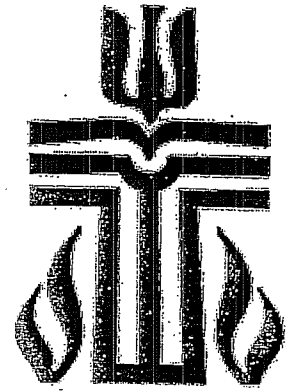


THE CONNECTING LINK

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



FEBRUARY 2010

Prayer & Care

“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:15-16 (RSV)

Just as Paul wrote the above to the Ephesians, I write to you family and friends of HHPC. My heart overflows with gratitude for the Holy Spirit working in so many lives producing energy, excitement, and the power of God’s grace in our midst.

By the time you receive this, Jan. 23rd will have come and gone. National Handwriting Day.

John Hancock’s birthday.

You do remember handwriting and signing your John Hancock, don’t you?

Can anything compare to the sincere gift of the handwritten word? Prayer warriors do this every week. Come. Pray. We’ll supply the pen and paper.

Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Library.

Love ‘N’ Hugs, Arlene

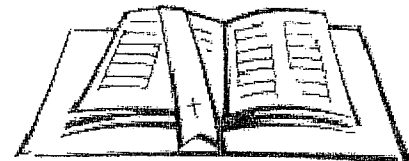
Women’s Bible Study

“Lord, how I love you! For you have done such tremendous things for me. The Lord is my fort where I can enter and be safe; no one can follow me in and slay me. He is a rugged mountain where I hide;

he is my Savior; a rock where none can reach me, and a tower of safety. He is my shield. He is like the strong horn of a mighty fighting bull.”

Psalms 18:1-2 (TLB)

This portion of the 50 verse song of David was written when God delivered him from his many enemies, including Saul (King of Israel). As we continue to marvel at David’s praise, pleas, prayers, problems, and proclamations, his words are so descriptive. We are already discussing a study on the kings after we finish the Psalms.



TWILIGHT PRAYER

Desire is the power that moves the world and directs the course of each person. The cause of limited outreach to God is many times lack of desire.

Many times our prayers are limited to a narrow thought rather than seeing the entire vista. Jesus says: If you seek me, you will find me. If you need me, I will be there for you. If you cry out to me, I will hear you.

What is the desire of your heart? Be assured He is there, He hears, He can be found, He is that special friend you seek. Bow your head.

Close your eyes. Let the thoughts flow. Let your desires be known. Yes, Yes, Yes!

See you at 6:30 Tuesday evening. Be there is you have the desire.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson

PADS UPDATE

December 3rd was a brutally cold evening. The snow lay heavily upon the ground and keeping erect was a challenge, even for the sure footed.

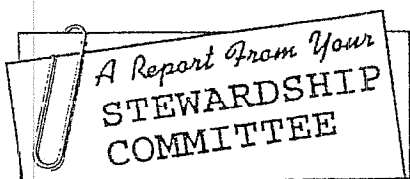
Our guests were invited into the church for warmth and relief from the bitter cold as they awaited their evening meal.

That evening, we served 56 guests and prepared a few more meals for late comers. Through the course of the evening, many guests popped their heads into the kitchen to thank us all for a fine evening meal and warm hospitality. A greater gift no man can give, than to feed the hungry, and say "Lie thee down and rest."

Thank you again all those loving hearts and hands that say (time and time again) this I can do. This I will do. "AMEN." Gladly, this I will do again.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PER CAPITA



The first envelope in your 2010 box of offering envelopes in "Per Capita." You ask "what is this?" Per Capita is a way Presbyterians share equally, responsibly and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Per Capita contributions are requested from every congregation based on each church's total active membership.

Through Per Capita contributions, Presbyterian Churches:

- Help congregations with pastoral transitions.
- Train and support Interim Ministers.
- Resource congregational conflicts.
- Care for Ministers and Christian Educators and their families.
- Help prepare people for service as Ordained Ministers.

The amount of Per Capita for 2010 is \$5,977 or **\$28.29** per active member. We ask that members contribute their \$28.29 because what we do not receive in contributions has to come from the General Fund budget. In 2009 the amount for HHPC was \$6,988 and of that amount we received \$2,310 from the congregation resulting in \$4,678 being used from the General Fund. This is a significant amount that could be used elsewhere in the Life of HHPC. This is why the Stewardship Committee is asking each member to make an effort to pay the \$28.29 to help ease the financial burden on the budget in 2010.

Thank you.



Getting to know YOUTH...

- My Name** is Brittany Maranto.
- My Church** is Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.
- I Love** helping people.
- I am Presbyterian** because I believe in God and love spreading the Word about God.
- I believe in** Jesus and God who love us even if we do anything bad.
- I am passionate about** always learning something new.
- One thing that makes me sad** is knowing I take advantage of everything I own, and think about people who own NOTHING!
- One thing that makes me happy** is everyone in the church is Praising God.

The person I most admire is my parents and Lord Jesus Christ.

I never shout or yell at people.

I always drink my milk every single day!

The Bible is the greatest book in the world.

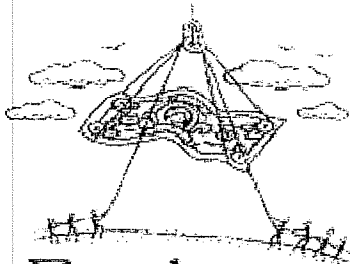
God is the greatest person I know.

