



THE CONNECTING LINK



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 W. 95th St.

Hickory Hills, IL 60457

(708) 598-3100

Fax (708) 598-3108

www.hickoryhillspres.org

Email: HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org

JUNE 2012

Minor Ministerial Musings

"For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enable3d you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:9-12).

When God created the earth and all that is in it, including us, God gave the first woman and man a charge. They were charged with the care of creation. And that charge of stewardship applies to us today. As part of our stewardship of God's creation, it is important to remember that creation includes humanity. We are called to be stewards of ourselves and of one another.

One of the most important ways that we can be stewards of one another is to lift one another up in prayer. A hallmark of Paul's letters to the various churches in scripture is prayer. With one exception, he begins his letters with an expression of prayer for the church to whom he is writing. He prays for wisdom, for strength, for perseverance, and for growing knowledge and faith, for these new communities of followers of Christ.

When we pray for one another, we are called to pray for the same things. And remember that Paul was praying for communities of Christians, some of whom he had never met. He was praying, not only for friends, but for strangers. We are called to do the same. In fact, we are called to pray for the *world*, not just for Christians. We are called to pray for the salvation and strength and wisdom and growth of all of humanity.

And we are called to pray, not just for spiritual needs, but for physical ones as well – health and safety and peace, enough to eat and drink, shelter and home and job, companionship and love. This is what it is to lift one another up in prayer. This is what it is to be prayerful stewards of one another.

But this is where the question once again becomes vitally important: What are we praying *for*? In other words, what do our prayers actually accomplish, and what do we hope they will accomplish? Is it the case that if we pray hard enough for someone to get well or be healed, they will get well or be healed? What happens when our prayers for one another's welfare are not answered in the way we would hope? We pray and pray for someone who is out of work, and yet she still cannot find a job. We pray and pray for someone to recover from an illness, and he dies despite the doctors' best efforts and our best prayers. We pray for peace, yet there is still war and violence all over the world. We pray for openness to Christ's saving grace on behalf of someone who refuses to believe.

As we have seen before, it is not the words of our prayers, or even the level of hope and earnestness behind them, that determines their outcome, or God's action or will. That would mean that God's power and sovereignty isn't really God's, but ours. Instead, prayer for one another

strengthens our relationship to one another, and to God. As we pray for one another, we are reminded of our charge to be stewards of one another and to care for one another. We are called not only to pray for justice and welfare for all, but to enact our prayers through our actions on behalf of others. Prayers for one another remind us of our dependence on God, not only as the giver of life and of all of our blessings, but as our refuge and our hope in all of the circumstances of life. When we are lifted up in prayer by others, we are encouraged and strengthened in our circumstances by the knowledge that we are loved and cared for. As we pray for one another, we are reminded to pray that God's will be done, and we are reminded that God loves and cares for us no matter what happens.

One of the most profound statements on prayer that I have ever heard was said by a parishioner who was battling cancer. "God's going to heal me," she said. "Whether it is this side of heaven or the other, I don't know, but I know God will heal me of this cancer." She said this shortly before she died. While I know that her loved ones miss her still, and were praying for more years with her on earth, I also know that she is free of cancer, and that she is with God. Just because we don't get what we *want*, doesn't mean we don't get what we pray for, when we are praying for God's will and God's grace, being prayerful stewards of one another as we are called to be. Let us pray. See you in church Sunday!

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

- Grace Muszynski's friend, Nancy Eklund for health concerns
- Tom Treccani's aunt, Florence Ziehm, for health concerns
- Marie Hoffman's family on her passing, especially Mike
- Bob L. for health concerns and wife Karen for strength
- Paul for health concerns and wife for strength
- Charley Huenecke's cousin, Mary Zywicki, for health concerns
- Jean Swearingen for recovery and healing
- Harry Richer's sister-in-law, Shelly, for healing
- Gert Vickers' grandson, Mike, for health concerns
- Arlene Kasper's mother, Geraldine, for health concerns
- Jerome Panko for health concerns
- Jim Kupka for health concerns & Marcia for strength
- Ruth, Carol Sack's mom, for health concerns
- Matt's neighbor, Tom, for health concerns & encouragement
- Dave LaCognata for strength to move forward
- Margaret Dawson, Jimmie's aunt, for health concerns
- Ralph Pontrelli for health concerns
- Melanie Swindle's neighbor's sister, Kaya, for health concerns
- Katie Crowley's friend for health concerns
- Darlene Kibort's daughter-in-law, Carla Murray, for health concerns
- Mary Richer's son, Larry, for health concerns
- Donna's daughter-in-law's mother, Barbara, for health concerns
- Bev & Linda Kahn for strength, & Richard Kahn for health concerns
- Toni's son, Jerry, for health concerns
- Praise for Katie's friend, Jason's heart transplant surgery & continued prayers for healing
- Dave Barker's mom Blanche for health concerns
- Mary Davis for health concerns
- Susan's friend, Leda, for strength
- Ruth Hill for healing
- Susan Richardson's family on her passing & her husband Pete for strength
- Daniel Esparza for continued healing
- Ivy Taebel's son, Dan, for healing
- Judy MacGregor, Kirk's grandmother, for health concerns

