to you as I simply pray...
Join us as we remember each other in a special way,
Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. It's a rewarding time
spent together.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER AND CARE

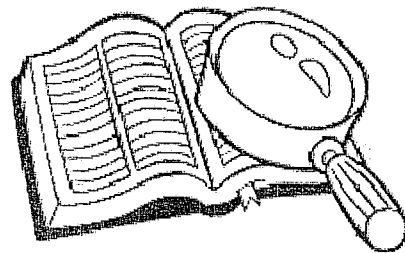
“A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and
there it divided and became four rivers.”

Genesis 2:10

Life is a river, flowing not stagnant. We share the
river with everyone. Often we need the strength of
others to prevent our getting stuck in the mud.
When we make a mistake, (bad decision) we are
closer to wisdom because “Good decisions come
from experience, and experience comes from bad
decisions.” –Columnist Jeanne Marie Lashas’
husband said to her.

Library: 9am-10am Wednesdays

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all
the earth!”

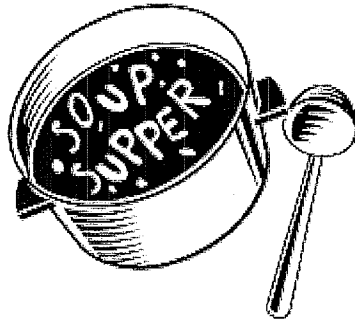
Psalms 8:1

Wherever you open the Bible, you will find Christ.
He is there in person, in parable, in name, in
example. Christ is in the PSALMS. We are doing an
investigative study using various translations to
broaden our understanding as individuals and as a
group. In fact, some of us have bought the Teen

Study Bible for its clarity which is used by the Jr. High class. (Dianne Flynn has copies if you are interested.)

Praise! The very nature of the word invokes worship and thanksgiving to God. This is the purpose and response of the PSALMS, for the Hebrew title of the book means "praise." Let's look around us in our world finding ways to praise God. And when we face stress/ tough times, praise God anyway!
We miss you, Pat!

PADS UPDATE



Life on the street is not easy for any individual as he strives to provide for himself, the essentials for daily survival. Many times his talents have limitations and the job qualifications are not a good fit for him. Maybe, he is tormented by mental health issues that limit his potential for employment. Possibly, he has been layed off from his most recent employment and the future to him looks very bleak.

Each story varies but these facts remain, these are the homeless, the down trodden, the depressed, the lonely, the sick, the desolate, the unwanted. Is there immediate help? "YES!" "PADS" is there to meet the needs of so many individuals in so many ways.

The first Sunday in November was not a typical cold evening. But many came to PADS that evening, 66 in all. There was a noticeable absence of children, but more women than usual. Dinner was served and after clean-up, we left the facility at 9:15. The evening crew would later prepare brown bag lunches, and in the morning, breakfast for our guests.

Let's see what next month will hold.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

YOU'RE INVITED!

"Stars of Heaven" Concert
Black Gospel Group

HHPC
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL

Sunday, January 31, 2010.
5-7 p.m.
More details coming soon!

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS ***Please Pray For:***

- Helen Recktenwald's family for her loss
- Georgie Porgie's sister, Lilia Campbell, in the loss of her daughter, Kim
- Richard Fellers for health concerns
- Virginia Zabelka's family members for concerns
- Alecsa Zeko for upcoming knee surgery
- Richard Larson for health concerns
- Tom & Cora Lane for strength
- The Huenecke's friend, Sally Harris, for health concerns
- Carol Sack's friend, Melissa, for health concerns
- Rev. Andrew Rosencrans for health concerns
- Bob Nordstrom's son, Rob, for health concerns
- G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
- Darlene Delaney's grandson, Alex, for upcoming surgery
- Darlene Delaney's granddaughter, Meghan, for healing
- Shirley Brunell for healing
- Jackie Gehle for health concerns
- Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
- Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing
- Dorothy Allen for strength
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

October 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income	\$15,402.00
General Fund Disbursements	\$19,394.00

Getting to know YOUTH...

My Name is Mike Swearingen.
My Church is Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.
I Love my family & my church.
I am Presbyterian because "ask my mom."
I believe in God!
I am passionate about my friends & family.
One thing that makes me sad is people being treated unfairly.
One thing that makes me happy is riding my bike.
The people I most admire are Dad & Mom.
The Bible is important for people. It helps everyone make good decisions.
God is good. All the time.
My prayer is support for everyone.
I want to be a good person.
I read nothing if I can get away with it.
If I ruled the world there would be no war.

PRAISE BAND AUDITIONS

January 10, 2:30 p.m.

Do you play a musical instrument? Do you sing? Would you like to lead people in worshipping our Lord and Savior? Praise Band Auditions are being held on **Sunday, January 10** in the Sanctuary and we hope you will consider joining the REV Praise Team! Team members will be rotated each week. This means a commitment to leading worship a couple of times each month. Band rehearsals are Sundays, 3-4:45 p.m. with service at 5 p.m.