My prayer is to keep EVERYONE SAFE!

I want to be a great role model for the younger youth.

I read multiple variety of books!

If I ruled the world I would give money to poor countries.



Fundraiser

**The Sr. High Youth Group is selling
2010 Calendars.**

**They are \$6.00 each, and proceeds
benefit the Sr. High Youth Group fund.**

**If you are interested in purchasing,
please see any member of the youth
group, Rick or Jeni Vogl, Mitch
Huenecke, or Noelle Larsen.**

Thanks for your support!

Dec. 2009 Session Meeting Minutes



Minutes of the stated meeting of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, Hickory Hills, Illinois held on December 14, 2009, at 7:30pm.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

MINUTES: The minutes were received and approved.

CLERK'S REPORT: Communion was served at the three services on December 13th. Communion is served every Sunday at the 9am service.

A letter was received from Burbank Presbyterian Church, Burbank, Illinois requesting the transfer of Mrs. Ruth Hill. It was **VOTED** to accept the transfer.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was received and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Advent family night was very well attended, about 90. Also "Hanging of the Greens." Women's Tea this Thursday. It was **VOTED** to have an 8 week Confirmation class in January. Leaders: Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl. Curriculum: We Believe. The Lenten program will begin February 17th.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: We are waiting on police report about auto accident causing grounds damage. The insurance company has been notified. It was **VOTED** to accept roofing quote of \$1390 for manse. Plumbing issue in basement – getting hold of plumber.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: Concert next month. Format change: (more youth, more people involved.) Vary service style weekly: Two praise services, One communion service w/ pastor message, one alternate message ie: skits testimonials etc.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC/COMMUNION SERVERS: Want to get back to holding hands while saying the Lord's Prayer. Want The Creed said more often. Christmas Eve service to be retro worship: Rev band, bells.

Have the Alliance Church minister speak sometime. Need ushers, will be put into newsletter.

Communion servers: Rick, Sue, Jeni.

MISSION: \$2500 for the Human Need Fund. Pads December 6th. Jones Center Christmas gifts and breakfast completed. Scarves & mittens delivered. February meeting of Mission will have "The Crew" (on site mission project) give a presentation.

The Honduras Mission trip will leave December 26th and return January 4th.

NLAAC OVERSIGHT: The Alliance church has signed for another year.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/ENDOWMENT: It was VOTED to accept the 2010 proposed budget
 NOMINATING: It was VOTED to accept the slate presented for Elders for 2012: Karen Hoffman (2nd term), Rick Raschke (2nd term), Scott Zimmerman (2nd term), and Susan Frangella.

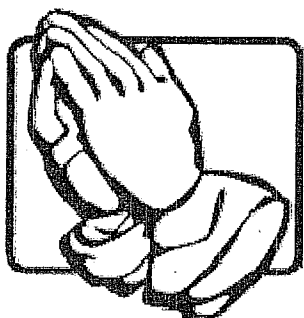
It was VOTED to accept the slate presented for Deacons for 2012: Patt Pilgrim (2nd term), Debbie Zimmerman (2nd term), and Kim Ambrosat.

It was VOTED for a congregational meeting to be held January 3rd to approve slate.

It was VOTED to hold Ordination/Installation January 10th.

DPNC: It was decided to have a 3 year contract. All info to Presbytery before Christmas.

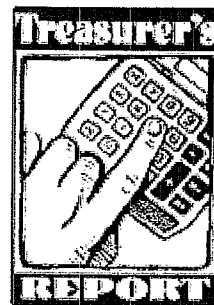
NEW BUSINESS: It was VOTED to have annual reports due January 3rd and the Annual Congregational meeting January 31st. It was VOTED to allow AA Alcathon New Year's Eve to New Year's Day use of the church.



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS
Please Pray For:

- Our DPNC for Fruits of the Spirit
- The Confirmation Class
- Sally Harris beginning Chemo Treatments, for strength & healing
- David Krueger for healing & strength
- Frank Esparza's son, Daniel E. for health concerns
- Frank Esparza's sister, Ruth, for healing, and her husband Joe Lovelace, for health concerns
- The Vogl's friend, Kim Baikie, for health concerns
- The Vogl's neighbors, Joanne & Bob Pappas for health concerns
- Mary Richer & family for Brian, passing into Glory
- Debbie Raschke's uncle, Glenn Woody, for treatment & healing
- Debbie Raschke's Uncle Mack for health concerns
- Kim Brock for healing

- Richard Larson for strength during treatments
- G.R. Snow's friend, Roman Segal, as he faces back surgery
- Jackie Gehle for health concerns
- Dennis & Mary Tarter for continuous healing
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for strength
- Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for healing
- Dorothy Allen for strength
- 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



December 2009 Treasurer's Report

Receipts	\$35,461.00
Disbursements	\$22,547.00
General Fund Balance 12/31/09	\$4,871.00



Al & Mary Lewington
 (Mary- Room #203, Al- Room #309)
 Victorian Inn
 12600 Renaissance Circle
 Homer Glen, IL 60491

Eva Nestor
 417 Santee Drive
 Santee, South Carolina 29142
 803-347-4422

IN SEARCH OF THE PROMISED LAND

by G. R. Snow

Since February is Black History Month, I feel it's important to examine a recurring theme in the spirituals of black America: the Promised Land, giving rise to what I choose to call the "Promised Land Spiritual".

