THE CONNECTING LINK

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

DECEMBER 2013

Minor Ministerial Musings

One of my fondest Christmas memories from childhood was decorating the Christmas tree. Every year, part of the ritual was getting out a certain box of ornaments, which was always kept with a very special piece of paper. On that piece of paper was a list of the ornaments in that box. Some of the ornaments were my older brother's, some were mine, and some were my younger sister's, each ornament and it's owner recorded carefully on that piece of paper – along with the year it was acquired. We would get out that list and divide up the box of ornaments. Then my brother, my sister, and I would each put "our own" ornaments on the tree.

You see, my grandparents started a tradition of buying a Christmas ornament for each of their grandchildren each year, starting with the year we were born. They did this for my siblings and me, the "Houston grandchildren", and for our cousin, who lived in Dallas. Some years they were all the same. Most years, they were each different, though all similar in theme. One year we each got a tiny wooden bell, each a different color. One year we got little mirror boxes, each tied with a different color ribbon. One year we each got a different character from the cartoon "Peanuts."

At some point, probably after graduating from high school, I began to notice changes in my parents' Christmas tree. First, as my siblings and I all eventually left for college and all of our schedules changed, we no longer were able to decorate the Christmas tree as a family. Second, I started to notice different and unfamiliar ornaments on the tree. When I took a closer look, I still recognized our childhood ornaments, including all of the ornaments that we received from our grandparents. But there were other ornaments on the tree as well – ornaments that coordinated with whatever theme my parents had chosen. Even the traditional angel that had always topped our Christmas tree was replaced with a newer, fancier one (my parents gave me the old angel for the Christmas tree in my first apartment). My parents' Christmas tree "grew up".

When I got married five years ago, and my husband and I put up our first Christmas tree together, I started thinking about those ornaments that my grandparents had given my siblings and me so long ago. And finally, this past Christmas, I asked my mother if I could take them back home with me after Christmas, so that they could be part of the tradition in *my* household, as my husband and I and *our* Christmas traditions "grow up". There were a couple of the ornaments which had broken or had been thrown away long ago for some other reason. But it was such a thrill to go through and look at the dates, and to cherish memories of my grandparents as I remembered each ornament. As we prepare to celebrate our first Christmas with our new son, I have been thinking about what new traditions we will begin in our family.

This year, as Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church has celebrated sixty years of ministry together, let's celebrate where we've been, the precious gifts and the precious people that we have been given over the years. Let's celebrate "growing up", how our congregation and our ministries have grown and changed – rooted in and influenced by all the precious gifts and the precious people who have made us who we are. May we never forget that at the root of it all it is God who has given us these gifts, these people, and our calling to be the people of God in this place. Let's walk into the future together – the next sixty years and beyond – using all that we have been given to become all that we are meant to be, to the glory of God, and the care of God's creation and children, giving thanks to God all the way. See you in church Sunday! In Joyful Anticipation, Pastor Lara

HHPC
PRAYER REQUESTS

Tornado survivors/ victims in the Midwest
People in the Philippines
Francine Costello for health concerns
Pastor Lara for strength & healing
Larry & Lori Haack for health concerns
Maryann's daughter, Suzy, for health concerns
Jerry Panko for strength
Our College Students for direction
Crisis in Syria for solutions & the USA
Pastor's Uncle Billy & Aunt C for health and strength
A friend of Wilda & Susan's- Kathy, for health concerns
Ed for health concerns, and his wife Sue, for strength
Debbie Zimmerman's cousin, Jim Coglin, for health concerns
Mary Richer's grand-daughter, Heather, & daughter, Nancy & son, Larry, for health concerns
Darlene & The Krueger family for strength
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Rich S. & Family for Strength & Hope with battle of advanced cancer
Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Enid & Dorothy Scholefield for health concerns
Sandy Beal's friend, Kathy Kellogg, for health concerns
Kirk MacGregor's brother, Scotty, for healing & strength
Jimmie's uncle, John, for health concerns
Jean Somerstorfer for health concerns
DelPrete family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

A•men
(ā•men')
adv., interj.

Prayer Group meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.
PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

PRAYER & CARE

"And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together, and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." ACTS 2:43-47

We extend our prayer that the above bring you a vision as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

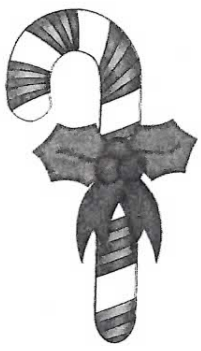
Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar

PADS UPDATE

PADS for the month of November reflected 46 guests for the evening. We noticed some new faces and a blending of familiar ones. Each new season we notice a change in guests. Those who have moved on and are creating a life for themselves, and those who remain for various reasons. We never question or doubt there presence and their needs.