Instrumentalists, please bring your instrument and one piece of music to play. Pianists can use the church piano. Vocalists, please bring one piece of music to sing with chord chart. Accompaniment will be provided. Everyone should also be ready to sight read from provided lead sheets. Contact Sue Olson with any questions at 708-460-0363 or through email at solson@bibleleague.org.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee has been busy this fall planning for our **Christmas mission activities** and brainstorming other mission ideas. We hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the **Haunted House** this year as it was the best yet! Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser in any way as "it does take a village (or should I say congregation)" to make this happen. Approximately \$2,200 – \$2,400 was raised which will be used to support the **Kentucky Christmas store** run by Doreen in Drift, Kentucky. This store contains donated items so that families can purchase needed supplies and Christmas gifts for a nominal fee. The committee agreed that any profits in excess of \$2,250 from this year's fundraising will be used to support the **Honduras Mission Trip**.

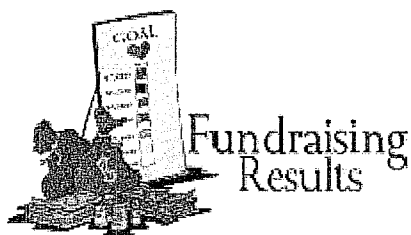
Additionally, the Mission Committee has donated \$500 of profits from the Haunted House fundraiser to the **HHPC Carpet Fund** this year as well. This money has been held in reserve from year to year as a deposit for supplies.

During the Christmas holidays, look for our gift tags on the bulletin board in the narthex again this year. These gift tags were decorated by the Junior High Youth Group and each tag includes the age and gender of a child. Please select a gift tag, then **purchase a gift for that age and gender child for \$10-15**, and bring it back to the church **UNWRAPPED by Dec. 2nd**. These gifts will be taken to the **Jones Center** so that each child in their afterschool program will receive at least one gift this holiday season. Staff at the Jones Center will better match gifts to individual children and will wrap them on site this year.

Our church is again providing **P.A.D.S.** meals on the first Sunday of each month at the Oak Lawn Community Church from October 2009 through April 2010. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to be a part of this mission.



Fundraising Committee



Thank you to everyone who helped and /or supported our annual craft bazaar and bake sale. This fundraiser could not be successful without everyone's participation.

It was a great day!! The weather was perfect, 29 tables were rented to crafters and vendors, we had another scrumptious bake sale, and our raffle, otherwise known as the "penny social" was a HUGE success (thanks in large part to the wonderful 19 gift baskets donated by Shirley and Mike Dragas).

After expenses our profit for the day was \$2,300.00 with an additional \$300.00 in monetary donations. These monies have been placed into our Fundraising checking account and once we have raised enough money—we will replace the flooring on the lower level of the church.

Also, if anyone would like to **order retail gift cards** for Christmas gifts, please pick up a list and contact Susan Frangella by **December 10th**.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas to all!!!!

The Deacon Board

We hope everyone has had a chance to review the Deacon family clusters listed in the November Newsletter. If you are not listed, please contact me so we can put you and your family into a Deacon Cluster. Thank you.

If anyone has a need for prayer or visitation please contact your deacon or me.

Patt Pilgrim
708-598-3100

JONES CENTER BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Help is needed to provide Christmas with Santa at the Jones Center on **Saturday, Dec. 12th 9-11 a.m.**

We are expecting 250-300 children and parents.

Food needed:

20 Dozen Eggs
20 Gallons of Milk
19 16 oz. packages of
grated American cheese
19 loaves of sliced bread
600 pre-cooked sausages
20 gallons of orange juice
600 donut holes

Supplies needed:

Rolls of red plastic table cloths
500 napkins (Christmas prints)
300 sturdy clear plastic cups
300 sturdy dinner size plates
300 sturdy plastic forks

and people to **help cook and serve at 7 a.m.** to start cooking, and at **8 a.m. to set tables.**

Does anyone have access to small coloring books and crayons to keep the children busy while they wait? Santa has agreed to come and talk to each child and give them a stocking. The Lansing Church has already made and stuffed enough stockings for all.

Reply to Jane Jahn 708-448-4513
jane.jahn@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Dec. 4: Advent Workshop- 6:30 pm- One of the great Christmas season traditions at our church. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Then, we move to holiday crafts and carols around the piano. This evening of beautiful crafts, songs, and stories is a night that our kids love and our adults cherish. It is an ideal way to move into the Christmas season. (Please bring a dish to share and a free will donation for our craft projects. See the sign up sheet downstairs).



Sunday, Dec. 6: Hanging of the Greens- 10:30 am- Our Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 am worship service. Our kids tell the story of the birth of Christ and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Parents: Please help us by making it a priority to be here with your children. Our whole congregation is blessed with this program.

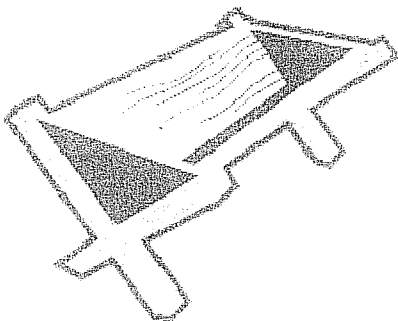
Thursday, Dec. 17: Women's Christmas Tea- 7:00 pm- Another wonderful Christmas Tradition for the ladies of our church. Come and enjoy tea and sweets, singing and fellowship. (See sign up sheet downstairs- RSVP requested. Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share).

Sunday, Dec. 13: 9:00 and 10:30 am Worship- We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We continue to transform our sanctuary as we hang our Chrismons on our sanctuary tree, while the sanctuary is decorated with beautiful poinsettias.

