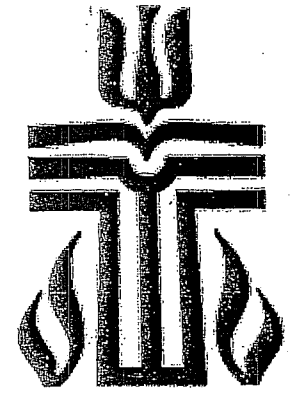




THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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AUGUST 2009

From your Pastor We are on a Journey

I have vivid memories as a child, of travelling on railway trains to the various places where we spent our vacations, usually somewhere near the sea. I was full of excitement and anticipation as we boarded the train, which was pulled along by, what seemed to me at that time, a huge iron monster that belched smoke and steam as we sped along. We usually departed from the main terminal in Edinburgh, Scotland, called “Waverly Station” which was the point of origin for trains going to many different destinations. The trains were usually packed with people when we left the station, with many people standing in the corridor, who would ask those in seats “where are you traveling to?” in the hope that they would get a seat if that person was not travelling to the final destination. We would make many stops on our journey and at each station, some people would get off, whilst others boarded for the next part of the journey. Those who were still standing would rush to get a seat before the new people came on board, but usually by the time we got to our final destination everyone had a seat and all was calm.

You know, churches are somewhat like those trains in some respects, as pastors and people join them and leave them, all under the sovereign control of God who has already planned the Journey for us before the beginning of time. We sometimes get anxious when changes take place in leadership and membership, but we must take reassurance from God’s Word as we embark upon the next part of the journey which God has planned for us, and face it with excitement and anticipation as I did, as a child standing on the platform ready to board the train.

Let us reflect briefly on *1 Peter 2: 9-12*:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

Verses 9 – 10 reassures us that God has chosen us both as individuals, but also as a people “holy”, set apart to praise Him for showing us mercy, in taking us from the darkness of our self-centered lives to the light of life in Christ. This is the starting point of our Journey. God has put us on the right tracks and is at the head of the train taking us to our final destination.

Verses 11 – 12 presents us with a challenge by first saying we are strangers (or the older term “sojourners”) in the world. This means that our life on earth is only a short part in life eternal for those who have turned to Christ in faith and repentance, and we must reflect His light to those in the world around us by our conduct in front of them.

We have nothing to fear as we join together for the next part of our Journey and strive to show Christ's love to those around us, so they too, will want to join us and share in the exciting plans God has already laid out for us.

In Christ's Service,

Derek Morrison

Sermon Titles - August 2009

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Am Services</u>
2	Don't Be Afraid! Rev. 1:9-20
9	Fall Back in Love! Rev. 2:1-7
16	Poor Yet Rich? Rev. 28-11
23	Repent Now! Rev. 2:12-17
30	Hold Onto Christ! Rev. 2:18-29

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Rev Services</u>
2	Running From God Jonah 1:1-17
9	Fickle Man – Faithful God Jonah 2:1-10
16	A Compassionate Judge Jonah 3:1-10
23	Gods Way – Not Mans Way Jonah 4:1-11
30	Defend the Faith! Jude 1-14

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Prayer is a gift not a given.
Prayer is a blessing to share with others.
Prayer is a life line when your boat is sinking.
Prayer is a request from the heart.
Prayer is a call from you that only you can make.
Prayer is a

Join us Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 PM.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE

“I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it...”
Revelation 3:8

Although the above may need to be clarified, please pay attention to the words “open door.” HHPC has an open door policy and so do the prayer groups. We are not committees but we are community. With all that is going on in the world (which should bring us to our knees), where are you?

Come. Wednesdays. 9:00 AM
Love “N” Hugs, Arlene



THANK YOU to all in this congregation who supported me in The Midway Relay for Life.

The event was Friday night 7 pm thru 7 am Saturday morning.

So far this year, I have raised \$900 for The American Cancer Society.

Thank you again,
Beverly Kahn

JUNE 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income: \$14,504.00

General Fund Disbursements: \$16,945.00

Financial Statements are being prepared and mailed reflecting offerings for the first six months of 2009.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has been busy! In June, we had a table at the Hickory Hills Street Fair, where church volunteers handed out pencils, ice water and information about all that HHPC has to offer! It was a great day of fellowship with each other and a fun way to get out into the community.

You might also have noticed some of the congregation sporting name tags at Sunday services. The Outreach Committee asked Elders, Deacons and members of the Outreach Committee to start wearing the tags, in hopes that in the future we can expand to other committees and eventually all members.

We've also been working on getting a set plan in place for following up with visitors to HHPC. More information will be coming about that, but in the mean time, a kind "hello" will do wonders for making visitors feel welcome.

The Outreach Committee has lots of ideas in the works, so look for more information in the coming months about opportunities to help spread the word about HHPC. Have ideas, comments or suggestions for us? Just e-mail outreach@hickoryhillspres.org.

MORE FROM OUTREACH...

Outreach is looking for a few good people!

