THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.
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JANUARY 2010

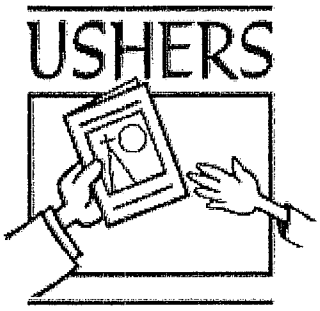
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

This was the scripture we chose for our 2010 Stewardship Campaign. After computing all of the estimate of giving cards it became evident that we do indeed have "cheerful givers" here at HHPC. Our estimate of giving cards totaled $193,500.00. This was slightly short of our goal of $200,000 but is a reasonable amount with which to formulate a budget for 2010. Because of the "cheerful givers" we will be able to continue our vital ministries and will not be forced to make any staffing cuts at this time.



HELP WANTED
For Ushers



Looking for men or women who love our Lord and would like to serve for Him 1 time a month.

Duties include greeting members and visitors as they come to worship God, passing out bulletins and taking the collection. The job is not strenuous but it is richly rewarding.

If this sounds like something you would like to do please see Scott Zimmerman or leave your name and phone number in the secretary's office.

TWILIGHT PRAYER

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my Soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."

From simple beginnings, habits of a lifetime are formed. Has your prayer life grown or has it become stagnant?

With age comes wisdom, when you look for it, you shall find it. Not under that rock, but in that book, that book of wisdom. That book of life.
The book of The Living Word.

Dear friend, let us grow together in simple words as we bow our heads Tuesday evenings at 6:30. And bring before God the prayer upon our hearts. You shall walk away refreshed, replenished, and renewed.



Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER AND CARE

"Jesus withdrew..." Mark 3:7 (RSV)

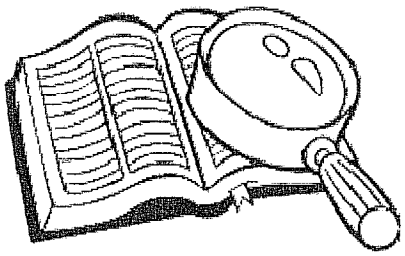
Do you recall when Christ was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and restored a man's withered hand? The Herodians and Pharisees held counsel on how to destroy Jesus because of his actions.

Some of our Church family are withdrawing or seem to have withdrawn. Please know that you are missed, but not forgotten. We hold you in our hearts and prayers, trusting that the Holy Spirit guides you on your journey.

Please don't withdraw from prayer.

Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. Library.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



"Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge. I say to the LORD, 'Thou are my Lord; I have no good apart from thee.'" Psalm 16:1-2 (RSV)

We are learning so much from the Psalms. Psalm 16 is a "Miktam of David" which means "Golden Poem" or revelation of a blessed mystery. It's a prayerful meditation concerning prophecies of Christ's death and resurrection.

This Psalm is a song of joy coming from a faithful, loyal, trusting heart beginning with a prayer. If you wonder why the first LORD is uppercase and the second Lord is lowercase, come join us when we resume on January 4, 2010.

PADS UPDATE



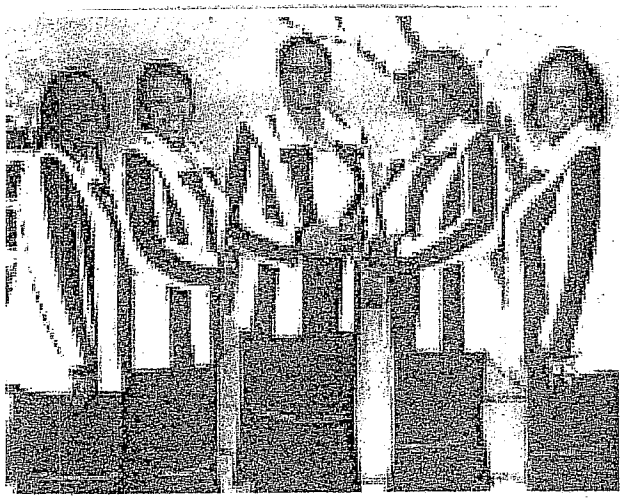
This past month I distanced myself from PADS due to a sinus infection. There is always a first time for everything and so I experienced PADS as an observer rather than a participant.

I had an angel fill in for me and she took upon herself the burden of pulling together the details for the month of December and the results were perfect. Thank you again, Little Angel, we will mention no names as to not cause any embarrassments.

This proves again a job not familiar to someone can be done in a most effective way and experience is soon a part of their actions. Thank you again Angel!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

ALL ARE INVITED!



Black Gospel Singing Group

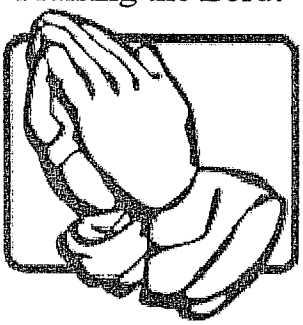
Stars of Heaven

Sunday, January 31, 2010.
5-7 p.m.

HHPC
8426 W. 95th St.
Hickory Hills, IL

In the Sanctuary

Join us as we rock the house in Praising the Lord!



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-Carol Sack's niece, Sarah & Baby Benjamin for strength
-Mary Richer & family for Brian, for inoperable cancer
-Debbie Raschke's uncle, Glenn Woody, for treatment & healing
-Debbie Raschke's Uncle Mack for health concerns
-Kim Brock for healing
-Aleesha Zeko for upcoming knee surgery
-Richard Larson for health concerns
-G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
-Jackie Gehle for health concerns
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
-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

November 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income	$12, 156.00
General Fund Disbursements	$12, 929.00

Getting to know YOUth…

My Name is Megan Zimmerman.
My Church is Awesome! ☺
I Love reading, listening to music, penguins, texting.
I am Presbyterian because It's what I know, and what I've grown accustomed to.
I believe in God.
One thing that makes me sad is seeing other people sad.
One thing that makes me happy is being around my friends and/or family.
The person I most admire is my mom.
The Bible is The Word of God.
God is a part of my life, and He's with me wherever I go.
I want to be a good example for people to look upon.
I read books.
If I ruled the world <-haha funny, like that would ever happen.

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.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS



On December 13, the Senior High Youth Group led the REV worship service. We are really proud of them. They are a talented group. They took a bare-bones outline and created a meaningful skit. They seem to always be full of surprises and help us to see Christ in new places.

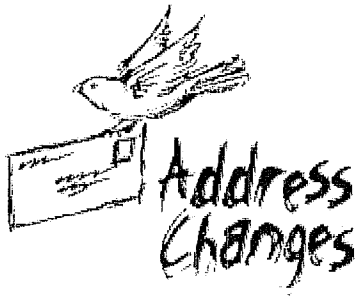
Our 2009 season ended with a Christmas party and grab bag gift exchange. Why does the lump of coal seem to always go to the right person?

We will be starting back up on Sunday, January 10. We have a couple of discussions coming up before things get really interesting.

The Senior High group will be providing dinner for PADS on February 7. Serving dinner as a way to serve the Lord, hmmmm. Plans are being made to spend a weekend on retreat in Saugatuck, at the end of February. This will be a wonderful way to learn more about each other and our faith.

If you are in high school and wish to join us, we meet on Sunday evenings, at 6:30 pm, following the REV Praise Worship service. If you know of someone outside of our HHPC church community that would like to join us, please let us know.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Josh Treccani, Hanna Huenecke



Myrnalyn Delalamon
2035 S. Indiana Ave. Unit 303
Chicago, IL 60616

Beverly Matthew
7718 W. 66th St.
Bedford Park, IL 60499
708-924-0018

Dawn & Chris Rellinger
7135 Thornwood Lane
Florence, KY 41042
630-550-1106

Linda Rys
9517 Central Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-744-0302

Fen Taylor
7308 W. 108th St.
Worth, IL 60482
708-277-5923

Hymning and Hawing

Bringing In The Light

by G. R. Snow

A great deal of attention is focused in our services on the lighting of candles, particularly during the season of Advent. Our church has been blessed this Advent by the participation of several laypersons or families in the lighting of the Advent Candles—specifically the Vogls and the youth at the REV services, and at the morning services the Ambrosat, Swindle, Orsic, Swearingen, and Witek families, and Arlene Pearson, Karen Hoffman, Mary Ann Fellers, Carol Sack, Susan Frangella, and Sandy Beal. These people, with appropriate readings and prayers, have lit the beautiful grouping of Advent candles which graces our sanctuary's altar table.

Flame in the sanctuary during Old Testament times served a very real and practical purpose. In that time presentations were made of the first-fruits of harvest, the first calf, lamb or goat from each female herdbeast, and varying other animals with specific qualifications for other occasions (as prescribed, in wearying detail, in the laws of Moses—it was for this reason that when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple they sacrificed the two turtledoves). Animals were slain in a dignified and reverent fashion, usually by the high priests, and the slain animals and fruit/grain offerings were literally burned on the altar of God.

When the historic confrontation took place between the prophet Elijah and the 450 priests of Baal, the test of which god was more powerful was simple—each side had prepared a sacrifice, suitably arrayed on an altar, and the god who could send down fire would be considered triumphant. But Baal did not heed the cries of his prophets (while Elijah stood around making irreverent suggestions why the god wasn't responding) and the people grew tired of waiting. Then Elijah physically dragged boulders together, built an altar by sheer brute strength, and sacrificed on it—and fire came from Heaven and consumed the entire sacrifice and the altar stones as well. (It takes a powerful fire to burn rock!) After the crowds slew the 4509 false prophets, Elijah then cemented the people's resolve to follow the God of Israel by praying for an end to the drought, which God also provided with a heavy rainstorm—and to add insult to injury, Elijah outran King Ahab's fastest horses through the rain.

To emphasize the importance of keeping the sacrificial fires pure and holy, the account is told of two of the priests, two of Aaron's four sons, who became drunk and used common cooking fire on God's holy altar. They were struck down by an outbreak of the sacrilegious flame, and Aaron and his two remaining sons were cautioned against strong drink by Moses.

With the coming of Christ, His ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the personality of sacrifice changes radically. No longer are we enjoined to burn offerings, but rather to make offerings to the church which can then be used in the work of Jesus Christ. As he has been sacrificed, so it is no longer necessary to sacrifice animals or grain to be consumed by flame; rather, the sacrifice of our hearts, and the offerings we are led by the Spirit to make, are what is pleasing to God.

The presence of flame is an important part of the dedication of a new church, and has been for centuries. Flame as a light source in the Tabernacle of Moses, the Temple of Solomon, and various other historic places of worship. In many "high church" liturgical celebrations, the entrance procession includes at least one priest or pastor, a Book-bearer, a crucifer (Cross-bearer), one to four acolytes (Torch-bearers), and in some denominations one or more thurifers (Incense-bearers). They take an active part in the service of worship at three different times: at the Entrance, when they proceed into the sanctuary and light the candelabra by the altar table; at the reading of the Gospel, when the Book is borne to the center of the church and the priest or pastor proclaims the Gospel for all to hear, with the acolytes either standing beside the Book or, if four, standing at a point in each of the four directions, symbolizing the sound of God's Word going out to all corners of the world; and at the Recessional, when the acolytes re-light their torches from the candelabra, extinguish the candelabra, and bear the light out to all lands in company with the Book, the Cross, and the ministry of the Word (symbolized by the priest/s or pastor/s).

While it is not the intention of the Worship & Music Committee at HHPC to adopt the "high-church" traditions, using incense and bearing in the Cross and Book, we have listened to those who have expressed regret that the acolytes' ritual have not been observed in recent months. Therefore, with the new year we are asking the various older Sunday School classes to furnish acolytes, each month assigned to a different class, for the lighting of the candelabra at the beginning of the service and the extinguishing of the candelabra (with torches with lit flames) at the conclusion of the service. The lit torches being borne out symbolizes the continuing mission of all Christians to bear the Light of Christ out to the world in our daily lives. They also proclaim that Christ is salvation for all people throughout the entire world.

HOLY MOUNTAIN BRAIN TEASER: Many mountains are identified in the Scriptures as the site of significant events. Which mountain is the answer to each of the brain teaser questions below?

1. Moses received the Ten Commandments here (hint: this has two possible answers, due to varying traditions)
2. The ark came to rest here after the flood
3. David fled (from Absalom) by way of this mountain
4. Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah here
5. Elijah and the priests of Baal staged a contest here
6. Moses is buried here, in Jordan
7. Elijah experienced hail, storm, thunder, lightning, and a "still, small voice" here
8. This mountain was "the place of the name of the Lord of hosts"
9. A place offering an escape from Yahweh
10. Jesus ascended from this mountain

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Years To You



Love
Lindsey

Christmas 2009

KIDS CLUB

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 Christmas celebration here at KIDS CLUB. I pause to remember the joy this month has brought to the kids and to those of us who work with this program. Throughout the month we have watched the kids as they decorated the tree with their hand made ornaments, decorated and ate their Christmas cookies, knitted squares for Africa, played games, made crafts, sang, and always lots of laughing and sharing all while they were growing in faith and learning what it means to be a Christian

Kevin Lorenz was the winner of our perfect attendance award for November and given the honor of participating in the challenge of the "Snicker Balance." With the help of Savino, Kevin balanced six candy bars! Who will be the next person to attempt this feat? Remember to be eligible perfect attendance for the month is required.

During the month of December our lesson time centered around our Advent wreath, the meaning of each candle, and the eternal joy that is given to us as we centered our lives around God. In January the topics of our lessons are;

Only God Knows How Many Apples Are in One Seed - God helps the weak
The Trans-Plantation - Have hope even when things seem hopeless
A Bitter Seed - Be humble, repentant and seek the Lord
A New Branch From an Old Tree - God reinforces His promise

We are pleased to congratulate the winners of our monthly Bible verse memorization. What a great group of kids! We hope to see even more next month.
The winners are:

Gold Medal - LeAnne Kommenich
Silver Medal - Vittorio Simone, Maya Garcia, Danielle Tracy, Hollie Fox, Savanna Whicher
Bronze Medal -. Christy Caruso

KIDS CLUB will be closed for the holidays, but we will resume on Monday, January 4th. On behalf of the KIDS CLUB staff, I wish you a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

Everyone who attended the Advent Night seemed to have a really good time. All the food everyone so generously brought to share seemed to disappear. The families all went home with arm loads of holiday decorations and crafts. Approximately 90 people attended our annual Advent Night. Thank you once again to the people who were kind enough to set up and serve and . Thank you to all those who took a table to show everyone the steps to creating some terrific projects this year. Thank you to the team who helped take down the tables and stack the chairs as well as those who helped clean the kitchen. What a wonderful way to begin the Holidays. Thank you.

The annual "Hanging of the Greens" was a spectacular production this year. Thank you to the participants for your gift of music and for telling the story of the First Christmas. We thank Vicky and David who trusted us with their beautiful little girl Riley who portrayed Jesus. Thank you to the young adults who were so generous with their time to explain some of the traditions we see during the Christmas season. Thank you to our guest singers, Cheryl and Gabrielle as well as our guest instrumentalists, Matt, Gina and Gabrielle. Your gifts to the production made it so extra special. How lovely to hear the bells accompany the congregation songs. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unique beginning to the Christmas holidays. May you experience the true meaning of the season and enjoy the peace, love, joy and hope given to us by the birth of Jesus.

The Christmas Tea had another night filled with fellowship and good cheer. We had plenty of tea and cookies to share thanks to everyone who donated a special plate of their favorite cookies. We also filled the gym with laughter as we listened to Janet Pawlicki perform. Did you have to keep back the tears of joy as you listened to the sweet songs by the Stagg Madrigal Singers? Yes, our own Gabrielle Ciametti is a member of this wonderful group. It was a truly memorable experience. Thank you to everyone who helped serve the tea and make sure the water was hot. Thank you to the people who set up the tables and took them down. The decorations were beautiful. Everyone was laughing as we opened up the gifts after the Right, Left game. It was so much fun that we should all plan to do it again next year around the same time. OK?

Plans for something new next year are being made, as I write this. There is a rumor of a confirmation class beginning January 2010. All children grades 6 thru 12 are going to receive information about a class which will end in confirmation to the church sometime in the spring, 2010. Check your mail for more information on this project. Lenten Services and the Lenten program will begin in February. And one more thing to mark the calendar with is the Spring Family Night on May 7th. This is the night for a catered dinner and some great entertainment. Keep checking with the newsletter for more information on these projects as the months speed by.

Everyone in the Christian Education Committee wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2010. God Bless You All.



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 and Kindergarten - Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Cheryl Huenecke

Merry Christmas,
I will be back to teach the winter term. I will be switching off with Miss Noelle.

Fall went by so fast. We started talking about the Israelites crossing the Red Sea and how God provided food and water, then how God gave the 10 commandments. We moved on to the Israelites crossing the Jordan River and finished the term with the victory over Jericho.

I look forward to seeing everyone back after Christmas.

Ms. Debbie

Grade 5 - Linda Lavaretto

November was an exciting month. Stacey, Riley, Yasmine, and Frankie came to class to join LeAnne and I in discussions. We also had visitors from the 1/2 and 3/4 class. It was fun to have Danny and Jacob join us. We talked about Joshua leading the Israelites. We talked about acting on our faith as Rahab did in Jericho. We created a praise dance for the Israelites after they crossed the Jordan River. This group has a creative energy and they are very eager to learn. It has been an honor to have their keen minds in class this quarter. I wish you, your family and friends a very Merry Christmas. I sincerely hope the children who have not come to class regularly will begin to share their time and thoughts with Jeannette.

Senior High - Lou Pearson

Am I patient??? Long suffering possessing quiet uncomplaining endurance in all things. That doesn't sound like me. But maybe, maybe I can become patient I can be long suffering I can become a person apart from myself.

Ephesians 4:2 Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other making allowances for each others faults because of your love.

Patience is one of the best investments you can make in yourselves. Take control be patient in all things. Be slow to anger, be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful in all matters. The imperfections in others is very obvious. Are we any different than our friend? I think not. Be patient my friend!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

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THANK YOU

Our fall quarter of Sunday School has ended and we say thank you to our teachers for creatively sharing God's Word with our kids What a wonderful beginning to this church school year!

Debbie Zimmerman
Cheryl Huenecke
Jeni Vogl
Linda Lavaretto
Patt Pilgrim
Gordon Home
Tom Lane

MUSIC AND OUR KIDS



December is quite a busy month and it is easy to become overwhelmed with our schedules, so we combined Youth Choir's Anthem Sunday into the opening of the service for the Hanging of the Greens program. The efforts and willingness to participate by all our members once again, is something for which I give Thanks to God.

If you were able to attend, I think you will agree that we were blessed to experience the Greatest Story Ever Told, shared once again through our kids. We also had many visitors that were touched by this experience. Who played Baby Jesus you might ask? God's Grace once again brought us a child. Through her visit to the church we learned of Vicky and David. Their daughter Riley, filled the roll of Baby Jesus. A precious little hand waving to the congregation is a wonderful memory.

The Gift of Music was abundant and shared through many avenues; Organ, Piano, Marimba, and many Voices.

One small part I share here with you - to read - the words of our Youth Choir Anthem.

We'll call Him Jesus the name the Angels whispered.

We'll call Him Jesus come from Heav'n to be our friend.

We'll call Him Jesus, the sweetest name in all the world.

We'll call Him Jesus; He'll save us from our sin.

And when your heart is full of Joy you'll call Him Wonderful

And when you've almost lost your way you'll call Him Counselor

And in the midst of your confusion whisper Prince of Peace

And when your all alone He'll be Emmanuel.

We'll call Him Jesus the name the Angels whispered.

We'll call Him Jesus come from Heav'n to be our friend.

We'll call Him Jesus, the sweetest name in all the world.

We'll call Him Jesus; He'll save us from our sin.

Jesus

We'll call Him Jesus.....

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Jan. 3, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
Jan. 3, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	
Jan. 10, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	Ciametti
Jan. 17, 2010	F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	Treccani
Jan. 24, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	Fogg, Kahn
Jan. 31, 2010	S. Zimmerman		Howe, Brunell
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
Jan. 3, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
Jan. 10, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Jan. 17, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Jan. 24, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	
Jan. 31, 2010	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski		

COMMUNION SERVERS- Sue Orsic, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

We Celebrate Birthdays and Perfect Attendance

January Birthdays

10 Jacob Leake
16 Neal Stiegal
20 Emily Raschke
21 Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
29 Haily Wreza

November
Perfect Attendance

Gabriella Ciametti
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek

Kids Club Bible Verses for January

"But he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you'..."
2 Corinthians 12:9

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"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God."
Deuteronomy 7:9

†

"He gathers the humble in what is right and teaches them his way."
Psalm 25:9

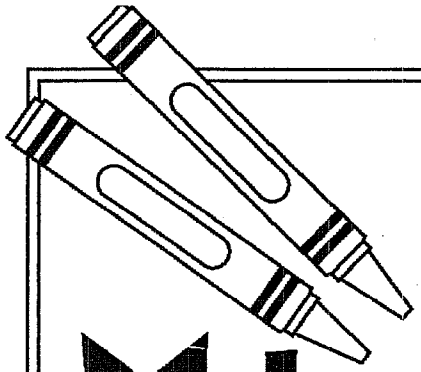
†

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."
Isaiah 12:2

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

JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 Annual Report Deadline 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Congregational Meeting 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	4 Honduras Mission Trip Returns 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	5 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	6 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	7 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	8 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	9 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
10 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Officer Installation 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 Feb. Newsletter Deadline	11 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	12 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	13 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	14 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	15 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	16
17 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	18 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	19 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	20 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	21 12:00 p.m. Meal & Movie 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	22 Jr. High Youth Group Retreat ---- 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	23 Jr. High Youth Group Retreat--
24 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	25 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	26 12:00 p.m. Friendship Luncheon 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee	27 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	28 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	29 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	30 MC8 Leadership Training Workshop
31 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Annual Congregational Meeting 5:00 p.m. "STARS OF HEAVEN" Black Gospel Concert						



Just for KIDS

Make a joyful noise

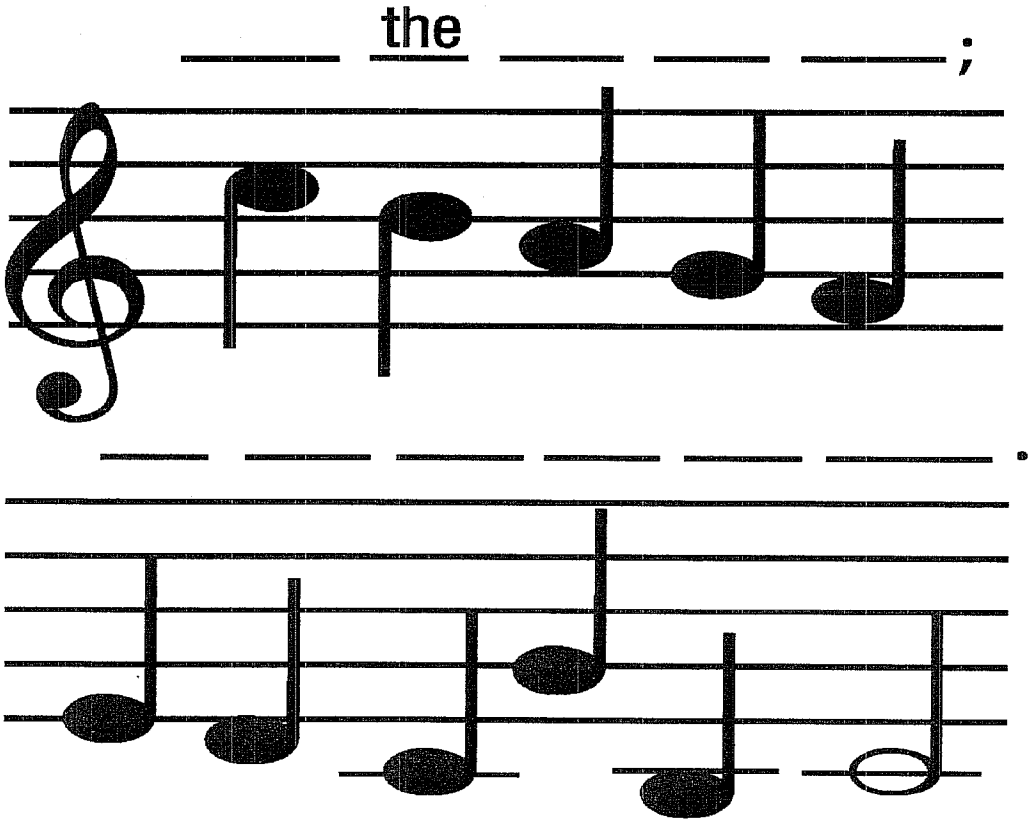
People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: **before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship**



* * * * * * * * * *



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

January Birthdays

1- Christopher Witek
2 - Jean Somerstorfer
4 – Stan Flynn
5- Ryan Arif
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…
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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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

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

FEBRUARY 2010

Prayer & Care

"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:15-16 (RSV)

Just as Paul wrote the above to the Ephesians, I write to you family and friends of HHPC. My heart overflows with gratitude for the Holy Spirit working in so many lives producing energy, excitement, and the power of God's grace in our midst.

By the time you receive this, Jan. 23rd will have come and gone. National Handwriting Day.
John Hancock's birthday.
You do remember handwriting and signing your John Hancock, don't you?

Can anything compare to the sincere gift of the handwritten word? Prayer warriors do this every week. Come. Pray. We'll supply the pen and paper.

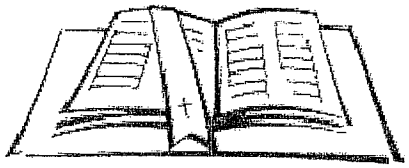
Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Library.

Love 'N' Hugs, Arlene

Women's Bible Study

"Lord, how I love you! For you have done such tremendous things for me. The Lord is my fort where I can enter and be safe; no one can follow me in and slay me. He is a rugged mountain where I hide; he is my Savior; a rock where none can reach me, and a tower of safety. He is my shield. He is like the strong horn of a mighty fighting bull."
Psalms 18:1-2 (TLB)

This portion of the 50 verse song of David was written when God delivered him from his many enemies, including Saul (King of Israel). As we continue to marvel at David's praise, pleas, prayers, problems, and proclamations, his words are so descriptive. We are already discussing a study on the kings after we finish the Psalms.



TWILIGHT PRAYER

Desire is the power that moves the world and directs the course of each person. The cause of limited outreach to God is many times lack of desire.

Many times our prayers are limited to a narrow thought rather than seeing the entire vista. Jesus says: If you seek me, you will find me. If you need me, I will be there for you. If you cry out to me, I will hear you.

What is the desire of your heart? Be assured He is there, He hears, He can be found, He is that special friend you seek. Bow your head.

Close your eyes. Let the thoughts flow. Let your desires be known. Yes, Yes, Yes!

See you at 6:30 Tuesday evening. Be there is you have the desire.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

PADS UPDATE

December 3rd was a brutally cold evening. The snow lay heavily upon the ground and keeping erect was a challenge, even for the sure footed.

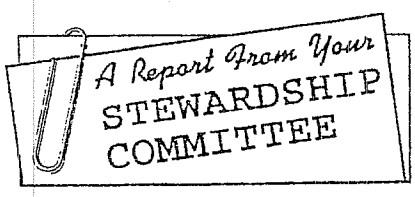
Our guests were invited into the church for warmth and relief from the bitter cold as they awaited their evening meal.

That evening, we served 56 guests and prepared a few more meals for late comers. Through the course of the evening, many guests popped their heads into the kitchen to thank us all for a fine evening meal and warm hospitality. A greater gift no man can give, than to feed the hungry, and say "Lie thee down and rest."

Thank you again all those loving hearts and hands that say (time and time again) this I can do. This I will do. "AMEN." Gladly, this I will do again.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PER CAPITA



The first envelope in your 2010 box of offering envelopes in "Per Capita." You ask "what is this?" Per Capita is a way Presbyterians share equally, responsibly and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Per Capita contributions are requested from every congregation based on each church's total active membership.

Through Per Capita contributions, Presbyterian Churches:

-Help congregations with pastoral transitions.
-Train and support Interim Ministers.
-Resource congregational conflicts.
-Care for Ministers and Christian Educators and their families.
-Help prepare people for service as Ordained Ministers.

The amount of Per Capita for 2010 is $5,977 or **$28.29** per active member. We ask that members contribute their $28.29 because what we do not receive in contributions has to come from the General Fund budget. In 2009 the amount for HHPC was $6,988 and of that amount we received $2,310 from the congregation resulting in $4,678 being used from the General Fund. This is a significant amount that could be used elsewhere in the Life of HHPC. This is why the Stewardship Committee is asking each member to make an effort to pay the $28.29 to help ease the financial burden on the budget in 2010.

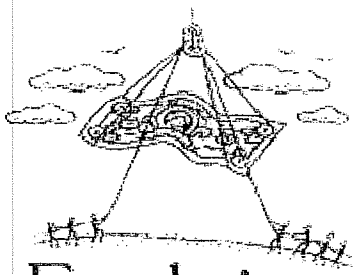
Thank you.



Getting to know YOUth...

My Name is Brittany Maranto.
My Church is Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.
I Love helping people.
I am Presbyterian because I believe in God and love spreading the Word about God.
I believe in Jesus and God who love us even if we do anything bad.
I am passionate about always learning something new.
One thing that makes me sad is knowing I take advantage of everything I own, and think about people who own NOTHING!
One thing that makes me happy is everyone in the church is Praising God.

The person I most admire is my parents and Lord Jesus Christ.
I never shout or yell at people.
I always drink my milk every single day!
The Bible is the greatest book in the world.
God is the greatest person I know.
My prayer is to keep EVERYONE SAFE!
I want to be a great role model for the younger youth.
I read multiple variety of books!
If I ruled the world I would give money to poor countries.



Fundraiser

The **Sr. High Youth Group** is selling 2010 Calendars.

They are $6.00 each, and proceeds benefit the Sr. High Youth Group fund.

If you are interested in purchasing, please see any member of the youth group, Rick or Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, or Noelle Larsen.

Thanks for your support!

Dec. 2009 Session Meeting Minutes



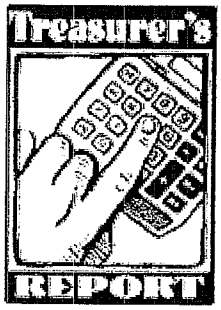
Minutes of the stated meeting of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, Hickory Hills, Illinois held on December 14, 2009, at 7:30pm.
The meeting was opened with prayer.
MINUTES: The minutes were received and approved.
CLERK'S REPORT: Communion was served at the three services on December 13th. Communion is served every Sunday at the 9am service.
A letter was received from Burbank Presbyterian Church, Burbank, Illinois requesting the transfer of Mrs. Ruth Hill. It was VOTED to accept the transfer.
TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was received and accepted.
COMMITTEE REPORTS:
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Advent family night was very well attended, about 90. Also "Hanging of the Greens." Women's Tea this Thursday. It was VOTED to have an 8 week Confirmation class in January. Leaders: Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl. Curriculum: We Believe. The Lenten program will begin February 17th.
BUILDING AND GROUNDS: We are waiting on police report about auto accident causing grounds damage. The insurance company has been notified. It was VOTED to accept roofing quote of $1390 for manse. Plumbing issue in basement – getting hold of plumber.
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: Concert next month. Format change: (more youth, more people involved.) Vary service style weekly: Two praise services, One communion service w/ pastor message, one alternate message ie: skits testimonials etc.
WORSHIP AND MUSIC/COMMUNION SERVERS: Want to get back to holding hands while saying the Lord's Prayer. Want The Creed said more often. Christmas Eve service to be retro worship: Rev band, bells.
Have the Alliance Church minister speak sometime. Need ushers, will be put into newsletter.
Communion servers: Rick, Sue, Jeni.
MISSION: $2500 for the Human Need Fund. Pads December 6th. Jones Center Christmas gifts and breakfast completed. Scarves & mittens delivered. February meeting of Mission will have "The Crew" (on site mission project) give a presentation.
The Honduras Mission trip will leave December 26th and return January 4th.
NLAAC OVERSIGHT: The Alliance church has signed for another year.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/ENDOWMENT: It was VOTED to accept the 2010 proposed budget
NOMINATING: It was VOTED to accept the slate presented for Elders for 2012: Karen Hoffman (2nd term), Rick Raschke (2nd term), Scott Zimmerman (2nd term), and Susan Frangella.
It was VOTED to accept the slate presented for Deacons for 2012: Patt Pilgrim (2nd term), Debbie Zimmerman (2nd term), and Kim Ambrosat.
It was VOTED for a congregational meeting to be held January 3rd to approve slate.
It was VOTED to hold Ordination/Installation January 10th.
DPNC: It was decided to have a 3 year contract. All info to Presbytery before Christmas.
NEW BUSINESS: It was VOTED to have annual reports due January 3rd and the Annual Congregational meeting January 31st. It was VOTED to allow AA Alcathon New Year's Eve to New Year's Day use of the church.



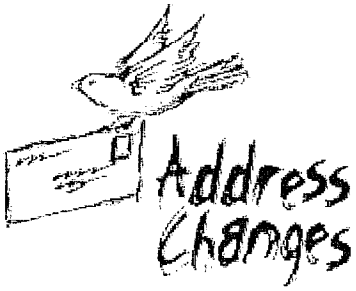
HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-The Confirmation Class
-Sally Harris beginning Chemo Treatments, for strength & healing
-David Krueger for healing & strength
-Frank Esparza's son, Daniel E. for health concerns
-Frank Esparza's sister, Ruth, for healing, and her husband Joe Lovelace, for health concerns
-The Vogl's friend, Kim Baikie, for health concerns
-The Vogl's neighbors, Joanne & Bob Pappas for health concerns
-Mary Richer & family for Brian, passing into Glory
-Debbie Raschke's uncle, Glenn Woody, for treatment & healing
-Debbie Raschke's Uncle Mack for health concerns
-Kim Brock for healing
-Richard Larson for strength during treatments
-G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
-Jackie Gehle for health concerns
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
-Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-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



December 2009 Treasurer's Report

Receipts	$35,461.00
Disbursements	$22,547.00
General Fund Balance 12/31/09	$4,871.00



Al & Mary Lewington
(Mary- Room #203, Al- Room #309)
Victorian Inn
12600 Renaissance Circle
Homer Glen, IL 60491

Eva Nestor
417 Santee Drive
Santee, South Carolina 29142
803-347-4422

Hymning and Hawing

IN SEARCH OF THE PROMISED LAND

by G. R. Snow

Since February is Black History Month, I feel it's important to examine a recurring theme in the spirituals of black America: the Promised Land, giving rise to what I choose to call the "Promised Land Spiritual".

It may be a good idea to briefly review the Biblical significance of the Promised Land. Abraham and his heirs lived in a land where crops were good and they could live in relative comfort, though perhaps not luxury. When a famine approached in the time of Jacob's leadership, his son Joseph became one of the most powerful men in Egypt and brought the Hebrews to Egypt for safety and protection from starvation. Under the rule of Thutmose III, the Hebrews' slavery was ended when the Pharoah's adoptive grandson, Tutmosis (Moses) led them away from Egypt. After crossing the river and wandering in the wilderness forty years, under the leadership of Joshua the Promised Land was theirs.

Slaves of African descent in America sought a similar change in their living conditions, and, like the Hebrews, they kept their efforts to escape secret, their signals covert. Through singing of various spirituals under the right circumstances, messages could be sent to slaves on neighboring plantations, to escapees concealed in bushes or forest nearby, even to other slaves on the same plantation—right under the plantation-owners' noses.

"Noah, Noah, let me come in,
Gates is shut and the windows pinned.
Keep your hand on-a the plow, hold on."

What was heard: a spiritual about Noah and the Ark, where those who had not listened to God's warning begged for entry in the Ark as they drowned. What was secretly conveyed: gates are closed and windows fastened. You can't get out (or in) right now.

"King Jesus lit the candle by the waterside
To see the little children come be truly baptized,
Honor, honor unto the dying Lamb.
Oh, run along, children, to be baptized,
Mighty pretty meetin' by the waterside . . .
I prayed all day, I prayed all night,
My head was sprinkled with the midnight dew . . ."

What was heard: a spiritual about Jesus calling people to be baptized (though I can't find the events described in any Scripture). What was secretly conveyed: meet by the water at midnight. A candle will be lit to mark where to meet.

"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.
See that band all dressed in white . . .
The leader looks like the Israelite . . .
See that band all dressed in red . . .
It looks like the band that Moses led . . ."

What was heard: a spiritual about God's Spirit healing through "troubling the water", whether at the pool of Bethesda, or the Jordan River as when Naaman was healed of leprosy, or some other miraculous water, the song doesn't specify. What was secretly conveyed: wading in some particular water may offer escape, or information about escape, or possibly there are escapees who will be wading upriver. The band of escapees won't be dressed in white, but attention is being drawn to some particular leader. Nor are they likely to be dressed in red, but red commands attention, and Moses led slaves to freedom. Incidentally, Harriet Tubman was called the Moses of her people, and she led numerous groups of slaves to freedom. It would be difficult to prove that this spiritual ever referred to joining a group of her escapees, but the possibility can certainly be imagined.

"Ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
No man can-a hinder me.
King Jesus rides a milk-white horse,
No man works like him.
The river Jordan he did cross,
No man works like him."

What was heard: a spiritual about Christ's power and miracle-working. In reality, there is no Scriptural basis for Christ crossing the Jordan on a horse of any color, or even riding one. Such deviations from Scripture are red flags to researchers examining double meanings in spirituals, though plantation owners may have been so ignorant of their Bibles that they did not realize the deviation—or, if they were aware of it, their prejudices made them believe that the deviation was due to the slaves' ignorance of the Bible. In reality, though many slaves could not read (and others pretended they couldn't in order to avoid losing an eye, or some other punishment), most heard the Bible being read, and their strong oral tradition made them much better memorizers than the plantation owners. Most knew their Bibles far better than the traveling preachers of the day. This spiritual draws attention to someone riding a white horse, who can help people cross the river, or escape.

Though the tallow candles, imperfect as they were, gave poor light and an unpleasant odor, we can imagine how comforting seeing the small light in the window of an isolated cottage must have been to a group of escaped slaves hiding in the darkness and seeking shelter from hunters and dogs. Especially when hearing someone, perhaps going to a well or carrying in wood from the woodpile, softly singing,

"Shut the door, keep out the Devil,
Shut the door, keep the Devil in the night,
Shut the door, keep out the Devil,
Light the candle, everything's all right."

BRAIN TEASER: Can you name the spiritual from which each phrase comes?

1. If not, I'll smite your first-born dead . . .
2. Looked all around me, it looked so fine . . .
3. Jordan's river's chilly and cold . . .
4. I want to cross over into campground . . .
5. Class Leader, do you love Jesus?
6. . . . when I die, Hallelujah, Good Lord, when I die!
7. The little wheel run by the grace of God . . .
8. And he declared he'd meet me there . . .
9. Lord, I keep so busy servin' my Master . . .
10. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?

Dear Mrs Brunell,

Thank you and the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church for assisting me with my medication. The check came just at the right time and I can't really thank you enough. I have had multiple seizures for a long time and I was able to work full time until the end of 2003. It is difficult to accept sometimes - and then people like you step up. Thank you again

Sincerely,

A couple letters in response

to the Fund for Human Need...

1/6/10

Dear Church family of Hickory Hills, I would like to thank you for your help My name is , Pat Naujoks gave you a call and ask for an donation for my children and myself. For the last 20 years I have been the one trying to help other and giving. Never thought I would be in a situation where I needed help for my children and gift for christmas. Thank your church family for helping us, things are still hard but, we are in a safe place now and GOD Bless the church family.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 7, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
Feb. 7, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	SOUPER SUNDAY Prunty, Pilgrim
Feb. 14, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	Haack, Meade
Feb. 21, 2010	F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	Fogg, Dritz
Feb. 28, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	Beverly, Gwen
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
Feb. 7, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
Feb. 14, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Feb. 21, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Feb. 28, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	

COMMUNION SERVERS- Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Updated Jan. 2010

Elders

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
Tom Pearson	708-598-5198
Jeni Vogl	708-598-4893

Class of '12

Susan Frangella	708-822-6758
Karen Hoffman	815-838-4438
Rick Raschke	708-243-8088
Scott Zimmerman	708-372-3516

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

Deacons

Class of '10

Dorothy Allen	708-458-2337
Kim Brock	708-728-0453
Charles Huenecke	708-598-2342

Class of '11

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

Class of '12

Kim Ambrosat	708-598-0523
Patt Pilgrim	630-679-0963
Debbie Zimmerman	708-458-1662

Committees	Chair	Session Rep.	Meeting Schedule
Building & Grounds	Charley Huenecke	Rick Raschke	2nd Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Dianne Flynn	Cindy Treccani	1st Tue. 7:30 p.m.
Endow/ Stwrdshp/ Finance			As needed
Fellowship	Jeni Vogl	Jeni Vogl	1st Sun. 11:45 am *As needed
Fundraising	Susan Frangella	Shirley Brunell	As needed
Mission	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	4th Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed
Nominating	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	As needed
Outreach /Website	Gordon Home	Gordon Home	3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Personnel	Cheryl Huenecke	Cheryl Huenecke	As needed
Worship & Music	G.R. Snow	Scott Zimmerman	As needed
Praise Worship	Cindy Treccani	Cindy Treccani	2nd Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed

Other Regular Meetings:

Session		2nd Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Deacons		4th Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Lavaretto	Sundays 11:45 a.m.
Sr. High Youth Group	Rick & Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Hanna Huenecke, Josh Treccani	Sundays 6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Arlene Pearson	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	1st Tue. 9:30 a.m.
Friendship Group		4th Tue. 12:00 p.m.
Prayer & Care	Lou & Arlene Pearson	Tues. 6:30 p.m./ Wed. 9:00 a.m.
Senior Choir	G.R. Snow	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Jr. High Youth Group	Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani, Bryan Ambrosat	Thursdays 6:30 p.m.
Handbells	G. R. Snow	Thursdays 8:00 p.m.

HAPPY Holidays!

Love, Jenni, Tia + Deaver

Dear All Friends @ HHPC especially the Glorious Prayer Group ☆

Hi to everyone! I am so grateful to all of you for everything from prayers, all of the cards you send, not only me, but Lindsay + Amanda, too, letting my family use the church for their party + all your continuous support. Without you, I could never stay positive working as a TEACHER Aide, Newspaper writer, doing AEROBICS + winning 3rd in Aids Poster Contest!! ☺ I love and Miss All of You.

* Blessings ☆

Love,
Jenni

DECEMBER 25, 2009

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



We welcome everyone back after our break for the Christmas Holiday. What a wonderful place this is! We renew friendships as we study, play, and build community. With the accumulation of snow we chose for our first craft project of the year a bird feeder. There are more surprises ahead for fun, creative projects.

Although we did not participle in The Snicker Balance Contest for the month of December, it is back for January. Who will be the winner? Remember perfect attendance is mandatory for this contest.

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

The Seed Has Come - God gives
No Hybrids Allowed! - God seeks believing hearts
Get Out of Prison - God makes the faithful His children
Known By Your Fruits - Doing great things for God

A highlight for the month of February will be our Valentines's Day Party to be held on Monday, February 8th. The staff has planned special activities for the kids and we hope that everyone will be with us on this day.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Thank you for the pop tabs which are donated to the Ronald McDonald House, and the school supplies which are given to underpriveleged kids who are living in homeless shelters in the city. Yes, we Lenten Series - beginning Wednesday, February 17th. 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 17 - March 24
Soup supper begins at 6:15 with program at 7:00 p.m.

Just a reminder, we are collecting pop tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Please bring them with you to Kids Club and we will placed them in the collection containers. Thank you for participating in this outstanding mission project.

KIDS CLUB is open to all kids age 5 through the 6th grade. We encourage you to invite a child to join us.

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

The Youth Choir was scheduled to sing on Sunday, January 10, 2010. They have had some time away from practice due to the holidays but they were gracious to sing for our worship service. With just a few moments of practice before the service, they sang beautifully. Thanks to all the Youth Choir, Dianne, and Cheryl for a beautiful gift.

The Jr. High Youth Group enjoyed a night in downtown Chicago on December 2nd. They did some ice skating at Millennium Park, went to dinner at McDonald's, looked at the decorated windows along State Street, and even did some shopping at the Kriskringle mart located at Daley Plaza. They are also planning a retreat to Bloomington, Illinois on January 29-31. Here they will meet more teens who practice the Christian faith, celebrate their faith and hopefully find they are not alone in their faith. The theme for this retreat is Jesus, who do you say I am? If you can help fund this retreat, please purchase stock that they are selling after worship services.

The Women's Bible Study is discussing the book of Psalms. They meet on Monday afternoons at 1:00PM. All women interested in learning more about the famous collection of David are welcome to join.

Beginning January 21st. there will be a new group offering. A meal and a movie will be offered once a month. All participants are asked to bring a salad for sharing with the group lunch. This month, the movie will be the Continental Divide. This program is open to anyone who likes to enjoy a great movie with friends.

The Prayer Shawl Mission work has slowly returned to the 5th grade classroom after a two week break due to the holiday celebrations. They are working on lap blankets, scarves, and of course, shawls. Some have discussed an interest in finding a mission which would not require such a large amount of money for postage and would be more local. Anyone who is still interested in working on small 8 X 8 inch squares for Africa is welcome to do that. We will try to have a special offering to finance the postage for the squares made. Anyone who feels the local mission is more desirable should begin knitting or crocheting 7 X 9 inch rectangles. We will sew them together and find a Red Cross headquarters to distribute them after they are collected and sewn into blankets. Please try to use 4 ply yarn. Cast on 27 stitches on the size 10 knitting needles. Work in a pattern of your choice for 9 inches. Please leave a 3 yard yarn tail.

The Stampers had their first meeting after a two week break due to the holiday celebrations. Kim took some time to review the use of the brayer and rubber bands to make interesting background designs on the cards. Ruth brought in some new ideas for layering papers and cut-out designs. The Stampers meet every other Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Our next meeting will be on January 20th. Come see what creative cards you can make with just a few simple stamps and some paper.

Patt Pilgrim offered some information on the Presbytery's attempt to fund it's increasing deficit. She told us about the plan to sell the Camp in Saugatuk to a real estate developer. There was a meeting on January 9th to discuss

more options.

Souper Sunday is scheduled for February 7th. Come hungry after worship at 11:45 AM and enjoy a variety of soups as well as great fellowship. All proceeds are currently scheduled for the Camp Scholarship fund.

Plans are being formed for a wonderful six weeks of Lent. The Children's program will be held on Wednesday evenings after a time for soup dinner. All the food will be provided by members of the various committees . Adults will enjoy a worship service in the sanctuary while the children ages 4 thru Jr. High will attend a program designed especially for them. Children will have an opportunity to work the crafts common in the days of Jesus. They will have an opportunity to purchase fresh bakery from the baker. They will have contact with the Roman Soldiers. It is an amazing six week program that you and your child will remember for a long time. So don't miss a single week. The Lenten Program begins February 17.

