



# THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
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JULY 2009

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## From the Pastoral Nominating Committee

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*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

In November of 2007, seven members of this congregation were elected into a sacred trust to embark on a process of spiritual discernment to find God's direction for us in the next phase of our ministry.

In the hands of a few, you placed your trust, loyalty, prayer and faith. In return, we vowed to put forth significant time, energy, wisdom, and a desire to find the person that God has called to move Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church forward.

We knew it wouldn't be easy. Most of us were unfamiliar with the process, and wrestled with internal questions. Were we adequate enough to perform such a daunting task? Were we willing to give the time? The energy? The effort? What would the congregation think of the new pastor once introduced?

Over the months, as we built trust and fellowship, the process of discernment gained more clarity. We constantly reminded ourselves of what qualities the congregation wanted in a pastor, and how each candidate would fair in meeting those needs.

After reviewing nearly 200 Personal Information Forms (PIF's) of candidates from nearly all geographic areas of the country, male and female, different levels of experience, education, theological ideology and leadership skills; listening to taped recordings of sermon's, viewing sermons online, conducting conference call conversations, having face to face interviews, and having pulpit observations in nearby churches we knew God had led us to Rev. Derek Morrison.

Throughout the process, we experienced just about every emotion: hesitation, anxiety, frustration, indecisiveness, sadness, anger, worry, laughter and best of all joy as we came to realize God had led us to Rev. Derek Morrison.

We are very pleased to announce the return of a favorable congregational vote, to issue a call to Derek Morrison as Pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

Derek was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he lived through his high school years. After completing his engineering apprenticeship, he lived and worked in various parts of Scotland. Before being called to serve Christ, Derek was an engineer for 21 years for W.L. Gore and Associates (Gore-Tex), in England and in Newark, Delaware.

Derek came to know Christ as his savior through the ministry of a local Presbyterian Church in Newark, as well as the witness of some of his fellow workers who were committed believers.

After his conversion, Derek became very involved in ministries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Newark. The Lord slowly convinced him to return to Scotland to witness to his two daughters, and that is where he met his present wife, Loraine. They were married and two years later their daughter Ruth was born.

Although Derek and his wife were active in the Charlotte Baptist Chapel in Edinburgh, the Lord convinced him to resign from his business position and pursue theological education, with a view of entering full-time Christian service. Derek attended seminary in Northern Ireland and in St. Louis, Missouri. After earning his Master's in Theology from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, Derek accepted his first call at St. James Presbyterian in New Brunswick, Canada.

He joins us most recently from Westminster Presbyterian in Yakima, Washington. Prior to his interim position in Washington, Derek served in numerous capacities in several churches in Manteno, Illinois; Baxter Springs, Kansas; Springfield, Missouri; and as a pastoral intern at Olive Branch Presbyterian in St. Louis, Missouri. Although challenging at times, Derek believes that the longer he serves, the more he is aware of the Grace of God in his life, and the confirmation of His call to serve Him in a leadership role in His Church.

Aside from his pastoral calls, Derek has performed numerous other services, including being a member of the Administrative Commission of John Calvin Presbytery, a faculty member for Lay Pastor training in the John Calvin Presbytery, and President of the Baxter Springs Ministerial Alliance.

Derek believes strongly in the principles of the Reformed Faith through conviction, and has very strong skills in preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and visitation. His leadership style centers on relationship building, as well as equipping and training members to use their gifts to take part in the leadership of their church through committee membership or ordained office. Derek has extensive experience and loves teaching adult Sunday school, yet loves children and relates well to all age groups; he has initiated ALPHA courses, inner city children's ministries, pre-school and young family programs. In addition to his pastoral skills and experience, Derek brings with him a strong business background, including a high degree of administrative, organizational, human resource, conflict management, and management skill.

It is the strong belief of the PNC that Derek's gifts, personality, and experience are ideal to move us forward.

