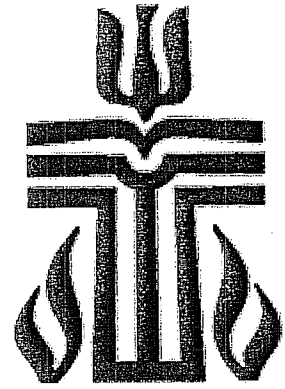




# THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St.  
Hickory Hills, IL 60457  
(708) 598-3100  
Fax (708) 598-3108  
Email: [HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org)  
[www.hickoryhillspres.org](http://www.hickoryhillspres.org)



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JULY 2010

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## Minor Ministerial Musings

Greetings! This is the first newsletter article I am writing as your new Designated Pastor. I am so excited to be with you and anxious to meet all of you, that I am writing my first article before I've even officially started! I'm doing this for a couple of reasons. First, as I said, I'm very excited about being the pastor of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, and I wanted to take the opportunity to give a little introduction, so that you might have some idea of who would be stepping into the pulpit next month. But there is another reason. I want to invite you to come to worship services and to get involved with fellowship and ministry opportunities at Hickory Hills! Maybe you come every week already. Maybe you come to worship, but haven't been involved in the church's other activities. Maybe, for whatever reason, you felt you needed a break. Maybe you were waiting for a new pastor. No matter which category (or none of the above) you may belong to, I want to invite you to come and worship with us!

I was asked a very interesting question during my introduction to the congregation. The question was this: "What is on your heart?" It was a beautiful question, because it leaves room to answer in so many directions. And it is an important question, because the answer lets you know what is important to me, and gives you the opportunity to respond with what is important to you.

Let me tell you what is on my heart as I anticipate the beginning of my ministry at Hickory Hills. I have a heart to serve Jesus Christ, and to serve the children of God. This was my response to the original question, but it was not the most complete response. There is a lot on my heart as I look forward to being your pastor. I am filled with excitement. I have heard so much about the missions and ministries of this congregation, and I can't wait to see them up close and personal. It is so encouraging to see in the weekly bulletin that the ministers of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church are all of its members and friends. It is wonderful to know that the whole congregation is involved in the work of God's kingdom!

I am also filled with hope. Anticipation. Nervousness, too, if I'm completely honest. Joy. Most of all, however, I am filled with the desire to continue to do God's work, to worship and praise and give thanks to God, and to work with God's people to love others as God has loved us.

I am eager to meet you all, and to come alongside this group of God's children to serve God together. Peace be with you, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

In Joyful Anticipation,  
Rev. Lara MacGregor

# Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

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8426 West 95th St., Hickory Hills, IL 60457 • 708/598-3100 • Fax 708/598-3108

May 20, 2010

Dear Members of the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church,

It is with great pleasure that the Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee (DPNC) announces that a candidate to become our next pastor has been found, **Lara MacGregor**.

Lara MacGregor was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where her parents still live. After graduating from Austin College with a B.A. in philosophy, she entered Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE) in Richmond, Virginia, graduating in 2002 with a M.Div. degree. After graduating from seminary, Lara served churches in Virginia Beach, Cape Charles, and Radford, VA. She met her husband Kirk, in Radford, and they were married in October 2008. Kirk is a professor of religious studies and now fills a one-year appointment at Western Illinois University. They currently live in Macomb, IL as he finishes his one year engagement. Lara has family in Austin, TX, and in Northern Virginia, in addition to her parents in Houston and her new in-laws in Defiance, Ohio.

Lara considers her call to ministry to include her love of music, as well as preaching, study, and pastoral care. Her study emphases in the past year have included comparing different hymnals, exploring the history of liturgy and worship and examining the importance of food to the Christian life. She has also enjoyed leading devotional and worship services as a volunteer. Raised in a congregation of several thousand members, Lara has enjoyed working and ministering with congregations and groups of many different sizes. She has worked in various pulpit positions in congregations of six to over four hundred. Her experiences have also included urban, suburban, and rural areas. Outside of ministry, she enjoys walking, swimming, cross-stitch, reading, and beating (okay, challenging!) her husband in Scrabble.