The Spring Family night is coming quickly. This is the night there is a catered dinner. The entertainment is expected to be outstanding. Our friend, Master Ron, will provide the entertainment with his unique balloon creations as well as his insights to popular Bible stories. Be sure you sign up so we know how many we will need to provide dinner. Check the table outside the fellowship hall for the sign up sheet coming soon. Don't forget May 7th is Spring Family Night.

Did you know that VBS will be here in less than six months? The Saddle Ridge Ranch is designed to answer some of the questions children always seem to ask. It will be a fun filled week of learning, songs, dancing, active games, and crafting. Children ages 4 through grade 6 are invited. Any interested Teens are asked to speak to Dianne. Trish and Company will return to lead us in song and help us answer those questions. Be sure to mark your calendar for VBS. We meet June 14-18.

****

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On Sunday, January 3rd, we were honored to welcome as our guest speaker Mitch Huenecke on his recent return from the mission fields of Honduras. He eagerly related to us the activities of the prior 10 days and the challenges he and his fellow missionaries faced each day.

Honduras, like many depressed nations, finds itself lagging in knowledge and technology and little advancement in education to benefit the individual. Their daily food is a repetition of simple meals. Water is not common in many households. Electricity for the masses does not exis. A church/school building in this area certainly a dream! Dreams do come true when the "master" architect lays upon the hearts of main the blueprint of success. Mission impossible now completed. Where once was open space now exists this building of love, many hands made possible the completed statement. We say thank you for those who gave of themselves for this worthy cause, they walk away with humble hearts and the emmory of the smile upon a child's face.

Regards,

C. Lou Pearson



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

In January we met in-house and played games and watched Christian video lessons. We had discussion afterward and after grace enjoyed snack time. Thanks to the junior high families that provided our snack.

On January 29 -31, 2010 we leave for our annual retreat at East Bay Camp in Bloomington, Il.. This is a two night retreat for 6-8 grade youth and their friends in the Presbyteries of Chicago and Blackhawk. This year's leader is Sean Miller and the topic of the retreat is entitled "Who do you say that iAM". Cost is $100.00 and scholarships are available.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

March 13, 2010 - Feed My Starving Children - afternoon mission trip to Aurora Il (may change this because of conflict with confirmation retreat)

March 12-14 2010 Confirmation Retreat – Saugatuck, MI

May 7-8 2010 AWOL Mission Project – a 24-hour retreat and hands on mission project with a local church and/or agency.

We welcome all junior highs and their friends to our meetings on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the church and to all outside events.

Junior High youth leaders
Patt Pilgrim (630-679-0963),
Katie Treccani (708-650-6618),
Bryan Ambrosat

****

CONFIRMATION 2010

The Confirmation class of 2010 has begun and is being taught by Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl. In our first session we discussed what we look like to others when we are "wearing Christ" and how to live our lives in that way. Refer to 1Corinthians 12, Colossians 3:12-15, and Galatians 3:26-28 to study along with us. We will be meeting for 8 classes on Sunday afternoons. In March, we will participate in a retreat weekend at Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI learning with other confirmation students about what it means to say Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Please pray for all of our young people who are studying to make the important decision of joining the church. We have 19 enrolled in class. Please keep these fine young people in your prayers: Leslie Ambrosat, Kate Crowley, Adam Fox, Tristan Grisko, Brian Haack, Jordan Hepburn, Alyssia Kommenich, Tom Krumpolc, Becky Kusina, Stephanie Lorenz, Ashley Maranto, Natalie Orsic, Halimah Prunty, Danny Rodriquez, Mandy Rodriquez, Kaylee Rys, Natasha Swindle, Katelin Wheeler, and Kyle Zimmerman.

Thank you for your support. Peace to you all.





Praise God for the gift of music. We are blessed! We are pleased to have some new faces at Monday's practices and pray that they will become a regular part of our Choir.
The words of our January Anthem are here for you to read, reflect on, and enjoy.
Peace,
Cheryl

Without faith it's impossible, it's impossible, it's impossible to please God.
When it comes to God just believe that He is
and He rewards those who seek Him.

All things are possible, all things are possible, all things are possible just believe.
God will do everything, that He said He will do,
and He rewards those who Seek Him.

Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you
Al le lu Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Al le lu Alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God
Al le lu Alleluia

Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you
A le lu Alleluia



We Celebrate

Birthdays

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

11 Emily Abbene
13 Kayla Wagner
20 Alyssia Kommenich
22 McKayla Crutchfield
24 Lauren Neputy
25 Austin McKinney
28 Kevin Lorenz

****

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES FOR FEBRUARY

†

...and they will call him 'Immanuel' which means 'God is with us'..
Matthew 1:23

†

"But the man who loves God is known by God."
1 Corinthians 8:3

†

"So those who have faith are blessed."
Galantians3:9

†

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."
John 15:9

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

Perfect Attendance

DECEMBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

5th Grade
Yasmine Fox

Junior High
Ashley Maranto

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
Megan Zimmerman

****

THE POP TAB COLLECTION PROGRAM CONTINUES

Proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House

In August of 2009, a group of youth and adults delivered 735 pound of pop tabs which we had collected to the Ronald McDonald House located near Hope Hospital.

Please continue to save your pop tabs and bring them to church. They don't seem like much, but in large quantity they do great things. Here are some fun facts for your information.

* It takes 1267 pop tabs to make a pound.
* 1 million pop tabs laid end to end is 16 miles long.
* 1 million pop tabs, when recycled, will provide a nights lodging for 25 families at the Ronald McDonald House

KasCare
AID FOR AIDS ORPHANS

knit a square
. . . and make an AIDS orphan warm
a KasCare program

Dear Linda

How do you measure gratitude?
Do you describe it in words? Do you represent it with a gift? Or a physical gesture like a kiss or a hug?

In our electronic age, many of us have grown used to the impersonality of an email. But no-one we know doesn't enjoy receiving something that evidently comes from the heart.

Some of you may already have received and responded to our urgent appeal for help. We sent it by email at the end of November. If you did, please don't be offended by this further communication. Our aim is to thank those of you who have sent squares but may not subscribe to *Square Circle*, our online magazine, or otherwise know about our activities.

This little gift – a simple cardboard ruler worth only a few cents – is our attempt to express our appreciation. Not just for the squares that pour in to South Africa in their thousands. Not just for the labour of your hands, and the gift of your time that could be given as unselfishly to others.

Bigger than mere measurement
Its tiny eight inches symbolise something bigger than mere measurement. They stand for a depth of human commitment that we can only describe in terms of love.

It almost reduces us to silence when we think of you. Maybe you're sleepless during a long night, or on the train or bus to work, and probably weary after a harrowing day. Yet you take up your needles or your crochet hook and physically make a difference.

What's more astonishing is that you do it with little or no expectation of thanks. The chances of your meeting the orphan or abandoned child warmed by your squares are virtually nil. And yet you knit on. We wonder what makes you do it?

Your unique symphony of clicks
We try to picture you wherever you are, with your needles and stash and the slow (or fast!) rhythm of your hands. Then we try to imagine your fellow knitters and crocheters at all corners of the world. How many of you are stitching right now, adding your unique notes to the symphony of clicks in this hymn of hope for distant children?

We thank you again for your wonderful contribution, without which many orphans, once cold, would not be warm.

For KasCare to continue its work, collecting, sorting and distributing blankets to these desperate children, we need financial support.

We are so grateful for your support thus far. For those that can, a financial contribution would ensure that the thousands of squares pouring into South Africa become loving, warm blankets for orphans, in bigger numbers, faster.

If you are able to donate, details on how to do so are overleaf. Or you can support KasCare's knit-a-square program by giving the value of a blanket for an abandoned baby or orphaned child this year to your loved ones. All the details on are the website: http://www.knit-a-square.com Our KAS e-calendar is US$7.95 and once you have purchased it you can send it free to as many people as you wish, as a gift. It will do another job too to spread the word!

Thank you from our hearts for changing the world of the children, one square at a time. We wish you a happy, peaceful and joyous festive season.

SOUPER SUNDAY



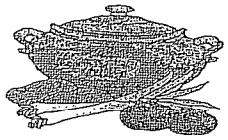
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

All donations are used to help support
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support
Our Kids

JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE
LENT 2010

A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH GRADE 8
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17

"YOU ARE THERE!"

Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through grade 8. While adults are in worship, our kids will participate in an age appropriate program that has been designed with learning and fun. It is called **Jerusalem Market Place.** This is a hands on learning time that will provide 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 week program the kids will participate in six different shops. They will:

- SMELL the aromas of bakeries in the Bakery and Confectioner Shop
- HEAR the sounds of carpenters in the J.C. Woodshop
- SEE the villagers in Bible times attire as you meet the Roman Soldiers and the teachers in our shops
- EXPERIENCE learning occupational skills of the times by visiting the shops
- WRITE in Scribes Journal

Adults you will not want to miss our worship service for this six week adventure. The worship service will be held both at 12 noon and at 7 p.m.

We hope that your family will be a part of this Holy Land Adventure..

****

LENT 2010

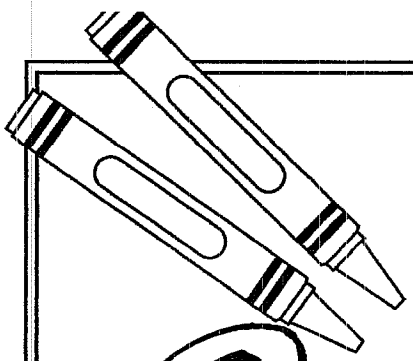
Every Wednesday
February 17 - March 25

MIDDAY SERVICE
†
Soup Luncheon - Worship
12:00 noon

EVENING SERVICE
†
Soup Supper - 6:15 p.m.
Worship - 7:00 p.m.
Jerusalem Market Place - 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	2 Election 5am-9pm 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	3 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	4 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 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 & Children's Education 11:30 p.m. Souper Sunday 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	8 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	9 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	10 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	11 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	12 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	13 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
14 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>March Newsletter Deadline</u>	15 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	16 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	17 Ash Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	18 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	19 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	20
21 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	22 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	23 12:00 p.m. Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting	24 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	25 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	26 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group						

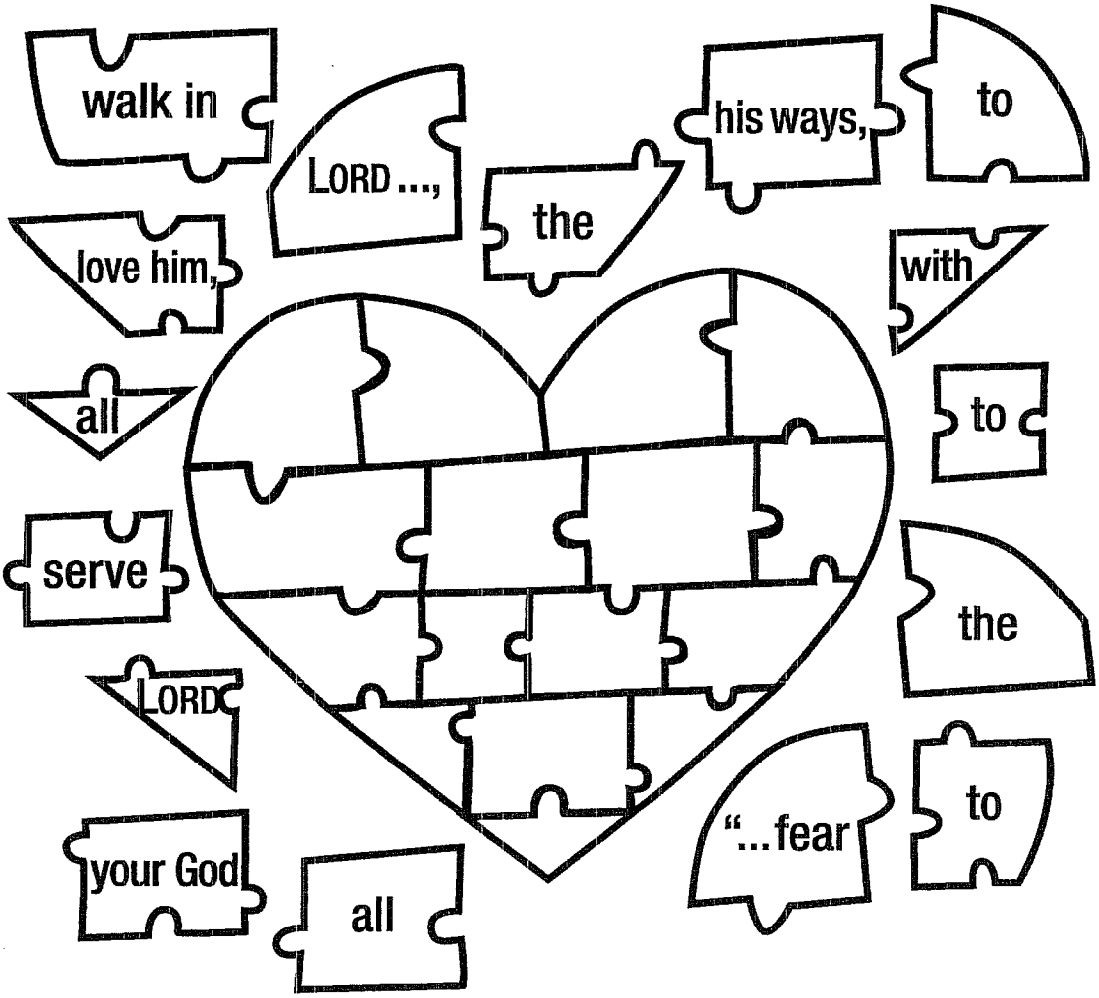


Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer:
" ... fear the LORD ..., to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ... "

February Birthdays

February
1 – Josh Krueger
5 – Scott Zimmerman
5 – Patricia Brady
5- Sam Swearingen
5- Mike Swearingen
7 – Julie Witek
7 - Tod Nargie
8 – Alice White
12 – Lorraine Cunningham
16 - Beverly Kahn
17 – Barbara Brown
17 – Shirley Fogg
17 – John Hall
18 – Amy Simone
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…
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

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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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Hickory Hills, IL 60457
(708) 598-3100
Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

MARCH 2010

Prayer & Care

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving;" Colossians 4:2 (RSV)

Now that we are in the season of "Lent," let's not be fixated on the negatives. Let's be obsessed with the positives.
Change will come. We will change. The season will change. And perhaps our priorities will change. It's a good thing.
Should change be on your agenda, the prayer warriors await your presence.

9 am-10 am Wednesdays

P.S. Praise and concerns are accepted from everywhere, everyone, and every time.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene

PADS UPDATE

February 7th was a special evening at PADS. We were expecting our guests and they arrived as expected throughout the evening. There to greet them and serve them was our Senior High Youth Group.

Earlier that day, the Seniors gathered at the home of the Vogl's to prepare the evening meal and cakes for dessert. Packing a few vehicles with food and bodies, they were on their way to PADS.

Everyone chipped in with eager hands and soon all was taken care of in a most professional way. The evening moved quickly to our departure at 8:30 p.m. Memories of our evening experience have given us all a better understanding of the PADS experience.

Grateful are we that we were the givers rather than the recipients. "Thank you" all for giving of yourselves to such a worthy cause.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson


Joined in Prayer

TWILIGHT PRAYER

After the storm, comes the calm. You collect your thoughts. You digest the aftermath of the storm. Life is more serene, peace over-takes your being. Thank you, Father. You have seen me through yet another trial of life and yet,
Here I stand, stronger then when all began.
Thank you, Father, for holding my hand. Amen.

Is your storm raging or do you find peace? Is your life in turmoil, not knowing where to find the answers? Alone, you are not!
We all weather the storm, time and time again. Join us as we pray together and seek favorable weather for each of our lives. He is our umbrella for life, He is always there.
You know the time and place.
Let us see your smiling face.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



Getting to know YOUth...

My Name is Gabby Ciametti.
My Church is a place that I have known my entire life.
I Love to read and listen to music, along with writing my own music. ☺
I am Presbyterian because I was raised to be Presbyterian.
I believe in Our Lord Jesus Christ and that He died so that we would all be saved and live eternally.
I am passionate about music and literature. God has helped me learn through music and reading and I am grateful that he has done so.
One thing that makes me sad is Knowing that some people don't care about others and they just live life going through the motions.
One thing that makes me happy is being with my family, both biologically and my church family.
The person I most admire is Audrey Hepburn. Her acting skills are awesome and her outreach to others is inspirational.
I always go to Church on Sundays. ☺
The Bible is something I try to read often and a good source of inspiration.
God is everywhere.
My prayer is that when the power of love triumphs over the love of power, the world might see peace.
I want to be on Broadway!
I read everything (except Sci-Fi or something I'm not interested in.)
If I ruled the world life would be a musical. ☺
Gabby Ciametti

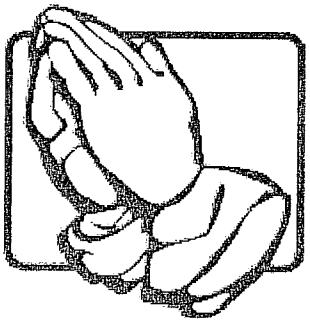
What's Next?

This seems to be the question we start asking as we get closer to our high school graduation. We are no longer under the "youth" umbrella but we aren't ready for adults yet. This question stays with us for the next 10 years. We are "tweens" again. Well it's time we start working on an answer to the "What's next?" question.



YOUNG ADULTS

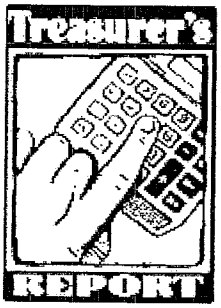
WHO: Anyone between the ages of 18 and 29
(wide range yes, but let's start somewhere)
WHAT: Young Adult Bible Study
WHEN: Friday Nights at 6:30
WHERE: Library at HHPC
Questions? Katie Treccani:
Cell 708-650-6618 OR
Email: katiejo-82@hotmail.com



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

-Sarah Wreza's brother, Jason Smith, for massive stroke at age 40
-The family of Fern Lapp, on her passing
-Shannon Bastien's grandma, Cathy, for health concerns

-Frank Esparza's niece, Linda Anderson, for health concerns
-Mary Tarter's sister in law, Geraldine, for health concerns
-Mary Lewington for rehab & health concerns
-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-Betty Kitching for recovery from surgery
-Ivy Taebel, for healing from pneumonia
-Aleesha Zeko for other knee surgery, recovery
-Renee Meyer for strength
-Pete Richardson for health concerns
-Donna Bredlau's friend, Ken, for rehab/ healing
-The Confirmation Class
-Haiti and the relief effort
-Carolyn Simone for healing
-Sally Harris beginning Chemo Treatments, for strength & healing
-David Krueger for healing & strength
-Frank Esparza's son, Daniel E. for health concerns
-Frank Esparza's sister, Ruth, for healing
-The family of Joe Lovelace, on his passing
-The Vogl's neighbors, Joanne & Bob Pappas for health concerns
-Richard Larson for strength during treatments
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
-Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing & strength
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-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



January 2010 Treasurer's Report

General Fund

Income:	$24,429.00
Disbursements:	$15,152.00

Join Us For Lenten Programs:

Wednesdays in Lent:
March 3, 10, 17, 24

12:00 Noon Soup Lunch
12:30 p.m. Worship

6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner
7:00 p.m. Worship/
Children's Programs:
Jerusalem Marketplace



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 28, 2010
10:30 a.m. Worship:
Confirmation Sunday
Youth Choir Sings
Our Kids Bring in the Palms

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 1, 2010

6:15 p.m. Catered Dinner
7:00 p.m. Worship
See Sign up Sheet at HHPC

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 4, 2010

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. REV Worship



Dear Members,

As we look at the state the world faced 60 years ago, the state that first called our churches to join together in One Great Hour of Sharing, and at what we face today as we approach this offering's 60th anniversary, we see many troubling parallels. Now as then, far too many of our brothers and sisters are trying to recover from the devastation of war, a devastation multiplied many times beyond what some of our own families have suffered. This year as then, many economies are shattered, bringing those in poverty and hunger to the point where their very survival is at stake. Unlike 60 years ago, these needs reach deeply into our own towns and cities. We can no longer stand above the pain of the world, imagining that those stuck in the suffering below are somehow different from us. We know all too well that in a smaller and smaller world, the suffering of one family quickly spreads to all.

Yet this year's offering theme – "Where is your treasure?" – points to the eternal saving truth that enabled us to respond with amazing generosity then, and which still holds firm today: It is not by relying on human structures that we can find life's deepest treasure, but by opening ourselves to the abundance of God's love, flowing through us and overflowing beyond us.

This year, recognizing that the pain we experience from the global economic crisis will be magnified beyond our imagining for many of the world's poorest people, the Presbyterian General Assembly's moderator has asked us to consider doubling last year's giving. After serious consideration, the Stewardship Committee has agreed to invite us to this significant increase in our commitment to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please take the time over the next weeks to reflect prayerfully whether you can increase the amount you gave last year, and on the difference between the impact that increasing your gift will have on your own lives and the impact it will have on the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Palm Sunday is the day that we will receive your gifts here at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. We hope that you will join us on that day and also join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God thru the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in Christ,
The Stewardship-Finance Committee

Hymning and Hawing

Ministry of the Word, Ministry of Music

by G. R. Snow

The congregation settles into their pews. Maybe they look at the bulletin, carefully marking their places in the hymnals so they can turn to hymns and responses immediately . . . or maybe they're talking with friends or greeting newcomers to the church, introducing themselves, welcoming those who look a little uncertain, exchanging the "warm fuzzy feeling" comments . . .

And, before a single hymn is sung or an announcement given, the organ peals a glorious prelude, calling the congregation to worship, commanding their attention as they prepare their hearts and minds to praise the living God. The all-pervasive sound of the organ is meant to create a sensory-deprivation experience, where the things of this world are forced out of the congregants' hearts as they enter a realm where only they and Almighty God exist, and the glory of their transcendent experience with God can only be expressed by the cascades of sound billowing around them. And then the prelude draws to its glorious, triumphant climax . . . and all is silence. And into that silence, the greeting of the liturgist or pastor is dropped, prayerfully, gently, like the "still small voice" after the grandeur of God's power was displayed in the storm.

And the ministry of the Word begins . . .

A sometimes uneasy partnership exists between these two vital ministries, so important to the complete worship experience in a way that CDs and tapes cannot mimic. Volume alone doesn't do it; and a pre-recorded performance, no matter how high-quality, has no chance of creating the spontaneity, the power, the emotional impact of the live musician offering up his soul and his art as the instrument of God Himself. Broken and spilled out, his soul only adorns the true inspiration which cannot be imitated or counterfeited, the casting out of all that is in a musician's soul for the commemoration of God's glory, the casting of crowns at the feet of God in a golden city of the soul, too bright for earthly eyes to endure . . .

And two people sit, oblivious to the sublimity of the experience, exchanging recipes or gossiping about one's niece's kidney surgery, or the price one's son paid for a new tire.

Scripturally based call to worship, carefully written prayer of contrition, and Scriptures on which the sermon is based follow like clockwork, and again like clockwork the organ leads the congregation in hymns selected specifically to go with the sermon, to enhance the worship experience, and responses such as the Gloria Patri and the Doxology, the Alleluia and the Benediction, to create closures for each part of the worship experience and to reemphasize the congregation's affirmation of their beliefs, or the Lord's command to pray in a certain manner, . . . Then the sermon exhorts, teaches, perhaps chastises, though always in love, and the message of God laid on that instrument, that servant, the pastor, pours out like the words of John the Baptist, or the wine spilled out at the wedding at Cana, or like (oh, holy moment!) the blood of Christ gushing forth on the Cross to be forever a means of our unity with Him, our redemption by His sacrifice from our sins . . .

And two people sit in the congregation, and use the head-bowed, eyes-closed moments of the Lord's Prayer to note how Mrs. X is wearing those impractical high heels again, or Mrs. Y has a new dress that doesn't fit her as well, or Mr. Z has a new suit that makes him look so much slimmer, or Mr. W's beard isn't as carefully trimmed as usual . . .

The peals of the great organ, the King of Instruments, lead the congregation into prayerful contemplation of the gifts they offer and meditation on the areas of their lives which need repentance, reconciliation with their Creator, re-entry of the soul into the body of Christ in a forgiven, ransomed state, freed of the stains of sin and openly acknowledging the desire and intention to do better, to improve in Christ's strength and by His grace their living and their lives, their testimony to God's power and transcendent Truth.

And, if this is one of those glorious days when Communion is served, we take the body and blood of Our Lord, who loved us beyond life itself, who commanded us to remember Him and to witness to others in this way. And, again, the organ leads the people into worshipful participation in the most sacred meal they ever will eat, and it matters not whether there are wafers or bread, whether the goblet or the individual cups are used, and whether a single usher and pastor or four sets of ushers are serving, or whether the congregation receives the holy sacrament in the pews or in the aisles.

Then a final hymn is sung, and the organ blissfully carries the tide of joyful humanity out of the church, led by the flames of the acolytes carrying the holy fire out to consecrate and evangelize the world, and the congregants' eyes glow as they share the aftermath of participating in one of the most glorious experiences they can have on this earth, being in the presence of God himself . . .

And two people leave the church, muttering about how hard it is to walk and that they didn't like the part in the pastor's hair, and completely missing the grandeur of the experience they have just had, even though they were right there for all of it.

JENNIFER DEL PRETE DEFENSE FUND

JDDF NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010



Jenni and Dad

JDDF FACTS

- ***Jenni's total time served: 4 years 300 days***
- ***Jenni's total time remaining to serve: 15 years 65 days***
- ***Jenni's total legal fees paid to date: $64,000***
- ***JDDF current balance: $8,000***
- ***Amount needed for U.S. Supreme Court appeal: $25,000***
- ***Amount needed for Jenni's monthly commissary: $100 / month***

Thank you to all friends, family and Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church members that have supported our fight for Jenni's freedom!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We send this letter hoping that you were able to celebrate the holidays with your friends and family. We wish you and your loved ones health and happiness in 2010. As one can imagine, the unfortunate circumstance that my family faces with Jenni's incarceration becomes heightened during the holiday season, making it difficult to celebrate. It also, however, makes me grateful that my sister remains healthy and positive. It also helps me refocus my priorities in life and appreciate the everyday things I take for granted that Jenni has to live without.

I am thankful for the support you have given my family through this extremely challenging time and ask that your generosity continues as we prepare a supreme court appeal - our last chance to overturn/reduce Jenni's sentence.

Love,
Wes "Doc" Del Prete

HOW TO CONTACT JENNI

Jenni loved receiving so many holiday cards from family and friends! She especially likes receiving letters and photographs too. Please send her some mail to support her through this tough time! Remember to only send mail in a paper envelope, NO bubble wrapped or plastic envelopes or boxes. Also, be sure to include her ID# after her name on any correspondence. Jenni's mailing address is:

Jennifer Del Prete R79030
Lincoln Correctional Facility
1098 1350th Street
P.O. Box 549
Lincoln, IL 62656

Jenni's Birthday is January 20th! If you would like to send a gift, here are some requests:
-Vogue Magazine Subscription
-checkbook size 2010 schedule planner
-pocket size dictionary/thesaurus

To order her a magazine subscription or books on-line, simply use her mailing address as the shipping address. Be sure to enter her ID# after her name. If you have questions about what can be sent to Jenni please call Lincoln directly at (217) 735-5411, press 0 and ask for the mail room.
We appreciate your efforts to help Jenni feel she is not forgotten!

FINAL STEP OF APPEAL

As a family we are committed to proving Jenni's innocence and will do whatever it takes to achieve this. Having exhausted all appeal options in Will County we moved onto the state appeal. In March 2008 we submitted a Petition for Post Conviction Relief to the Appellate Court of Illinois. After requests for reconsideration, the Petition for Post Conviction Relief was rejected on November 25, 2009.

The next step is to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. It is an especially critical part of the appeal because it is the final step of the process. **This means that it is our last chance to overturn or reduce Jenni's sentence!** The hope is that the U.S. Supreme Court realizes that there was insufficient evidence to convict, and therefore grant a retrial.

NEW LAWYERS

Due to the significance of the U.S. Supreme Court appeal, we have decided to hire new legal representation who has been successful in the U.S. Supreme Court. They will petition that medical evidence was available at the time of trial which would have challenged (if not completely refuted) the state expert's diagnosis.

Along with the new legal representation comes the financial burden of legal fees. The last step of the appeal will cost $25,000. Should we be fortunate enough to be granted a retrial, additional legal fees would then apply. With your help thus far we have been able to meet the expense of all current legal fees and are asking for your continued support!

JDDF DONATIONS

We currently have $8,000 in the Jennifer Del Prete Defense Fund and we are eternally grateful to all of our family and friends for helping us raise so much money for Jenni's legal bills.

Now more than ever, we need your help to support Jenni in her fight to freedom. As stated in the legal update above, **this federal supreme court appeal is our last hope** to overturn her sentence. If you are able to make any donation, no matter how small, it will help us reach our goal of $25,000 in order to pay current attorney fees.



Del Prete family on Christmas Eve

Please make donations payable to Summer Neal or Wes Del Prete and mail to:

Wes Del Prete - JDDF
3211 Home Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402

On behalf of my family, and most importantly Jenni, I would like to thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Summer Neal



Draven and Tia

DRAVEN & TIA UPDATE

This year has been an amazing one for Draven and I. He is getting great grades in school and is mostly focused on his music right now. He has great skill and his new dream is to become a rapper named Double D (standing for Draven Del Prete). He will be rapping a mix of a few of his favorite songs that I made for him at his school talent show this February.

I too have been focusing on my music and have been producing beats using some new equipment. We write songs together and rap them on a track. I am mixing music and still trying to spread the word for Spin Top (my DJ service). My main goal is to become a music producer. As of now I am self taught, but I hope to enroll in the Music Industry Workshop in Chicago soon for formal training. I just recently started a new babysitting job and am also trying to clean houses on the side. Draven and I spend as much time together as possible driving around, jamming to music, going to the pool hall and hanging out with our friends. He is a great kid and is growing up to be a wonderful young man. We are best friends and have been forever. Most of all we can't wait until our mama is home with us so we can go back to having a blast everyday like before! But for now we are trying to stay focused and make our dreams come true!

Peace & Love,
Tia Pearl

708.623.5427
spintopdj@yahoo.com

COMMISSARY DONATIONS

Donations to Jenni's commissary will help her buy the things that we take for granted. Beyond three meals a day and one outfit to wear, Jenni has to purchase all other necessities: shampoo, feminine napkins, shoes, coat, replacement clothes, laundry detergent, etc. Jenni's commissary also allows her to buy some treats that help to make her situation somewhat tolerable: paper, stamps, pens and pencils, snacks and make-up. All commissary donations should be sent to Jenni and should be made payable to Jennifer Del Prete R79030. They must be money orders in $50 increments (or less) with a maximum of $200 in one envelope. Please mail to:

Jennifer Del Prete R79030
Lincoln Correctional Facility
1098 1350th Street
P.O. Box 549
Lincoln, IL 62656

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! WE WISH YOU PEACE & HEALTH IN 2010!

Love,
The Del Prete Family

Wes Jr., Maria, Jennifer, Tia, Draven, Summer, Aaron, Zoe, Wes III, Candice, and Keith

A POEM BY JENNI

~ Inside Out

Outside I'm smiling
Inside I'm crying
Outside I'm living
Inside I'm dying

Outside I'm courageous
Inside I'm frightened
Outside I'm free
Inside I'm tightened

Outside I'm laughing
Inside I'm screaming
Outside I'm conscious
Inside I'm dreaming

Outside I'm happy
Inside I'm sad
Outside I'm forgiving
Inside I'm mad

Outside I'm colorful
Inside I'm bleak
Outside I'm energetic
Inside I'm weak

Outside I'm beautiful
Inside I am, too
Close your eyes & see me
What am I to you?

It breaks our hearts to spend another year without Jenni near her children.

I will donate ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $25 ☐ Other: $_____

Any amount helps!

_____

Your Name Telephone

_____

Address City/State/Zip

_____

Email

Please make your donation payable to Wes Del Prete or Summer Neal. All JDDF donations will be used for legal fees to fight for Jenni's freedom! Please send this card and your donation to Wes Del Prete, 3211 Home Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402. Thank you for your support!

Please contact me to:

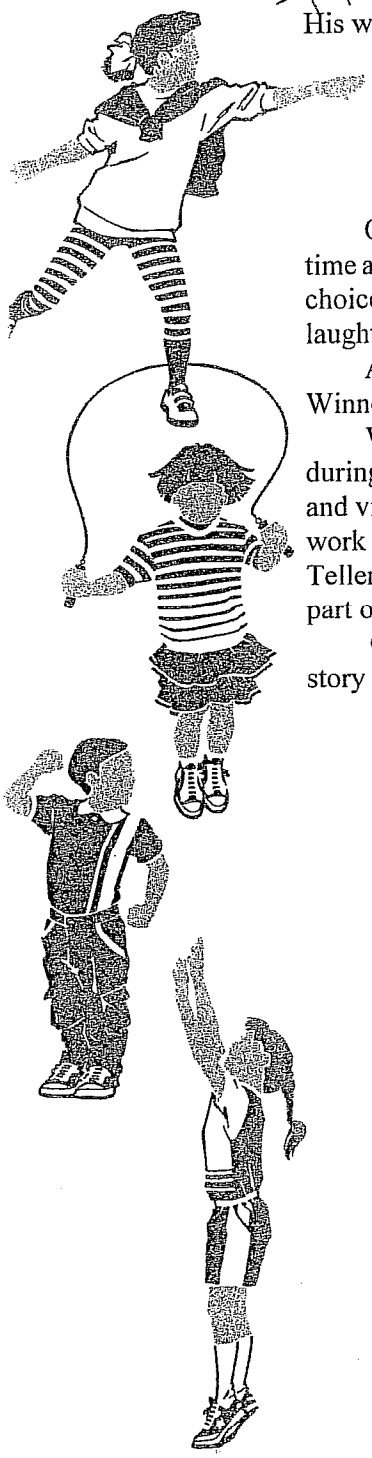
☐ Help with future JDDF fundraisers.
☐ Donate to Jenni's commissary account on a monthly or bi-annual basis.

For additional information on how you can help Jenni or JDDF please contact:
Wes Del Prete at 708.528.2675 or email doc_delprete@hotmail.com

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



God's word is planted in the hearts of our kids. Weekly we are gaining a better understanding of His work and power in their lives. This month our study time centers around:

How's Your Soil?- God's word is seed in our hearts
Rock, Paper, Scissors...Rock!- God will deal justly with enemies.
Small Packages - God uses small faith
Down on the Farm - God produces the harvest
Good Food and a Good Plan - God uses us for the harvest

Our Valentine's Day celebration is always fun at Kids Club. This month in addition to our gym time and study time, the kids decorated Valentine vases and filled them with the artificial flowers of their choice, made pizzas for snack time, and went home with helium filled heart shape balloons. Fun, laughter and learning were the components of this afternoon.

As I am writing this we are almost ready to announce the contestants for the Snicker Balance. Winner to be announced next month.

We encourage you to join us for our Jerusalem Market Place experience! Wednesday evenings, during the season of Lent, our kids and youth have the opportunity to take a walk back to Jesus's time and visit the markets of old Jerusalem. This year we are providing hands on learning in the following work shops; J.C. Woodshop, Bakery and Confectionery, Seeds and More, Basket Weaving, The Story Teller, and Tranquility Garden. This program continues through March 24, so if you have not been a part of it there is still time.

On Monday afternoons the kids sing the song "Market Place". This theme song talks about the story on which our Lenten program is based.

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 2010
February 17- March 24

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

The first Meal and a Movie was attended by 12 people. Laughter was heard throughout the church during the movie and luncheon. Everyone seemed to enjoy the presentation of *While You Were Sleeping*. Thanks to Bryan Ambrosat for hooking up the projector to his laptop so everyone could enjoy the show. There was a variety of salads and luncheon foods for everyone to fill up. The next movie will be held after the Lenten program on April 15th. Bring a salad and join us for the movie, *Julia and Julie*. We meet at noon and then enjoy a great time together.

Souper Sunday was a great success. Thank you to all the Jr. High and confirmation students who helped with the set up, take down, and serving. It was so nice to see so many people gathering together in fellowship. There were 18 different soups donated. Thank you to all the cooks. Camp Scholarship donations were $494. This should help some of our campers enjoy a great week at Camp Saugatuk.

Anyone interested in attending Camp Saugatuk will be happy to hear that the schedule has been completed. Camp this year for 2010 will be held on August 1-7. Unfortunately, the cost of going to camp has been increased. Camp will cost $365 per person. Anyone who is eligible for Jr. High camp can expect to pay even more. Start saving your pennies and be sure to help with all the fund raisers which will be specifically for camp scholarships.

Welcome to the Spring teachers who will begin teaching at the end of February. Pre-school-Kindergarten/1st and 2nd grades will be taught by Katie Trecanni. Grades 3/4/5 will be taught by Sue Orsic. Jr. High will be taught by a team of Patt Pilgrim and Cindy Trecanni.

Jr. High students who went on the retreat January 29-31 returned with glowing reports of their experiences. Happily, they all returned safely. Many of them are also a member of the Confirmation class. There are 19 students in the Confirmation class. A retreat for the class is scheduled for March 12 - 14.

Sunday School students will assemble Easter baskets for the residents of the Hickory Pavillion on Roberts Road. The assembly date will be March 14. Students will decorate the baskets as well as add special items such as kleenex, combs, a plastic egg filled with special wishes to enjoy a Happy Easter. The students will deliver their gifts to the residents on March 21.

The Sr. High class has been planning a special fund raiser with the help of Lou Pearson. They will offer a gourmet dinner on April 9 for families and April 10 for couples. Entertainment by Gabby Ciametti and Matthew Witek will accompany the dinner. More details are coming soon.

The Sr. High Youth Group held a retreat on February 28th. On Valentine's Day, they served Sloppy Joes and Mac and Cheese to PADS. A trip to Feed My Starving Children is scheduled for March 13.

The Women's Bible Study is having a wonderful time learning more about Psalms. There is a consistent number of people who attend. If you are interested in great fellowship and lively conversation, you should mark your calendars to attend Mondays at 1:00 PM. The ladies would love to welcome you and your thoughts.

The Friday Night Young Adults group is looking for people to attend. The eligible ages are 19 to 30. They would welcome you and any ideas you might have to expand the group and their activities. Talk to Katie Trecanni for more information.

The Lenten Program began on February 17th. The program is designed to help the children experience crafts which were common during the time Jesus walked the earth. Soup dinner begins at 6:15 PM. Adults leave for a worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM while the children gather in groups downstairs for their adventure. This year the program has a bakery, a woodshop, a storyteller, a tranquility garden, a florist, and a weaver. Each week the groups will attend a different workshop. They will learn a little bit about the crafts which were so common during Jesus time. Regular attendance will be needed if your child wishes to visit all the workshops. The Lenten Program will continue on Wednesdays until March 24th. For Adults who prefer to worship earlier, there is a luncheon and worship service scheduled for you on Wednesdays at 12:00 PM.

The Christian Education Committee will work with members of the Session to finalize a new Child Protection Policy. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, February 10th. It is our desire to make this policy easy to read and understand for everyone in the congregation. The committee has a number of parents, educators to create an all encompassing document. Of course, the final approval will still be up to the Session members.

The One Great Hour of Sharing began on February 21 and will continue until the collection of fish banks on March 28th. Each child should have received on bank in Sunday school. Accompanying the bank is a calendar. The calendar is a fun way to add coins to the fish bank and will help the family realize they are very blessed. If your child did not receive a bank, ask their teacher or Donna Breadlau for one. It is quite a sight to see Donna dragging all the filled fish banks up the aisle of worship so be sure to fill yours up and return it on March 28th.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry reports that 3 more beautiful creations were shared. Many of the members are working diligently on their projects. We have shawls, a blanket, and rectangles at various stages of completion. We welcome anyone interested in knitting and crocheting. Join us after worship in the fifth grade classroom. We have a heater for the very cold weather!

The Stampers are at it again. The meeting dates are every other Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Join us to explore your creativity, learn more about materials to use on your cards, share your ideas with the group. Most of the cards we make are turned into cards of care from the Prayer and Care group.

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NEWS FROM

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The apple is a good example of itself: satisfactory in quality or kind. Having all the elements of its nature or kind without defect. Supremely excellent, complete. Are "you" a good example? Yes! Not perfect, we will never be, but certainly good, and we improve daily.

1st Timothy 4:12: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. But set an "example" for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and purity.

The example we set today is reflective of who we are tomorrow. Let our dreams and aspirations shape the best Christian that we can be.

Thank you class for who you are, for where you are going and the joy you bring to us all by your very presence in our lives.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We meet on Thursday evenings in the gym at church from 6:30Pm to 8:00 PM and welcome all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and their friends to join us.

In February we spent all evenings in house and played Salamander, ghost in the grave yard, dodge ball and my best friend.

During our discussion time over the next few months we will be discussing
Galatians 5: 22:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
Faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".

On February11th, they made positive statement hearts for each other after reading bible verses from the bible on **love.** It was exciting to hear the good one or two word things they wrote to each other and to see them all reading what others wrote about them and to see them taking them home hopefully knowing how special they are to each other and to God.

One of the themes of our January retreat was, "to be known is to be loved and to be loved is to be known". We see that love and respect of the junior highs for each other. We are so very proud to know each and every one of them.

We thank Mallory Price and Alyssia Kommenich for delicious snacks in February. Junior highs can sign up for snacks for March and April.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Thursday, March 4th we will be planning a dinner and dessert to serve at PADS on March 7th, 2010.

*Saturday, March 13th, Junior High and Senior High youth groups will going to go to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora to prepare food bags for children in Haiti. All Junior Highs not attending the confirmation retreat that week-end are invited to join us.

Patt, Katie and Bryan
Junior High leaders

****

Sr. High Youth Group

On February 7, the Senior High Youth Group prepared and served dinner for PADs. The group found this a wonderful, yet humbling experience. Over 65 people used the services of the shelter that evening. Our prayers are with them.

The Youth Group is Saugatuck bound the week end of February
26 – 28. Prayer will be the topic of this winter retreat. It will be a wonderful weekend in a wonderful place, a chance to learn more about our faith and our friends.

Coming up in March, we will view and discuss the movie,
"Jesus Christ Superstar."

On Palm Sunday, the Youth Group will celebrate a Seder meal. A Seder is the Passover meal. The meal has been celebrated by Jews since before the time of Christ. It is at this Passover Meal that Jesus and His Disciples met in the upper-room on Maundy Thursday. As Christians, it is our belief that this is the meal where Christ introduced the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. T

On April 11, the Youth Group will again lead the REV worship service.

If you are in high school and wish to join us, we meet on Sunday evening, at 6:30 pm, following the REV Praise Worship service. If you know of some one outside of our HHPC church community that would like to join us, please let us know.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen, Mitch Huenecke

Confirmation Class News

Submitted by: Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl

It has been a blessing to teach these 17 potential church members this winter. They are enthusiastic and cooperative and it is a joy to spend 2 hours with them each Sunday. We have read quite a bit of scripture and we have been involved in brainstorming to answer questions and build on ideas. During our 2nd class, our blessed young people created this acrostic:

Praise the Lord
Reverent
Elders/Eternal Life
Saved
Believers
Young Children of God
Trustworthy
Everyone is Welcome
Raise Your Voices
Infinite Lovers of the Lord
A Family
No One Stops Us

We've talked about what it looks like to be clothed in Christ no matter what we're physically wearing. We've researched the history of the Presbyterian church and searched through the bible for definitions of the term "elder" and the job descriptions that go along with that position.

We discussed disappointments and how that fits into God's divine design for our lives. Our curriculum shared this poem:

My life is but a weaving, between the Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors. God works steadily.
Oft times, God weaves sorrow, and I in foolish pride
Forget God sees the upper, and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas and
explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
in the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver,
in the pattern God has planned.
-Author unknown

All of our confirmation kids are required to complete 12 service hours, split evenly between church, home, and community. They are excited to announce their progress each week. Some already know the joy of having a servant's heart and others are learning.

The class created another acrostic while reading scriptures describing Jesus and His extravagant love.

Image of the invisible God
Man who controls the seas and winds and calms them for the sailors
Master fisherman (fisher of men)
A forgiver of sins who works miracles
Name of Jesus, every knee should bow
Unbelievable God who was sent to help us
Everyone knows Jesus even if they aren't conscious of the knowledge
Looks like God

Immanuel, God with us, loved us enough to die for our sins. They also studied the story of the prodigal son by creating and reading their own versions.

Each of our confirmation students will create their own statement of faith. To prepare for that, they created a corporate statement of faith.

We believe that God is a powerful, loving, friend who is amazing in unstoppable ways. God is our Creator, father, and Savior and is with us always.

We believe in Jesus, fully God, listener of our prayers, caretaker of our souls, miracle maker, redeemer, Savior, Messiah and brother - our understanding friend who took our sins away, Son of God, Jesus, fully human.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the invisible spark inside our hearts; our advisor that makes us each unique.

Please continue to pray for these wonderful young people. We will be travelling to Saugatuck, Michigan during the weekend of March 12-14 to participate in a confirmation retreat sponsored and organized by the Presbytery of Chicago.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts to help get us to Saugatuck. Thank you for buying bake sale items each Sunday after worship!

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Hollie Fox
3 Amani Judeh
14 Karl Haack
Jordan Hepburn
15 Danny Orsic
22 Mark Matke
23 Victoria Pettis



JANUARY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Grades 3 and 4
Danny Orsic

Grade 5
Frank Rodriguez

Junior High
Kate Crowley
Tristan Grisko
Ashley Maranto
Natalie Orsic
Natasha Swindle
Katelin Wheeler
Mandy Rodriguez

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Kyle Wheeler
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
Megan Zimmerman

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Mar. 7, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
March 7, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	Maranto, Rys
March 14, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	Orsic
March 21, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	Fogg
March 28, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	Wheeler
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
March 7, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
March 14, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
March 21, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
March 28, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	

COMMUNION SERVERS- Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	2 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	3 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	4 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	5 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	6 Presbytery LEAD Workshop
7 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	8 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	9 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	10 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	11 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	12 Confirmation Retreat-Saugatuck-- 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	13 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Confirmation Retreat-Saugatuck---
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins 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 Confirmation Retreat Returns April Newsletter Deadline	15 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	16 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	17 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	18 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	19 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study Honduras Reunion	20
21 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Meeting 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	22 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	23 12:00 p.m. Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting	24 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir	25 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	26 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education-Confirmation Sunday 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	29 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	30 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	31 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday 6:15 p.m. Catered Dinner 7:00 p.m. Worship		

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
11 – Michael E. Dragas
12 – Dorothy Scholefield
15- Amanda Gulotta
15- Kim Ambrosat
16 – Pat Lorenz
16 – Roy Hoffman
17- Luke Janchenko
18 – Darlene Krueger
20 – Marie Hoffman
22- Frank Esparza
22 – Harold Kahn
28 - Jeanette Grisko
28 – Jennifer Petkus
29 – Dawn Matke
29 – Betty Kitching

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.