We are grateful they have a warm place to come to and warm people to serve them.
Thanks again to each of you who enter into this ministry and make these guests welcome. We have much and are glad to share with those in need.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson



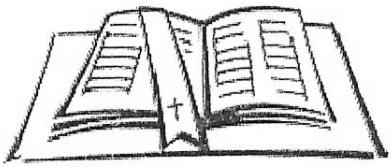
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." MATTHEW 9:37

We continue to study this wonderful gospel asking God to give us eyes to see and ears to hear.
As we look forward to December, we will have our Christmas luncheon at noon on Monday, Dec. 16.

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you!

Love 'N' Hugs,
Ar



FUNDRAISING

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.

November 2nd was a great day! The sun was out, 37 tables were rented to crafters and vendors, we had a successful bake sale, we served a variety of food all day, our raffle, otherwise known as the "Penny Social" was a huge success, and thanks to Shirley Dragas, we had an entire classroom full of beautiful gift baskets. In fact, Shirley created and donated **113** baskets! We are so very grateful for Shirley's talent and love that is placed in each and every creation!

After expenses our profit for the event is $3,000.00 which includes a $300.00 monetary donation. These monies have been placed into our Fundraising checking account and will be used for non-budgeted items for our church.

Also, if anyone would like to order retail gift cards for Christmas gifts, please pick up a list and contact either Susan Frangella or Grace Muszynski by December 13.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas to all!

Mr. & Mrs. Mitch & Katie Huenecke
7215 W. 110th Pl. #10
Worth, IL 60482

Alexa & Jim Schlimmer
6986 Sonya Dr.
Nashville, TN 37209

We Celebrate

December Birthdays

3 Lucia Rosails
5 Tristan Grisko
12 Brian Haack
13 Karley Peterson
15 Gabriel Meyer
16 Jayden Kenealy
18 Riley McKinney
20 Natasha Swindle
25 Natalie Orsic

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Dec. 1, 2013

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
Dec. 1, 2013	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim	Dave Delaney
Dec. 8, 2013	If you are interested in 2nd Sunday, see Pastor	Rick Vogl
Dec. 15, 2013	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Cindy Bowen
Dec. 22, 2013	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	If you are interested in 4th Sunday, see Pastor
Dec. 29, 2013	If you are interested in 5th Sunday, see Pastor	Kirk MacGregor
SUNDAY	**COUNTERS**	**ACOLYTES**
Dec. 1, 2013	Susan Frangella	Bobby DeVries, Danny Orsic
Dec. 8, 2013	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Jacob Morrell, Jayden Kenealy
Dec. 15, 2013	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Bobby DeVries, Jacob Morrell
Dec. 22, 2013	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Jayden Kenealy, Danny Orsic
Dec. 29, 2013	Susan Frangella	Bobby DeVries, Jayden Kenealy

Communion Servers: Dave Delaney, Bev Kahn, Ivy Taebel

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Dec. 6: 5:30 pm - Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal-If you are involved in the Hanging of the Greens program, please be at the church for Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. before the Advent Workshop. **6:30 pm - Advent Workshop-** One of the many Christmas traditions at our church. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Then, we make holiday crafts and sing Christmas 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 kick off 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. 8: 10:30 am - Hanging of the Greens- Our Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. 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.

Wed. Dec. 11: 7:00 pm - Women's Christmas Tea- 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. 15: 9:00 and 10:30 am - Worship- We continue to transform our sanctuary as we hang our **Crismons** on our sanctuary tree.

Sunday, Dec. 22: 9:00 and 10:30 am Worship-White Gift Offering- We bring our food items, wrapped in white tissue, before the crèche. These items will be used in our Food Pantry. The sanctuary continues to be transformed with beautiful **poinsettias**.

Tue. Dec. 24: 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve- Come to worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior, with a candlelight service.

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

"I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm9:1

This month we prepare for Christmas and will open each week of Christian Learning with the lighting of the Advent Candles. Together we will explore the following topics:

Get It Straight The First Time - Amos demonstrated integrity when he followed God's plan for his life.

The 700 Year Old Promise - Isaiah and Simeon demonstrated hope when they believed the Messiah would be born.

A Time For Praise - Mary showed that she had a heart full of praise as she followed God's plan for her life.