It may be a good idea to briefly review the Biblical significance of the Promised Land. Abraham and his heirs lived in a land where crops were good and they could live in relative comfort, though perhaps not luxury. When a famine approached in the time of Jacob's leadership, his son Joseph became one of the most powerful men in Egypt and brought the Hebrews to Egypt for safety and protection from starvation. Under the rule of Thutmose III, the Hebrews' slavery was ended when the Pharaoh's adoptive grandson, Tutmosis (Moses) led them away from Egypt. After crossing the river and wandering in the wilderness forty years, under the leadership of Joshua the Promised Land was theirs.

Slaves of African descent in America sought a similar change in their living conditions, and, like the Hebrews, they kept their efforts to escape secret, their signals covert. Through singing of various spirituals under the right circumstances, messages could be sent to slaves on neighboring plantations, to escapees concealed in bushes or forest nearby, even to other slaves on the same plantation—right under the plantation-owners' noses.

*"Noah, Noah, let me come in,
Gates is shut and the windows pinned.
Keep your hand on-a the plow, hold on."*

What was heard: a spiritual about Noah and the Ark, where those who had not listened to God's warning begged for entry in the Ark as they drowned. What was secretly conveyed: gates are closed and windows fastened. You can't get out (or in) right now.

*"King Jesus lit the candle by the waterside
To see the little children come be truly baptized,
Honor, honor unto the dying Lamb.
Oh, run along, children, to be baptized,
Mighty pretty meetin' by the waterside . . .
I prayed all day, I prayed all night,
My head was sprinkled with the midnight dew . . ."*

What was heard: a spiritual about Jesus calling people to be baptized (though I can't find the events described in any Scripture). What was secretly conveyed: meet by the water at midnight. A candle will be lit to mark where to meet.

*"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.
See that band all dressed in white . . .
The leader looks like the Israelite . . .
See that band all dressed in red . . .
It looks like the band that Moses led . . ."*

What was heard: a spiritual about God's Spirit healing through "troubling the water", whether at the pool of Bethesda, or the Jordan River as when Naaman was healed of leprosy, or some other miraculous water, the song doesn't specify. What was secretly conveyed:

wading in some particular water may offer escape, or information about escape, or possibly there are escapees who will be wading upriver. The band of escapees won't be dressed in white, but attention is being drawn to some particular leader. Nor are they likely to be dressed in red, but red commands attention, and Moses led slaves to freedom. Incidentally, Harriet Tubman was called the Moses of her people, and she led numerous groups of slaves to freedom. It would be difficult to prove that this spiritual ever referred to joining a group of her escapees, but the possibility can certainly be imagined.

*"Ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
No man can-a hinder me.
King Jesus rides a milk-white horse,
No man works like him.
The river Jordan he did cross,
No man works like him."*

What was heard: a spiritual about Christ's power and miracle-working. In reality, there is no Scriptural basis for Christ crossing the Jordan on a horse of any color, or even riding one. Such deviations from Scripture are red flags to researchers examining double meanings in spirituals, though plantation owners may have been so ignorant of their Bibles that they did not realize the deviation—or, if they were aware of it, their prejudices made them believe that the deviation was due to the slaves' ignorance of the Bible. In reality, though many slaves could not read (and others pretended they couldn't in order to avoid losing an eye, or some other punishment), most heard the Bible being read, and their strong oral tradition made them much better memorizers than the plantation owners. Most knew their Bibles far better than the traveling preachers of the day. This spiritual draws attention to someone riding a white horse, who can help people cross the river, or escape.

Though the tallow candles, imperfect as they were, gave poor light and an unpleasant odor, we can imagine how comforting seeing the small light in the window of an isolated cottage must have been to a group of escaped slaves hiding in the darkness and seeking shelter from hunters and dogs. Especially when hearing someone, perhaps going to a well or carrying in wood from the woodpile, softly singing,

*"Shut the door, keep out the Devil,
Shut the door, keep the Devil in the night,
Shut the door, keep out the Devil,
Light the candle, everything's all right."*

BRAIN TEASER: Can you name the spiritual from which each phrase comes?

1. If not, I'll smite your first-born dead . . .
2. Looked all around me, it looked so fine . . .
3. Jordan's river's chilly and cold . . .
4. I want to cross over into campground . . .
5. Class Leader, do you love Jesus?
6. . . when I die, Hallelujah, Good Lord, when I die!
7. The little wheel run by the grace of God . . .
8. And he declared he'd meet me there . . .
9. Lord, I keep so busy servin' my Master . . .
10. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?

Dear Mrs Brunell,

Thank you and the Hickoi Hills Presbyterian Church for assisting me with my medication. The check came just at the right time and I can't really thank you enough. I have had multiple sclerosis for a long time and I was able to work full time until the end of 2007. It's difficult to accept sometimes - and then people like you step up. Thank you again
Sincerely,

A couple letters in response

to the Fund for Human Need...

1/6/10

Dear Church Family of Hickoi Hills, I would like to thank you for your help. My name is Pat Naujoks gave you a call and ask for an donation for my children and myself. For the last 20 years I have been the one trying to help other and giving. Never thought I would be in a situation where I need beds for my children and gift for christmas. Thank your church family for helping us, things are still hard but, we are in a safe place. may GOD Bless the church family.

Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 7, 2010

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS
Feb. 7, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney	SOUPER SUNDAY Prunty, Pilgrim
Feb. 14, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl	Haack, Meade
Feb. 21, 2010	F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman	Fogg, Dritz
Feb. 28, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock	Beverly, Gwen
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
Feb. 7, 2010	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
Feb. 14, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Feb. 21, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Linda Rys, Beth Kommenich	
Feb. 28, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Carri McKinney, Lori Haack	

COMMUNION SERVERS- Terry Brock, Rick Raschke, Jeni Vogl

CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Updated Jan. 2010

Elders

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
 Tom Pearson 708-598-5198
 Jeni Vogl 708-598-4893

Class of '12
 Susan Frangella 708-822-6758
 Karen Hoffman 815-838-4438
 Rick Raschke 708-243-8088
 Scott Zimmerman 708-372-3516

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

Deacons

Class of '10
 Dorothy Allen 708-458-2337
 Kim Brock 708-728-0453
 Charles Huenecke 708-598-2342

Class of '11
 Chris Maranto 708-599-5068
 Katie Treccani 708-636-2237
 Rick Vogl 708-598-4893

Class of '12
 Kim Ambrosat 708-598-0523
 Patt Pilgrim 630-679-0963
 Debbie Zimmerman 708-458-1662

Committees	Chair	Session Rep.	Meeting Schedule
Building & Grounds	Charley Huenecke	Rick Raschke	2 nd Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Dianne Flynn	Cindy Treccani	1 st Tue. 7:30 p.m.
Endow/ StwrdsHp/ Finance			As needed
Fellowship	Jeni Vogl	Jeni Vogl	1 st Sun. 11:45 am *As needed
Fundraising	Susan Frangella	Shirley Brunell	As needed
Mission	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	4 th Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed
Nominating	Sue Orsic	Sue Orsic	As needed
Outreach /Website	Gordon Home	Gordon Home	3 rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Personnel	Cheryl Huenecke	Cheryl Huenecke	As needed
Worship & Music	G.R. Snow	Scott Zimmerman	As needed
Praise Worship	Cindy Treccani	Cindy Treccani	2 nd Tue. 7:30 p.m. *As needed

Other Regular Meetings:

Session		2 nd Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Deacons		4 th Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Lavaretto	Sundays 11:45 a.m.
Sr. High Youth Group	Rick & Jeni Vogl, Mitch Huenecke, Noelle Larsen, Hanna Huenecke, Josh Treccani	Sundays 6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Arlene Pearson	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 st Tue. 9:30 a.m.
Friendship Group		4 th Tue. 12:00 p.m.
Prayer & Care	Lou & Arlene Pearson	Tues. 6:30 p.m./ Wed. 9:00 a.m.
Senior Choir	G.R. Snow	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
Jr. High Youth Group	Patt Pilgrim, Katie Treccani, Bryan Ambrosat	Thursdays 6:30 p.m.
Handbells	G. R. Snow	Thursdays 8:00 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

LOVE,
TENNIE
& DRAGON

Dear All Friends @ HHPC especially
the Glorious Prayer Group &

Hi to everyone! I am so grateful to
all of you for everything from prayers,
all of the cards you send, not only me,
but Lindsay & Amanda, too, letting my
family use the church for their party
& all your continuous support.

Without you, I could never stay
positive working as a TEACHER AIDE,
Newspaper writer, doing Aerobics & winning
3rd in Aids Poster Contest!! I Love and
Miss All of You.

* Blessings *

Love,
TENNIE

DECEMBER 25, 2009

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

We welcome everyone back after our break for the Christmas Holiday. What a wonderful place this is! We renew friendships as we study, play, and build community.

With the accumulation of snow we chose for our first craft project of the year a bird feeder. There are more surprises ahead for fun, creative projects.

Although we did not participate in The Snicker Balance Contest for the month of December, it is back for January. Who will be the winner? Remember perfect attendance is mandatory for this contest.

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

The Seed Has Come - God gives

No Hybrids Allowed! - God seeks believing hearts

Get Out of Prison - God makes the faithful His children

Known By Your Fruits - Doing great things for God

A highlight for the month of February will be our Valentines's Day Party to be held on Monday, February 8th. The staff has planned special activities for the kids and we hope that everyone will be with us on this day.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Thank you for the pop tabs which are donated to the Ronald McDonald House, and the school supplies which are given to underprivileged kids who are living in homeless shelters in the city. Yes, we Lenten Series - beginning Wednesday, February 17th. 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 -

