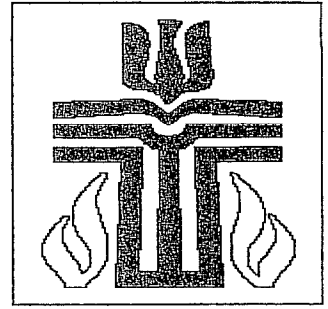


# THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457  
Telephone: (708)598-3100  
Email: [HHPC2002@netzero.com](mailto:HHPC2002@netzero.com)  
[www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)

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FEBRUARY 2009

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## *Increase Membership & Stewardship*

By the time you read this, many things will have happened with this phrase:

- reviewed by Session at their meeting January 12, 2009
- reviewed by the Congregation at their meeting January 25, 2009
- publicized in a newsletter article like this.

First, a little background. At their annual Leaders' Retreat on Saturday, January 10, 2009, elders and deacons, 'old' and new, got to know each other, pray for each other, look at the community around us, and brainstorm (58) ways that HHPC this year might choose a BHAG – a Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal. A simple 3-vote process quickly reduced 58 to 6, and personal choices for 'my best choice' cut that down to 5 options. After some work to flesh out each possibility and lively presentations to each other, the assembled group gathered in a traditional 'Jesuit-decision-making' to weigh the five ways God might be calling us into 2009. The comments were overwhelming and clear –

## *Increase Membership & Stewardship*

A second question might be – Whaddaya mean? What are we going to do? An answer was in front of all the officers from the beginning – the presentation by the group that espoused this BHAG. They did a careful job of identifying several components to 'what it means to *Increase Membership & Stewardship*:'

1. Start an Outreach Committee to do (at least) advertising, website, community invitations, open houses (young families, young mothers/fathers)
2. Create Welcome Packets that include: church programs (including new ones like tutoring and ESL, history, staff, worship services)
3. Expand local mission programming: in the Southwest suburbs, with more diversity (food pantry, work days – Habitat), support groups for special interests, nursing homes
4. Begin a Young Adult Group for 18-25 year olds (What's next?), integrated in the church community.

Finally, how do I as interim pastor see this? Great! is easily my first response, noting several things that came out in the discussion January 10<sup>th</sup> (my emphases):

- "Increase" makes sense ONLY if we do it for others, for God – not HHPC
- Increase happens as we deepen the spiritual roots of each, of all
- Increase emerges as we open doors for each one to participate significantly
- Increase comes when every one has at least a handful of close friends
- "Membership" is shorthand for participation, connection, friendship, not #s
- "Stewardship" is caring wisely for self, for our planet, for our resources

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

## ASH WEDNESDAY, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Soup – I love the many references I’ve heard over the past two weeks to SOUP – it seems to be on everyone’s diet in this ‘warm’ weather! So you will get soup when you come to HHPC on Ash

Wednesday – both at 12:00 noon and in the evening at 6:15 p.m.

Solace – I love the sound of that word. It carries the obvious meaning of comfort, relaxing, healing, restoration, being made whole again. And Ash Wednesday does that in a straightforward way as we take time to confess our sins in a leisurely way and hear the full assurance of God’s gracious grace that wipes them out and puts us together afresh. Oh – solace – the reason I love it so much – I think it’s because the Latin root for sun, sol, is the beginning of it – God’s Son heals all.

Solid – I can’t remember the first person on whom I imposed ashes, but I vividly remember one of the persons in that first service. How dramatically that moment changed me! We had talked. We had argued. We had created. We had laughed together. We had cried together. In that service I first touched this person’s face – to make an ashen cross on that forehead. We touched. We connected. I was shaken to realize how close we were brought by some wispy, burnt leftovers from last year’s Palm Sunday palms. How strangely God works! How deeply God roots us when we each start with God. You too can have a solid foundation from a passing moment of sharing ashes.

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION – February 8<sup>th</sup>

Each year we welcome new leaders to the congregation by ordaining and installing them in a service of worship. After the Nominating Committee’s report, after the Session’s vote to find each candidate qualified to serve, after the Congregation’s vote to select new Elders and Deacons to start three-year terms – then we ordain and install.

We Presbyterians are fairly unique in ordaining people who are not clergy – we ordain elders to lead us in the work of the Session, and Deacons to care for us and the people around us through their Board. Once ordained, always ordained. The ordination is for life, even though the election to an office is for a three-year term.

Welcome the new Deacons. Encourage the new Elders. But be absolutely sure that you are in worship February 8 to participate with all formerly ordained persons and others in the ordination of the new deacons and elders for Hickory Hills Presbyterian.

Rev. Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

## What is that blue envelope for?



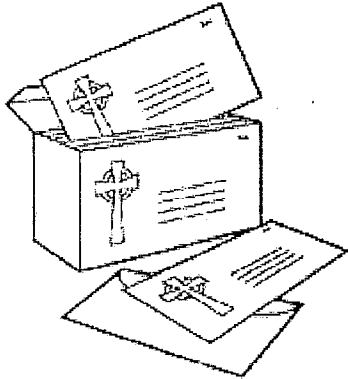
*A message about Per Capita giving from the  
Stewardship-Finance Committee*

Per capita is a fund with a cost per member to which every congregation part of the PCUSA contributes. For each and every member an amount is calculated that is divided between the national General Assembly (national), the Synod of Lincoln Trails (a regional Presbyterian body to which our church belongs), and the Presbytery of Chicago. The funds from per capita apportionments help these bodies serve and support individual congregations and pastors across the country and help to hold Presbyterian congregations together in mission and fellowship.

