

# THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church 8426 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St. Hickory Hills, IL 60457

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#### **FEBRUARY 2012**

#### Minor Ministerial Musings

Finally, it is snowing! I know that many of us have been enjoying the milder winter weather that we've been having. But I have actually wanted to see some snow. And the sooner the better, if you ask me. If winter weather is delayed, I'm always afraid that just means spring will be delayed.

Someone said something very interesting the other day about snow, and about the minimal amounts we have seen this winter so far. Did you know that farmers actually like snow? They need it, in fact. On the ground, it provides excellent insulation and protection for the topsoil, so that it will be ready for growing things in the spring. And as the snow melts in the spring, it provides valuable water for the coming crops. Between the farmers and others who depend on the snow, people like me who just like the pretty white landscape, and kids who jump at the chance to stay home from school and make snowmen and have snowball fights, I wonder if there are people who even *pray* for snow. I bet there are.

What do you pray for? And I mean that question in two ways. First, what requests make up the contents of your prayers? Do you pray for health? Good weather? Fortunate circumstances? A change in your current circumstances? What do you pray for?

But also, what do you pray *for*? In other words, why do you pray? Is it a way to simply "keep in touch" with God? Is it a way to convey our hopes and dreams, our wants and needs? Do we think that if we pray enough, God will hear and answer our prayers? On the flip side, do we think that if we don't pray enough, God will *not* pay attention to us, to our hopes and dreams, our needs and wants?

As Christians and as churchgoers, we are taught how to pray, and we are taught when to pray. We pray before meals, we pray before going to bed, we pray before momentous events, or before embarking on travels or adventures. At HHPC, we pray at least four times during each worship service. In addition, we pray to open and close meetings. When I visit with someone, whether in my office, in the hospital, or in their home, prayer is always part of the visit.

And we pray for a lot of things. We pray for health and for healing; we pray for situations to go the way we want or need them to; we pray for the welfare of our loved ones, friends and family; we pray for situations of need that affect the larger community and people we don't know – we pray for an end to war, to poverty, to hunger; we pray for safety and security.

Given all of this, it is so important to know what we are praying *for* – to know why we pray, and to examine our own motives and expectations when we pray. For the next few months, I will be exploring some of these reasons and motives. I will be talking about the ways in which we understand – and sometimes *mis*-understand, prayer.

As we talk about prayer in the following months, I want to invite and challenge you to take an additional step. In addition to reading articles in the newsletter, as we explore prayer together, I would invite you to read the book of Psalms. This is a book of prayers. And in it you will find all sorts of prayer – and all sorts of motives for prayer. Reading the Psalms is a good way to remind us of our need for God in all situations, and of the myriad of reasons why we can and should pray. It is a wonderful way to remind ourselves what we pray for. See you in church on Sunday!

In Joyful Anticipation,

#### HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Debbie Raschke for knee operation, healing Barbara, Cliff Pilgrim's sister, for strength & peace Kevin McGuire for chemo Wilda Duncan's friend, Kelly, for lung transplant Eloise Snow for health concerns Darlene Kibort's nephew Jimmy for strength Fran Nelson for health concerns Ruth Hill for health concerns Sue Richardson for health concerns Dianne Flynn for continuous healing David Krueger for health concerns The Krueger Family for strength Karen Hoffman for continuous healing John & Kira (Beckering) Huffaker for healing & strength Jim Beckering & family for strength & peace, during John's healing Lorie Cunningham's friend, Pat, for strength Lorie Cunningham's friend Millie Marilyn Betterton for healing Cindy Treccani for continuous healing Shannon Bastien & family, on her grandma's passing Praise for Donna's friend Gail Hensen's continued healing Jean Somerstorfer for continuous healing Al Lewington & family as he is in Hospice Marie Hoffman for health concerns Lenora Warren for health concerns Bob Nordstrom, Sr., for health concerns and strength Praise for the birth of Hunter Thomas Treccani and prayers for continued strength Harry Zimmerman for health concerns & strength Wally Golema for continuous healing Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps Dorothy Allen for strength Our Service Men and Women and their families Our Policemen, Firemen, & their families DelPrete Family for strength, faith, & hope during Jen's battle

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

\*PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH\*

#### TWILIGHT PRAYER

Call upon me, and I will be there for you.
Call upon a friend and I will be there for him. Call
upon me and I will open the door, leave a note and I
shall surely answer it. Pray and I will be there night
or day. What more can I say, I love you every day
and in every way!

"Above," a note from Jesus, for us all!

Join us in prayer!

Regards, C. Lou Pearson



#### PADS UPDATE

PADS consists of people who would rather not be in the position they find themselves. They would rather be elsewhere, and yet for the moment they find themselves homeless. How long that moment will linger, we know not. As we enter "2012" we wish our friends direction as they continue to seek contentment in their lives. We, "God's" servants, are here to provide some warmth in a cold world that for many, lingers far too long.

