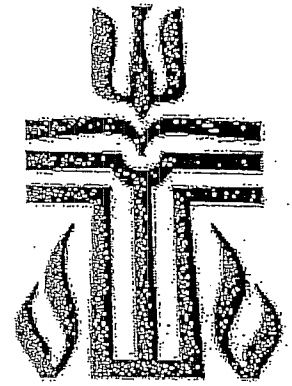


THE CONNECTING LINK



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



DECEMBER 2009

TWILIGHT PRAYER

Good morning, Father.
Thank you for giving to me
the gift of another day of
life. I know not what this
day holds, but my intentions
are to live for you in all I
do.

As my day progresses,
Father, I am sure you will
lay upon my heart a person
or two in need and I in turn
will call upon you. What a blessing to think of a
friend, or a family member or a stranger, knowing
you care for them as much as I. Their specific needs
may vary, but granted Father, you will touch their
lives in a wonderful way and that warmth will
certainly linger in their lives.

Yes, Dear Friend, I think of you but I am not alone.
Do we not think of each other in special ways, many
times throughout the course of the day?

Father, you are the reason I arise each day, and turn
to you as I simply pray...
Join us as we remember each other in a special way,
Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. It's a rewarding time
spent together.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER AND CARE

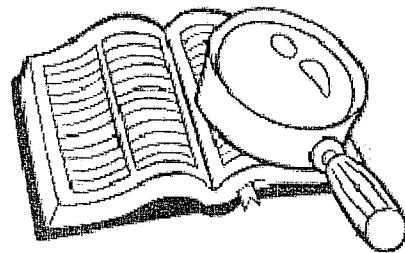
“A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and
there it divided and became four rivers.”

Genesis 2:10

Life is a river, flowing not stagnant. We share the
river with everyone. Often we need the strength of
others to prevent our getting stuck in the mud.
When we make a mistake, (bad decision) we are
closer to wisdom because “Good decisions come
from experience, and experience comes from bad
decisions.” –Columnist Jeanne Marie Lashas’
husband said to her.

Library: 9am-10am Wednesdays

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all
the earth!”

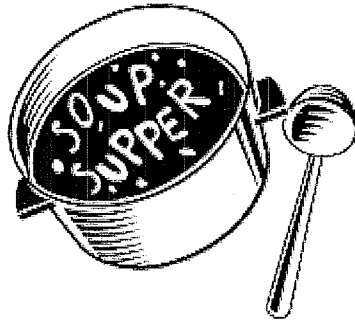
Psalms 8:1

Wherever you open the Bible, you will find Christ.
He is there in person, in parable, in name, in
example. Christ is in the PSALMS. We are doing an
investigative study using various translations to
broaden our understanding as individuals and as a
group. In fact, some of us have bought the Teen

Study Bible for its clarity which is used by the Jr. High class. (Dianne Flynn has copies if you are interested.)

Praise! The very nature of the word invokes worship and thanksgiving to God. This is the purpose and response of the PSALMS, for the Hebrew title of the book means "praise." Let's look around us in our world finding ways to praise God. And when we face stress/ tough times, praise God anyway!
We miss you, Pat!

PADS UPDATE



Life on the street is not easy for any individual as he strives to provide for himself, the essentials for daily survival. Many times his talents have limitations and the job qualifications are not a good fit for him. Maybe, he is tormented by mental health issues that limit his potential for employment. Possibly, he has been layed off from his most recent employment and the future to him looks very bleak.

Each story varies but these facts remain, these are the homeless, the down trodden, the depressed, the lonely, the sick, the desolate, the unwanted. Is there immediate help? "YES!" "PADS" is there to meet the needs of so many individuals in so many ways.

The first Sunday in November was not a typical cold evening. But many came to PADS that evening, 66 in all. There was a noticeable absence of children, but more women than usual. Dinner was served and after clean-up, we left the facility at 9:15. The evening crew would later prepare brown bag lunches, and in the morning, breakfast for our guests.

Let's see what next month will hold.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

YOU'RE INVITED!

"Stars of Heaven" Concert
Black Gospel Group

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

Sunday, January 31, 2010.
5-7 p.m.
More details coming soon!

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS ***Please Pray For:***

- Helen Recktenwald's family for her loss
- Georgie Porgie's sister, Lilia Campbell, in the loss of her daughter, Kim
- Richard Fellers for health concerns
- Virginia Zabelka's family members for concerns
- Alecsa Zeko for upcoming knee surgery
- Richard Larson for health concerns
- Tom & Cora Lane for strength
- The Huenecke's friend, Sally Harris, for health concerns
- Carol Sack's friend, Melissa, for health concerns
- Rev. Andrew Rosencrans for health concerns
- Bob Nordstrom's son, Rob, for health concerns
- G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
- Darlene Delaney's grandson, Alex, for upcoming surgery
- Darlene Delaney's granddaughter, Meghan, for healing
- Shirley Brunell for healing
- Jackie Gehle for health concerns
- Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
- Larry Haack's father, Bill, for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing
- Dorothy Allen for strength
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- Tasha Swindle's friend, Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia
- People experiencing hard times/ job loss
- Our service men and women and their families
- DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

October 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income	\$15,402.00
General Fund Disbursements	\$19,394.00

Getting to know YOUTH...