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Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

APRIL 2010

PRAYER & CARE



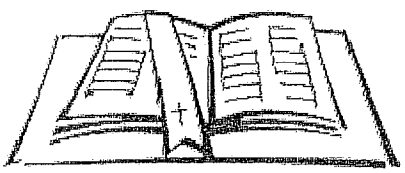
"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulations, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12 (RSV)

As we approach April showers and Easter, let us not forget our Lenten Reflections. The bondage of a stressful schedule and the time-devouring demands of multi-tasking can blind us to what is really important.

As an old hymn reminds us, Take Time to Be Holy (on page 457 of our Hymns for the Family of God), so does our Heavenly Father.

"Be still, and know that I am God…" Psalm 46:10

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

On February 22, we began our lesson with this Psalm. The word SELAH (Hebrew s a l a l, "to lift up") occurs three times. It's generally agreed that the word is a liturgical or musical sign. Its precise meaning remains uncertain. It could have been a direction to the orchestra who had been playing softly to "LIFT UP LOUD" their music to the singers' voices.

Come join us as we lift up loud our thoughts.

PADS UPDATE



The Junior High students this month employed their creativity in making cookie "masterpieces." Our PADS guests delighted in the array of colored cookies and the crispy bite into each creation.

The evening progressed smoothly and we served approximately sixty five people. We thank the Junior High students for their making and decorating those wonderful treats. We are sure they will long be remembered by our guests as a labor of love.

Please consider for next season to repeat this wonderful treat as often as you would like, maybe you have some other thoughts in the area of treats… Continue to be creative. Continue to serve. AMEN!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Quite often we have phone conversations where the conversation is one-sided. Your role being the listener or the communicator. These roles change as does the conversation, so we find ourselves both listener and communicator.

In prayer, we become the communicator and "He" becomes the listener. "He" may have little to say at the moment. But He listens most intently. The actions of his listening may not readily be seen, but the seed has been planted. Join us Tuesday evenings when we plant the seeds of our desires in the sacred ground of his love for us.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



Getting to know YOUth…

My name is Andrew Witek.

My church is comprised of some of my favorite people in my life.

I love *because He first loved me.* (1 John 4:19, NIV)

I am Presbyterian because I was brought to HHPC first, and now that I know the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church, I still call myself Presbyterian.

I believe in the power of prayer.

I am passionate about learning to live my life for Jesus Christ.

One thing that makes me sad is seeing people suffer on account of the cruel actions of others.

One thing that makes me happy is seeing people's lives change for the better on account of the actions of others.

I hardly ever swear.

I always try my best in all I do.

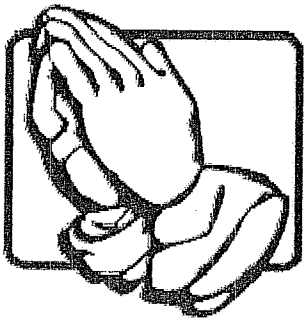
The Bible is my favorite book in the whole world, because it tells me what God wants, and how He wants me to live.

God is love. *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* (1 John 4:8, NIV)

My prayer is that all who have yet to find Christ Jesus will do so before it is too late.

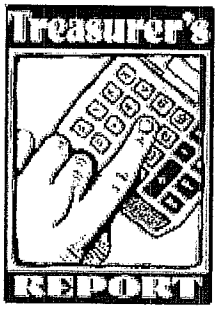
I like to read the Word of God.

If I ruled the world… That is funny, because I would never take that position.



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

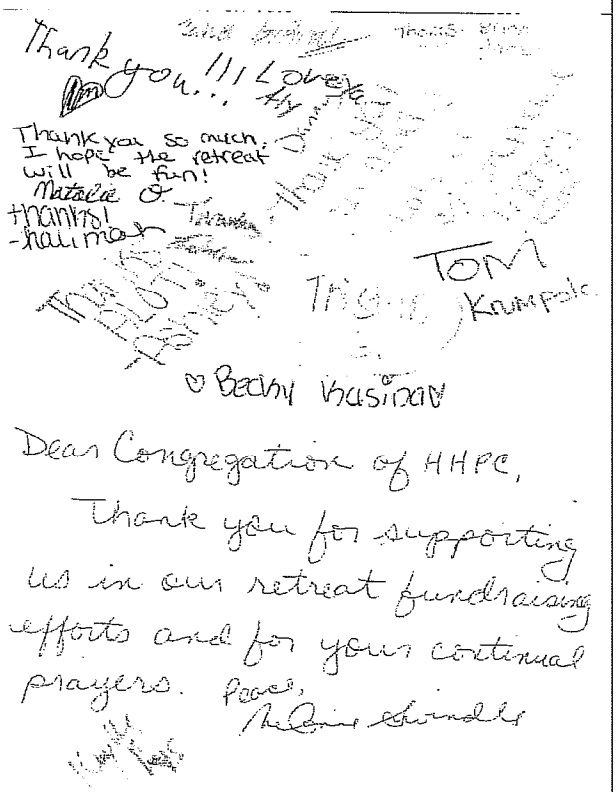
-Pastor Emily Rosencrans' and family in the loss of her brother
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corp Boot Camp, and for healing
-"Georgie- Porgie" Vinalek for health concerns
-Sue Olson for health concerns
-Private concerns too severe to share
-Camp Saugatuck situation
-Sarah Wreza's brother, Jason Smith, for massive stroke at age 40
-Shannon Bastien and her grandma, Cathy, for health concerns
-Mary Lewington for rehab & health concerns
-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-Betty Kitching for healing
-Pete Richardson for health concerns
-Donna Bredlau's friend, Ken, for rehab/ healing
-Haiti and Chile and the relief efforts
-Sally Harris during Chemo Treatments, for strength & healing
-Frank Esparza's sister, Ruth, for healing
-The Vogl's neighbors, Joanne & Bob Pappas for health concerns
-Richard Larson for strength during treatments
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
-Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing & strength
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-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



Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income	$13,661.00
General Fund Disbursements	$13,663.00
Year to Date Income	$39,090.00
Year to Date Disbursements	$28,815.00

The Confirmation Class Thanks the Congregation for all of your support!



Confirmation News

Submitted by:
Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl

We just returned from the Chicago Presbytery confirmation retreat at Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck Michigan. Sixteen of the seventeen confirmands were healthy enough to travel with us. The snow was gone and spring breezes allowed us to walk around without winter coats. It was a terrific weekend and the only complaint we heard was, "I wish we could have stayed a whole week."

Under the leadership of Fourth Pres's Rev. John Vest, we explored what it means to each of us to believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There were 5 or 6 other churches in attendance and we met as a large group and then broke off into smaller "home groups" for more in depth study and discussion.

We look forward to learning how these young people perceive the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and how their faith has affected their lives.

It was stressed to them that this is an important step in their lives but they have not reached a destination. They are beginning their journey of faith. Let us all pray for them as they take this first step that they may stay on the path that God has planned for them.



Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 1, 2010

Catered Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Worship at 7:30 p.m.

See Sign up Sheet at HHPC for more information.
Please Join Us!



PLEASE JOIN US ON EASTER!

8:30 a.m. Worship
& Adult Education

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Worship
& Children's Education

5:00 p.m. REV Worship



A NOTE FROM C.E.

Even though we are still in the midst of our Lenten celebrations, I am thinking about our upcoming Advent season.

As many of you know, for our Family Night we prepare crafts for our children to make and take home. A project I'd like to complete, involves many "chip" paint brushes. I will need as many as I can get ahold of. My hope is that as you are doing your spring cleaning, sprucing up your house, or buzzing about this summer perusing garage sales, you will keep an eye out for 1, 2 or 3 inch wide wooden (preferably flat) handled chip paint brushes - used condition is perfect!

Please leave them in the box in the Narthex.
Thanking you in advance,

Kim Ambrosat, Christian Education Committee

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

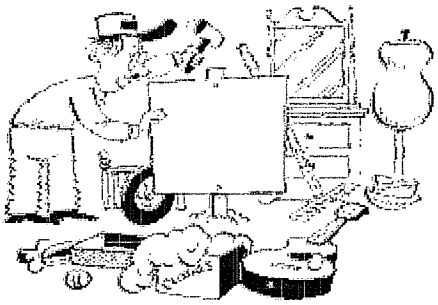
FLOWER SALE

YARD SALE – NEW DATE





Please mark the following fundraising events on your calendars. We need everybody's help in order to make these events as successful as possible.
The **annual flower sale forms** will be **available beginning Easter Sunday**. Flowers will be available for **pick up on May 2nd**. Proceeds will benefit the Camp Scholarship fund.



Spring-cleaning time is just around the corner. We have a **NEW DATE** this year for the **annual yard sale.** It will be held on **MEMORIAL WEEKEND**. The dates are **Friday, May 28th and Saturday, May 29th**. Proceeds will benefit the Kentucky Mission Trip.

Again, we thank everyone who has helped us make these successful events in the past and hope for another successful year in our fundraising efforts.

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church Senior High Class



"April Showers Gourmet Dinner"

Benefits the Senior High Youth Group

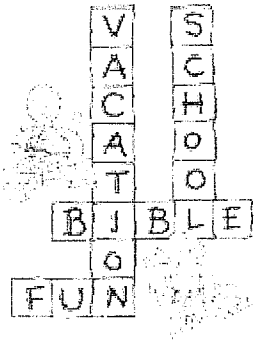
April 9 & April 10- 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are $16.00/adult, and $5.00/child.

The 9th is Adults Only.

See Andrew Witek for more information.

VBS is Coming!!



Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School will be

Monday-Friday

June 14-18, 2010
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hymning and Hawing

THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH: "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT"

by G. R. Snow

At one point in human history, social pressures on people of all classes, from king to serf, to be in communion with the church were tremendous. One-to-one confession to priests was a regular obligation, and a priest could withhold absolution if he was not convinced of the sincerity of the penitent. The impact of being out of communion with the church can be projected when we read Paul's exhortation to one of his churches to shun a man who was involved in an immoral relationship, and the obvious corollary is that the man would thus be forced to give up his unChristian practices and repent in order to resume communion with the church of God. To function societally and psychologically, being in communion with the church was a necessity.

In contemporary church society, if a person were shunned by the members of his congregation he would probably either stop attending church or start attending another one—which would immediately assure him they were glad to have him even if he were an unconfessed axe murderer.

Don't misunderstand my point—I sincerely believe the grace of Jesus Christ is sufficient to save axe murderers as well as every other sinner, and I unhesitatingly acknowledge their need of such grace. My point, however, is that the focus of accountability has changed from the church of several hundred years ago to the church of today. Instead of the individual being accountable to the church, the priest, and by extension to God, it appears that the individual now demands accountability on a regular basis from the church, the priest—and, by extension, from God.

Pastor Rosencranz in a recent sermon referred to congregants who were outraged because of a phrase in an affirmation of faith in which the affirmands stated that they were sinners heartily deserving of God's condemnation—that instead they should affirm that they deserved "review" or "evaluation". The contemporary Christian seems to be moving in the direction of, not being judged by God, but judging God. The concept of accepting authority, whether of the church, of God, or even of parents or guardians, is being eroded catastrophically in today's society. The "trumpet of doom" now is switching from a penalty for the unrepentant sinner to a penalty for the unpopular church: the high card now is not condemnation to hell fire but bankruptcy and unemployment for pastors and other "unpopular" church staff members, and door-closing for unpopular churches.

A variety of descriptions has been coined for the new relationship between the Christian and his/her God. Not only does he/she claim God as a personal Creator and Savior, a faithful Guide, but (disturbingly) as a personal genie, a magic lamp you rub to get an unending number of wishes. One author has a frustrated priest vent, "It's all *Jesus-is-my-buddy* and the *Holy-Spirit-is-my-voodoo*!" to describe the relationship. Another wrote "The Unoriginal Sinner and the Ice-Cream God", positing a God who gives you ice cream whenever you want it. The way many contemporary Christians seem to view God, regrettably, is not as a Supreme Judge you face with fear and trembling, but as a supernaturally-powered pet who does their bidding.

How does this new attitude in contemporary church-going affect the music ministry? Well, like the minister of the Word, the minister of music is forced to adopt less of a focus on music that worships and witnesses, and more on music that entertains. Fewer and fewer make the commitment to the ministry of singing in a choir—to learn to sing parts, to present the glorious old traditional music which would be lost forever if it weren't for centuries of the Church being its protector and archivist. The minister of music is pressured to produce music that the choir members like, regardless of whether that liking is based on musical knowledge or not. If he does not—if he continues to try to educate volunteer musicians rather than letting them impose their varied tastes on him—he risks decreased numbers in the volunteer choir, less scope for presenting glorious musical experiences, and ultimately rejection and unemployment in favor of a praise team and pre-recorded music with multi-screen visual effects during the sermon and a sound-board controlling emotions and energies of worshipers. In short, the ministries of the Word and of music are becoming show-biz rather than witness, and the church of solemn tradition and conviction of sinners is now becoming the church of the holy show-tune.

Again, don't misunderstand—I do not denigrate the sincerity of praise bands or the practical witness of contemporary pastors who use special effects to enhance their sermons. My point, however, is that when churches reject the message of Jesus Christ unless it is dressed up in a 3-D graphics show, and when church members see themselves as supreme rather than God, those churches have a considerable ways to go if they expect to fulfill God's mission on earth. They (or, *we*) should be coming to church to worship—not to be entertained.

C.R.E.W.
A community outreach ministry of
Peace Memorial Church
United Church of Christ

Directors: Dennis Kirscher, Chris Fryzek, Jason Tooth
Community Restoration by Ecumenical Workers
www.pmcucc.org pmc.CREW@gmail.com

10300 W. 131st St. Palos Park, IL 60464
Phone: (708) 448-7833 **Fax:** (708) 448-0824

What is C.R.E.W.?

C.R.E.W. is an acronym for Community Restoration by Ecumenical Workers. We are a faith based organization sponsored and supported by Peace Memorial Church (PMC), a United Church of Christ in Palos Park, Illinois. We were founded and organized to be an outreach ministry of PMC into the Chicago metropolitan area. Our goal is to provide assistance to homeowners who may not be able to maintain their property. It is our plan to have labor provided by various sources including church groups, high school community groups, corporate outreach, and concerned volunteers who are willing to help deserving individuals and families.

Presently, we sponsor a yearly event called the "Big Build Weekend" which allows volunteers from PMC and the community to experience a mission work trip atmosphere without leaving home. At last year's "Big Build Weekend" over 200 volunteers from all over the community constructed the interior and exterior walls of four homes in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church. The structures were later transported to a Habitat for Humanity build site in Riverdale, IL and to The Millard Fuller Center, a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Alabama. These homes were finished to completion by the recipient family and other local volunteers.

As a result of support from church groups, high school community groups, corporate sponsors, and individuals from the surrounding community, C.R.E.W. will be sponsoring the construction of THREE homes in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church on the weekend of June 4th-6th, 2010.

Future plans for C.R.E.W. include the establishment of a retreat/mission center to house groups from other parts of the country who want to experience this type of mission outreach, and to expand our services to deserving families and individuals in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Want to change the life of an entire family in just 2 days?

How about 3 families?



Presents the BIG Build Weekend!

We need your help on the Big Build Weekend to frame the walls of 3 homes that will be donated to Habitat for Humanity and change the lives of 3 different families forever!

Join us in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church located at 10300 W 131 ST, Palos Park on June 4th at 4:00pm for the wood cutting and then on June 5th from 8:00am to around 5:00pm where we will construct all the walls of 3 homes! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED, lunch will be provided Saturday. Then please join us on Sunday June 6th at 11:00am for a small dedication of the homes followed by a free celebration picnic.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, please make checks payable to PMC CREW and mail to 10300 W 131 ST, Palos Park 60464.

For More Information Contact: Chris Fryzek 708-448-7833 or email **pmc.CREW@gmail.com**

Mission Committee will be forming work teams. Please see Sue Orsic if you are interested or email: swinkle midwestern.edu.

KIDS CLUB

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 about to begin our fifth week at Jerusalem Marketplace - Lent 2010. It has been an amazing time, filled with fun and learning. Weekly our shop leaders stop by the attendance board to check how many kids they will have in their group. Our attendance has reached 63. Thank you to our shop leaders: Kim A, Donna B., Dan C., Jeanette G., Hanna H., Cheryl H., Beth K., Linda L., Patt P., Linda R., Melanie S., Scott Z., Debbie Z. Your weekly contribution of time and talent has made this series possible.

Jesus is the light of the world. Our lessons, led by Linda, help us learn to live our lives in a manner that pleases Him in all we say and do. This month our study time centers around:

New Beginnings- God brings life from death
1st Place - We desire to put God first
He's Our Shepherd - God seeks out His lost
The Carmen Miranda Effect - We learn what the fruit of the spirit is.

The celebration of St Patrick's Day is always fun at Kids Club. This year we made a craft of shamrock pinwheels, shared open gym time, made and tasted shamrock shakes, enjoyed "green" refreshments at snack time, used the rainsticks at music time, and participated in an active learning time as we explored what it means to put our faith in God.

Mark your calendars now for our Spring Family night which will be held on Friday, May 7th at 6:30 PM. The evening offers a catered meal and entertainment by Master Ron. This will be special treat for all ages. Everyone is welcome. Ticket sales for this evening will begin April 11th .

VBS 2010 is on its way and will be a H.H.P.C. June 14th - 18th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Our theme this year is "*Saddle Ridge Ranch - Roundin' up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers.*" Tricia and Co. will again be the featured presenters for this week long summer time adventure. Mark your calendars with this date and watch for further information.

We only have two months left of Kids Club before we break for the summer. We hope that you will make it a priority to be with us each week as we have many exciting activities planned. Remember to invite a friend.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

Christian Education Meeting

The Wednesday worship services for noon and 7:00 PM have been well attended. The evening Program has close to 60 students each week. They are enjoying delicious soup provided by some of the best cooks in town. Thank you to everyone who has set-up, taken down, and cooked. What a great way to share with the Church family. The children seem to be very proud of their creations at the woodshop. They are eager to sell their baked goods from the bakery. Several children have created beautiful pots to plant the seeds common in the early days of Jerusalem. There have been children walking in the Marketplace with colorful new neck warmers. Some of the baskets coming out of the weavers are very professional looking. I think it is safe to say the children are enjoying their time in the Marketplace each week.

Palm Sunday will have Holy Week Packets available for students who attend the worship service. The Youth Choir and the Kids will sing. Children will bring in Palms and distribute them after the worship service. Our Confirmation Class will become members of the Church and participate in the worship service. It will be a very crowded worship service with many items on the agenda.

Easter Sunday there will be a breakfast. Breakfast begins at 9:30 AM after the 8:30 AM worship service and just before the 10:30 service. Thank you to everyone of the Jr. High Youth Group who will help serve the breakfast. Thank you to those who set-up and take-down for this event. Avery special thanks to the cooks who turn the donations into something delicious for those who come to eat. No Sunday School is scheduled for this day. A video will be presented for children ages 3 to grade 2 downstairs in one of the classrooms. The Nursery will be staffed for any child who is not old enough to attend the video.

The C.E. Committee has been discussing some way to keep in touch with the students who are away at college and in the military. We packed several kinds of "goodies" into boxes to send to the students who are attending college or the military. Thanks to Cheryl, the boxes were stuffed with all kinds of treats and mailed out to those who are away at school. The committee is planning to continue this effort for the rest of this year. A note accompanied the box to let the students know that we support their efforts and pray for their success.

The Jr. High Youth Group served at PADS on March 7th. They provided the entire meal including the dessert. On March 13, a group of combined Sr. High and Jr. High Youth Groups went to *Feed My Starving Children* to box food for delivery to the Haiti victims.

The Sr. High Youth Group had an outstanding experience on their retreat. Reports of playing in the snow, sledding down Mt. Baldy, and watching the movie, Godspell, are just a few of the activities they enjoyed. Sharing in fellowship and learning more about themselves was also a part of the experience.

The Senior High has been brainstorming ideas to raise money to use towards youth activities. On April 9-10 they plan to have a gourmet dinner complete with entertainment. Fliers and announcements about the weekend should be out shortly.

A Camp information meeting with Sue Orsic and Dianne Flynn was held after worship on March 7th. There is still time to fill in your application and hand it in. Students who

require a scholarship donation for the camp must see Dianne for the required forms which will be needed.

Check your calendar for May 23rd. Our Recognition Sunday will honor all the people who have worked to make the year a success with the children of the church. Plans are being formed to have this be an outdoor celebration with the music of the REV band.

The committee writing the Child Protection Policy for the Church had a meeting on March 16th. The purpose of the committee is to form a policy which will set standards of conduct for the leadership and help ensure the safety of all the children who participate in our programs. After the policy is written, the Session will be asked to approve it and then put it into action.

****

NEWS FROM OUR

Sunday School Classes

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade - Sue Orsic

The spring session of Sunday School has started and we have many exciting events planned! On March 14th, we made baskets filled with goodies for the residents of a local nursing home. These will be delivered on March 21st when our 3rd – 5th graders make their annual trip to the nursing home to visit with the residents. Our kids really enjoy this event every year. Palm Sunday will be a special day for our class this year as we will witness the older youth make their Confirmation. During this Easter season, our Bible lessons will focus on Jesus and his life, death, and resurrection. It has been great to see Gabby, Mariah, Danny, Shaylin, LeAnne, Stacey, Yasmine, Frankie, and Ronni! I hope to see others as the flowers start to bloom and we feel some welcome warmth in the air!

Junior High - Cindy Treccani

This quarter has certainly been a challenge for me, albeit a good one. I have been blessed to have an extremely large group in class each Sunday morning. While it is sometimes hard to keep everyone focused, the lessons and conversations have been outstanding! It has been wonderful to have those students we haven't seen in a while joining us. This awesome group of young people will be taking a major step in their Christianity on March 28, when they are confirmed into our church. I want them all to know how happy I am for them. I truly hope they take "ownership" in the church by being involved and voicing their opinions while continuing their attendance in Sunday School. Aly, Ashley, Becky, Brian, Halimah, Katie C., Katie W., Kaylee, Kyle, Leslie, Mandy, Natalie, Stephanie, Tasha, Tom and Tristan, I wish you all of God's love and blessings as you begin this new chapter in your lives. I'm very proud of you all.

****

Stories and More

On Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM we have 13 registered 4, 5 and 6 year olds who come to hear a story, dance to music and participate in kindergarten preparation projects and games.

We begin with music. Some favorites are "Going on a bear hunt", "The beany bag dance" and "Ten in a bed".

Some of the stories we read are:

- The Night the Moon Blew Kisses by Lynn Manuel
- The Lemon Sisters by Andrea Cheng
- Betty Lou Blue by Nancy Crocker

- Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato (an Irish Folk) by Tomie DePaola

We talk about the story and may do a reinforcement activity like marching around in huge daddy size shoes, making of lemon ices or making kites to fly.

Each session is six weeks long. This 6 week session we are teaching colors and letters. Each week the class has spelled and written one of six colors in the rainbow. We are teaching the difference between upper and lower case letters of the alphabet and play a matching game where each member of the class takes a turn to find a match. We are teaching - wait your turn, follow directions and listen to others.

We welcome all new children to this "learning is fun" program.

Patt Pilgrim, Dianne Flynn, Linda Lavaretto, Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell

****

Junior High Youth Group

Lots of Good times for Junior highs at Youth Group. At the end of February Bryan cooked and served dinner to the junior high youth group. Everyone loved his spaghetti and garlic bread. What a feast!!! We had a Christian movie going during dinner and we had a fun time. Thanks Bryan for all you hard work and yummy treat!!

We made cookies for PADS and decorated them with Easter candies. These were BIG cookies. On March 7th we brought cookies, mashed potatoes and Brown's chicken to the PADS site. We also had mostaccoli thanks to a wonderful donation by Diane Ciarnetti. Alyssia Kommenich and her mom, Beth, met us there and we worked with Lou Pearson and his staff to serve over 70 people a wonderful dinner which also included soup, salad, bread and coffee.

On March 13th we went to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, Illinois. We worked with other the groups there from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM filling bags with food. We prayed over the pallet of food FMSC will send abroad to one of the 60 countries they serve. We packed enough food to feed 56 children for a year. We had two new people with us this trip, junior high C. J. and Cheryl Huenecke. Thanks to both of them for helping with this great mission.

We welcome all junior highs and their friends to join us at the church on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. We have Christian learning, games and snacks. Please come join us.

We are so proud of all the junior highs making their confirmation on Palm Sunday. God bless you and congratulations to all 17 of you.

Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani, and Bryan Ambrosat.

Senior High Youth Group

The Senior High Youth Group had a wonderful time in Saugatuck the weekend of February 26 – 28. "Prayer" was the topic of this winter retreat. We explored; What is Prayer, Why we Pray, and Ways to Pray. We each felt that our prayer life was a little more enriched after putting some thought to this topic. It was a wonderful weekend in a wonderful place. By the way, when and how do YOU pray?

We just started to view and discuss the movie, **Jesus Christ Superstar**. Will the youth of 2010 relate to a movie from 1973? Will the message of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ come across to our youth in 2010 like it did to followers of Jesus in 33? Last year, we

shared **The Passion of the Christ**. That movie very brutally portrayed the agony and pain our Savior endured to save us from our sin. It evoked deep emotions and much thoughtfulness. **Jesus Christ Superstar** takes a different view to the events leading up to the crucifixion. It is a musical that looks at some of the other personalities that surrounded Jesus and might offer a glimpse into why Jesus' friends and disciples did what they did during Jesus' final days in human form. Was Judas a bad guy, or a good guy in a bad position? Was he just a normal guy with a dirty job? I think it will be interesting to hear what the youth have to say. Perhaps you might ask one of them.

On Palm Sunday, the Youth Group will celebrate a Seder meal. A Seder is the Passover meal. This ceremonial meal has been celebrated by Jews since before the time of Christ. It is at this Passover Meal that Jesus and His Disciples met in the upper-room, the day we now call Maundy Thursday. As Christians, it is our belief that this is the meal where Christ introduced the Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

On April 11, the Youth Group will again lead the REV worship service. Please feel free to join us and celebrate God's love and forgiveness.

If you are in high school and wish to join us, we meet in Sunday evening, at 6:30 pm, following the REV Praise Worship service. If you know of some one outside of our HHPC church community that would like to join us, please let us know.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen,
Mitch Huenecke

Mark Your Calendars



SPRING FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, May 7
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 7th at 6:30 p.m., we will host a fun filled evening complete with a catered dinner and entertainment by Christian educator and performer Ron Fugle. This is an evening that you will long remember. Master Ron who is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians as well as the International Jugglers Association, uses his talents of juggling, balloon art, magic, and other surprises to teach strong Biblical messages and keep kids and adults on the edge of their seats. He has conducted numerous workshops, as well as performing throughout the country and on mission trips to Southeast Asia. We are blessed to have him a part of this family night.

This evening is open to everyone. The tickets can be purchased after church on Sundays, or during KIDS CLUB hours on Mondays. Ticket sales will begin April 11th.

Questions? - Call the church office and ask for Dianne



God Bless the 2010 Confirmation Class

Leslie Ambrosat

Kathryn Crowley

Tristan Grisko

Brian Haack

Alyssia Kommenich

Thomas Krumpolc

Bekezela Kusina

Stephanie Lorenz

Ashley Maranto

Natalie Orsic

Halimah Prunty

Daniel Rodriguez

Mandy Rodriguez

Kaylee Rys

Natasha Swindle

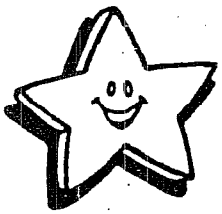
Katelin Wheeler

Kyle Zimmerman

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

12 Celina Panko
Vittorio Simone
20 Charlotte Gambla
21 Jessica Leake
23 Veronica Swindle
25 Petar Ilic
26 T.K. Knox
28 Draven DelPrete



FEBRUARY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

1st and 2nd Grades

Jacob Morrell

Junior High

Leslie Ambrosat
Tristan Grisko
Alyssia Komenich
Becky Kusina
Natalie Orsic
Natasha Swindle
Kate Wheeler
Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High

Kyle Wheeler
Andrew Witek
Megan Zimmerman

Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck

***Mark Your Calendar*!**

Mini camp (completed grades 1st - 4th)
June 20 - 23 or June 23 - 26

*****

Mission Council 8 Camp Gray (grades 3rd - 5th)
August 1- August 7

*****

Mission Council 8 Camp Kema (grades 6th - 8th)
August 1 - August 7

This Year's Camp Curriculum is "*Celebrating Creation Again*"

Sacrament of Holy Communion- April 4, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
April 4, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	Easter Breakfast- G. Home
April 11, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	Crowley
April 18, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	G. Vickers, S. Fogg
April 25, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	Pilgrim
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
April 4, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
April 11, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
April 18, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
April 25, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	

COMMUNION SERVERS- Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl



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 Easter Sunday, April 4. Flower orders must be prepaid and received no later than **Sunday, April 18th**. 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 2, 2010, 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.

APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Catered Dinner 7:30 p.m. Worship	2 Good Friday 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	3
4 Easter 8:30 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 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	5 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club NO Youth Choir	6 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E.	7 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	8 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	9 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	10 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
11 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 May Newsletter Deadline	12 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	13 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	14 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	15 12:00 p.m. Meal & Movie 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	16 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	17 1-3 p.m. Praise-A-Palooza at Burbank Lutheran Church
18 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	19 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	20 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	21 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	22 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	23 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education REV Band at 9 & 10:30 Services 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	26 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	27 12:00 p.m. Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	28 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	29 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	30 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	

April Birthdays

April
4 – Lottie Gambla
5 – Cecily Schilling
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 – David Krueger
24 – Michael Dragas
25 – Stacy 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.

*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.

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8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

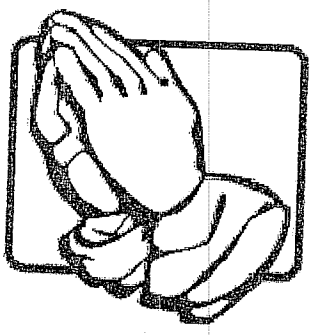
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Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

MAY 2010

PRAYER & CARE



"Now to him, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21 (RSV)

The above verses emphasize the greatness of our Heavenly Father at all times.

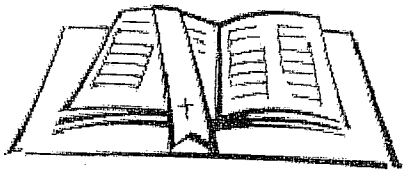
Many of our church family are hurting. When one of us hurts, we all hurt. Sometimes we cannot find the right words. Sometimes we feel so inadequate. Sometimes we question. Sometimes we flee.

But then something or someone comes into the picture. Sunday morning: a young man, (out jogging), comes through the church door and stays for the 9:00 service. Friday morning: a mother of two, (expecting her third), comes through another church door and asks for prayer. Friday evening: Many come through the church door. Escorted into the gym, just before the sun set, a subtle transformation takes place. Total darkness has been challenged by subtle electrical lights. Candles flicker, adding light and warmth.

The Senior High youth begin lovingly serving the guests who have lovingly served them for years. Some couldn't attend because they had to work. Some couldn't attend because of their circumstances. Some couldn't attend because of the Women's Retreat in Saugatuck.

I'm grateful there are many doors at HHPC and in our lives.

"…knock and it will be opened to you." Luke 11:9



TWILIGHT PRAYER

Father, you gave to me in my youth a flashlight for my path and I have strayed very little, realizing this diversion is not for me or who I represent.

Surely I returned to my path and today I must say the batteries are still good and that light shines brightly and takes me along my path of peace and understanding.

Prayer is like a candle that we all light when we speak to God, we are careful not to let that light flicker or go out. We keep that flame alive in our hearts where we have the eternal flame.

Let us bring our lights together Tuesday evenings.

Who knows what we can ignite?
Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PADS UPDATE



The kitchen is closed and will not be opened again until October. Many hands and many hearts have been opened to our PADS neighbors this past season and I thank you all for your many vehicles of help. I dare not mention an individual lest I forget one who gave, and I did not mention by name. You all know who you are and how you supported this mission.

Many hands make light of the task and our task this season is history. We know history repeats itself. So next year, let us all look forward again with gusto, to serve our fellow men and women in need. A neighbor in need is a friend indeed.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

MISSION COMMITTEE

Plans and preparations were in progress but the final outcome was questionable. This concept was something new and there existed no solid proof to its success or demise. Diligently we trudged forward with enthusiasm and prayed for the best. Great expectations were met with great results.
Our "April Showers" event was well received, and one and all enjoyed a memorable evening of food and song.
Working together with vim and vigor is seldom disappointing. Thank you Senior High Youth Group for your attitude of servitude. A special thank you to all those behind the scenes who made the evening such a memorable event.
Shall we look forward to our next event with anticipation rather than apprehension? I am sure we all agree when we say YES!

Regards,
The Mission Committee



A Note from the Editor:

Last month, there was an error on the prayer list. Pastor Emily Rosencrans lost her father, not her brother. And also, a short time later, she lost her uncle. Our prayers are with her and her family in their losses, and my apologies to them for my mistake.

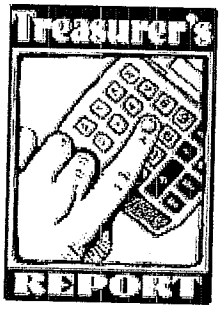
HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

-The family of Lelia Keene, on her passing
-The family of Mary Lewington, on her passing
-Gerry Waller and family on Joyce's passing
-Renee Meyer and family in the loss of her Mother
-Rich & Bev Kahn in the loss of their son Harold
-Marie Hoffman for health concerns and continued improvement
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corp Boot Camp, for encouragement
-Evelyn Garlic's sister, Gloria Thomason, in Indiana, for health concerns (cancer)
-The country of Poland
-Aliya wants prayers
-Darlene Delaney's mother, Kaye, for health concerns
-Shannon Bastien's father in California & others due to earthquake
-Carol Sack's brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
-Lil Resner for recovery from a stroke
-Art Davis for health concerns
-Maryann Fellers for health concerns & recovery from surgery
-Marilyn Betterton for health concerns
-Cindy Treccani's Aunt in W. Virginia, Shirley King, for health concerns, and continued improvement
-Kevin McGuire undergoing stem cell surgery for cancer
-Harry Hermansen, for healing from a fractured hip

-"Georgie- Porgie" Vinalek for health concerns
-Sue Olson for recovery from surgery
-Debbie Raschke for recovery from upcoming surgery (at time of this printing)
-Nicole (Huenecke) Erickson for recovery from upcoming surgery (at time of this printing)
-Charley Huenecke for recovery from upcoming surgery (at time of this printing)
-Private concerns too severe to share
-Sarah Wreza's brother, Jason Smith, for massive stroke at age 40
-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-Betty Kitching for healing
-Pete Richardson for health concerns
-Donna Bredlau's friend, Ken, for rehab/ healing
-Sally Harris during Chemo Treatments, for strength & healing
-The Vogl's neighbors, Joanne & Bob Pappas for health concerns
-Richard Larson for strength during treatments
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing & strength
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby,

Josh is cancer free!

Thank you for all your prayers these last 4 years. Halleluia!
-People experiencing hard times/ job loss
-Our service men and women and their families
-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



March 2010 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income	$14,268.00
General Fund Disbursements	$12,133.00

MARCH 2010 SESSION MINUTES

Minutes of the stated meeting of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, Hickory Hills, Illinois held on March 8, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. with the following Elders present forming a quorum:
Shirley Brunell, Karen Hoffman, Gordon Home, Cheryl Huenecke, Sue Orsic, and Scott Zimmerman.
Arrived Late: Terry Brock
Excused: Susan Frangella, Tom Pearson, Cindy Treccani, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl.
Also present: Moderator Rev. Del Meester and Dianne Flynn, Director of Children Ministry.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

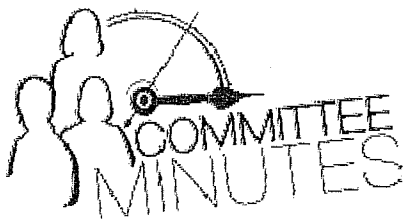
MINUTES: The minutes were received and approved.
CLERK'S REPORT: Communion was served March 7th at all three services. Communion is always served at the 9am service.
TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was received and approved.
DEACON'S REPORT: Clusters were reviewed. Discussion was held about different strategies to be more effective with their clusters. There are so many people in each cluster it is hard for the Deacons to get through their list every month.
COMMITTEE REPORTS:
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: LENT PROGRAM: Jerusalem Market Place. First week- 47 children, 2nd week – 51, 3rd week 6 new. Percentage high in lower grades.
PALM SUNDAY- Holy week packets – kids bring in palms – Youth choir/kids sing – Confirmation Sunday.
CONFIRMATION– March 21- Session meets with Confirmands and parents.
PALM SUNDAY– Confirmation Sunday.
Confirmands will participate in worship service.
Alyssia Kommenich will be baptized.
All Confirmed will receive Teen Study Bibles.
Stampers are making cards to go with the Bibles.
EASTER; Worship schedule: 8:30 & 10:30am – 9:30 breakfast/Jr. Highs will serve.
No Sunday school/will have videos for preschool – 3rd graders. Worship packets available for kids remaining in sanctuary.
COLLEGE STUDENTS: Mailed off first "Care Package".
YOUTH GROUPS: Jr. High – Prepared Pads Meals for last night.
Participate in Feed My Starving Children – March 13th.
Sr. High – Saugatuck retreat – February 26 -28th – study on prayer.
Participate in Feed My Starving Children – March 13th.

CAMP MEETING: Held yesterday, few in attendance, but more have indicated they will attend. No bus this year – carpool only.
WORKSHOP: Dianne attended a workshop February 27th presented by "One Way Street".
BUILDING AND GROUNDS: The plumbing has been fixed in basement.
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: REV band participating in Praise-A-Palooza at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Burbank), Sat. April 17th. We are going to encourage the congregation to attend.
FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH: Sunday May 23rd – concert/picnic.
June 27th participating in Hickory Hills Street Fair. Updating brochures.
MISSION: Jr. High help make meals and served at PADS. April 4th will be last PADS.
April 9th and 10th Senior High fundraising dinner.
CREW work weekend will be June 5th.
WORSHIP AND MUSIC/COMMUNION SERVERS: Maundy Thursday dinner.
Communion servers; Rick R.
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/ENDOWMENT: One Great Hour of Sharing coming up.
DPNC: Looking at candidates in the initial stage.
NEW BUSINESS: It was VOTED to accept the Confirmation Class as listed and the baptism of Alyssia Kommenich on Palm Sunday.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

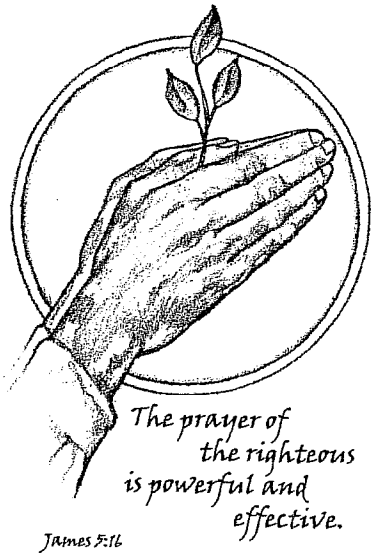
Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Brunell
Clerk of Session

Minutes were amended at the April 12, 2010 Session Meeting: REV Praise Team is not participating in Praise-A-Palooza due to schedule conflicts. All congregation is still encouraged to attend. Communion Servers were Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl, and Scott Zimmerman.



Do You Have A Pastor Visit Request or A Prayer Request??

It is important for anyone with any concern, prayer request or a need for pastoral visit, to contact the church office at 708-598-3100, their Deacon or any one of the Church Elders.



Please Pray For and Write a Note to an HHPC Member in Marine Corps Boot Camp

Kyle Krueger, the third son of David and Darlene Krueger, is in the U.S. Marine Corps Boot Camp stationed in San Diego, CA.

Please keep him in your prayers during this very difficult time in his life.

Also, if you are able, please write to him as often as possible. Here is his address. Please address the envelope exactly as follows:

RECRUIT KRUEGER, KYLE
2ND BN ECHO CO PLT 2110
36001 MIDWAY AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92140

Please remember that it takes about 10 days for a letter to reach him. Please only cards and letters of encouragement. No care packages at this time. Thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers.

What do we do while we wait, and while we are without a Pastor during our Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee (DPNC) Search period?

Well it's obvious that we are already doing it folks! We as a family have continued working together in growth and the life of our congregation. Praying for our DPNC to be led, and have insight to find the right candidate for our Pastor.

We have been blessed by Pastor's Andrew and Emily Rosencrans, our Pulpit Supply Pastors, that have gone way beyond their call of duty and what is to be expected of a Sunday Pulpit Supply Preacher. They have visited with the Ill and shuts ins, officiated meetings, weddings, baptisms, and our confirmation class of new members. They have led our Wednesday evening Lenten services, on top of leading our morning worship services with stability, and sincere caring.

Our REV Service structure has become strong and stable, with messages brought forth by wonderful Pulpit Supply Pastors, Lay Speakers, and dramatic interpretations by our Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups.

Upon several requests, family members and visitors have had support and follow up from our Deacon's, Outreach Committee and Prayer Groups.

Many joys and concerns are regularly shared and spread through our morning and evening prayer groups, and lifted in Prayer.

It is a blessing to see all of this happening, and to know that without a Pastor - while we wait - in the Interim - we ARE doing our best and trying to do what it is we are called to do.....

To Seek God's Word

To Share and Celebrate God's Love

and

To Serve Jesus Christ in the World.

May you continue to be blessed as part of this church family, and may we all continue to grow together in Christ.

Cheryl Huenecke

Hymning and Hawing

Appropriate Showmanship

by G. R. Snow

(Author's note: last month's column has sparked many responses, and it was suggested that I continue with some examples and commentary on appropriate ways of using visual effects and other techniques as appropriate worship enhancements rather than distractions to worship. This column is a response to these requests, though it does concentrate more on the philosophy than on the mechanics of "showmanship". –GRS)

One must recognize that we have a fine Example of appropriate showmanship in several places in the Bible. Korah and his family protest Moses's leadership, so the earth opens and swallows all their belongings. A star and troops of angels forecast and attend Christ's arrival in Bethlehem. Moses spends forty days and nights with God, and has to put on a veil for people to be able even to look at him. A dove appears over Jesus's head at the Jordan. Moses and Elijah, as representatives of the Law and the Prophets, appear on the Mount of Transfiguration with Christ, symbolizing his fulfillment of both. These special effects, while not as convenient to our control as a laptop and projector or a sound system and soundboard, are unquestionably enhancements to the Message rather than distractions. Executed by the Master Showman, God Himself, how could they be otherwise?

The Bible also provides us examples of distractions to the Message, and examples we may not immediately recognize as such. At the Transfiguration, Peter becomes distracted from the power of what is being shown them, and starts to babble: "Master, it is well that we are here—let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah—" One can almost hear an at-the-end-of-His-rope God slamming down a cloud to cover the holy moment and bellowing, to stop the hapless babbling, "This is my beloved Son. LISTEN to him!"

Another example was the girl possessed of a demon who kept shouting about Paul and those who accompanied him, "These men are servants of the most high God." She was accurate, and it may be hard for our modern ears to recognize why this was such a threat to their ministry, or why Paul became angry. But the threat was in her distraction from the Message—she was readjusting the hearers' focus from the ***Message*** to the ***messengers***, from "Jesus Christ" to "these men". Paul blew his stack, rebuked the demon, and healed the girl.

In worship at HHPC, there are many unavoidable distractions. An acolyte may not be present on time, a pastor may find a children's sermon prop doesn't work, a very young attendee may start crying. However, these are just a part of the human condition—they aren't the kind of distractions we need to guard against. Do we get so lost in the beauty of the music we hear that we ignore its Message? Are we so distracted by what's on the screen that it gets in the way of what's in our hearts, and the Message from Holy Spirit to each of us? In short, are we so lost in the mechanics of "doing church" that we forget to worship? If so, is the fault with the planning of those who minister to us, or in our interpretation of the ministry?

A considerable amount of energy and planning goes into our services at HHPC, and I speak both of the traditional morning services and the alternative REV service. In that planning, a substantial effort is made to eliminate whatever may be distracting from the Message, and to add or maintain whatever may be an enhancement. Much thought goes into the presentation of music which carries the Message, not what may be a way of presenting how great Gabby, or Matt, or Sue, or Charlie, or Cheryl, or any of the others are—even though we all know they are wonderful! Much thought goes into the graphics Scott projects, so that they are enhancement rather than distraction, and inspiration rather than entertainment. For it's not a performance—it's a collaborative worship experience, and the participants' dedication is to carrying the Message to the hearts of worshipers, not promoting themselves. Likewise, in the traditional services I play, I try very hard always to leave the "performer" behind and be only the "ministry professional" and the "instrument". Our choir also attempts to carry the Message in what it sings, its priority not to seek applause but a clearer understanding in the hearts of worshipers of the Message of Christ.

A recent *American Organist* magazine article identified as inappropriate and distracting anything in worship which is "self-serving, self-indulgent, self-congratulatory, banal, or trite." I would further suggest that anything in worship which does not have as its focus the Message of Christ needs a re-think. And, to reiterate what I said last month, the contemporary world of worship needs pastors who are committed to being ***messengers*** rather than ***masters of ceremonies***, and musicians who are ***witnesses*** rather than ***performers***, and the ***Message of the Holy Spirit*** rather than ***purposeless entertainment to kill an hour***. What do you as a worshiper get out of the services you attend, at HHPC and elsewhere? I hope it's the former, in every case (messenger, witness, Message)—and that in your regular church attendance you are ***worshipers*** rather than ***members of an audience***.

2010 Confirmation Class Statements of Faith

(Due to the large confirmation class, the Faith Statements will be split between 2 newsletters. They are all in the online edition.)

To me Jesus is the Savior of my sins. He takes away all the bad that I have done throughout my life. He does this because He knows I am a good person and he knows I will never do it again. If Jesus never forgave any of us for our sins, then everyone would be in sorrow and pain because no one had ever forgiven them for their wrongs. Also Jesus is someone who you can tell all your problems to no matter how embarrassing it is and Jesus won't judge you. When you are telling Jesus about your problems, he doesn't always answer you does not mean He is not listening, He is just thinking about everything you just told Him about.

To me a church is a place where you confess your sins. When you go to church you are there to worship God. When you worship God you should thank Him for everything He has ever done for you. When you are thanking Him you should also pray for your loved ones going through horrible things right now. They will be thankful that you are praying for them. When you confess your sins to Jesus in church you wanna tell Him everything that has been bugging you.