The DPNC wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and patience as we searched for our candidate.

The Designated Pastoral Nominating Committee,

Scott Zimmerman

Angela Ochoa

Donna Bredlau

Andrew Witek

Rick Raschke

David Delaney

Charley Huenecke

Bryan Ambrosat

Rick Vogl

## PRAYER & CARE



“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body.”  
Hebrews 13:1-3

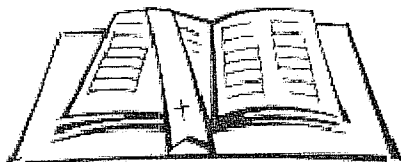
Does the prayer group have a mission? The above verses give some clues. For the record, strangers have come into the library to pray with us. We have contact with four women (including our own Jennifer DelPrete because Jenni asked us to pray for two of them). One of them asked us to pray for another.

One of our covenantal policies is, “What is said in here, stays in here.” Some people want their privacy. Others are very open about their needs. We try to oblige. It’s not as easy as you think.

For the past few years, my personal joy has been to hear more people 1) pray aloud, sharing their unique spirit; 2) openly share aloud their special need. That’s what real family members do.

Please remember the prayer request cards are in the pews for use. Please remember we are NOT a committee. We’re just prayer warriors open to prayer’s power.

Love ‘N’ Hugs,  
Ar



## TWILIGHT PRAYER

Wake up! Do you miss the wonder and glory of the world around you? Are you aware of what is missing in your life? Do you close your eyes to God’s blessings that surround your life? Embrace the goodness of your life and thank God daily for what He has given you so freely? Prayer brings you before Him in the wink of an eye. Come and join us as we together thank God for our many blessings and reach out to others in need through Him. Let us rejoice in who we are because of Him! We will be looking for you, don’t disappoint Him!

Regards,  
C. Lou Pearson

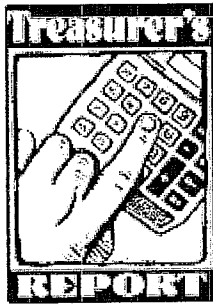
## HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS



Wally Golema for recovery from severe stroke,  
in Christ Hospital  
Gordon Home’s friend for health concerns  
Fran Nelson for successful surgery  
Arkansas flood victims & families  
Bangladesh flood victims & families  
Solution to the oil spill  
Phyllis Apitz for health concerns  
Donna Bredlau for healing  
Dennis Tarter for strength & direction  
Lorraine Meade’s sister-in-law, Ilomay, for strength  
Jude Borling for health concerns  
Harold McGowan for health concerns  
Aliya wants prayers  
Marie Hoffman for health concerns &  
continued improvement  
Carol Sack’s sister, Ruth, & brother-in-law, Wayne,  
for healing and strength  
Kevin McGuire for healing & strength  
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps  
Praise for “Georgie- Porgie” Vinalek  
returning home

Betty Kitching for healing & adjustment  
 Dorothy Allen for strength  
 Our service men and women and 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 9:00 a.m. We encourage you to  
 attend this  
 Vital Ministry of our church.  
 \*PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH\***

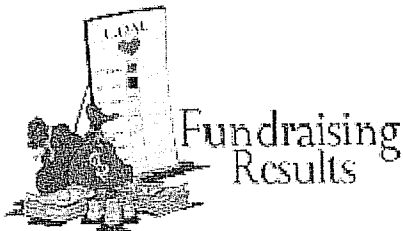


## MAY 2010 Treasurer's Report

### General Fund

Receipts	\$16,501.00
Disbursements	\$15,595.00

## 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 \$3,700 with everyone's help!

The Spring Flower Sale was also a successful event for us. We were able to raise \$1,335.00. This money will go to help with camp scholarships.

## Senior High Youth Group

**Sing unto the Lord a new song!** Music is so much a part of our lives. Many of our youth especially like to keep music center stage. This year, each person presented a song. They shared with us why they picked that particular song, what it meant to them, and how it can impact their life, or the life of those around them. We heard some truly wonderful music. We heard thoughtful ideas and had interesting discussions.