My Name is Mike Swearingen.
My Church is Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.
I Love my family & my church.
I am Presbyterian because "ask my mom."
I believe in God!
I am passionate about my friends & family.
One thing that makes me sad is people being treated unfairly.
One thing that makes me happy is riding my bike.
The people I most admire are Dad & Mom.
The Bible is important for people. It helps everyone make good decisions.
God is good. All the time.
My prayer is support for everyone.
I want to be a good person.
I read nothing if I can get away with it.
If I ruled the world there would be no war.

PRAISE BAND AUDITIONS

January 10, 2:30 p.m.

Do you play a musical instrument? Do you sing? Would you like to lead people in worshipping our Lord and Savior? Praise Band Auditions are being held on **Sunday, January 10** in the Sanctuary and we hope you will consider joining the REV Praise Team! Team members will be rotated each week. This means a commitment to leading worship a couple of times each month. Band rehearsals are Sundays, 3-4:45 p.m. with service at 5 p.m.

Instrumentalists, please bring your instrument and one piece of music to play. Pianists can use the church piano. Vocalists, please bring one piece of music to sing with chord chart. Accompaniment will be provided. Everyone should also be ready to sight read from provided lead sheets. Contact Sue Olson with any questions at 708-460-0363 or through email at solson@bibleleague.org.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee has been busy this fall planning for our **Christmas mission activities** and brainstorming other mission ideas. We hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the **Haunted House** this year as it was the best yet! Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser in any way as "it does take a village (or should I say congregation)" to make this happen. Approximately \$2,200 – \$2,400 was raised which will be used to support the **Kentucky Christmas store** run by Doreen in Drift, Kentucky. This store contains donated items so that families can purchase needed supplies and Christmas gifts for a nominal fee. The committee agreed that any profits in excess of \$2,250 from this year's fundraising will be used to support the **Honduras Mission Trip**.

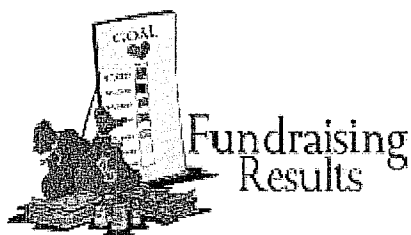
Additionally, the Mission Committee has donated \$500 of profits from the Haunted House fundraiser to the **HHPC Carpet Fund** this year as well. This money has been held in reserve from year to year as a deposit for supplies.

During the Christmas holidays, look for our gift tags on the bulletin board in the narthex again this year. These gift tags were decorated by the Junior High Youth Group and each tag includes the age and gender of a child. Please select a gift tag, then **purchase a gift for that age and gender child for \$10-15**, and bring it back to the church **UNWRAPPED by Dec. 2nd**. These gifts will be taken to the **Jones Center** so that each child in their afterschool program will receive at least one gift this holiday season. Staff at the Jones Center will better match gifts to individual children and will wrap them on site this year.

Our church is again providing **P.A.D.S.** meals on the first Sunday of each month at the Oak Lawn Community Church from October 2009 through April 2010. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to be a part of this mission.



Fundraising Committee



Thank you to everyone who helped and /or supported our annual craft bazaar and bake sale. This fundraiser could not be successful without everyone's participation.

It was a great day!! The weather was perfect, 29 tables were rented to crafters and vendors, we had another scrumptious bake sale, and our raffle, otherwise known as the "penny social" was a HUGE success (thanks in large part to the wonderful 19 gift baskets donated by Shirley and Mike Dragas).

After expenses our profit for the day was \$2,300.00 with an additional \$300.00 in monetary donations. These monies have been placed into our Fundraising checking account and once we have raised enough money—we will replace the flooring on the lower level of the church.

Also, if anyone would like to **order retail gift cards** for Christmas gifts, please pick up a list and contact Susan Frangella by **December 10th**.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas to all!!!!

The Deacon Board

We hope everyone has had a chance to review the Deacon family clusters listed in the November Newsletter. If you are not listed, please contact me so we can put you and your family into a Deacon Cluster. Thank you.

If anyone has a need for prayer or visitation please contact your deacon or me.

Patt Pilgrim
708-598-3100

JONES CENTER BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Help is needed to provide Christmas with Santa at the Jones Center on **Saturday, Dec. 12th 9-11 a.m.**

We are expecting 250-300 children and parents.

Food needed:

20 Dozen Eggs
20 Gallons of Milk
19 16 oz. packages of
grated American cheese
19 loaves of sliced bread
600 pre-cooked sausages
20 gallons of orange juice
600 donut holes

Supplies needed:

Rolls of red plastic table cloths
500 napkins (Christmas prints)
300 sturdy clear plastic cups
300 sturdy dinner size plates
300 sturdy plastic forks

and people to **help cook and serve at 7 a.m.** to start cooking, and at **8 a.m. to set tables.**

Does anyone have access to small coloring books and crayons to keep the children busy while they wait? Santa has agreed to come and talk to each child and give them a stocking. The Lansing Church has already made and stuffed enough stockings for all.

Reply to Jane Jahn 708-448-4513
jane.jahn@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Dec. 4: Advent Workshop- 6:30 pm- One of the great Christmas season traditions at our church. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Then, we move to holiday crafts and carols around the piano. This evening of beautiful crafts, songs, and stories is a night that our kids love and our adults cherish. It is an ideal way to move into the Christmas season. (Please bring a dish to share and a free will donation for our craft projects. See the sign up sheet downstairs).