Sunday, Dec. 20: White Gift Offering- 9:00 and 10:30 am Worship- We bring our food items, wrapped in white tissue, for the needy, before the crèche. At 10:30 our choir presents a special **Christmas Cantata**.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve- 11:00 pm- Come to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, with a candlelight service.

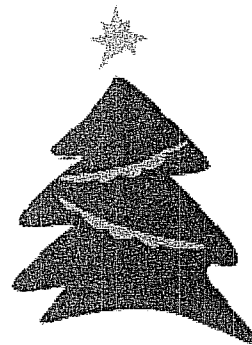
Advent anticipation



In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus' birth. Another tradition is to

leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his "bed."

+ Christian Symbols +



Evergreen Tree

These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

Lessons and carols

The traditional Christmas Eve service using Bible lessons and Christmas carols was first held in England in 1918 at Cambridge University's King's College. Eric Milner-White, a 34-year-old who had just been appointed dean of King's, planned the service. His previous experience as an army chaplain convinced him that the Church of England needed to make worship more expressive.

The service has been broadcast from King's annually since 1928, missing only one year (1930). Radio listeners could tune in and hear the service during World War II, although the name of King's couldn't be broadcast due to security precautions. During the war, the chapel's antique glass — and thus all its heat — had been removed.

Every year, millions of people worldwide listen to the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." Since 1919, the service has begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City."

The Meaning of Adoption

When a class of young children began discussing the subject of adoption, the teacher first asked for a definition. An 8-year-old girl answered by saying, "I'm adopted. If you're adopted, it means you grew up in a mother's heart instead of her tummy."

St. Paul said we Christians are all adopted. To the church at Ephesus he wrote, "[God] destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5, NRSV).

We have been in God's heart all along.

Katie's Kidz

Katie Greene of Weddington, North Carolina, has a heart of love. At age 6, she thought about what sort of Christmas the patients in the Children's Hospital would have. It occurred to Katie that, with help, she could provide a toy for each child. In 2006, she collected \$167 toward her efforts, calling it "the best time of my life."

The next year, she began a Web site called Katie's Kidz, and donations totaled \$2,600. Katie and her parents shopped for art supplies, board games, playing cards, gift cards and even iPod Shuffles. On Christmas Day, they took 600 toys to the hospital.

Katie put on a Santa hat and helped hospital workers deliver toys in red wagons. "Next year, we're going to do two hospitals," Katie said.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church.

Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."

Family Photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."



Hymning and Hawing

And A Partridge In A Pear Tree

by G. R. Snow

I have heard many references to this phrase from “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, including one reference in a mystery novel to a young woman whose eye boasted “mascara, eye shadow, eye liner, a false eyelash, and a partridge in a pear tree”. Picturesque, but probably as rhetorical as someone accused of bringing everything but the kitchen sink to a holiday dinner. And there have been many parodies of the Twelve Days with more up-to-date gifts, or fantastic tales of what happened to someone who actually received all the classic gifts, or “sequels” which include the (fictional) fate of the gifts. The origins of the piece are unproven, with some saying it was a description of a feast (starting with seven varieties of fowl, the gold rings being a reference to a golden ringtail pheasant) and others suggesting that it was a traditional dance song in which specific moves suggested the “leap” of the nine lords, the circular motion of the rings, etc. Another tradition, which I suspect is closer to the truth, said it was a children’s song to assist in learning catechism. But the most persuasive theory I find suggests that the song is one of the oldest carols we know, and that it was full of Christmas-related Christian symbolism disguised in apparently secular childhood images. Why would this be necessary? The theory dates the carol to a time when pagan celebrations were common and Christianity was widely persecuted with torture and execution. An innocent children’s song, however, was looked at indulgently by the pagan hearers and only the Christian families and priests knew the hidden meanings, which children were taught to tell the story of Jesus’s birth.

What, then, was the symbolism of each “gift”?

Twelve drummers drumming . . .

The twelve apostles who carried the news of Christ to all lands, symbolized by drummers playing drums, a common message instrument across great distances in medieval days.

Eleven pipers piping . . .

The eleven disciples left mourning after Judas’s defection and Christ’s death, symbolized by players of an instrument commonly used for dirges and lamenting.

Ten ladies dancing . . .

The ladies dancing symbolize the Ten Commandments, graceful partners for our “dance” through life.

Nine lords a-leaping . . .

A rather obscure reference, this is sometimes believed to symbolize the nine New Testament writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James (the brother of the Lord, not James the Greater, son of Zebedee, or James the Lesser, son of Alphaeus—both disciples), Peter, Jude, and Barnabas (held to be the co-author, with Paul and Mark, of Hebrews).

Eight maids a-milking . . .

This symbolizes the eight parts of the Hebrew Nevi’im, or books of the Prophets, which our Bible separates into twenty-one. In the Nevi’im, they are Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,

and the Twelve (the minor prophets). As these tell of God’s sustenance of His people in the same way that milk sustains a baby, the “maids a-milking” is apropos.

Seven swans a-swimming . . .

Glorious birds with beautiful feathers, these symbolize the seven archangels—Gabriel, Michael, Jophiel, Zadkiel, Chamuel, Raphael, and Uriel.

Six geese a-laying . . .

As eggs symbolize fertility/new life, it makes sense that six laying geese symbolize the six days of Creation.

Five golden rings . . .

