



# THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY 2012

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## Minor Ministerial Musings

It's time to flip the calendar page over once again. Actually, every time you receive this newsletter in the mail, or in your email inbox, it is about time to flip a calendar page over – from month to month. But this time is a little bit different, as it is just about every twelve months. This time, more is changing than just the day or the month. This time, the year is changing. Do you remember when the year 2000 seemed a long way in the future? And here it is, twelve years after “a long way in the future”.

What is it about a new calendar year that makes everything feel – well, new? What is it about getting used to writing 2012 instead of 2011 that makes everything feel so different? Are we really that much different on January 1 than we were on December 31?

Perhaps it is the letdown after Christmas – the sigh of relief knowing that everything that needed to get done actually got done; the sigh of contentment as we savor memories of parties, gift-exchanges, meals, time spent with family and friends; the sigh of resignation as things get “back to normal”; the sigh of determination as we begin to stare New Years’ resolutions in the face. Perhaps that is what makes us feel a little bit different, a little bit changed, a little bit more “2012”, and perhaps even a little bit older.

As a new year begins, however, the sense of “new-ness” that we feel is often, ironically, combined with a sense of “same-ness”. After all, January always follows December, and February follows January, etc., etc. It was this way last year, it is this way this year, and it will be this way next year. In many ways, we have been here before. The challenge of a new year is sometimes the challenge of somehow *making* it new, making *ourselves* new. Thus, January 1 is a great time to set goals, to order or re-order our lives (or at least try to!), to think about priorities, and to make resolutions. What will we do better this year than last year? What will we do differently? What will we do that we *didn't* do last year? What will we leave out this year?

As followers of Christ, however, the turn of the calendar page can have some added meaning. We have just finished celebrating the birth of Christ. In addition, a full understanding of Advent has left us not only anticipating the birth of Christ, but looking with renewed longing and hope for the promise of Christ's coming again, and a new heavens and new earth. We have welcomed the Prince of Peace.

And we realize, surely with a sigh of relief, that though we always strive to better ourselves – to be better people, better friends, better followers of Christ – it is not we who make *ourselves* new. It is Christ who makes us new. It is God's forgiveness, the Holy Spirit's work in us, which makes us grow. This is what gives us the hope, the fortitude, and the ability to strive in the first place. This is what makes it possible for the new year to truly be new, because the hope in Christ that we have makes *us* new, on January 1 and every other day. Happy New Year! See you in church Sunday

In Joyful Anticipation,  
Pastor Lara

## HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Stanley Miller & family for strength  
Family, friends, & congregation of Randy Stevens,  
on his passing  
Debbie Raschke for knee operation, healing  
Ken & Joann Dritz on the passing of Ken's Mother  
Barbara, Cliff Pilgrim's sister, for strength & peace  
Kevin McGuire for chemo  
Wilda Duncan's friend, Kelly, for lung transplant  
Lynn Kemp 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  
Marilyn Betterton for healing  
Cindy Treccani for continuous healing  
Shannon Bastien's grandma for strength  
Gert Vickers' Granddaughter, Elizabeth, &  
Baby Tessa  
Lucy Dumke's brother-in-law, Bob, for  
health concerns  
Praise for Donna's friend Gail Hensen's  
continued healing  
Jean Somerstorfer for continuous healing  
Jeni Vogl's sister, Patti, for healing, & mom,  
Wanda, for strength  
Al Lewington & family as he is in Hospice  
Marie Hoffman for health concerns  
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

I am a believer that practice makes perfect the task. But how perfect must a task be? Is a task a duty or a blessing? For sure it is a blessing.

Task is by definition an unpleasant duty. The unpleasant part is for the doer. I find no displeasure in doing a task that brings me great pleasure and reward.

Prayer is no duty, nor is it a task, it is a gift. I will pray as diligently as I work, trying to do my best at both. How do you feel about this statement? Is Silence Golden?

Regards, C. Lou Pearson



## PADS UPDATE

Oak Lawn Community Church finds itself in financial straits due to a diminishing congregation and a lack of funds to sustain their facility. Their industrial stove in the kitchen has been replaced with a smaller, two burner unit. PADS supporters were asked to please not use the new stove. Of course, we will abide by this rule.

To alleviate this problem, we have purchased two roaster units which will be available for preparing PADS meals and for the use of the congregation as well.

We continue to serve our PADS guests with a smile on our faces, and a spoon in our hands.

Thank you all once again for your endless support which enables this act of love to our fellow man to continue.

Regards, C. Lou Pearson



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



"Like a gold ring in a swine's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion."