Every church in the PCUSA is assessed per capita for every member. For 2009, it is **\$28.29** per member.

Last year, of the \$6,600 assessed to our church, we received gifts from members for per capita totaling

\$2,236. The result is that we had to take \$4,364 from the general fund to make up the difference. The result of that in these challenging economic times is that we had to take more from our dwindling reserves to cover the budget shortfall.



Please make a gift to per capita that covers the members in your household (*including confirmed youths*), and if you are able, an amount above that to help cover members who may not be able to make the gift themselves.

For more information on per capita, you may visit the PCUSA website at:

<https://www.pcusa.org/percapita/faq.htm>.

## **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) News:**

As time marches on, so does our committee. As I write this article we are scheduled to meet twice this week. Once with Mike Wolf from Chicago Presbytery, and then again with just our committee later in the week to continue our review of materials we have from candidates.

Planning also to be in attendance with Mike is our new Committee on Ministry (COM) Rep., Peggy Lindsey.

Just as our local church officers and committee people change with members rotating on and off the boards, the same takes place within the Presbytery. That is the case with Vickie Engelhardt, our previous COM Rep. who has graduated from her term on the COM.

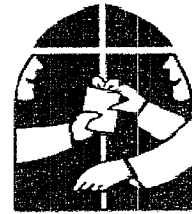
This meeting will not only provide us with the

opportunity to meet and talk with Peggy (and Mike) but also time to discuss our progress and look at possible ways of expanding our Search Process.

Our work continues, slowing only slightly through the busy Holiday Season. Not only due to our schedules, but also the schedules of Pastors from whom we would be receiving information from. So with great effort we carry on and will work toward the goal.

The PNC,  
Theodore Atiedu, Cheryl Huenecke, Darlene Kibort,  
Lou Pearson, Debbie Raschke, Adam Schwake &  
Katie Treccani

## **NEW MEMBERS**



Welcome  
Our *New*  
Members

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, we welcomed 9 new members into our congregation: **Richard Ambrosat, Kim Ambrosat, Bryan Ambrosat, Kyle Ambrosat, Jarett Ambrosat, Shannon Bastien, Harry Hermansen, Tom Pearson, & Nancy Pearson.**

**Richard, Kim, Bryan, Kyle and Jarett Ambrosat** have transferred their membership from Bayshore Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida.

**Shannon Bastien** professed her faith, having been previously baptized.

**Harry Hermansen** reaffirmed his faith, having been previously baptized and confirmed.

**Tom & Nancy Pearson** reaffirmed their faith, having been previously baptized and confirmed.

It is a joy and privilege to welcome these 9 new members into the mission and ministry of this church. Take an opportunity to introduce yourself to them.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES & CHANGES

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ambrosat & Family  
9100 Sycamore Dr.  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457  
708-598-0523

Hamet Arif  
7738 N. College Circle Apt. D  
No. Richland Hills, TX 76180

Shannon Bastien  
9455 S. 85<sup>th</sup> Ct. #1 South  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457  
708-233-5943

Harry Hermansen  
17200 W. Bell Rd. Lot #97  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
708-296-4974

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pearson  
8748 Pleasant Ave.  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457  
708-598-5198

### PADS UPDATE



Our winter records seem to indicate this season will have lasting impact upon us all, as we huddle together for warmth and comfort. These luxuries escape most of our PADS friends, for they have not the security we have within our comfortable abodes.

Thank you all, once again, in your wonderful support and giving of self to do the best we can for our brothers and sisters in need. Our count for the month of January was 70 adults and children. The count I am sure would be larger, but for the limitations put upon the church by the local fire department, as to the

occupancy law for the size of the facility, not to exceed 70 guests.

PADS has a situation which it has to face to solve this dilemma, as to where the extra guests will go? A solution is at hand I am sure; Let us do our part and remember our homeless as we hold them in our hearts and in our prayers.

Regards,  
C. Lou Pearson

### PRAYER & CARE

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing."  
Genesis 12:2 (NIV)

America is no longer the super power she once was. As other countries buy up properties in our land, can our wonderful diversity in freedom become something else? The events of the past year have caused much shame, disbelief, anguish, sorrow. Join us in praying for a spiritual revival calling our country back into godly values.

"For all things come from you..." I Chronicles 29:14

### TWILIGHT PRAYER

I, like you, call upon our Savior many times in the course of a day. How many times I don't know exactly. But be assured we have a direct line to Him and there is never a busy signal.

We specifically plug in our direct line each Tuesday evening as we gather together in the upper room at 6:30 p.m. Do you have room in your life to join us in the party line connection?  
I pray you do. No cell phones needed.