The five rings symbolize the five books of the Pentateuch, which Moses gave to his people and which they wore representative verses of in mezuzahs, comparable to wearing a ring. A corollary significance is that gold rings were often used as currency for purchase of items which were bad luck to buy with money, and that obedience to the laws contained in the Pentateuch was no longer needed to “buy” our way into Heaven since Jesus has purchased this for us.

Four colly birds . . .

Now often changed to “calling” birds, colly birds were blackbirds, whose strident tones make them excellent proclaimers—much as were the four Gospel writers, whom they symbolize.

Three French hens . . .

These ponderous, puffed-up birds, so carefully preening and fluffing their feathers, symbolize the three royal visitors—whether Wise Men, kings, or more probably a priestly representative, a kingly representative, and a slave or other sacrificial visitor, symbolizing the three estates of Christ’s sovereignty.

Two turtle doves . . .

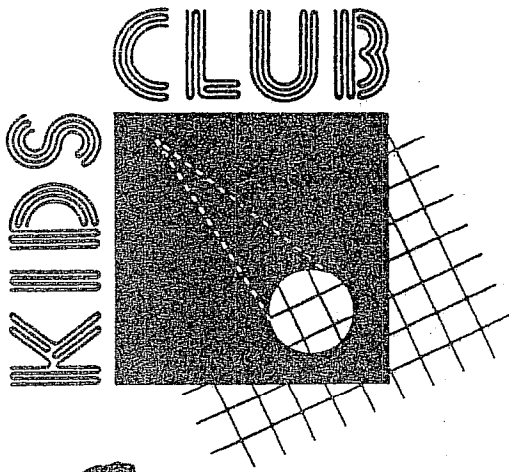
The sacrifice of Mary and Joseph in the temple on the occasion of Jesus’s presentation (Luke 2:24).

And a partridge in a pear tree . . .

The ‘partridge’ is the Child; the tree symbolizes the humble wooden manger, made of soft wood rather than a furniture hardwood. A pear is a markedly different fruit from an apple (which is popularly, and probably erroneously, believed to be the fruit of which Adam and Eve ate), thus symbolizing that Christ’s coming heralded a difference from the long separation of man from God. The reference to a partridge has given rise to beliefs that the carol is French, as it was not until the 1770s that the red-legged partridge, more apt to perch in trees than the native grey partridge, was introduced in England.

BRAIN TEASER: From what traditional carol does each phrase come?

1. Mild He lays His glory by . . .
2. Come, your circle ’round Him closing . . .
3. Then entered in those wise men three . . .
4. With the angels let us sing ‘Alleluia’ to our King . . .
5. Heav’n’s arches rang when the angels sang . . .
6. And our eyes at last shall see Him . . .
7. When with the ever-circling years . . .
8. Saints, before the altar bending . . .
9. He, our joy, our wonder, lies in *praesepe* . . .
10. The ringing of the merry organ . . .



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

As I am writing this article we are planning and anxiously looking forward to the Family Advent Night to be held on Friday, December 4th. This promises to be a time filled with joy and fun for all ages. Our evening will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by family crafts, and the singing of Christmas Carols. A quality family evening. Everyone is invited. We encourage you to bring family and friends!

We hope you will visit our decorated Christmas Tree at the Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic. The kids are featured on this tree with their hand made decorations. Following the rules of the zoo, all ornaments were made of items which we recycled. The Holiday Magic will run all weekends in December (Saturdays and Sundays) and the week of December 26 - 31, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This month we celebrated with McKayla as she participated in the Snicker Balance. Congratulations McKayla for balancing 6 Snicker Bars. Want to know more about this fun reward, just ask any of the kids. Who will be the next person to be here every week and try this challenge?

The joy of Christian learning! This month we prepare for Christmas and will open each week with the lighting of the Advent Candles. Together we will explore the topics of:
God's Harvest Is Sure - God keeps His promises
Seed Needs Land - God's power in our Faith

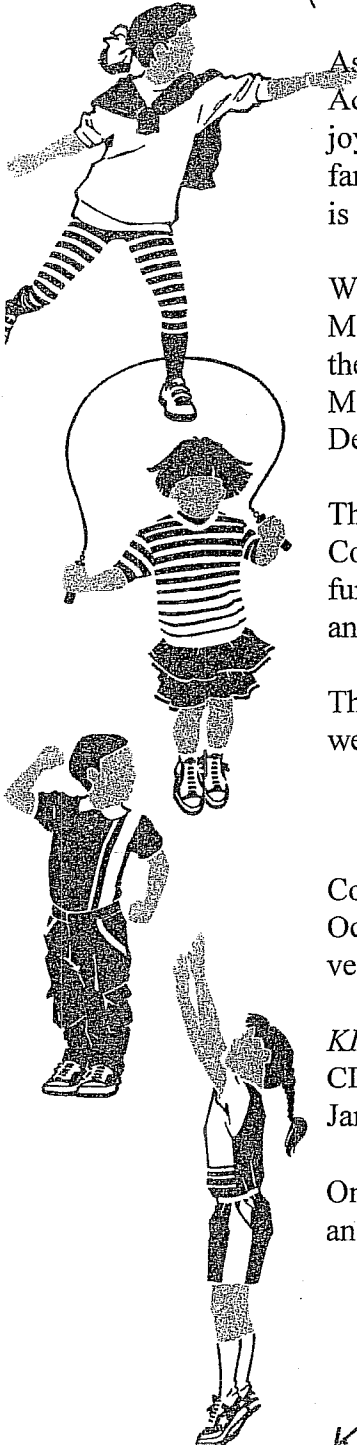
Congratulations to the winners of our Bible Verse Memorization for the month of October. We recognize LeAnne Kommenich and Shannon Bastien for memorizing all the verses for this month. Good Work!!!