Father, may your hand lay heavy upon these, who seek you and a life of fulfillment, deserving to them.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson





Season's) Greetings

December 7, 2011

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous donation of new toys to Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center in support of our after school program. We truly appreciate your sacrificial giving each year to bring joy to these kids that we serve each day.

The holiday season ushers in many activities and services here at Jones Center. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, just short of 200 kids "shopped" in our Penny & Dime Store and left with beautifully wrapped gifts for their family members. Our store was especially nice this year with wonderful used items donated from many of our friends. The kids are now excited about our Breakfast with Santa this Saturday. We are blessed to have a volunteer Santa and photographer to make this event special. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, our regular youth participants will have their own after school party with good food, games, treats, and gifts for all (*thanks to you!*). The following week, our Golden Agers congregate to sing carols, play games, and reminisce with old friends. We'll serve community members a holiday meal on the 16<sup>th</sup> and will use that opportunity to pass out hats and gloves to help keep them warm. Our grand finale is our Project Share Distribution. We'll give over 300 families (an average of 1,200 people) holiday food pantry bags, hats, gloves, and scarves, and a toy for kids ages 13 and under. It really is a magical time of year!

As a supporter of Jones Center, you know it is true that it is in giving that we receive. We cannot thank you enough for your partnership in our mission to strengthen family ties, answer a human need, and emphasize the worth of God's children.

Sincerely,

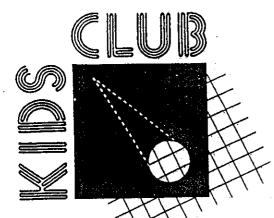
Cheryl L. Roop, Executive Directo

The Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center's FEIN # is 36-2182055. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation.

Strengthening family ties

Answering a human need

Emphasizing the worth of God's children



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

Dianne Flynn, Director

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well". Matthew 6:33

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

\*Priority One Mission - God promises we don't need to worry about

our lives if we make Him our first priority.

Put Off or Blast Off? - God promises to bless us if we are faithful and trustworthy.

The Terrestrial Title - God promises to bless us even though we are persecuted because of our relationship with Jesus.

The Envy Emporium and Malevolence Museum - God promises to give us all we need, we should not envy others.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> we will host a party in honor of Valentine's Day. The staff has planned some special activities for the kids and we hope that everyone will be with us on this day.

Mark your calendars now for it will soon be here! The Lenten Series and Jerusalem Market Place will begin Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</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 22 - March 28 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. Thank you to Philip and Leah for bringing us bags of these tabs. Of course they immediately placed the tabs in our collection containers. Thank you to all who have participated in this outstanding mission project.

KIDS CLUB is open to all kids age 5 through the  $6^{\rm th}$  grade. We encourage you to invite a child to join us.

Peace and Joy, Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

#### **Christian Education Meeting**

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The date is set for February 5th. The time is set for 11:45 AM or close to that. The event is the Annual Souper Sunday. The menu includes favorite soup from the past and a few surprise soups. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for this annual event. Good Soup, Great Friends, and Outstanding Fellowship.

The Lenten Program begins on Wednesday, February 22 and runs each Wednesday until April 4. This year the Jerusalem Marketplace will feature some old favorites. We will have the JC Woodshop and the Bakery and Confectioners. New shops and craft experiences will be added this year. If you are interested in learning their names or the crafts they will feature you will need to join us on Wednesday nights. A dinner and worship is offered during the day at 12:00 PM. If you would like to have your children enjoy the evening workshops there will be dinner starting at 6:15 PM followed by the Lenten Program designed to interest and educate children ages 4 years old thru High School. Adults are free to worship in the sanctuary while their children explore the sights, sounds, smells, and feel of the Jerusalem Marketplace. Each week your child will attend a different shop and learn some of the crafts which were popular during Jesus' lifetime. The children are grouped by age and will have lessons which are designed to help them learn more about the life and times of Jesus. This is a great program so you really do not want to miss a single week.

More information will be shared at the 10:30 AM worship during the Children's Message on Sunday, February 19th. You will have an opportunity to see the shop leaders as they parade during this time.

The Adult Sunday Class has been well attended. They are a group of individuals dedicated to Sunday attendance and study. This devotion helps them to weekly grow stronger in their faith. Now that the holidays are over we hope to see all kids and youth back in Sunday morning classes. Our caring teachers work hard giving of their time and energy to plan exciting and meaningful lessons for their students. Weekly attendance in these classes are imperative to understanding the main ideas of the session's focus and ways of incorporating this learning into their own lives. We are blessed to have an amazing group of teachers who put the Christian Education of our students primary in their lives. We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday.

