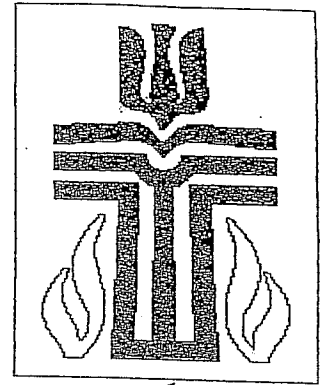


THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
Telephone: (708)598-3100
Email: HHPC2002@netzero.com
www.hickoryhillspres.org



JANUARY 2009

TWO, TWO, TWO, TWO – for us too!

We have 2 hands, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 feet.
When 2 eyes work together, we call it bifocal vision
When 2 hands work together, we call it coordination
When 2 ears work together, we call it direction
When 2 feet work together, we call it balance

Just ask someone with a cane what unsteady is,
when 2 feet don't.
Just ask one with a hearing aid what disoriented is,
when 2 ears don't.
Just ask one with glasses what distorted can be,
when 2 eyes don't.
Just ask one in a sling what uncoordinated is,
when 2 hands don't.

Churches are the same – we need both. Otherwise
we're unstable.

For the sake of this 'orientation' to a new year at
Hickory Hills, I take these 2 to be the two things that
shape what we're doing each day at HHPC:

The PAST

For reasons none of us can explain completely, God
chose to have a Presbyterian church started in
Hickory Hills back in the 1950's. What a gift! What
a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again for reasons that will always remain somewhat
obscure, God brought people, pastors, families,
leaders, children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons,
classes, choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this
congregation. What variety! What beauty! What
gifts! What power! What fun! What learning!
What worship!

The PAST has shaped who we are as we enter 2009.
My plea in this picture is quite simple – LOVE it. I
know there have been moments of deep pain. I know
there have been people who were a pain. I know
there have been pains that I have caused. OR we
could say there were mistakes people made, mistakes
leaders made, mistakes I've made. I believe that's
true.

My plea is still quite simple – LOVE this
congregation's past. The more we complain, bitch,
disparage, attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our past, the
more we put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,
uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to recite info
about our past; I pray that we LOVE it.

The FUTURE

This is even more obscure – When will our new
pastor come? Will we have enough income? What
will happen to our youth? Where will we be in fifty
years? God knows! GOD knows. What a gift!
What a blessing! What a powerful witness!

Again, for reasons that will always remain obscure,
God will give us people, pastors, families, leaders,
children, elders, youth, musicians, deacons, classes,
choirs, and all kinds of groups to live in this
congregation. What variety! What beauty! What
gifts! What power! What fun! What learning!
What worship!

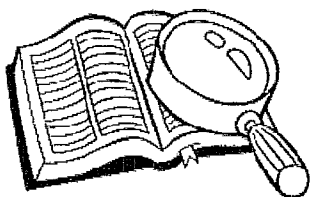
My plea is quite simple – LOVE this congregation's
future. The more we complain, bitch, disparage,
attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our future, the more we
put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,
uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to make plans
for our future, I pray that we LOVE it.

When we LOVE our PAST and our FUTURE
we'll be using both eyes to see clearly,
both hands to work beautifully,
both ears to hear all around us, and
both feet to follow where Jesus takes us.

Thank you for the gracious gift you give me of
allowing me to walk with you, to love with you, to
discover gifts in Chicago's south suburbs that I never
knew. You are wonderful!

Peace,

Warren Wiggins,
Interim Pastor



Listen for THE WORD of God

As a weekly habit, I invite you to read the Scripture
for the upcoming Sunday in a pattern that looks like
this:

Monday – read through the whole passage –
gently, without pausing

Tuesday – read through the whole passage
looking for 1 verse that's key

Wednesday – read the one verse over and
over until it's sunk in to you

Thursday – pick one word in that verse and
apply it to your life

Friday – use the one word and apply it to
others & the world around you

Saturday – read through the whole passage in
preparation for Sunday

January 4, 2009, Second Sunday of Christmas – Genesis 1

“In the beginning” – there's no better place to
begin at the beginning of a new year. This is
classical poetry, moving material that follows a
very disciplined pattern. Enjoy the repetitions, the
changes in pattern, the way the story covers
everything – in the beginning

January 11, 2009, Baptism of Christ Sunday – Colossians 1:15 – 2:19

This is theological poetry, verse after verse that
celebrates all we know and think and believe and
learn and hear and want in Jesus Christ – and the
struggle between the writer and the church in
Colossae, a town in what we call Western Turkey.