Are you friendly, outgoing, like to talk to others? If so, the outreach committee could use your help. We are looking for people to be greeters (**not** ushers) and/or to make contact with visitors via letters, cards or phone calls.

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact : Gordon Home 708-599-8339, Cheryl Huenecke 708-598-2342 or Cindy Treccani 708-636-2237.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For:

- Frank Esparza's sister and her husband for health concerns
- Families dealing with Burr Oak Cemetery
- Dorothy Scholefield for continued healing

-Coz & Francine Costello & family in their loss of Joe

-Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns

-Debbie Zimmerman's mother, Carolyn, for health concerns

-Renee Meyer and kids- concern for father and grandfather

-John Morgucz for health concerns

-Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns

-Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns

-Dorothy Allen for health concerns

-Jim Kupka for healing

-Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia

-People experiencing hard times/ job loss

-Our service men and women and their families

-DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009

After REV

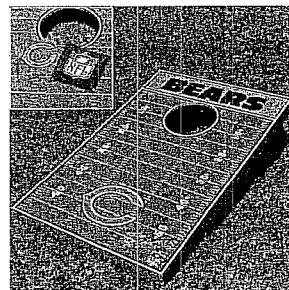
Church Parking Lot

Help raise funds to build a church in Honduras!

\$20.00 Entry Donation- Cash prizes!

We are seeking participants as teams of 2 and donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help or know someone who can?
Contact Debbie Zimmerman (708) 458-1662 or
Angie Simone (708) 638-1054



Hymning and Hawing

3 & 3 & 3 equal 729...

by G. R. Snow

How well I recall mathematical brain-teasers like the one above posed by imaginative math teachers saying “Arrange the three threes in a mathematical equation so they will equal 729.” We all know that $3+3+3=9$, and $3 \times 3 \times 3=27$. The required formula turned out to be $(3 \times 3)^3$, or nine to the third power—in other words, nine times nine times nine, which gives you the elusive 729. But you needed to be careful about how you set up the equation, because you could over-achieve—you could produce the formula $((3)^3)^3$, which would give you three raised to the third power, or 27, raised again to the third power ($27 \times 27 \times 27$, or 19,683). Such is the power of three little threes!

In a memorable lecture by a professor at Iowa Wesleyan University, which two days later I had to recapitulate to a professor at Illinois Wesleyan University, I learned of the overtone series and how hitting a pitch creates one primary harmonic plus many higher overtones, and when two pitches are sounded together the number of overtones produced is more than the sum of the overtones produced by the two individual pitches when sounded singly. If you sounded four pitches together, the number of overtones created boggles the mind, and with the addition of any pitch a geometrically greater number occurs. And now, lest some readers be yawning and laying the column aside out of sheer boredom, let me tie this to the concept of our choir, not solely based on the number of pitches sung at one time by the assembled group.

If twelve singers meet to rehearse, you would logically expect four times the enthusiasm, four times the energy, four times the work done that you would have if only three meet—right? Well, I have to tell you (and most of you have already figured it out)—our choir defies logic. If three people meet, and then a fourth shows up, it seems like the energy and enthusiasm double. Another appears—and it seems to double again. When we have eight appear for rehearsal on a Wednesday night, it seems like there’s a lot more power there than any eight people ought to be able to generate. When twelve show up for practice before service on a Sunday morning, it seems that miracles occur. And when we have sixteen, the rocks break, the mountains shout, and the song of redemption resounds through our church. The sheer energy makes it seem that our choir loft is bursting at the seams, and not because it’s too small for the number of people in it—it’s too small a space for the amount of energy in it.

The message behind all this philosophy (some might call it hyperbole)? Every person in our choirs is important, and that applies to our senior choir, our handbell choir, our junior choir, and in fact every other group in our church as well. If people come home from work and are exhausted, and say, “I just can’t make it to choir practice tonight,” it’s excusable, it’s understandable, but it impacts every member of the choir. And, when the member makes the extra effort and comes to choir, not only is the effort sincerely appreciated by the choir members and their director, but the presence of that one person seems to double the energy and enthusiasm in the rehearsal, and often a great deal more gets accomplished.

This is especially important to consider as we begin choir rehearsals again. Senior choir rehearsals will start the first Wednesday of September, with our first musical offering on Rally Day. Handbell choir will begin rehearsing on the first Thursday following Rally Day, and junior choir members will receive notice from Dianne and Cheryl about starting rehearsals. (If you know of anyone who is interested in singing or playing, and the directors don’t know about them, please let one of us know about them!) Each singer or player can approach rehearsal commitment with one of two attitudes. One person says, “Well, I don’t need to go tonight, I know the anthem, I read music well, and I’ll be fine Sunday morning.” The other person says, “Yes, I read music well and I can work out the part on my own, but I gain a lot of enthusiasm from going to practice and singing with the others in the choir, and to be honest I think they gain something from my being there too.” And so that person goes, even though he or she has had an absolutely rotten day at work, and comes home even tired—but it’s a “good tired”, a “tired” that lets him/her drop off to sleep at night feeling good about the fact that he/she was there.