The Women's Bible Study is working on the second half of Proverbs. They meet on Monday afternoon and would welcome anyone who was interested in sharing ideas on the passages they are reading. Since Proverbs has so many valuable lessons, they are also researching other books which may or may not lead to more insight for the verses they have chosen.

Stories and More has been exploring upper and lower case alphabet letters. We are averaging 4 students each week. Children have had a delightful time matching left and right as well as letters. They will begin learning initial consonant sounds this 6 week session.

Vacation Bible School will begin for a week full of exciting travels on June 11 to 15. Be sure to mark your calendar as we enjoy the leadership of Tricia and Company. There will be new songs and stories as well as some of the favorite old songs. Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is "Amazing Wonders Aviation".

### JERUSALEM MARKET PLACE LENT 2012

#### A BIBLE TIME EXPERIENCE KIDS AGE 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 22

#### "YOU ARE THERE!"

Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent, we have planned something special for kids age 3 through high school. 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
- JOURNEY with friends to visit the great Storyteller
- WRITE in Scribes Journal

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

ENT 2012

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**LENT 2012** 

Every Wednesday February 22 - March 28

MIDDAY SERVICE

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Soup Luncheon - Worship 12:00 Noon EVENING SERVICE

(With Children's Program)

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Soup Dinner - 6:15 p.m.

Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Jerusalem Market Place - 7:00 p.m.

#### We Celebrate

#### February Birthdays

20 Alyssia Kommenich

28 Kevin Lorenz

\*\*\*\*\*

November

Perfect Attendance

3rd Grade

Hollie Fox

4th Grade
Jacob Morrell

Junior High Shaylin Rys

Senior High Ashley Maranto Kyle Zimmerman Leslie Ambrosat Brittany Maranto Sarah Swearingen



#### Senior High Sunday School Class

New Beginnings: Erase the slate! Things will not be the same, I will change, I will be a new me!

<u>Psalms32:8</u> I will teach you and instruct you in the way that you shall go.

New Beginnings are between you and God. We as individuals are always open to change and with God's help we can prove that. Celebrate today, this moment, right now, this I can do! 2012 will be a year to remember, as we - His servants - lay the ground work for the rest of our lives.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson





#### Please Note:

The Newsletter Deadline for March 2012
newsletter articles will be
1 week sooner than usual.
1st Sunday of the month:
Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012.
(Not 2nd Sunday, Feb. 12)

This will be a one time change, only for this month.

Thank you for your cooperation.

#### Sacrament of Holy Communion- Feb. 5, 2012

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER		
Feb. 5, 2012	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney		
Feb. 12, 2012	D. LaCognata	Rick Vogl		
Feb. 19, 2012	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman		
Feb. 26, 2012	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Kim Ambrosat		
SUNDAY	COUNTERS			
Feb. 5, 2012	Susan Frangella			
Feb. 12, 2012	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman			
Feb. 19, 2012	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal			
Feb. 26, 2012	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell			

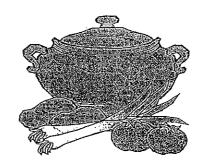
Communion Servers: Shirley Brunell, Sue Orsic, Ivy Taebel

#### SOUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5
Following Worship Service

## A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE SOUPS

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support Our Kids

All donations are used to help support scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

# FEBRUARY 2012

Sat	4 8:30-12:30 Officer Training		11 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	18	3 6	52	
Fri	E .		10	17		4	
Thur	2	5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group	9 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Voorth Groun	16	5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group	23 5:00 p.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group	
Wed	1 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care	11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	9:00 a.m. Stampers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting	15	Ö 4 0	22 Ash Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Stampers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon/ Worship 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:15 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship/	9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care Lenten Series 12:00 p.m. Soup Luncheon/ Worship 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:15 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship/
Tues			7 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:00 p.m. C.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Walk	8:30 p.m. World Religions	1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible 8:30 p.m. World Religions	1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible 8:30 p.m. World Religions	1:00 p.m. Stories & More 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible 8:30 p.m. World Religions
Mon			6 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	Adult Bible Study 13	1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Session Meeting	20 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting	1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting
Sin			5 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Souper Sunday 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	Mar. Newsletter Articles Due	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	19 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	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

#### **February Birthdays**

February 1 – Josh Krueger

5 - Scott Zimmerman

5-- Sam Swearingen

5- Mike Swearingen

7 - Julie Witek

12 - Lorraine Cunningham

13- Theresa Ochoa

16 - Beverly Kahn

17 – Barbara Brown

17 – Shirley Fogg

18 - Amy Simone

20 - Al Lewington

22 - Chris Pilgrim

23- Eva Nestor

25- Austin McKinney

27 - Shirley Dragas

27- Rick Vogl

28- Ryan Brandt

28 - Sandy Beal

to the church office...

28 - Thomas D. Morrell

Any omissions or errors should be reported

708-598-3100 or

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