Enjoy the ‘high-falutin’ pictures of Jesus and the
‘down-to-earth’ challenge to make Jesus clear in a
congregation.

January 18, 2009, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - John 8:12-20 and 9

This is a story, a story about Jesus in controversy
with the Pharisees about his authority, then a story
about a blind man coming to see. The stories open
with the famous statement of Jesus, “I am the light
of the world,” and continue with helping us
wonder how well that light has dawned in our
lives.

January 25, 2009, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Jeremiah 18:1-11

This is another story, a story of God using a local
craftsman to teach his prophet a lesson. Out of
that simple trip to the workshop of a specialist
who fashioned clay pots has come one of the most
powerful images of the relationship between God
and humans: Potter and Clay.

Looking ahead in February:

February 1, 2009 – Acts 9:1-31,

Saul Transformed – Paul

February 8, 2009 – Romans 1:1-17 and 8:1-39,

Faith -Living by Faith

February 15, 2009 – Deuteronomy 5:1-21

and 6:1-9 – The Ten – in Life

February 22, 2009 – Luke 15 – Lost sheep, coins,
sons – FOUND

February 25, 2009 – Ash Wednesday

You are invited . . . to commit yourself as a member
of Hickory Hills Pres.

At the beginning of January, Pastor Warren will offer
two opportunities for people who may be interested
in becoming members of Hickory Hills Presbyterian
Church:

Monday evening, **January 5**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday afternoon, **January 11**, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Each session will give time to hear an introduction
and ask questions about:

Being a Christian – and the practices that
sustain us in faith, hope, & love.

Being a participant – and the multitude of options for doing things here.

Being at home here – and how we invite others to be at home with God.

AND – if you are interested, but can't make either of those times: contact Pastor Warren and arrange a time that will suit you:

cell (847) 340-6671, or
email wigginswc@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, January 25, 2009,
following worship

Sure, it has all the 'normal' things that come with an annual meeting – reports, electing new leaders, settling on a budget for the year ahead. You can expect all this and more when we gather to take a snapshot of HHPC at age 57 and peek into the future she brings us.

Worship Planning Teams

You heard the invitation first in worship on December 14 – and it still stands! You are invited to be on a team of at least one adult and at least two youth who brainstorm together to prepare for at least one of the worship services coming up at HHPC.

Pastor Warren will meet with each group, help us focus around the scripture passage for the Sunday and then provide all kinds of leads for brainstorming suggestions on how this can be celebrated best in our worship services on a particular Sunday.

Once is great! More? – that's up to you.

Contact Pastor Warren soon with your interest and the week on which you'd like to work:

cell (847) 340-6671, or
email wigginswc@gmail.com.

Annual Reports

Hanna, our church secretary, has set January 4th as the deadline for annual reports. If you are an officer, if you are in a group, if you have been part of an event at HHPC during the past year – it needs to show up in a report.

If you think "I'm not the one to write it!" make sure you contact someone who is and be sure to help them

with all the information that needs to be included in the report.

Many thanks!

Orthodox Christmas – January 7th

I know, I know, you assumed that everyone in the world celebrated Christmas on December 25th – but that's just the custom in the 'western' Christianity that we've inherited from western Europe. For folks a little further east, in Greece and Egypt, in Russia and Rumania, in Persia and Arabia, another tradition reigns – Christmas is celebrated on January 7th.

Then, just to keep things confusing, we 'western Christians' hold on to something traditional called the

Twelve Days of Christmas – known to most of us simply because we competed to learn some nonsense verses once to a very long song by that name. AND we have a 'competing' celebration of

EPIPHANY on January 6th – the celebration of the coming of the LIGHT into the WORLD.

Go figure! But don't stop celebrating God's gift of Jesus for God's world – all of God's world, east and west, north and south, rich and poor, high and low, ins and outs, old and young, you and me.

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

PADS UPDATE

Winter months bring forth many visitors to PADS facilities. The warmth of friends and food set the scene as winter wind's howl around us. The warmth displayed by Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church members alone, warms my heart.

The support this year has been the strongest since our commitment many years ago. The month of December reflected a great increase in numbers at PADS as the economy continued its spiral downward. We served 72 persons with an allowance for a few late comers.