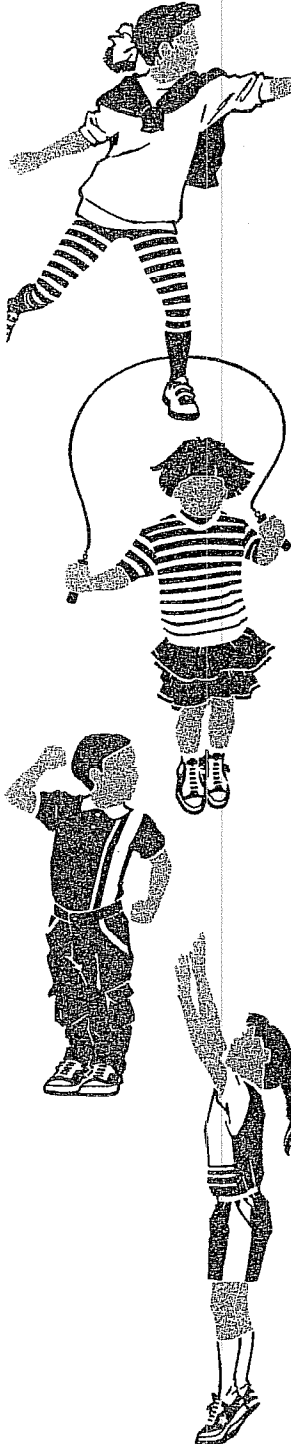
Wednesday evenings February 17 - March 24

Soup supper begins at 6:15 with program at 7:00 p.m.

Just a reminder, we are collecting pop tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Please bring them with you to Kids Club and we will place them in the collection containers. Thank you for participating in this outstanding mission project.

KIDS CLUB is open to all kids age 5 through the 6th grade. We encourage you to invite a child to join us.

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB ^{Peace and Joy,}
Dianne



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Youth Choir was scheduled to sing on Sunday, January 10, 2010. They have had some time away from practice due to the holidays but they were gracious to sing for our worship service. With just a few moments of practice before the service, they sang beautifully. Thanks to all the Youth Choir, Dianne, and Cheryl for a beautiful gift.

The Jr. High Youth Group enjoyed a night in downtown Chicago on December 2nd. They did some ice skating at Millennium Park, went to dinner at McDonald's, looked at the decorated windows along State Street, and even did some shopping at the Kriskringle mart located at Daley Plaza. They are also planning a retreat to Bloomington, Illinois on January 29-31. Here they will meet more teens who practice the Christian faith, celebrate their faith and hopefully find they are not alone in their faith. The theme for this retreat is Jesus, who do you say I am? If you can help fund this retreat, please purchase stock that they are selling after worship services.

The Women's Bible Study is discussing the book of Psalms. They meet on Monday afternoons at 1:00PM. All women interested in learning more about the famous collection of David are welcome to join.

Beginning January 21st. there will be a new group offering. A meal and a movie will be offered once a month. All participants are asked to bring a salad for sharing with the group lunch. This month, the movie will be the Continental Divide. This program is open to anyone who likes to enjoy a great movie with friends.

The Prayer Shawl Mission work has slowly

returned to the 5th grade classroom after a two week break due to the holiday celebrations. They are working on lap blankets, scarves, and of course, shawls. Some have discussed an interest in finding a mission which would not require such a large amount of money for postage and would be more local. Anyone who is still interested in working on small 8 X 8 inch squares for Africa is welcome to do that. We will try to have a special offering to finance the postage for the squares made. Anyone who feels the local mission is more desirable should begin knitting or crocheting 7 X 9 inch rectangles. We will sew them together and find a Red Cross headquarters to distribute them after they are collected and sewn into blankets. Please try to use 4 ply yarn. Cast on 27 stitches on the size 10 knitting needles. Work in a pattern of your choice for 9 inches. Please leave a 3 yard yarn tail.

The Stampers had their first meeting after a two week break due to the holiday celebrations. Kim took some time to review the use of the brayer and rubber bands to make interesting background designs on the cards. Ruth brought in some new ideas for layering papers and cut-out designs. The Stampers meet every other Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Our next meeting will be on January 20th. Come see what creative cards you can make with just a few simple stamps and some paper.

Patt Pilgrim offered some information on the Presbytery's attempt to fund it's increasing deficit. She told us about the plan to sell the Camp in Saugatuk to a real estate developer. There was a meeting on January 9th to discuss

more options.

Souper Sunday is scheduled for February 7th. Come hungry after worship at 11:45 AM and enjoy a variety of soups as well as great fellowship. All proceeds are currently scheduled for the Camp Scholarship fund.

Plans are being formed for a wonderful six weeks of Lent. The Children's program will be held on Wednesday evenings after a time for soup dinner. All the food will be provided by members of the various committees. Adults will enjoy a worship service in the sanctuary while the children ages 4 thru Jr. High will attend a program designed especially for them. Children will have an opportunity to work the crafts common in the days of Jesus. They will have an opportunity to purchase fresh bakery from the baker. They will have contact with the Roman Soldiers. It is an amazing six week program that you and your child will remember for a long time. So don't miss a single week. The Lenten Program begins February 17.

The Spring Family night is coming quickly. This is the night there is a catered dinner. The entertainment is expected to be outstanding. Our friend, Master Ron, will provide the entertainment with his unique balloon creations as well as his insights to popular Bible stories. Be sure you sign up so we know how many we will need to provide dinner. Check the table outside the fellowship hall for the sign up sheet coming soon. Don't forget May 7th is Spring Family Night.

Did you know that VBS will be here in less than six months? The Saddle Ridge Ranch is designed to answer some of the questions children always seem to ask. It will be a fun filled week of learning, songs, dancing, active games, and crafting. Children ages 4 through grade 6 are invited. Any interested Teens are asked to speak to Dianne. Trish and Company will return to lead us in song and help us

answer those questions. Be sure to mark your calendar for VBS. We meet June 14-18.

