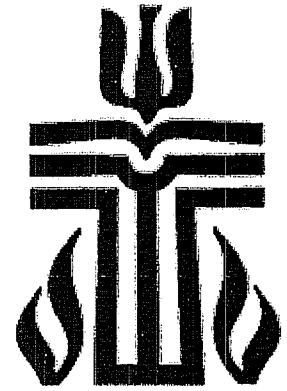


THE CONNECTING LINK

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



APRIL 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5



with PALMS, of course!

and COMMUNION in all three services!

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

Good question!!

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

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

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

Two Sundays. Two parties.

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

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

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

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



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Good Friday and Maundy Thursday

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

April 9 and April 10
April 10 and April 9

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

Get the picture? They go together!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



EASTER

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

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

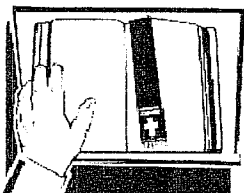
Worship opens our Easter morning at 8:30 on April 12. Come to the first service as we celebrate the light God is shedding across our world and the light that invites us to live in the God's world of new life. Be sure to let all the guests you bring with you know that communion will be served and they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

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

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

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

Guest Preachers



GUEST PREACHER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

Don't Forget:

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

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

PADS UPDATE

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

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



Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

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

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

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

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



TWILIGHT PRAYER

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

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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

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

FEBRUARY 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income
\$15,431.00

General Fund Disbursements
\$21,632.00

General Fund Balance
\$1,709.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GARDEN HELP NEEDED

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

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

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

KENTUCKY REGISTRATION

It's that time again...

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

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

FIREPROOF The Movie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Twist on the Ten Commandments

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

Idolatry

Adultery
Murder

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

Envy

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



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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



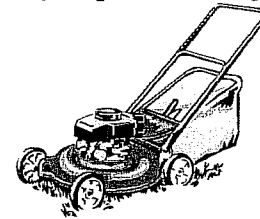
At its regular meeting March 9, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., the **Session** of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC):

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

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

Help Wanted:

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




Senior High Youth Group

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

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

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion- April 5, 2009

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

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



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

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

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



Flower Sale for Camp Scholarships

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

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

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

Please mark your calendars for this pick up date.

Just in time for Mother’s Day!

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

3/8/09

To All a Dad's Extended Family
& Friends,

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

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

...and you
are right
in the
middle.

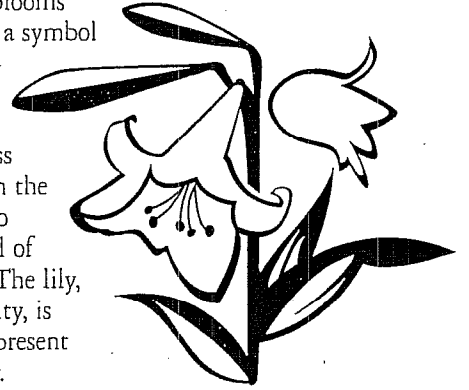
Thank You!

Love,

Harry Hermonson's Family

Lily

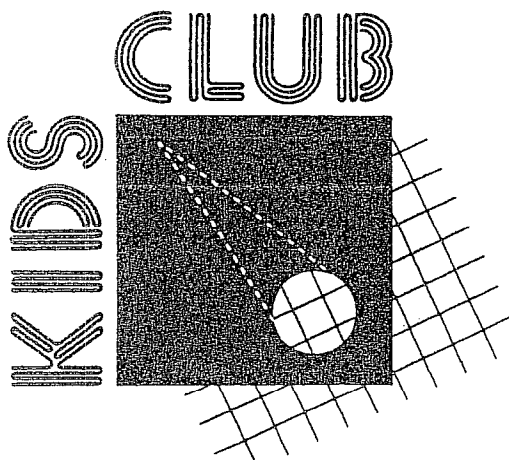
The lily that blooms
around Easter is a symbol
of Christ's resur-
rection because
it rises from a
seemingly lifeless
bulb decaying in the
ground. It is also
used as a symbol of
Christ himself. The lily,
a symbol of purity, is
often used to represent
the Virgin Mary.



