



# THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
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AUGUST 2011

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## Minor Ministerial Musings

*I've been here before.* As I'm sitting on the sofa, looking at the herbs I have growing in my window sill, and at the green trees outside the window, that's the thought that comes to mind. I've been here before. This scene brings back very particular memories. And yet, this scene could not be more new.

It brings back the memories of moving here, moving into the manse, and unpacking boxes. That, after all, is what we were doing one year ago. It brings back memories of August 1<sup>st</sup>, my first Sunday (first official day, in fact!) at Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. Kirk and I have lived for one year in Hickory Hills, and we have experienced the entire cycle of summer heat, fall leaves, winter snow, and spring blooms – and we are back again to summer. As pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, I have experienced the entire cycle of summer missions and VBS; fall kick-off to Sunday School, Kid's Club, Women's Bible Study, and other programs; winter celebrations of Advent, Hanging of the Greens, and Christmas Eve; and spring Lent worship and education, Easter, and graduations. And back again to summer, as we have just finished a wonderful VBS, and the Kentucky Mission Trip prepares to depart once again.

This is a special celebration for Kirk and me in particular, as we have moved quite a bit in the years that we have been married. While many things about this scene are familiar, one very important thing is different, for we are staying here this time. The "summer move" turned out to be a short-lived tradition, and we are so blessed and grateful to call Hickory Hills home; so blessed and grateful to live in a wonderful manse; and so blessed and grateful to be a part of the life of such a dynamic congregation.

For while many things about this scene feel familiar as we approach the first of August, many things have happened in this past year – and continue to happen – that are not part of the predictable cycle. New ministries have begun, while some existing ministries have changed. We have added new members, and we have sadly mourned the loss of others. Married lives have begun, and babies have been born. Together, we have learned to grow closer to God and to each other, through all circumstances.

As "year two" begins, I thank God – and I thank each and every one of you – for the amazing growth and experience that went with "year one." And as I anticipate the familiar parts of the cycle for this coming year, I invite you to join me in expecting the unexpected. I invite you to continue worshipping together, making music together, learning together, ministering together, praying together, and playing together. I invite you to continue to seek God's Word, share and celebrate God's love, and serve Jesus Christ in the world – together. I invite you to join me in continuing to discern God's call on our individual lives, and on the life of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. Change and growth and unexpected direction are as surely on the horizon as the fall leaves and winter snow. I challenge and invite you to join me in committing fully to God's call for us no matter what it may entail, knowing that with God all things are possible.

In Joyful Anticipation,  
Pastor Lara

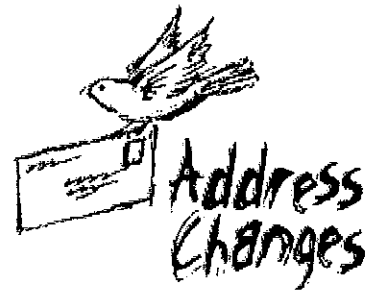
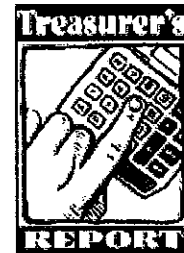
# HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

G.R. Snow for health concerns  
Lucy's son, Tom, for health concerns  
Pat Lorenz for upcoming back surgery  
The Family of Mary Tarter on her passing  
The Family of Carri McKinney's father, Ray,  
on his passing  
Lorraine Mead for healing  
Kyle Freiberg for health concerns  
Al Lewington & family as he is in Hospice  
Debbie Raschke for healing  
James Rellinger, Dawn Rellinger's father in law,  
for healing & recovery  
Gordon's nephew, Randal Home, for healing  
Marie Hoffman for health concerns  
Tanya Gleespen and other Air Force Reservists,  
deployed to Afghanistan  
Hollie Fox for strength  
Gert Vicker's Granddaughter, Elizabeth,  
who is with child  
Sandra Beal's Mother, Susan Frangella's  
Grandmother, Dorothy, for healing & strength  
Donna's friend Gail Hensen for healing  
Harry Zimmerman for health concerns & strength  
Wally Golema for continuous healing  
Dennis Tarter for strength & direction &  
health concerns  
Lucy's Sister, Delores, for healing & strength,  
& her Brother in Law, Bob  
Ivy Taebel, & her Son, Larry, for health  
concerns & strength  
Shannon Bastien for health concerns  
Carol Sack's Sister, Ruth, & Mother, Ruth,  
for healing and 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



## JUNE 2011 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund Income	\$15,415.00
General Fund Disbursements	\$16,652.00



Tanya (Fox) Gleespen is deployed to Afghanistan for approximately 6 months.  
A message from her follows:

"please make sure everyone gets this....I am in dire need of letters from home...."