PROVERBS 11:22 (RSV)

We continue to slowly read and meditate on Wisdom. We read from various translations to better determine the aphoristic (simple statement of truth) couplets- two line units complete in themselves.

There is much laughter in our class: By the time you receive "The Connecting Link," we will have sung Christmas Carols, eaten lunch and prayed on December 19, bringing to a close 2011. May 2012 be filled with continuing gratitude for His all-sufficient grace.

## PRAYER & CARE

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope..." 1 PETER 1:3 (RSV)

"Hope for a world grown cynically cold,  
Hungry for power and greedy for gold.

Faith to believe when within and without  
There's a nameless fear in a world of doubt.

Love that is bigger than race or creed,  
To cover the world and fulfill each need.

God, grant these gifts to all troubled hearts,  
As the old year ends, and a new year starts."

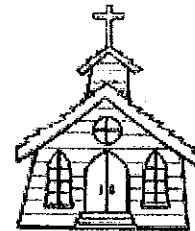
Above from,  
"God Grant Us Hope and Faith and Love"  
-Helen Steiner Rice



### *Please Note:*

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

This will be a one time change, only for that month.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012**

**Immediately following 10:30 am Worship**

Please make it a priority to attend, as we review the 2011 Annual Report, 2012 Budget, and elect Members of the Nominating Committee.

Every member of the Congregation is urged to read the Annual Report carefully and participate in the discussions during the meeting. The Session wants every Member of HHPC to be informed and participate in the life and ministry of our Church Family.

December 9th 2011

Dear Ladies,

How are you? As for my self I'm doing good. Please know that although I don't write very often you are all in my thoughts and continual prayers. I've been staying out of trouble so I can get my t.v. I've been waiting for ever it seems. The Warden told me I'll get it before Christmas. She also told me if I go till 5/23/12 without any tickets she'll let me out of seg 10 months early. ☺

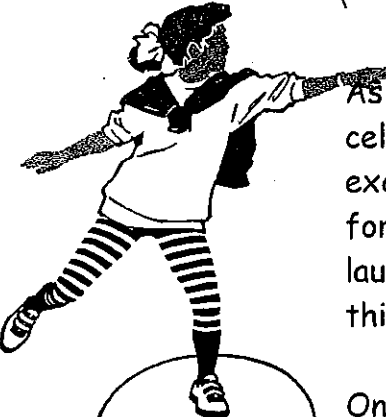
My family seems to be doing good. I get mail and pictures pretty regular. The weekly cards really help too. It's always good to know you've got people who love and care for you. Thank all of you. I appreciate you very much.

God Bless You and Have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Love Always Lindsey


# KIDS CLUB

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


Dianne Flynn, *Director*




AS I am writing this article, we are preparing for our Christmas celebration here at Kids Club. We have decorated the tree and excitedly await the upcoming party. On this day we will make a gift for someone special in our lives, celebrate with music, enjoy games and laughter, and take time to reflect on the meaning of the lessons of this past month.



On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the children and youth from our church and Kids Club presented the Advent Program "Hanging of the Greens." Thank you to the kids, many adults who helped make this morning possible and to our director, Cheryl. Theresa Ochoa joined the list of infants who have portrayed the role of Baby Jesus in our program. The beauty and spirit of this morning remain in the heart of all in attendance on this day.



We thank everyone who helped to make the activities of this month possible. Thank you to the following families for providing snack or other supplies for our kids: The Neal Family, McLaughlin Family, Glockler family, and our Kids Club Staff who hosted the Christmas party.



Kids Club will be closed for the holidays, but we will resume on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Kids Club staff, I wish you a Blessed and Happy Holiday.

Peace and Joy,  
Dianne

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

# Christian Education Meeting



We had three celebrations for Advent in a very short time span. I hope you were able to attend.

To begin our Advent season this year, we had a Family Night on December 2nd. There was a delicious assortment of food for the Pot Luck dinner. Then there were all kinds of crafts to complete or take home for each family. As always, the crafts required a variety of skill levels so it was great to have an adult who could help organize and lend an extra hand where needed. Thank you to all those who set up and took down the tables. A special thank you to those who were lending guidance at each table.

Our second event to celebrate Advent was held on December 4th. The spectacular "Hanging of the Greens" was a gift the children of the congregation gave to all of us. The children and young adults for this event told the story of the first Christmas as well as explained some of the symbols we recognize during this season. The children sang favorite carols. We had music by the Bell Choir, Matt Witek, Gina Ciametti, and the Youth Choir Ensemble. What a glorious way to celebrate Advent. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a memorable worship service. Thank you to Donna Bredlau and Cindy Treccani and Kate Treccani for getting the actors into the sanctuary on que. Thank you to Cheryl Huenecke and Dianne Flynn for leading the singing. Thank you to the parents who attended and were so responsible to have your children attend the practice sessions.