Sunday, Dec. 6: Hanging of the Greens- 10:30 am- Our Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 am worship service. Our kids tell the story of the birth of Christ and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Parents: Please help us by making it a priority to be here with your children. Our whole congregation is blessed with this program.

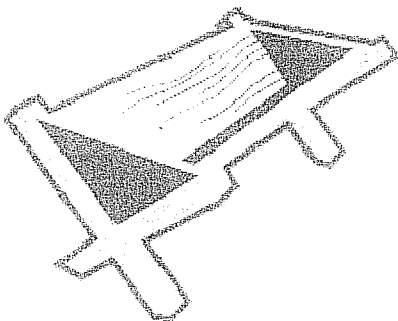
Thursday, Dec. 17: Women's Christmas Tea- 7:00 pm- Another wonderful Christmas Tradition for the ladies of our church. Come and enjoy tea and sweets, singing and fellowship. (See sign up sheet downstairs- RSVP requested. Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share).

Sunday, Dec. 13: 9:00 and 10:30 am Worship- We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We continue to transform our sanctuary as we hang our Chrismons on our sanctuary tree, while the sanctuary is decorated with beautiful poinsettias.

Sunday, Dec. 20: White Gift Offering- 9:00 and 10:30 am Worship- We bring our food items, wrapped in white tissue, for the needy, before the crèche. At 10:30 our choir presents a special **Christmas Cantata**.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve- 11:00 pm- Come to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, with a candlelight service.

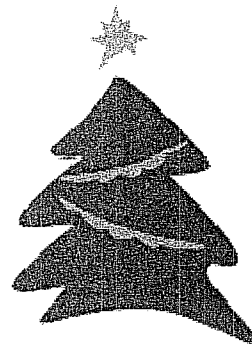
Advent anticipation



In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus' birth. Another tradition is to

leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his "bed."

+ Christian Symbols +



Evergreen Tree

These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

Lessons and carols

The traditional Christmas Eve service using Bible lessons and Christmas carols was first held in England in 1918 at Cambridge University's King's College. Eric Milner-White, a 34-year-old who had just been appointed dean of King's, planned the service. His previous experience as an army chaplain convinced him that the Church of England needed to make worship more expressive.

The service has been broadcast from King's annually since 1928, missing only one year (1930). Radio listeners could tune in and hear the service during World War II, although the name of King's couldn't be broadcast due to security precautions. During the war, the chapel's antique glass — and thus all its heat — had been removed.

Every year, millions of people worldwide listen to the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." Since 1919, the service has begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City."

The Meaning of Adoption

When a class of young children began discussing the subject of adoption, the teacher first asked for a definition. An 8-year-old girl answered by saying, "I'm adopted. If you're adopted, it means you grew up in a mother's heart instead of her tummy."

St. Paul said we Christians are all adopted. To the church at Ephesus he wrote, "[God] destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5, NRSV).

We have been in God's heart all along.

Katie's Kidz

Katie Greene of Weddington, North Carolina, has a heart of love. At age 6, she thought about what sort of Christmas the patients in the Children's Hospital would have. It occurred to Katie that, with help, she could provide a toy for each child. In 2006, she collected \$167 toward her efforts, calling it "the best time of my life."

The next year, she began a Web site called Katie's Kidz, and donations totaled \$2,600. Katie and her parents shopped for art supplies, board games, playing cards, gift cards and even iPod Shuffles. On Christmas Day, they took 600 toys to the hospital.

Katie put on a Santa hat and helped hospital workers deliver toys in red wagons. "Next year, we're going to do two hospitals," Katie said.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church.

Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."

Family Photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."



Hymning and Hawing

And A Partridge In A Pear Tree

by G. R. Snow

I have heard many references to this phrase from “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, including one reference in a mystery novel to a young woman whose eye boasted “mascara, eye shadow, eye liner, a false eyelash, and a partridge in a pear tree”. Picturesque, but probably as rhetorical as someone accused of bringing everything but the kitchen sink to a holiday dinner. And there have been many parodies of the Twelve Days with more up-to-date gifts, or fantastic tales of what happened to someone who actually received all the classic gifts, or “sequels” which include the (fictional) fate of the gifts. The origins of the piece are unproven, with some saying it was a description of a feast (starting with seven varieties of fowl, the gold rings being a reference to a golden ringtail pheasant) and others suggesting that it was a traditional dance song in which specific moves suggested the “leap” of the nine lords, the circular motion of the rings, etc. Another tradition, which I suspect is closer to the truth, said it was a children’s song to assist in learning catechism. But the most persuasive theory I find suggests that the song is one of the oldest carols we know, and that it was full of Christmas-related Christian symbolism disguised in apparently secular childhood images. Why would this be necessary? The theory dates the carol to a time when pagan celebrations were common and Christianity was widely persecuted with torture and execution. An innocent children’s song, however, was looked at indulgently by the pagan hearers and only the Christian families and priests knew the hidden meanings, which children were taught to tell the story of Jesus’s birth.

What, then, was the symbolism of each “gift”?

Twelve drummers drumming . . .

The twelve apostles who carried the news of Christ to all lands, symbolized by drummers playing drums, a common message instrument across great distances in medieval days.

Eleven pipers piping . . .

The eleven disciples left mourning after Judas’s defection and Christ’s death, symbolized by players of an instrument commonly used for dirges and lamenting.

Ten ladies dancing . . .