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On Sunday, January 3rd, we were honored to welcome as our guest speaker Mitch Huenecke on his recent return from the mission fields of Honduras. He eagerly related to us the activities of the prior 10 days and the challenges he and his fellow missionaries faced each day.

Honduras, like many depressed nations, finds itself lagging in knowledge and technology and little advancement in education to benefit the individual. Their daily food is a repetition of simple meals. Water is not common in many households. Electricity for the masses does not exist. A church/school building in this area certainly a dream! Dreams do come true when the "master" architect lays upon the hearts of man the blueprint of success. Mission impossible now completed. Where once was open space now exists this building of love, many hands made possible the completed statement. We say thank you for those who gave of themselves for this worthy cause, they walk away with humble hearts and the emmory of the smile upon a child's face.

Regards,

C. Lou Pearson



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

In January we met in-house and played games and watched Christian video lessons. We had discussion afterward and after grace enjoyed snack time. Thanks to the junior high families that provided our snack.

On January 29 -31, 2010 we leave for our annual retreat at East Bay Camp in Bloomington, Il.. This is a two night retreat for 6-8 grade youth and their friends in the Presbyteries of Chicago and Blackhawk. This year's leader is Sean Miller and the topic of the retreat is entitled "Who do you say that iAM". Cost is \$100.00 and scholarships are available.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

March 13, 2010 - Feed My Starving Children - afternoon mission trip to Aurora Il (may change this because of conflict with confirmation retreat)

March 12-14 2010 Confirmation Retreat – Saugatuck, MI

May 7-8 2010 AWOL Mission Project – a 24-hour retreat and hands on mission project with a local church and/or agency.

We welcome all junior highs and their friends to our meetings on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the church and to all outside events.

Junior High youth leaders
Patt Pilgrim (630-679-0963),
Katie Treccani (708-650-6618),
Bryan Ambrosat

CONFIRMATION 2010

The Confirmation class of 2010 has begun and is being taught by Melanie Swindle and Rick Vogl. In our first session we discussed what we look like to others when we are "wearing Christ" and how to live our lives in that way. Refer to 1Corinthians 12, Colossians 3:12-15, and Galatians 3:26-28 to study along with us. We will be meeting for 8 classes on Sunday afternoons. In March, we will participate in a retreat weekend at Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck, MI learning with other confirmation students about what it means to say Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Please pray for all of our young people who are studying to make the important decision of joining the church. We have 19 enrolled in class. Please keep these fine young people in your prayers: Leslie Ambrosat, Kate Crowley, Adam Fox, Tristan Grisko, Brian Haack, Jordan Hepburn, Alyssia Kommenich, Tom Krumpolc, Becky Kusina, Stephanie Lorenz, Ashley Maranto, Natalie Orsic, Halimah Prunty, Danny Rodriquez, Mandy Rodriquez, Kaylee Rys, Natasha Swindle, Katelin Wheeler, and Kyle Zimmerman.

Thank you for your support. Peace to you all.



Praise God for the gift of music. We are blessed! We are pleased to have some new faces at Monday's practices and pray that they will become a regular part of our Choir. The words of our January Anthem are here for you to read, reflect on, and enjoy.

Peace,
Cheryl

*Without faith it's impossible, it's impossible, it's impossible to please God.
When it comes to God just believe that He is
and He rewards those who seek Him.*

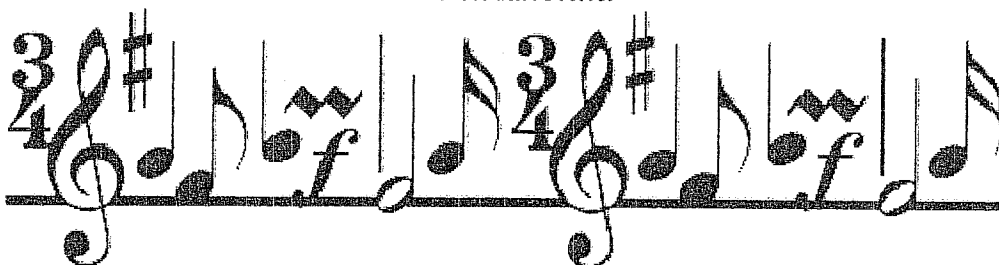
*All things are possible, all things are possible, all things are possible just believe.
God will do everything, that He said He will do,
and He rewards those who Seek Him.*

*Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you
Al le lu Alleluia*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Al le lu Alleluia*

*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God
Al le lu Alleluia*

*Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you
A le lu Alleluia*



We Celebrate

Birthdays

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Emily Abbene
- 13 Kayla Wagner
- 20 Alyssia Kommenich
- 22 McKayla Crutchfield
- 24 Lauren Neputy
- 25 Austin McKinney
- 28 Kevin Lorenz

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES FOR FEBRUARY

†

...and they will call him 'Immanuel' which means 'God is with us'..

Matthew 1:23

†

"But the man who loves God is known by God."

1 Corinthians 8:3

†

"So those who have faith are blessed."

Galatians 3:9

†

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

John 15:9

How many medals can you win?

Memorize one verse to win the Bronze medal.