KIDS CLUB Holiday Schedule: We will host a Christmas Party on December 14th. KIDS CLUB will not meet on December 21 or 28. We will resume our regular schedule on January 4th.

On behalf of the KIDS CLUB staff I would like to wish you and your family a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

We will decorate the Zoo Tree on **November 21st**. This is a fantastic way to not only publicize our Kids Club but have some fun touring the Brookfield Zoo. Any family interested in joining us decorate at the Zoo should contact Dianne Flynn at the church. The children will be making new ornaments for the tree during Kids Club. It is always nice to have one tall person come so we can get the star on the top without bringing along a step stool. Get the details from Dianne and we can caravan to Brookfield Zoo on Saturday, November 21.

Welcome to all the Winter quarter teachers. Transition Sunday is November 29th. Be sure to come meet the class you will teach and share in the fun. Just a reminder to the Sunday School teachers: A meeting will be held on **November 22nd at 9:15 AM**. Teachers from the Fall and Winter quarters are asked to attend.

The committee is busy preparing for our annual **Advent Night**. We are so excited to gather crafts and bag them for the crowds that will join us on **December 4th**. A food dish for the pot luck dinner will be needed on that night so we can all share our fellowship before the fun begins. We will open the doors at **6:30 PM** for everyone to eat. Some of the crafts will be on the bulletin boards in the downstairs near the fellowship hall. Be sure to see what new and interesting ideas we have for gifts as well as decorations this holiday. In the years past this has always been an enjoyable time for old and young alike. We sincerely hope you will attend to begin your holiday celebrations with us.

The Sunday School classes will present "Hanging of the Greens" on **December 6th at the 10:30 AM** worship service. For those

who have not witnessed this event, it is something worth getting up for. The children will retell the story of the first Christmas as well as explain some of the traditions we currently use. There will be music for you to listen to as well as join in on the singing. There will be an opportunity for you to see the church decorated with poinsettias, lights, the creche', and of course, the Tree of Warmth. Join us as we celebrate our traditions and share them with our congregation.

Speaking of the Tree of Warmth, we are again asking everyone to donate some item to help keep a child warm this year. A hat, scarf, pair of gloves, mittens, or even socks will be used by the young children of the Sunday School to decorate the tree. It would be very helpful to have these items placed in the designated boxes found outside the sanctuary before December arrives. Hand-made items as well as store bought items are welcomed. Hint: you can find nice hats, mittens, gloves, socks at the local dollar stores. (I go to the one at the Chicago Ridge Mall, myself)

The Christmas Tea will be on **December 17th at 7:00 PM**. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event. Our very own Gabriella Ciametti will be one of the Madrigal Singers from Stagg High School who will entertain us for the tea. You do not want to miss this special night of fellowship. Be sure to invite your friends for a very lovely evening and take time away from all your hectic preparations at home to have some fun with us.

The Women's Bible Study will have a luncheon on **December 14th**. The ladies will then take a break and not meet on December

21 or 28th. They will begin again on January 4th after the holiday hustle and bustle has settled a bit. Anyone who is interested in joining can come at **1:00 PM** on Mondays to see what an energetic and enthusiastic group of ladies we have. You are welcome to join in the discussions, too.

Speaking of taking a break, you should know that the **Kids Club** will have a break too. **No meetings are scheduled for December 21 or 28th.** We decided to use these days for our own home preparations. Kids Club will resume on January 4th at 3:30 PM - 5:00PM.

The **Stampers** have been busy learning new techniques from Ruth and Kim. We are busy making beautiful cards for the use of the Prayer and Care group. They are using the cards to send out to members of the congregation who are a part of the Prayer List. Stamping cards is one of the activities where you can catch up on current events as well as explore more of your creative side. There is never a dull moment. Plan to join us on alternating Wednesdays. We will meet on **November 11 at 10:30 AM** in the Jr. High Classroom.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has diversified and we are now working on three different missions. There is still the need to make the Squares for Africa, but we are also involved in making items for the Tree of Warmth as well as the Prayer Shawls. Anyone who would like to sit and talk, knit, or crochet for an hour or more after the 10:30 AM worship service is welcome to join us. We will even try to teach you if you have a desire to learn knitting or crocheting

The entire Christian Education committee is thankful for the children you have entrusted to us and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. We are working to improve our programs and help make your job of raising your children a little easier. If you would like to help with the programming and

events please join us. For more information, talk to Dianne Flynn, the Director of Children's Ministries.

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES DECEMBER

“For the Lord your God is a merciful God.”
Deuteronomy 4:31



“...love the Lord your God.”
Deuteronomy 30:20

STORIES AND MORE

We meet on Tuesday afternoon from 1:00PM to 2:00PM. We have openings and hope more 4, 5, and 6 year olds will join us this coming week.

We just began our second six week session of Stories and More. We have music, a story with reinforcement retelling by the children, a fun project with a learning theme and games and /or dances to start and end our program.