Lastly, the PNC wishes to thank you and pay gratitude for your unwavering prayers and patience during the entire process. It certainly provided a continued impetus for us to discern God's call. To God be the Glory.

HHPC Pastoral Nominating Committee

## PRAYER & CARE

“When the people willingly offer themselves-  
Praise the Lord!” Judges 5:2

Are we willing to offer ourselves in the library on Wednesdays at 9:00 am? To uphold others in prayer is such an easy ministry. We are to follow Christ by imitating His life, obeying His commands, and praying. See you on Wednesday morning...

Love ‘N’ Hugs,  
Arlene

## TWILIGHT PRAYER

If we lived in a perfect world, would we need prayer? I totally leave that decision to you. We find ourselves in an imperfect world my friend, and our circumstances are not noticeably improving. Help we do need! He listens, He cares, He loves you, He lives today. Join us if you please. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Regards,  
C. Lou Pearson

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with the Indoor Yard Sale. All the monies raised will go to help defray costs for the Kentucky Mission Trip.

We were able to raise \$3600 with everyone’s help.

The Spring Flower Sale was also a successful event for us. We were able to raise \$1200. This money will go to help with camp scholarships.

## HONDURAS FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who helped in any way by purchasing perennials, or eating the hot dogs that were sold the day of the Yard Sale. We were able to raise \$1650 which will go to help build a church in Honduras.

Please continue to help support our BBQ sales after 10:30 church services this summer. Keep your eyes and taste buds open for future dates.

## MAY 2009 Treasurer’s Report

General Fund Income  
\$22,730.00

General Fund Disbursements  
\$16,994.37

General Fund Balance  
\$2,142.00

### ***HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS*** ***Please Pray For:***

- The family of Ron Robison, in his loss
- The family of Dave Flegel in his loss
- Sue & Scott Orsic and family in the loss of his father
- The family of Chad & Christopher Miller in their loss
- Debbie Zimmerman’s mother, Carolyn, for health concerns
- Larry Haack’s father, Bill, for health concerns
- Rev. Muriel Miller for healing
- Rene Meyer and kids- concern for father and grandfather
- Carolyn Watson for healing
- John Morgucz for health concerns
- Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
- Carol Sack’s sister, Ruth, for health concerns
- Mary Tarter for health concerns
- Helen Recktenwald for healing
- Dorothy Allen for health concerns
- Joe Costello for strength
- Jim Kupka, for healing
- 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



# BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

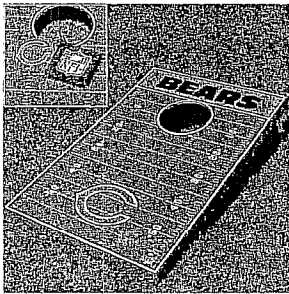
**Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009**  
**After REV**  
**Church Parking Lot**

Help raise funds to build a church in Honduras!

\$20.00 Entry Donation- Cash prizes!

We are seeking participants as teams of 2 and donations for raffle prizes.

Can you help or know someone who can?  
Contact Debbie Zimmerman (708) 458-1662 or  
Angie Simone (708) 638-1054



## JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Let's finish the "Lessons of Jesus" Banner!

Junior highs that worked on a square for the "Lessons of Jesus" banner, but did not complete attaching all of the parts to the story they were illustrating, can finish in the Junior High Sunday school room during church over the next few weeks.

Once the banner is finished, we can hang it up. Many thanks to all junior highs involved in this project for your creativity and hard work. It looks great!

Stories that may not yet be completed are:

- Faith of a Mustard Seed
- Calming the Sea
- The Good Samaritan
- The Lost or Prodigal son
- The Lost Coin
- Curing the Leper
- The Paraplegic
- The Lost sheep
- The Blind man

Have a great summer! Class will start again in September. Check out the Junior High Youth group article for a summer outing.

Patt Pilgrim



## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

**Mark Your Calendars for:**

**Friday, August 14, 2009**

**for a return trip to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.**

We will be leaving the church at 1:30 PM and will work from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. We will stop for a snack at McDonald's afterward, before returning to Hickory Hills around 5:30 or 6:00 PM.

