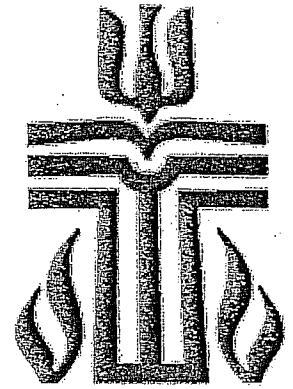




THE CONNECTING LINK

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



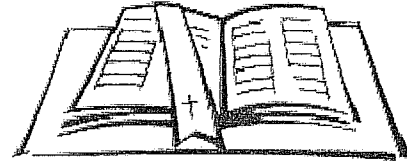
TWILIGHT PRAYER

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.

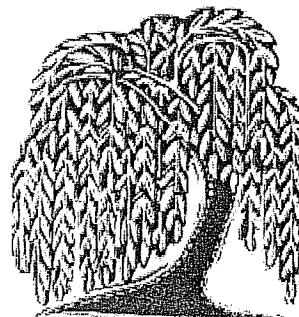
Junior highs, Senior highs and all adults and friends are welcome to go. We have a reservation for 20. Please let me know if you plan to go. Please call Patt at my home (630) 679-0963.

We need a written permission slip from your parent if you are not an adult.

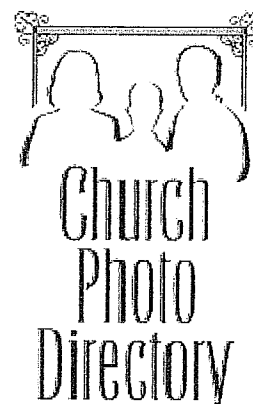
Hope you are all having a safe and wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you all in August or in September when Junior High Youth Group starts meeting again.

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.

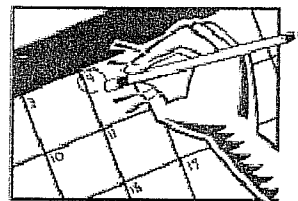
The scheduled dates for Photography and
Portrait viewing are:

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!



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!
(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

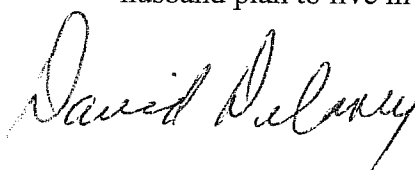
The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee has been disbanded. On June 6, 2010 the congregation voted to accept Lara MacGregor as our designated pastor. A designated pastor has the same duties as a regular pastor, except they have agreed to work for the congregation for a stated time period. At the end 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

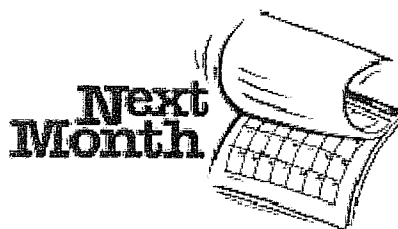
preference for two of the candidates. The other two candidates were eliminated from further consideration. The first candidate was eliminated because he did not want to serve longer than the designated pastor term. The second candidate was eliminated because the committee felt he was not a good fit for 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.



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	



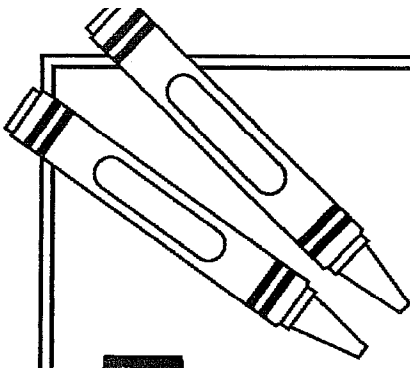
Mark Your Calendars!

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 i 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

“ _____ ”

_____ , _____

_____ ”

Answer: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>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</p>	<p>2 7:30 p.m. Session</p>	<p>3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>4 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>5 6:00 p.m. TOPS</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV <u>Sept. Newsletter Deadline</u></p>	<p>9 7:30 p.m. Outreach</p>	<p>10 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting</p>	<p>11 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>12 6:00 p.m. TOPS</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds</p>
<p>15 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV</p>	<p>16 7:30 p.m. Outreach</p>	<p>17 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting</p>	<p>18 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>19 6:00 p.m. TOPS</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV</p>	<p>23 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>24 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>25 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>26 6:00 p.m. TOPS</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV</p>	<p>30 2pm- 9:20 pm Olan Mills Church Directory Picture Date</p>	<p>31 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>				

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.



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Dated Material**

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