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

Perfect Attendance

DECEMBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

5th Grade

Yasmine Fox

Junior High

Ashley Maranto

Senior High

Gabriella Ciametti

Brittany Maranto

Sarah Swearingen

Andrew Witek

Matthew Witek

Megan Zimmerman

THE POP TAB COLLECTION

PROGRAM CONTINUES

Proceeds benefit the
Ronald McDonald House

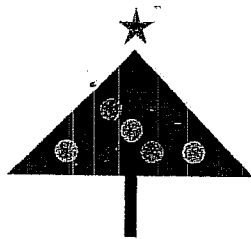
In August of 2009, a group of youth and adults delivered 735 pound of pop tabs which we had collected to the Ronald McDonald House located near Hope Hospital.

Please continue to save your pop tabs and bring them to church. They don't seem like much, but in large quantity they do great things. Here are some fun facts for your information.

* It takes 1267 pop tabs to make a pound.

* 1 million pop tabs laid end to end is 16 miles long.

* 1 million pop tabs, when recycled, will provide a nights lodging for 25 families at the Ronald McDonald House



Dear *Linda*

How do you measure gratitude?

Do you describe it in words? Do you represent it with a gift? Or a physical gesture like a kiss or a hug?

In our electronic age, many of us have grown used to the impersonality of an email. But no-one we know doesn't enjoy receiving something that evidently comes from the heart.

Some of you may already have received and responded to our urgent appeal for help. We sent it by email at the end of November. If you did, please don't be offended by this further communication. Our aim is to thank those of you who have sent squares but may not subscribe to *Square Circle*, our online magazine, or otherwise know about our activities.

This little gift – a simple cardboard ruler worth only a few cents – is our attempt to express our appreciation. Not just for the squares that pour in to South Africa in their thousands. Not just for the labour of your hands, and the gift of your time that could be given as unselfishly to others.

Bigger than mere measurement

Its tiny eight inches symbolise something bigger than mere measurement. They stand for a depth of human commitment that we can only describe in terms of love.

It almost reduces us to silence when we think of you. Maybe you're sleepless during a long night, or on the train or bus to work, and probably weary after a harrowing day. Yet you take up your needles or your crochet hook and physically make a difference.

What's more astonishing is that you do it with little or no expectation of thanks. The chances of your meeting the orphan or abandoned child warmed by your squares are virtually nil. And yet you knit on. We wonder what makes you do it?

Your unique symphony of clicks

We try to picture you wherever you are, with your needles and stash and the slow (or fast!) rhythm of your hands. Then we try to imagine your fellow knitters and crocheters at all corners of the world. How many of you are stitching right now, adding your unique notes to the symphony of clicks in this hymn of hope for distant children?

We thank you again for your wonderful contribution, without which many orphans, once cold, would not be warm.

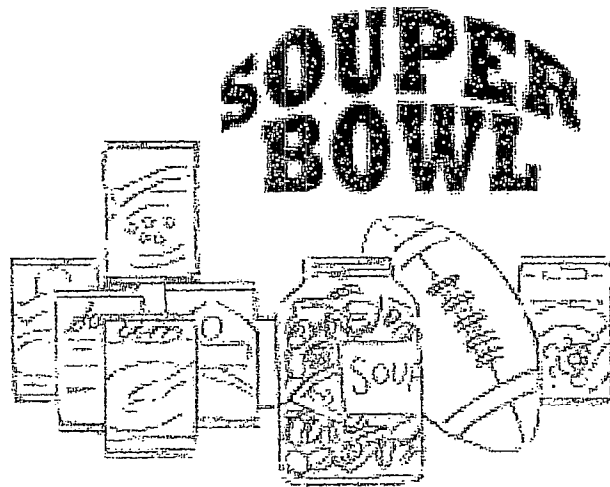
For KasCare to continue its work, collecting, sorting and distributing blankets to these desperate children, we need financial support.

We are so grateful for your support thus far. For those that can, a financial contribution would ensure that the thousands of squares pouring into South Africa become loving, warm blankets for orphans, in bigger numbers, faster.

If you are able to donate, details on how to do so are overleaf. Or you can support KasCare's knit-a-square program by giving the value of a blanket for an abandoned baby or orphaned child this year to your loved ones. All the details on are the website: <http://www.knit-a-square.com> Our KAS e-calendar is US\$7.95 and once you have purchased it you can send it free to as many people as you wish, as a gift. It will do another job too to spread the word!

Thank you from our hearts for changing the world of the children, one square at a time. We wish you a happy, peaceful and joyous festive season.

SOUPER SUNDAY



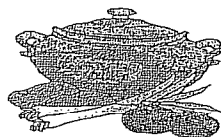
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE
SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

All donations are used to help support
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support
Our Kids

JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE

LENT 2010

**A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE
KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH GRADE 8
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17**

“YOU ARE THERE!”

Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through grade 8. While adults are in worship, our kids will participate in an age appropriate program that has been designed with learning and fun. It is called **Jerusalem Market Place**. This is a hands on learning time that will provide 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 week program the kids will participate in six different shops. They will:

- SMELL the aromas of bakeries in the Bakery and Confectioner Shop
- HEAR the sounds of carpenters in the J.C. Woodshop
- SEE the villagers in Bible times attire as you meet the Roman Soldiers and the teachers in our shops
- EXPERIENCE learning occupational skills of the times by visiting the shops
- WRITE in Scribes Journal

Adults you will not want to miss our worship service for this six week adventure. The worship service will be held both at 12 noon and at 7 p.m.