**Prayer Groups meet on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.,  
and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.  
We encourage you to attend this  
Vital Ministry of our church.**

**\*PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH\***

**Tanya Gleespen  
838th AEAG/SFS  
Shindand AB  
APO, AE 09382**

Tanya also has sent a list of things that are needed at the base... If anyone would like to help out. The USPS offers a flat rate box, with a discounted rate when going to Military addresses, up to 70 pounds.

"Some ppl have asked me for a list of things needed...As far as amenities needed...our PX is VERY limited...

mini hand lotions (cucumber melon, coconut lime, etc)  
mini body spray  
wipes, wipes, and more wipes  
mini kleenex packs  
instant cold packs (the kind you break to activate)  
Shampoo/Conditioner (herbal essence moisturizing or pantene moisturizing are my faves)  
body wash  
pony tail holders (no metal for blonde/reddish hair)  
hair clippies (same color)  
bobby pins (same color)  
snacks  
thumb tacks  
click pens  
sharpies  
used magazines (we love the celeb gossip & workout mags...guys like car & gun mags)  
mini book light

for the cold/rainy season starting late oct/early nov  
hand warmers

As I come across things needed that they don't have available, I will let you all know...."

Thank you for any help you can provide. Our military appreciates it!



## Christian Education: Loving the Lord Your God with All Your Mind

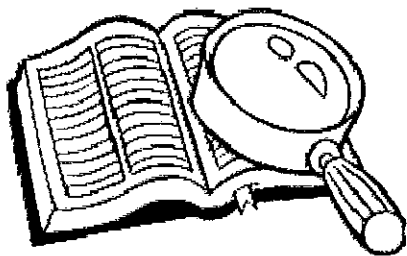
Dr. Kirk MacGregor



We as Christians—namely, as disciples of Jesus—need to know what we believe and why we believe it. This fact is implied in the very word Jesus used to characterize his followers, disciples (Greek *mathētēs*), meaning “people who learn through instruction.” Jesus placed the lifelong quest of learning about God at a premium, including it in the greatest commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and *with all your mind*” (Matthew 22:37; emphasis added). At this point you may wonder: Why is it so important for us to love God with our mind? In short, why isn't it enough for Christians to love God emotionally (with our heart) and spiritually (with our soul)? Let me briefly discuss two of the Bible's many answers to this question.

First, if we don't love God with all our mind, it is impossible for us to live a Christian life, since we will neither have the power nor the ability to act as Jesus requires. As Romans 12:2 exhorts, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Here we see that it is specifically the renewing of our minds that transforms us into the image of Christ. Only after we are transformed can we can perceive how to live in the righteous way that God wills. The reason why American Christians over the last century have become indistinguishable from the rest of society is their anti-intellectualism (see Hosea 4:6). Sadly, most American Christians are biblically illiterate, and many of those who are biblically literate don't know why the Bible's teachings are true. Without loving God intellectually, we cannot *be* like Jesus much less *live* like Jesus, and we reduce the church to a social organization that meets felt emotional needs and teaches humanistic ethics under the veneer of religion (see Mark 7:6-8).

Second, if we don't love God with all our mind, it is impossible for us to effectively persuade others to become Christians or even to remain Christians ourselves during times of doubt. Throughout the Gospels and the book of Acts, we find that the evangelistic strategy of Jesus, Peter, Paul, and the early church consisted in employing reason and evidence to prove to nonbelievers that the Christian message is true (see Mark 3:20-27, 12:18-27, 12:35-37 and Acts 9:22, 10:34-43, 17:1-3, 18:27-28). Therefore Peter commands each of us: "Always be ready to make your defense (Greek *apologia*) to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15-16). The term *apologia*, from which we get the word "apologetics," means to "defend something intellectually, offering positive arguments for and responding to negative arguments against your position as in a courtroom." So we must be prepared to persuade people to become Christians by offering reasons for the truth of the gospel. Without such reasons, nonbelievers will continue to regard Christianity as false, and many Christian young adults will lose their faith when they go off to college and encounter the challenges of secularism, atheism, and agnosticism. Moreover, we all face difficult times when Christianity doesn't *feel* true. If all you have to go on is feeling, it's very difficult to remain a Christian. However, if you have evidence that Christianity is true, then doubtful feelings, though unpleasant, are powerless in undermining your devotion to Jesus.