We went there in May of this year and had a great time filling plastic bags with dried food consisting of chicken, vegetables, soy and rice.

The sealed packets are packed by us and sent to relief organizations in any one of 60 countries around the world.

The relief organization adds water and cooks up the packets and serves them to children they service in their country. Haiti is one of the countries that they service where there are many starving children.

This is a Christian organization doing a worthwhile service, but is dependent on volunteers to package and pack the food. It is a rewarding way to spend an afternoon. Hope we see you there!!!

Anyone interested in going, please contact Katie or Patt or call the church at 708-598-3100.

God bless you,  
Katie and Patt

## **A NOBLER SONG . . .**

*by G. R. Snow*

As it is July and we are in the throes of patriotic observances, with appropriate hymns and celebratory music, it may be appropriate to remember some of the origins of great national hymns—our own, and others'. One of those multi-application hymns is "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", and in our own congregation the tune's multi-national significance was emphasized when I had played some of the Charles Ives variations on the tune and one Canadian citizen approached me after the service thanking me for playing "God Save the Queen" for her. While it was a running joke between us for a few years, with each of us fully cognizant of the dual nature of the piece, nevertheless it may be important to realize that the song we learn in grade school (at least, I did—I don't know whether children still do) has a completely different significance to residents of past or present environs of the Commonwealth of Great Britain.

Some of us know the origins of the tune we know to the great text "The Star Spangled Banner". This was originally of much more humble origins before a nobler song was made of it—like many rousing songs which are part of our heritage, it was a drinking song entitled "Anacreon in Heaven." As mentioned at the ice-cream social, "Yankee Doodle" was originally a taunting song conceived by the British to poke fun at the (in their minds) crude rebels, but with typical American ingenuity the rebels adopted it as a marching song and composed many, many more verses (I encountered one version which listed twenty-seven verses telling about a young boy's visit to the bluecoats' military camp, including seeing a cannon fired and meeting Captain Washington).

Lest any should believe that the borrowing of folk songs and hymns for use as military and patriotic goes only one way, let me assure you this is not so. The great Irish bards' song "The Minstrel Boy" became a hymn extolling the saving power of the crimson blood of the Lamb. "Deutschland, Deutschland, über alles" appears in our hymnal as "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken", and the great Russian Hymn appears in many American hymnals as "God the Omnipotent". And, of course, various folk songs from the Isles appear with contemporary American hymntexts, including "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" (to the tune for "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon") and the Londonderry Air, which has had so many texts set to it that one loses track. The gentle Scots folksong

"Jon Anderson, my Jo" became a political satire against John Adams. "Greensleeves" became "What Child Is This"; the Welsh "The Ash Grove" became "To You, Lord, We Are Bringing A Song of Thanksgiving". American folk songs meet the same fate, as seen by the metamorphosis of "I Am Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" into the American gospel song "Great Speckled Bird".

Research into the first known church service in Marion County, Iowa (where I grew up; the service was held at the home of my great-great-great-grandfather), revealed that a hymn sung there was "Oh, Brothers, Will You Meet Me On Canaan's Happy Shore?" Imagine my surprise when I discovered it in an ancient and crumbling hymnal of my great-aunt's, to the tune we know as "Battle Hymn Of The Republic"! Many of us if asked could cite other texts for this tune, including "John Brown's Body" (and its parody which makes me cringe, "John Brown's Baby").

Obviously this is not an exhaustive list, and I am very afraid I would bore tremendously if I tried to compile such a list. But let us also remember that certain pieces which are rousing patriotic hymns were actually composed as such, including "God Bless America," written at the request of the celebrated soprano Kate Smith by composer Irving Berlin. She asked him for a song; when he brought it to her, she said, "You haven't written me a song. You've written me a new national anthem." And how many fireworks displays would be complete without a recording of this beloved American musical icon performing the piece written for her?