Regards,  
C. Lou Pearson



## HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sue Orsic's sister, Debbie Smith, for recovery from surgery and strength to move forward  
 Millie Neil's daughter, Patty, for healing  
 Josh Krueger for health concerns  
 Tasha Swindle's friend,  
 Josh Crosby, for strength while battling leukemia  
 Phyllis Apitz for health concerns  
 Bob Nordstrom for health concerns  
 People experiencing hard times  
 Karen Leake for strength to move forward  
 Mary Tarter for strength to move forward  
 Darlene Kibort for strength to move forward  
 Marge Hayes for health concerns  
 Dorothy Allen for strength to move forward  
 Our service men and women and their families  
 Amanda McGuire keeping the faith  
 Lindsey Taylor strength to move forward  
 DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

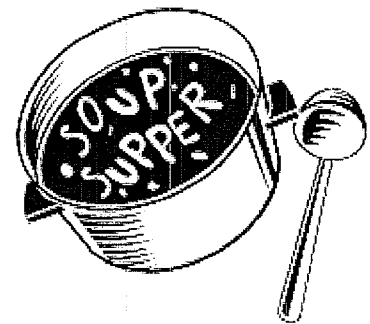


## SESSION NOTES

At their regular meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, January 12, the elders on the Session of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer led by Pastor Warren
- Welcomed 5 new members to HHPC: Tom & Nancy Pearson, Shannon Bastien, Kim Ambrosat and her son Jarett
- Called a special meeting for Sunday, January 18 at 10 a.m. to meet with 4 more new members: Rich Ambrosat and his sons Bryan and Kyle, and Harry Hermansen (Affiliate Member)
- Approved the minutes for December 8<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Approved the Clerk's report of the 2007 audit, communion, Christmas Eve services, Dave LaCognata 12/28 preaching, and a workshop for all Elders and Deacons January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Approved the Treasurer's year-end report for 2008
- Received the Worship & Music report:
  - Blue Praise booklet will be revised

- Sound system will be improved –awaiting estimates
- Dave Delaney will be a new lay leader
- G.R. Snow's recital will be February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
- Discussed praise band music in the morning service
- Enjoyed the Mission Committee report of : increases for PADS dollars and food, 87 Christmas gifts taken to Jones Center, Kentucky trip planning on 1/26 (likely starting July 11<sup>th</sup>), Dave Delaney headed for 10 days in Honduras later this month
- Heard of PNC's 2 meetings this week – meeting new representative from the Presbytery of Chicago; agreed to pray for individuals on the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee)
- Learned Nominating Cmte checking with Alan Bentley
- Celebrated worlds covered by Christian Education:
  - Souper Sunday for camp scholarships (8/2-8) in summer
  - Sunday School staffed; confirmation held till next year
  - Youth choir running 14/15 – sing 4/5 not Easter
- Nursing home gifts taken on 3/29
- Junior High – maybe 18 to retreat 1/23
- Lenten series starts 2/25, Ash Wednesday – weekly soup!



- Evening Soup: 2/25 Session, 3/4 Fellowship, 3/11 Mission, 3/18 Stewardship, 3/25 Fundraising, 4/1 B & G, 4/9 Worship & Music
- Noontime Soup: Deacons 2/25 plus weekly volunteers
- Women's Retreat – not March, checking September

- Adopted the 2009 Budget to send to the congregation 1/25
- Approved using 'old' computer for GR and linking to internet
- Discussed getting SMART goals from planned goal for 2009: "increase membership and stewardship"
- Celebrated tutoring proposal and agreed to support getting it going
- Explored options for joint ministry with Savior Divine Lutheran
- Closed with prayer at 9:40

### **The Tate Family Members**

Do you have any idea of how many members of the Tate family belong to your congregation?

There is old man Dic Tate who wants to run everything, while uncle Ro Tate tries to change everything. Their sister, Agi Tate, stirs up plenty of trouble with help from her husband, Irri Tate. Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi Tate and his wife Vegi Tate want to wait until next year.

Brother Facili Tate is quite helpful in church business. Cousins Cogi Tate and Medi Tate always think things over and lend a helpful steady hand. And, of course, there is the bad seed in the family, Ampu Tate, who has cut himself off completely from the Body of Christ.

### **HHPC'S LETTERS TO JIM BECKERING**

In the December 2008 newsletter, Pastor Warren Wiggins invited us to write a public thank you note to Jim Beckering. The following articles were received and shared with Jim. Here they are for you to enjoy:

January 2, 2009

Dear Jim,

I want to thank you for your years of ministry at Hickory Hills Presbyterian church. There are many things that you gave to the church that I so enjoyed and benefited from.

Thank you for your sermons. They were of so much help to me as I struggled through hard times in my life, as I looked for direction in my life and for

learning to praise God for all my blessings. I felt many times sermons were directed specifically to me.

Thank you for reaching out to me in visitation and counseling. Thank you for making me feel a part of the HHPC family.

Thank you for adventures with senior highs youth and adults to Colorado, Tennessee, and the Boundary waters. Thank you for mountains and sunrises for the sound of loons, white water rafting and learning to steer a canoe. In those trips I saw God in nature and felt closer to Him than ever before.

Thank you for your vision of ministry to children. You had the vision that KIDS were #1 and directed our church to be a safe haven and place of Christian growth to children and youth. I found my niche and continue to enjoy working with youth in the Junior High youth group and in Sunday school. Thank you for youth programs such as Kid's club, Lenten learning and Advent nights. We have between 40 and 50 junior high and senior highs in our two youth groups meeting weekly using the gym that you envisioned and lead to completion for HHPC.