Some of the choices were from contemporary Christian artists. Some songs had a little harder edge than others. Most were very positive and uplifting. All of them made us think. We shared a visual interpretation of **Everything**, by Lifehouse with the REV service.

Find Me Here  
 Speak To Me  
 I want to feel you  
 I need to hear you  
 You are the light  
 That's leading me  
 To the place where I find peace again.

You are the strength that keeps me walking.  
 You are the hope that keeps me trusting.  
 You are the light to my soul.  
 You are my purpose...you're everything.

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?  
 Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

You calm the storms, and you give me rest.  
 You hold me in your hands, you won't let me fall.  
 You steal my heart, and you take my breath away.  
 Would you take me in? Take me deeper now?

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?  
 Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?  
 And how can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?

Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

Cause you're all I want, you're all I need  
You're everything, everything  
You're all I want, you're all I need  
You're everything, everything.  
You're all I want, you're all I need.  
You're everything, everything  
You're all I want, you're all I need,  
You're everything, everything.

And how can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?  
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?  
How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?  
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

How can I stand here with you and not be moved by you?  
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?  
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this?

Mandy Swindle and Megan Zimmerman have graduated High School. Congratulations to them! All of us wish them great success as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

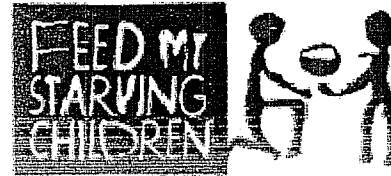
Another season of Senior High Youth Group has drawn to a close. We are hoping to gather for a few, informal, activities this summer. Perhaps a bike ride, or a musical event, is on the horizon.

We are already looking forward to starting back up in September. New faces will join us. Will one of the new faces be you? Will one of the new faces be some one you know of and refer to the group?

Rick & Jeni Vogl, Noelle Larsen, Mitch Huenecke

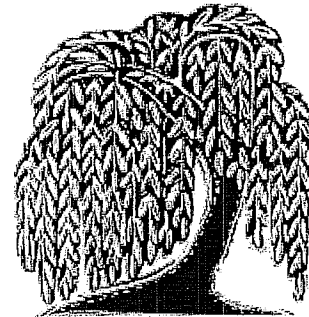


## JR. HIGH/ SR. HIGH OUTING



There will be an outing to Feed My Starving Children on August 21st, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
More details to come.

## SAVE A TREE!



\*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* by email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to: [newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org).

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for a Celebration Fellowship honoring Pastor Andrew & Pastor Emily Rosencrans.

They have been our pulpit supply for many months, and we would like to thank them for their time with us.

Please join us **Sunday, July 18, 2010**, following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

## **The Sybil of the Rhine**

by G. R. Snow

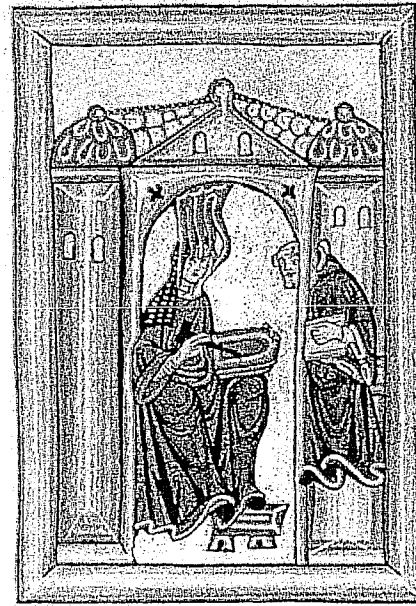
In a time when average human life expectancy was less than fifty years, and women were considered hardly better than property, the long life, superior education and profound respect enjoyed by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was indeed noteworthy. She was a composer, poet, visionary and author of thirteen books ranging in subject from theology, cosmology (explaining her theories about the natural order of the universe), histories of the saints and even medieval medicinal herbs and their uses. She was also an abbess, founder of two monasteries, and an important political figure—an astonishing record for a woman of that era.