We hope that your family will be a part of this Holy Land Adventure..

LENT 2010

Every Wednesday
February 17 - March 25

MIDDAY SERVICE

†

*Soup Luncheon - Worship
12:00 noon*

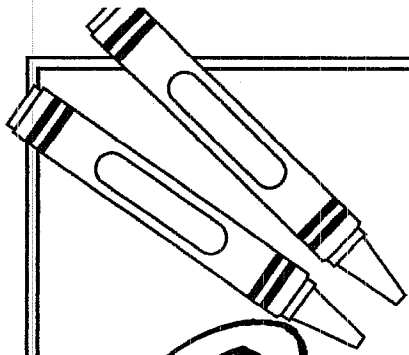
EVENING SERVICE

†

*Soup Supper - 6:15 p.m.
Worship - 7:00 p.m.
Jerusalem Market Place - 7:00 p.m.*

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:30 p.m. Souper Sunday 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Election 5am-9pm 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<p>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</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds</p>
	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group <u>March Newsletter Deadline</u></p>	<p>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. Outreach</p>	<p>1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	
	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12-2 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. Friendship Group 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Lunch 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Programs 8:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p>	
	28					
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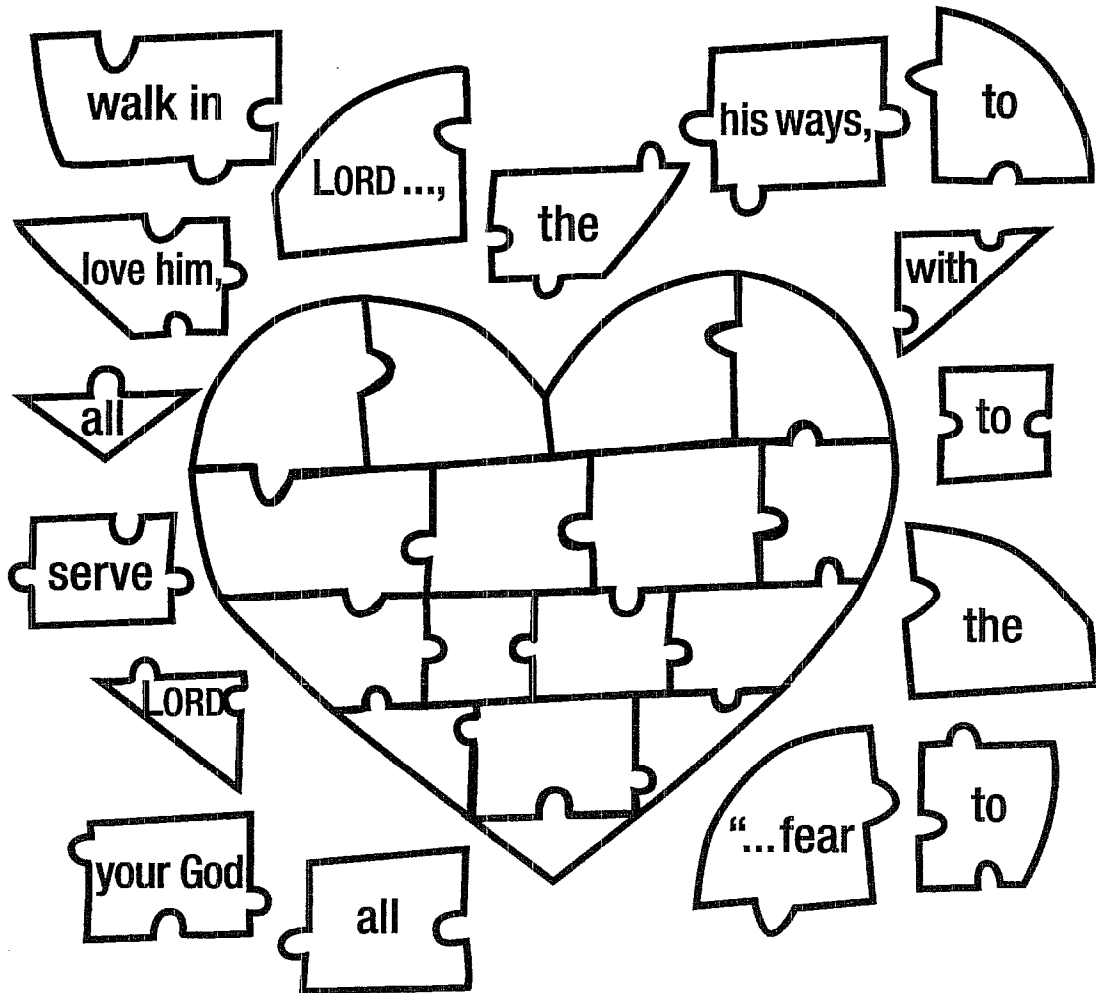


Just for **KIDS**

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ... "

February Birthdays

- February** 1 – Josh Krueger
5 – Scott Zimmerman
5 – Patricia Brady
5- Sam Swearingen
5- Mike Swearingen
7 – Julie Witek
7 - Tod Nargie
8 – Alice White
12 – Lorraine Cunningham
16 - Beverly Kahn
17 – Barbara Brown
17 – Shirley Fogg
17 – John Hall
18 – Amy Simone
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...
708-598-3100 or HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org.

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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**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