The ladies dancing symbolize the Ten Commandments, graceful partners for our “dance” through life.

Nine lords a-leaping . . .

A rather obscure reference, this is sometimes believed to symbolize the nine New Testament writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James (the brother of the Lord, not James the Greater, son of Zebedee, or James the Lesser, son of Alphaeus—both disciples), Peter, Jude, and Barnabas (held to be the co-author, with Paul and Mark, of Hebrews).

Eight maids a-milking . . .

This symbolizes the eight parts of the Hebrew Nevi’im, or books of the Prophets, which our Bible separates into twenty-one. In the Nevi’im, they are Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,

and the Twelve (the minor prophets). As these tell of God’s sustenance of His people in the same way that milk sustains a baby, the “maids a-milking” is apropos.

Seven swans a-swimming . . .

Glorious birds with beautiful feathers, these symbolize the seven archangels—Gabriel, Michael, Jophiel, Zadkiel, Chamuel, Raphael, and Uriel.

Six geese a-laying . . .

As eggs symbolize fertility/new life, it makes sense that six laying geese symbolize the six days of Creation.

Five golden rings . . .

The five rings symbolize the five books of the Pentateuch, which Moses gave to his people and which they wore representative verses of in mezuzahs, comparable to wearing a ring. A corollary significance is that gold rings were often used as currency for purchase of items which were bad luck to buy with money, and that obedience to the laws contained in the Pentateuch was no longer needed to “buy” our way into Heaven since Jesus has purchased this for us.

Four colly birds . . .

Now often changed to “calling” birds, colly birds were blackbirds, whose strident tones make them excellent proclaimers—much as were the four Gospel writers, whom they symbolize.

Three French hens . . .

These ponderous, puffed-up birds, so carefully preening and fluffing their feathers, symbolize the three royal visitors—whether Wise Men, kings, or more probably a priestly representative, a kingly representative, and a slave or other sacrificial visitor, symbolizing the three estates of Christ’s sovereignty.

Two turtle doves . . .

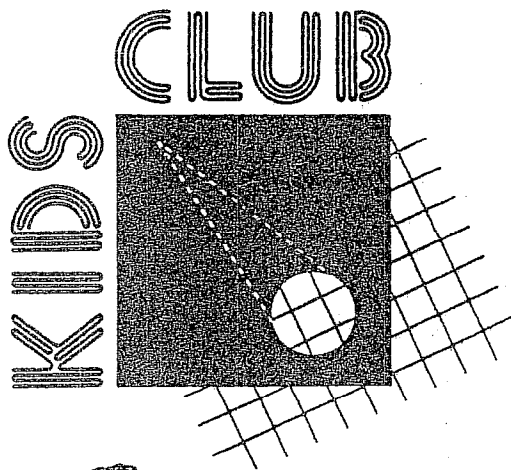
The sacrifice of Mary and Joseph in the temple on the occasion of Jesus’s presentation (Luke 2:24).

And a partridge in a pear tree . . .

The ‘partridge’ is the Child; the tree symbolizes the humble wooden manger, made of soft wood rather than a furniture hardwood. A pear is a markedly different fruit from an apple (which is popularly, and probably erroneously, believed to be the fruit of which Adam and Eve ate), thus symbolizing that Christ’s coming heralded a difference from the long separation of man from God. The reference to a partridge has given rise to beliefs that the carol is French, as it was not until the 1770s that the red-legged partridge, more apt to perch in trees than the native grey partridge, was introduced in England.

BRAIN TEASER: From what traditional carol does each phrase come?

1. Mild He lays His glory by . . .
2. Come, your circle ’round Him closing . . .
3. Then entered in those wise men three . . .
4. With the angels let us sing ‘Alleluia’ to our King . . .
5. Heav’n’s arches rang when the angels sang . . .
6. And our eyes at last shall see Him . . .
7. When with the ever-circling years . . .
8. Saints, before the altar bending . . .
9. He, our joy, our wonder, lies in *praesepe* . . .
10. The ringing of the merry organ . . .



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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

As I am writing this article we are planning and anxiously looking forward to the Family Advent Night to be held on Friday, December 4th. This promises to be a time filled with joy and fun for all ages. Our evening will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by family crafts, and the singing of Christmas Carols. A quality family evening. Everyone is invited. We encourage you to bring family and friends!

We hope you will visit our decorated Christmas Tree at the Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic. The kids are featured on this tree with their hand made decorations. Following the rules of the zoo, all ornaments were made of items which we recycled. The Holiday Magic will run all weekends in December (Saturdays and Sundays) and the week of December 26 - 31, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This month we celebrated with McKayla as she participated in the Snicker Balance. Congratulations McKayla for balancing 6 Snicker Bars. Want to know more about this fun reward, just ask any of the kids. Who will be the next person to be here every week and try this challenge?