To me God is the creator of the world. God created you and me and everyone on this planet. If it wasn't for God we wouldn't be alive. The first two people that God created on this earth was Adam and Eve. You can also confess your sins to God if you want. God also helps you go through everything that you think is horrible and you can also tell God about all the good things in your life. God will always listen to your problems no matter what they are.

To me the Holy Spirit is the bond between Jesus dying and going back to His father God. Everyone has a Holy Spirit inside of them. What the Holy Spirit does is it either tells you to do good for others or do bad to others. When your Holy Spirit tells you to do good usually you will be rewarded for doing good for others. If your Holy Spirit tells you to do bad things to others you won't be rewarded you will be punished.

That's what I think Jesus, God, church, and the Holy Spirit are.

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This is my statement of faith. In it six questions will be answered. First is who is God? To me God is the Creator of the heavens and earth. God is also very loving and has lots of power. Next question is who is Jesus? To me Jesus is our Savior who takes our sins away. He is also a man of great miracles. This is Jesus to me.

Third question is who is the Holy Spirit? To me the Holy Spirit is full of knowledge. It is a messenger of God. The Holy Spirit is also powerful. This is the Holy Spirit to me.

Fourth question is what is the church? The church is a place you go to worship. Also you go there to help yourself solve problems and pray for others. The church is a worry free place to me.

Fifth is what is the church called to do? To me the church is called to help people worship. It also is called to help people get through hard times. This is my view on the church.

My last question is what am I called to do? I am called to worship almost every Sunday. I'm also called to learn about the Bible. This is what I'm called to do.

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God; my Savior, my Lord, and my Protector. Who sent us Jesus, His Son who sacrificed Himself to show us the ways of the Lord and grant us eternal life. Good things that happen to us come from the Holy Spirit, who is inside us all. The church helps me assemble with my fellow Christians to hear the word of the Lord. The church is called to show and guide us throughout our lives, and direct us in the way of the Lord. I am called upon by the church to follow His word and lead a good example in His name.

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I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He died for me on the cross to cleanse me of my sins. I wish to join this church to spread the Word of Jesus Christ and to help the church by offering my talents to benefit the church and its followers.

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I believe that God is everyone you know and don't know. He is amazing in a multitude of ways. He is in your soul, heart, and mind so He can always be with you whether we want Him/Her or not because He/She cares about every single one of us even if we aren't sure about Him/Her. This, I think, is absolutely wonderful.

I believe Jesus is our brother. I don't mean he is a blood brother but a spiritual brother. I believe that He is God dumbed down. Meaning that he is God in a "form" that we can understand and relate to. We can understand and relate to what He is going through or what they will or might go through.

To me the Holy Spirit is a baptizer. It is a guide for those who get lost and confused. It guides us back to a path when we stray from one. I believe the Holy Spirit has no specific being or form (body) it's just surrounding us. It is in our minds telling us right from wrong. I think that the Holy Spirit is our conscious. I think this because that is our mind saying, "Hey, dude this isn't right. You shouldn't be doing this." and similar stuff. I also believe that the Holy Spirit is power. It is the power that willed and guided God in creating this earth trillions upon trillions of years ago. I see the Holy Spirit as an eternal flame of all colors including the dark ones like black and grey. I imagine the spirit this way because all along as you keep "feeding the fire" it will keep burning and there will always be at least one person feeding the Holy Spirit's fire by believing.

A church is a place to worship though it isn't the only place to worship. Church is a place to come together with family and friends. Just because you are in a church doesn't mean you have to talk about God. It is kind of like a place where you can go vent. You can talk about your difficulties in life with God, Jesus, or anyone who'll listen. A church is a place to talk to God about anything. Church is usually the most comfortable place to talk to God besides your house because there are familiar faces around you so you do not feel awkward and out of place or unsure if you should be there.

It is my belief that the church is called to try and provide answers for questions about faith, God, and other stuff like that. The church is called to provide a place for those who are unsure about what is going on with their faith, beliefs and judgment.

I believe that I am called to give those people in Kentucky my kindness, share my faith in Jesus and much more. I believe that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are calling me to do more than just be a plain, ordinary person. I believe that they are trying to tell me that I need to stand out and be different. I believe that they want me to take my art skills and make something beautiful with them. I believe that I am called to believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God.

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God is the Savior of the world, the Father of Jesus, and us. Jesus is the Son of God, the One who tells us right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is all that is in you; love, hate, strength, and weakness. Church is where I go to talk to our Father God and hope He relieves me of my sins. I am called to church to be a better person. The church is called to be a place of love, hope, and praise; God's home.

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God is my Savior and my helper, who guides me in need, Jesus Is made of three parts: The son, the father and the holy spirit, he is a person who came down to us in a Human form sent from God. Church is Where we all come to worship our lord and help us see through someone else besides ourselves, and believe there is a God. Today, I am called here to be confirmed as a member of this church and to do my part in serving Jesus Christ.

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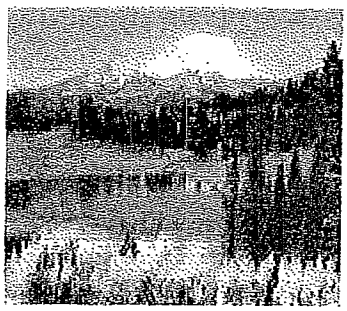
God is my Savior and I worship Him. Jesus is Lord, he came down to earth to save us from our sins. The Holy Spirit is the One who gives us power and love. The church is where I go to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The church is called to help people get to know God and come closer to Him. I'm called to help people and help them come closer to God. This is my faith statement.

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Faith Statement

God created everything on this amazing planet, including people. He is the One we look up to, he is our wonderful Father. God inspired his followers and disciples to record history and his deeds, which is now known as the Bible. The Bible is the perfect instruction for life which tells us to how to live and what direction to follow. God is Jesus in human version. He was crucified on the cross to provide forgiveness for our sins. He is there through life when we get trapped in situations or when we just need someone to talk to. The church is a nice place for people to worship the Lord. The church brings people together from all around, to worship the Lord all in one place together. I am called to serve the Lord to appreciate all the wonderful things he had created and gave me.

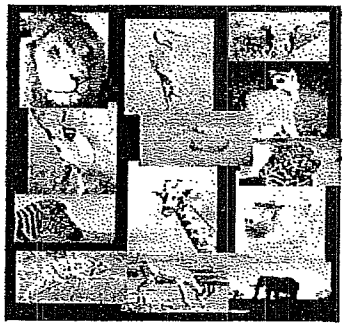
Wonderful things God has given me!!!!!!



Mountains and the Valleys



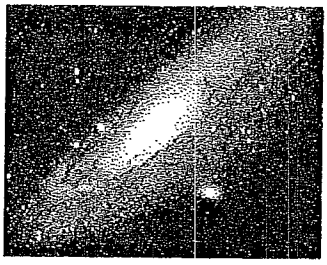
The Sunset



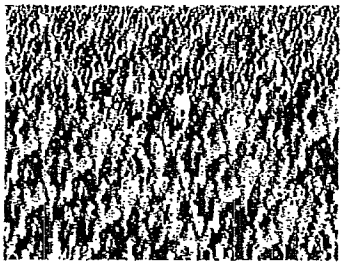
Animals



People Worshiping God



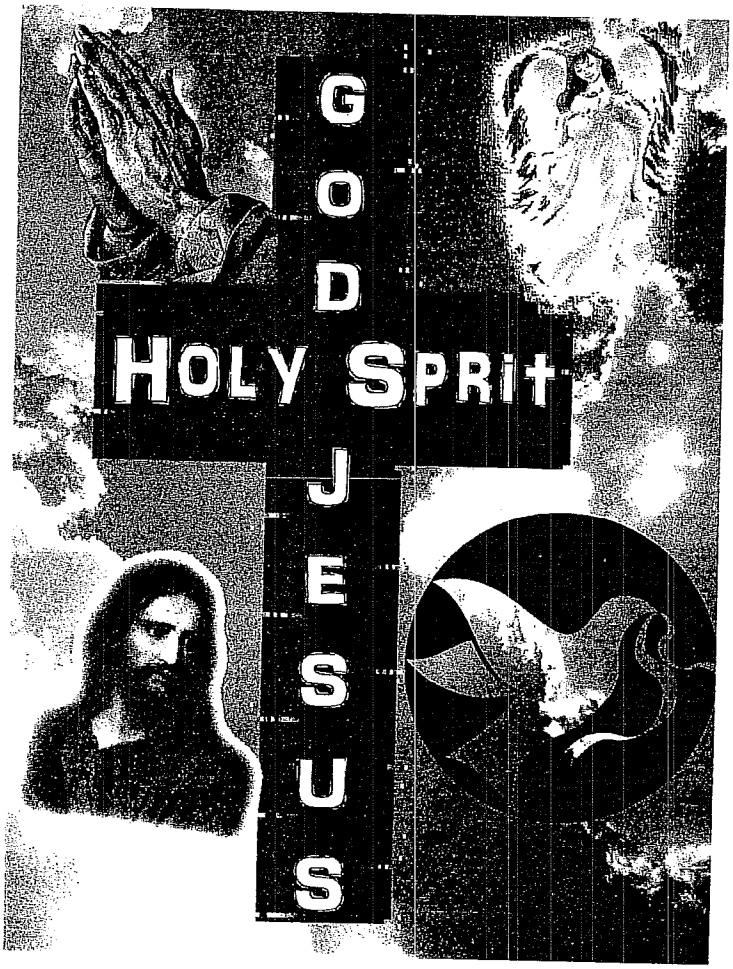
The Universe



People

AND SO MUCH MORE!!!!!!

God is our savior, creator, and protector. He doesn't judge us for our looks because we are all his children and he knows what we are really like on the inside. In God's eyes we are all just as beautiful as the next person. God knows what is truly right and wrong and, as long as we ask for forgiveness, he will forgive our sins. God sent is only son, Jesus, to us. He sent him to be out teacher and to rid us of our sins. God sacrificed his only son to save people from they're sins. Then when Jesus was resurrected he sent the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is our bridge to god. With the Holy Spirit living within us we can feel a closer attachment to God. The church is a place of Godly worship. When we go to church every Sunday we learn of the ways of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As part of the church, it is my job to learn from what the church teaches and never give up on religion. We should always have God in our hearts no matter what life throws our way because God will never give up on us and he will always be there to listen our prayers.



I believe that our God is our father and creator. He created us in the image of himself. I also believe that God loves us like his sons and daughters and will help us when we make mistakes.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is anything and everything. It is something that fills you up and calms your troubled soul. It can work through any being to help a certain person.

I believe that Jesus is my lord and savior. He is God's son and loves us all like our aunt or uncle would.

I think this church was created for people in need of help or worship. We are called as a church to spread Christ's love through the world and do good deeds in his name.

I am called to help the church complete these things. I am also called to preserve the earth that God, our father, created for us to have a life in.

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God
Powerful, Creator
Creating, loving, watching
Heaven, Heart, Earth, Soul
Sacrificing, working, loving
Savior, Son of God
Jesus

The Holy Spirit is the air that I breathe, the ground I walk on, and even my friends and family. Many people imagine that the Holy Spirit looks like a ghost, but I see it as anything and everything.

I believe that church is a place to learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and about the bible. I also believe that I am called to spread the Word of the Lord with others. And that church is called to shelter ones who are on the path to find or learn about God.

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Who is God to me? God is the creator of heaven and earth. He is the maker of all people. God is the one that calls us to follow his word. To me I see him as a Father and a Leader.

Who is Jesus to me? Jesus is my Savior. Jesus is the one who died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus is the one who rose from the dead to prove he is God's Son. Jesus is a Friend, Helper and Healer.

What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that fills us up with Gods presence. The Holy Spirit makes us feel good and happy.

What is a church? A church is a place we worship God and Jesus. A church is a place people go to seek help and comfort. A church is a place you will always be welcomed in. A church follows in God word.

What is a church called to do? A church is called to worship God and follow in His word. A church is called to do missions and help people in need. Lastly a church is called to make people feel safe and help people's relationship grow stronger with God.

Lastly what am I called to do? I am called to worship God. I am called to follow God's word and to help all those in need of help.

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God is not a man or a woman. He sent His only Son down for us so that we may have eternal life. He has the most power in the world.
Jesus died for our sins. He was God's Son. God sent Him down because Jesus was human.
The church is a small community of faith. They help each other. We share our faith.
The church is called to gather with their church community to express one's faith.
I am called to help someone who needs help.
The Holy Spirit helps us make miracles.

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God. God is the almighty being that was here before anything or anybody. He made the universe out of nothing. He was the creator of all life.
Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. He has done many miracles in His life to spread the Word of God to the people. He was the spreader of the name of Jesus and He even sacrificed Himself to wash our sins away.
The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God which dwells on earth. It surrounds all of us and helps cleanse us of sin. It cannot be seen, however.
The church is the place where people go to get enlightened by God, and to ask for His forgiveness. The people at the church are supposed to help spread the Word of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to those dwindling in faith.

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God is the Father of Jesus. He gave us His only son.

Jesus was born to be the Savior of all mankind. He died on the cross and suffered so that we could have eternal life after our death.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in God. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts and helps us believe the truth about Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit within us.

The church is the people. It is where we gather to hear the Word of God, where we learn to be good Christian people.

The church is called to preach the Word of God, to share in Holy Communion and fellowship. To open the doors to help people in need.

I am called to follow and learn about God, and try to be a good Christian, to help others when they need me. Right now, I don't know what my calling is. I hope when I get older I will understand more.

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Who is God? God is my creator. He is the reason I am living. He is my protector. He is amazing. He is the highest above all names. God is always with me. I am never alone.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is my savior. He died for me.

Who is The Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the spirit inside of me that helps me live a Christian life. It is a part of Jesus that I cannot see, but I can feel it.

What is the church? The church is a place that teaches and preaches about God. It helps people understand that God is our creator, and that His love is never-ending.

What is the church called to do? The church is called to make people feel like they can come and be themselves and worship God together. And pray and feel like they can come and confess their sins and refresh themselves and be children of God.

What am I called to do? I am called to be a friendly and loving Christian.



Outdoor BBQ Fun!

Come join us for a special afternoon of fellowship after church on **Sunday, May 23** (Recognition Sunday).
We will be enjoying music from the REV praise band along with food and drinks provided by the Christian Ed. and Outreach Committees.
Stay for REV at 5pm also!!

Mark your calendar!

Ice Cream Social
Sunday, June 13, 2010
6:30 p.m. after REV

This year we're planning the program themed around "New York City". Selections from the choirs and soloists will include many pieces inspired by various locales in New York, both traditional and Broadway-style selections. Come and celebrate the end of the choir year with us in HHPC's version of the "Big Apple"!



MISSION COUNCIL 8
WORK DAY

Saturday, May 1, 2010
@ 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

At Jones Memorial Community Center

A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. More specifics will follow, but we want people to mark the date on their calendars now. Spread the word! Join other MC8 churches for a day of fellowship and mission as we work together at Jones Center.

Questions? Call Lynn LaBine at 708-429-0099

Jones Center is located at 220 E. 15th Street, Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708-757-5395 Call for Directions

The Jones Center Mission Statement:

It is the primary mission of The Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center to meet the needs of people on the physical, spiritual, and social levels. As a non-denominational, non-sectarian, non-profit organization, the "Jones Center" strengthens family ties, emphasizes the worth of God's children, and answers human needs. The Jones Center aims to improve the physical and economic well being and spirit of the neighborhood and community.

Just a Reminder
Sign up Today

SPRING FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, May 7
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, May7th at 6:30 p.m., we will host a fun filled evening complete with dinner followed by entertainment from Christian educator and performer Ron Fugle. This is an evening that you will long remember. Master Ron who is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians as well as the International Jugglers Association, uses his talents of juggling, balloon art, magic, and other surprises to teach strong Biblical messages and keep kids and adults on the edge of their seats. He has conducted numerous workshops, as well as performing throughout the country and on mission trips to Southeast Asia. We are blessed to have him a part of this family night.

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

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:
Friday, May 21st thru Sunday, May 23rd
DROPOFF ONLY-please place donations in PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN classroom only!!

DROPOFF AND PRICING (we need helpers)
Monday, May 24th 9:00am to 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 25th 9:00am to 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 26th 9:00am to 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 27th 9:00am to 5:00pm

ACTUAL YARD SALE
FRIDAY, MAY 28 9:00AM—3:00PM
SATURDAY, MAY 29 9:00AM—1:00PM

IN ADDITION TO DONATIONS, WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SALE THE WEEK OF MAY 24TH THRU MAY 29th.
TOGETHER WE CAN HOST A WONDERFUL FUNDRAISER!!!!



C.R.E.W.
A community outreach ministry of
Peace Memorial Church
United Church of Christ

Directors: Dennis Kirscher, Chris Fryzek, Jason Tooth
Community Restoration by Ecumenical Workers
www.pmcucc.org pmcCREW@gmail.com

10300 W. 131st St. Palos Park, IL 60464
Phone: (708) 448-7833 **Fax:** (708) 448-0824

What is C.R.E.W.?

C.R.E.W. is an acronym for Community Restoration by Ecumenical Workers. We are a faith based organization sponsored and supported by Peace Memorial Church (PMC), a United Church of Christ in Palos Park, Illinois. We were founded and organized to be an outreach ministry of PMC into the Chicago metropolitan area. Our goal is to provide assistance to homeowners who may not be able to maintain their property. It is our plan to have labor provided by various sources including church groups, high school community groups, corporate outreach, and concerned volunteers who are willing to help deserving individuals and families.

Presently, we sponsor a yearly event called the "Big Build Weekend" which allows volunteers from PMC and the community to experience a mission work trip atmosphere without leaving home. At last year's "Big Build Weekend" over 200 volunteers from all over the community constructed the interior and exterior walls of four homes in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church. The structures were later transported to a Habitat for Humanity build site in Riverdale, IL and to The Millard Fuller Center, a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Alabama. These homes were finished to completion by the recipient family and other local volunteers.

As a result of support from church groups, high school community groups, corporate sponsors, and individuals from the surrounding community, C.R.E.W. will be sponsoring the construction of THREE homes in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church on the weekend of June 4th-6th, 2010.

Future plans for C.R.E.W. include the establishment of a retreat/mission center to house groups from other parts of the country who want to experience this type of mission outreach, and to expand our services to deserving families and individuals in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Want to change the life of an entire family in just 2 days?

How about 3 families?



Presents the BIG Build Weekend!

We need your help on the Big Build Weekend to frame the walls of 3 homes that will be donated to Habitat for Humanity and change the lives of 3 different families forever!

Join us in the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church located at 10300 W 131 ST, Palos Park on June 4th at 4:00pm for the wood cutting and then on June 5th from 8:00am to around 5:00pm where we will construct all the walls of 3 homes! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED, lunch will be provided Saturday. Then please join us on Sunday June 6th at 11:00am for a small dedication of the homes followed by a free celebration picnic.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, please make checks payable to PMC CREW and mail to 10300 W 131 ST, Palos Park 60464.

For More Information Contact: Chris Fryzek 708-448-7833 or email **pmc.CREW@gmail.com**

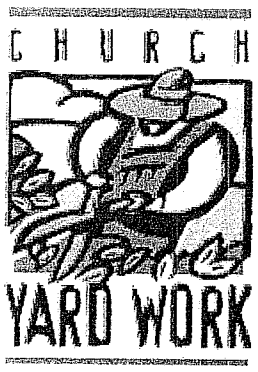
Mission Committee will be forming work teams. Please see Sue Orsic if you are interested or email: swinkle midwestern.edu.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- May 2, 2010

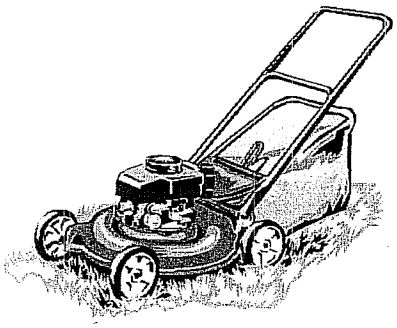
SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
May 2, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	
May 9, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	
May 16, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	
May 23, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	
May 30, 2010	S. Zimmerman	Kim Ambrosat	
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
May 2, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
May 9, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
May 16, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
May 23, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	
May 30, 2010	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski		

COMMUNION SERVERS- T. Brock, S. Brunell, C. Huenecke, P. Pilgrim, J. Vogl, R. Vogl

Volunteers Needed This Spring & Summer



We need volunteers to mow the lawn at the Manse this Spring & Summer. This expense had to be cut from our budget for 2010, so we are in need of someone to help out with this job.
If this is something you are interested in, please contact Charley Huenecke at 708-598-2342, Tom Pearson at 708-598-5198, or Scott Zimmerman at 708-458-1662, or leave a message at the church 708-598-3100.
Thank you!



KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



Our time has almost come to a close at KIDS CLUB for this year. We have one month left before we take a break for the summer. Don't miss the exciting things that are planned for you this month.

During the month of May our weekly lesson time will center around the story lines:

Peace and Quiet - God gives wisdom to His own
Family Matters - God loves us as His children
God's No Featherweight - God cares for us

Congratulations to Danielle T. for winning the "Crunch Balance" for the month of March. During April, the contest will also be open to our Jr. Leaders.

Just a reminder that our Spring Family Night will be held Friday, May 7th. Beginning at 6:30 PM we will enjoy dinner and the entertainment provided by Christian educator and performer "Master Ron" (Ron Fugle). This is an evening that will be enjoyed by all ages! Invite friends to join you for this event. Reservations are now being accepted.

Start planning now for a wonderful summer experience at our Vacation Bible School which will be held during the evening hours, June 14th - 18th . Our theme for this year is "Saddle Ridge Ranch - Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers". If you have been a part of our V.B.S. program here, you know this is a week not to be missed!! Call and register today.

Our last day of KIDS CLUB will be May 24th. KIDS CLUB will resume September 13th. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

Christian Education

†

The committee took an in-depth look at the Child Protection Policy which was formed to protect the children of the church as well as the adults who work with them. It was decided that the policy will be reviewed annually with a revision made as the need arises. The committee hopes the policy will be approved and accepted in its entirety at the next session meeting. Thank you to everyone who helped create this policy using various efforts from the surrounding community churches.

The Senior High fund-raiser was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner. The Sr. High students were happy to serve you and entertain you. A great big thank you goes to their organizers and to Lou Pearson who made the suggestion as a way to raise extra money to fund their various activities.

Have you purchased your tickets for the Family Night scheduled for May 7th? Adult tickets will be $6.00 and children's tickets will cost $3.00. A cap on the family tickets will be $20.00. Dianne and Jean will work with their staff of cooks to prepare a delicious dinner. Entertaining for the evening will be Master Ron. He is an illusionist, balloonist and storyteller. If you have not taken time to see this creative and entertaining man in the past, you need to come to this Family Night. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Be sure to tell your neighbors, friends, and relatives. It is a wonderful evening. Tickets are on sale now.

Our annual Cookie Monster Bake Sale is scheduled for May 9th. There will be a variety of cookies on sale followiing the 10:30 AM worship service. Money will be used for Camp Scholarships and Jr. High activities. Anyone interested in baking cookies for the sale should contact Dianne. The more cookies we sell, the more people can have camp scholarships to Camp Saugatuk.

Recognition Sunday is scheduled for May 23rd. All people who have helped with Children's Ministries will be recognized at the 10:30 AM service. All Graduates will be recognized for their success in completing another milestone. Perfect Attendance for the entire year of Sunday School will be announced. Both the Youth Choir and the Kids Sing will participate in this service. We hope the weather will cooperate and we can have our fellowship outdoors while the REV band serenades us.

The Jr. High Youth group will attend AWOL on May 7-8. They will spend the night at 4th Presbyterian Church and then divide into work groups for the following day's work in the Roger's Park area.

The Sr. High Youth group led the REV service on April 11th. They did a tremendous job. Thank you for your dedication and energy to this service. The Sr. High and Jr. High Youth groups also led the Stations of the Cross at the REV service in March. They did an excellent job. Thank you to their dedicated leaders.

The Women's Bible Study is still discussing the book of Psalms. They will have their last meeting on May 24th. They will have a luncheon on this last meeting day. Contact Arlene Pearson with any questions.

Kids Club has seen a drop in attendance all year long. Our children are anxious to see who will win the Crunch bar balance. For the month of April, we have included our teen

helpers to be one of the lucky names drawn for the challenge. Anyone who has perfect attendance during the month of April will be given a chance to have their name drawn as the only one to try the challenge. In the month of May, any member of Kids Club, teen helper or adult leader who has perfect attendance for the month may have their name drawn for the challenge. We hope everyone will come see us and spend the last few months of Kids Club 2009-2010 with us. We have some fun and interesting things planned for you.

Stories and More has had an average of 8 students each week. We are listening to a story each week. We have active play with songs, finger plays and actions to match the music. We are identifying shapes, drawing shapes and creating pictures by combining shapes this last 6 weeks. Our ending day will be May 11th. Thank you to all the adults who have made this new program such a success. We especially wish to encourage parents with children ages 4-5-6 to join us next year when we hope to see even more success. This year we concentrated on counting 0-10, identifying numerals, identifying colors, identifying alphabet letters, matching upper case and lower case letters, sequencing alphabet letters, writing color names, and identifying shapes.

Registration for Camp is underway. The children will travel to and from camp via car pool. Be sure to have your down payment and registration completed so your child has a place reserved at camp this year. It is a wonderful experience for children.

The Flower Sale is underway. Anyone who wishes to have beautiful flowers this summer should look into the great variety of flowers that are offered. Any money raised will be added to the Camp Scholarship fund. Thank you to the Fund Raising Committee for having this Flower Sale. Pick up is scheduled for May 2. Get you orders in early! Orders must be prepaid by April 18th.

Do you know what is scheduled in a mere 8 weeks? Are you checking the calendar right now? VBS is coming June 14-18. Any child age 3 to grade 6 is invited to spend evenings this week with Tricia and Co. They are the VBS leaders for the entire week. We will have music, games crafts, snacks, a Bible Study, and build great friendships this week. Our theme is Saddle Ridge Ranch so grab your cowboy hats, boots, and lasso a great time. Remember VBS is June 14-18. the only cost will be $6.00 and a donation of cookies. The cookie donation is used throughout the week as a snack. Registration is now open for anyone who wants to pre-register. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. Parents are welcome to stay for the opening dialogue or to come for the closing each night.

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Women's Bible Study

"Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God, with loud songs of joy!" Psalm 47:1

REV service participants and music makers take heed. What a testimony to the praise service here at HHPC.

The Psalms continue to fill us with surprising recollections, references, resonances. We are learning so much from one another's perspectives. It is an absolute joy to lead this group of inquisitive women. Thanks for the opportunity.

On May 24th we will hold our end of the year luncheon. We will begin the study again in September.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Grades 3- 5 Sue Orsic

We have had a busy month starting with visiting our local nursing home on March 21st. We brought each resident an Easter basket filled with goodies and a thoughtful message. The baskets were decorated and filled by our Sunday School classes and Kid's Club. The children all did a wonderful job greeting the residents and bringing them smiles. The class was able to be present at the Confirmation service this year and gathered together to watch a video on Easter Sunday. Now that spring is officially here and the Easter season is past, we are back on track with our classes. If you have not been here for awhile, please come and join us!

Adult Class - Dave Delaney

Every Sunday morning at 9:00 am a dedicated group of adults meets in the church library. This group is not strictly a bible study group. Some mornings a study of a few bible verses leads to discussion of what our response should be as a Christian. We might also discuss what our response should be to people who do not uphold the Christian tradition. Other Sundays we might study and discuss some pressing topic recently in the news, both locally and from the world at large. Again the emphasis is on the Christian message and how we should respond to these newsworthy events.

We welcome any and all to join us on Sunday morning. Come and see what we are all about. I would hope you will like what we are doing in this class. We are always open to new attendees who will bring us new insights into our lives. The class will meet during the summer months, so there is no break in the class schedule.

STORIES & MORE

Since September we have had 5 six week sessions to teach kindergarten preparation to 4, 5, and 6 year olds We met on Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM..

We conclude our first year and our 5th six week session on May 11th 2010. It has been a great first year and our numbers have grown to 13 registered preschoolers. We look forward to bigger numbers next year.

Some of the stories we read this month are

- Jody's Beans, by Malachy Doyle
- I Love It when You smile by Sam Bratney
- The Tallest of Smalls by Max Lucado

Topics we covered over this first year were:

Alphabet (recognizing Upper and Lower case letters),

Numbers (counting and recognizing the spelling of numbers),

Colors (colors and recognizing the spelling of colors) and

Shapes (looking at shapes, learning their names and recognizing shapes within pictures of things).

We have music and dancing every session. Some of our songs are learning songs and some are just for fun. At each lesson we have a story and a learning project to reinforce the story read or the topic of the day. We have baked and/or decorated cookies), colored Easter eggs, colored, practiced writing letters, planted seeds and played matching games. It has been a great time for all.

We will begin again in September, 2010. We welcome all age 4, 5, and 6 year old children to **STORIES AND MORE**.

Patt Pilgrim, Dianne Flynn, Linda Lavaretto, Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We welcome all junior highs and their friends to join us at the church on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. We have Christian learning, games and snacks. Please come join us.

Our May calendar is as follows:

May 1, 2010 mission project

One day work day at Jones Center

May 7 & 8, 2010 A Work of Love (A.W.O.L.) mission project

Forms given to Junior highs at youth group Thursday night meetings. Registration is $25.00. Scholarships are available. All junior highs must have a signed registration form. Call if you did not get a registration form.

- Friday leave HHPC and drive to Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago. We will meet other junior highs have a program learning more about poverty and what we can do and spend the night in the church.
- Saturday after breakfast and devotions we will ride the EL train together to the North side Half the group working with "Good News Partners" helping homeless families and half the group doing minor repairs at Rogers Park Presbyterian church.
- We will have lunch finish working by 5:00PM on Saturday evening and come back to HHPC.

May 9, 2010 fundraiser

- Mother's Day cookie sale at HHPC to raise money for Camp at Saugatuck, Michigan this summer.

May 20, 2010 party

- End of the Year Pot Luck dinner for junior highs and their parents at the church. Junior high leaders provide hamburgers and hot dogs and each family brings a dish or dessert to share.

- See or call Patt Pilgrim (815-370-0687), Katie Treccani (708-650-6618), or Bryan Ambrosat for more information on any of the above programs.

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SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Senior High Youth Group was busy during the last weeks of Lent. On Saturday, March 27, some of us visited Moraine Valley Church to see **The Borrowed Tomb**. Members of their congregation, and some outside volunteers, performed this musical presentation of the Passion story. A large choir, soloists, actors, and an orchestra came together to present this moving production. Put on by Moraine Valley Church. *One man gave his tomb.... The other man gave his life.... The result can change you.*

On Palm Sunday, the Youth Group celebrated a Seder meal. A Seder is the Passover meal. This ceremonial meal has been celebrated by Jews since before the time of Christ. It is at this Passover Meal that Jesus and His Disciples met in the upper-room, the day we now call Maundy Thursday. As Christians, it is our belief that this is the meal where Christ introduced the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. Although we didn't have a full meal, there was much meaning and symbolism. No one really liked the bitter herbs. My guess is that the Israelites didn't like the bitterness of their captivity and slavery either. This could also symbolize the bitterness of our slavery to sin, as well.

On April 11, the Youth Group led the REV worship service. They performed a skit to the song **Everything** by LifeHouse. Their presentation moved a few of us in the congregation to tears. The story is simple but is too often true in our lives. A young woman is shown the beauty of the world while she dances with the Lord. Soon the distractions and evils of the world get between her and God. You can see the pain she is in because of her separation. It is Jesus that pulls her back to Himself. It is Jesus, whose death on the cross, gets between these evils and true happiness. We are blessed to worship a risen and forgiving Lord that cares so much about us.

Although, this year is drawing to a close, there is still time to join us. We are looking at some recreational bike rides, and more of those boring discussions. If you are in high school and wish to join us, we meet on Sunday evening, at 6:30 pm, following the REV Praise Worship service. If you know of some one outside of our HHPC church community that would like to join us, please let us know.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen,
Mitch Huenecke

PERENNIAL SALE

Second Annual Perennial Sale
Memorial Day Weekend
May 28 & 29
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
In the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church parking lot
All plants $5.00-$10.00

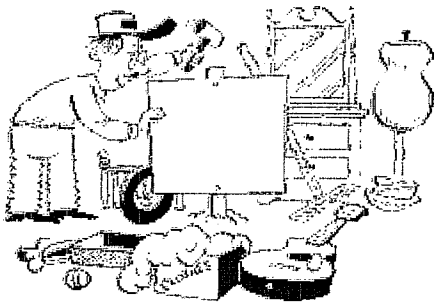
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



Please Remember:

Sunday, May 2 is the **Flower Sale Pick Up**
9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

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Spring-cleaning time is just around the corner. We have a **NEW DATE** this year for the **annual yard sale.** It will be held on **MEMORIAL WEEKEND**. The dates are **Friday, May 28th and Saturday, May 29th**. Proceeds will benefit the Kentucky Mission Trip.

Again, we thank everyone who has helped us make these successful events in the past and hope for another successful year in our fundraising efforts.

COOKIE MONSTER

BAKE SALE

May 9

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**

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

For the Bible's idea of religion - read James 1:19-27

If faith needs stirring - read Hebrews 11

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 John Kemp
8 Noah Krueger
9 Adam Fox
17 Tom Krumpolc
20 GiGi Gianana

****

MARCH PERFECT ATTENDANCE

3rd and 4th Grades
Danny Orsic
Shaylin Rys

5th Grade
Frank Rodriguez
Veronica Swindle

Junior High
Leslie Ambrosat
Tristan Grisko
Alyssia Kommenich
Tom Krumpolc
Becky Kusina
Ashley Maranto
Natalie Orsic
Mandy Rodriguez
Kaylee Rys
Natasha Swindle
Katelin Wheeler
Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Brittany Maranto
Danny Rodriguez
Amanda Swindle
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek



Beware of Terrorist Groups In the Church

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complcinin, and Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the Name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!

(However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.)



YOUTH CHOIR NEWS

This month for our Youth Choir Anthem took on a bit of a change in style. We came up with a mix of 2 songs that combine a traditional yet spiritual feel to reinforce a message we are familiar with but often seem to forget.

We are not alone! In our times of trouble, when we hurt and struggle, and even when we are excited and filled with Joy He is there right along side of us.

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 2nd Stanza by Erin Moorman/Soon and Very Soon by Andrae' Crouch

As we walk our lonesome valley, we do not walk it by ourselves

For God sent His Son to walk it with us

We do not walk it by our-selves

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King

Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we're goin' to see the King

No more cryin there, we are goin' to see the King

No more cryin there, we are goin' to see the King

No more cryin there, we are goin' to see the King

Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we're goin' to see the King

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King

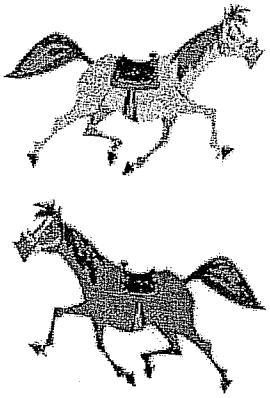
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King

Hal - le-lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah, Hal - le-lu.... jah

Need Answers?

Ask God!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday through Friday
June 14 - 18
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 "Saddle Ridge Ranch - Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers".

God has a way of herding us in the right direction when we pray for his guidance. At VBS Saddle Ridge Ranch kids can ask questions and discover the answers found in God's Word. Each evening the kids will visit Worship Rally Valley and Bible Study Bunk House. They will also enjoy crafts at Blazing Star Stables, music at Campfire Creek, recreation at Mustang Mountain, and snacks at Big Sky Grill.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, with special guests Tricia and Company. It will be an outstanding week. *This program is open to kids age 3 through grade 6.* Tell others about this week.

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.

SADDLE RIDGE RANCH

MAY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 8am-1pm Jones Center Work Day
2 9 am- 1 pm- Flower Sale Pick Up 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	3 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	4 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E.	5 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	6 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	7 6:30 p.m. Spring Family Night Jr. High/Sr. High AWOL (May 7-8)	8 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
9 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 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group June Newsletter Deadline	10 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	11 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	12 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	13 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	14 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	15
16 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	17 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	18 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	19 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	20 12:00 p.m. Meal & A Movie 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	21 Yard Sale Drop Off 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	22 Yard Sale Drop Off
23 Yard Sale Drop Off 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Recognition Sunday 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Concert/ Picnic 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	24 Yard Sale Drop Off 9am-7pm 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Luncheon 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Deacons	25 Yard Sale Drop Off 9am-7pm 12:00 p.m. Friendship Group 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	26 Yard Sale Drop Off 9am-7pm 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	27 Yard Sale Drop Off 9am-5pm 5:00 p.m. TOPS 8:00 p.m. Handbells	28 9am- 3pm Indoor Yard Sale 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	29 9am- 1pm Indoor Yard Sale
30 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	31 Memorial Day					

May Birthdays

May
2 – David Hall
3 – Courtney Freiberg
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
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. Thank you.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

JUNE 2010

PRAYER & CARE

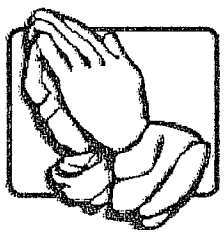
"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
2 Chronicles 7:14 (RSV)

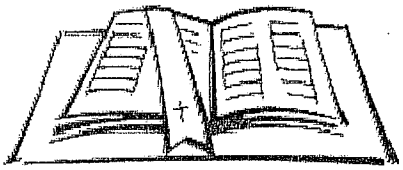
Just as HHPC has experienced healing in the past, I believe our country needs healing. Since May 6, 2010 was proclaimed a "National Day of Prayer," I'm sure most of us praised our Lord God for the numerous blessings He showers upon us. If you were unaware of the date's significance, my sincere apology for not mentioning it in the May issue.

Our Heavenly Father is not held to time nor space. We are. It's not too late to lay our souls bare, confess our sins and look to Him for mercy. Join us.
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.
HHPC Library

P.S.
On May 3, 2010, our Women's Bible Study class just happened (nothing just happens) to begin with Psalm 60, which describes a prayer for national deliverance. Verses 1-3 truly spoke to us…

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar





TWILIGHT PRAYER

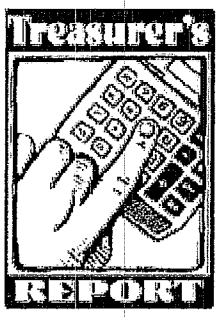
Open your heart before you open your mouth and you shall speak more **H**onestly. Open your mind before you speak and you will be better **U**nderstood. Close your eyes before you pray and you will find **S**olitude. Open your **H**and to receive His and you shall have strength. Hush, Hush, listen! What do you hear? As he draws near, repress the noise, make yourself silent.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

-Nellie Prunty for healing (in Children's Memorial Hospital)
-The family of Art Davis on his passing
-Shirley Brunell and family on the passing of her sister, Audrey Russo
-Jude Borling for health concerns
-Harold McGowan for health concerns
-Marie Hoffman for health concerns and continued improvement
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps Boot Camp, for encouragement

-Lil Resner for recovery from a stroke, at home
-Maryann Fellers' son, Richard Jr., for recovery from surgery
-Marilyn Betterton for health concerns
-Kevin McGuire for healing and strength
-"Georgie- Porgie" Vinalek for health concerns
-Private concerns too severe to share
-Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
-Betty Kitching for healing
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-Our service men and women and their families
-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



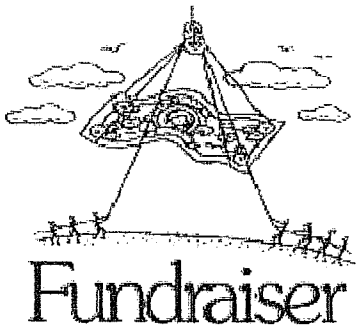
APRIL 2010 Treasurer's Report

General Fund

Receipts	$19,192.00
Disbursements	$14,150.00
One Great Hour of Sharing Receipts	$2,116.00

Do You Have A Pastor Visit Request or A Prayer Request??

It is important for anyone with any concern, prayer request or a need for pastoral visit, to contact the church office at 708-598-3100, their Deacon or any one of the Church Elders.



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Spring Flower Sale was quite successful again. With our sales and donations, we are able to donate **$1,335.30** to the camp scholarship fund.
Thank you to everyone!!

April 2010 Session Minutes

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, Hickory Hills, Illinois, held on April 12, 2010, at 7:30 pm with the following Elders present, forming a quorum: Terry Brock, Shirley Brunell, Susan Frangella, Gordon Home, Cheryl Huenecke, Sue Orsic, Tom Pearson, Cindy Treccani, Jeni Vogl, and Scott Zimmerman.
Excused: Karen Hoffman and Rick Raschke

The meeting was opened with prayer.
MINUTES: The minutes were received, corrected, and approved.
CLERK'S REPORT: March 25th – Maundy Thursday dinner and service.
Palm Sunday, March 28th, the following Confirmation Class became members: Leslie Ambrosat, Kathryn Crowley, Tristan Grisko, Brian Haack, Alyssia Kommenich, Thomas Krumpolc, Bekezela Kusina, Stephanie Lorenz, Ashley Maranto, Natalie Orsic, Halimah Prunty, Daniel Rodriguez, Mandy Rodriguez, Kaylee Rys, Natasha Swindle, Katelin Wheeler, and Kyle Zimmerman.
Alyssia Kommenich, daughter of Ray and Beth Kommenich was also baptized.
Good Friday worship at Savior Divine Lutheran Church, Palos Hills, 7:30 p.m.
Communion was served April 4th, Easter, at the 8:30 am, 10:30 am and 5 pm services.
There were several deaths: Harold Kahn, March 22nd; Mary Lewington, March 28th;
Joyce Waller, friend of our church, March 29th: and Lee Keene, April 5th.

Sr. High Youth Group

Faith Like Potatoes… Okay, I didn't get it either, at first. Many of the stories Jesus told us are about crops, farming, planting and harvesting. They were probably much more understood in the agrarian society of that time. Most of us at Hickory Hills are not farmers (although I understand several Facebook Farmville crops are doing well) so often we find we need some explanation to understand the stories.

The Senior High Youth Group recently watched the movie, **Faith Like Potatoes**. The movie is based on the inspiring true story of a farmer who found faith. The farmer, Angus Buchan, moves his family to South Africa and suffers a series of insurmountable losses. Through unlikely friendships and much needed divine intervention, he discovers his life's true purpose and it sustains his unwavering belief in the power of faith, unseen until the harvest.

Through the movie, we learned how strong a person's faith can be and needs to be. We learned; potatoes are an all or nothing kind of crop. You spend money for the seedlings and plant them. They grow under the ground. You can't see how they are doing until harvest time. The farmer relies on faith that the crop is growing and will be plentiful at harvest.

Potatoes serve as food for many people, throughout the world. Have you noticed the new YG T-shirts, lately? **"Hungry?"** Yes, Jesus is the bread of life. Those who believe in Him will never go hungry or thirsty. Much like the potatoes who's growth is unseen, the spiritual growth of our youth (adults as well) is not often seen on the surface. We tend the crops and pray that God will grant us a bountiful harvest.

Although, this year is drawing to a close, there is still time to join us. We are looking at some recreational bike rides, and more of those boring discussions. If you are in high school and wish to join us, we meet on Sunday evening, at 6:30 pm, following the REV Praise Worship service. If you know of some one outside of our HHPC church community that would like to join us, please let us know.

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen, Mitch Huenecke

Mark your calendar!
Ice Cream Social
Sunday, June 13, 2010
6:30 p.m. after REV



This year we're planning the program themed around "New York City". Selections from the choirs and soloists will include many pieces inspired by various locales in New York, both traditional and Broadway-style selections. Come and celebrate the end of the choir year with us in HHPC's version of the "Big Apple"!

2010 Confirmation Class
Statements of Faith



The following three pages are the remainder of the Faith Statements from the Confirmation Class, continued from the May Issue.

2010 Confirmation Class Statements of Faith

(Due to the large confirmation class, the Faith Statements will be split between 2 newsletters. They are all in the online edition.)

To me Jesus is the Savior of my sins. He takes away all the bad that I have done throughout my life. He does this because He knows I am a good person and he knows I will never do it again. If Jesus never forgave any of us for our sins, then everyone would be in sorrow and pain because no one had ever forgiven them for their wrongs. Also Jesus is someone who you can tell all your problems to no matter how embarrassing it is and Jesus won't judge you. When you are telling Jesus about your problems, he doesn't always answer you does not mean He is not listening, He is just thinking about everything you just told Him about.

To me a church is a place where you confess your sins. When you go to church you are there to worship God. When you worship God you should thank Him for everything He has ever done for you. When you are thanking Him you should also pray for your loved ones going through horrible things right now. They will be thankful that you are praying for them. When you confess your sins to Jesus in church you wanna tell Him everything that has been bugging you.

To me God is the creator of the world. God created you and me and everyone on this planet. If it wasn't for God we wouldn't be alive. The first two people that God created on this earth was Adam and Eve. You can also confess your sins to God if you want. God also helps you go through everything that you think is horrible and you can also tell God about all the good things in your life. God will always listen to your problems no matter what they are.

To me the Holy Spirit is the bond between Jesus dying and going back to His father God. Everyone has a Holy Spirit inside of them. What the Holy Spirit does is it either tells you to do good for others or do bad to others. When your Holy Spirit tells you to do good usually you will be rewarded for doing good for others. If your Holy Spirit tells you to do bad things to others you won't be rewarded you will be punished.

That's what I think Jesus, God, church, and the Holy Spirit are.

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This is my statement of faith. In it six questions will be answered. First is who is God? To me God is the Creator of the heavens and earth. God is also very loving and has lots of power. Next question is who is Jesus? To me Jesus is our Savior who takes our sins away. He is also a man of great miracles. This is Jesus to me.

Third question is who is the Holy Spirit? To me the Holy Spirit is full of knowledge. It is a messenger of God. The Holy Spirit is also powerful. This is the Holy Spirit to me.

Fourth question is what is the church? The church is a place you go to worship. Also you go there to help yourself solve problems and pray for others. The church is a worry free place to me.

Fifth is what is the church called to do? To me the church is called to help people worship. It also is called to help people get through hard times. This is my view on the church.

My last question is what am I called to do? I am called to worship almost every Sunday. I'm also called to learn about the Bible. This is what I'm called to do.

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God; my Savior, my Lord, and my Protector. Who sent us Jesus, His Son who sacrificed Himself to show us the ways of the Lord and grant us eternal life. Good things that happen to us come from the Holy Spirit, who is inside us all. The church helps me assemble with my fellow Christians to hear the word of the Lord. The church is called to show and guide us throughout our lives, and direct us in the way of the Lord. I am called upon by the church to follow His word and lead a good example in His name.

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I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He died for me on the cross to cleanse me of my sins. I wish to join this church to spread the Word of Jesus Christ and to help the church by offering my talents to benefit the church and its followers.