Congratulations to Sara F. for winning the Snicker Balance during the month of October. She was able to balance 16 Snickers and of course take them all home. Who will participate during November's challenge? Perfect attendance for the month is the requirement for eligibility to play this game.

As I am writing this article we are planning for our all church Advent Family Night on Friday, December 6th with the potluck dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend and enjoy this time together. The crafts we will be making on this evening are displayed in the lower level of the church. Please sign up today to attend.

We hope you will visit our decorated Christmas Tree at the Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic. The ornaments on this tree were made by our kids. The tree is number 108 and located on the East Mall between Roosevelt Fountain and BZ Red Hot Restaurant. The 32nd annual Holiday Magic will run Saturdays and Sundays: November 30 - December 1, 7-8, 14-15. 21-22, as well as December 26-31. For more information on their scheduled programing check out www.brookfieldzoo.org

KIDS CLUB Holiday Schedule: We will host a Christmas Party on December 16th. Kids Club will not meet on December 23rd or 30th. We will resume our regular schedule on January 6th.

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 Meeting

†

A Big THANK YOU to the Winter quarter teachers, Gordon, Beverly, and Dianne. We could never have a Sunday School without teachers who are as dedicated to our youth as you are. Thank you from the entire Christian Education Committee. Parents, please see that your child attends class with these teachers so they will know that they are truly valued and loved.

A tree has been donated to the Kids Club at the Brookfield Zoo. It is tree #108 and is located on the East Mall between the Roosevelt Fountain and BZ Red Hots Restaurant. Families who have agreed to help decorate this tree are asked to meet at the tree by 10:30 AM. Be sure to contact Dianne Flynn and let her know your intentions. Tree ornaments were created under the guidance of Shirley Dragas in Kids Club.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is working to make some scarves, hats, and mittens for the Warming Tree our children will decorate on December 8th. Please help us by donating something to warm adults and children such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, earmuffs or mittens. Many of these items can be purchased at the local dollar store. Boxes are located outside the sanctuary to hold your donations. We would appreciate having them filled by November 24.

It's time for the **"Hanging of the Greens"** again! There will be two practices held. One is Friday, December 6 at 5:30 PM just before the Advent Night Pot Luck Dinner and crafts and the other will be on Sunday, December 8 at 9 AM just before the 10:30 AM worship service. We hope you can bring your children for one or two of the scheduled practices. During the "Hanging of the Greens" our children will tell the Christmas Story and explain some of the popular symbols of Christmas.

Come one, come all to the Chalk Talk presented by George Vogrin. The **Annual Christmas Tea** will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 PM. Please bring a dish of your favorite cookies to share during the tea. We will enjoy seeing the artist at work while listening to some holiday music. Be sure to invite a friend or two to share this great night.

The Kids Club will not meet December 23 or 30 due to the holidays. We resume on January 6, 2014 and hope everyone will be ready to join us after our winter break. The staff is always ready to return to Kids Club after a break and hope the children will be ready to visit with us again.

Approximately 10 people from the **Sr. High Youth Group** made it out alive from the Labyrinth in October. Future activities in December include attending a live Nativity at the Center on December 16 and a Yule Log Service on December 22.

The contract is signed and the presenter has been asked to perform for the **Spring Family Night**. Jason Kollum the juggler, storyteller and Yes, the man who fell and broke a leg just days before the Fall Family Night, is coming to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church on May 2. Did you enjoy the Fall Family Night? Did you want more instructions for juggling? Then you must attend.

Stories and More is enjoying the laughter and energy of three adorable girls. We have begun recognizing the alphabet

letters in Upper and Lower case letters. We write them on the white board, search for them around our room, and even try to draw a picture which has the initial sound for the letter. We are participating in active songs, listening to great stories, and discussing the beautiful pictures. If you know anyone who is 4-6 years old and who might enjoy the friendship and learning on Tuesdays at 1-2 PM, please refer us to their parents. The staff has passed a background check, are all retired educators, and are looking forward to spending an hour with youngsters.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has an average of 7 members. Lap blankets, prayer shawls, scarves, hats, and mittens are worked on during our time together. You can find us west of the piano in the fellowship hall. We begin around 11:45 AM on Sundays. We will help you learn to crochet or knit. There is yarn and a variety of needles on hand but you will need to bring your own crochet hook if that is your choice,. We share the progress of our projects . The Prayer Shawls are made with approximately 24 ounces of Lion Brand Homespun yarn and the other projects such as a lap blanket require 4 ply acrylic yarn approximately 20 ounces. Please donate bright colors and help us reach our goal of 70 lap blankets. If you are working at home, we are making lap blankets 35 X 36 inches. You can leave your finished projects in the room or give to Dianne Flynn.