Her creative work most notably includes the earliest medieval music drama for which composer and lyricist are known. This work, entitled *Ordo Virtutum* (ca. 1151 A.D.), is the only medieval music drama known to be by a woman. She also recorded three volumes of her visions (Scivias), which she stated she had been specifically instructed in her visions to write down. In addition, during the period from 1151 to 1158 she composed the largest sacred chant repertoire attributable to any single composer of the Middle Ages, known by the title *Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum*. These chants were composed for the nuns of her convents to use in daily worship services, which continued throughout the course of each day starting with Lauds (5:00 a.m.) and continued through the evening service of Compline. These sets of services, called the Divine Office, were all parts of the daily worship of Benedictine nuns of that century and subsequent centuries. Though most chant of this period was written in formal Gregorian modes, Hildegard deviated from this practice by writing works specifically for the female voice range.

Hildegard was born in Bimersheim, near Alzey in Germany, to a couple of noble rank. She was their tenth child and very sickly, and the couple, Hildebert and Mechtulde, dedicated her to the Church as a tithe and entrusted her to the care of the similarly nobly-born (and possibly related) Jutta, daughter of Count Stephan II of Spanheim in the Benedictine monastery at Disibodenberg. Hildegard took holy vows at age 15; twenty-three years later she succeeded Jutta as Mother Superior. With 18 other nuns she founded a monastery near Bingen about 1150 A.D. Approximately sixteen years later she founded another monastery at Eibingen.

Known as the “Sybil of the Rhine” because of her wise advice, she corresponded extensively with kings, emperors, archbishops and papal authorities at Rome. These included Henry II of England, Pope Eugenius III, Pope Anastasius IV, Archbishop Henry I of Mainz, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. In letters dating from 1163,

Holy Roman Emperor and German King Frederick I Barbarossa specifically refers to her, and it is from his references that we know she had assumed the title of Abbess (implying that the convent she had founded, which would initially be considered a priory, had achieved the status of an abbey).



Hildegard received some censure due to her opposition to new sects forming in the wake of church reforms. Her music is unparalleled in any other music of that time, with extreme attention paid to the relationship between music and text. Her texts have the recurring theme of “greenness”, believed to symbolizing the ever-renewing power of God in manifestation to the limitations of human eyes. There is also frequent reference to blood—the blood of Christ, blood of saints, blood of martyrs, blood of innocents. The time in which she lived was far more brutal than what we consider the norm in our society. She went on four different speaking tours in Germany and achieved a degree of public response quite unusual for a woman of that age.

Hildegard died on September 17, 1179 at the monastery near Bingen. Four separate attempts were made to secure her canonization as a saint, but this was never accomplished. She was, however, added to the Roman Catholic martyrology, and her life and works are celebrated on September 17. A 1997 biography hails her as the “prophet of the cosmic Christ”. Her name was given to a holistic healing network which focuses on the belief that spirituality, the arts and healing are closely connected. Perhaps a more impactful tribute to this very early woman church music composer is the presence of a division of the prominent Theodore Presser music publishing company called the Hildegard Press, which publishes the music of women composers of varying centuries. Furthermore, in 1998 a recording of her sacred chants and hymns topped the classical music charts.

# Write to Our Kids at Camp this Summer!



This is the information needed to send mail to our HHPC campers in Saugatuck.

Don't forget, camp mail is delayed, so please mail early!  
(We recommend no later than July 19).

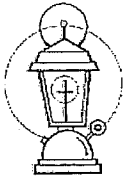
The format to use is:

Presbyterian Camps

Child's Name (Specify "MC8 Discovery" or "MC8 Adventure")

631 Perryman St.

Saugatuck, MI 49453

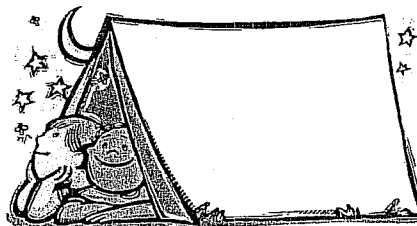


Every child appreciates mail while away from home.



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

Please remember NO FOOD! is allowed. (It invites unwelcome critters).