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I believe that God is everyone you know and don't know. He is amazing in a multitude of ways. He is in your soul, heart, and mind so He can always be with you whether we want Him/Her or not because He/She cares about every single one of us even if we aren't sure about Him/Her. This, I think, is absolutely wonderful.

I believe Jesus is our brother. I don't mean he is a blood brother but a spiritual brother. I believe that He is God dumbed down. Meaning that he is God in a "form" that we can understand and relate to. We can understand and relate to what He is going through or what they will or might go through.

To me the Holy Spirit is a baptizer. It is a guide for those who get lost and confused. It guides us back to a path when we stray from one. I believe the Holy Spirit has no specific being or form (body) it's just surrounding us. It is in our minds telling us right from wrong. I think that the Holy Spirit is our conscious. I think this because that is our mind saying, "Hey, dude this isn't right. You shouldn't be doing this." and similar stuff. I also believe that the Holy Spirit is power. It is the power that willed and guided God in creating this earth trillions upon trillions of years ago. I see the Holy Spirit as an eternal flame of all colors including the dark ones like black and grey. I imagine the spirit this way because all along as you keep "feeding the fire" it will keep burning and there will always be at least one person feeding the Holy Spirit's fire by believing.

A church is a place to worship though it isn't the only place to worship. Church is a place to come together with family and friends. Just because you are in a church doesn't mean you have to talk about God. It is kind of like a place where you can go vent. You can talk about your difficulties in life with God, Jesus, or anyone who'll listen. A church is a place to talk to God about anything. Church is usually the most comfortable place to talk to God besides your house because there are familiar faces around you so you do not feel awkward and out of place or unsure if you should be there.

It is my belief that the church is called to try and provide answers for questions about faith, God, and other stuff like that. The church is called to provide a place for those who are unsure about what is going on with their faith, beliefs and judgment.

I believe that I am called to give those people in Kentucky my kindness, share my faith in Jesus and much more. I believe that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are calling me to do more than just be a plain, ordinary person. I believe that they are trying to tell me that I need to stand out and be different. I believe that they want me to take my art skills and make something beautiful with them. I believe that I am called to believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God.

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God is the Savior of the world, the Father of Jesus, and us. Jesus is the Son of God, the One who tells us right from wrong. The Holy Spirit is all that is in you; love, hate, strength, and weakness. Church is where I go to talk to our Father God and hope He relieves me of my sins. I am called to church to be a better person. The church is called to be a place of love, hope, and praise; God's home.

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God is my Savior and my helper, who guides me in need, Jesus Is made of three parts: The son, the father and the holy spirit, he is a person who came down to us in a Human form sent from God. Church is Where we all come to worship our lord and help us see through someone else besides ourselves, and believe there is a God. Today, I am called here to be confirmed as a member of this church and to do my part in serving Jesus Christ.

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God is my Savior and I worship Him. Jesus is Lord, he came down to earth to save us from our sins. The Holy Spirit is the One who gives us power and love. The church is where I go to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The church is called to help people get to know God and come closer to Him. I'm called to help people and help them come closer to God. This is my faith statement.

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Faith Statement

God created everything on this amazing planet, including people. He is the One we look up to, he is our wonderful Father. God inspired his followers and disciples to record history and his deeds, which is now known as the Bible. The Bible is the perfect instruction for life which tells us to how to live and what direction to follow. God is Jesus in human version. He was crucified on the cross to provide forgiveness for our sins. He is there through life when we get trapped in situations or when we just need someone to talk to. The church is a nice place for people to worship the Lord. The church brings people together from all around, to worship the Lord all in one place together. I am called to serve the Lord to appreciate all the wonderful things he had created and gave me.

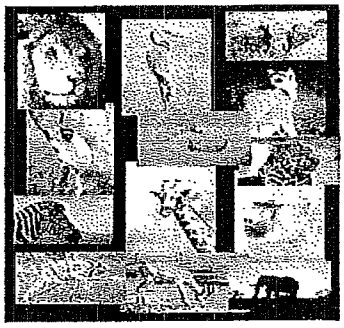
Wonderful things God has given me!!!!!!



Mountains and the Valleys



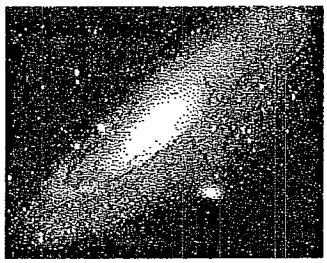
The Sunset



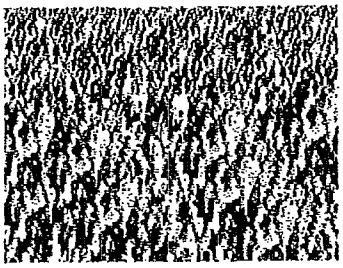
Animals



People Worshiping God



The Universe



People

AND SO MUCH MORE!!!!!!

God is the Father of Jesus. He gave us His only son.

Jesus was born to be the Savior of all mankind. He died on the cross and suffered so that we could have eternal life after our death.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in God. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts and helps us believe the truth about Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit within us.

The church is the people. It is where we gather to hear the Word of God, where we learn to be good Christian people.

The church is called to preach the Word of God, to share in Holy Communion and fellowship. To open the doors to help people in need.

I am called to follow and learn about God, and try to be a good Christian, to help others when they need me. Right now, I don't know what my calling is. I hope when I get older I will understand more.

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Who is God? God is my creator. He is the reason I am living. He is my protector. He is amazing. He is the highest above all names. God is always with me. I am never alone.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is my savior. He died for me.

Who is The Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the spirit inside of me that helps me live a Christian life. It is a part of Jesus that I cannot see, but I can feel it.

What is the church? The church is a place that teaches and preaches about God. It helps people understand that God is our creator, and that His love is never-ending.

What is the church called to do? The church is called to make people feel like they can come and be themselves and worship God together. And pray and feel like they can come and confess their sins and refresh themselves and be children of God.

What am I called to do? I am called to be a friendly and loving Christian.



Outdoor BBQ Fun!

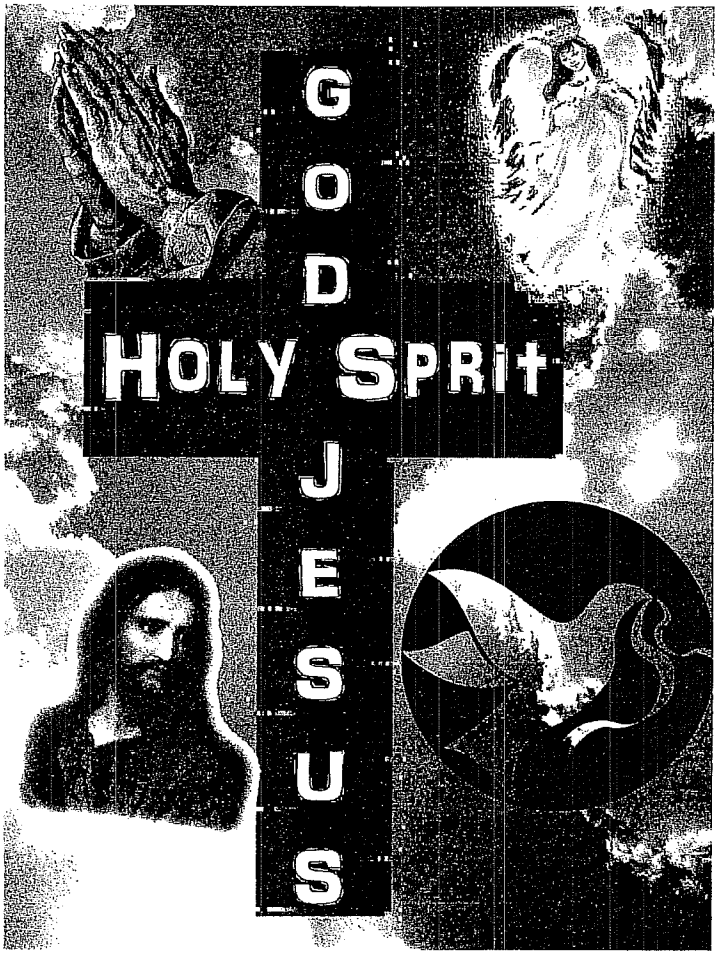
Come join us for a special afternoon of fellowship after church on **Sunday, May 23** (Recognition Sunday).
We will be enjoying music from the REV praise band along with food and drinks provided by the Christian Ed. and Outreach Committees.
Stay for REV at 5pm also!!

Mark your calendar!

Ice Cream Social
Sunday, June 13, 2010
6:30 p.m. after REV

This year we're planning the program themed around "New York City".
Selections from the choirs and soloists will include many pieces inspired by various locales in New York, both traditional and Broadway-style selections. Come and celebrate the end of the choir year with us in HHPC's version of the "Big Apple"!

God is our savior, creator, and protector. He doesn't judge us for our looks because we are all his children and he knows what we are really like on the inside. In God's eyes we are all just as beautiful as the next person. God knows what is truly right and wrong and, as long as we ask for forgiveness, he will forgive our sins. God sent is only son, Jesus, to us. He sent him to be out teacher and to rid us of our sins. God sacrificed his only son to save people from they're sins. Then when Jesus was resurrected he sent the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is our bridge to god. With the Holy Spirit living within us we can feel a closer attachment to God. The church is a place of Godly worship. When we go to church every Sunday we learn of the ways of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As part of the church, it is my job to learn from what the church teaches and never give up on religion. We should always have God in our hearts no matter what life throws our way because God will never give up on us and he will always be there to listen our prayers.



I believe that our God is our father and creator. He created us in the image of himself. I also believe that God loves us like his sons and daughters and will help us when we make mistakes.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is anything and everything. It is something that fills you up and calms your troubled soul. It can work through any being to help a certain person.

I believe that Jesus is my lord and savior. He is God's son and loves us all like our aunt or uncle would.

I think this church was created for people in need of help or worship. We are called as a church to spread Christ's love through the world and do good deeds in his name.

I am called to help the church complete these things. I am also called to preserve the earth that God, our father, created for us to have a life in.

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God
Powerful, Creator
Creating, loving, watching
Heaven, Heart, Earth, Soul
Sacrificing, working, loving
Savior, Son of God
Jesus

The Holy Spirit is the air that I breathe, the ground I walk on, and even my friends and family. Many people imagine that the Holy Spirit looks like a ghost, but I see it as anything and everything.

I believe that church is a place to learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and about the bible. I also believe that I am called to spread the Word of the Lord with others. And that church is called to shelter ones who are on the path to find or learn about God.

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Who is God to me? God is the creator of heaven and earth. He is the maker of all people. God is the one that calls us to follow his word. To me I see him as a Father and a Leader.

Who is Jesus to me? Jesus is my Savior. Jesus is the one who died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus is the one who rose from the dead to prove he is God's Son. Jesus is a Friend, Helper and Healer.

What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that fills us up with Gods presence. The Holy Spirit makes us feel good and happy.

What is a church? A church is a place we worship God and Jesus. A church is a place people go to seek help and comfort. A church is a place you will always be welcomed in. A church follows in God word.

What is a church called to do? A church is called to worship God and follow in His word. A church is called to do missions and help people in need. Lastly a church is called to make people feel safe and help people's relationship grow stronger with God.

Lastly what am I called to do? I am called to worship God. I am called to follow God's word and to help all those in need of help.

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God is not a man or a woman. He sent His only Son down for us so that we may have eternal life. He has the most power in the world.
Jesus died for our sins. He was God's Son. God sent Him down because Jesus was human.
The church is a small community of faith. They help each other. We share our faith.
The church is called to gather with their church community to express one's faith.
I am called to help someone who needs help.
The Holy Spirit helps us make miracles.

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God. God is the almighty being that was here before anything or anybody. He made the universe out of nothing. He was the creator of all life.
Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. He has done many miracles in His life to spread the Word of God to the people. He was the spreader of the name of Jesus and He even sacrificed Himself to wash our sins away.
The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God which dwells on earth. It surrounds all of us and helps cleanse us of sin. It cannot be seen, however.
The church is the place where people go to get enlightened by God, and to ask for His forgiveness. The people at the church are supposed to help spread the Word of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to those dwindling in faith.

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Hymning and Hawing

The Shape of the Notes We Sing

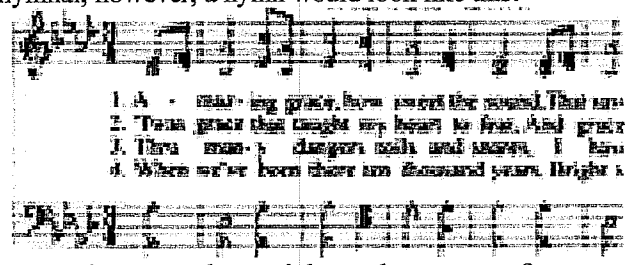
by G. R. Snow

When pioneers were establishing log cabins and sod houses in colonial America, one of the strong needs in the minds of many was to gather together, as many families as could reasonably come together, to worship God. This was a privilege for which some families would ride for hours, starting before sunrise and embarking upon a long and uncomfortable trip by covered wagon or horse-back—or walking. Before a church or schoolhouse had been built, they would often meet in each other's homes or in a cleared space outside. There was often no altar, no pulpit, no cross in the front; there weren't always enough chairs for those who gathered. And there wasn't always an organ or piano—some families had preserved a small suitcase-like reed organ called a melodeon, which had air pumped through the reeds by means of the player's feet depressing two pedals alternately. Even without this, however, and independently of any musical instruments, four-part harmony could be established by people who had learned, not necessarily to read music on the staff, but who had learned to discern degrees of the scale by means of the shaped-note innovation.

We're accustomed to music in our hymnals looking like this:



To those who had a carefully treasured shaped-note hymnal, however, a hymn would look like this:



Based on a late eighteenth-century four-note shaped-note system used as a teaching technique in the New England states by (among others) Andrew Law, who credited himself with inventing the system*, the seven-note shaped-note system utilizes the *"do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do"* system, known as solfege. The use of syllables to denote pitch dates back to about 1000 A.D. with the writing of Guido of Arezzo. (Other pioneers in this area include Jean-Jacques Rousseau and John Curwen.)

The four-note system had provided only for the syllables *fa-sol-la-meh.* The seven-note system was patented by Jesse B. Aiken, whose system proclaimed in his 1846 work *The Christian Minstrel* eventually became the standard. The notes thus established are:



Please note that these note shapes were not constant to any one pitch. The "so" shape above, for example, would be printed as G in the key of C, B in the key of E, C in the key of F. It simply denoted the fifth degree of the scale. In the "Amazing Grace" example (first column), the Eb note is "so", and will remain so, in any octave, for the duration of the piece.

If a hymn had a key change part-way through, however, the "so" syllable might be assigned to one note for the section in the first key and another for the next (in the hymn *"Christian, Dost Thou See Them"*, the "so" shape would be assigned to F for the first half and D for the second half. One can easily imagine the havoc wreaked among singers who did not read music on a staff, had no concept of the significance of key or time signatures, and were not accompanied by any instrument. The wonder in this situation is that shaped-note singers counted it such a privilege to sing God's praises, *in parts*, that they struggled through the hymn—if true to nineteenth-century practice, anywhere from five to nineteen verses of it. (By the end one might reasonably suppose they'd improved at singing the parts.)

Particularly in Southern states (Wikipedia cites Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee), the shaped-note tradition is alive and well. Community "singings" of seven-note shaped-note songs are still held as a means of keeping this historic practice alive. Even regular four-note shaped-note "sings" are still held, including one prominent annual event in Newbury, Vermont.

Still in use in Mennonite and Brethren churches in various parts of the country, and in Primitive Baptist, Independent Fundamental Baptist, and Churches of Christ in the south, the shaped-note tradition can even be found in sheet music of such contemporary gospel composers such as William J. Gaither. In this time of schools and civic organizations curtailing support for fine arts programs, it is worth noting that the singing of parts and the reading of musical notes was considered so important in colonial America that such ingenuity and inventiveness was applied to its success.

Other sources credit its invention to John Connelly of Philadelphia, who is alleged to have signed over his rights to the system in 1798 to Little & Smith, authors of* ***The Easy Instructor* *(1801).*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 2010

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Throughout our history, whether in times of great joy and thanksgiving, or in times of great challenge and uncertainty, Americans have turned to prayer. In prayer, we have expressed gratitude and humility, sought guidance and forgiveness, and received inspiration and assistance, both in good times and in bad.

On this day, let us give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon our Nation. Let us rejoice for the blessing of freedom both to believe and to live our beliefs, and for the many other freedoms and opportunities that bring us together as one Nation. Let us ask for wisdom, compassion, and discernment of justice as we address the great challenges of our time.

We are blessed to live in a Nation that counts freedom of conscience and free exercise of religion among its most fundamental principles, thereby ensuring that all people of goodwill may hold and practice their beliefs according to the dictates of their consciences. Prayer has been a sustaining way for many Americans of diverse faiths to express their most cherished beliefs, and thus we have long deemed it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the importance of prayer on this day across the Nation.

Let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those suffering from natural disasters in Haiti, Chile, and elsewhere, and the people from those countries and from around the world who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to render aid. Let us pray for the families of the West Virginia miners, and the people of Poland who so recently and unexpectedly lost many of their beloved leaders. Let us pray for the safety and success of those who have left home to serve in our Armed Forces, putting their lives at risk in order to make the world a safer place. As we remember them, let us not forget their families and the substantial sacrifices that they make every day. Let us remember the unsung heroes who struggle to build their communities, raise their families, and help their neighbors, for they are the wellspring of our greatness. Finally, let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those people everywhere who join us in the aspiration for a world that is just, peaceful, free, and respectful of the dignity of every human being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2010, as a National Day of Prayer. I call upon the citizens of our Nation to pray, or otherwise give thanks, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, for our many freedoms and blessings, and I invite all people of faith to join me in asking for God's continued guidance, grace, and protection as we meet the challenges before us.

Today
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

# # #

Sponsor a Child for a weeklong camp experience at the Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, Michigan



Sponsorship Opportunities

- Only $170 to sponsor a child ages 8-11
- Only $286 to sponsor a youth ages 12-14
- Only $347 to sponsor a parent
- Also accepting donations of bath & beach towels, bathing suits, hygiene products, twin bed sheets and flip flops.

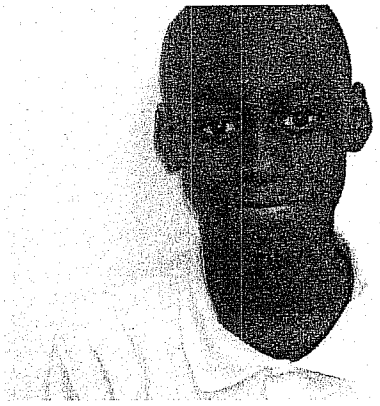


- 6 Night Cabin Experience
- 17 Meals
- Canoeing
- Archery
- Swimming
- Low Ropes & Climbing Wall
- Campfire
- Group games and activities

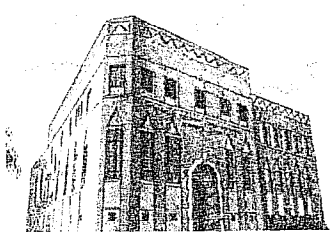
For more information on how you can help, please call or email Cheryl Roop at (708) 757-5395, Ext. 22 or croop@jonescenter.org



An experience they'll never forget.



Invaluable life lessons



Jones Memorial Community Center
220 E. 15th Street—Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Christian Education

Final details were made for the **Family Night** held on May 7th. Master Ron held the attention of the audience as he mesmirized everyone with his balloon constructions, stories, and magic. The food served was delicious. I doubt if there were leftovers. Thank you to everyone who set up and took down. This was a memorable night.

The **Cookie Monster Bake Sale** was held on Mother's Day, May 9th. There was such a variety of cookies that everyone had a difficult time choosing which kinds they were taking home. Thank you to the people who stood behind the tables to help choose the cookies. Thank you to the workers who were behind the scenes setting the platters with the cookies. A big thanks to the ladies who weighed and collected the money for the Camp Scholarship Fund- raiser. And last of all, thanks to everyone who took time to buy and bake for the sale. It means so much to the children who would not know how much fun camp is without your donations.

Recognition Sunday was held on May 23rd. It was a celebration of the hard work done for the children in 2009-2010. We celebrate the programs which were of the highest quality for our children, neighborhood children, family and friends. We celebrate the success of people who have graduated, had perfect attendance, or who have given their time and talents to singing with the youth choir. What a glorious celebration! Thank you to the Rev Band for the fellowship music. Thank you to the committee members who helped by donating their treats to the fellowship hour. Let's do this again next year!

Camp registration is underway. So far, there are 22 children interested in camp. See Sue Orsic or Dianne Flynn if you need more details on registering for camp. No bus will be provided for the children to go or return from camp. We will car pool this year.

Since the **Sunday Classes** will stop for the summer months, the committee has proposed activity pages be available to the children who could complete them during the worship service. Pages and crayons will be available in a basket near the sanctuary entry for any child who wants them. Ushers can be asked if your children cannot find them. The Nursery will be staffed with caring adults for anyone who would like to worship this summer without worrying about their infant/toddler. Our Nursery is filled with fun toys and the adults know unique ways to entertain your youngster while you are worshipping in the sanctuary. The Nursery is intended for children up to the age of 4 years old.

The **Junior High Youth Group** held its last meeting on May 20th. The parents were invited to join for a cook-out dinner. They recently travelled to AWOL to work in the neighborhood on repair projects. The group was joined by the Senior High Youth Group for the weekend.

The **Senior High Youth Group** had its last meeting on May 23rd. They enjoyed the hospitality of Rick and Jenni Vogel for the weekend. They camped out in the Vogel's backyard, and cooked outdoors. I doubt that many slept.

Stories and More ended their program on May 11th. 13 children were registered for this program. It was so rewarding that the staff has committed to bringing it back next year. Children aged 4 to 6 were treated to a special story, a review of the story, activity songs and fingerplays, a learning time, and even some time cooking. They especially enjoyed the

action song,"Going on a Bear Hunt," looking for treasures in the treasure chest, playing shape bingo, making rice krispie hearts, and hanging the alphabet letters on the clothesline.

The theme for **Vacation Bible School** is Saddle Ridge Ranch. You may have noticed the foyer and east room have been decorated to look like a ranch. The downstairs will also be decorated with that theme. We hope to have a filled sanctuary on June 14th, our first night. Festivities begin at 6:30 PM. Our music and worship leaders will be Tricia and Company. They are already planning their music and lessons for this week. Be sure to come join us as we search for answers together. It is a fun-filled week where children ages 4 to grade 6 are welcome to participate. Children older than grade 6 need to ask Dianne Flynn about what positions she has open for volunteers. Bring a bag of cookies to share for the snack time and register for $6.00. This is a great experience for young and old. If you would like to see what it is all about, come to the opening each day at 6:30 PM or come for the closing which is usually held in the sanctuary around 7:45PM. You will not want to miss a single day!

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** collected $165.93. This is an overwhelming amount considering the economic times. Thank you to everyone who helped make the collection such a symbol of Christian Caring.

A special thanks to everyone who helped with the fundraiser to send **Squares to Africa**. About $123 was collected. We have accumulated over 200 squares this year and will attempt to send them to Soweto by the end of this summer. If you are still making the 8X8 inch squares, please try to get them to the church 5th grade classroom before the end of June.

Warm Up America! Great news. The people who have been making 7X9 inch rectangles have collected enough to create 4 adult size blankets. The blankets are sewn together to form a blanket of 63 inches X 49 inches. They will be given to the local Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn.

A special thanks to everyone who took the time to create the squares and rectangles this year. Please know that you are instrumental in helping the needy through your compassion and talents. **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** has been busy this year creating lap blankets as well as shawls. We will stop meeting after worship this summer. Please continue to knit and crochet on your own. We will start meeting again for shared fellowship after Rally Day in the fall.

The **Stampers** will stop meeting for the summer months. They held their last meeting on May 19th. Thank you to Ruth for her encouragement and helping everyone expand their creativity. Thank you to Kim for showing the group new gadgets and techniques throughout this year, too. A special thanks to Dianne who gets all the boxes of supplies ready for the Stampers to use each meeting. It would be so much harder to get stamping if you weren't there with the supplies. Thank you to the ladies who bring their special stamps and favorites to the meeting to share with the group. The cards designed through the Stampers were donated to the Prayer and Care group.

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KIDS CLUB

Our last day of Kids Club was May 17. Of course, we celebrated our last day with a party. We have enjoyed many new activities this year and look forward to seeing everyone in September. So mark your calendars now. We will be back on Monday, September 13. Plan to join us and remember to invite a friend!

Youth Choir News

The youth choir has rounded out the year with a special song we have been practicing on and off for quite some time but has taken awhile for us to have the right timing to bring it into the Anthem spot for Spring.

It shares a beautiful message for all the mixed circumstances that spring brings upon us. We will finish out the year singing for recognition Sunday, and the Ice Cream social in June, then take a break for summer.

When we come back together and begin practice in the fall, it will be under a whole new program! We are working on the fine details with hope that our new schedule and structure will provide a better opportunity for participation in practice. We will meet on Sunday mornings rather than weekday afternoons when so many school activities pull members away from practice. Then sharing the monthly Anthem in worship will be done with confidence built from having been able to practice regularly as a group.

We welcome back all our Choir members and anyone new - we would love to put all our choir robes to use. Talk to Cheryl Huenecke or Dianne Flynn if you have further questions.

Again I share the words of our Sunday Anthem with you. Enjoy the blessings from God in His Gifts of Spring.

The Rainbow of Life

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.

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 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

Roses bloom, the bluebirds sing, celebrate the gifts of spring.

Praise God for the Rainbow of life. Praise God for the rainbow of life.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MAY 23, 2010

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN	*Debbie Zimmerman*
GRADES 1,2	*Cheryl Huenecke* *Katie Treccani*
GRADES 3,4	*Jeni Vogl* *Jeanette Grisko* *Sue Orsic*
GRADE 5	*Linda Lavaretto*
JUNIOR HIGH	*Patt Pilgrim* *Cindy Treccani*
SENIOR HIGH	*Gordon Home* *Lou Pearson* *Angie Ochoa*
ADULT CLASS	*Tom Lane, Dave Delaney*
MUSIC	*Cheryl Huenecke, Dianne Flynn*
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS	*Donna Bredlau*
SUPERINTENDENT	*Dianne Flynn*
*******	*******
JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	*Bryan Ambrosat, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim*
SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	*Jeni Vogl, Rick Vogl, Noelle Larson Hanna Huenecke, Josh Treccani,*
CONFIRMATION	*Melanie Swindle, Rick Vogl*
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	*Arlene Pearson*

KIDS CLUB STAFF

Shannon Bastien
Marilyn Betterton
Cheryl Huenecke
Linda Lavaretto
Grace Muszynski
Debbie Zimmerman
Student Assistants
Jarett Ambrosat
Ashley Maranto
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Megan Zimmerman
Director - Dianne Flynn

NURSERY STAFF

Lori Haack
Beth Kommenich
Carri McKinney
Linda Rys

YOUTH CHOIR STAFF

Diane Ciametti
Dianne Flynn
Cheryl Huenecke
Jean Swearingen

STORIES AND MORE

Shirley Brunell
Linda Lavaretto
Dianne Flynn
Susan Frangella
Director - Patt Pilgrim

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kim Ambrosat, Jarett Ambrosat, Shannon Bastien, Donna Bredlau, Jeanette Grisko, Cheryl Huenecke, Linda Lavaretto, Patt Pilgrim, Jean Swearingen, Sam Swearingen, Sarah Swearingen, Cindy Treccani, Debbie Zimmerman

Congratulations to Our Graduates

Ceslie Ambrosat	*Conrady Junior High*
Jordan Hepburn	*Oak Lawn Hometown Middle*
Alyssia Kommenich	*Simmons Middle*
Becky Kusina	*Conrady Junior High*
Stephanie Lorenz	*Conrady Junior High*
Erik Meyer	*Wilkins Junior High*
Celina Panko	*Conrady Junior High*
Natasha Swindle	*Memorial Junior High*
Katelin Wheeler	*Conrady Junior High*
Trevor Hepburn	*Oak Lawn High School*
Austin McKinney	*Stagg High School*
Amanda Swindle	*Thornton Fractional South*
Megan Zimmerman	*Argo Community High School*
T.K. Knox	*Stagg High School*
Ryan Brandt	*Monmouth College*

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2010 CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

<u>To 1st/2nd Grade</u>
Jessica Panko
Leo Wreza
Jayden Kenealy

<u>To 3rd/4th Grade</u>
Jacob Morrell
Eamon Prunty
Trinity White
Ariel McDaniel

<u>To 5th Grade</u>
Jenah Fox
Gigi Giancana
Shaylin Rys

<u>To Junior High</u>
Yasmine Fox
LeAnne Kommenich
Stacey Lorenz
Riley McKinney
Nellie Prunty
Veronica Swindle
Frank Rodriguez

<u>To Senior High</u>
Leslie Ambrosat
Jordan Hepburn
Alyssia Kommenich
Becky Kusina
Stephanie Lorenz
Erik Meyer
Celina Panko
Natasha Swindle
Katelin 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 parents display 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
2009 - 10 CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR

ANDREW WITEK - Senior High Class

ALMOST PERFECT ATTENDANCE
for the
2009 -2010 CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR

MATTHEW WITEK - Senior High Class

Word Find

Find these words from Psalm 122:1 in the puzzle. They are up, down, forward, backward, and horizontal.

"__ ____ _____ _____
_____ _____ ___ ___,
____ ___ ___ __
____ _____ ___
____ _____!"

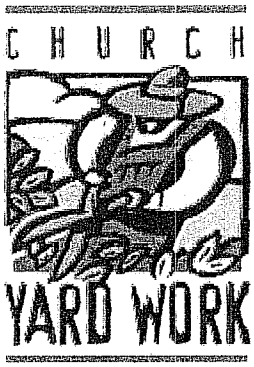
A	D	T	C	Q	B	E	U	C	F	R	V	D
G	M	E	W	S	E	H	X	T	F	I	O	G
H	J	U	H	V	I	K	I	Y	D	G	J	L
M	A	W	M	T	X	Z	L	Y	N	Z	A	K
B	O	T	B	N	O	E	C	O	C	D	P	O
Q	F	E	L	E	F	R	T	H	E	Y	S	G
H	T	P	I	O	J	U	C	Q	G	V	K	L
W	M	P	H	X	R	N	Y	F	O	Z	R	Q
I	R	A	S	V	B	D	A	L	G	T	C	U
W	H	E	N	K	J	W	T	K	S	E	G	X
F	Y	H	S	H	Z	G	D	A	C	A	H	E
F	I	T	E	L	J	E	W	L	K	U	I	L
M	G	M	N	I	A	S	O	J	H	P	K	D
I	Q	V	L	R	J	U	W	N	S	X	M	T
U	Y	N	K	V	F	O	L	W	B	U	O	X
M	T	O	Y	P	Z	H	O	Z	S	N	A	O
A	P	Q	R	T	B	S	R	P	C	Q	S	B

Sacrament of Holy Communion- June 6, 2010

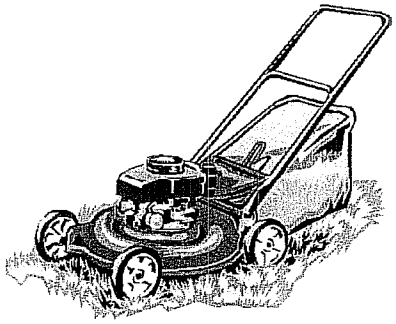
SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
June 6, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
June 13, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
June 20, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
June 27, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY
June 6, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams
June 13, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich
June 20, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich
June 27, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack

COMMUNION SERVERS- K. Ambrosat, C. Huenecke, P. Pilgrim, R. Raschke, C. Treccani, D. Zimmerman

Volunteers Needed This Summer



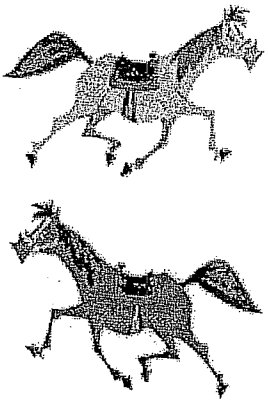
We need volunteers to mow the lawn at the Manse this Summer.
This expense had to be cut from our budget for 2010, so we are in need of someone to help out with this job.
If this is something you are interested in, please contact Charley Huenecke at 708-598-2342, Tom Pearson at 708-598-5198, or Scott Zimmerman at 708-458-1662, or leave a message at the church 708-598-3100.
Thank you!



Need Answers?

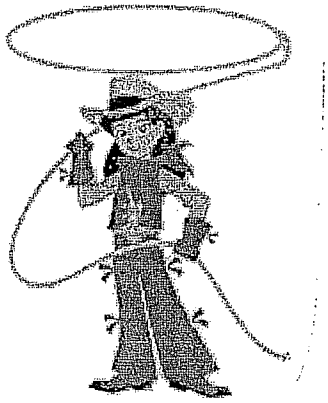
Ask God!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday through Friday
June 14 - 18
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 "Saddle Ridge Ranch - Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers".

God has a way of herding us in the right direction when we pray for his guidance. At VBS Saddle Ridge Ranch kids can ask questions and discover the answers found in God's Word. Each evening the kids will visit Worship Rally Valley and Bible Study Bunk House. They will also enjoy crafts at Blazing Star Stables, music at Campfire Creek, recreation at Mustang Mountain, and snacks at Big Sky Grill.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, with special guests Tricia and Company. It will be an outstanding week. *This program is open to kids age 3 through grade 6.* Tell others about this week.

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.

SADDLE RIDGE RANCH

JUNE 2010

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 7:30 p.m. Choir	3 5:00 p.m. TOPS 8:00 p.m. Handbells	4 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	5
6 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	7	8 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	10 5:00 p.m. TOPS 8:00 p.m. Handbells	11 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	12 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
13 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 <u>July Newsletter Deadline</u>	14 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS 7:30 p.m. Session	15 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	16 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS	17 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS	18 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS- Family Night 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	19
20 <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	21 7:30 p.m. Outreach	22 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	23 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	24 5:00 p.m. TOPS	25 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	28 7:30 p.m. Deacons	29 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	30 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care			

June Birthdays

June
2 – Ed Zabelka
3 – Ivy Taebel
3- Mark Gulotta
4 – Trevor Hepburn
6 – Driton Semani
8 – Barbara Monczynski
11 – Katelin Wheeler
12 – Amanda Swindle
14 – Cheryl Huenecke
14 – Alvin Swearingen
15 – Ryan Krueger
16 – Karen Hoffman
19 – Bob Nordstrom
20 – Leonard Van Vossen
23 – Mary Richer
23 – Megan Zimmerman
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.

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

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Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

JULY 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

Greetings! This is the first newsletter article I am writing as your new Designated Pastor. I am so excited to be with you and anxious to meet all of you, that I am writing my first article before I've even officially started! I'm doing this for a couple of reasons. First, as I said, I'm very excited about being the pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, and I wanted to take the opportunity to give a little introduction, so that you might have some idea of who would be stepping into the pulpit next month. But there is another reason. I want to invite you to come to worship services and to get involved with fellowship and ministry opportunities at Hickory Hills! Maybe you come every week already. Maybe you come to worship, but haven't been involved in the church's other activities. Maybe, for whatever reason, you felt you needed a break. Maybe you were waiting for a new pastor. No matter which category (or none of the above) you may belong to, I want to invite you to come and worship with us!

I was asked a very interesting question during my introduction to the congregation. The question was this: "What is on your heart?" It was a beautiful question, because it leaves room to answer in so many directions. And it is an important question, because the answer lets you know what is important to me, and gives you the opportunity to respond with what is important to you.

Let me tell you what is on my heart as I anticipate the beginning of my ministry at Hickory Hills. I have a heart to serve Jesus Christ, and to serve the children of God. This was my response to the original question, but it was not the most complete response. There is a lot on my heart as I look forward to being your pastor. I am filled with excitement. I have heard so much about the missions and ministries of this congregation, and I can't wait to see them up close and personal. It is so encouraging to see in the weekly bulletin that the ministers of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church are all of its members and friends. It is wonderful to know that the whole congregation is involved in the work of God's kingdom!

I am also filled with hope. Anticipation. Nervousness, too, if I'm completely honest. Joy. Most of all, however, I am filled with the desire to continue to do God's work, to worship and praise and give thanks to God, and to work with God's people to love others as God has loved us.

I am eager to meet you all, and to come alongside this group of God's children to serve God together. Peace be with you, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

In Joyful Anticipation,
Rev. Lara MacGregor

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL 60457 • 708/598-3100 • Fax 708/598-3108

May 20, 2010

Dear Members of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church,

It is with great pleasure that the Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee (DPNC) announces that a candidate to become our next pastor has been found, **Lara MacGregor**.

Lara MacGregor was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where her parents still live. After graduating from Austin College with a B.A. in philosophy, she entered Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE) in Richmond, Virginia, graduating in 2002 with a M.Div. degree. After graduating from seminary, Lara served churches in Virginia Beach, Cape Charles, and Radford, VA. She met her husband Kirk, in Radford, and they were married in October 2008. Kirk is a professor of religious studies and now fills a one-year appointment at Western Illinois University. They currently live in Macomb, IL as he finishes his one year engagement. Lara has family in Austin, TX, and in Northern Virginia, in addition to her parents in Houston and her new in-laws in Defiance, Ohio.

Lara considers her call to ministry to include her love of music, as well as preaching, study, and pastoral care. Her study emphases in the past year have included comparing different hymnals, exploring the history of liturgy and worship and examining the importance of food to the Christian life. She has also enjoyed leading devotional and worship services as a volunteer. Raised in a congregation of several thousand members, Lara has enjoyed working and ministering with congregations and groups of many different sizes. She has worked in various pulpit positions in congregations of six to over four hundred. Her experiences have also included urban, suburban, and rural areas. Outside of ministry, she enjoys walking, swimming, cross-stitch, reading, and beating (okay, challenging!) her husband in Scrabble.

The DPNC wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and patience as we searched for our candidate.

The Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee,

Scott Zimmerman Angela Ochoa Donna Bredlau Andrew Witek

Rick Raschke David Delaney Charley Huenecke Bryan Ambrosat Rick Vogl

PRAYER & CARE



"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body." Hebrews 13:1-3

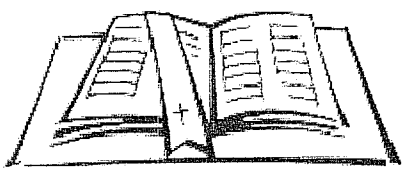
Does the prayer group have a mission? The above verses give some clues. For the record, strangers have come into the library to pray with us. We have contact with four women (including our own Jennifer DelPrete because Jenni asked us to pray for two of them). One of them asked us to pray for another.

One of our covenantal policies is, "What is said in here, stays in here." Some people want their privacy. Others are very open about their needs. We try to oblige. It's not as easy as you think.

For the past few years, my personal joy has been to hear more people 1) pray aloud, sharing their unique spirit; 2) openly share aloud their special need. That's what real family members do.

Please remember the prayer request cards are in the pews for use. Please remember we are NOT a committee. We're just prayer warriors open to prayer's power.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar



TWILIGHT PRAYER

Wake up! Do you miss the wonder and glory of the world around you? Are you aware of what is missing in your life? Do you close your eyes to God's blessings that surround your life? Embrace the goodness of your life and thank God daily for what He has given you so freely? Prayer brings you before Him in the wink of an eye. Come and join us as we together thank God for our many blessings and reach out to others in need through Him. Let us rejoice in who we are because of Him! We will be looking for you, don't disappoint Him!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

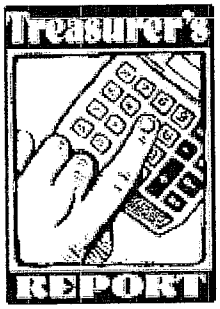
HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS



Wally Golema for recovery from severe stroke, in Christ Hospital
Gordon Home's friend for health concerns
Fran Nelson for successful surgery
Arkansas flood victims & families
Bangladesh flood victims & families
Solution to the oil spill
Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
Donna Bredlau for healing
Dennis Tarter for strength & direction
Lorraine Meade's sister-in-law, Ilomay, for strength
Jude Borling for health concerns
Harold McGowan for health concerns
Aliya wants prayers
Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Praise for "Georgie- Porgie" Vinalek returning home

Betty Kitching for healing & adjustment
Dorothy Allen for strength
Our service men and women and their families
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and
Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.
PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

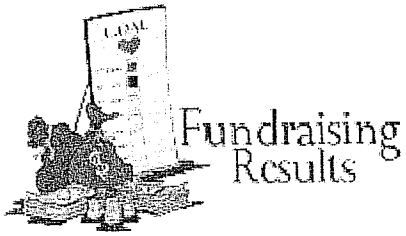


MAY 2010 Treasurer's Report

General Fund

Receipts	$16,501.00
Disbursements	$15,595.00

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 $3,700 with everyone's help!

The Spring Flower Sale was also a successful event for us. We were able to raise $1,335.00. This money will go to help with camp scholarships.

Senior High Youth Group

Sing unto the Lord a new song! Music is so much a part of our lives. Many of our youth especially like to keep music center stage. This year, each person presented a song. They shared with us why they picked that particular song, what it meant to them, and how it can impact their life, or the life of those around them. We heard some truly wonderful music. We heard thoughtful ideas and had interesting discussions.

Some of the choices were from contemporary Christian artists. Some songs had a little harder edge than others. Most were very positive and uplifting. All of them made us think. We shared a visual interpretation of **Everything**, by Lifehouse with the REV service.

Find Me Here
Speak To Me
I want to feel you
I need to hear you
You are the light
That's leading me
To the place where I find peace again.

You are the strength that keeps me walking.
You are the hope that keeps me trusting.
You are the light to my soul.
You are my purpose...you're everything.

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

You calm the storms, and you give me rest.
You hold me in your hands, you won't let me fall.
You steal my heart, and you take my breath away.
Would you take me in? Take me deeper now?

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?
And how can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?

Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

Cause you're all I want, you're all I need
You're everything, everything
You're all I want, you're all I need
You're everything, everything.
You're all I want, you're all I need.
You're everything, everything
You're all I want, you're all I need,
You're everything, everything.

And how can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?
How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

Mandy Swindle and Megan Zimmerman have graduated High School. Congratulations to them! All of us wish them great success as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

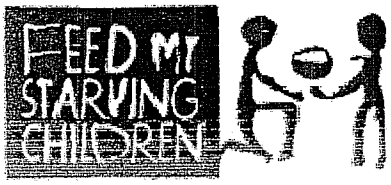
Another season of Senior High Youth Group has drawn to a close. We are hoping to gather for a few, informal, activities this summer. Perhaps a bike ride, or a musical event, is on the horizon.

We are already looking forward to starting back up in September. New faces will join us. Will one of the new faces be you? Will one of the new faces be some one you know of and refer to the group?

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen, Mitch Huenecke

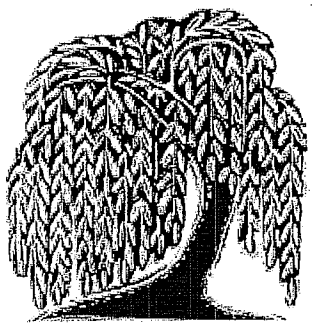


JR. HIGH/ SR. HIGH OUTING



There will be an outing to Feed My Starving Children on August 21st, 2:00-4:00 p.m. More details to come.

SAVE A TREE!



*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* by email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for a Celebration Fellowship **honoring Pastor Andrew & Pastor Emily Rosencrans.**

They have been our pulpit supply for many months, and we would like to thank them for their time with us.

Please join us **Sunday, July 18, 2010**, following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Hymning and Hawing: Women in Church Music

The Sybil of the Rhine

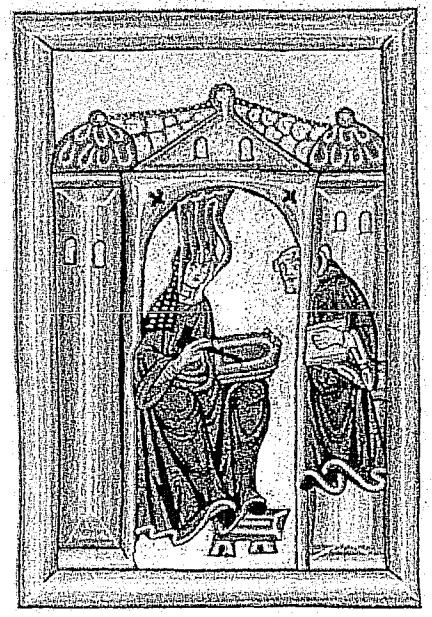
by G. R. Snow

In a time when average human life expectancy was less than fifty years, and women were considered hardly better than property, the long life, superior education and profound respect enjoyed by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was indeed noteworthy. She was a composer, poet, visionary and author of thirteen books ranging in subject from theology, cosmology (explaining her theories about the natural order of the universe), histories of the saints and even medieval medicinal herbs and their uses. She was also an abbess, founder of two monasteries, and an important political figure—an astonishing record for a woman of that era.

Her creative work most notably includes the earliest medieval music drama for which composer and lyricist are known. This work, entitled ***Ordo Virtutum*** (ca. 1151 A.D.), is the only medieval music drama known to be by a woman. She also recorded three volumes of her visions (Scivias), which she stated she had been specifically instructed in her visions to write down. In addition, during the period from 1151 to 1158 she composed the largest sacred chant repertoire attributable to any single composer of the Middle Ages, known by the title ***Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum.*** These chants were composed for the nuns of her convents to use in daily worship services, which continued throughout the course of each day starting with Lauds (5:00 a.m.) and continued through the evening service of Compline. These sets of services, called the Divine Office, were all parts of the daily worship of Benedictine nuns of that century and subsequent centuries. Though most chant of this period was written in formal Gregorian modes, Hildegard deviated from this practice by writing works specifically for the female voice range.

Hildegard was born in Bemersheim, near Alzey in Germany, to a couple of noble rank. She was their tenth child and very sickly, and the couple, Hildebert and Mechtulde, dedicated her to the Church as a tithe and entrusted her to the care of the similarly nobly-born (and possibly related) Jutta, daughter of Count Stephan II of Spanheim in the Benedictine monastery at Disibodenberg. Hildegard took holy vows at age 15; twenty-three years later she succeeded Jutta as Mother Superior. With 18 other nuns she founded a monastery near Bingen about 1150 A.D. Approximately sixteen years later she founded another monastery at Eibingen.

Known as the "Sibyl of the Rhine" because of her wise advice, she corresponded extensively with kings, emperors, archbishops and papal authorities at Rome. These included Henry II of England, Pope Eugenius III, Pope Anastasius IV, Archbishop Henry I of Mainz, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. In letters dating from 1163, Holy Roman Emperor and German King Frederick I Barbarossa specifically refers to her, and it is from his references that we know she had assumed the title of Abbess (implying that the convent she had founded, which would initially be considered a priory, had achieved the status of an abbey).