Thank you for adult learning programs. I enjoyed the videos and discussion groups afterward.

Thank you for your leadership in Mission Council 8. I enjoy the retreats to Saugatuck and community with members of the other churches. I enjoy going to Kentucky on mission trips and working at Jones center.

Thank you for initiating the cluster group concept for the Deacons. I enjoy being a Deacon and I love my cluster families. I hope to be a good Deacon to them all.

Thank you for the ministry to others that I never knew about but got a small insight to at your farewell dinner when others came forward to speak of how you helped them through difficult times in their lives.

Thank you for your love of the HHPC family. I and others have benefited from that love and care and will never forget those days. You are my friend and we shall always be family.

Patt

Dec., 2008

Thank you Jim,

When thoughts of you come to mind, I'd like to list a few. Your refusal to let polio stop you from being the best you could be. Our many double matches were great fun when we played tennis; however, you also engaged in single matches. The day you beat George Brumis gave you incredible joy and disbelief. Well done! Your going to the health club regularly knowing only one side of your body would get stronger from the exercises. Well done!

The open door policy you adopted in the manse to anyone who needed refuge. Well done!

Church family was foremost in your ministry perhaps because you didn't have the family life many of us take for granted. Under your pastorship KIDS CLUB was born. Your reaching out to a kid's welfare over the parents' needs. Well done!

May your journey with Christ continue to be boundless, your spirituality limitless and your love endless.

Love 'n' Hugs,  
Ar

Shirley L. Fogg  
8822 W. Nida Court  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

December, 2008

Here's to J. B.

His warm spirit embraced us.  
His creative words inspired us.  
His delightful sense of humor  
lent sparkle to our lives. He  
worked hard through the years  
to mold us into a loving church  
community, strong enough to  
sustain itself and carry out  
his vision for us. We gratefully  
wish him well in every aspect  
of his life.

Thank you J.B.  
Shirley Fogg

There are many gifts I still cherish from Reverend Beckering's leadership and ministry. He always made time to see and care for others. He tried so very hard to have everyone love him and so few ever realized how endlessly he worked for all of us and for our church.

Jim gave Dottie & I (through God's help) strength to face nine tough years of cancer.

I pray Jim will forgive me for not staying in touch but I have kept him in my prayers -

God Bless

Jimmie Rehbeck

# A MASTER'S DEGREE RECITAL AT HHPC

*Friday evening, February 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.*

As you know, this fall G. R. went back to school to work on finishing his master's degree at the American Conservatory of Music in Hammond, Indiana. This program will result in a Master of Music degree in vocal



G. R. Snow, HHPC  
director of music  
and recitalist for  
February 20, and  
Charles T. Hayes,  
director of music  
at Maryland  
Presbyterian  
Church and  
accompanist for  
the recital.



performance, and with the credit he received from the Conservatory for master's level classes he had taken at Western Illinois University in Macomb when he was living near there, plus credit for extensive private study and choral/operatic experience he has achieved during the last twenty years (including singing with Grant Park Symphony Chorus, singing in operas with da Corneto Opera and Opera Theatre of DuPage, singing in and being a soloist/conductor/composer for the Chatham Choral Ensemble during their concert tour in 2000 of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, and serving as a conductor/composer/organist for HHPC, he was offered an opportunity to complete the remaining requirements of his master's degree in one year—a year including two master's degree recitals and one master's thesis. The first of the recitals will be held February 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., and he received permission (both from the Conservatory and from the HHPC Session) to hold the recital at HHPC. All members and friends of the HHPC congregation are encouraged to come; there will also be musicians attending from outside our congregation and it's a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with others and enjoy a program of fine music as well.

Accompanist for G. R. will be Charles T. Hayes, who will be flying in from Baltimore earlier that week and will be using piano, organ, and the harpsichord stop on an electronic piano to accompany the selections. This recital includes music from several different nationalities and time periods. Baroque music (from the 1600-1750 period) will include a sacred bass solo cantata by a relatively unknown composer named Giovanni Antonio Rossetti, a bass solo from the Magnificat by Johann Sebastian Bach, and an aria from Handel's opera *Berenice*, sung by Prince Demetrio when he is being led away in chains by the soldiers of the jealous Egyptian queen Berenice Cleopatra. A Beethoven song-cycle, one of the earliest historical examples of a song-cycle (which is a series of poems by the same poet set to different contrasting tunes by the composer), will follow; the six

pieces are love songs "to a distant beloved" and come from a time in Beethoven's life when, after the failure of the three great romances of his life, plus his approaching deafness, he was forced to accept that there were things he had hoped for that he would never have. The pieces in the first half are in Latin, Italian, and German, but written translations will be provided as part of the program.

The second section of the recital are all in English, and include pieces from 1880 through 1992. One is a Tchaikovsky piece, written during a retreat to the countryside after the success of two major operas, the failure of his marriage and a subsequent nervous breakdown, and less than six months before his writing the 1812 Overture. It's a setting of a text by the great Orthodox saint St. John Damascene. Two pieces from the British composer will follow — "Silent Noon", a poem written by D. G. Rossetti, and "The Vagabond", a poem written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Two Shakespeare songs set to music by Roger Quilter will follow, and the recital will conclude with a piece by G.R. himself, taken from his short Christmas oratorio "The Magi", which he premiered in 1992.