Last week we told the story of The Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly. We used a puppet of an old lady to retell the story and the class loved feeding the fly, spider, bird etc into the old lady. We did the Beany Bag dance and we had a treasure chest box to count out items from 1 to 10.

Patt Pilgrim

† SUNDAY SCHOOL †

You're always welcome! - 10:30 Every Sunday

During worship service, a fully staffed nursery is available for infants and toddlers. The nursery is on the lower level of the church. It is equipped with cribs, swings, high chairs, toys and books to keep the children happy and content while their parents participate in the worship service. The volunteer staff members find great joy in watching the children grow.

Preschool/Kindergarten -

Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Cheryl Huenecke

We have been joining together our efforts and created a new class! Lots of interesting things come out of small groups. We have some mighty motivated young kids, that love to learn.

With the fall we started out studying the 10 commandments. Reflecting on them as we build the lessons each week, Jacob has been inspired to draw a poster for each one of them. As he completes them, we will display them in the KG/ 1st grade classroom for all to see.

We looked at patience and discussed ways that God is patient with us as we grow. Katrina, Jacob, Hollie and Trevor have all made a growth chart for the wall so that we can measure their growth each week and remember that God is patient with us so we have to be patient with others.

We hope to see others join us so we can add them to the wall. We encourage you all to be with us so we can keep up with your measurements and see how you have grown.

We talked about the differences of appearance and how things are not always as they seem, since the appearance of our classrooms and church basement changed, and our routine was different during the Haunted House event. It was a reminder

about not passing judgments and remembering that in the dark spots of life God is there. Everyone enjoyed the tour and wandering through the "Gold Mine Maze". 3 of our kids even ended up in the Jail Cell with smiles from ear to ear as they had their picture taken.

Visitors at Sunday school are always special, and give us new friends to learn with. We studied about God caring for us like the Shepherd over his sheep and about giving our Love to Him. Trevor and Hollie learned the Scripture passage from Deuteronomy 6:5 by putting it in motion.

They can remember "deu deu Deuteronomy 6" easily because they are both 6 years of age! It goes like this.....

Love the Lord your God (raising your hand to the sky)

With all your Heart (placing folded hands on your chest over your heart)

With all you Soul (reach with crossed arms to your shoulders and hug yourself to symbolize all of you)

And with all your Strength (raising both fists with elbows bent, as a symbol of a strong man)

Grade 5 - Linda Lavaretto

Our class has been reviewing the Ten Commandments brought by Moses and the

two commandments brought by Jesus. We found that the commandments by Jesus are summaries of the Ten by Moses. We also discovered that it is very hard to follow them all the time. We also discussed how we have a God who can help us and who we can turn to when we are in doubt or on the "wrong path." There have not been very many children in class and this makes me sad. I am looking forward to seeing Riley, Stacey, Frankie, and LeAnne on a more consistent basis. Perhaps, even Yasmine, Veronica, Petar, Nellie, and Joshua will come see what we are doing in class one day too. I hope to see them soon.

Junior High - Patt Pilgrim

We continue to study the Old testament and the story of how God used Moses to lead the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through the Wilderness and into the promised land.

Moses went up to Mount Sinai to meet with God in the clouds and brought back the ten commandments. We discussed the commandments to honor God and the commandments to honor each other. God also met with Moses and gave directions for the building of a Tabernacle. The people of the 12 tribes of Israel gave Moses the supplies needed to build the Tabernacle for worship to God.

We discussed the parts of the Tabernacle and assembled a paper model to show what it looked like and how the 12 tribes of Israel camped outside around it. The ten commandments were placed in the Ark of the Covenant in the tent called the Holy of Holies.

In the coming weeks we will follow the Israelites journey into the Promised Land.

God kept His promise to the Israelites to make a great nation of them. We have a lesson there for us too. God will do great things with each of us. God keeps his promises and God is always with us.

Patt Pilgrim

Senior High - Gordon Home

The Senior High Class continues to work on a project using a camera to take pictures of what God has created. They are creating a Holy Scroll depicting the lessons they learn in our classroom. This scroll will be held in the archives.

Adult Class - Arlene Pearson

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1 (RSV)

Facing life's tests is not easy. Our responsibility is to run with patience the pathway upon which God has put our feet. Our class completed studying the epistle to the Hebrews whose object is: if we follow and yield to what God in whose object is: if we follow and yield to what God in Christ is ready to do, we shall find all we need for a life of joy, strength and victory. We miss you, Tom!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING DATES

Friday, December 4th

5:30 p.m. Children meet in Sanctuary to
Practice for Advent program

6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night

Sunday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program
10:00 a.m. "Hanging of the Greens"
presented

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We had a wonderful Halloween Party on October 29th. We played, "Killer" and had a "Mummy" wrapping contest. We also played "Tennis Ball blowout". We had pizza and way too much candy but it was a fun time and the costumes were great!!

This past week we played "Salamander" which is played in the dark and is the favorite game of everyone. We watched a DVD entitled "Rain" and we had a snack of oreo treats brought by Katie to celebrate her birthday.

Coming up on December 12th we have our annual Christmas trip downtown for ice skating, viewing Christmas windows, shopping in Daley plaza, seeing the tree and lunch at McDonalds.