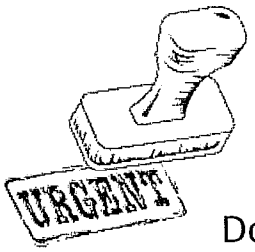


Hildegard received some censure due to her opposition to new sects forming in the wake of church reforms. Her music is unparalleled in any other music of that time, with extreme attention paid to the relationship between music and text. Her texts have the recurring theme of "greenness", believed to symbolizing the ever-renewing power of God in manifestation to the limitations of human eyes. There is also frequent reference to blood—the blood of Christ, blood of saints, blood of martyrs, blood of innocents. The time in which she lived was far more brutal than what we consider the norm in our society. She went on four different speaking tours in Germany and achieved a degree of public response quite unusual for a woman of that age.

Hildegard died on September 17, 1179 at the monastery near Bingen. Four separate attempts were made to secure her canonization as a saint, but this was never accomplished. She was, however, added to the Roman Catholic martyrology, and her life and works are celebrated on September 17. A 1997 biography hails her as the "prophet of the cosmic Christ". Her name was given to a holistic healing network which focuses on the belief that spirituality, the arts and healing are closely connected. Perhaps a more impactive tribute to this very early woman church music composer is the presence of a division of the prominent Theodore Presser music publishing company called the Hildegard Press, which publishes the music of women composers of varying centuries. Furthermore, in 1998 a recording of her sacred chants and hymns topped the classical music charts.

Write to Our Kids at Camp this Summer!

Presbyterian Camps
A Mission and Ministry
of the Presbytery of Chicago



This is the information needed to send mail to
our HHPC campers in Saugatuck.
Don't forget, camp mail is delayed, so please mail early!
(We recommend no later than July 19).

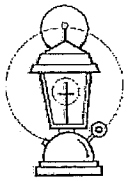
The format to use is:

Presbyterian Camps

Child's Name (Specify "MC8 Discovery" or "MC8 Adventure")

631 Perryman St.

Saugatuck, MI 49453

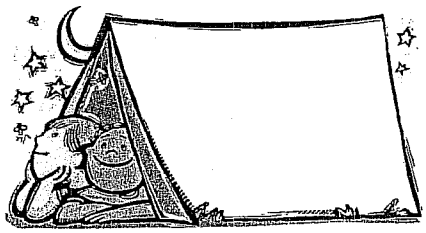


Every child appreciates mail while away from home.



Thank you for taking the time to let them know you care.

Please remember NO FOOD! is allowed. (It invites unwelcome critters).



Discovery Camp II
MC8
August 1- August 7

Jenah Fox
Yasmine Fox
G.G. Giancana
Petar Ilic
LeAnne Kommenich
Riley McKinney

Discovery Camp
(Cont'd)

Danny Orsic
Eamon Prunty
Nellie Prunty
Frank Rodriguez
Shaylin Rys
Veronica Swindle

Adventure Camp II
August 1- August 7

Leslie Ambrosat
Tristan Grisko
Alyssia Kommenich
Becky Kusina
Ashley Maranto
Natalie Orsic

Adventure Camp
(Cont'd)

Mallory Price
Halimah Prunty
Natasha Swindle
Kyle Zimmerman

Happy Memorial Day and summer holidays to you!! May 31, 2010

I hope that you are well and prospering. ...Wish we could get together more often! Please drop me a line when you have the time and bring me up to date on the latest with you and yours.

I have some additional news to share with you. As you know, Connie decided to take advantage of a career promotion opportunity and relocated to Atlanta. As written earlier, I've been staying with Rex in Santee, S.C. since December. I'm pleased to let you know that Connie and I have successfully completed "phase two" of our relocation to Atlanta. I am now residing in Atlanta, as well, and wish to send you my new contact information.

Because Connie works long hours and we know very few people in Atlanta, we decided that it will be best for me to move into an independent senior community located 15 minutes from Connie's apartment. This will enable me to meet seniors quickly and be able to participate in an assortment of activities offered by the community. The apartment building is located in the Buckhead area, where I am renting a one bedroom apartment on the second floor (one level up from the ground floor) that has a pleasant view of the residential neighborhood. It has a living/dining room, small kitchen, separate bedroom, bathroom and storage closets. I am first on the waiting list for a larger apartment, but this is what was currently available, so we snatched it. It has 2 large picture windows and lovely Eastern light. I moved into my new apartment over the weekend!

The apartment building is one of the *Presbyterian Homes of Georgia* senior independent living communities. Residents must be 62 years or older to reside here. Resident amenities include a dining room with chef. Within the building on the ground floor, there is a large living room with fire place, two bird sanctuaries and a fish aquarium. On the same floor, there is also a fairly large library with 4 computer stations for residents, a multi-purpose room with pool table and seating for church services and movies, a large dining room with big flat-screen TV, a hair salon (open 6 days per week), a small store that sells necessities (plus chocolate and ice cream!), the Presbyterian offices, public toilets and so on. The site slopes down the hill in the back and there is a fitness center with an on-site trainer on that level that has exercise equipment (treadmills, bicycles, weight-lifting, etc) plus a separate aerobics class room. It is an elevator building and on each resident floor there is a living room, laundry room and trash chute. Mainenance men and other staff are available to undertake odd jobs for us, as well. I have already met several of the ladies and gentlemen living on my floor and have visited some of their apartments. I plan to take advantage of the daily planned activities, games and bus trips offered and will also have a parking space for my own car. Connie and I are already planning weekend trips to nearby towns such as Savannah, Knoxville and lots of other places. Rex, Gina and Alyssa are doing fine and will all be spending the summer in Santee together, with the exception of Alyssa's trip to visit her sister in Texas for a month.

Connie loves her new job. She is responsible for 9 divisions in her department including facilities/plant operations, real estate services, planning/design/construction, clinical engineering (medical equipment), food services, environmental services, safety, security and parking/transportation for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Children's has 3 hospital campuses and several outpatient facilities in Georgia. As Connie's property is still on the market in Chicago, she continues to rent an apartment for herself here in Atlanta. With the economy as it is, it may take some time to sell the Chicago houses and be in a position to buy property in Atlanta afterwards. (I may have to have another knee replacement surgery. Will know in late June. Stay tuned...)

Here are our Atlanta addresses. **Please note that I have a new telephone number: (404) 317- 9085.**



Eva Jean Nestor
479 East Paces Ferry Road NE
Apartment # 204
Atlanta, GA 30305
Phone: (404) 317- 9085



Connie Nestor
1425 Rock Springs Circle
Apt #3-1408
Atlanta, GA 30306
Mobile Phone: (708) 404-4724

Connie and I wish you a wonderful summer! ...hope you will find the time to visit us once we're settled in "the old south"! WELCOME !!!

Love always,

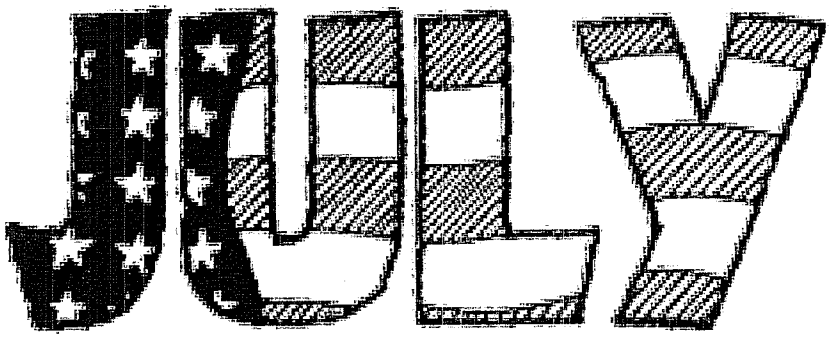
Eva

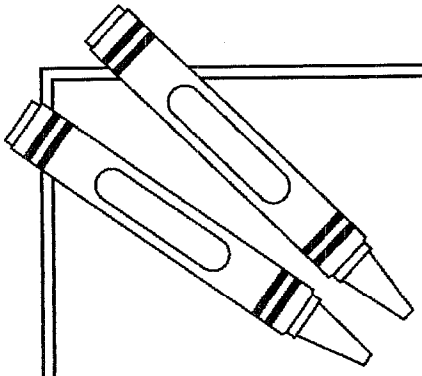
PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL DATE!
Sacrament of Holy Communion- *July 11, 2010*

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
July 4, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
July 11, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
July 18, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
July 25, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY
July 4, 2010	Susan Frangella	
July 11, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
July 18, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
July 25, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

COMMUNION SERVERS- K. Ambrosat, S. Brunell, G. Home, J. Vogl, R. Vogl, D. Zimmerman







Just for KIDS

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START ► (I) b a s m L t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r

a v f F l i s s e u h t c T n s a R r q b p e o h n t M e L

a w m x a y n Z r a e A m b a C i d n e s F i f n m m n e o

e c b a l L I r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i J l i d Q n p a

d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

"I _ _ _

JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 p.m. TOPS	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	5	6 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	7 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	8 6:00 p.m. TOPS	9	10 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
11 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV <u>Aug. Newsletter Deadline</u>	12 7:30 p.m. Session	13 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	14 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	15 6:00 p.m. TOPS	16	17 Kentucky Mission Departs
18 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	19 7:30 p.m. Outreach	20 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	21 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	22 6:00 p.m. TOPS	23	24 Kentucky Mission Returns
25 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	26 7:30 p.m. Deacons	27 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	28 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	29 6:00 p.m. TOPS	30	31

July Birthdays

July
1 – Kaylee Rys
4 – Robert Swindle
6 – Toni Kenealy
7 – Theodore Atiedu
7 – Gabriella Ciametti
8- Joann Jackson
8 – Elaine Molenaar
8 – Becky Kusina
11- Hannah Bianchi
13 – Gessica Grisko
15 – Nellie Prunty
19 – Andy Betterton
21- Kyle Ambrosat
21- Jarett Ambrosat
22 – Dianne Flynn
22 – Lucy Dumke
23 – Diane Ciametti
23- Brooke Bianchi
23 – Justin Rellinger
24 – Jack Costello
26- Michael Crowley
27 – Cindy Treccani
28 – Eleanor Watson
29 – Carri McKinney

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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

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 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

Have you ever noticed how we seem to always be looking for new beginnings? We celebrate January 1st as the beginning of a new year. We celebrate spring as the beginning of new life for the earth, as the snows of winter melt and give way to flowers, as trees begin to bud, and as planting season begins. We mark the end of summer as the beginning of a new school year, and the end of the school year as the beginning of a summer of freedom. The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of a new church year, and Christmas reminds us that we are given new hope with the birth of Jesus the Messiah.

There was a song that was very popular in the 1990s that spoke of the possibilities and excitement of new beginnings. The singer brings to mind the cycles that life often travels with the lyric, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." Perhaps that is why we so often look forward to new beginnings. Perhaps we are ready for some painful or difficult time in our life to end. Maybe we will miss an aspect of our life that is now over, and we plunge into new beginnings with all the energy we can muster, in order to lessen the pain of mourning and missing what is past. Or perhaps we have regrets about the past and look forward to a chance to "start over." Whatever the reason, we tend to relish new beginnings as exciting times of limitless possibility. Our imaginations can run wild as we make plans – and try to plan for the unexpected.

But new beginnings can bring fear and uncertainty as well as excitement. After all, there is that "unexpected" which we feel the need to try to plan for – although the more we try to foresee the unexpected, the more it seems to catch us by surprise. And what if we can't escape the pain of the past the way we had hoped? One difficulty is followed by another, the pain of missing certain places or people creeps up on us anyway, or we simply can't move on from painful memories, or forgive and forget as we long to do.

At Hickory Hills, we have embarked on a new beginning. And this new beginning affects us as individuals and as a whole congregation. There are endless possibilities ahead of us. There is uncertainty as well as the dreaded "unexpected." There is joy and excitement. A new road stretches out before us, a road which no doubt we will strain our eyes to see as far down as possible, willing our vision to go around turns and over mountains and hills. But although we don't know exactly what we will encounter on this road, we can begin the journey in joy and peace, with the assurance that Jesus walks with us. We can begin the journey in continued and renewed obedience to God's will and God's call on each of our lives. We can begin the journey joined together in song, remembering that old hymn that assures us, "I know nothing of tomorrow, except the love of God will rise before the sun." And we can smile, knowing in our hearts that God's love never really set in the first place.

In Joyful Anticipation,
Rev. Lara MacGregor

PRAYER & CARE

"...It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer...' " Matthew 21:13 (RSV)

I don't need to tell you how often HHPC prays THE LORD'S PRAYER. You know. It's so comforting to hold hands in a circle and be of one spirit. Praise God for this tradition!

To pray is the most commonly mentioned command in Scripture. We should be people who use prayer to its fullest capacity. Let me encourage you to make the decision to pray more by setting up specific plans to support that decision. You may even consider our 2 prayer meetings.
Love to have you join us.

A flurry of high-quality studies has confirmed the healing power of faith/ prayer. Scientists believe that heartfelt spiritual feelings actually stimulate a part of the brain's limbic system called the amygdale. This triggers a relaxation response in every part of our bodies- which promotes healing and well-being.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar

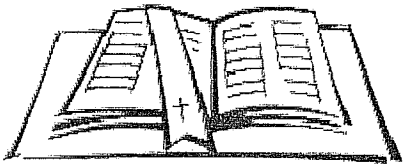


TWILIGHT PRAYER

Every way of a man is correct in his own eyes. What I see may not be in agreement with that statement. Do I see more clearly or do I seek what is beyond my vision? We never see ourselves as clearly as others see us. God sees us not as we appear to be, but as we really are. Man may not know your heart, but certainly "HE" does.

As we pray together, let your heart speak for itself. Let your heart open to the truth that we find in prayer; open your heart to Him!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

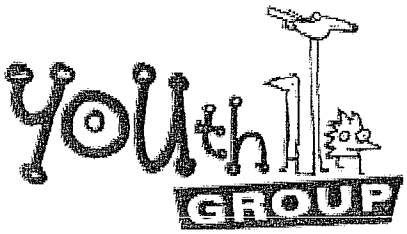


HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

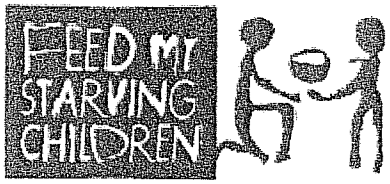


Shannon Bastien for health concerns
G.R. Snow's friend Jim for health concerns
Fabian & Eugene for strength
Praise for Rich & Bev Kahn's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Praise for Micki Kluska's gifts to us,
as she will be moving to Georgia
Gordon Home's friend, Betty, for health concerns
Fran Nelson for healing
Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
Dennis & Mary Tarter for strength & direction
Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Dorothy Allen for strength
Our service men and women and their families
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this Vital Ministry of our church. *PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH*



Just a reminder, on **Saturday, August 21, 2010 we will be going to "Feed My Starving Children" in Schaumburg, Illinois**. We prepare and pack food packets that are sent to missions in Haiti and other poor countries. The missions prepare and serve the food to feed starving children in the world.



We will leave the church at 12:30 to work from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We may stop for a snack afterwards. Plan to get back to the church before 6:00 pm.

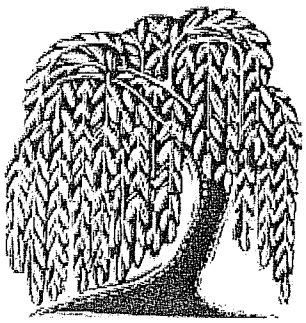
Junior highs, Senior highs and all adults and friends are welcome to go. We have a reservation for 20. Please let me know if you plan to go. Please call Patt at my home (630) 679-0963.

We need a written permission slip from your parent if you are not an adult.

Hope you are all having a safe and wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you all in August or in September when Junior High Youth Group starts meeting again.

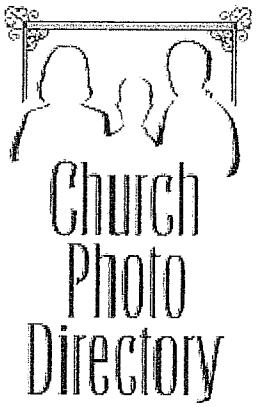
Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani, Brian Ambrosat

SAVE A TREE!





*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* by email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org.



Dear Friends,
We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The new, updated directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.
Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. For the next several weeks we will be making

appointments before and after services. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

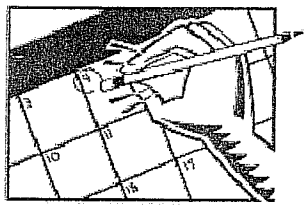
- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a *free directory* and a *complimentary 8X10 Custom Natural Portrait.*
- You will come to church only once for photography and portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled portrait time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% satisfaction guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress casually or formally, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled dates for Photography and Portrait viewing are:

August 23rd 2-9:20 P.M.
August 24th 2-9:20 P.M.
August 30th 2-9:20 P.M.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Ambrosat at 708-646-3149. We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be the same without you!





Please Note:

The **Deadline** for the **October Newsletter** will be **Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.**
(That is Labor Day Weekend)
This is **one week earlier** than the normal 2nd Sunday Deadline.
Articles for the Oct. Newsletter **cannot be accepted any later than Sunday, Sept. 5.**
Thank you for your cooperation!
(The Deadline for the Sept. Newsletter remains the same:
Second Sunday in August: Aug. 8.)



Darlene Kibort
Mike Murray
La Grange Estates
85 Hawthorne
Countryside, IL 60525

Michael & Tanya Pettis
6143 107th St.
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

Harry Hermansen
14155 W. Yosemite Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85375-5646

Sarah Wreza
8828 S. 51st Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Reflections on the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee has been disbanded. On June 6, 2010 the congregation voted to accept Lara MacGregor as our designated pastor. A designated pastor has the same duties as a regular pastor, except they have agreed to work for the congregation for a stated time period. At the end of that time there are four options open to both the congregation and the designated pastor: 1) the congregation may terminate the relationship, 2) the designated pastor may terminate the relationship, 3) the term of the designated pastor may be extended for another period of time or 4) the designated pastor may become the permanent pastor of the church.

The committee started work before Thanksgiving in 2009. The first order of business, aside from choosing a chairman, is to create a Church Information Form (CIF). This is an important document because it is meant to describe the congregation: who we are, where we want to go, and how we want to get there. It must accurately describe the church and indicate what type of pastor we are looking for in terms of experience and goals. After meeting several times in November and December, the committee completed this document before Christmas. It was submitted to the Chicago Presbytery for their approval. With a few minor changes it was accepted and entered into a national database. From this database anybody looking for a pastorate can access the Church Information Form.

Towards the end of January the committee received four Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). Because we were looking for a designated pastor, the Chicago Presbytery prescreened the PIFs before they were forwarded to the committee. After the committee had a chance to thoroughly review the four PIFs they met to discuss the candidates. A straw vote showed a strong preference for two of the candidates. The other two candidates were eliminated from further consideration. The first candidate was eliminated because he did not want to serve longer than the designated pastor term. The second candidate was eliminated because the committee felt he was not a good fit for our church. The committee arranged for a telephone interview with the two remaining candidates on two separate evenings. The committee had prepared a list of questions covering several topics. This list of questions was used for both candidates. The interview answers provided by the candidates proved interesting enough so that each candidate was asked to submit a video copy of a sermon that they had recently delivered. One candidate submitted a DVD of an entire church service. The other candidate submitted a sermon from the church website where the candidate was serving as pastor.

Lara MacGregor submitted the DVD of the entire service. The entire committee was very impressed with the delivery of her sermon. She gave the sermon while standing in front of the altar with no notes. It was a very moving sermon. The sermon presented by the other candidate seemed to lack a certain fire compared to Lara's sermon. After watching the two sermons the committee decided to further pursue Lara as the candidate of choice. Accordingly a face to face interview was arranged for May 1, 2010 in Hickory Hills. Representatives from the Presbytery were also on hand to interview Lara. The Presbytery arranged for Lara to preach at the Calvary Church in Park Forest on May 2. The entire committee listened to her preach on that date. At a committee meeting on May 3, the committee decided to offer the position to Lara, pending finalization of compensation terms. The decision to offer the position to Lara was unanimous. She accepted our call to be our designated pastor for a term of three years starting August 1, 2010 and agreed to our compensation terms. She and her husband plan to live in the church manse.

David Delaney

Hymning and Hawing

The Wind Bears Witness—Songs of Praise and Worship

by G. R. Snow

Sometimes in the composition of music to praise and worship God, the composer is alone with God, and only the Holy Spirit can truly bear witness to the unique process which yields music embraced by congregations across the world to praise and worship God. Yet if the wind were to bear witness to this process—particularly as regards some of the music in our light-blue supplement—it might sound something like this:

♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

The only light was that of flickering candles, and darkness surrounded the young couple as they wrote. They were no strangers to this process, something they had done many times before—but this was different. The Holy Spirit had inspired them both with a Scripture they had sought together, experienced together; now they pursued separate inspirations from this Scripture.

The scratching of pens was the only sound in the room, yet the Holy Spirit's leading was so intense it could almost be heard as well. Michael sounded out a theme on the piano—just a few notes at first, discarding one pattern for another, unsure at first of the chords, changing a chord here, deciding on another note here. He was crafting, and the art of crafting music is not without its false starts and crossings-out. At last he felt satisfaction, and turned to his wife. "Debbie? I have something to show you."

Debbie had heard the false starts, the tentative tries, the smoothing-out of the music. Her inspiration had led her to create words—a text she hoped would go along with the music Michael was crafting. She wrote a last word or two, then came over to the piano and listened as he played the "finished product"—still a little rough. Silently she handed him the paper she had written on.

His eyes opened wide as his mind started to fit the unfamiliar words together with the almost too-familiar melody. A syllable would have to be dropped here, and one added there. Yet he heard the song "come together" in his mind, and he knew Debbie was peering over his shoulder at the music, fitting them together in her mind as well. Slowly at first, then with growing confidence, the husband-and-wife creative team of Deborah D. and Michael W. Smith slowly "felt their way" along the notes and words of the new song of praise:

"Great is the Lord; He is holy and just,
By His power we trust in His love..."

♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

She was in tears, fumbling through her Bible, her soul stricken with her own human weakness. Her attendance at the Maranatha campus church had taught her new dimensions in her personal spiritual journey, and she was learning the spiritual value of fasting. Today had been a hard challenge, as she had resolved to fast this Wednesday—and then she was assigned to operate the deep-fryer at McDonald's, her "temporary" job until she could get something better. The French fries had been tempting her, tantalizing her with their scent, their plumpness, just with the thought of eating. She was still new to the spiritual growth gained through fasting, and the rejection of this temptation was not yet ingrained in her. And, at last, she had succumbed to the temptation—she had quickly, furtively, wolfed down just a few French fries, and then was horror-stricken by her own guilt. Not only had she broken her covenant with God to fast this day, she had done it with French fries for which she had not paid, which she had just taken—which, in actuality, she had just stolen. As soon as her shift was over, she retreated to be alone with God and pour out her guilt, her horror, her sorrow at her actions. She fumbled through her Bible, needing the solace of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit led her to Colossians 2:7 and Proverbs 8. As she knew the joy of forgiveness and reconciliation, a flood of inspiration swept into her heart, not gradually but all at once like a waterfall filling a jug, and she reached out for her guitar, eager to hear as well as imagine the worship-song she was experiencing so clearly in her mind. This was an irresistible sign of God's forgiveness—the gift of a new song. Guitar chords and Lynn DeShazo's voice blended, exploring the new creation of worship, her gift and balm from the Holy Spirit.

"Lord, you are more precious than silver..."

♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

"I'm not a composer," the woman pleaded nervously, "so could I ask you to turn your backs to me while I sing? Please?"

Geoff Bullock and Russell Frager agreed. The woman played and sang her new song, inspired by Psalm 96, as they stood there, backs to her. She had never imagined being a composer, didn't see herself as one now, but there was something about this song. It was good musically, even if she didn't think she was.

And when she was finished, they turned around and began to tell her how wonderful the song was, how they wanted to use it in an upcoming service, how glad they were that she had shared it with them. They were music ministers of Hillsong Church in Australia, and they recognized the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in this new song creation. They gave Darlene Zschech the honor as a composer that she was reluctant to give herself.

Congregations across the world are singing Darlene's song, and it still amazes her when she hears an enthusiastic congregation sing, almost shout, the words:

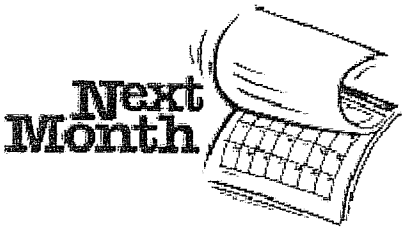
"Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King..."

♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫

The author wishes to acknowledge the research and writings of Dr. Lindsay Terry in his book ***Worship Songs and Stories****, on which this creative effort is based.*

Sacrament of Holy Communion- August 1, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Aug. 1, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Aug. 8, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
Aug. 15, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Aug. 22, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
Aug. 29, 2010	S. Zimmerman	Kim Ambrosat
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	
Aug. 1, 2010	Susan Frangella	
Aug. 8, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
Aug. 15, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
Aug. 22, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	
Aug. 29, 2010	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski	







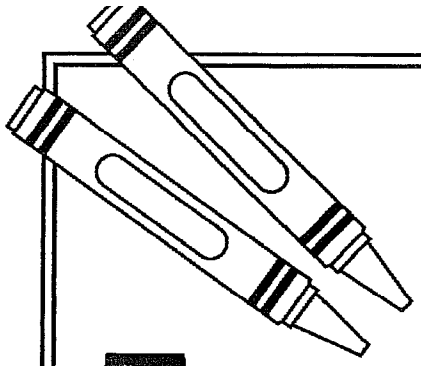
Mark Your Calendars!

Rally Day 2010
Sunday, Sept. 12- 10:30 a.m.
Beginning of our Church School Year

Kid's Club begins
Monday, Sept. 13- 3:30 p.m.
For kids age 5-Grade 6

Senior High Youth Group begins
Sunday, Sept. 12- 6:30 p.m.
For Youth Grades 9-12

Junior High Youth Group begins
Thursday, Sept. 16- 6:30 p.m.
For Youth Grades 6-8



Just for KIDS

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that people would starve without physical bread to eat and water to drink. But he also knew they would die spiritually if they weren't fed by him.

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV) and write the Bible verse on the dashes.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes
bread comes I in
he hungry go He
life me me never
to never the of will
who will thirsty who

t e l r s u v w a m x y z a b t h e i
j k l m b r e a d n p o f q r l i f e
d H e e f g h i w h o j k l m n p q r
b c d f c o m e s g h i j t o k l m e
n w i l l o p q r s t u n e v e r v w
z y z b c a g o b c d e f g h i j k l
m h u n g r y n a n d o p q r s t u v
w x y z a b c d e f g h i j h e k l m
w h o n o b e l i e v e s p q r s t u
v w x y z i n a b c d e f g h i j k l
m n o p q r s t m e u v w x y z a b c
d e f w i l l g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y n e v e r z a b c d b e
f g h i j k l m n o p q t h i r s t y

“ _ _ _

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor Lara MacGregor's 1st Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	2	3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	4 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	5 6:00 p.m. TOPS	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV Sept. Newsletter Deadline	9 7:30 p.m. Session	10 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting	11 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	12 6:00 p.m. TOPS	13	14 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
15 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	16 7:30 p.m. Outreach	17 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	18 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	19 6:00 p.m. TOPS	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	23 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date 7:30 p.m. Deacons	24 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	25 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	26 6:00 p.m. TOPS	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	30 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date	31 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care				

August Birthdays

August 1 – Anthony Lavaretto
1 – Patricia Pilgrim
2 – Susan Beal Frangella
2- Jeni Vogl
3- Shannon Bastien
5 – Carolyn Watson
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
21 – Angie Ochoa
22 – Christine Fox
23 – Abigail Rellinger
29 – Micki Kluska
30 – Marilyn Betterton

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



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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60455

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 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

Several years ago, a good friend of mine began sending out the most unusual Christmas cards. Instead of the typical "newsletter" catching friends and family up on events of the past year, my friend picked out songs that meant a lot to him over the previous year, burned them onto a CD, and sent that out as his "newsletter".

I enjoyed those CD's so much, and I still listen to them. The songs are good, there is a lot of variety, and they remind me of my friend. Since we know each other well, I can tell what my friend is feeling about what is going on in his life, just by listening to the songs he chose to put on the CD. Sometimes, even the order of the songs on the CD gives me a clue about how he is dealing with events in his life.

Music is like that. The music we enjoy listening to, or the music we enjoy making, can say a lot about who we are. And the reverse is true as well. Who we are, and what we are going through in our lives, can influence the music that is meaningful to us.

You may know by now that music is a very important part of my life, and it is an essential part of who I am as a minister. Over the years I have collected many hymnals, old and new, from different denominations, and even in different languages! I have also collected books on the history behind the writing of many popular hymns, as well as thoughts on the meaning and importance of church music through the centuries. Music is so much more than just worship music and hymn planning. I am fascinated by the arrangement and choice of hymns in various hymnals at various points in history, as well as by the name choice for various hymnals. I have found that both hymn choice and hymnal title can be a reflection of the time period in which the hymnal was compiled.

Music is also very important as an aspect of pastoral care. As a musician and a pastor, I seek to challenge people to enrich and expand their knowledge of hymns and church music, feeling certain that their appreciation and love of music will be enriched and expanded at the same time. I seek to educate people on the music and song found in scripture, not only in Psalms, but in other places as well that might be more unexpected. I also understand the importance of familiarity of music as an expression of the security and safety provided by the church and the worshipping community. I have witnessed the comfort that familiar words and tunes can bring in times of sorrow or uncertainty. I have witnessed the peace that music can bring to troubled hearts.

As I prepare and pray over the weekly worship at Hickory Hills, I want to make sure that I am listening to all voices – first and foremost the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but also the voices of those I have been sent to serve and to join in ministry and mission. What are your favorite hymns? Praise songs? Performers? Styles of music? How do you make a joyful noise before the Lord? Write it down. Stick it in my box, or in the offering plate on Sunday. And feel free to stop by the office some morning and take a look at a hymnal that you may have never seen before. Or tell me about a CD or a group I may have never heard before. My prayer is that we can learn from each other about the varied gifts we have been given to praise and worship God.

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS



Richard Larsen for strength
Lillian Johnson's family in Lillian's passing
Lucy Dumke's brother-in-law, Lambert, for health concerns
Gerald Waller for strength
Jim Guziak for recovery from pneumonia
Shannon Bastien for health concerns
Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
Dennis & Mary Tarter for strength & direction
Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Dorothy Allen for strength
Our service men and women and their families
DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and
Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.
PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

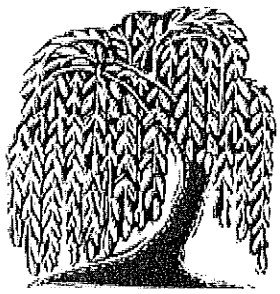
GoodSearch YOU SEARCH, WE GIVE

What if Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our mission? Well, now it can and it won't cost you a penny for your support! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine (leaving out the www and .com/net/org), get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up. As of this writing, for the month of August we're over 200 searches which translates to $2.00!

GoodShop

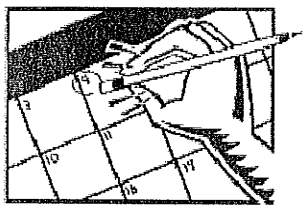
GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30% of each purchase to HHPC! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Staples, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting HHPC! If you download the GoodSearch toolbar, HHPC will earn money every time you shop and search online – even if you forget to go to GoodShop or Goodsearch first. Add the HHPC toolbar at http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/hickory-hills-presbyterian-church
Please tell 10 friends about the GoodSearch toolbar today. They've been featured in the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, Oprah Magazine, Good Morning America and more.

SAVE A TREE!





*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* by email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org.

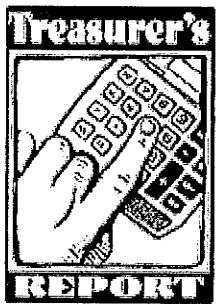


Change of Date

Please Note:

The **Deadline** for the
October Newsletter will be
Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.
(That is Labor Day Weekend)
This is **one week earlier** than the normal
2nd Sunday Deadline.

Articles for the Oct. Newsletter **cannot be accepted any later than Sunday, Sept. 5.**
Thank you for your cooperation!



JUNE 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND	
INCOME	$15,801
DISBURSEMENTS	$11,849

JULY 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND	
INCOME	$15,763
DISBURSEMENTS	$14,115



Pastor Lara & Kirk MacGregor
9001 S. 83rd Ave.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457
708-430-2218

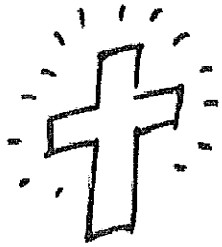
Micki Kluska
1365 Gatewood Dr. #220
Auburn, AL 36830
334-275-5413



Attn: All High School Students:

Just a reminder,
Sr. High Youth Group will be
starting **Sun. Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join us & bring a friend!!





We are looking for someone who would be interested in becoming our church's "Librarian".

CHURCH LIBRARY *News*

See Susan Frangella for details.
Thank you.
Susan Frangella- 708-349-6447



Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.



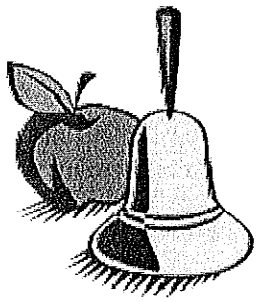
Join us for Rally Day Fellowship

Sunday Sept. 12, 2010

Following 10:30 a.m. Worship

Hot Dogs & Drinks are provided. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or salad to share.

Bless the students



Dear Lord Jesus, bless the children and youth of this nation, returning to their schools and colleges. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, purify their vision and strengthen their wills. Protect them as they learn in the classroom and participate in activities outside it. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Amen.

Hymning and Hawing: Women in Church Music II

Something Worth Singing, Something Worth Singing About

by G. R. Snow

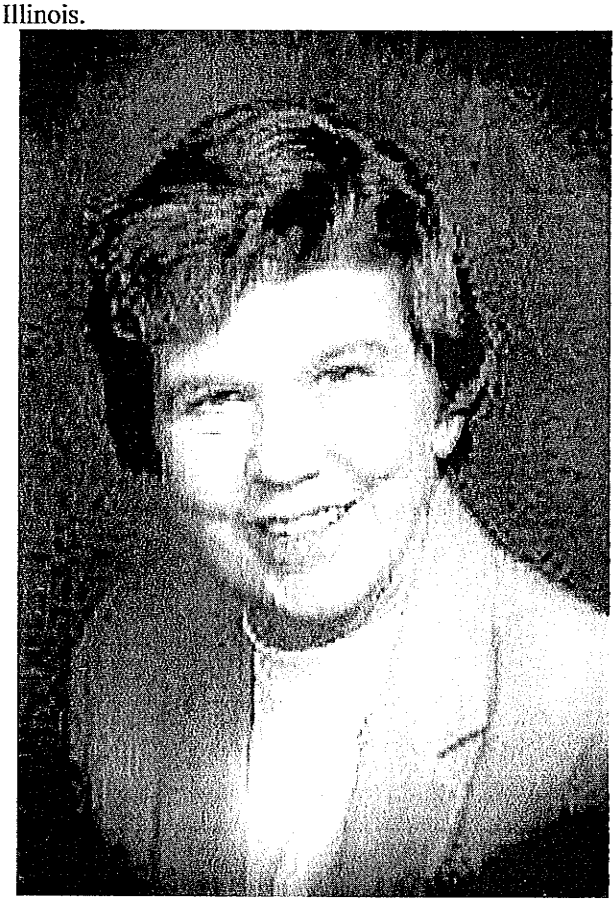
"Why are you in this class?"

This was the direct and somewhat daunting question posed in 1968 by Professor Lloyd Pfautsch, professor of music composition at Southern Methodist University. Some students stammered and gave uncertain answers. The response of one older student, however, delighted Dr. Pfautsch:

"I want to write something worth singing about something worth singing about."

The student was Natalie Sleeth, during her life fated to write such choral-repertoire staples as "Joy In The Morning" and "Hymn of Promise" (both anthems our choir has presented on various occasions).

Natalie Allyn Wakeley was born in Evanston, Illinois, on October 29, 1930. A student of piano from age 4, she received an academic major in music and a BA in music theory from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. There she studied piano and organ and sang in the Wellesley College Choir. She married Rev. Ronald E. Sleeth, a minister and an assistant professor of homiletics, in 1952 in Kenilworth, IL, and continued her organ study at Northwestern University. She also served as organist of the Glencoe Union Church in Glencoe, Illinois.



The Sleeths (including the couple's two children, Molly and David) lived in Evanston; Nashville, TN; and Dallas, TX, among other places. She composed "Joy In The Morning" for the occasion of her husband's inauguration as president of West Virginia Wesleyan college (1977). Dr. Sleeth had been a 1942 graduate of WVWC and served in his presidential capacity for one year, but then resigned, choosing instead to continue his career in the ministry.

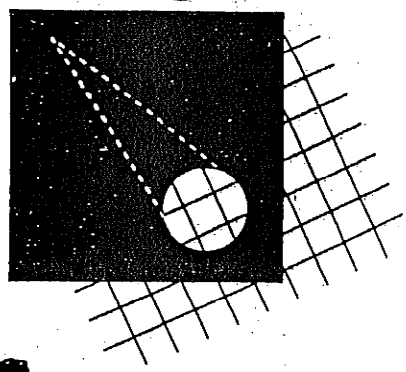
"Hymn of Promise" was composed later, and was dedicated to Natalie's husband. Shortly after its premiere Dr. Sleeth was diagnosed with cancer, from which he died in 1985 after a lengthy illness. By his request "Hymn of Promise" was performed at his funeral, the only Natalie Sleeth composition to be included in the service.

Natalie herself was a member of the Highland Park UMC in Dallas and for some years served as director of children's choirs there (beginning in 1965). She was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1959, and was similarly honored by Nebraska Wesleyan College in 1990. It was not until 1968 that she began to compose and arrange music, strongly encouraged by Dr. Pfautsch, himself a celebrated composer of church music, and by composer Jane Marshall. She was the composer of over 180 published selections for church and school, as well as the book "Adventures for the Soul". In addition to the anthems cited above, titles of the most popular of her works include "Go Ye, Go Ye Into The World"; "Go Ye Now In Peace"; "Jazz Gloria"; "Gaudeamus Hodie"; "Were You There On That Christmas Night?"; and "Praise the Lord with the Sound of the Trumpet". She also composed a very well-received two-volume set of Sunday Songbooks of two-part anthems. When friends inquired about the hectic and active schedule she maintained in spite of increasing infirmity, her spontaneous response was "I'm having the time of my life."

She died in Denver, CO, March 21, 1992, after some years of ill health, and was buried at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Evanston. She was cited as being "the most consistently successful composer of anthems for children of the late twentieth century" [sic!].

That same year, when Hope Publishing Company celebrated its centennial anniversary, "Joy in the Morning" had sold over 800,000 copies, making it Hope's best-selling choral anthem of all time. It is still widely used in choral conventions and conferences. "Joy in the Morning" may be measured somewhat differently, since its straightforward simplicity has caused its hymn version to be included in many mainstream hymnals. Thus it will be used by congregations for decades, possibly even centuries, to come.

KIDS CLUB



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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

Check Out Our Program



KIDS CLUB

STARTING

MONDAY, September 13th

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Come see what KIDS CLUB is all about!

Monday, September 13th KIDS CLUB begins. We are back with more activities for all kids age 5 through grade 6. Weekly we come together for a time of

* Games in our Gym
* Craft Projects
* Music
* Snacks
* Christian Life studies

In addition, monthly we provide time to cook, participate in our knitting group, enjoy stories with our storyteller, and celebrate with the Snicker Balance.

This program, which has a religious base, has been structured in a nondenominational way so that we may be open to as many children in the community as possible.

We are accepting registrations now. There is no cost, but completion of the registration form is necessary. The forms are available in the fellowship room of the church or can be obtained by calling the church office (598-3100). We encourage you to Invite others to be a part of this outstanding outreach of our church.

For questions, please contact Dianne at the church.

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

Christian Education

24 kids from our church are back from a wonderful week of camping at **Camp Saugatuck** Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible. We especially thank Sue and Scot Orsic. For the last four Sue has been there to provided us with the leadership and guidance we have needed to get our kids to camp. Thank you!

Can you believe the summer is almost over? School is starting very soon. Children will be returning to class and our official beginning to all the children centered church activities will begin too. With **Rally Day** set for September 12th, Sunday Classes will also begin on that day. So teachers need to be ready to greet the new students and recognize those who are returning for Sunday classes. Teachers and Christian Education committee members will have a meeting on August 17th at 7:30 PM. Pick up your curriculum and begin planning for another outstanding quarter this year.

A very big change is the schedule is for the **Youth Choir** to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. Cheryl and Dianne are trying to accommodate as many Youth Choir members as possible and hope this 45 minute practice will help other people want to join our Youth Choir.

The **Senior High Youth Group** will hold its first meeting on Sunday, September 12th at 6:30 PM. Students are always encouraged to bring friends. The meeting will be important for you to address some of the activity scheduling for the group.

The **Junior High Youth Group** will hold its first meeting on Thursday, September 16th at 6:30 PM. The leaders for the group are looking forward to sharing their plans for activities this year and hope you offer some ideas for the activities that you would especially enjoy doing this year.

Kids Club will resume on Monday, September 13th at 3:30 PM. All children ages 6 to grade 6 are invited to attend our first day. There are plans in the stages of activities which will include open gym, cooking, singing, crafts, Christian education, knitting, and table games. We are looking forward to seeing you and sharing your summer experiences with us.

The **Women's Bible Study** will begin on Monday, September 13th at 1:00 PM. Please be sure to come and share the fellowship as well as the thought-provoking discussions which are led by Arlene Pearson.

Our newest children's program called, "**Stories and More**," will resume this year. It is a program designed for children of ages 4-6 years old. Children are treated to a story, a discussion of the story, some time to learn a specific kindergarten skill. Children will learn motivational songs, finger plays, and action songs during their time with the group. We hope they will acquire some social skills as well. Each six week period will focus on a different learning skill. This group will meet on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Registration is required and questions should be directed to Patt Pilgrim or Dianne Flynn.

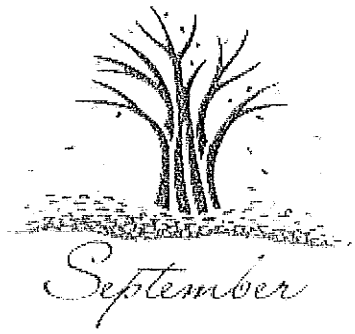
Sometime later in the year we hope to have an additional program geared towards 3 year olds. A discussion on the activities of the program is underway and the organizing committee has not finalized the details for this new program. So keep watching for further information.

Anyone in need of a yarn fix? The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is gearing up again to meet on Sunday after the 10:30 Worship service. We will be discussing the Squares for Africa mission and the Warm Up America mission.

This summer 6 blankets, each measuring 49x 63 inches were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House near Hope Children's Hospital. 145 squares were mailed to South Africa and the Soweto Comfort Club for sewing. Although we mailed fewer squares than last year, the postage was still rather expensive. It cost close to $93 for mailing. If anyone has alternative suggestions for using the squares as a mission which will not be as expensive please stop in at the room at the bottom of the stairs and share your ideas with us. We will hold our first meeting on September 19th. Remember, you do not have to know how to knit or crochet because there will be people at the meeting to help you learn. Come for the fellowship and stay for awhile to help create something beautiful to share with our church. All the prayer shawls are given special attention so none of them are delivered until prayers can be said for each of the recipients. The shawls are given to people suffering long recoveries, happy experiences, and rehabilitation.

Are there any people ready to learn something new and creative? The **Stampers** are going to meet every other Wednesday at the Church library at 10:30 AM. Ruth Hill has agreed to meet with us and help us explore more creative ways to use rubber stamps. Kim Ambrosat will also help us learn new ways to use some of the cute gadgets commonly used to decorate cards. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 29th. Come and see what new and exciting designs you can make. We have box loads of embellishments and cardstock you can use.

We sincerely hope that you make attendance on **Rally Day, September 12th**, your priority. It is such a great way to kick-off the 2010-2011 Children's programs. Teachers need to remember to pick up their curriculum before then. Let's all work together to make this year a successful and memorable one for the church.

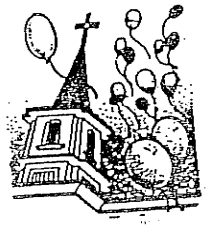


September Birthdays

September

3- Mark Maranto
4 – Erin Rose Prunty
7- Noelle Larsen
7 – Eamonn Prunty
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
17 – Shirley Brunell
17 – Alice Gust
17 – Norene Krbecek
17 – Kyle Wheeler
18 – Stephanie Lorenz
18 – Dawn Rellinger
19 – Charles Huenecke
20 – Dave Delaney
21 – Colleen Petkus
22 – Debbie Zimmerman
22 – Jessica Moore
26 – Ellen Betcher
26 – Akpene Atiedu
26 – Kathie Wheeler
27 – Louise Coventry
29 – Eileen Freeman
29 – John Morgucz
30 – Barbara Hepburn
30 – Doug McKinney

Hickory Hills
Presbyterian Church



RALLY DAY 2010

Sunday, September 12

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 12th. Join us as together for this new beginning.

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 Celebration for the entire family at 11:45 a.m.

Questions? Call the church office at 586-3100

JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR TOGETHER

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Sept. 5, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Sept. 5, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Sept. 12, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
Sept. 19, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Sept. 26, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	FELLOWSHIP
Sept. 5, 2010	Susan Frangella	
Sept. 12, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Sr. High Youth Group/ Rally Day Fellowship
Sept. 19, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Jackson/ Dritz
Sept. 26, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Rehbock

Communion Servers: Shirley Brunell, Rick Raschke





Mark Your Calendars!