**BRAIN TEASER:** Which of the following lines appear in the "Star-Spangled Banner" text (remember, there are four verses!)? From what patriotic songs or hymns do the others come?

1. Our fathers' God, to thee...
2. O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand...
3. No refuge can save the hireling and slave...
4. Our fathers, chained in prisons dark...
5. In full glory reflected now shines on the stream...
6. Who more than self their country loved...
7. It was he who drew the fire of the enemy...
8. Make him one of America's best...
9. Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam
10. "Roderick vich Alpine, dhu, o! ieroe!"
11. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way...
12. Between their loved homes and the war's desolation
13. To shape our dreams, our destinies...
14. And ring through all the trees sweet freedom's song..
15. Thy mandates make tyranny tremble...
16. The thistle, shamrock, rose entwine...
17. A home and a country would leave us no more...
18. Stand beside her and guide her...
19. Our faith in mankind and the right!
20. And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

We are looking ahead to Rally Day on September 13. Therefore the discussion on people available and willing to take one or more Sunday School classes came up during the meeting. If you are interested in working with the children, please contact Dianne. She is in need of teachers for all three of the Sunday School quarters. She is especially interested in someone to work the first quarter, September to November. A teacher's meeting is scheduled for September 1st during the regular CE meeting at 7:30 PM. Teachers need to attend to pick up their curriculum and discuss the variety of resources available to them.

New and interesting changes have been made to the activities of Kids Club. It is scheduled to begin on September 14. Children will have more choices this year. There is time set aside for cooking, knitting, games, computer, and stories along with the favorites of snacks, gym games and crafts. The children who attend will still have a time for Christian Learning and songs. Thanks to Lou Pearson for designing a new brochure for us. Kids Club begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00 PM.

Immediately following Kids Club is the Youth Choir. Children who join the Youth Choir are treated to dinner. The Youth Choir learns new songs, harmony and even some elementary note reading. These children perform for the congregation on scheduled Sunday worship services. Children in the Youth Choir are expected to come to the practices each week and perform on the scheduled Sundays.

Patt Pilgrim is heading the task force for the new tutoring program at the Church. She is in the process of connecting with the local elementary schools. She plans to have tutoring offered to children in grades K- 2. There will

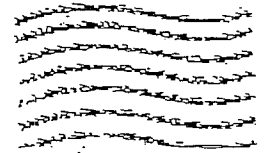
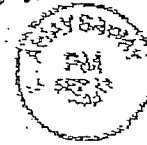
be opportunities for these young children to have stories read to them as well as a time to use puppets and their imaginations as they make stories for the group. School age children will have adults available to help them with homework activities and build reading skills. Patt plans to staff the tutoring program with people 3 days a week. If you are someone who can help in this new endeavor please contact Patt Pilgrim.

Well, the decorations are up. The children are registering for a week of adventure as we travel to Australia with Tricia and company. The group leaders are assembled and ready to guide their children as we travel through the church on our adventure. Thank you to Scott for the magnificent lighthouse. Thank you to all the people who volunteered hours to decorate the rooms. A special thanks to the ladies and their helpers who are going to teach us new and exciting crafts. Thank you to our favorite ladies in the gym who planned the recreation games we enjoy so much. June 15-19 looks like a very memorable week for everyone who attends. Hope you can be a part of this very special program.

A huge thank you to the people who donated to the emergency fund raiser for Camp Scholarships. More children who enjoy your loving kindness now have an opportunity to go to camp. Thank you to the several people who have anonymously donated money to Camp Scholarships. The children who received their scholarship money will enjoy new experiences and lifetime of memories, thanks to you.



# Write to Our Children at Camp This Summer



This is the information needed to send mail to our HHPC campers. Camp mail is delayed so please mail early. We recommend no later than July 20<sup>th</sup> for Mission Council 8 discovery and Adventure camp.