On January 29th 30th and 31st 2010 we will go to Bloomington, Il, for our annual Junior high retreat to spend the week-end with junior highs from other Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyterian churches. It is a time of fellowship, music, Christian learning and lots of fun. We stay in heated cabins with showers and eat great food. More information to follow. During the month of January we will be selling stock for retreat scholarships.

We invite all 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their friends to join us on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Patt Pilgrim, Katie Trecanni, Bryan Ambrosat

Senior High Youth Group

The Haunted House was exciting, a little bit scary, and a lot of fun. In addition to helping to build and staff the Haunted House, the Senior High Youth Group ran the concession stand. The proceeds from the concessions are being used to purchase Christmas gifts for a family in need. Our next meeting, will involve a shopping trip. Teens and shopping; what makes me think that will be fun?

Our group is excited to be a part of worship. During Advent, the Senior High Youth Group will be lighting the Advent Candles at the REV services. On December 13, we will lead the REV worship service. If you haven't been to a REV Service, lately, please come and join us. There are exciting things going on here at HHPC.

We have had interesting discussions at some of our meetings. We are looking forward to a couple of outings on the horizon. The plan is to include a weekend retreat in February. In addition to all of the fun we have, our meetings and the outings help us to learn more about each other and our faith.

If you are of high school age, please come and join us. If you know someone that might like to join us, please let them know about us, or let us know who they are. We would love to reach out to them and share the fun with them.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Josh Treccani, Hanna Huenecke

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Petrolino
- 3 Sarah Gehle
- 5 Tristan Grisko
- 12 Brian Haack
Victor Munoz
- 14 Danny Rodriguez
Jenah Fox
- 15 Gabriel Meyer
- 17 Yasmine Fox
- 18 Riley McKinney
- 20 Natasha Swindle
- 22 Kyle Freiberg
- 23 Ryan Saeler
- 25 Natalie Orsic
- 26 Tristin Dabrowski
Halimah Prunty
- 30 Ava McGuire

PERFECT ATTENDANCE OCTOBER

3rd and 4th Grades
Danny Orsic

5th Grade
LeAnne Kommenich

Junior High
Alyssia Kommenich

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Sarah Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek

ADVENT PROGRAM

Our kids tell the story of the Nativity and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sound of Christmas.



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6
10:30 A.M.
WORSHIP
SERVICE



Music Page

Youth Choir continues to be a blessing to our family. Sometimes, as we work through practice each week, we wonder, “*Just how will the Anthem work out?*” We do not always have all the voices at practice due to Jr High and High School schedules. Then factor in the ever changing circumstances with sickness, and we can have but just a few or even sometimes two!

However, we are blessed to have the Jr. High and High School sections to inspire and support our younger kids. Their commitment to the music review on their own, and willingness to arrive early the day of our Anthem for practice together, enables us to put harmonies and parts together that would not otherwise be possible.

It goes back to the sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure, which is the backbone of our church’s success.

I thank God for using our youth and their gifts in this way. I have always been touched through music and I am grateful for the Inspiration given to me through the Holy Spirit leading in this.

So if you missed the Anthem or possibly have the tune in your mind playing maybe without some of the words, here they are for you to enjoy.

Simple words? Yes, but they send a powerful message as we enter into the time of Thanksgiving and preparation for the season of Advent.

Peace,

Cheryl

Give Thanks with a grateful heart give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,

Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)

Give thanks

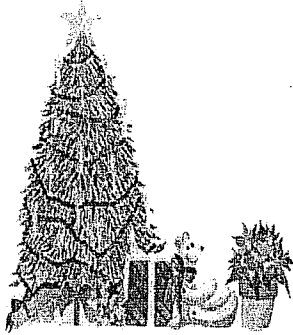
We give thanks

We..... give..... thanks

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, December 4

6:30 P.M.



POTLUCK DINNER
CHRISTMAS CRAFT

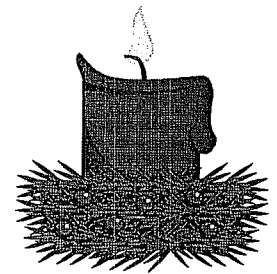
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE PIANO

COST:

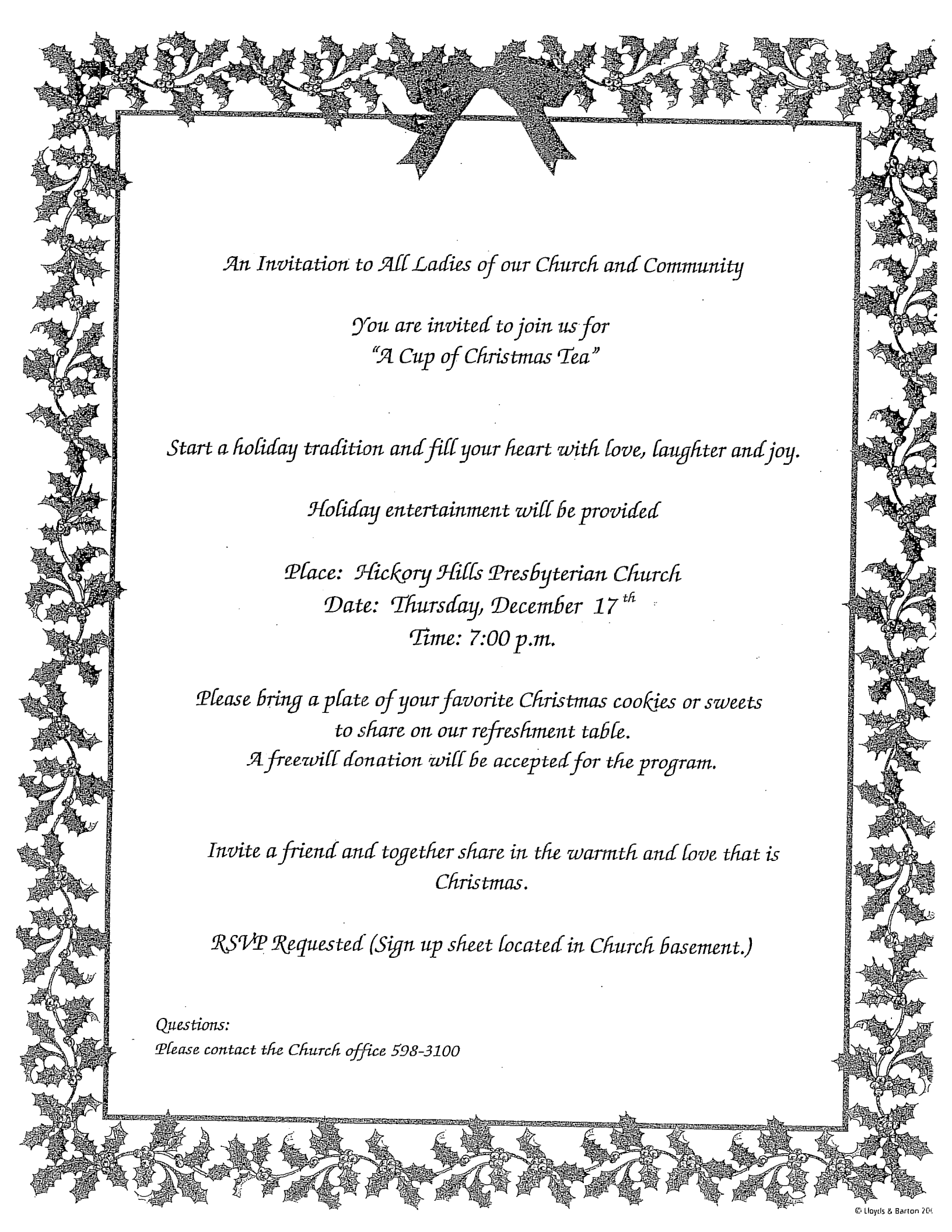
FOOD DISH TO SHARE FOR OUR MEAL

AND

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CRAFT PROJECTS



Sign up today for this wonderful family event



An Invitation to All Ladies of our Church and Community

*You are invited to join us for
"A Cup of Christmas Tea"*

Start a holiday tradition and fill your heart with love, laughter and joy.

Holiday entertainment will be provided

Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

Date: Thursday, December 17th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

*Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies or sweets
to share on our refreshment table.*

A freewill donation will be accepted for the program.

*Invite a friend and together share in the warmth and love that is
Christmas.*

RSVP Requested (Sign up sheet located in Church basement.)

Questions:

Please contact the Church office 598-3100

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Dec. 6, 2009

Dec. 13, 2009- 10:30 Worship

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Dec. 6, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	C.E. Committee	Dave Delaney
Dec. 13, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rodriguez	Rick Vogl
Dec. 20, 2009	F. Esparza, M. Maranto, M. Murray	L. Pearson, Rehbock	Scott Zimmerman
Dec. 27, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Delaney	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
Dec. 6, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
Dec. 13, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Dec. 20, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Dec. 27, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	

COMMUNION SERVERS- Dec. 13- Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl



Just for KIDS

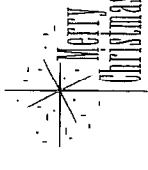

SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.

1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
_____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E.	2 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	3 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	4 5:30 p.m. Practice for Hanging of the Greens 6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	5
6 9:00 a.m. Practice for Hanging of the Greens 9:00 a.m. Worship (downstairs) 10:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Comm. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	7 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	8 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	10 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	11 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	12 9-11 a.m. Jones Center Breakfast with Santa 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
13 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>Jan. Newsletter Deadline</u>	14 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Lunch 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	15 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Comm.	16 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	17 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	18 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship- Choir Cantata & Children's Education <u>White Gifts</u> 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	21 7:30 p.m. Outreach	22 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	23 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	24 Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Worship	25 	26 Honduras Mission Trip Departs
27 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	28 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	30 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	31 New Year's Eve	1 	

December Birthdays

December 1– Darlene Delaney
1 – Melanie Swindle
3 – Debra Schembari
4 – Scott Hoffman
5 – Dawn Morgucz
8 – Heather Seger
11 – Ruth Payton-Hill
12- Tom Treccani
12- Bryan Ambrosat
16 – Gina Ciametti
17 – Lynn Majersky
19 – Steven Beal
19 – Cliff Pilgrim
29 – Laverne Mocarski
30 – Marge Brumis
31 - Carla Zabelka

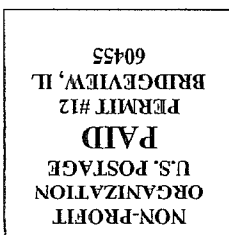
Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457