Rally Day 2010
Sunday, Sept. 12- 10:30 a.m.
Beginning of our Church School Year

Kid's Club begins
Monday, Sept. 13- 3:30 p.m.
For kids age 5-Grade 6



Senior High Youth Group begins
Sunday, Sept. 12- 6:30 p.m.
For Youth Grades 9-12

Junior High Youth Group begins
Thursday, Sept. 16- 6:30 p.m.
For Youth Grades 6-8

SEPTEMBER 2010

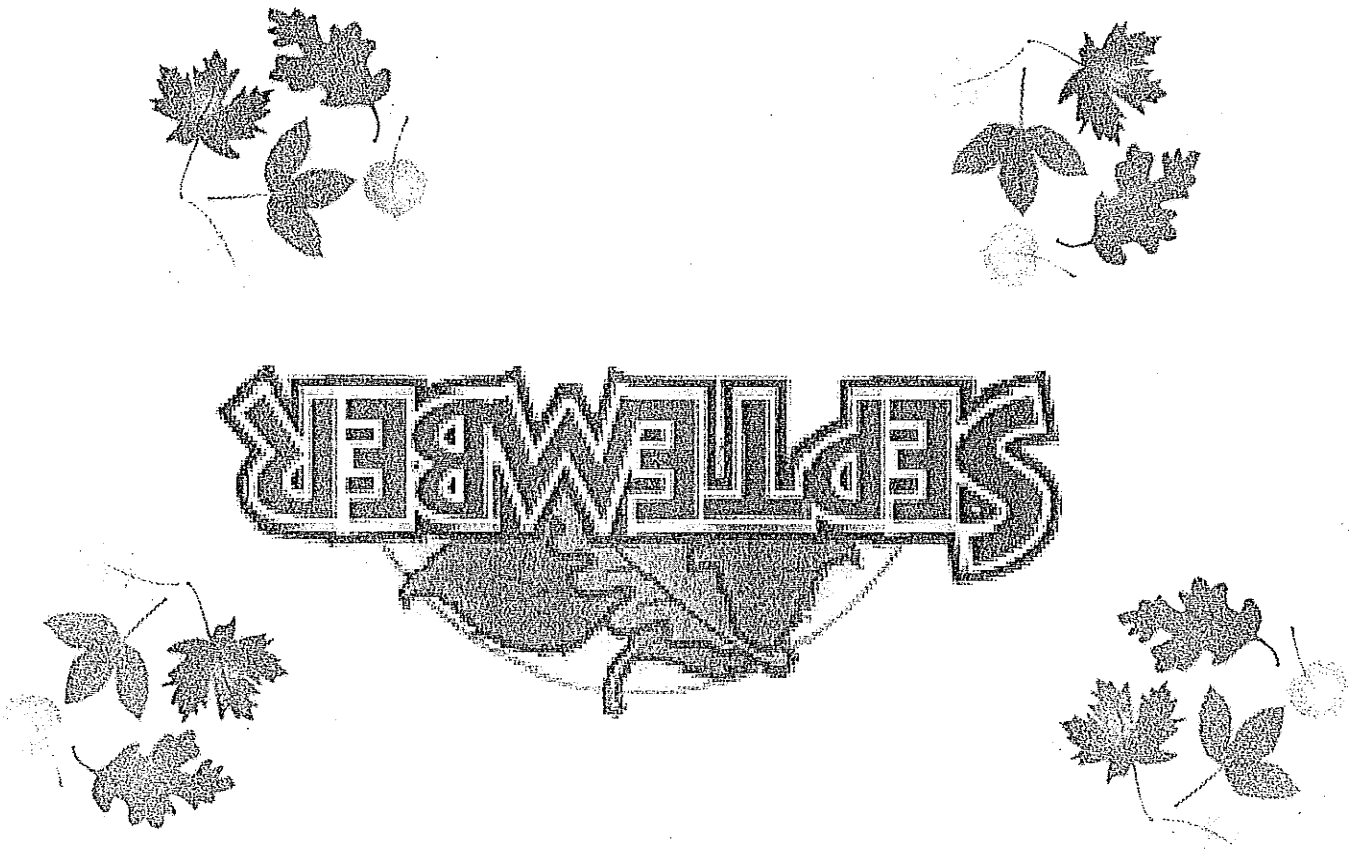
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	2 6:00 p.m. TOPS	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV ***Oct. Newsletter Deadline***	6 Labor Day	7 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 6:00 p.m. TOPS 8:00 p.m. Handbells	10	11 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
12 RALLY DAY 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Rally Day Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	13 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Session	14 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	16 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	17	18
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 7:30 p.m. Outreach	21 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 a.m. REV Mtg.	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	23 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	24 Fall Family Night-More Details coming soon…	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 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 7:30 p.m. Deacons	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	30 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells		

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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(708) 598-3100
Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

OCTOBER 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

Have you ever wondered what I mean when I sign off my newsletter articles with the phrase "in joyful anticipation"? Anticipating means waiting for, or expecting, doesn't it? What am I waiting for, then? Am I implying that this moment isn't as wonderful as the next will be, that the best is yet to come, or even that things can only get better from here on out? As a follower of Christ, and as a believer in the death, resurrection, and glorification of Jesus Christ, I do believe that "the best is yet to come" in a lot of ways. I believe that the complete fulfillment of God's Kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth, have not arrived yet. One need only watch the news, or even just look around your own neighborhood, to know that sin and death and evil still exist, and I live with a fervent hope for a time when poverty, injustice, sickness, war, hunger and homelessness will trouble God's creation no more. I hope for a day when the Lord will wipe away the tears from our eyes, as we are promised in Isaiah. But the realization that we are not there yet is not a disappointment, not by a long shot. Just because I hope for a day that has not yet come, does not mean I don't recognize this day as a day the Lord has made, a day to rejoice and be glad.

So . . . what am I still anticipating? And can I balance the anticipation of a day yet to come, with the appreciation of the day I'm living now? If I am serious about my belief in the death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ, and if I take seriously all that it means to follow Christ, the answer is a resounding "yes!." As I anticipate a day when we will no longer need the light of lamps or even of the sun, because the Lord God will be our light (see Rev. 22:5), I can't wait to see what comes between now and then.

I have been here at Hickory Hills for only one month, and I have already seen how active and intentional this congregation is about loving God and neighbor, in so many ways – mission trips, prayer, fellowship, just to name a few. And this month we have Rally Day, which is the beginning of so many things I *haven't* seen yet, things I've only heard about, and can't wait to experience. Not only will Sunday School begin once again, but we are adding a new class. And of course, there is the beginning of another year of Kid's Club, choir, bells, and Bible study. During the next few months, we will observe the changing of the seasons, witnessing the glory and miracle of God's creation as leaves change color and fall, as snow falls. And then there is the joyful season of Advent, marked by Hanging of the Greens, music, and the reading again of some of the most familiar and beloved stories in the Scriptures. There is so much to experience, so much to learn – and so much to remember.

As we begin this new phase of the church year, it is so important to keep in mind our purpose, our focus in all that we do, as a congregation, as committees, as small groups, and as individuals. It is important to remember that all we do should reflect our love for God and neighbor, and our desire to follow God's call on our lives. As Rally Day gets closer, and as we earnestly prepare for this year's activities, I am so encouraged by our mission statement: "We are called to SEEK God's word, to SHARE and CELEBRATE God's love, and to SERVE Jesus Christ in the world." Is it any wonder, then, that I live each day...

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS



-Shannon Bastien for health concerns
-John Bredlau for health concerns
-Carolyn Watson for shoulder surgery
-Ilomay for health concerns
-Dorothy & Enid Scholefield for direction
-Evelyn Garlic on the passing of her sister, Gloria
-Susan Frangella's father for health concerns
-Mary Richer's granddaughter, Amber, for health concerns
-Harry Richer's co-workers in loss of jobs
-Gerald Waller's family on his passing
-Gert Vickers for healing
-Gert Vickers' son, Randy Vickers, for health concerns
-Mary Tarter's sister, Betty, for heart surgery
-Mary Tarter's neighbors, as Frank has cancer
-Daniel Esparza & family for health concerns
-Richard Larsen for strength
-Phyllis Apitz for health concerns
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for strength & direction
-Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
-Carol Sack's sister, Susan, for health concerns
-Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-Our service men and women and their families
-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this Vital Ministry of our church.
PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Wake up my friends, see the Light. Face life as it faces you. Beauty surrounds your life in the midst of your daily routines. You shine because you are reflective of Him. You exist because of His love for you.

It is important that we embrace the goodness of our lives and thank God daily for what He has given to us. Do you sleep throughout the bulk of your life, or do you see the Light?

We turn on the light each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m., no need for a flash light, you are light enough.

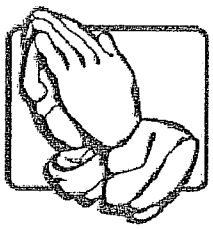
Regards, C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

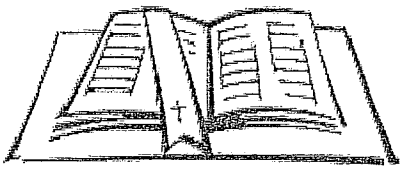
"O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago." ISAIAH 25:1 (NIV)

No matter what happens in our lives, God is in control. He provides what is needed even when we fail to ask. Our prayers are answered whether or not we like the answer. Prayer allows us to praise His name with gratitude when we leave our cares under the cross. Our Heavenly Father knows what is best.

"Nevertheless God, that comforted those that are cast down, comforted us…"
II CORINTHIANS 7:6 (KJV)



Help keep the church clean...
Please, no food or drinks
in the sanctuary.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds; his name is the Lord, exult before him!"

PSALM 68:4 (RSV)

Did you enjoy your summer vacation? Are you glad to be back in school? Class began on Monday, Sept. 13, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Junior High classroom. We miss Eva Nestor, Lucy Dumke, & Micki Kluska, but will continue to remember you during our prayer time.

Please join us if you want to be awed by the poetic, timely, investigative words conveyed in the Psalms. We will continue with Psalm 68.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar



Mandy Swindle
643 S. Ridgeland Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304-1431
(School Year Address)

Please remember to turn off your cell phone during all Worship services.



Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

ANNUAL CRAFT BAZAAR

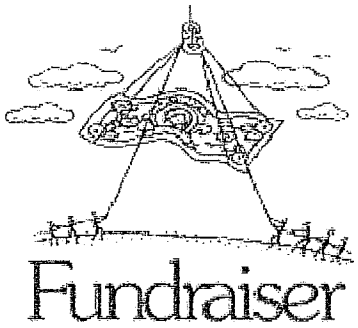
SATURDAY, NOV. 6TH



On Saturday, November 6th from 9am-3pm, we will be having our annual craft bazaar and bake sale. We are still looking for crafters to fill up the basement. We can never have enough baked goods, and would appreciate any baking you could do for us for that day. We would ask that, if at all possible, to please price your items when bringing them in. We would appreciate any help with setup and/or take down also. You can also join us for lunch and do some upcoming holiday shopping.

Speaking of the upcoming holiday season:

Don't forget about our Script service. This is an easy way for us to raise money and for you to save on shopping trips. Jewel certificates can be given to you on the spot and the others, which are ordered, will be given to you the next week. This is a very easy way for us to earn some money for our church to help us to be able to have events like the bazaar and the yard sale. So if you have any birthdays, anniversaries, graduations coming up, or early Christmas shopping, this is certainly a great gift that anyone would enjoy receiving. How about yourself – I love to buy them for myself and then feel like I have a good reason to go shopping and after I worked up an appetite I can get something to eat!



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.)



"He Googles you ... that's how God knows all about you."

Hymning and Hawing

Singing Our Songs in a Strange Land

by G. R. Snow

Sharing songs—a primitive custom from ancient times, yet with echoes in our own modern culture. The medicine man of a tribe trades songs with another tribe's medicine man. A wandering bard of one Celt city brings its songs and legends to another city, or another country. A slave people is invited to sing some of its songs before its conquerors (though the Psalms point out that this can be a mockery instead of a genuine desire to learn about an unfamiliar culture).

It still happens in our own day. A music fraternity increases its brotherhood by active members holding "listening sessions" of favorite music for the pledge class. A teen-age girl expresses interest in a teen-age boy by inviting him to her house to listen to some music (and he brings some of his own CDs to share). People from one church take time on the Kentucky mission trip to share some of their favorite Christian contemporary songs with other church members; they, in turn, share their favorites with their home congregations when they return from the trip.

By sharing songs, cultures were shared, and friends developed deeper knowledge of each others' differing backgrounds. In some cultures, part of the celebration of a wedding included the bride and groom teaching their friends, and the others in the village or tribe, new songs, stories and games. In a Star Trek novel, two bards from different cultures shared songs and then wished each other the "peace of dreaming on shared songs."

Through a culture's art forms, much of their identity can be communicated and much learned even by generations which follow, even when there are no survivors of the original culture. Such a great deal is learned by archaeologists about Egyptian daily life by the paintings found in the tombs, not solely of pharaohs and their immediate families, but the tombs of the middle-class—the merchants, the chantresses in the temple, the teachers, the scholars. Yet the sharing of songs surpasses the sharing of art, for it can be a spectator or a participatory activity, and it can be reciprocated as easily as the human mind can call up a different song.

Even in the coffeehouses of Cairo, according to one early-twentieth-century account, it was the custom for a storyteller to sing a well-known legend of an evening. His hearers knew the legend and were able to join in on the chorus. It's hard to imagine such an event occurring in a Starbuck's in downtown Chicago, but I have conducted concerts and sing-alongs in coffeehouses in northwest Indiana and was joined by the audience enthusiastically and (sometimes) in harmony. In many of the historical incidents described above, the singing of traditional songs with sing-along choruses came as naturally to the culture as the ability to join in "Happy Birthday" comes to present-day Americans.

When we as present-day Christians share songs, the act has two vital components. Not surprisingly, they are ***sharing*** and ***song***. To share anything with another—be it a song, a story, or a plate of potato salad and ham—yields the obvious surface act of giving, plus on a deeper level it is a communication. When we do it, it adds recommendation—"I find this to be good and I think you will find it to be good also" is the subtext. A further subtext is "I care about you, and because I care about you, I wish to share with you something I find to be good, believing that you will find it to be good also."

And song? In a Christian context, song is often a sharing of knowledge about God's power, a sharing of adoration of God, a sharing of rejoicing in God's love, or a sharing of exhortation to fulfill the Christian obligation (be it mission, ministry, or compliance). Yet, like the icons of the Eastern Orthodox church, the presence of song helps to transport the worshiper into an other-worldly experience of God. The Western Protestant churches on many occasions find their other-worldly experience through music. Coupling this meaning with the subtexts above regarding sharing, the message we may attach to Christians sharing songs with each other is, "Because I value and esteem you, I want to share with you an experience I find to be good, an experience which transcends the mundane/worldly: the other-worldly experience of Jesus Christ, which I believe you will find good since I find it so."

Let us then, with this rationale in mind, share songs with each other, with Christian and potential Christian alike. And may we not hesitate to sing the songs of the Lord in a familiar, yet often very strange, land.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Oct. 3, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Oct. 3, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Oct. 10, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
Oct. 17, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Oct. 24, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
Oct. 31, 2010	S. Zimmerman	Kim Ambrosat
SUNDAY	**COUNTERS**	
Oct. 3, 2010	Susan Frangella	
Oct. 10, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
Oct. 17, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
Oct. 24, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	
Oct. 31, 2010	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski	



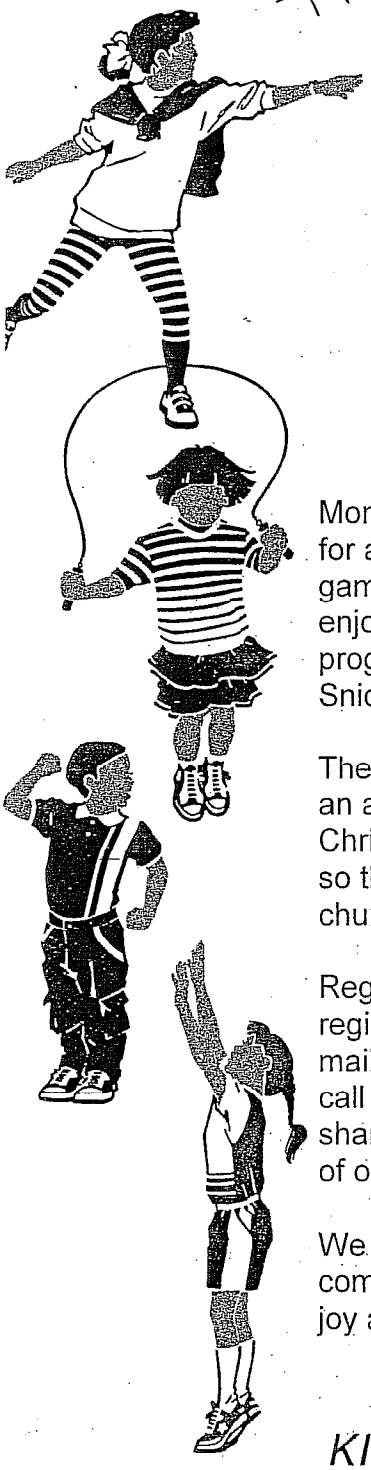


October 3, 2010

KIDS CLUB

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 13
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, September 13th KIDS CLUB begins. We are back with great activities for all kids age 5 through grade 6. We come together for a time of recreation and games, craft projects, music, snacks, and Christian Life studies. Monthly we enjoy cooking projects, knitting club, the story teller and special events programing. Also back to celebrate monthly perfect attendance is the popular Snicker Balance.

The theme for this year is "Traveling Through God's Time." Weekly kids will have an adventure discovering God's love, and developing a value system for a Christian lifestyle. 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.

Registrations are being accepted in this program now. There is no cost, but registration is necessary. The forms are available at the church and can be mailed to you upon request or completed on the first day of the program. Please call the church to let us know your child will be attending. We encourage you to share this information and invite others to be a part of this outstanding outreach of our church.

We are proud of the programs we have developed for the youth of our community. It is our hope that your child and his/her friends will be a part of the joy and spiritual growth here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

KIDS ARE **NUMBER 1** *AT THE* **KIDS CLUB**

Christian Education

Rally Day on September 13, 2010 was another success. People who attended the Fellowship afterwards were treated to a variety of delicious things to eat. Thank you to the Fellowship committee for making this such a memorable day in the beginning of the 2010-2011 church year. Please remember to thank the teachers of the Fall quarter. The committee would like to thank Debbie Zimmerman and Cheryl Huenecke for teaching the pre-school, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade class. Thank you to Sue Orsic for taking the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class. Thank you to Patt Pilgrim for teaching the Jr. High class. Thank you to Gordon Home for teaching the Sr. High class. Thank you to Dave Delaney for moderating the Adult class. A special welcome to Dr. Kirk MacGregor as he begins a new class,**"Developing a Christian Worldview"**, Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM, which is open for the young adults as well as any adults interested in attending. The Sunday classes are started and so are the variety of activities involving young and old alike. A special presentation of Bibles was made for Jacob Morrell and Eamonn Prunty, The committee hopes these children will find comfort and guidance while reading their new Bibles. We have decided to continue our mission projects so please help the children learn the meaning of stewardship by donating pop tabs and school supplies. We will again participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing this spring.

The Jr. High Youth Group will be planning their activities as they go along. So far, a retreat is scheduled sometime in January as well as another trip to Feed My Starving Children, and a work trip with A Work of Love. Jr. High Youth Group meets on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Don't miss a minute of the fun and fellowship. Be sure to invite your friends.

Sr. High Youth Group meets on Sundays after REV around 6:30 PM. Activities will be planned with input from the group. If you have something exciting to do or just want to make some friends, come join them and be sure to bring along a friend.

Exciting news. Reverand Lara MacGregor will be installed as our pastor at the REV service on **September 26, 2010** at 5:00PM. Come celebrate with her and her family as we join in to officially welcome her to our church.

Kids Club opened its doors on September 13th. We had a return of some familiar faces and even a few new ones. We always have room for more so be sure to bring a friend and have your photo posted on the "I Brought A Friend to Kids Club" divider. Once again we will have a perfect attendance celebration for anyone who can attend the entire month. You don't want to miss your chance to master the Candy Bar Balance.

Youth Choir has been rescheduled for 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. We hope this will allow those students who love singing and music to attend their after school activities as well as complete their homework and still practice beautiful music for their gift to the church. Cheryl and Dianne have some outstanding music lined up for you to sing.

Stories and More, the program geared for the children ages 4-6, begins on September 21st at 1:00 PM. Stories, review of the message, active songs and fingerplays, as well as a presentation of kindergarten skills are the main outline of each week. Our first six weeks will be devoted to the alphabet. There will be special activities such as cooking, games, and art projects sprinkled in for more fun. Contact

Patt Pilgrim or Dianne Flynn for any additional information.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has started again. Meeting in the classroom at the bottom of the stairs is hard to miss with all the discussion and music we have going each week. Come join us for the fellowship and have fun creating something beautiful. With fall approaching there will be small projects such as scarves, mittens and hats to make for the Warming Tree. Some of the members are working to complete Prayer Shawls and lap blankets. You can choose your own project. There are supplies for you to use. If you do not know how to knit there are even people there to teach you. If you are interested in crochet, guess what, we have people who can do that too! Hope you stop by after the 10:30 worship service on Sundays.

The Stampers are back to making cards on September 29th at 10:30 AM in the church library. We plan to meet every other Wednesday. Ruth Hill will be returning to help us create some beautiful cards. Some of the cards are donated to the Prayer and Care groups which meet regularly at the church. If you have a design you've created and want to teach that technique, this is a great place to have some attentive listeners and willing students.

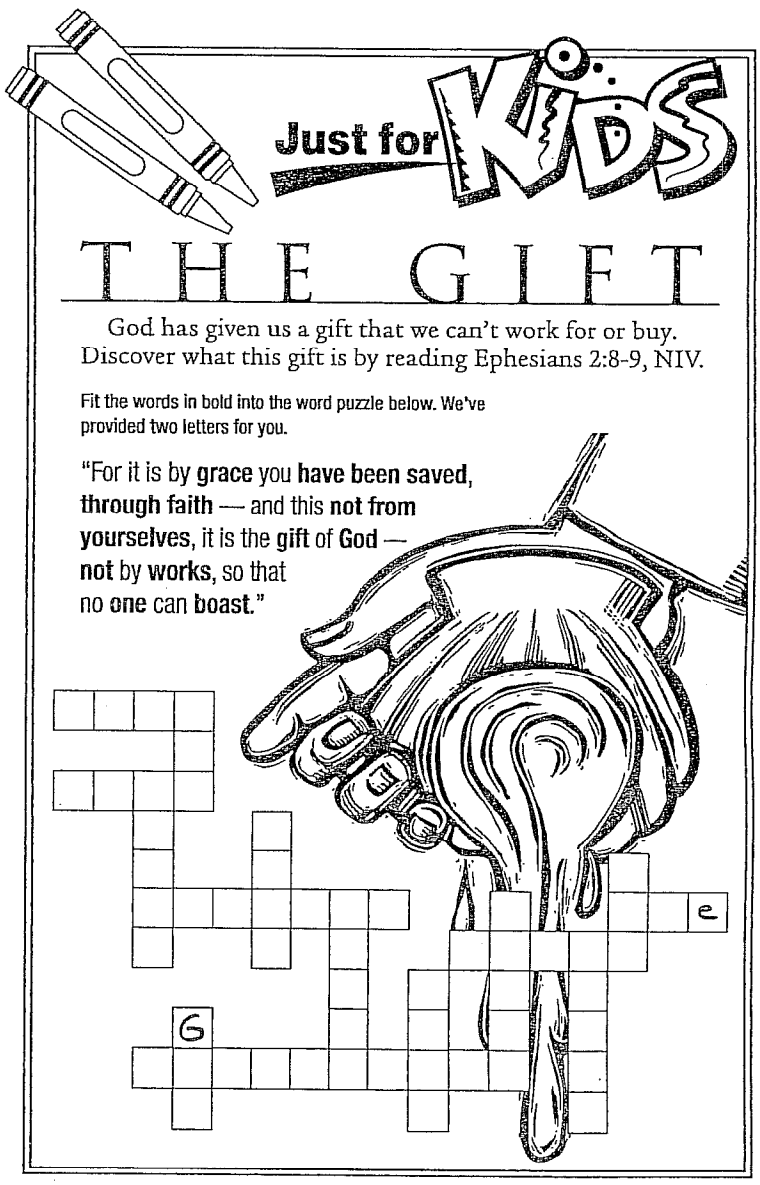
Now get out your calendars and I will give you a list of **dates to mark** and set aside for Church activities. Are you ready?

Decorate the Zoo Tree on November 20
Advent Workshop on December 3
Hanging of the Greens on December 5
Christmas Tea on December 9
Youth Choir sings every 2nd Sunday in church
Lenten program on March 9-April 18
Cookie Sale on May 8
VBS with Tricia and Company on June 13-17

No Christian Education Meeting in September but there is one scheduled for **October 5** at 7:30 PM.

The entire Christian Education Committee is working to make this year of new beginnings a great year. We know it will take some dedicated people as well as your time and energy to make it happen. Let's make our list of priorities and put Church attendance at the top. Welcome the MacGregor family by coming to worship and attending the scheduled programs this year.

****



"Developing a Christian Worldview"

Starting
September 12, 9:00AM

Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions: How do I know that God exists? Does science conflict with the Bible? Do evil and suffering disprove the existence of God? What evidence for Jesus exists outside the Bible? Is there historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection? How did we get the Bible? What happens to me after I die? If so, then the class "Developing a Christian Worldview" is for you! In "Developing a Christian Worldview," you will learn what Christians believe and why they believe it. You will have the freedom to ask anything you want to know about Christianity but may have always been afraid to ask. And you will gain a solid knowledge of the Bible and essential Christian doctrine in the process.

Taught by Dr. Kirk MacGregor, visiting assistant professor of theology at Quincy University and author of several books and articles, "Developing a Christian Worldview" will integrate study of the Bible with science, church history, theology, apologetics (defense of the Christian faith), and other fields. The class will feature a simple, easy-to-understand presentation style suitable for anyone high school age and up. The class will give high school students, college students, and adults the intellectual resources to know why attacks on their faith are false. And it will teach them how to effectively and persuasively share their faith with non-believing friends, family members, teachers, and colleagues in a non-confrontational way. Concerning outreach, anyone skeptical of Christianity is more than welcome to attend the class, where they will have an open forum to find answers to their questions.

"KIDS HELPING KIDS"

2010 - 2011 Mission Projects

Reaching out to help others in need we will;

Collect School Supplies

Starting Rally Day and continuing through May we will collect school supplies to be given to kids who are in need. This past year we donated supplies to members of our church family and the "Apple Tree" program in Worth Illinois.

Drop off point is the school desk located by the piano in the basement of our church or the collection box located in the East Room.

Pull Tabs

We will continue to collect 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 treatment.

Stories and More

Tuesdays, 1-2 PM

Beginning Sept. 21, this program is open to children ages 4-6 years. Those enrolled will be treated to a story time and associated activities, organized games, and time set aside to strengthen basic Kindergarten skills.

There is no cost but registration is required.

For questions about this program contact program director, Patt Pilgrim or Dianne at the church office.

OCTOBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Kentucky Mission Reunion
3 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & S.S. 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	4 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	5 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	6 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	7 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	8	9 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
10 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 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	11 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Session	12 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	13 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	14 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 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	18 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Outreach	19 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Mtg.	20 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	21 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	22 6-11 p.m. Haunted House	23 6-11 p.m. Haunted House
24 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & S.S. 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	25 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Deacons	26 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	27 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	28 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	29 Saugatuck Adult Retreat 6-11 p.m. Haunted House	30 Saugatuck Adult Retreat 6-11 p.m. Haunted House
31 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Dev. a Chr. World View 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & S.S. 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 6-10 p.m. Haunted House						

October Birthdays

October

1- Leslie Ambrosat
3 – Michael Pettis
5 – Rob Nordstrom
5-- Kate Crowley
6-- Larry Haack
8-- Kirk MacGregor
8-- Sarah Swearingen
8-- LeAnne Kommenich
13- Savino Simone
14- Frank Rodriguez
16 – Arlene Pearson
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

Dated Material
Do Not Hold

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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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Fax (708)598-3108
Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org
www.hickoryhillspres.org

NOVEMBER 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

The other day, during a discussion of upcoming events at the church, someone leaned over and whispered to me, "October is a big food month here." And then we thought about it, and discovered that November and December were big food months, too. In fact, these three months are "big food months" in a lot of churches, with Halloween and Thanksgiving and Advent and Christmas and New Year's, and all the festivities that tend to surround them. And it's not just for churches, apparently. Have you ever noticed that around January 2, we start seeing all the commercials for specials on diet plans, exercise studios, and gyms, promising to help us take off that "holiday weight" and reminding us that it's never too early to start preparing for swimsuit season?

Maybe it's the fact that the weather is getting colder, and hot soup and big steaming plates of macaroni and cheese, or spaghetti, start to sound so warm and inviting. Maybe it is just about the many holidays that come so close together in the last quarter of the year. And holidays just aren't holidays without special holiday foods and candies.

But did you ever stop to think about how much of we do as a Christian community has to do with food – eating, preparing, serving, and sharing it? Not just during the holidays, either. When there is a memorial service here at the church, we bring food. Whenever there is a time of fellowship, we bring food. When there are celebrations, there is food. It might well be said that "Wherever two or more are gathered in Christ's name, there will be food among them." And it's not even just in churches. Whether it's because someone in the family is in the hospital, or someone close has died, neighbors and friends tend to bring casseroles, eager to make sure their friends and loved ones are well-fed in their time of need.

Offering and sharing food is a very human way of caring for one another. After all, food and water are our most basic human needs. Knowing how much we ourselves need food, we are very aware that those around us need food as well. But it is also a very uniquely Christian way of caring. A seminary professor once challenged our New Testament class to find a story, or even a mention, of food or meals in every chapter of the Gospel of Luke. And it's not just in Luke's gospel. Not only is Jesus constantly eating with sinners and feeding hungry people and providing hospitality, but Abraham prepared a meal for three strangers who suddenly showed up at his tent; the people of Israel ate unleavened bread to commemorate their deliverance from Egypt, and then survived on the manna and quail that were provided by the Lord; David ate the bread of the Presence when he was in need and there was nothing else; the Psalmist invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good", and talks of God's law as sweeter than honey; and the prophet Isaiah invites the people of God to "come, buy and eat." When Jesus was asked why his disciples did not fast, he answered, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?" And Jesus' first miracle recorded in the Gospel of John is the turning of water into wine at a wedding celebration and feast.

So eat up. Cook and serve, especially for those who are in need. Show hospitality, particularly to the stranger in your midst. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara

HHPC
PRAYER REQUESTS



-Lucy's brother-in-law, Bob, for healing
-Ivy Taebel's son, Larry, for health concerns
-Peggy Smith for health concerns
-Enid Scholefield for her eyes
-The Family of Ilomay on her passing
-Betty Kitching for health concerns
-Daniel Murray for health & safety concerns
-Dean Georgetti for health concerns
-Shannon Bastien for health concerns
-John Bredlau for continuous healing
-Gert Vickers for healing
-Daniel Esparza & family for health concerns
-Richard Larson for strength
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for strength & direction & health concerns
-Mary Tarter's nephew, Dillon, for healing
-Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne, for healing and strength
-Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-Our service men and women and their families
-Our policemen, Firemen, & their families
-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

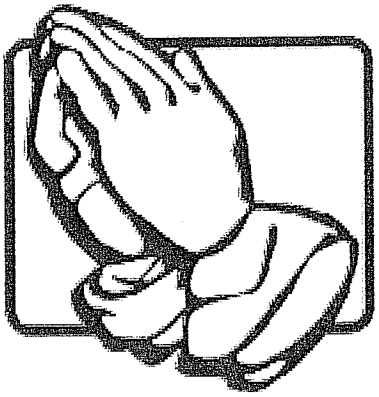
Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this Vital Ministry of our church.
PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Are you a guiding light? Are you a beacon or perhaps a search light, maybe a flashlight or even a candle? Many times in life we are like a guiding light to others who find themselves in a dark place.

Let us all shine forth as bright examples of light as we gather together in prayer to support one another in times of need. You know the time. You know the place. Please show your face.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER & CARE

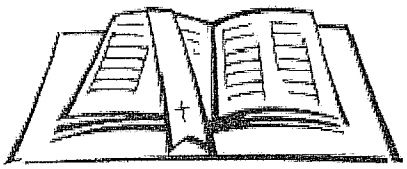
"When Jesus had spoken…" John 17:1-26 (RSV)

In John 16, Christ begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit and his illuminating power. He bids farewell to his disciples.

When you read the 17th chapter, please meditate on what Jesus says/ prays. Are we to partake in privileges and obligations?

One of our obligations is to pray for one another. The library is where we gather every Wednesday morning.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We began Book III on October 11.
Psalm 73- the end of the prosperous wicked.

There will be no class on November 22.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar

Many, Many Thanks



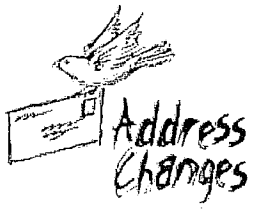
Since November is the month where we celebrate and emphasize giving thanks for our blessings, it is only appropriate to take a few moments to thank all of you, the members and friends of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for all of your help in moving us to Hickory Hills. Thank you for the love and care and hours of sweat invested in making the manse our home. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality, for Kentucky T-shirts, Honduras crosses, Hickory Hills polos, and camouflage stoles.

Thank you for your prayers, and for a lovely prayer shawl. Thank you for an installation service more precious than you can imagine. Thank you for your openness to new voices and new ideas. Thank you for your support of Kirk in his new job. Thank you for being a congregation of Christ followers, passionate about ministering in Christ's name.

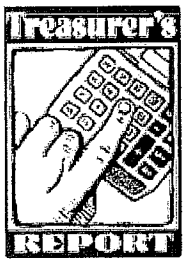
Thank you for seeking God's word, sharing and celebrating God's love, and serving Jesus Christ in the world. Thank you.

In the Name and Service of Jesus Christ,
Lara and Kirk MacGregor



Josh & Hanna Treccani
12822 S. Kenneth Ave. Unit G1
Alsip, IL 60803
708-710-6383

September 2010 Treasurer's Report



General Fund Receipts:
$17,313.00

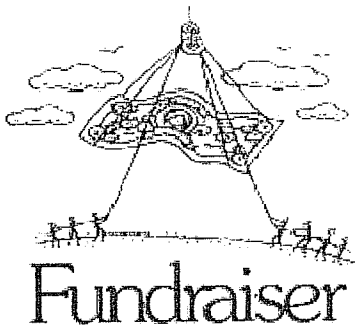
General Fund Disbursements:
$14,456.00

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Please join us on Saturday November 6th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for our Annual Craft Bazaar. Not only will you find great gift ideas and crafts, but you can enjoy some of Grace's chili, Wilda's and Shirley's sloppy joes and Debbie's delightful soups. For those with a sweet tooth, we will have plenty of baked goods for you to enjoy.

Hope to see you on the 6th!!!!!

Thank you, Fundraising Committee



SCRIPT:

Don't forget about our Script service. This is an easy way for us to raise money and for you to save on shopping trips. Jewel certificates can be given to you on the spot and the others, which are ordered, will be given to you the next week. This is a very easy way for us to earn some money for our church to help us to be able to have events like the bazaar and the yard sale. So if you have any birthdays, anniversaries, graduations coming up, or early Christmas shopping, this is certainly a great gift that anyone would enjoy receiving. How about yourself – I love to buy them for myself and then feel like I have a good reason to go shopping and after I worked up an appetite I can get something to eat!

PADS UPDATE



The PADS season is once again upon us. Our church serves the first Sunday of each month from October to April. We started our mission this year on Oct. 3rd and served 40 men & women & no children.

Most faces were recognizable from last season with a few fresh faces, mostly young men caught in the financial straits of our economy. As always, our guests were appreciative of the Sunday evening meal, and breakfast and a bag lunch the next morning. Life on the streets is never a life of choice, but of circumstances beyond the reach of these individuals.

Thanks to the dedication of our faithful supporters. We can provide for the needy in such a wonderful way. If you are not able to participate in our PADS program, a contribution is always welcome.

Thanks again one and all as we serve together, our fellow man in need.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

"A Christmas Carol"



Come one, come all!
We're planning a trip to see
A Christmas Carol
at Stagg High School
Sat. December 11, 2010
Dinner & Show $25.00
Show only $5.00
Dinner 5:00 pm, Show 7:00 pm
Don't wait...sign up today!

Stories and More

By: Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell, Linda Lavaretto, Dianne Flynn and Patt Pilgrim

All 4, 5, and 6 year olds are invited to join us on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm for music, stories, and kindergarden preparation activites.

Some of the stories we read October are:

1. Silly Sidney by Morgan Matthews
2. K is for Kissing a cool Kangaroo By Giles Andreae
3. The Lonely Moose by John Segal
4. We're Going on a Ghost Hunt by Marcia K. Vaughan

Some activities we did are baking cookies, alphabet games of matching of words and letters from the treasure box and alphabet line up. Also we did cutting and pasting projects. Please come and join us. The music and dancing starts at 1:00 pm with the Bean Bag dance and other songs like 10 in a Bed.

Hymning and Hawing: Women in Church Music III

"Zion's Poetess": Her Witness In Song Spanned A Continent

by G. R. Snow

While many pioneer women could claim to have traveled across much, or all, of the North American continent, the majority did not write their testimonies in Christian praise while doing so. If they did, even fewer were uniquely placed so that they came into the spotlight of their church, and their songs could so easily be propagated throughout their denomination. Yet this is the unique legacy of Eliza R. Snow—hymntext-writer, wife of not one but two prominent pioneers of church establishment and sister of a third, at a time when their denomination was hungry for testimonial texts to witness to their hard-won faith.

Eliza Roxcy Snow, the second daughter of Oliver and Rosetta Snow, was born January 21, 1804 in Becket, Massachusetts. In 1806 the family moved to Mantua, Ohio, and accepted every available educational opportunity for their children. Eliza worked as a secretary for her father, the local justice of the peace, and received acclaim for her poetry, winner of local contests and published in local newspapers.

Though she had been reared as a Baptist, Snow found every religious belief of some worth and grew to embrace the growing religion of Joseph Smith, Jr. She is believed to have married him in 1842, though accounts differ regarding this. It is certain that she influenced her brother Lorenzo (later the fifth president of the Mormon church) to join the new religious movement; her mother and sister had already joined. She herself became president of the Nauvoo Females Relief Society and became a strong advocate for women's rights and self-sufficiency in the new land of pioneer America. She was widowed in 1844 and is known to have married Brigham Young and to have traveled with him and his followers to the Salt Lake Valley, arriving there in 1847. Though she had no children, she was an inspired schoolteacher, a tireless organizer of subsidiary branches of the Relief Society, and one of the strongest guiding agents in the formation of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association in 1870. She continued to serve as Relief Society President until her death on December 5, 1887. It is worth noting that in 1888 the Relief Society is recorded to have had more than 22,000 members.

Her writings reflected her experiences as a pioneer as well as her Christian testimony, and so *"My First View of a Western Prairie"* stands in her writings beside *"Be Not Discouraged"*, *"Awake, My Slumbering Minstrel"*, and others. Her poetry, in keeping with the custom of the times, is florid, wordy, and effusive, as evidenced in this excerpt from *"My First View of a Western Prairie":*

O, no: the scenery around was not Enchantment.
'Twas the bright original
Of those fair images and ideal forms,
Which fancy's pencil is so prompt to sketch.



Instead of treading on Ionian fields,
I stood upon Columbian soil, and in
The rich and fertile state of Illinois.

By contrast, her hymn-writing is skillful, unencumbered with devices to make the poetic pattern function at the expense of meaning. One of her best-known appears in the current LDS hymnal as *"O My Father"*, written by her soon after the death of her (earthly) father, Oliver Snow, and after the death of Joseph Smith in 1844. One verse of this poem is particularly poignant:

For a wise and glorious purpose
Thou hast placed me here on earth,
And withheld the recollection
Of my former friends and birth.
Yet oft-times a secret something
Whispered, "You're a stranger here."
And I felt that I had wandered
From a more exalted sphere.

Another text, *"Be Not Discouraged,"* parallels Martin Luther's great Battle-Cry of the Reformation, *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."* A few of the text's similarities may be seen in the brief excerpt below. With this forceful statement of witness, this fervent profession of faith, again let the woman termed by the church in Nauvoo as "Zion's Poetess" have the last word, as she so often did in life:

Though Satan rage, 'tis all in vain;
The words the ancient Prophet spoke,
Sure as the throne of God remain;
Nor man nor devils can revoke.

All glory to His holy name
Who sends His faithful servants forth
To prove the nations, to proclaim
Salvation's tidings through the earth.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Nov. 7, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Nov. 7, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Nov. 14, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
Nov. 21, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Nov. 28, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	**COUNTERS**	
Nov. 7, 2010	Susan Frangella	
Nov. 14, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
Nov. 21, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
Nov. 28, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

COMMUNION SERVERS: Terry Brock, Ivy Taebel, Jeni Vogl

HHPC Sound System Fundraiser Concert

Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010
5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Musical Gifts presented by:

Classic Act Choral Ensemble

Guest Conductor: Dr. Keith T. Hampton
Founding Director: Fabienne C. Christian, M.A.
The Concert will include works in:
Classical, Spiritual, Gospel, and Christian Contemporary genres.

A free will offering will be collected for our Sound System Fund

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



Everyday we are challenged to make choices between right and wrong. During Christian Learning time we explore Bible Stories and learn guidelines by which to live. The themes for our study in November are;

Navigating with God - God created us to have a relationship with him.
Crew Rations - God created us with the freedom to make healthy choices.
Sailors' Sick Bay - The strength to make good choices comes from a right relationship with God..
Nautical Network - God wants us to have relationships with others.
Charting a New Course - God wants us to grow in our understanding of His people around the world

Yes, the popular Snicker Balance Contest is back at Kids Club. Only requirement for eligibility in this contest is perfect attendance for the month. Winner for the month of September was Norma C. We congratulate her on winning all those candy bars! Want to know more this popular contest, ask any of the kids.

Recently the kids participated in a surprise activity called "Meet the Pastor". During this time we were given the opportunity to visit Pastor Lara's office, ask questions, learn what she does here at our church, and we even tried on some of her many stoles. It was an awesome day. Check out the pictures of the many happy faces on the way in the fellowship hall.

Final preparations are underway for our Halloween Party to be held on Monday, October 25th. This is always a day with good safe fun shared with friends. It will be an afternoon filled with 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'. If you wish costumes are the dress for the day.

Our Family Advent Night is coming up so mark your calendar now for Friday, December 3th at 6:30 p.m. We will feature a shared potluck dinner, holiday crafts for all age groups, and singing of favorite 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 7th. 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

†

The question of how to **improve attendance** for Sunday School classes came up again. It seems that earlier in the month of September there were no children attending the primary and intermediate classes with only a handful of students upstairs in the Junior and Senior High classes. If you only invite one student to join your child on Sunday mornings it may help to boost the attendance. Speak to your friends and neighbors to see if there is a family near you who may be looking for a church. The more word of mouth recommendations we have the better for the boost in Sunday School attendance. We **welcome our Winter quarter teachers**. A transition meeting will be held on November 21st at 9:15 AM. A special thank you to the teachers who have volunteered to work the winter quarter. Thank you to Lou Pearson for teaching the Sr. High, Cheryl Howell for teaching the Jr. High, and Megan Zimmerman for taking the children of Pre-K-K-1-2-3-4-5. You have our profound appreciation and respect.

The Kids Club is experiencing an influx of neighborhood children. It has become a true community mission. The attendance has been hovering around 20 children each week. The children are excited about the activities and seem to especially enjoy their time in the gym. During the month of September the children celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday. They made applesauce and had that for part of the snack. They have been learning about creation and their responsibility in taking care of the earth. There is a wall in the Fellowship Hall which has pictures of the staff and students who attend. Dianne has begun attaching pictures of the activities we do so everyone who is in the Fellowship hall will know what wonderful times we have experienced during our time on Mondays 3:30-5:00 PM.

Youth Choir has graced us with beautiful music for many years. Check out their article and see what's new for this year.

The new Child Protection Policy is in effect. Anyone who has not signed their copy of the policy should contact Dianne and do that as soon as possible. If you are interested in working with the children of this church, I recommend you read the policy carefully before signing it. Anyone who is asked to be a driver for the youth outings must be approved, have the proper license and insurance on file. A criminal background check will be made before your approval. The committee has asked all youth leaders and teachers to have parent permission slips signed before viewing media with questionable language or actions. This is due to the increase of using technology to prompt discussions in the classrooms and youth groups.

A tree at the **Brookfield Zoo** has been furnished by an anonymous donation again this year. Families who are interested in helping to decorate the tree should contact Dianne. A group will be out at the Zoo on November 20th. The group usually carpools to the Zoo and then after the tree decorating, goes their separate ways to see the Zoo for the remainder of their day.

A Family Night to celebrate Advent is scheduled for December 3rd at 6:30PM. During this annual celebration, there will be a dinner followed by time to create crafts which can be used to decorate the home or use as presents. At the end of the evening, favorite Christmas songs are usually sung around the piano. It is an evening filled with joy and should not be missed. There is something for the entire family to enjoy.

"The Hanging of the Greens" will take place on December 5th during the 10:30 AM worship service. Our children tell the story of Christmas as well as explain some of the symbols we have adopted to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our sanctuary is decorated during this time and the Tree of Warmth is filled with scarves, hats, gloves and mittens which the congregation so generously donates. Mark your calendar to attend this beginning of the Advent season.

Ladies, the date for the annual **Christmas Tea** is December 16th. We hope this change in the date will not conflict with your busy schedule and that it is an event you will make every effort to attend. The Stagg Madrigal Singers from Stagg High School will perform, there will be games, fellowship, and laughter as we enjoy the message presented by guest speaker Alice Collins. Ask anyone who has ever come to the Tea and you should only hear praise for the night. We are looking forward to having you come to the Christmas Tea.

The Jr. High Youth Group has had a great time planning their future activities with the leaders, Patt Pilgrim, Bryan Ambrosat, and Katie Trecanni. They spend time in the gym, move to tables for snacks and discussion and then to a circle of chairs for more discussion and games. Check out the walls of the fellowship area where they are displaying some of the amazing work this group is participating in.

A new year has started for **The Sr. High Youth Group** and the discussion this year is centered around the theme, "I Believe." As a committee we were honored to view the finished product of an activity from last years group. Beautiful music fills the ears of these young adults and gives all of us a glimpse of their future. If you have not seen the finished booklet or heard the CD of some of their favorite music, ask a member of this group about this.

The Women's Bible Study has begun again. The ladies who attend are serious in their study and would like to invite anyone who is interested in discussion of Psalms to join them. Arlene Pearson is the discussion leader. Join them on Mondays at 1:00 PM. The **Meal and Movie** will begin on November 18th. A potluck lunch is served and the movie is viewed with discussion afterwards. Patt Pilgrim has offered The movie, *Letters from Juliet,* for this first meeting. Any questions should be directed to Dianne Flynn.