## **Discovery Camp II MC8**

**August 1- August 7**

Jenah Fox  
Yasmine Fox  
G.G. Giancana  
Petar Ilic  
LeAnne Kommenich  
Riley McKinney

## **Discovery Camp (Cont'd)**

Danny Orsic  
Eamon Prunty  
Nellie Prunty  
Frank Rodriguez  
Shaylin Rys  
Veronica Swindle

## **Adventure Camp II August 1- August 7**

Leslie Ambrosat  
Tristan Grisko  
Alyssia Kommenich  
Becky Kusina  
Ashley Maranto  
Natalie Orsic

## **Adventure Camp (Cont'd)**

Mallory Price  
Halimah Prunty  
Natasha Swindle  
Kyle Zimmerman

Happy Memorial Day and summer holidays to you!!

May 31, 2010

I hope that you are well and prospering. ...Wish we could get together more often! Please drop me a line when you have the time and bring me up to date on the latest with you and yours.

I have some additional news to share with you. As you know, Connie decided to take advantage of a career promotion opportunity and relocated to Atlanta. As written earlier, I've been staying with Rex in Santee, S.C. since December. I'm pleased to let you know that Connie and I have successfully completed "phase two" of our relocation to Atlanta. I am now residing in Atlanta, as well, and wish to send you my new contact information.

Because Connie works long hours and we know very few people in Atlanta, we decided that it will be best for me to move into an independent senior community located 15 minutes from Connie's apartment. This will enable me to meet seniors quickly and be able to participate in an assortment of activities offered by the community. The apartment building is located in the Buckhead area, where I am renting a one bedroom apartment on the second floor (one level up from the ground floor) that has a pleasant view of the residential neighborhood. It has a living/dining room, small kitchen, separate bedroom, bathroom and storage closets. I am first on the waiting list for a larger apartment, but this is what was currently available, so we snatched it. It has 2 large picture windows and lovely Eastern light. I moved into my new apartment over the weekend!

The apartment building is one of the *Presbyterian Homes of Georgia* senior independent living communities. Residents must be 62 years or older to reside here. Resident amenities include a dining room with chef. Within the building on the ground floor, there is a large living room with fire place, two bird sanctuaries and a fish aquarium. On the same floor, there is also a fairly large library with 4 computer stations for residents, a multi-purpose room with pool table and seating for church services and movies, a large dining room with big flat-screen TV, a hair salon (open 6 days per week), a small store that sells necessities (plus chocolate and ice cream!), the Presbyterian offices, public toilets and so on. The site slopes down the hill in the back and there is a fitness center with an on-site trainer on that level that has exercise equipment (treadmills, bicycles, weight-lifting, etc) plus a separate aerobics class room. It is an elevator building and on each resident floor there is a living room, laundry room and trash chute. Maintenance men and other staff are available to undertake odd jobs for us, as well. I have already met several of the ladies and gentlemen living on my floor and have visited some of their apartments. I plan to take advantage of the daily planned activities, games and bus trips offered and will also have a parking space for my own car. Connie and I are already planning weekend trips to nearby towns such as Savannah, Knoxville and lots of other places. Rex, Gina and Alyssa are doing fine and will all be spending the summer in Santee together, with the exception of Alyssa's trip to visit her sister in Texas for a month.

Connie loves her new job. She is responsible for 9 divisions in her department including facilities/plant operations, real estate services, planning/design/construction, clinical engineering (medical equipment), food services, environmental services, safety, security and parking/transportation for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Children's has 3 hospital campuses and several outpatient facilities in Georgia. As Connie's property is still on the market in Chicago, she continues to rent an apartment for herself here in Atlanta. With the economy as it is, it may take some time to sell the Chicago houses and be in a position to buy property in Atlanta afterwards. (I may have to have another knee replacement surgery. Will know in late June. Stay tuned...)

Here are our Atlanta addresses. **Please note that I have a new telephone number: (404) 317- 9085.**



**Eva Jean Nestor**  
479 East Paces Ferry Road NE  
Apartment # 204  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
Phone: (404) 317- 9085



**Connie Nestor**  
1425 Rock Springs Circle  
Apt #3-1408  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
Mobile Phone: (708) 404-4724

Connie and I wish you a wonderful summer! ...hope you will find the time to visit us once we're settled in "the old south"! WELCOME !!!