As a Christian educator, my calling and joy is equipping you to love God with all your mind. A wonderful opportunity for you to learn what you believe and why you believe it begins next month at HHPC. On Tuesday evenings from September 13 (the Tuesday after Rally Day) to May 8, I will be offering two fifty-minute classes back to back. You are free to attend either class or both classes depending on your interests.

From 7-7:50 p.m. I will teach "Walk Through the Bible," in which you will learn the major contours of the Bible and thus discover exactly what you, as a Christian, believe. You will also be guided in reading through the whole Bible over nine months in such a way that you will not become overexerted or find yourself losing interest. From 8-8:50 p.m. I will teach "Apologetics and World Religions," in which you will learn how to defend your faith and how Christianity compares with other religions, hence discovering why the Christian faith is true. As an added bonus, I will be organizing Saturday field trips in spring 2012 to key centers of Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic, and Mormon worship in Chicagoland. For complete information about both classes, please visit my website [www.kirkmacgregor.org](http://www.kirkmacgregor.org) and click on the Christian Education page. By the way, I also encourage you to click on the Audiovisuals page and the Articles page to find thoughtful answers to such pressing questions as how to reconcile predestination and human freedom, the problem of evil, and how to understand the Trinity.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Tuesday night festivities! Accordingly, this year I am excited about experiencing, through these educational ministries, our coming together as a church family "to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 3:13).



"Love  
the LORD  
your God  
with all your  
heart...soul  
...mind and...  
strength."



## **Chicago Heights community center seeks \$150K for roof repairs**

BY HANNAH KOHUT

Correspondent July 6, 2011 11:18PM



A ceiling at the Harold Colbert Jones Community Center in Chicago Heights reveals some of the damage done by a leaky roof that needs to be replaced. | Supplied photo

For more than a century, the Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center in Chicago Heights has been serving folks in need. It has helped immigrants become citizens, and it feeds the hungry and assists the elderly.

Now, the center itself is in need of a little help. The rainy spring and summer have been a bit too much for the building's roof, and it's now showing (and acting) its age. It was last replaced in 1960.

But money has been tight.

"We focus so much of our funds and attention to our services, and it's hard to keep up with the building's needs," Cheryl Roop, the executive director of the center, said Wednesday. "We've known we've needed repairs for some time now, but the leaking and subsequent damage is becoming more apparent. It's really only been patched and

tarred, mainly from volunteers, but every roofer we talked to said it needs a complete teardown."

She is asking the community for help.

"We've received \$10,000 to date; we have much work to do to reach our goal of \$150,000," Roop said.

Roop said the center still is a very active place, serving more than 100 kids in its youth summer program.

"We just want to remind people that we are still here, we are still serving them," Roop said. "Under this roof, families get food bags filled with staples to supplement their monthly groceries. Under this roof, 600 to 900 kids get Christmas gifts and a hearty Christmas meal."

Pam Sigler, who is on the center's board of directors, said the center constantly is raising funds for all of its programs but now must take it up a notch.

"We need to go above and beyond for this. The future of the center is very bright," Sigler said.

Having spent much of her life there, she wants the center to be in good shape.

"My dad, Reverend Eugene Sigler, worked there for 45 years, and I spent a lot of my childhood at the center," Sigler said.

According to the center's website, the center was started in 1910 as Chicago Heights became a bustling steel town, attracting immigrants from several countries. It began offering services and has done so since.

Roop said anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can contact her at (708) 757-5395 or visit [www.jonescenter.org](http://www.jonescenter.org).

(This article was submitted by Rick Steele, his email message follows)

Presently, the entire upper floor of the Center cannot be used for any programs, this due to the condition of the roof. After serving the top of the Center for more than 50 years, the roof cannot be patched any longer.