As with any master's degree recital, a lot of work goes into learning and polishing the music to be performed, and G.R. is especially looking forward to as many of the HHPC congregation and its friends coming as possible. He also has invited many of his college classmates, some of them members of the same music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. This is a great opportunity to show support for G. R. as well as hear some great music and welcome many attendees who may not know anything about HHPC, some of them from as close as Oak Lawn and at least from as far away as Baltimore. Please mark your calendars now for this event.

G. R. Snow grew up in rural Iowa and was heard as a soloist on the radio and in church as a teenager; he also was church pianist and organist as well as forming and directing an ethnically mixed choir. He received his organ/religion double major from Illinois Wesleyan University and subsequently studied voice with R. Bruce Gardner, Thomas Sillitti, and Winifred Faix Brown; he is currently a student of Dr. Brad Nitschke. In Chicago He has performed extensively in the Gaelic folksong and African-American musical repertoires and was coached on arias from *Porgy and Bess* by the late William Warfield. He is senior artistic director of the Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus, and was certified as a lay speaker in the United Methodist Church. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Alpha Lambda chapter).

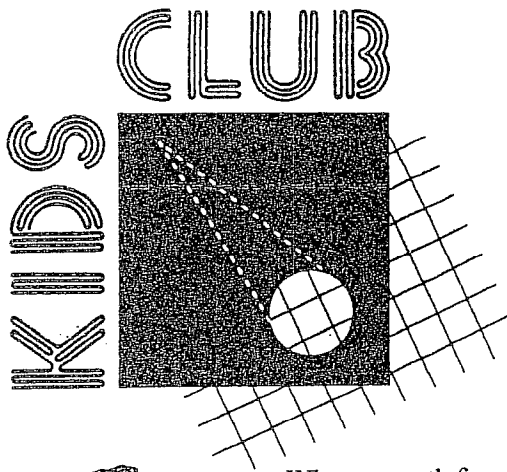
November 12, 2008

To All My Family, Friends, & Supporters,

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health, safe keeping & surrounded by those you love. My sweet "little" sister Summer asked me to write another letter for our yearly news letter. Has it been a year already? For as much as times seem to sit still, it also flies by. A lot has happened since my last newsletter. Unfortunately, I'm still behind prison gates awaiting for good news. I've gone through a lot this year. I had a nose job (compliments of Dwight) in October 2007 because 2 inmates broke my nose. It was a difficult surgery, but I survived & now have a new nose! I sat in protective custody from Nov. 2007 until July 2008, by choice. Although I was in a room 23 hours/day, I felt more at ease & most importantly safe. But in July 2008, I was transferred to Lincoln Correctional Center - a minimum/medium facility with more privileges. I tried to adapt from living with one roommate to living in a dorm with 19 other women. It has its pros & cons. We get ice & have air conditioning & cable which weren't furnished at Dwight. We are able to be outside more often. I got a teacher aid position & loved it, while it lasted! Now I sit in segregation because I had to defend myself against an inmate who was

constantly intimidating me with physical harm! I'm alone in a room 24 hrs/day except for Mon/Wed/Sat when I'm allowed 1 hour outside + a shower. Luckily, I'm used to being in a room all day. I've been in seg for 6 days now without my TV, radio, snacks, coffee, soda or the ability to "move around". Thanks to all of you, I have been able to enjoy such luxuries like coffee, soda, snacks and have the ability to buy laundry detergent hair products + soap, along with envelopes + paper. All of your donations are very much appreciated and desperately needed, not only for commissary, but also to pay my costly attorney fees as we continue to fight for my freedom. I try to be optimistic in this pessimistic place. I try so hard! If it weren't for my children Tia + Draven, my niece Zoe + all my friends + family, I'd have given up a long time ago. Thank you for standing by my side. My family thanks you, too, from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate + need all of your continued support. Please don't forget about me + my fight for justice! Until next time, Happy Holidays + God Bless all of you + you.

Jenni



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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

What a month for our kids and their Bible verse memorization! Winners received gold medals for memorizing all the verses for this month. So, congratulations to this group of kids who worked hard to accomplish their goal. Keep up the good work.

*Gold Medal winners - Yasmine Fox, Gigi Giancana, Jessica Leake, Neal Lancaster, Ashley Maranto, Ryan Saeler, Kaily Simpson, Ashley Smith.*

Our learning time for the month of February will centered around the topics:

*Tripping on Your Tongue - Gossip - Stop it!*  
*Winner Takes All - Overcoming Envy*  
*The Ultimate High Jump - Retaliation*  
*An Individual Event - Loneliness*

A highlight for the month of February will be our Valentines's Day Party to be held on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The staff has planned a special day for the kids and we hope that everyone will be with us on this day.

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - "Our Kids Sing" The kids from KIDS CLUB will join our Church School kids for group singing during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Parents, we hope you and your child will join us and support the great things your kids are doing here. We will meet in the church basement at 10:15 for practice. See you there!