The joy of Christian learning! This month we prepare for Christmas and will open each week with the lighting of the Advent Candles. Together we will explore the topics of:
God's Harvest Is Sure - God keeps His promises
Seed Needs Land - God's power in our Faith

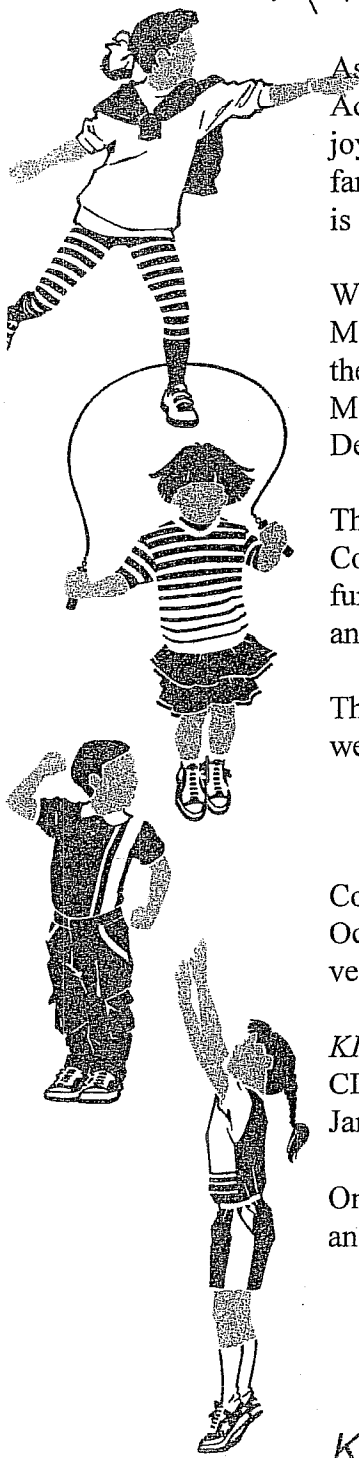
Congratulations to the winners of our Bible Verse Memorization for the month of October. We recognize LeAnne Kommenich and Shannon Bastien for memorizing all the verses for this month. Good Work!!!

KIDS CLUB Holiday Schedule: We will host a Christmas Party on December 14th. KIDS CLUB will not meet on December 21 or 28. We will resume our regular schedule on January 4th.

On behalf of the KIDS CLUB staff I would like to wish you and your family a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

We will decorate the Zoo Tree on **November 21st**. This is a fantastic way to not only publicize our Kids Club but have some fun touring the Brookfield Zoo. Any family interested in joining us decorate at the Zoo should contact Dianne Flynn at the church. The children will be making new ornaments for the tree during Kids Club. It is always nice to have one tall person come so we can get the star on the top without bringing along a step stool. Get the details from Dianne and we can caravan to Brookfield Zoo on Saturday, November 21.

Welcome to all the Winter quarter teachers. Transition Sunday is November 29th. Be sure to come meet the class you will teach and share in the fun. Just a reminder to the Sunday School teachers: A meeting will be held on **November 22nd at 9:15 AM**. Teachers from the Fall and Winter quarters are asked to attend.

The committee is busy preparing for our annual **Advent Night**. We are so excited to gather crafts and bag them for the crowds that will join us on **December 4th**. A food dish for the pot luck dinner will be needed on that night so we can all share our fellowship before the fun begins. We will open the doors at **6:30 PM** for everyone to eat. Some of the crafts will be on the bulletin boards in the downstairs near the fellowship hall. Be sure to see what new and interesting ideas we have for gifts as well as decorations this holiday. In the years past this has always been an enjoyable time for old and young alike. We sincerely hope you will attend to begin your holiday celebrations with us.

The Sunday School classes will present "Hanging of the Greens" on **December 6th at the 10:30 AM** worship service. For those

who have not witnessed this event, it is something worth getting up for. The children will retell the story of the first Christmas as well as explain some of the traditions we currently use. There will be music for you to listen to as well as join in on the singing. There will be an opportunity for you to see the church decorated with poinsettias, lights, the creche', and of course, the Tree of Warmth. Join us as we celebrate our traditions and share them with our congregation.

Speaking of the Tree of Warmth, we are again asking everyone to donate some item to help keep a child warm this year. A hat, scarf, pair of gloves, mittens, or even socks will be used by the young children of the Sunday School to decorate the tree. It would be very helpful to have these items placed in the designated boxes found outside the sanctuary before December arrives. Hand-made items as well as store bought items are welcomed. Hint: you can find nice hats, mittens, gloves, socks at the local dollar stores. (I go to the one at the Chicago Ridge Mall, myself)

The Christmas Tea will be on **December 17th at 7:00 PM**. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event. Our very own Gabriella Ciametti will be one of the Madrigal Singers from Stagg High School who will entertain us for the tea. You do not want to miss this special night of fellowship. Be sure to invite your friends for a very lovely evening and take time away from all your hectic preparations at home to have some fun with us.

The Women's Bible Study will have a luncheon on **December 14th**. The ladies will then take a break and not meet on December

21 or 28th. They will begin again on January 4th after the holiday hustle and bustle has settled a bit. Anyone who is interested in joining can come at **1:00 PM** on Mondays to see what an energetic and enthusiastic group of ladies we have. You are welcome to join in the discussions, too.

Speaking of taking a break, you should know that the **Kids Club** will have a break too. **No meetings are scheduled for December 21 or 28th.** We decided to use these days for our own home preparations. Kids Club will resume on January 4th at 3:30 PM - 5:00PM.