Dr. Kirk MacGregor is offering his class on **"Developing a Christian Worldview"** two times on Sunday mornings. The 9:00 AM class meets in the room at the bottom of the stairs and the second class is offered to you in the Jr. High classroom upstairs at 11:45 AM. Anyone interested in learning about the Christian Faith, supporting your choice in following the faith, the choice of make-up for the Books in the Bible or how to share your faith with non-believers should attend this class.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been very busy sharing with others in the congregation. 8 shawls were presented in the month of September. New labels have arrived to sew into the future shawls. These labels will remind friends and family of the dedicated crafters who have knit and crocheted the shawls and blankets. We celebrated a birthday, two weddings and also supported the life and death struggles of our congregation and their survivors. The group has decided to adopt Warm Up America as our new mission. We will be creating 7 x 9 inch rectangles to use for sewing blankets as donations to the Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House, and Salvation Army. If you are making squares at home for donations to our mission, please make the 7 X 9 inch rectangles to help us add them to the blankets. Once again the group is getting ready to make scarves, hats and mittens for the **Tree of Warmth.** Any items on the tree are donated to the Jones Center and the needy people of

that community. You are asked to donate any items which will also help warm a child during the Chicago Winter. Boxes to accept your donations should be found near the sanctuary doors. Please try to bring your items to the church on or before November 28th.

The Stampers are meeting and creating a bounty of cards this year. Ruth Hill has joined the group again this year. She provided some new ideas for layering paper to make some adorable cards. The Stampers meet on alternating Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. October meetings will be on the 13 and 27. If you are interested in exploring your creativity and wish to make something new, come join the Stampers and see how much fun you can have.

Stories and More is in the fourth week of class. We have had a very small number of students return and hope they will be able to bring in friends to join us. We started the first six week session discussing the Alphabet and Fall. The children have made paper projects with leaves, baked cookies, played find the alphabet letters and pictures, danced and exercised. The hour flies by and before you know it the parents are at the door waiting for their children to go home. This class is held on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. If anyone knows of a family with a child ages 4-6 years old, you should let them know of this great opportunity for their child on Tuesday. Any questions can be directed to Dianne Flynn, Director of Children's Ministries or Patt Pilgrim, Leader of Stories and More.

There are approximately 5 dedicated ladies who come once a month to the church to sew pads for Cancer patients. These dedicated ladies have made a world of difference in the care of the patients as well as their hospice workers. More hands who sew are always welcome to the **Cancer Sewing group** which meets at the church once a month. A special thank you and God Bless You from the committee and especially from the Zimmerman Family. Who knew something so simple could be such a gift?

A special **Christian Education Committee meeting** is scheduled for November 9. It will be a time to assemble the Advent projects and get them ready for the special Family Night on December 3. The meeting can begin whenever you come. Dianne will be at the office setting up by 6:00 PM. Be sure to bring friends along for helping so the evening will be filled with laughter and hard work.

*****

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 3rd

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 5th

9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program
10:30 a.m. Advent Program Presented
"Hanging of the Greens"



Sunday School News

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade - *Sue Orsic*

The fall session of Sunday School is in full swing. We have been studying passages from the Old Testament, specifically 2 Samuel. We started out talking about when David became the King of Israel, and have moved on to the story about Absalom rebelling against King David. Absalom is defeated by King David's army and is killed. We have learned that we can rely on God, that being kind to others honors God, and that having a self-centered attitude hurts God and others. Stop by our classroom to see some of our work.

It has been great to see Jacob, Shaylin, Danny and Gabby this year! We have also welcomed Holly and Jessica to our class this fall! We have been having a lot of fun and learning at the same time. Please join us if you have not been to Sunday School this year and bring a friend.

Sincerely,
Sue Orsic

Junior High - *Patt Pilgim*

We are reading about King David and King Solomon. We have been reading from the Old Testament books of Samuel and Kings. Some of the lesson themes have been:

- God wants us to be faithful to Him
- God forgives when we are truly sorry
- God gives us gifts like wisdom if we ask.

Katie, Madie, Kyle, Natalie, Leanne and Ashley have been great students as we study the Old Testament. Several of the girls put together a one page newspaper about Absalom, a son of King David who was not faithful to God. **Look for the "Junior High Gazette" in this month's HHPC newsletter**. We welcome all junior highs to come join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 for fun and learning in Sunday school.

Senior High Youth Group

The Senior High Youth Group is back in the house, the House of God that is. We have several meetings already under our belt. The group is large, about 12 to 14 youth on any given Sunday.

This year we have adopted the theme of "I Believe." We are starting with a look at our personal beliefs and those of the Presbyterian Church USA. As our focus shifts from inward to outward, we will also look at the more general Christian beliefs, including other Christian denominations. Our plan is to also learn a bit about other non-Christian religions and their interaction with Christianity in the world around us.

The Senior High YG will be serving at PADS the first Sunday in December. Last year we made sloppy-joes and mac-and-cheese. We thought we might be able to get away with not cooking, this year. It seems like our menu went over so well, we have been asked to prepare the meal as well as serve it, again this year. Another PADS project we are undertaking is Christmas Gift Bags. We plan to assemble bags of useful gifts items for distribution. We hope to collect/purchase small items like; hand sanitizer, Kleenex, deodorant, toothbrushes, hats, gloves, and socks. It is estimated that we will need about 100 bags. We are very open to any donations you might be able to make. A collection box will be made available once the Haunted House festivities are completed.

Our Group is, once again, supporting the Haunted House. We will participate in the building, staffing, and break-down of the house. We will also provide the concession stand. We hope to see you there.

Senior High Youth Group Leaders,
Rick Vogl, Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke

Junior High Youth Group
November

Tentative Junior High Calendar of Events for 2010-2011	
September 16, 2010	Start of junior High Youth group
October 28, 2010	Halloween Party
November 19, 20, 2010	Lock In (tentative)
November 25, 2010	thanksgiving - no meeting
December 16, 2010	no meeting - Women's Christmas Tea
December 9, 2010 or December 18, 2010	Ice Skating downtown and Christmas Windows
December 23, 2010	Christmas holiday - no meeting
December 30, 2010	Pizza and movie night
January 28, 29, 30, 2011	Junior high retreat, Bloomington, IL
February 19, 2011	Feed My Starving Children, Aurora, IL (one day mission)
March (tentative)	P.A.D.S. meal
April 15, 16, 2011	A.W. O L. (a work of Love), overnight mission at Fourth Presbyterian Church Chgo, IL
May 12, 2011 (tentative)	End of the year party with parents

We welcome all junior Highs to join us on Thursday nights from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for games, Christian learning and snacks.
Bryan Ambrosat, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim

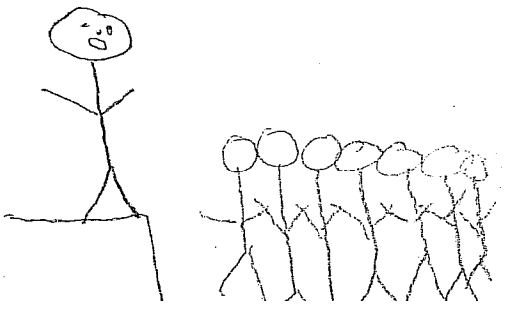
The Junior High Gazette

Absolem talks to the people!

By: Ashley maranto

Breaking News! Absolem is talking to the people of Jerusalem and says he wants to over throw the king! He wants to overthrow the king David (his father) because he wants all the power. Absolem even built a monument for himself.

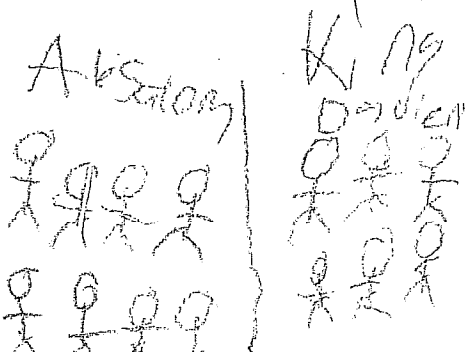
Absolem talking to people!



Absalom assembles an army

By Lennie Kommenion

Absalom Choose twelve thousand men. I would attack David while he is weary and weak. I would strike down the king and bring people back to you. The plan seemed good to Absalom and to all elders of Israel



Absalom has Been Killed!

By: Natalie Ossi

King David said to his three generals "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." The king wish for the general's not to kill his son. As the two army's were fighting, Absolom got stuck in a tree when he was riding his mule. One of General Joab's men found but did not kill him. Joab was outraged when he heard this, so he went to find Absolom. Joab went and killed Absolom. Then he and his troops threw Absolom in a pit and covered him with rocks. The war ended.

Youth Choir



Youth Choir's new plan this year!

We now meet at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings, downstairs in the fellowship hall for 30 minutes of practice. It is our hope that this new arrangement will work better for everyone and especially allow for the busy schedules that our members have once they are beyond grade school.

If you have thought about joining us, come on over and be a part of the group. We welcome first grade through college age!
We hope to grow and gain new members while at the same time relying on the solid base built by our long term members.
Our new music choices challenge the experienced singers, but also include a basic melody for younger and newer members.
Regular practice is important to be able to use these songs to be for the Glory of God.
So set your calendar reminder and join us.
Starting our first season we have looked to a couple of our favorites with little time to learn a new song for our first couple Anthem's.
If you missed last month's Anthem, here is a medley presented in worship. It serves as a reminder of our daily walk with God…

As we walk our lonesome valley, we do not walk it by ourselves
For God sent His Son to walk it with us
We do not walk it by our selves

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,
Ha le lu jah, Ha le lu jah, we're going to see the King

No more crying there, we are going to see the King
No more crying there, we are going to see the King
No more crying there, we are going to see the King
Ha le lu jah, Ha le lu jah, we're going to see the King

No more dying there, we are going to see the King
No more dying there we are going to see the King
No more dying there we are going to see the King
Ha le lu jah, Ha le lu jah, we're going to see the King

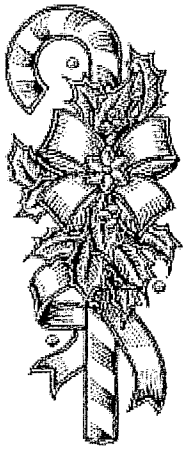
Ha l– le –lu—u- jah. Ha l– le –lu—u- jah. Ha l– le –lu—u- jah

Please Join Us for our

Annual Craft Bazaar

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9 AM- 3 PM



HHPC
8426 West 95th St.
Hickory Hills
708-598-3100

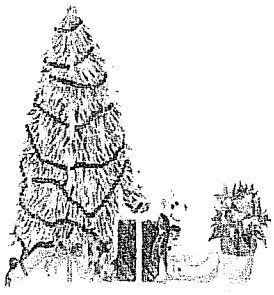




There is something for everyone—
Great Gift Ideas and Crafts, a Bake Sale, "The Penny Social," and of course our "Snack Shop" where you have several options for lunch such as:
Chili, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Soups, Slice of Pie etc.

Stop by and enjoy a great day of fellowship and good food!!!
See you on November 6th!

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT



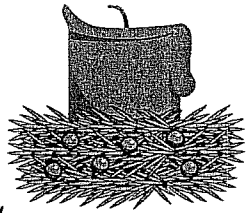
Friday, December 3

6:30 P.M.

POTLUCK DINNER

CHRISTMAS CRAFT

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE PIANO

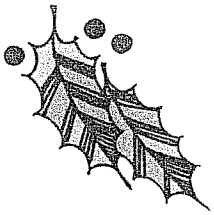


COST:

FOOD DISH TO SHARE FOR OUR MEAL

AND

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CRAFT PROJECTS



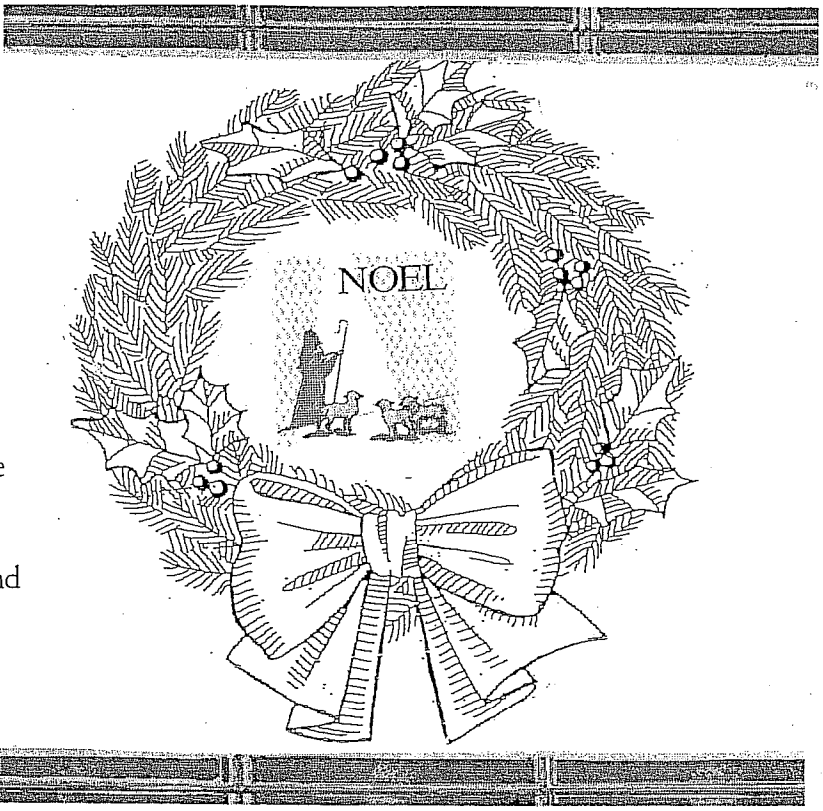


Sign up today for this wonderful family event

HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT
PROGRAM

Our kids tell the story of the Nativity and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 5
10:30 a.m.
WORSHIP
SERVICE

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE
1 Erik Meyer 3 Michelle Krumpolc 6 Brittany Maranto 12 Jessica Panko 14 Leo Wreza 15 Jacob Morrell 22 Jason Countryman 24 Karol Chandler 27 Shaylin Rys 28 Mandy Rodriguez	<u>Junior High</u> Natalie Orsic <u>Senior High</u> Jarrett Ambrosat Gabriella Ciametti Brittany Maranto Andrew Witek Matthew Witek

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 provided by
Guest Speaker - Alice Collins
and
Music by the Madrigal Singers of Stagg High School

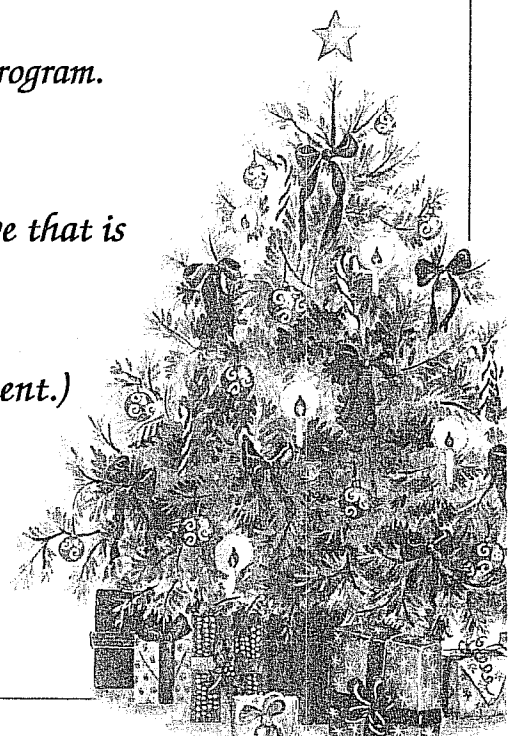
Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, December 16th
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	2 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	3 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	4 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	5	6 BAZAAR 9am- 3pm
7 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	8 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Session	9 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting	10 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	11 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	12 Saugatuck Adult Retreat---	13 Saugatuck Adult Retreat--- 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
14 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 5:00 p.m. Concert 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Dec. Newsletter Articles Due	15 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Outreach	16 12:30 p.m. Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission	17 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	18 12:00 p.m. Meal & Movie 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	19	20 Brookfield Zoo Tree Decorating
21 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	22 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Deacons	23 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	24 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	25 *Thanksgiving Day* 	26	27
28 1st Sunday in Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & S.S. 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	29 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	30 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care				

November Birthdays

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
17 – Selorm Atiedu
26 – Beth Ann Kommenich
26 – Linda Rys
26- George Vinalek
27 – Lorraine Mead
27 – Mary Tartar
30 – Jacqueline Morgucz
30- Amanda Kowalcze

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



Dated Material
Do Not Hold

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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PAID
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BRIDGEVIEW, IL
60455

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 2010

Minor Ministerial Musings

I read an article online the other day on msn.com, entitled "10 Obsolete Jobs We Love". I don't know anything about the author, but I was interested to see the jobs she had listed as obsolete but "lovable" nonetheless – jobs like milkman, elevator operator, and switchboard operator. Many of us have only seen jobs like that carried out on black-and-white TV shows and movies. Few people have milk delivered anymore, everyone knows that light-up buttons operate elevators, and even if your main form of telephone communication isn't a cell phone, your calls are connected to their destination absent a pleasant voice asking, "What exchange, please?"

What interested me the most about this article, however, was the motivation for it, a motivation which was not at all mentioned in the article itself, leaving me to speculate as to the reason that anyone would miss those jobs. I suppose that people who once held those jobs would certainly miss them if they were laid off from them only to be replaced by computers. Hopefully, those folks would have been able to train for other work, or even be trained to run or program the computers that had put them out of a job to begin with. But this article seemed to speak to, and from the perspective of, people who had never held these sorts of jobs, or even encountered them in their everyday lives. The article, with its descriptions and definitions of "old-fashioned" jobs, seemed to be addressed to readers for whom these jobs were "before their time." Why, then, would readers of this article love these jobs, or even miss them, as the article implied that such jobs are remembered nostalgically?

But there was one characteristic that all of the described jobs had in common, and that gave me a hint as to why this article may have been important to the author, and why the author thought the article would be important to her readers. Most of the described jobs were jobs once done by people, which have transitioned into jobs done by computers, jobs like elevator operator and switchboard operator, for instance. Those that didn't fit into that category were service jobs that simply evolved, for whatever reason, into tasks that people simply do for themselves. People don't get milk delivered anymore, for instance – they just add it to their grocery list and head off to the store.

In other words, as all of these jobs either evolved or were rendered completely obsolete, the change that made the difference was the removal of the human or relational aspect. And that is something that is missed, whenever and wherever it

happens, whether we notice it or not, and whether or not we will admit it. The voice or handshake that comes with everyday transactions or mundane actions make the everyday and mundane a little more special. As Christians, we know that our relationship with God is intricately interwoven with our relationships with one another. When one diminishes, the other diminishes. When one is nurtured and strengthened, the other is nurtured and strengthened as well.

As we celebrate Advent, as we anticipate the celebration of the day that "the Word became flesh", when God came to dwell among God's people in the form of Jesus the Christ, may we remember the importance of our humanity and our own fleshliness. And may we look for the image and likeness of God in everyone we encounter. May we truly reflect the image and likeness of God in which we were created. May we be truly human.

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara

HHPC
PRAYER REQUESTS



-Carol Sack & family in the loss of her brother-in-law, Wayne
-Tom Pearson & family on the passing of Nancy
-Roy Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
-Bob Nordstrom for upcoming wrist surgery
-Ellen Betcher for healing
-Gert's son-in-law, Alden, for upcoming surgery
-Dennis & Mary Tarter for strength & direction & health concerns
-Dennis & Mary Tarter, on the passing of their son, Don
-Baby Preston William Cosme for healing
-Shirley Fogg for healing
-The Kahn's granddaughter, Alys, for health concerns
-Eleanor Watson's great niece, Kate
-Lucy's brother-in-law, Bob, & sister, Delores, for healing
-Ivy Taebel's son, Larry, for health concerns
-Enid Scholefield for her eyes
-Dorothy Scholefield for health concerns
-Betty Kitching for health concerns
-Dean Georgetti for continuous healing
-Shannon Bastien for health concerns
-John Bredlau for continuous healing
-Daniel Esparza & family for health concerns
-Richard Larson & his mom for strength
-Marie Hoffman for health concerns & continued improvement
-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing and strength
-Kevin McGuire for healing & strength
-Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
-Dorothy Allen for strength
-Our service men and women and their families
-Our policemen, Firemen, & their families
-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle



Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to attend this Vital Ministry of our church.

PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

TWILIGHT PRAYER

When we come into God's presence, we are not worthy of his acceptance of us, yet, we are treated like his loving sons and daughters. He is attentive to our every word, He is there for us, His sinful children. What lies upon your heart today? What are your needs, what are your wants?

Gather with us in the library on Tuesday evening, your time spent there will truly be a blessing to us all.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER & CARE

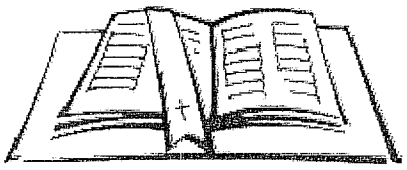
"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints."
REVELATION 5:8 (KJV)

As I write this report, Thanksgiving is less than 2 weeks away. Our noses will delight in various aromas: turkey, bread, pumpkin pie, etc. Oh how blessed we are!

When Christmas comes, the scents of pine, ham, apples roasting, etc. will fill the air again. But did we ever think our prayers smell like incense?

"For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ..."
II CORINTHIANS 2:15 (KJV)

Love 'N' Hugs, Arlene



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Teach me thy way, O LORD, that I may walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name. I give thanks to thee, O Lord, My God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify thy name forever.
For great is they steadfast love toward me; thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol."
PSALM 86:11-13 (RSV)

We are hoping to finish Book III before Thanksgiving week, or by the end of November. The psalms have history and use with overriding themes. The words of C.S. Lewis underline one further important point: "The psalms are poems, and poems intended to be sung: not doctrinal treatises, nor even sermons...They must be read as poems if they are to be understood...Otherwise we shall miss what is in them and think we see what is not."

Our Christmas luncheon will be December 13 at noon. No classes on the 20th or 27th.

PADS UPDATE



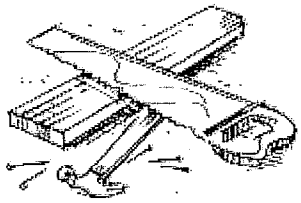
We often think of the millions of people throughout the world who are homeless and without food. We are indeed humbled by that very fact. We, ourselves, are blessed. We provide for our families and there is always ample to meet our needs, with surplus to meet the needs of the homeless in our own neighborhoods.

On November 7, our count for PADS was 64 men and women and again no children were present. Our Sunday evening meal, as always, was greatly appreciated and many words of thanks were conveyed.

Thank you, friends, one and all for your support and contributions to our PADS ministry. A monetary gift is always welcomed. May we never be too self consumed not to think of those less fortunate than we. Amen.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

BUILDING AND GROUNDS



Free Giveaways to anyone who needs…

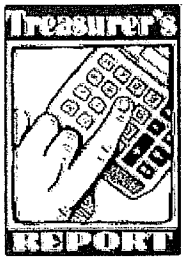
Few sheets of drywall

Couple sheets of Greenboard

1st Come, 1st Served Basis.

Contact Scott Zimmerman, 708-458-1662 or Charley Huenecke, 708-598-2342 for more info

OCTOBER 2010 Treasurer's Report



General Fund Income	$19,928.00
General Fund Disbursements	$16,753.00

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

On Saturday November 6th we held our annual craft bazaar and bake sale. We were very pleased that we had a "full house" of vendors. 40 tables were sold in total to outside vendors. We would like to thank everybody who helped with baked goods, we set an all time high with $547 alone sold at the bake table. We would also like to thank all that helped with the setup and cleanup before and after the bazaar. We have collected a total of $2600 this year that will enable us to do something for the church that is not included in the budget.

And For the Upcoming Holiday Season:

Don't forget about our Script service. This is an easy way for us to raise money and for you to save on shopping trips. Jewel certificates can be given to you on the spot and the others, which are ordered, will be given to you the next week. This is a very easy way for us to earn some money for our church to help us be able to have events like the bazaar and the yard sale. So if you have any birthdays, or anniversaries coming up, or Christmas shopping, this is certainly a great gift that anyone would enjoy receiving. How about yourself – I love to buy them for myself and then feel like I have a good reason to go shopping and after I have worked up an appetite I can get something to eat!



Coming Soon! HHPC Food Pantry!

Starting January 5, 2011
Wednesdays 4-6 pm
Church Members &
Hickory Hills Residents Welcome
Anyone who would like to make a donation, would like to get involved, or would like more information,
Contact Debbie Zimmerman
708-458-1662



Bring White Gifts

(Non-Perishable Food Items wrapped in white tissue paper)

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010

Wish List
Macaroni & Cheese
Cans of Vegetables
Cans of Fruit
Cans of Ravioli
Spaghetti-o's
Hamburger Helper
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Beans & Rice
Spaghetti & Sauce
Juice Boxes
Jello & Pudding
Soups
Crackers

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Dec. 3:
5:30 pm - Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal-
If you are involved in the Hanging of the Greens program, please be at the church for Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. before the Advent Workshop.
6:30 pm - Advent Workshop-
One of the many Christmas season traditions at our church. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Then, we make holiday crafts and sing Christmas 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).

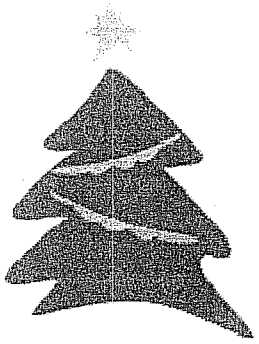
Sunday, Dec. 5:
10:30 am - Hanging of the Greens-
Our Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Our kids tell the story of the birth of Christ and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Parents: Please help us by making it a priority to be here with your children. Our whole congregation is blessed with this program.

Sunday, Dec. 12:
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**. There will also be a **Congregational Meeting** following the 10:30 service.

Thursday, Dec. 16:
7:00 pm - Women's Christmas Tea-
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. 19:
9:00 and 10:30 am Worship-White Gift Offering-
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**. Also, at 10:30 **new members** will be received into our congregation.

Friday, Dec. 24:
7:00 pm & 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve-
Come to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, with a candlelight service.



Hymning and Hawing

Peace on Earth . . . Conflict in the Church?

by G. R. Snow

Over the centuries since Christ's coming to earth as a baby in a manger, the Christian church has celebrated Christmas with joy, with exuberance, and with late-night Christmas Eve services. The Christian church has also faithfully observed the lighting of Advent candles, carefully recalling that the third Sunday is the Sunday the pink candle is lit, and that the four celebrations are of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love (the center candle, of course, being the Christ candle). But in the last thirty years or so, various church musicians (including me) have encountered a variety of beliefs among pastors and congregations about whether Christmas carols may be sung during Advent, and whether the church parishioners should be restricted to singing Advent carols during Advent. Protests have been raised (Christmastide is only two weeks long!), petitions have been circulated, and people have even elected to leave churches during Advent--though, mercifully, this conflict has not erupted at HHPC, nor do I have any reason to believe that such a conflict will erupt. But, in the spirit of keeping our congregants apprised of church music trends across the country and across the world, I would like to say just a few words about Advent and Christmas music.

First, let's be sure we're talking about the same thing. Advent is a season which looks toward the coming of the Messiah. It celebrates the ways in which God prepared the world, with a focus on the Jewish people, for the coming of Christ. Advent carols celebrate that spirit of expectation, and prophecies are "lifted" from the books of Isaiah, Joel, Malachi, and many other prophets who advised that the Savior would soon be coming.

Christmas carols, on the other hand, celebrate the actual coming of Christ. He is here! Let the world rejoice! Our Savior is among us, say all Christian folk; He is here, and that spirit of joy and realization is reflected in nearly all Christmas carols.

I consistently encourage some use of Advent carols because they are an enhancement of the worship experience during the Advent season. Historically, Advent is a penitential season, when we remember and ask forgiveness for the sins which caused the necessity for a Savior to come to earth. The color of penitence, for both Advent and Lent, is purple. If we rejoice that He came all six weeks, we should still devote some time to pondering that our sins, past, present, and future, necessitated His coming.

However, I do not feel it is sacrilegious or inappropriate to sing Christmas hymns during Advent. We are an Easter people--we have a Christ who died and rose again to save us, and it's appropriate to remember this not only on Easter Day but all during the year. By the same token we are a Christmas people--we have a Christ who loved us so much that He was born as a human to live a human life for our salvation, and this is true not only on Christmas Day but all year round. My consistent feeling is that the appropriate time to use a hymn is when it enhances the worship experience. If our pastor preaches a sermon about the significance of Bethlehem as the birthplace for Christ, and the prophecies pertaining to it, I would see nothing inappropriate about singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or "Once In Royal David's City" as part of that worship service. I would not encourage scheduling familiar carols exclusively because they are familiar and well-loved carols, however.

In the final analysis, there exists a tremendous wealth of music from the last nine centuries which celebrate various aspects of our Savior and His life and death on Earth. These hymns can be used very effectively--and effectually--to allow the congergation's expression of worship in a blend with the other components of the service. As we celebrate Christ's coming this Advent and Christmas season, let us keep both preparation and realization in our hearts, and sing with a renewed sense of how the hymns we sing enhance the message Christ has prepared for us to receive and ponder.

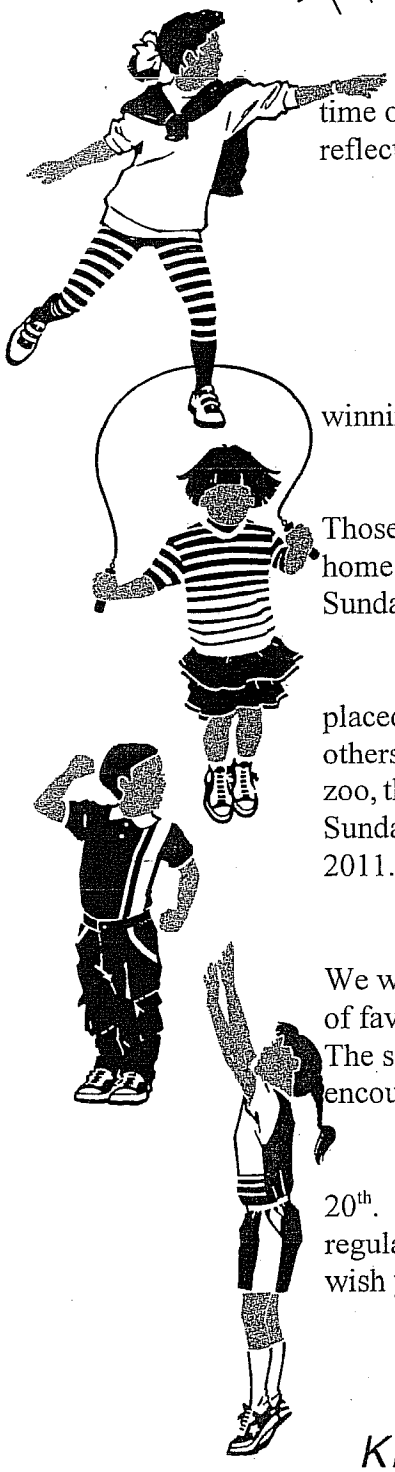
BRAIN TEASER: *Below are several Advent and Christmas hymn titles. Can you tell which is Advent and which is Christmas?*

1. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
2. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
3. Silent Night
4. Of the Father's Love Begotten
5. O Come, All Ye Faithful
6. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
7. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
8. Joy To The World
9. The King Shall Come
10. We Three Kings
11. The First Noel
12. As With Gladness Men of Old
13. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*



The birth of Christ is a time for great celebration. During this month our study time opens with the lighting of the Advent Candles. This is a time of special study and reflection. The themes for our study in December are:

Charting a New Course - God wants us to grow in our understanding of His people around the world

Blessings on the Bounty - God continues to care for and love all He Created.

Judea Junction - Because He loves us unconditionally, God sent His Son.

Congratulation to Vitterio S. for perfect attendance in the month of October and for winning the Snicker Balance Contest for this month.

We again welcomed Pastor Lara who introduced the kids to the "Treasure Trunk". Those kids worshiping with us on Sunday will be given the privilege of taking the Trunk home with them, filling it with a treasure of their own and bringing it back the following Sunday when Pastor Lara will talk about it in our Children's Message.

Last minute preparations are being put into our Christmas ornaments that will be placed on the tree at the Brookfield Zoo. We hope you will visit this tree and the many others that are featured at the Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic. Following the rules of the zoo, the ornaments were made of items which we recycled. Holiday Magic is Saturdays and Sundays in December (except December 25) and the week of December 26 - January 1, 2011.

Just a reminder, Our Family Advent Night is Friday, December 3th at 6:30 p.m. We will feature a shared potluck dinner, holiday crafts for all age groups, and the singing of favorite Christmas carols. This is a great evening for everyone, so plan for it now. The sign up sheet and a display of crafts is located on the lower level of the church. We encourage you to invite family and friends to share this evening with you.

KIDS CLUB Holiday Schedule: We will host a Christmas Party on December 20th. KIDS CLUB will not meet on December 27 or January 3. We will resume our regular schedule on January 10th. 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

†

Everyone who came to the meeting on the 9th will agree there was certainly enough work for us to do. After packaging all the pieces for each craft, there was also counting, tracing pieces and cutting them out for the crafts we did not package. **Advent Night on December 3rd begins at 6:30 PM** with a dinner. Then the tables are assembled and filled with the crafts used for home decoration or gifts. All the participants end the evening with Seasonal songs around the piano. This is one of those Family Nights which makes everyone smile a little bit more because it is the traditional beginning of our preparation for Christmas.

A small group helped to decorate the **Zoo Tree at Brookfield Zoo on November 20th.** The tree looks wonderful and is filled with the Kid's Club ornaments, garland and the pop top star. It is something you must stop to see when you visit the Brookfield Zoo during the Winter Magic. The families who decorated had a great time afterwards visiting all the exhibits at the zoo.

The Church will be treated to a **"Hanging of the Greens" on December 5th at the 10:30 AM worship service**. The children of the Church will tell the story of the first Christmas as well as explain some of the traditional symbols. There is a live Nativity complete with angels. There are traditional Carols as well as some more up to date songs to help build the mood and understanding of the holiday. The Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Attention Ladies! Did you remember to mark your calendars for the annual **Christmas Tea?** It is scheduled for December 16th at 6:30 PM. Bring your friends and relatives and join us. There will be games, singing, storytelling and of course, lots and lots of hot water to make tea. A favorite platter of your favorite cookies to share with everyone would be a thoughtful thing to bring but not required. A free-will donation at the door will be accepted for our program. If you have not witnessed the angelic voices of the Stagg Madrigal Singers, or listened to Alice Collins speak of Christmas Memories, you really should make this night a priority. Those of us who have attended since the inception, when Alice Galyean first had this idea, know what a terrific night this is to share with all your friends. Hope to see you at the Christmas Tea.

Don't forget to bring in the hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to decorate the **Warming Tree** and send to Jones Center. Our knitters and crocheters have been busy creating items for the tree but we can do only so much and really could use some help. It is a huge tree, you know. The Children will use the donations during the "Hanging of the Greens" on December 3rd. If you would like to help in another project, we are looking for knit or crochet rectangles measuring 7X 9 inches. We hope to collect enough to make several blankets for donation to the Ronald McDonald House near Hope Children's Hospital. Any rectangles can be brought to the room at the bottom of the stairs (old 5th grade room) or handed to Dianne or Linda.

The Stampers will have one meeting in December. We will pull out all the boxes for one more day in 2010. Join us on December 8th at 10:30 AM as we create new cards for the Prayer and Care group. We share our newest designs and encourage our team to keep creating. January 5 an 19 will be our first meetings in 2011. Join us and see how much fun you have in the hour we meet.

If you see Cheryl Howe, Lou Pearson, or Megan Zimmerman, remember to say thank you for their time and effort teaching this winter quarter. **The Christian Education Committee thanks each and everyone of you**. If you did not pick up your teacher's packets yet, please see Dianne.

Junior High Youth Group

In October we had a great Halloween party. In November we had a lock in. There is always fun at junior high youth group. We always have gym time and played favorite games like Salamander and My best friend. We also played Steal the bacon and Dodgeball. We spend time in fellowship and discussing different topics. Several topics were:

- Respect for ourselves and
- Respect for others and
- The harm gossip can do to us and others.

We learn what the bible has to say about these subjects. We have used Utube to see what other youth have to say about these subjects and we sometimes write our thoughts and share with each other.

We invite all junior high youth to come on Thursday nights at 6:30 to 8:00pm to join us. In the future we will be making junior high youth group shirts and going downtown to ice skate. Come join us.

Bryan Ambrosat, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim

****

Stories and More

Learning made fun is what we do on Tuesday afternoons with our 4, 5 and 6 year olds from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. The afternoon starts with music and dancing. We went on a musical ghost hunt at Halloween. We always have a story and sometimes we bake or make a craft to take home. We made turkeys from pine cones and fruit baskets for Thanksgiving and are going to make reindeer cookies at Christmas.

This 6 week session we are concentrating on numbers and counting. We work on sequencing and use games and writing exercises to reinforce learning. We invite children to join us as we continue to count to 100. Next week we will be playing number Bingo with numbers up to 40. Come join us.

Sr. High Youth Group

Thank you to ALL who volunteered to work Senior High Youth Group concession at the Haunted House last month. With all your efforts and time we "doubled" what we made last year...$452.00! The kids made a decision to donate $225 to the Lakeshore Christian Camping {LCC} to help save Camp Saugatuck! What an awesome choice. The remainder is being used to purchase the items for the Gift Bags to donate to PADS on December 5th.

Between the special cookies baked by the MAN...Dan Ciametti; the rice krispy treats made by Jean Swearingen, Melanie Swindle and Kim Ambrosat; the "puppy chow" by Kim Ambrosat; and the popcorn, hot spiced cider and hot chocolate...we had a huge choice of SNACKS. Special thanks to Rick and Ruth Steele for again "renting" us the popcorn machine...The support that HHPC gives our children is outstanding and so much appreciated.

Andrew, Brittney, Gabby, and Mike from SHYG and Gordon Home, Carri McKinney, Patt Pilgrim from HHPC...your time given to this "outside" project was a blessing. Dennis, Phil and Kristen Elam, our fire starters and tenders...you kept us warm inside and out.

Thank you and Bless you all,
Rick and Jeni Vogl & ALL of the SHYG

*****

The Senior High Youth Group has added some new faces since the Haunted House. We are thankful for the new friends and welcome Becky, Stephanie, Kyle, Nikki, Ida and Emily.

We are also very thankful for all those who supported the concession stand during the Haunted House run. The proceeds will be used to support the missions the youth have elected to support; Saugatuck and Kentucky Christmas. We have sponsored Christmas gifts for a family in Kentucky the last several years. This year we are also making a donation to LCC, Lakeshore Christian Camping. This is the organization that is working towards keeping the camping ministry alive at the Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck. This is a mission very close to the hearts of our youth.

We want Saugatuck to be available to others for many years to come.

We continue to work through our theme of "I Believe." We are looking at our personal beliefs and those of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As we have our discussions, I am continually impressed with the strength of the faith of our youth.

By the time you will have read this, the Senior High YG will probably already have served dinner for PADS the first Sunday in December. Sloppy-joes and mac-and-cheese are on the menu. The meal seems to be greatly appreciated. Maybe that's because it is different from their normal fair, or because it is good "comfort" food. We would like to think it is so good because of the love that goes into making and serving it. We are also working on a special project for our service to PADS. We intend to assemble some gift bags for distribution. The gift bags will contain useful item such as: hand sanitizer, Kleenex, deodorant, toothbrushes, hats, gloves, and socks. It is estimated that we will need about 100 bags. If you helped us with your donation of these items, we are thankful.

We do have some fun things on the calendar ahead. We will be blasting each other at Laser Tag on December 18th. We are planning a trip to either the zoo or Shedd aquarium. All of us are looking forward to a weekend retreat at Saugatuck in March.

Senior High Youth Group Leaders,
Rick Vogl, Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 3rd
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 5th
9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program
10:30 a.m. Advent Program Presented
"Hanging of the Greens"

"CHRISMONS" :
Christ Monograms

During Advent, many churches display Christmas trees decorated with Christian symbols called "Chrismons." The name comes from the Latin phrase *Christi Monogramma*, which means monogram of Christ.

Most Chrismons are made of wood or Styrofoam, and they can be handmade or purchased at Christian supply stores.

The symbols, which represent aspects of Jesus' life and ministry, include stars, angels, keys, doves, boats and various types of crosses.

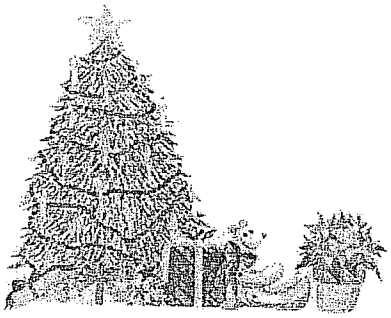
The Legend of The Three Trees



According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and a fir tree. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn king, and the palm tree gave its dates.

The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. And so the fir became the first Christmas tree.

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT



Friday, December 3

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 CRAFT PROJECTS

Sign up today for this wonderful family event

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Victor Munoz
5 Tristan Grisko
7 Madison Minet
12 Brian Haack
14 Danny Rodriguez
Jenah Fox
15 Gabriel Meyer
17 Yasmine Fox
18 Riley McKinney
20 Natasha Swindle
22 Kyle Freiberg
25 Natalie Orsic
26 Tristin Dabrowski
HalimahAl-Ashqar
30 Ava McGuire
31 Patryja Kwak

PERFECT ATTENDANCE
OCTOBER

3rd and 4th Grades
Danny Orsic

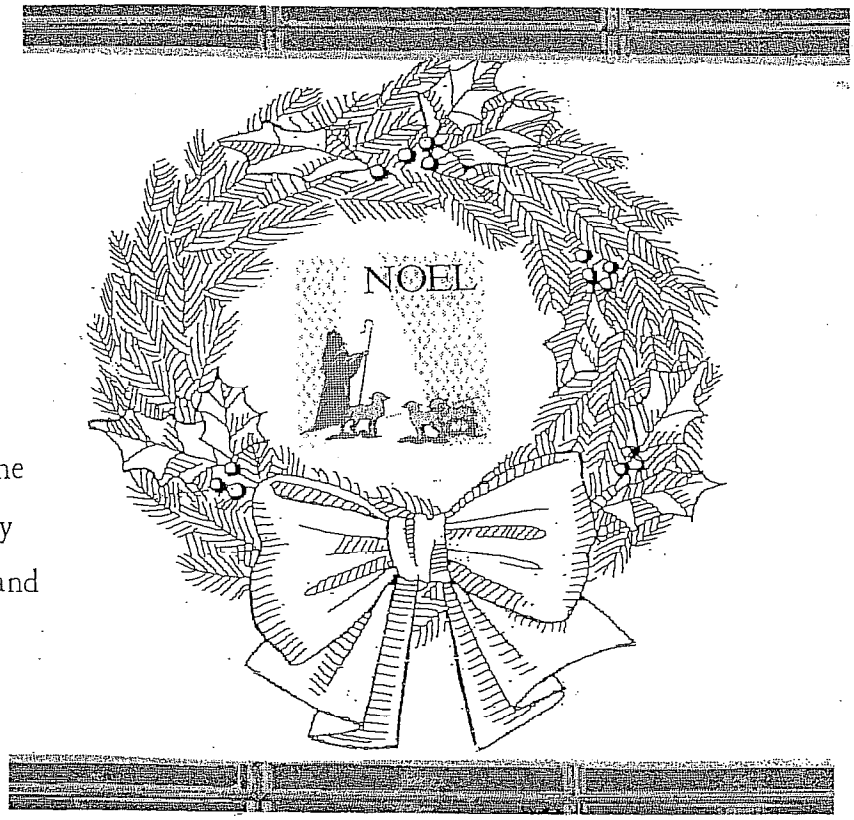
Junior High
LeAnne Kommenich

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Katelin Wheeler
Kyle Wheeler
Andrew Witek

HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT PROGRAM

Our kids tell the story of the Nativity and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas



SUNDAY DECEMBER 5 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday School News

Grades K - 5 – Sue Orsic

We have continued to study 1 Kings during this fall quarter and have read and talked about Solomon and Elijah. We have learned to follow God, to trust God, and to serve God through our bible verses and lessons. Our class has been small this quarter, but we continue to meet weekly and have fun together. We have learned Bible facts, painted pumpkins, played games, and have learned ways to navigate the Bible. It has been fun to see Shaylin, Danny, Gabby, Jacob, and Holly on Sunday morning. We also welcomed Kelly and Kevin to our class in the last month. Please continue to join the Sunday School class each week and bring a friend too!

Junior High Class - Patt Pilgrim

It has been great teaching the junior high class this Quarter. What a great group this is. I love to hear their opinions and I am so happy to see them grow in knowledge of how to use the bible and become familiar with the stories of people in the bible. This quarter we studied about David, Solomon and Isaiah. This past week we learned about how Isaiah followed God's direction and performed miracles for a widow and her son. Thank you Natalie, LeAnne, Ashley, Kyle, Katie, Maddie, Brian, Ronni and Stacey. It has been great having you in class. God bless you.

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 provided by
Guest Speaker - Alice Collins
and
Music by the Madrigal Singers of Stagg High School

Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, December 16th
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

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Sacrament of Holy Communion- *Dec. 12, 2010*

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Dec. 5, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Dec. 12, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
Dec. 19, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Dec. 26, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	**COUNTERS**	
Dec. 5, 2010	Susan Frangella	
Dec. 12, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
Dec. 19, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
Dec. 26, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

L.E.A.D. - SAVE THE DATE!

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

For elders, deacons, church school teachers, clergy, clerks, youth workers, church musicians, mission workers and trustees – Put LEAD 2011 on your church calendar!

LEAD 2011

BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Keynote: The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

The founding pastor of Mission Bay Community Church, San Francisco, Bruce served as the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

• Saturday, March 5, 2011 •

8:30 – 3:00 pm

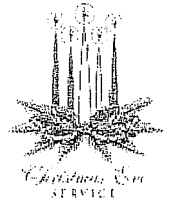
First Presbyterian Church

550 North Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

$15 Registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch

THIS YEAR, LEAD IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, THE PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO & & FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GLEN ELLYN.

DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	2 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	3 5:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Advent Workshop Family Night	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship (downstairs) 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:00 a.m. Hanging of Greens Reh. 10:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	6 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	7 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	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	10	11 9am-12pm Jones Center Breakfast with Santa 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 5:00 p.m. Christmas Carol Outing at Stagg
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education- Cong. Mtg. 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group Jan. Newsletter Articles Due	13 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Luncheon 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Session	14 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	16 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea 8:00 p.m. Handbells	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship (Cantata) & Children's Education- White Gifts 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	20 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	21 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	23 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	24 Christmas Eve  7:00 p.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Worship	25 
26 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 9:00 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & S.S. 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Developing a Christian World View 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	27	28 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	30 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	31 New Year's Eve	1 

December Birthdays

December
1 – Darlene Delaney
1 – Melanie Swindle
4 – Scott Hoffman
5 – Dawn Morgucz
11 – Ruth Payton-Hill
12- Tom Treccani
12- Bryan Ambrosat
16 – Gina Ciametti
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

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Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.

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