Snack time is a favorite part of our afternoon program. If you would like to provide snacks for one week, the sign up sheet is available during KIDS CLUB. Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Lenten Series - beginning Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. You will not want to miss this program which has been developed with a focus on the family. More information concerning the program can be found in this newsletter. Remember friends are always welcome here and this is a program that you will want to share. I hope you will make it a priority to join us -

*Wednesday evenings February 25 -April 1*  
*Soup supper begins at 6:15 with program at 7:00 p.m.*

This month we welcomed Lisa as a new member to Kids Club. We are glad she chose to share Monday afternoons with us. We would like to remind everyone that KIDS CLUB is open to all kids age 5 through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you know of someone who would like to be a part of this time together, please invite them to join us.

Peace and Joy,  
*Dianne*

**KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Just a reminder that *Souper Sunday* is coming. All the Jr. High class will serve delicious soups on February 1st. Thank you to the Jr. High for sponsoring this lunch and especially to all the wonderful people who donated their time and energy to bring us so many wonderful soups. If you are planning to watch Football in the afternoon, it is a great way to fill yourself before the Big Super Bowl Game. All proceeds from the free will offering will be used as camp scholarships for summer camp at Saugatuk. Please stop by the fellowship hall downstairs after the service and have a bowl or two of the soups served there.

The Spring quarter of Sunday school will begin on February 22. A teacher's meeting is scheduled for 9:15 AM. All current teachers and Spring quarter teachers are asked to attend. Dianne will be sure to have plenty of breakfast goodies available for you. Please be sure to attend this meeting. We welcome our new Spring teachers. Debbie and Jeanette will team teach the Pre-school/Kindergarten, as well as the grade 1/2. Melanie will teach the grade 3/4/5. Patt will teach the Jr. High and Angie will teach the Sr. High. Thank you for teaching the Spring quarter. A special thanks goes to all those who have volunteered to take more than one quarter this year.

The committee voted to postpone the confirmation class until 2010. This way there is a better chance to have the pastor teaching the class be the one who will confirm the students.

The Youth Choir will present their gift of music on March 8 and again on Palm Sunday, April 5. All students who are members of this choir are asked to mark your calendars and be in attendance for these two worship services.

The children of the church will be responsible for bringing the palms to the alter on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The children will also be singing for the

10:30 AM service.

Our Sunday school classes will make and fill Easter Baskets for the residents of the Palos Extended Care facility. The baskets will hold kleenex, combs, hand lotion and a very special wish for each resident inside a plastic egg. The children will decorate the baskets and fill them in class. March 29th the children from grades 3/4/5 will take the baskets and deliver them to the residents in Palos Hills.

The Senior High Youth Group took a trip to Brookfield Zoo before the winter break. They also enjoyed a New Year's Eve Party with some interesting team challenges.

The Junior High Youth Group took a trip downtown to go ice skating at Millenium Park. They have a retreat in Bloomington scheduled for January 23, 24, and 25. There is a lock-in scheduled at the church for February.

The Women's Bible Study had an After-Christmas Party on January 19th. There was a pot-luck luncheon and all the ladies were happy the weather was more cooperative than in December.

The committee is busy preparing the Lenten Series for February 25-April 1. There is a lunch and service for those who want to attend at 12 PM and another service at 7:00 PM with a dinner beginning at 6:15 PM. The evening service will also feature lessons for the children downstairs. They will walk the streets of the Jerusalem Marketplace. The children will be divided into age groups and experience one shop each of the six weeks. This series is designed for children ages 3 thru Jr. High. At the Jerusalem Marketplace you can find the Bakery and Confectioner shop, the JC Woodshop, the Tranquility Garden, Sails and Pails( a boat building shop), the Scribe, and a Storyteller. Each week will be a new adventure for the children who attend while the adults are free to worship and learn at the service in the sanctuary.

The committee hopes you will find the Wednesday Lenten series a welcome addition to your weekly activities. So mark your calendars and come to the Jerusalem Marketplace. You'll be so glad you did.

\*\*\*\*\*

## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

On December 18, 2008 the Junior High Youth Group had a movie night at the church. We brought out the big pillows and blankets from the closet and made ourselves comfortable in the fellowship hall to watch the movie "Thank you Natalie Orsic for bringing the movie "Fred Claus".

On January 23, 2009 The Junior High youth Group will be going on our annual retreat to East Bay Camp in Hudson Illinois. The theme this year is "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT". Retreat leaders will be leading youth in exploration of Galatians "with the help of clips from a few of our favorite Will Ferrel movies." Key verse is Galatians 5:22. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"

Junior Highs from churches of the Presbyteries of Black hawk and Chicago will meet to play games, worship, sing, have free time in the gym and swimming pool, eat great food and build memories. Retreat leaders this year are Lynn Barger Elliott from Grand Rapids, MI and Bryan Keely a senior at Calvin College majoring in Recreational and youth ministry.