Love always,

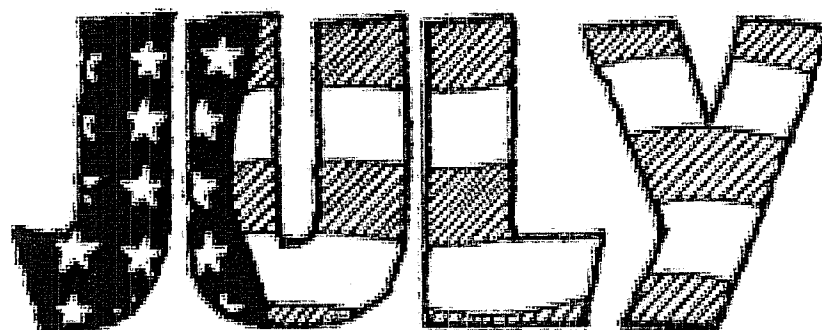
*Eva*

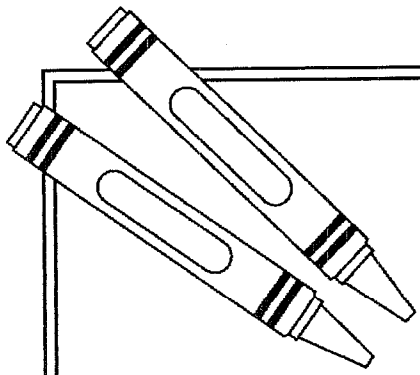


**PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL DATE!**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion- July 11, 2010**

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
July 4, 2010	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
July 11, 2010	T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman	Rick Vogl
July 18, 2010	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Scott Zimmerman
July 25, 2010	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Terry Brock
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	NURSERY
July 4, 2010	Susan Frangella	
July 11, 2010	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
July 18, 2010	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
July 25, 2010	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

**COMMUNION SERVERS- K. Ambrosat, S. Brunell, G. Home, J. Vogl, R. Vogl, D. Zimmerman**





# Just for **KIDS**

## The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START ▶ (1) b a s m L t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r

a v f F l i s s e u h t c T n s a R r q b p e o h n t M e L

w m x a y n Z r a e A m b a C i d n e s F i f n m m n e o a p

e c b a l l r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i j l i d Q n p

d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

"↓ \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5, NIV

Answer: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

# JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 p.m. TOPS	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	5	6 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing  6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	7 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	8  6:00 p.m. TOPS	9	10 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
11 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV <u>Aug. Newsletter Deadline</u>	12  7:30 p.m. Session	13  6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	14 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	15  6:00 p.m. TOPS	16	17 Kentucky Mission Departs
18 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	19  7:30 p.m. Outreach	20 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	21 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	22  6:00 p.m. TOPS	23	24 Kentucky Mission Returns
25 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	26  7:30 p.m. Deacons	27  6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	28 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care	29  6:00 p.m. TOPS	30	31

## July Birthdays

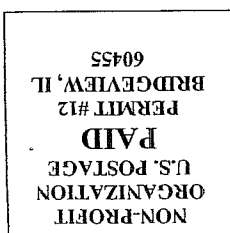
July 1 – Kaylee Rys  
4 – Robert Swindle  
6 – Toni Kenealy  
7 – Theodore Atiedu  
7 – Gabriella Ciametti  
8- Joann Jackson  
8 – Elaine Molenaar  
8 – Becky Kusina  
11- Hannah Bianchi  
13 – Gessica Grisko  
15 – Nellie Prunty  
19 – Andy Betterton  
21- Kyle Ambrosat  
21- Jarett Ambrosat  
22 – Dianne Flynn  
22 – Lucy Dumke  
23 – Diane Ciametti  
23- Brooke Bianchi  
23 – Justin Rellinger  
24 – Jack Costello  
26- Michael Crowley  
27 – Cindy Treccani  
28 – Eleanor Watson  
29 – Carri McKinney

Any omissions or errors should be reported to the church office...  
708-598-3100 or [HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org](mailto:HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org).

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

**Dated Material  
Do Not Hold**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church  
8426 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457**