Thank you one and all for your support to our fellow man in need. The reward is in the hand of the giver as we set aside ourselves.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

PRAYER & CARE



“But because of his great love for “us,” God, who is rich in mercy, made “us” alive with Christ, even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved.”

Ephesians 2:4-5

As I write this, Christmas is eleven days hence. What a glorious time of the year! On December 17, the 3 faithful prayer warriors will gather to pray for the last time in 2008, returning Jan. 7, God willing. Will you join “us”?

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - WEDNESDAYS

“The only gift is a portion of thyself...the poet brings his poem, the shepherd, his lamb...the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

TWILIGHT PRAYER

One of the greatest drawbacks to the life of prayer is that the answers are slow in coming and once answered, may not be the answer we expected.

Do we question the act of prayer? Are we doing it improperly? Are we not worthy of our requests?

Patience, my friend. Do not question one of the greatest gifts we have, to approach God at any time, in any place, in any state of mind. He is there for you, and your request will be answered, accordingly. Join us as we humble ourselves before him.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

BIBLES FOR BAPTISTS

In a wonderful, convoluted story this past fall, Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church made a gift of nearly two dozen Bibles to the Baptist Church of Willow Springs. Thanks be to Harry Hermansen and his contacts.

It all started with a request for choir robes to be provided to a congregation that got flooded out in the heavy rains of mid-September. Session, after several people looked up information and the robes, approved the donation. Then it turned out that the congregation did not need them!

In the same session conversation, a question was raised about Bibles. Harry Hermansen had been talking with his friend, Beverly Matthews. Both participate in some activities at the Willow Springs Baptist Church and discovered that the congregation needed some Bibles. Yes, HHPC would be glad to donate Bibles too!

The Bibles in question came to HHPC from Trinity Presbyterian Church in the merger at the beginning of this decade/century/millennium. The wonderful large-print pew editions of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible from the Presbyterian Church are in excellent condition.

So, we're delighted to report to HHPC that Baptists are learning the Good News from “Presbyterian” Bibles. What a joy!

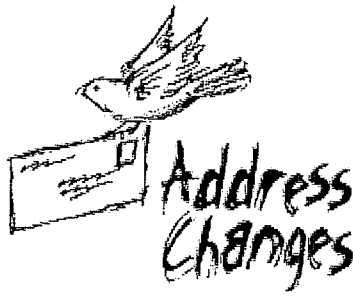
HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Phyllis Aplitz for health concerns
Barbara Brown's friend for health concerns
Mandy Goodeve's friend in the loss of her baby
Joe Lang in his job loss
Micki Kluska for healing
Donna Bredlau's mom for health concerns
Bob Nordstrom for health concerns
Karen Leake for strength to move forward
Gert Vickers for health concerns
Mary Tarter for health concerns
Darlene Kibort for health concerns
Rick & Debbie Raschke for healing
Marge Hayes for health concerns
Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Tanya Fox & her daughter, Hollie, for support during deployment
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



ADDRESS CHANGES



Jennifer DelPrete- R79030
Lincoln Correctional Center
1098 1350th St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217)735-5411

Harry Hermansen
17200 W. Bell Rd. Lot #97
Surprise, AZ 85374

Kathleen Turner
9518 S. Tripp #2SW
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

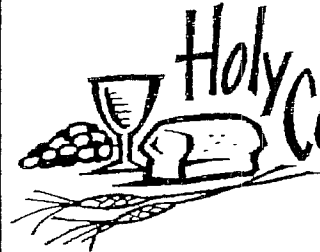
SESSION NOTES

At its regular meeting December 8, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., the Session of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church (HHPC):

- Opened by sharing "The Law of the Garbage Truck"
- Noted 5 excused and 1 absent from the 12 – bare quorum of 6
- Thanked Cheryl Huenecke for taking minutes in Clerk's absence
- Brainstormed possible BHAG's – big hairy audacious goals 2009
- Approved the minutes for November 10 with typo corrections
- Received the clerk's report: pulpit to be filled by Dave LaCognata on 12/28/08, communion served 11/2/08 in all worship, weekly at 9, and brought to Gert Vickers with Deacon Patt Pilgrim
- Received the treasurer's report with note that bills are paid, no money taken from reserves, bills in Nov. were \$581 over receipts
- Received 2007 audit report from Theodore Atiedu & Jim Kupka
- Received no additional report from the Minister or Deacons
- Contemporary Worship (REV) Task Force:
 - Reported on move to sanctuary for 5pm service going well
 - Agreed to start worship planning teams as an experiment
 - Approved praise band participation in Christmas Eve 11pm