Dear Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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

Blessings,
Dory Russell



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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

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

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

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

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

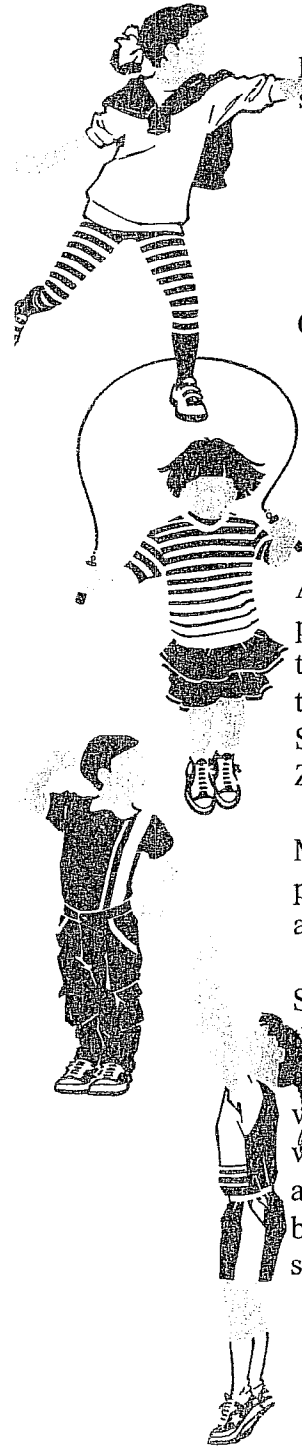
As I am writing this we have just completed week 3 of Lent 2009 - Jerusalem Marketplace. Our program will continue through April 1, so if you have not visited the Marketplace yet, there is still time. It is a wonderful time of learning and fun. It would not, could not have happened without the outstanding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

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

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

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



✠ SUNDAY SCHOOL ✠

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

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

NEWS FROM OUR TEACHERS

Preschool and Kindergarten -

Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Jeanette Grisko

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

Love,

Miss Debbie

Mrs. Grisko

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

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

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

Junior High - Patt Pilgrim

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

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

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

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

Adult Sunday School - Tom Lane

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

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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

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

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

make a donation for Camp Scholarships when you come.

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

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

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

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

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

Kids Club Bible Verses for April

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

†

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

†

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

†

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

1 Peter 1:13

†

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

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

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY

1st and 2nd Grades

Jacob Morrell
Danny Orsic

3rd and 4th Grades

Gigi Giancana
Alexis Ternit

Junior High

Natalie Orsic
Sarah Swearingen
Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High

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

Junior High Youth Group

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming events are:

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

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



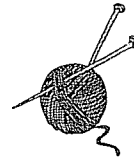
KIDS HELPING KIDS

We can make a difference!

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

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

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



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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

Music from our Youth Choir



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

Show His Love Medley

By: Debbie Rettino

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

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

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

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

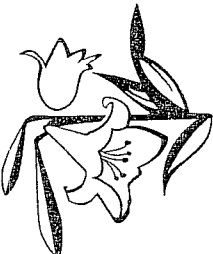

My feet are the feet that God will use to carry for the light
If people will believe in Him, They can have eternal life.

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

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

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

APRIL 2009

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

EASTER CARD

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

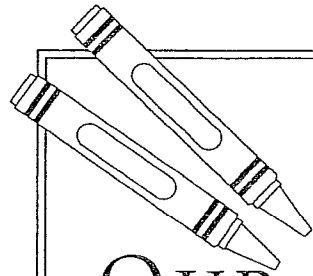
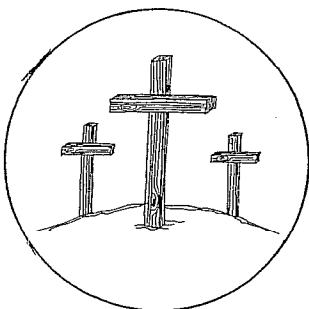
What you need:

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



What you do:

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



Just for KIDS

OUR LIVING HOPE

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

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

P	R	A	I	S	E										
P	E	R	I	S	H										
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S	O	D	O	E	T										
A	M	E	R	C	Y										



WORD CHALLENGE

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



April Birthdays

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

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

Palm Sunday, April 5

9:00 a.m. *Worship*

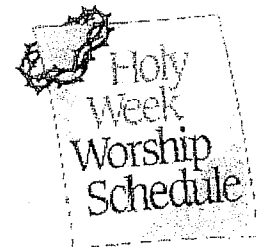
10:30 a.m. *Worship*

Kids Sing

Youth Choir Sings

Children Bring in Palms

5:00 p.m. *REV Worship*



Maundy Thursday, April 9

6:30 p.m. *Catered Dinner*

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

Good Friday, April 10

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

Easter Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. *Worship*

9:30 a.m. *Community Breakfast*

10:30 a.m. *Worship*

5:00 p.m. *REV Worship*

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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