## Additional Information:

The recent rainstorms caused problems at the Center from both above and below. The roof brought water in from above, and major drain pipe ruptured in the lower level putting 2 inches of water throughout the entire lower level. This resulted in the floor being chopped up, to allow for replacement of the damaged pipe. Since the plumbing was old, it had to be updated to meet the current needs, and codes. When it was done, all sink drains were replaced, a new much larger, grease trap had to be install (in the concrete floor), and an additional sump pump installed. Total cost - \$8,800.

For 95 Years, the Jones Center has served, now the Center needs some service in return.

Please spread the word, and requests of prayer for our beloved Jones Center.

Rick Steele

[Rick.Steele@4RManagement.com](mailto:Rick.Steele@4RManagement.com)

## Building & Grounds Update



On July 10, we had our  
Outdoor Church Clean-Up.

Thanks to the organizers and the participants! We had a great day and accomplished GREAT THINGS. Windows, Gutters, Weeds, Bushes Trimmed, Dead Rose Bushes removed, Ditch cleaned and trimmed, Filters in AC converter changed, some Painting even... etc etc etc.  
and we ate!  
Loved it!

THANKS AGAIN  
FROM THE  
BUILDING AND GROUNDS  
COMMITTEE

## Prayer & Care

“and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

MATTHEW 7:25 (RSV)

Today the sun is shining. Robins are singing. All is calm.

Yesterday, “and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew...” How did you handle the situation?

Someone (who inspires me) recently said, “I feel like I’m floating. I’m not grounded. But, I’m working on it.”

The past 3-4 weeks have been heart wrenching for many of us. These concerns come to the prayer room where our Lord hears our cries and shares our pain.

As we continue to seek God’s Will for our lives & church, are we content with the way things are?  
Or, are we working on it?

## Stewardship Committee

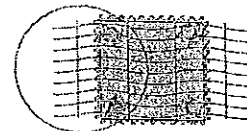
If anyone would like their 6 month offering synopsis, please contact either Susan Frangella or Wilda Duncan.

## Calling All Musicians!



If you play an instrument or like to sing, and would like to make a joyful noise in worship, please let us know! Contact Pastor Lara, or Hanna in the church office, 598-3100

# Write to Our Children at Camp This Summer



This is the information needed to send mail to our HHPC campers. Camp mail is delayed so please mail early. We recommend no later than July 22<sup>nd</sup> for Mission Council 8 Discovery and Adventure Camp II.

The format to use is:

**Presbyterian Camps**  
**Child's Name (Specify MC8 Discovery or MC8 Adventure II)**  
**631 Perryman Street**  
**Saugatuck, MI 49453**

Every child appreciates mail while away from home.

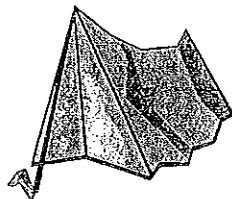
Thank you for taking the time to let them know you care.

Please remember NO FOOD IS ALLOWED - It invites unwelcome critters.

Discovery Camp  
Mission Council 8  
July 31 - August 6

Danny Orsic  
Eamonn Prunty

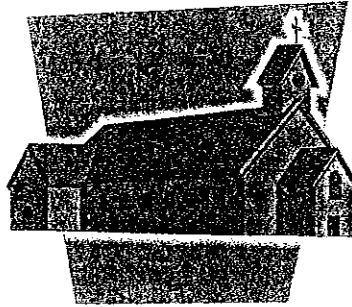
**Camping**



Adventure Camp II  
July 31 - August 6

Petar Ilic  
LeAnne Kommenich  
Stacey Lorenz  
Riley McKinney  
Ashley Maranto  
Natalie Orsic  
Halimah Prunty  
Nellie Prunty  
Veronica Swindle

# Camp Saugatuck



Are you a leader in the church?  
Have you ever been a leader in the church?  
Would you like to be a leader in the church?  
Are you interested in learning about leadership in the  
church?

**This is for YOU!**

Come to a church leadership workshop at Hickory  
Hills Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, August 27**,  
from **9:00 a.m. until noon**.

Come join us, as together we learn about commitment,  
connectedness, and communication.

Join us as we seek a vision for Hickory Hills  
Presbyterian Church.

Join us as we  
**SEEK** God's Word,  
**SHARE** and **CELEBRATE** God's love, and  
**SERVE** Jesus Christ in the world.