- Fellowship Committee
 - Noted new signups for January – March in worship 12/14
 - Set Junior High Pancake Breakfast for January 18, 2009
- Worship & Music Committee – no communion servers 1/4/09
- Mission Committee:
 - Celebrated people and food for Jones Center Saturday
 - Also 150 gifts collected for Jones Center kids
 - Noted possible difficulties from gift tags not numbered
 - Rejoiced in Kiwanis 3rd year to offer gifts to Jones Center
 - Arranged for cover \$ from Fund for Human Need for Xmas
- NLAAC Oversight Committee (Arabic congregation)
 - They plan to stay with us through 2009 and beyond, same rent
- Stewardship/Finance/Endowment Committee
 - Reviewed 2009 budget – delayed action for larger quorum 1/12/09
 - Received strong letter from Lisa Radetski on choices ahead
 - Celebrated increasing giving from 2009 estimates (pledges)
 - Allocated \$2000 in 2008 Mission Budget to 4 local groups
- Nominating Committee – informal news of their good work
- Outreach Committee – no report
- Christian Education Committee
 - Fabulous Sunday with children in Hanging of the Greens
 - Advent Night 12/5 brought over 111 participants, many young
 - Women's Tea this Thursday, 12/11 looking great at 80+
 - Anecdote of query at Michael's: "Can I come [to your church]?"
 - Plans moving for Women's Retreat and Meal & Movie Days
 - Annual Report being prepared by all working groups
 - Sunday School has a new start 12/14 with winter teachers
 - Attendance is not declining
- Buildings and Grounds – glad to see no snow before 12/1/08
- Old/New Business: Pastor Nominating Committee
 - Approved \$450 to do Congregational Life Survey again
 - Looking to revise CIF – Church Information Form
- Pastor's Report
 - Set Officers' Training for Saturday, January 10, 8am-1pm, including both old and new, Deacons and Elders
 - Set 1/12/09 regular meeting for approval of new officers
 - Set February 8, 2009 for Ordination/Installation of officers
 - Delayed conversation with Savior Divine till retreat 1/10/09
 - Noted "Order of Elders" daily devotional materials (plus) is being donated anonymously for all elders to participate
- Closed with sentence prayers and the Lord's Prayer at 10pm

Sacrament of Holy Communion- January 4, 2009

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP * HOSTS	LAY READER
January 4, 2009	A. Bentley, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	L. & A. Pearson, Neil, Taebel, Rehbock, Fox, Bastien	Please contact Scott Zimmerman if you are interested in leading worship the first Sunday of each month.
January 11, 2009	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Treccani, Sack, Taebel, Howe, Brunell, Rehbock	Michael Pettis
January 18, 2009	T. Pettis, A. Schwake	Cunningham, Sommerstorfer, Taebel, Kahn	Scott Zimmerman
January 25, 2009	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Dumke, Fox, Fogg, T. & N. Pearson, H. Zimmerman	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	
January 4, 2009	Susan Frangella	Sarah Adams	
January 11, 2009	Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
January 18, 2009	Susan Frangella Sandy Beal	Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys	
January 25, 2009	Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell	Lori Haack, Carri McKinney	

SOUPER SUNDAY

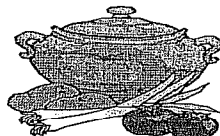
A LUNCHEON FEATURING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE
SOUPS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

Following Worship Service

All donations are used to help support
Scholarships for Camp Saugatuck

Freewill Donations
Accepted



Support
Our Kids

KIDS CLUB

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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

Christmas - A time of joy, a time of celebrations.

December has been a wonderful time for us. We made ornaments for the tree at the Brookfield Zoo and then decorated this tree, enjoyed time with our families at the Advent Family Night, participated in the Christmas program "Hanging of the Greens", invited new members to join us and together celebrated at our Christmas Party.

As I am writing this we have just completed our Christmas Party. It is always a special time. We thank Beth who was in the kitchen preparing and serving pizza, Patt and Amanda for supervising the decorating of gingerbread cookies and baking snowman cookies, Debbie in the gym with relay games, Cheryl leading us in song and Grace, Marilyn, Shannon at the craft tables helping the kids make reindeer ornaments. Our party is never complete without Linda leading us in the lighting of our Advent Candle and our lesson time. To student leaders Megan, Brittany, Sarah and Sam a huge thank you for always being ready to help where ever needed. It was a great day and of course no one left the party without gifts!