Our third event happened on December 8th. Women of the Church and their friends came to share a cup of Christmas Tea. This event has had a long history which began around 1999 when Alice Galyean suggested the ladies gather for an evening of peaceful relaxation during the hectic time just before Christmas.

We celebrate fellowship as well as a time to remember Alice. This year we had the pleasure of listening to the Stagg High School Choir as they performed some favorite Christmas music. We also had the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Santa Claus aka. Janet Pawlicki, as she discussed some of the more memorable times she experienced. She recalled the History of Christmas as told by her German Mother, her own memories and how wonderful life can be. There was a time to laugh as we played the Left/Right game and tried to make a pine tree without looking. Thank you to everyone who helped make this night such a success. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious treats for sharing during the tea. This truly was a peaceful relaxing time to share with old and new friends.

The committee will be busy planning the next family oriented event, the Lenten Program. It will begin in just a few months.

The committee wishes everyone a Prosperous, Happy New Year. May God's Love give you Peace and Happiness.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *We Celebrate*

### *January Birthdays*

- 10 Jacob Leake
- 20 Emily Raschke
- 29 Haily Wreza
- 31 Ronald Glockler



*Senior High*  
*Sunday School Class*

Conversation: The speaking together of two or more people. The exchange of words or ideas, "Conversing." What we say is an expression of who we are and who we represent.

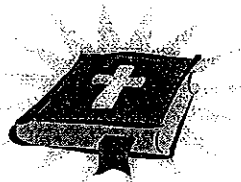
*Proverbs 29:11 "A fool vents all his feelings. But a wise man holds back his words."*

The person who talks the longest and the loudest has the least to say. 'Tis better to remain silent and appear a fool than speak and remove all doubt.

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak. But their echo's are truly endless"  
*Sister Theresa*

Regards,

C. Lou Pearson



Stories and More  
Welcome all 4, 5, and 6 year olds

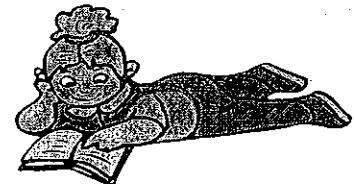
During this six week session of Stories and More we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. Books we will read: :

- There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly ( we used a puppet to reenact the story afterwards)
- This Is the Turkey by Abby Levine ( we made Pine cone Turkeys)
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin ( we made a coconut tree and put the alphabet letters in it)
- Careful Santa by Julie Sykes
- When Christmas Came by Eileen Spinelli ( we decorated gingerbread men cookies)

The music and dancing starts at 1:00 pm on Tuesday mornings with the Bean Bag dance and other songs like Can't Sit Still.

We are an on-going program and welcome new children into this free kindergarten preparation program at any time. For information call the church at 708 598-3100 or Patt at 630-679-0963.

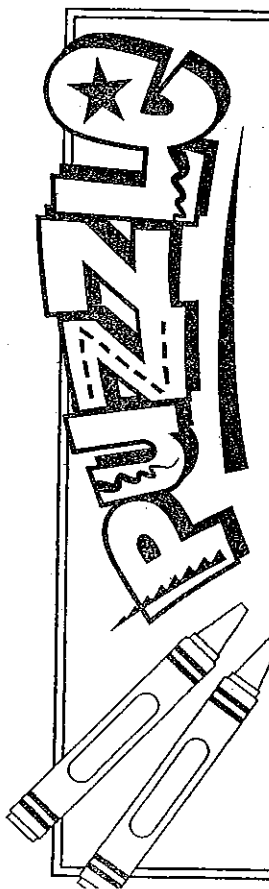
Leaders: Shirley Brunell, Linda Lavaretto, Dianne Flynn and Patt Pilgrim



**Sacrament of Holy Communion- Jan. 8, 2012**  
Note the date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month for Jan.

| SUNDAY        | USHERS                                 | LAY READER       |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| Jan. 1, 2012  | K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim,<br>R. Raschke    | Dave Delaney     |
| Jan. 8, 2012  | Dave LaCognata                         | Rick Vogl        |
| Jan. 15, 2012 | B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza,<br>M. Maranto | Scott Zimmerman  |
| Jan. 22, 2012 | D. Barker, D. Ciametti,<br>T. Morrell  | Kim Ambrosat     |
| Jan. 29, 2012 | S. Zimmerman                           | Kirk MacGregor   |
| SUNDAY        | COUNTERS                               | FELLOWSHIP HOST  |
| Jan. 1, 2012  | Susan Frangella                        | Gwen & Gert      |
| Jan. 8, 2012  | Susan Frangella,<br>Karen Hoffman      | Pearson/ Rehbock |
| Jan. 15, 2012 | Susan Frangella,<br>Sandy Beal         | Jackson/ Dritz   |
| Jan. 22, 2012 | Susan Frangella,<br>Shirley Brunell    | Fogg             |
| Jan. 29, 2012 | Susan Frangella,<br>Grace Muszynski    | Kahn             |


**Communion Servers: Kim Ambrosat, Darlene Delaney, Bev Kahn, Ivy Taebel**





# A caring disciple


In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.