- Kevin McGuire for chemo
- Wilda Duncan's friend, Kelly, for lung transplant
- David Krueger for health concerns
- The Krueger Family for strength
- Donna's friend, Gail Hensen, for health concerns
- Lenora Warren for health concerns
- Bob Nordstrom, Sr., for health concerns & strength
- Harry Zimmerman for health concerns & strength
- Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
- Dorothy Allen for strength & healing
- Our Service Men & Women and their families
- Policemen, Firemen, 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 9:30 a.m.**

**We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.**

PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH

*God
Answers
Prayers*

PRAYER & CARE

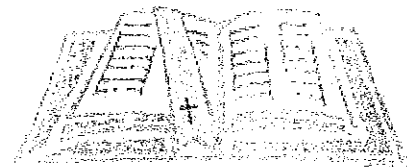
"...if my people who are called by my name
humble themselves, and pray and seek my face..."
2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (RSV)

On May 3rd at 12:30 p.m., 10 of us were in the sanctuary as service of prayer on the occasion of the National Day of Prayer. What a beautiful, stirring half hour! Near the end of the service, we were invited to pick up a stone and place it at the foot of the cross along with others from the April 29th REV Service.

My sincere apologies for not having advertised the above sufficiently.

Love 'N' Hugs,
Arlene

P.S. World Day of Prayer will be JUNE 27 at 12:30.
See you then!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come."

PROVERBS 31:25 (RSV)

Fifteen women gathered for lunch in church for a scrumptious meal lovingly provided by the attendees. Our impromptu program allowed each of us to share a portion of our journey with God. As is our custom, we held hands while each of us prayed. What joy! We miss you Shannon Bastien, Carol Heins, & Micki Kluska.

Please join us when we resume our class in September with Ecclesiastes.

Love 'N' Hugs, Arlene



Make this Father's Day card using
some of your dad's favorite candy.

What you need:

- Wrapped candy or candy bars
- Poster board or large piece of cardboard
- Markers
- Clear tape

What you do:

1. With an adult, purchase a variety of candy.
2. Using poster board and markers, create a poem or letter for your dad. Include the candy name(s) in your message. For a Snickers bar, you can write, "I love to snicker at your jokes!" For an Almond Joy, you can write, "Wishing you lots of joy this Father's Day!"
3. Tape the candy to your giant card and present it to your dad on Father's Day.

Christian Education Meeting

†

Everyone who attended the Family Night held on May 4th will tell you it was a great night. Almost 60 people attended this event. A delicious dinner was served by our own cooks, Jean Swearingen and Dianne Flynn. Afterwards, there was a presentation by Dave Dinaso. He brought along 15 amazing animals for everyone to touch and learn about. He gave information about the animals as well as directions on how to behave near them. He allowed anyone interested to come and touch the animals. There was a tortoise who walked among the audience. There was a snake as long as two tables. There was an iguana which sat upon one of the audience's head. There was a tarantula spider people were allowed to hold. A fun night for everyone. Hope we can see you again in the fall for the Fall Family Night.

The Cookie Monster Bake Sale had all proceeds go towards Camp Saugatuk Scholarships. It was a great success due primarily to the congregation which has always been so generous. So far we have 7 students who will have an opportunity to attend camp with your generous donations. Thank you to the people who put up the tables and took them down. Thank you to the people who collected your money and weighed the cookies. Thank you to everyone who donated their favorite cookie recipes and time to make a batch for this event. Last but not the least, thank you to the people behind the cookie display who placed those delicious cookies into the take home containers. What a delicious way to share with Mom on her special day.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the May 20 worship service. We

will be recognizing the volunteers who have worked to make the Christian Education programs a success for the year 2011-2012. We will honor the graduates: Brian Haack, Noah Krueger, Matt Gulotta, Karl Haack, Michael Watson, Katie Treccani. We will honor the children who are promoted to new classrooms: T.J. Devries, Karrington Wreza, Bobby Devries, Jayden Kenealy, Leo Wreza, Jacob Morrell, Gabriel Meyer, Danny Orsic, Hailey Wreza, and Brian Haack. The Christian Education Committee will provide the food for the refreshment table.

It seems that May 20th will be the ending date for most of the Children's Programs. Sunday School will not be in session for the summer and will resume in September. Sr. High Youth Group will have its last meeting on May 20. Jr. High Youth Group will end on May 17 with an outing to PGN. Stories and More held its last meeting on May 8. Kids Club ended on May 14. A Walk Through the Bible/ World Religions ended on May 8. The Women's Bible Study ended on May 14. The Young Adult Group ended on May 7. Prayer Shawl Ministry will end on May 27. Stampers will continue to meet during the summer depending on the schedule of each member. Check with Barb Brown for meeting dates. The Adult Sunday School Class will continue to meet this summer.