It is with pleasure that we announce the names of those who were given awards for their work in memorizing Bible verses during the month of November. These kids worked hard and we are thrilled that so many were able to participate. Winners are:

Gold Medal - Hollie Fox, Ashley Maranto, Kayla Wagner

Silver Medal - Emmes Kenny, Jessica Leake, Jenah Fox, Ashley Smith,
Kylie Ward, GiGi Giancana, Jasmine Fox, Ryan Saeler,
Neal Lancaster

Bronze Medal - Jacob Leake, Kaily Simpson, Breona Smith, Maya Garcia

The themes for study during the month of January are;

Big Top Olympics - Followers of Christ love and accept people

Respecting the Referees - May I serve you?

Worship Workout - Learning to become more like Christ

Hopping Mad - We learn how David and Saul dealt with their anger

Snack time is always a favorite time, so thank you to the following families for making this time special; Stewart Family, Stiegal Family and the KIDS CLUB staff for the Christmas party.

Welcome to our new staff member, Amanda. "Mandy" is very familiar with our program since she is a former member herself.

KIDS CLUB is closed for the holidays, but we will resume on Monday, January 5th.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB



✠ **SUNDAY SCHOOL** ✠

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

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

NEWS FROM OUR TEACHERS

Grades 5 - Linda Lavaretto

I was so happy to teach this month. But, instead of teaching my own fifth grade, I taught in the 3/4th grade filling in for Sue Orsic. Thank you to Ronnie, Ashley, Gigi, Kailey, LeAnne, Shaylin, Neal, Tierney, Yasmine, and Jenah for making me feel so welcome. On the first Sunday I was there, we talked about being thankful and rejoicing in God's gifts. We talked about Abraham and Sarah. We also made pinecone turkeys to help us remember all the gifts that God has given us this past year. On the second Sunday, we talked about trusting God to take care of us. We talked about Ishmal and his mother who needed to trust God when they were sent away from Abraham's camp to walk in the desert. God promised to watch over them and he took care of them in the desert. The fifth grade class will officially be added to the 3/4 grade class for the winter quarter. Perhaps Becky and Brian will feel more comfortable with more children so share their ideas and questions. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a most memorable New Year.

Junior High - Cindy Treccani

The kids Christmas program has come and gone for another year. Once again it was absolutely beautiful! We are just starting our new quarter and I'm really excited about it. The junior high class is always interesting and thought provoking. Alyssia, Ashley, Breona, Brittany, Gessica, Kyle, Natalee, Sarah and Tristan - thank you for making my first week a good one. To those of you who weren't able to be here, I'm looking forward to seeing you soon, as we "dig deeper" into Jesus' birth.

Senior High - Lou Pearson

May I Call You Friend!

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

To commit to a friendship takes much time. A friend well chosen is worth his weight in gold. The bridge that is built between friends is crossed often by both parties. A friend has fine regard for his friend who is trustworthy and virtuous, always there as is our father.

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Friends we will always be!

Regards,

C. Lou Pearson

THANK YOU

Our fall quarter of Sunday School has ended and we say thank you to our teachers for all they have given to the students in their classes. What a wonderful beginning to this church school year!

Debbie Zimmerman

Noelle Larsen

Sue Orsic

Linda Lavaretto

Patt Pilgrim

Gordon Home

Tom Lane

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

†

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up for the annual Advent Workshop. What a terrific way to begin the Advent season. There were close to 120 people who came and enjoyed the fellowship on Friday, December 5th. The food was delicious! It seems that all the people who attended had a great time making the decorations and gifts during the workshop. A special thanks to the people who stayed at the tables to answer questions and guide the guests in creating their decorations and gifts. How could this night be successful without your help? We hope you had fun singing around the piano at the end of the evening. Old favorites are always a wonderful way to begin preparing for the holidays.