The **Stampers** have been busy learning new techniques from Ruth and Kim. We are busy making beautiful cards for the use of the Prayer and Care group. They are using the cards to send out to members of the congregation who are a part of the Prayer List. Stamping cards is one of the activities where you can catch up on current events as well as explore more of your creative side. There is never a dull moment. Plan to join us on alternating Wednesdays. We will meet on **November 11 at 10:30 AM** in the Jr. High Classroom.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has diversified and we are now working on three different missions. There is still the need to make the Squares for Africa, but we are also involved in making items for the Tree of Warmth as well as the Prayer Shawls. Anyone who would like to sit and talk, knit, or crochet for an hour or more after the 10:30 AM worship service is welcome to join us. We will even try to teach you if you have a desire to learn knitting or crocheting

The entire Christian Education committee is thankful for the children you have entrusted to us and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. We are working to improve our programs and help make your job of raising your children a little easier. If you would like to help with the programming and

events please join us. For more information, talk to Dianne Flynn, the Director of Children's Ministries.

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES DECEMBER

“For the Lord your God is a merciful God.”
Deuteronomy 4:31

†

“...love the Lord your God.”
Deuteronomy 30:20

STORIES AND MORE

We meet on Tuesday afternoon from 1:00PM to 2:00PM. We have openings and hope more 4, 5, and 6 year olds will join us this coming week.

We just began our second six week session of Stories and More. We have music, a story with reinforcement retelling by the children, a fun project with a learning theme and games and /or dances to start and end our program.

Last week we told the story of The Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly. We used a puppet of an old lady to retell the story and the class loved feeding the fly, spider, bird etc into the old lady. We did the Beany Bag dance and we had a treasure chest box to count out items from 1 to 10.

Patt Pilgrim

† SUNDAY SCHOOL †

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

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

Preschool/Kindergarten -

Debbie Zimmerman

Grades 1 and 2 - Cheryl Huenecke

We have been joining together our efforts and created a new class! Lots of interesting things come out of small groups. We have some mighty motivated young kids, that love to learn.

With the fall we started out studying the 10 commandments. Reflecting on them as we build the lessons each week, Jacob has been inspired to draw a poster for each one of them. As he completes them, we will display them in the KG/ 1st grade classroom for all to see.

We looked at patience and discussed ways that God is patient with us as we grow. Katrina, Jacob, Hollie and Trevor have all made a growth chart for the wall so that we can measure their growth each week and remember that God is patient with us so we have to be patient with others.

We hope to see others join us so we can add them to the wall. We encourage you all to be with us so we can keep up with your measurements and see how you have grown.

We talked about the differences of appearance and how things are not always as they seem, since the appearance of our classrooms and church basement changed, and our routine was different during the Haunted House event. It was a reminder

about not passing judgments and remembering that in the dark spots of life God is there. Everyone enjoyed the tour and wandering through the "Gold Mine Maze". 3 of our kids even ended up in the Jail Cell with smiles from ear to ear as they had their picture taken.

Visitors at Sunday school are always special, and give us new friends to learn with. We studied about God caring for us like the Shepherd over his sheep and about giving our Love to Him. Trevor and Hollie learned the Scripture passage from Deuteronomy 6:5 by putting it in motion.

They can remember "deu deu Deuteronomy 6" easily because they are both 6 years of age! It goes like this.....

Love the Lord your God (raising your hand to the sky)

With all your Heart (placing folded hands on your chest over your heart)

With all you Soul (reach with crossed arms to your shoulders and hug yourself to symbolize all of you)

And with all your Strength (raising both fists with elbows bent, as a symbol of a strong man)

Grade 5 - Linda Lavaretto

Our class has been reviewing the Ten Commandments brought by Moses and the

two commandments brought by Jesus. We found that the commandments by Jesus are summaries of the Ten by Moses. We also discovered that it is very hard to follow them all the time. We also discussed how we have a God who can help us and who we can turn to when we are in doubt or on the "wrong path." There have not been very many children in class and this makes me sad. I am looking forward to seeing Riley, Stacey, Frankie, and LeAnne on a more consistent basis. Perhaps, even Yasmine, Veronica, Petar, Nellie, and Joshua will come see what we are doing in class one day too. I hope to see them soon.

Junior High - Patt Pilgrim

We continue to study the Old testament and the story of how God used Moses to lead the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through the Wilderness and into the promised land.

Moses went up to Mount Sinai to meet with God in the clouds and brought back the ten commandments. We discussed the commandments to honor God and the commandments to honor each other. God also met with Moses and gave directions for the building of a Tabernacle. The people of the 12 tribes of Israel gave Moses the supplies needed to build the Tabernacle for worship to God.

We discussed the parts of the Tabernacle and assembled a paper model to show what it looked like and how the 12 tribes of Israel camped outside around it. The ten commandments were placed in the Ark of the Covenant in the tent called the Holy of Holies.

In the coming weeks we will follow the Israelites journey into the Promised Land.

God kept His promise to the Israelites to make a great nation of them. We have a lesson there for us too. God will do great things with each of us. God keeps his promises and God is always with us.

Patt Pilgrim

Senior High - Gordon Home

The Senior High Class continues to work on a project using a camera to take pictures of what God has created. They are creating a Holy Scroll depicting the lessons they learn in our classroom. This scroll will be held in the archives.

Adult Class - Arlene Pearson

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1 (RSV)

Facing life's tests is not easy. Our responsibility is to run with patience the pathway upon which God has put our feet. Our class completed studying the epistle to the Hebrews whose object is: if we follow and yield to what God in whose object is: if we follow and yield to what God in Christ is ready to do, we shall find all we need for a life of joy, strength and victory. We miss you, Tom!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING DATES

Friday, December 4th

5:30 p.m. Children meet in Sanctuary to
Practice for Advent program

6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night

Sunday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program

10:00 a.m. "Hanging of the Greens"
presented

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We had a wonderful Halloween Party on October 29th. We played, "Killer" and had a "Mummy" wrapping contest. We also played "Tennis Ball blowout". We had pizza and way too much candy but it was a fun time and the costumes were great!!