Saturday, August 27, 9:00 a.m. - noon  
Refreshments Provided



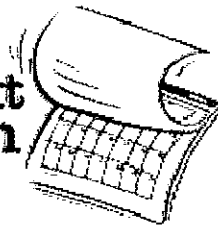
**Sacrament of Holy Communion- Aug. 7, 2011**

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Sun. Aug. 7, 2011	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
Sun. Aug. 14, 2011	T. Brock	Rick Vogl
Sun. Aug. 21, 2011	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
Sun. Aug. 28, 2011	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	
Sun. Aug. 7, 2011	Susan Frangella	
Sun. Aug. 14, 2011	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
Sun. Aug. 21, 2011	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
Sun. Aug. 28, 2011	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

**Communion Servers: Darlene Delaney, Dave Delaney, Darlene Kibort, Ivy Taebel, Rick Vogl**

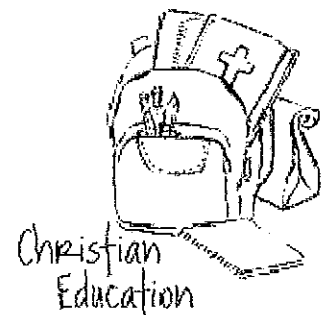


**Next  
Month**



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Rally Day 2011**  
**Sunday, Sept. 11- 10:30 a.m.**  
 Beginning of our Church School Year



**Kid's Club** begins  
 Monday, Sept. 12- 3:30 p.m.  
 For kids age 5-Grade 6

**Senior High Youth Group** begins  
 Sunday, Sept. 11- 6:30 p.m.  
 For Youth Grades 9-12

**Junior High Youth Group** begins  
 Thursday, Sept. 15- 6:30 p.m.  
 For Youth Grades 6-8

# AUGUST 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
MC8 Discovery & Outdoor Adventure Camp in Saugatuck---		9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	5:00 p.m. TOPS		MC8 Camps Return
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	7:30 p.m. Session Meeting	6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	5:00 p.m. TOPS		2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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 Articles Due</u>	7:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting	6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:00 p.m. C.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	5:00 p.m. TOPS		
21	22	23	24	25	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	7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting	6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	5:00 p.m. TOPS		9am-12pm Church Leadership Workshop
28	29	30	31			
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. Prayer & Care	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry			

# HERO Sandwich

To celebrate the Bible's many heroes, make this sandwich for a picnic.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- Shredded lettuce
- Olive oil and vinegar
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, oregano)
- Italian crusty bread (six inches per person)
- Mayonnaise
- Sliced meat
- Sliced cheese
- Sliced tomato
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Toothpicks
- Tape



### What you do:

1. Drizzle shredded lettuce with oil and vinegar; sprinkle with seasonings.
2. Cut bread in half lengthwise and spread mayo on both halves.
3. On bottom half, layer meats, cheese, tomato and lettuce.
4. Top with other half of bread. Cut in half.
5. Cut paper into small triangles. Write your favorite Bible heroes' names on them.
6. Tape the triangles to toothpicks to make pennants. Stick in sandwich halves. Enjoy!



## action-packed faith

The greatest "super men" who ever lived put their faith into action.

**Directions:** Match each Bible character to the correct description.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Noah     | 1. This disciple wrote a gospel, recounting many events in Jesus' life.  |
| Stephen  | 2. This man responded to God's commands, including the order to move. God made many promises to this man and his descendants.                |
| Abraham  | 3. This man was eager to rebuild Jerusalem. He helped the people protect their city, reminding them that God was on their side.              |
| Luke     | 4. This man, who became king of Judah at a young age, obeyed God's laws and helped people repent.  |
| Nehemiah | 5. God saved this honest, hard-working man from destruction by having him build a place of safety for his family and every kind of creature. |
| Josiah   | 6. This man stood by God's Word, showing strength of character even when faced with persecution and death.                                   |

On the lines below, write your name and describe how you're a "hero" for God. What are some ways you put your faith into action?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Noah 5, Stephen 6, Abraham 2, Luke 1, Nehemiah 3, Josiah 4.

## 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  
21- Chris Maranto  
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](mailto:HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org)*

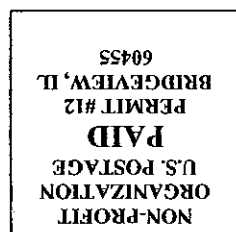
*\*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* through email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: [newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org) and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.*



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

**Do Not Hold  
Dated Material**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457**