Another year passes and we enjoy the children presenting the program of "Hanging of the Greens" one more time. It was a very special presentation as more of the children had leading roles in the story and explanation of Christmas. Thank you to the very capable readers and actors. Your gift to the congregation was very special indeed. Thank you to Cheryl and Gabriella for their gifts of song. Thank you to the children who not only sang so well under Cheryl's direction, but also helped to decorate the sanctuary. The pew bows were well placed, the greens went on perfectly for the candleabras, the pointsetta plants added a touch of color, and the Tree of Warmth looked beautiful filled with all sorts of articles to keep children warm. Thank you to the Simone family who trusted Gina and Sam to take good care of Lucia, our baby Jesus for the program. This was truly a program for us to remember.

The Christmas Tea was held on Thursday, December 11. Everyone who was able to get to the church on that day enjoyed a spectacular presentation by the Stagg Madrigal Singers. Our own Ciametti girls, Gina and Gabriella, were a part of this presentation. Alice Collins also entertained us with her personal reflections of Christmas. Everyone at the Tea had a wonderful

night enjoying the entertainment, tea and donated pasteries. Thank you to the hard working ladies who made sure the water was hot and refilled often. Thank you to those who had the hard job of setting up the tables and taking everything back down.

The Women's Bible Study will take a break and return after the holidays. Their planned Christmas luncheon was cancelled because of the weather. It will be rescheduled in January.

The Stampers are also taking a break in December. They will get back to making cards and decorating their scrapbooks in January. Everyone in the stampers is asked to do some homework and make two cards for their return meeting in January.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going strong. We have knitters who meet in the fifth grade classroom after the 10:30 AM worship service. Believe it or not, we also have some young students who want to learn to knit and are coming regularly each week, too. People who are interested in learning to knit or crochet are as welcome as the ones who already are proficient. We spend an hour or more talking and knitting or crocheting.

Just a reminder to bring in the White Gifts for the 10:30 AM worship service. All non-perishable items should be wrapped in white to make the presentation at the appropriate time of the service. Items will be delivered to the Jones Center in time for their patrons to celebrate the holidays.

The Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. But more than that, we wish you peace and comfort knowing that God gave his most precious gift to us that day in the manger, Jesus. We hope that sometime during the hustle and bustle of this season that you will have time to recall that small baby and rejoice in the gift of God's Love.

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS



What a wonderful blessing to have all the voices at church for the youth choir anthem Sunday. In our culture it is sometimes difficult to keep the priority of Sunday morning focused on Christ, so I thank God for the calling in these young folks and pray for their growth in Him.

I always like to share the words to our Anthem for those who may have the tune playing in their head, but cannot put the words to it; and also for those that missed the service.

May you feel God's Blessing as you read these words...

There is a King who was born in a manger
Jesus was His name
Came to Earth, to His own was a stranger,
Jesus is His name.

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Sheep are grazing on the hillside
Shepherds watch their flock
Angels sing the King is Born
Jesus is His name

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Shepherds come to see the Child
Lamb of God so meek and mild
Jesus is His name

*A-le-lu-ia, A-le-lu-ia,
Hear the angels sing
Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jesus is His name.*

Kids Club Bible Verses for January

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35†

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ..”

Ephesians 5:21

†

“In the congregation I will praise you.”

Psalms 22:22

†

” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..”

Ephesians 4:26

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Woman's Bible Study is continuing with our study of 1st and 2nd Peter. The study is a little challenging but I believe we are all putting our time and effort into the study and every Monday we leave with a better understanding of God's Word. Our Christmas luncheon had to be postponed until sometime in January due to icy weather. Class resumes January 5th. Please join us.

Pat Brady

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

On December 13, 2008, nineteen of us met at the church. Fourteen junior highs and five adults went downtown for our annual outing for ice skating and viewing Christmas Windows.

We met at the Church at 9:00AM thank you to Emily's dad, Rick Raschke, and Tasha's mom, Melanie Swindle for going with us to help with the driving. We drove to the Orange Line and took the train downtown.

Our first stop was the Macy's Windows and then we went to Daley Plaza to see the Tree and shop at all the Christmas shops in the plaza. We bought a few things and then headed to McDonalds for lunch.

After lunch we headed to the ice skating rink at Millennium Park, saw the Bean and waited for one hour in line to skate. Boy was it worth it. There was a light drizzle but the temperature was great for December and we had a wonderful time. The lights the music and skate rental made skating fun for everyone there. We had a few hot chocolates and headed home after a full day of Christmas in Chicago.

Our junior highs that went were Alexis, Riley, Stephanie, Brianna, Jessica, Ashley, Breona, Sarah, Emily, Brittany, Alyssia, Natalie, Natasha, and Becky.