This past week we played "Salamander" which is played in the dark and is the favorite game of everyone. We watched a DVD entitled "Rain" and we had a snack of oreo treats brought by Katie to celebrate her birthday.

Coming up on December 12th we have our annual Christmas trip downtown for ice skating, viewing Christmas windows, shopping in Daley plaza, seeing the tree and lunch at McDonalds.

On January 29th 30th and 31st 2010 we will go to Bloomington, Il, for our annual Junior high retreat to spend the week-end with junior highs from other Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyterian churches. It is a time of fellowship, music, Christian learning and lots of fun. We stay in heated cabins with showers and eat great food. More information to follow. During the month of January we will be selling stock for retreat scholarships.

We invite all 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their friends to join us on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Patt Pilgrim, Katie Trecanni, Bryan Ambrosat

Senior High Youth Group

The Haunted House was exciting, a little bit scary, and a lot of fun. In addition to helping to build and staff the Haunted House, the Senior High Youth Group ran the concession stand. The proceeds from the concessions are being used to purchase Christmas gifts for a family in need. Our next meeting, will involve a shopping trip. Teens and shopping; what makes me think that will be fun?

Our group is excited to be a part of worship. During Advent, the Senior High Youth Group will be lighting the Advent Candles at the REV services. On December 13, we will lead the REV worship service. If you haven't been to a REV Service, lately, please come and join us. There are exciting things going on here at HHPC.

We have had interesting discussions at some of our meetings. We are looking forward to a couple of outings on the horizon. The plan is to include a weekend retreat in February. In addition to all of the fun we have, our meetings and the outings help us to learn more about each other and our faith.

If you are of high school age, please come and join us. If you know someone that might like to join us, please let them know about us, or let us know who they are. We would love to reach out to them and share the fun with them.

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

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Petrolino
- 3 Sarah Gehle
- 5 Tristan Grisko
- 12 Brian Haack
Victor Munoz
- 14 Danny Rodriguez
Jenah Fox
- 15 Gabriel Meyer
- 17 Yasmine Fox
- 18 Riley McKinney
- 20 Natasha Swindle
- 22 Kyle Freiberg
- 23 Ryan Saeler
- 25 Natalie Orsic
- 26 Tristin Dabrowski
Halimah Prunty
- 30 Ava McGuire

PERFECT ATTENDANCE OCTOBER

3rd and 4th Grades
Danny Orsic

5th Grade
LeAnne Kommenich

Junior High
Alyssia Kommenich

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Sarah Swearingen
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek

ADVENT PROGRAM

Our kids tell the story of the Nativity and our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sound of Christmas.



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6
10:30 A.M.
WORSHIP
SERVICE



Music Page

Youth Choir continues to be a blessing to our family. Sometimes, as we work through practice each week, we wonder, “*Just how will the Anthem work out?*” We do not always have all the voices at practice due to Jr High and High School schedules. Then factor in the ever changing circumstances with sickness, and we can have but just a few or even sometimes two!

However, we are blessed to have the Jr. High and High School sections to inspire and support our younger kids. Their commitment to the music review on their own, and willingness to arrive early the day of our Anthem for practice together, enables us to put harmonies and parts together that would not otherwise be possible.

It goes back to the sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure, which is the backbone of our church’s success.

I thank God for using our youth and their gifts in this way. I have always been touched through music and I am grateful for the Inspiration given to me through the Holy Spirit leading in this.

So if you missed the Anthem or possibly have the tune in your mind playing maybe without some of the words, here they are for you to enjoy.

Simple words? Yes, but they send a powerful message as we enter into the time of Thanksgiving and preparation for the season of Advent.

Peace,

Cheryl

Give Thanks with a grateful heart give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,

Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)

Give thanks

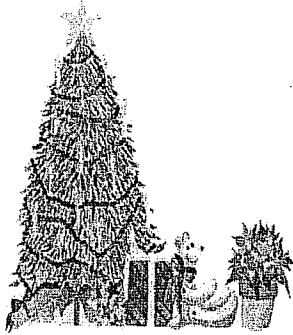
We give thanks

We..... give..... thanks

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, December 4

6:30 P.M.



POTLUCK DINNER
CHRISTMAS CRAFT

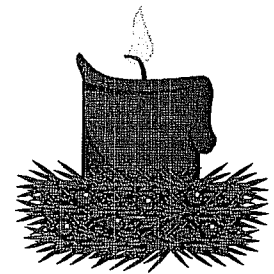
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE PIANO

COST:

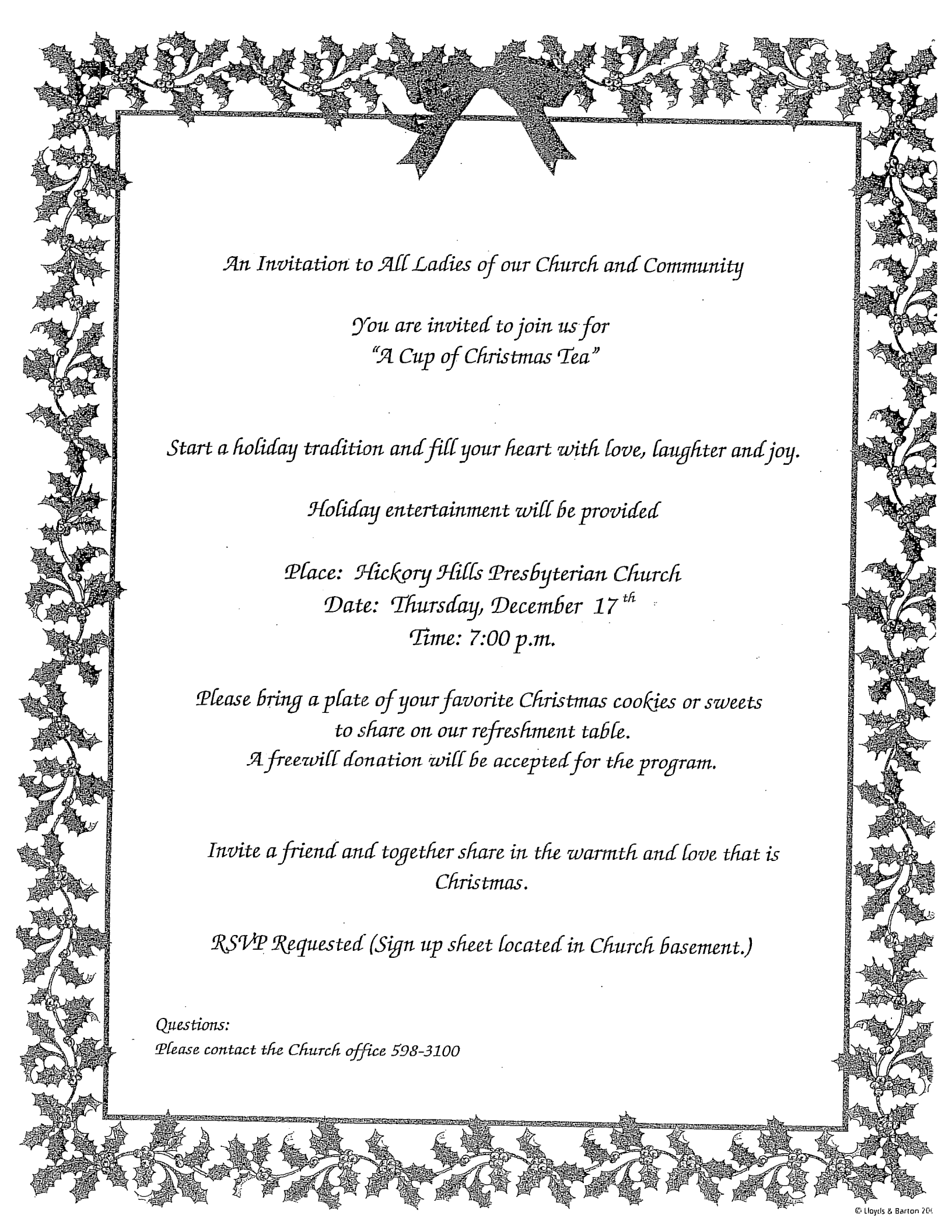
FOOD DISH TO SHARE FOR OUR MEAL

AND

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CRAFT PROJECTS



Sign up today for this wonderful family event



An Invitation to All Ladies of our Church and Community

*You are invited to join us for
"A Cup of Christmas Tea"*

Start a holiday tradition and fill your heart with love, laughter and joy.

Holiday entertainment will be provided

Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

Date: Thursday, December 17th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

*Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies or sweets
to share on our refreshment table.*

A freewill donation will be accepted for the program.

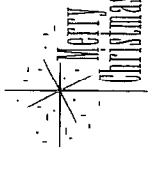

*Invite a friend and together share in the warmth and love that is
Christmas.*

RSVP Requested (Sign up sheet located in Church basement.)

Questions:

Please contact the Church office 598-3100

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E.	2 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	3 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	4 5:30 p.m. Practice for Hanging of the Greens 6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	5
6 9:00 a.m. Practice for Hanging of the Greens 9:00 a.m. Worship (downstairs) 10:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Comm. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	7 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	8 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	9 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	10 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	11 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	12 9-11 a.m. Jones Center Breakfast with Santa 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
13 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 <u>Jan. Newsletter Deadline</u>	14 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Lunch 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	15 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Comm.	16 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	17 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	18 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship- Choir Cantata & Children's Education <u>White Gifts</u> 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	21 7:30 p.m. Outreach	22 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	23 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	24 Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Worship	25 	26 Honduras Mission Trip Departs
27 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	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	30 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir	31 New Year's Eve	1 	

December Birthdays

December 1- Darlene Delaney
1 - Melanie Swindle
3 - Debra Schembari
4 - Scott Hoffman
5 - Dawn Morgucz
8 - Heather Seger
11 - Ruth Payton-Hill
12- Tom Treccani
12- Bryan Ambrosat
16 - Gina Ciametti
17 - Lynn Majersky
19 - Steven Beal
19 - Cliff Pilgrim
29 - Laverne Mocariski
30 - Marge Brumis
31 - Carla Zabelka

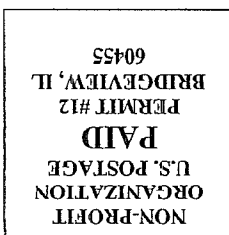
Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...

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

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**Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



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