The format to use is:

Presbyterian Camps  
Child's Name (Specify MC8 Discovery or MC8 Jr. High)  
631 Perryman Street  
Saugatuck MI 49453

Every child appreciates mail while away from home.

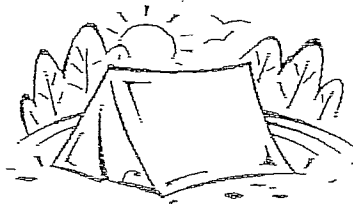
Thank you for taking the time to let them know you care.

Please remember NO FOOD is allowed - it invites unwelcome critters.

Discovery 11  
Mission Council 8  
August 2 - August 8

Yasmine Fox  
Jenah Fox  
Petar Ilic  
LeAnne Kommenich  
Stacey Lorenz  
Riley McKinney  
Nellie Prunty  
Veronica Swindle

Mini Camp  
June 23 - 27  
Eamonn Prunty  
Danny Orsic



**CAMP SAUGATUCK**



Adventure Camp 11  
August 2 - August 8

Leslie Ambrosat  
Tristan Grisko  
Gessica Grisko  
Alyssia Kommenich  
Brittany Maranto  
Ashley Maranto  
Natalie Orsic  
Halimah Prunty  
Natasha Swindle  
Kyle Zimmerman

**Sacrament of Holy Communion- July 5, 2009**

SUNDAY	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP HOSTS	LAY READER
<b>July 5, 2009</b>	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke		Dave Delaney
<b>July 12, 2009</b>	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman		Rick Vogl
<b>July 19, 2009</b>	F. Esparza, C. Maranto, M. Murray		Scott Zimmerman
<b>July 26, 2009</b>	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell		Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY	GREETERS
<b>July 5, 2009</b>	Susan Frangella		Carol Sack
<b>July 12, 2009</b>	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman		Carol Sack
<b>July 19, 2009</b>	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal		C. Sack, G. Ciametti, D. Kibort
<b>July 26, 2009</b>	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell		Carol Sack

**Communion Servers: Terry Brock, Chris Maranto, Patt Pilgrim, Rick Raschke, Harry Zimmerman**



# JULY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	2	3 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	6	7 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	8 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	9	10 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	11 Kentucky Mission Trip Departs
12 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV Aug. Newsletter Articles Due	13	14 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	15 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	16	17 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	18 Kentucky Mission Trip Returns
19 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship Honduras Fundraiser Hot Dog Cookout during Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	20 7:30 p.m. Session	21 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:00 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	22 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	23	24 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study	25 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
26 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons	28 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	29 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS	30	31	

## July Birthdays

**July** 1 – Kaylee Rys  
2 – Anne Pasquarella  
4 – Robert Swindle  
6 – Toni Kenealy  
7 – Theodore Atiedu  
7 – Gabriella Ciametti  
8- Joann Jackson  
8 – Elaine Molenaar  
8 – Becky Kusina  
11 – Hannah Bentley  
11- Hannah Bianchi  
13 – Gessica Grisko  
15 – Nellie Prunty  
18 – Matthew Moore  
19 – Andy Betterton  
22 – Dianne Flynn  
22 – Lucy Dumke  
23 – Diane Ciametti  
23 – Richard Anderson  
23- Brooke Bianchi  
23 – Justin Rellinger  
24 – Jack Costello  
26- Michael Crowley  
27 – Cindy Treccani  
28 – Eleanor Watson  
29 – Carri McKinney  
31 – Jared Anderson

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

708-598-3100 or [HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org).

\*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* electronically, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: [newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org) and we will place you on the mailing list. Thank you.

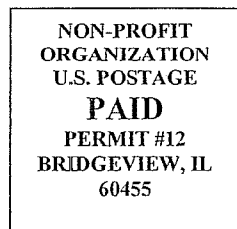
*Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished enjoying it. There are recycling bins located around the church. Thank you.*

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**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church**

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

**Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457**



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Do Not Hold**