On December 18, 2008 at 6:30 PM we will have our Christmas movie and pizza night. We will not meet again until January 8, 2009 because of the holidays.

We wish all our junior highs and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. God bless us all.

Adam, Katie, Patt
Junior High Youth Leaders

CONGRATULATIONS

Perfect Attendance
for
November Sunday School

Grades 1/2	Jacob Morrell GiGi Giancana
Junior High	Sarah Swearingen
Senior High	Gina Ciametti Gabriella Ciametti Sam Swearingen Mike Swearingen Andrew Witek Matthew Witek



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Christopher Witek
16	Emmesis Kenny
10	Jacob Leake
20	Emily Raschke
21	Andrew Witek Matthew Witek
25	Ashley Smith
29	Haily Wreza



Make a Noisemaker to Celebrate Special Days

You will need:

- empty kitchen matchbox
- foil
- tape
- dried beans or rice
- unsharpened pencil
- 2 rubber bands
- stickers, glue and glitter (optional)

How to make the noisemaker:

- Put beans or rice in the matchbox, so that it rattles when you shake it.
- Tape the box shut.
- Cover box with foil.
- Poke 2 small holes on opposite sides of the box near one end.
- Stick the pencil into one hole, through the box and out the other hole.
- Wrap rubber bands around the pencil on both sides of the box, so the pencil won't slip through the holes.
- If you want, you can decorate the box with stickers and glitter.

How to use:

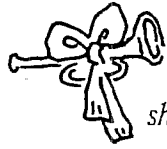
- Hold the pencil and move your wrist to spin the box.
- Make lots of happy noise to celebrate special days throughout the year.



January



Special Times for the Israelites



"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it ..." Exodus 12:14

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events. Below are some of the special days observed by the Israelites.

Use the code to find the name of the special day and the month of the Jewish year in which they are celebrated.

CODE:

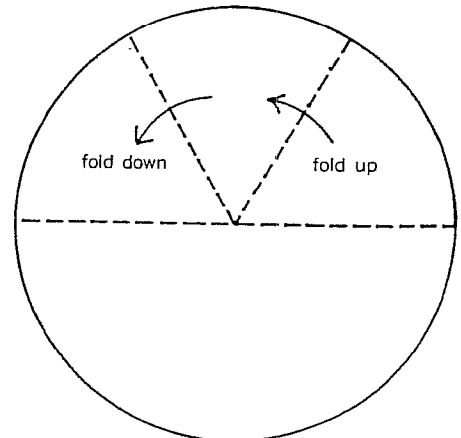
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHG FEDCBA

Season	Holiday	Month
1. End of Summer	(New Year)	GRSHIR
2. Fall	(Day of Atonement)	GRSHIR
3. Fall	(Festival of Booths)	GRHSIR
4. Winter	(Festival of Rededication)	PRHOVE
5. Winter	(Festival of Lots)	ZWZI
6. Spring	(Feast of Unleavened Bread)	MRHZM
7. Spring	(Feast of Weeks/Pentecost)	HREZM

SNOWFLAKES

Trace around a cup on a plain piece of paper. Or use this pattern to practice.

- 1 Fold circle in half.
- 2 Divide half circle into thirds.
- 3 Fold right third up.
- 4 Fold left third down.
- 5 Cut notches in sides and top to form design.
- 6 Carefully unfold.
- 7 Hang with white thread from Christmas tree branches or attach to a window or mirror.



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>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 NO Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7-9 p.m. New Member Class</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. CE Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Honduras Mission Trip Returns</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 1-3 p.m. New Member Class 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p> <p><u>Feb. Newsletter Articles Due</u></p>	<p>12</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>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 5:45 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education Jr. High Pancake Fundraiser 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</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club NO Youth Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stammers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Retreat Departs- Jan. 23-25</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30-2:30 MC8 Leadership Workshop</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education *11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting* 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</p>	<p>26</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>27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

January Birthdays

2 - Jean Somerstorfer
4 - Stan Flynn
5 - Virginia Zabelka
8- Sarah Adams
9 - Loretta Koch
11 - Mary Davis
11 - Enid Scholefield
16 - Alan Bentley
17 - Mary Pasquarella
17 - Susan Orsic
18 - Lou Pearson
18 - Richard E. Kahn
20 - Jennifer DelPrete
25 - Gwen Lopinski
26 - Charles Johnson
31 - Jim Kupka

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

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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