The Stampers met once in November. We completed a dozen cards for the Prayer and Care group to use. We had a great time using some of the designs we learned with Evelyn Garlic at her card workshops. We welcome new members to visit with us and share their design ideas. Check with Barb Brown for the next date and time.

The Christian Education Committee is thankful for your support. We pray for your help in getting your children to the programs we hope will be educational as well as fun for your family. We know that making the commitment to attend worship and bring your children to class is not an easy thing for you and we pray that you will see great devotion and caring in the programs we provide for your family. God Bless you this holiday season and always.

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JUST A REMINDER

Friday, December 6th

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

6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night

Potluck Dinner and Crafts

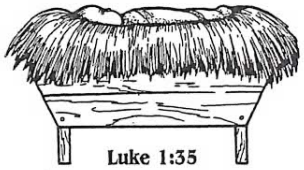
Sunday, December 8th

9:00 a.m. Practice for Advent Program

10:30 a.m. Advent Program

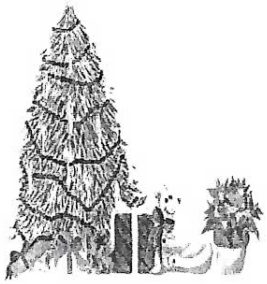
"Hanging of the Greens"

"...therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."



Luke 1:35

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT



Friday, December 6

6:30 P.M.

POTLUCK DINNER

CHRISTMAS CRAFT

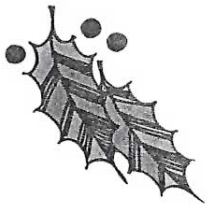
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AROUND THE PIANO

COST:

FOOD DISH TO SHARE FOR OUR MEAL

AND

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CRAFT PROJECTS

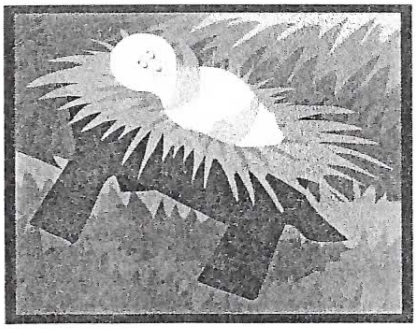


Sign up today for this wonderful family event

HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT
PROGRAM

As our kids tell the story of the Nativity our sanctuary comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8
10:30 a.m.
WORSHIP
SERVICE

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

"A Chalk Talk - Musical Christmas"

by

George Vogrin

Place: Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

Date: Wednesday , December 11th

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.

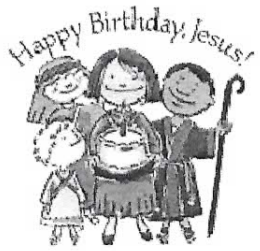
Invite a friend and together share in the warmth and love that is Christmas.

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

Questions: Please contact Dianne

708 598-3100

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent 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 PADS	2 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Reasonable Faith	3 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 7:00 p.m. CE Meeting	4 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. TOPS	5	6 5:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Practice 6:30 p.m. Advent Family Night	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship (downstairs) & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship- Hanging of the Greens 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>Poinsettia Order Deadline</u> <u>Jan. Newsletter Deadline</u>	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Reasonable Faith 7:30 p.m. Session	10 1:00 p.m. Stories & More	11 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:00 a.m. Stampers 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea	12 4:30 p.m. TOPS	13	14 8:30 a.m. Jones Center Breakfast with Santa 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education (crismons) 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	16 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study Luncheon 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Reasonable Faith 7:30 p.m. Outreach	17 1:00 p.m. Stories & More	18 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	19 4:30 p.m. TOPS	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education (white gifts and poinsettias) 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	23 7:00 p.m. Reasonable Faith 7:30 p.m. Deacons	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Worship	25 Christmas Day 	26 4:30 p.m. TOPS	27	28
29 9:00 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	30 7:00 p.m. Reasonable Faith	31				

December Birthdays

December
1 – Darlene Delaney
1 – Melanie Swindle
4 – Scott Hoffman
5 – Dawn Morgucz
11 – Ruth Payton-Hill
12- Tom Treccani
12- Bryan Ambrosat
14 – Danny Rodriguez
16 – Gina Ciametti
19 – Steven Beal
19 – Cliff Pilgrim
22 – Kyle Freiberg
29 – Laverne Mocarski
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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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.

Dated Material
Do Not Hold

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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