Dates are January 23-25. We will leave late Friday afternoon from the church and return Sunday afternoon. Transportation will be provided. Registration included completion of the covenant and medical release from and registration fee of \$100.00. See HHPC youth leaders for forms and further information. Talk to us if a scholarship is needed! We would like to take as many Junior Highs as we can to this worthwhile retreat. Contact us with any questions or for further information. (598-3100)

Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Perfect Attendance

### December Sunday School

Preschool/Kindergarten

Evan Grisko

Grades 1/2

Jacob Morrell

Danny Orsic

Grades 3/4

Gigi Giancana

Kaily Simpson

Junior High

Gessica Grisko

Tristan Grisko

Ashley Maranto

Natalie Orsic

Sarah Swearingen

Kyle Zimmerman

Senior High

Gina Ciametti

Gabriella Ciametti

Sam Swearingen

Mike Swearingen

Andrew Witek

Matthew Witek

Megan Zimmerman

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kaley Stewart

5 Sam Swearingen

Mike Swearingen

13 Kayla Wagner

20 Alyssia Kommenich

25 Austin McKinney

28 Kevin Lorenz

# YOUTH CHOIR NEWS.....



Hearing that some of our previous members want to return to practice with us at Youth Choir, and learning that some of our new visitors will continue to be with us is such great news!

Our regular Monday Youth Choir practice continues to be a fun and fulfilling time together. As we enjoy dinner together each week, we are also blessed by the gifts of people that help by providing, preparing and serve dinner as part of our time together. Please invite others from 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up, to join us in spreading the love of God through the Gift of music.

With just coming out of a busy time of year with celebrations for Christmas and New years, vacations to warmer places, and rounding out the end of time off school, Youth Choir still worked hard to bring a beautiful gift of song to the congregation. Be blessed in reading these words if you were unable to hear them in song.

## Jesus Has Time Medley

LINDA REBUCK

TOM FETTKE

People were standing in line to meet Jesus, waiting with little ones the Savior to bless.

Some said the Lord had no time for the children; He is too busy today.

"Let them come, let them come, let the children come to Me. I have time, I have time," said the Savior tenderly.

"Let them come, let them come; please don't send them away. I have time, let them come, let them stay."

Ev'ry body come and see, **ECHO** ( Ev'ry body come and see)

God loves kids like you and me. (God loves kids like you and me)

He won't push us far away; (He won't push us far away;)

In His love He'll let us stay. (In His love He'll let us stay.)

(Chorus)

Don't you think it's great to know that God loves you and me?

In His holy word He says He always will.

He knows everything about me even knows my name;

When I make mistakes He loves me still.

I will sing a thank you song; **ECHO** (I will sing a thank you song;)

Maybe you can sing along. (Maybe you can sing along.)

Thank You God for loving me, (Thank You God for loving me,)

Loving me so per-fect-ly. (Loving me so per-fect-ly.)

# **JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE**

## **LENT 2009**



**A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE  
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25**

### **"YOU ARE THERE!"**

Wednesday evening during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through Junior High. While adults are in worship, the kids will participate in a program designed with learning and fun. This hands on learning time provides the kids with a "YOU ARE THERE" bible time experience. They will relive bible time events while exploring and experiencing occupations and events of that time. During the six weeks the kids will;

- **SMELL** the aromas of the bakery and confectionery shop
- **HEAR** the sounds of carpenters in the wood shop
- **SEE** the villagers in Bible time attire
- **EXPERIENCE** and learn the occupational skills of the times by visiting the tranquility gardens and ship building shops
- **JOURNEY** with friends to visit the great storyteller
- **WRITE** in the Scribes Journal

Soup dinner is at 6:15. Freewill donations are accepted for this dinner and will be used for camp scholarship. We hope that you and your family will be a part of this Holy Land Adventure.

*Family Lenten Series begins February 25*

*Soup Dinner 6:15*

*Worship in Sanctuary 7:00*

*Children's Learning Time 7:00*

*For those unable to worship in the evening, a worship service will be offered Wednesdays, with a Soup Luncheon at 12:00 noon and worship immediately following.*

*\* There is no children's programming during this service.*

**We Invite You  
to**

**Join us Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 25**

#### *MIDDAY SERVICE*

*Soup Luncheon – 12:00 noon  
Worship immediately following*

#### *EVENING SERVICE*

*(With Children's Program)*

*Soup Dinner – 6:15 p.m.  
Worship – 7:00 p.m.*

## Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 1, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
February 1, 2009	A. Bentley, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Hill, Kupka, Rehbock, Rys, Zimmerman, Simone, Haack	Rick Vogl
February 8, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Sack, Swearingen, Fogg, Orsic	Michael Pettis
February 15, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	Wiggins, Home, Kahn	Scott Zimmerman
February 22, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Brady, Harry, Richer, Pilgrim, Rys	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
February 1, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
February 8, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
February 15, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
February 22, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	



## News From Our Teachers

### *Junior High - Cindy Treccani*

The Junior High class is going strong. At last count we had 17 wonderful young people learning together. How awesome is that ?! We are reviewing the Ten Commandments as well as discussing John the Baptist, worship and faith. The group wrote an acrostic poem about faith...**F**orever **A**mazing **I**nfinite **T**rusted **W**orthy **H**ope. Great job! I look forward to every Sunday with these phenomenal kids. Together we are learning the Word of God.

Blessings,  
Cindy

### *Senior High - Lou Pearson*

Luke 12:32 *Fear not faithful ones, For your reward is the kingdom.*

Take from me my fears, I am weak, in you I have strength, and can handle all the world

has to confront me with. Fear not my friend for He is at your side as you walk your path. Fear has not fear when He is near!