**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.


  
 \_\_\_ adcltne \_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_ röhmtae \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ srgbape \_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_ rbieda \_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_ pehtshred \_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_ rdhaenica \_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_ fadoo \_\_\_

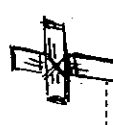
Her name in Greek


  
 \_\_\_ pdeesh \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ dchilnero \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ drove \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ acehtr \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ sarcos \_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_ nusoatinm \_\_\_



# JANUARY 2012

| Sun  | Mon  | Tues   | Wed  | Thur   | Fri | Sat                                |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1<br>10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education<br><u>Annual Report Articles Due</u>  | 2<br>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study<br>3:30 p.m. Kid's Club<br>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study                                | 3<br>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing<br>1:00 p.m. Stories & More<br>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care<br>7:00 p.m. C.E.<br>7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible<br>8:30 p.m. Apologetics | 4<br>9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care<br>11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>4:00 p.m. Food Pantry                        | 5<br>5:00 p.m. TOPS<br>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group  | 6   | 7                                  |
| 8<br>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed.<br>10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education<br>11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min.<br>3:00 p.m. Praise Team<br>5:00 p.m. REV<br>6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group              | 9<br>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study<br>3:30 p.m. Kid's Club<br>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study<br>7:30 p.m. Session Meeting   | 10<br>1:00 p.m. Stories & More<br>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care<br>7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible<br>8:30 p.m. Apologetics   | 11<br>9:00 a.m. Stammers<br>9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care<br>11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>4:00 p.m. Food Pantry | 12<br>5:00 p.m. TOPS<br>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group | 13  | 14<br>2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds |
| 15<br>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed.<br>10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education<br>11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min.<br>3:00 p.m. Praise Team<br>5:00 p.m. REV<br>6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group             | 16<br>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study<br>3:30 p.m. Kid's Club<br>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study<br>7:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting | 17<br>1:00 p.m. Stories & More<br>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care<br>7:30 p.m. REV<br>Committee Meeting<br>7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible<br>8:30 p.m. Apologetics       | 18<br>9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care<br>11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>4:00 p.m. Food Pantry                       | 19<br>5:00 p.m. TOPS<br>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group | 20  | 21                                 |
| 22<br>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed.<br>10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education<br>11:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting<br>3:00 p.m. Praise Team<br>5:00 p.m. REV<br>6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group | 23<br>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study<br>3:30 p.m. Kid's Club<br>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study<br>7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting  | 24<br>1:00 p.m. Stories & More<br>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care<br>7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible<br>8:30 p.m. Apologetics   | 25<br>9:00 a.m. Stammers<br>9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care<br>11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>4:00 p.m. Food Pantry | 26<br>5:00 p.m. TOPS<br>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group | 27  | 28                                 |
| 29<br>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed.<br>10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education<br>11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min.<br>3:00 p.m. Praise Team<br>5:00 p.m. REV<br>6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group             | 30<br>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study<br>3:30 p.m. Kid's Club<br>6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study                               | 31<br>1:00 p.m. Stories & More<br>6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care<br>7:30 p.m. Walk Through the Bible<br>8:30 p.m. Apologetics   |  |  |     |                                    |

# January Birthdays

- 1- Christopher Witek
- 2 - Jean Somerstorfer
- 4 - Stan Flynn
- 9 - Loretta Koch
- 11 - Mary Davis
- 11 - Enid Scholefield
- 17 - Sue Orsic
- 18 - Lou Pearson
- 18 - Richard Kahn
- 20 - Jennifer DelPrete
- 21 - Matthew Witek
- 21 - Andrew Witek
- 25 - Gwen Lopinski
- 31 - Jim Kupka

*Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...*

*708-598-3100 or*

*[HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org)*

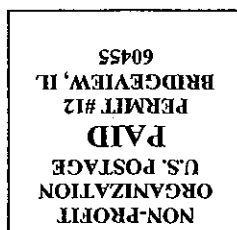
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



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