So, how about coming to choir practice???

BRAIN TEASER: The brain teaser last month proved so popular that I’ve done one of phrases from familiar hymns, largely taken from second, third, and fourth verses. See if you can figure out all the hymns!

1. Till from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height . . .
2. The Lord has promised good to me . . .
3. Your loosened tongues employ . . .
4. I would fain from this spot of my childhood . . .
5. Precious Savior, still our refuge . . .
6. Sinner, do you love my Jesus? . . .
7. Its shame and reproach gladly bear . . .
8. His rage we can endure, for lo! His doom is sure . . .
9. Finish, then, Thy new creation . . .
10. God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die . . .

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Aug. 2, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
Aug. 2, 2009	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Bredlau, Lavaretto	Dave Delaney
Aug. 9, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Muszynski, Delaney	Rick Vogl
Aug. 16, 2009	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray	Rehbock, Fogg	Scott Zimmerman
Aug. 23, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciarnetti, T. Morrell	Vickers, Kahn	Terry Brock
Aug. 30, 2009	S. Zimmerman	Pettis	Lisa Radetski
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
Aug. 2, 2009	Susan Frangella		Carol Sack
Aug. 9, 2009	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman		C. Sack, R. Raschke
Aug. 16, 2009	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal		C. Sack, D. Kibort
Aug. 23, 2009	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell		C. Sack, A. Simone
Aug. 30, 2009	Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski		

Communion Servers: Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rev. Derek Morrison's Installation Service

SUNDAY, AUG. 23, 2009- 2:30 pm

The Elders are inviting you to attend Rev. Morrison's Installation Service at HHPC.

Members of the Presbytery of Chicago will be conducting the service. Be there to witness our Pastor's Installation.

RALLY DAY 2009

Sunday, Sept. 13- 10:30 am

Beginning of our Church School Year

KID'S CLUB begins

Monday, Sept. 14- 3:30 pm

For kids age 5- grade 6

YOUTH CHOIR begins

Monday, Sept. 14- 5:15 pm

For kids and youth in grades 1-12

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins

Sunday, Sept. 13- 6:30 pm

For youth grades 9-12

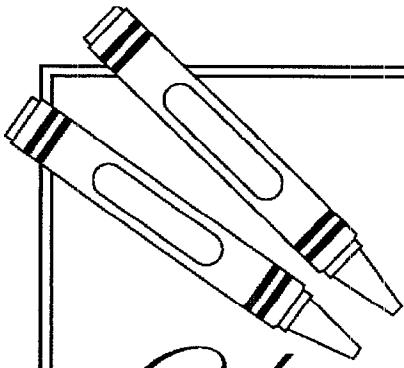
JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP begins

Thursday, Sept. 17- 6:30 pm

For youth grades 6-8

AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	3	4 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	5 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	6	7 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	8 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
9 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Honduras Bean Bag Tournament Sept. Newsletter Articles Due	10 7:30 p.m. Session	11 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	12 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	17 7:00 p.m. Outreach	18 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	19 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:30 p.m. Installation Service 4:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons	25 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	26 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	31					



Just for **KIDS**

Upon your hearts

The Bible is the perfect guidebook for living God-pleasing lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (NIV) tells us how to remember the Scriptures.

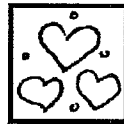
Use the picture clues and Word Bank below to finish the verses.

WORD BANK

children	road
commandments	sit
down	Talk
foreheads	Tie
hands	up
hearts	walk
home	



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



“These (1) _____ that I give you today
 are to be upon your (2) _____. Impress them on your
 (3) _____. (4) _____ about them when you
 (5) _____ at (6) _____ and when you (7) _____
 along the (8) _____, when you lie (9) _____ and when
 you get (10) _____. (11) _____ them as symbols on
 your (12) _____ and bind them on your
 (13) _____.”

Answers: (1) commandments; (2) hearts; (3) children; (4) Talk; (5) sit; (6) home; (7) walk;
 (8) road; (9) down; (10) up; (11) Tie; (12) hands; (13) foreheads

August Birthdays

August 1 – Anthony Lavaretto
1 – Patricia Pilgrim
2 – Jennifer DiFoggio
2 – Susan Beal Frangella
2- Jeni Vogl
3- Shannon Bastien
5 – Carolyn Watson
5 – Gary Tesinsky
5 – Dave Ulrich
6- Ashley Maranto
10 – Jimmy Kupka
11 – Gertrude Vickers
12 – David Semani
12 – Don Rys
13 – Agnes Davidson
14 – Tia Del Prete
17 – Paul Bredlau
18 – Jimmie Rehbock
20- Megan Waller
21 – Angie Simone
22 – Christine Fox
23 – Abigail Rellinger
24 – Pat Naujoks
25- Kathleen Turner
25 – Art Davis
27 – Joshua J. Hall
27 – Helen Recktenwald
29 – Micki Kluska
30 – Marilyn Betterton

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

708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

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Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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