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man brings problems, but those who put their faith in the Lord shall be safe.*

Each week we grow with the more we know.  
Regards,  
C. Lou Pearson

### *Adult Class - Tom Lane*

We continue to study 1 Corinthians. Paul had a love for the church, and the pinnacle of this love came in the fifteenth chapter when Paul leads the Corinthians to depend upon the love and sacrifice of God and to know by remaining in Christ, they too would be raised to eternal life. We pray that we will stand united in friendship and love in these hard times in a world that will pass away. Please come and join us.

# CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Updated Jan. 2009

## Elders

Class of '09  
 Alan Bentley 708-846-7698  
 Jim Kupka 708-598-8068  
 Rick Raschke 708-243-8088  
 Scott Zimmerman 708-372-3516

## Class of '10

Shirley Brunell 708-342-1797  
 Cheryl Huenecke 708-598-2342  
 Sue Orsic 708-839-0396  
 Cindy Treccani 708-636-2237

## Class of '11

Terry Brock 708-728-0453  
 Gordon Home 708-599-8339  
 Adam Schwake 708-516-9519  
 Jeni Vogl 708-598-4893

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Shirley Brunell, Clerk of Session 708-342-1797  
 Karen Hoffman, Treasurer 815-838-4438

## Deacons

Class of '09  
 Patt Pilgrim 630-679-0963  
 Debbie Zimmerman 708-458-1662  
 Harold Zimmerman 708-599-1568

## Class of '10

Dorothy Allen 708-458-2337  
 Kim Brock 708-728-0453  
 Lorraine Cunningham 708-857-9185  
 Charles Huenecke 708-598-2342

## Class of '11

Chris Maranto 708-599-5068  
 Katie Treccani 708-636-2237  
 Rick Vogl 708-598-4893

<b>Committees</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Session Rep.</b>	<b>Meeting Schedule</b>
Building & Grounds	Charley Huenecke	Rick Raschke	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Dianne Flynn	Cindy Treccani	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue. 7:30 p.m.
Endowment/ Stewardship/ Finance	Lisa Radetski	Jim Kupka	As needed
Fellowship	Debbie Raschke	Jeni Vogl	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. 11:45 am *As needed
Fundraising	Susan Frangella	Shirley Brunell	As needed
Mission	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	4 <sup>th</sup> Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed
Nominating	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	As needed
Outreach	TBD	TBD	TBD
PNC	Cheryl Huenecke	Cheryl Huenecke	As needed
Personnel	Adam Schwake	Adam Schwake	As needed
Worship & Music	G.R. Snow	Scott Zimmerman	As needed
Praise Worship	Cindy Treccani	Cindy Treccani	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed

### **Regular Meetings:**

Session	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Deacons	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Staff	Warren Wiggins, Moderator	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. 5:45 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Lavaretto	Sundays 11:45 a.m.
Sr. High Youth Group	Hanna Huenecke, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Josh Treccani, Rick & Jeni Vogl	Sundays 6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Pat Brady	Mondays 1:00 p.m.
Kid's Club	Dianne Flynn	Mondays 3:30 p.m.
Youth Choir	Dianne Flynn	Mondays 5:15 p.m.
Cancer Sewing	Lorraine Cunningham	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue. 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Care	Lou & Arlene Pearson	Tues. 6:30 p.m./ Wed. 9:00 a.m.
Stampers	Ruth Hill	Every other Wed. 10:30 a.m. (see calendar)
Senior Choir	G.R. Snow	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Jr. High Youth Group	Patt Pilgrim, Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani	Thursdays 6:30 p.m.
Handbells	G. R. Snow	Thursdays 8:00 p.m.

# SOUPER SUNDAY



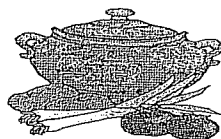
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE  
SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Following Worship Service

All donations are used to help support  
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations  
Accepted



Support  
Our Kids

# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. <u>Souper Sunday</u> 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	<b>2</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. CE Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 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>New Officers Installed</u> <u>March Newsletter Articles Due</u>	<b>9</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session	<b>10</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	<b>11</b> 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds
<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 Youth Choir	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 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	<b>23</b> 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacons	<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	<b>25</b> <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care <u>Lenten Series Begins</u> 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon & Worship 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:15 p.m. Soup Dinner & Programs/ Worship 8:00 p.m. Choir	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## February Birthdays

**February** 1 – Josh Krueger  
5 – Scott Zimmerman  
5 – Patricia Brady  
7 – Julie Witek  
7 - Tod Nargie  
8 – Alice White  
12 – Lorraine Cunningham  
16 - Beverly Kahn  
17 – Barbara Brown  
17 – Shirley Fogg  
17 – John Hall  
20 – Al Lewington  
22 – Chris Pilgrim  
23- Eva Nestor  
27 – Shirley Dragas  
27- Rick Vogl  
28- Ryan Brandt  
28 – Sandy Beal  
28 – Thomas D. Morrell

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church  
office...598-3100

## LENT 2009 Committee Soup Schedule

**Lunch- 12:00 Noon (Deacons)**  
**Dinner- 6:15 p.m.**

- Feb. 25 - Session
- March 4 - Fellowship
- March 11 - Mission
- March 18 - Stewardship
- March 25 - Fundraising
- April 1 - B & G
- April 9 (Maundy Thurs) –  
Worship & Music

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**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church**

**8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457**

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