VBS is right around the corner. That means you should be seeing some of the scenery which will transform the church East Room, Fellowship room, Gym, hallway and classrooms into a new and wondrous place. Our theme this year is Amazing Wonder Aviation. Tricia and Company will be here to lead the music and lessons. They have new songs to share and lessons which will guide you to thinking more about this wonderful

world we have been given. Be sure to stop in June 11-15 and add your energy. We begin at 6:30 PM and end at 8:30 PM. Bring \$6 and a bag of cookies for your admission. The groups will be divided by age so the lessons will be more appropriate. There will be crafts for each day. There will be games in the gym. Come join us. This program is planned for children Age 4 through completed grade 6. Children who are older may contact Dianne Flynn for assignments as guides and craft room helpers. Hope to see you for VBS.

One Great Hour of Sharing was collected on Palm Sunday. Donna Bredlau reported that our children and church members donated approximately \$122.00. Thank you to everyone who helped fill a fish bank and gave so generously. This is one of the many ways the Church can reach out to those who are needing assistance.

We Celebrate
June Birthdays

- 3 Mark Gulotta
- 6 Leah McLaughlin
- 11 Katie Wheeler
- 14 T.J. Devries
- 28 Christy Caruso



Are you curious about the manse? Do you know where the manse is? Did you work on updating and repairing the manse? Are you curious about where the pastor lives? Have you ever been to the manse?



COME TO THE MANSE!

Come by for an Open House at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church Manse, and the home of Pastor Lara and Kirk MacGregor

9001 S. 83rd Avenue, Hickory Hills

Friday, June 22, 2012 6-10 p.m.

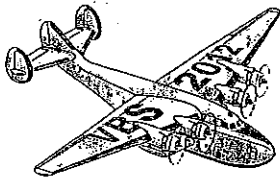
Saturday, June 23, 2012

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come and go, come and stay, come and see how wonderfully you have provided for us!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday through Friday
June 11 - 15
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Awesome!
God!
Amazing Power!

Special Guests - Tricia and Company

TALK ABOUT ADVENTURE!!!

Mark your calendars
And tell your kids to invite their friends!!!

Vacation Bible School - A Week Not to be Missed!!

For a week kids from our church and community will join together for "Amazing Wonders Aviation - Encountering God's Awesome Power".

You're clear for takeoff at Amazing Wonders Aviation! Come join us as we fly to some of the world's greatest natural wonders and encounter God's awesome power! As we fly around the world, kids will takeoff from the Worship Rally Hangar, to participate in crafts at the Great Barrier Reef, Recreation at the Grand Canyon, music at the Matterhorn, Bible study at the Victoria Falls and enjoy snacks at the Paricutin Volcano.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, with special guests Tricia and Company. It will be an outstanding week. *This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6.* Tell others about this week.

Cost for this week of fun and learning is \$6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time. To register call the church office (598-3100) and ask for Dianne.

**RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MAY 20, 2012**

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

**PRESCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN
GRADES 1-5**

Megan Zimmerman

JUNIOR HIGH

*Beverly Kahn
Patt Pilgrim*

SENIOR HIGH

*Gordon Home
Lou Pearson*

ADULT CLASS

Dave Delaney

MUSIC

Cheryl Huenecke, Dianne Flynn

**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT**

Donna Bredlau

**SUPERINTENDENT

*Dianne Flynn

**JUNIOR HIGH
YOUTH GROUP**

Mitch Huenecke, Katie Treccani

**SENIOR HIGH
YOUTH GROUP**

*Jeni Vogl, Rick Vogl, Mitch Huenecke
Katie Treccani*

**WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY**

Arlene Pearson

**A WALK THROUGH
THE BIBLE**

Kirk MacGregor

WORLD RELIGIONS

Kirk MacGregor

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Kirk MacGregor

KIDS CLUB STAFF

*Jarett Ambrosat
Shannon Bastien
Linda Lavaretto
Grace Muszynski
Nicole Ouimet
Mike Swearingen
Debbie Zimmerman
Megan Zimmerman
Student Assistants
Ashley Maranto
Brittany Maranto
Sarah Swearingen
Substitute - Shirley Dragus*

Director - Dianne Flynn

NURSERY STAFF

*Beth Kommenich
Linda Rys*

YOUTH CHOIR STAFF

*Diane Ciametti
Dianne Flynn
Cheryl Huenecke
Jean Swearingen*

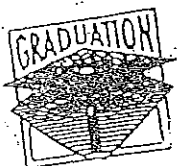
STORIES AND MORE

*Shirley Brunell
Linda Lavaretto
Dianne Flynn
Director - Patt Pilgrim*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jarett Ambrosat, Kim Ambrosat, Shannon Bastien, Donna Bredlau, Cheryl Huenecke, Beverly Kahn, Linda Lavaretto, Patt Pilgrim, Jean Swearingen, Sarah Swearingen, Cindy Treccani, Debbie Zimmerman, Megan Zimmerman



Congratulations to Our Graduates

*Brian Haack
Noah Krueger
Mark Gulotta
Karl Haack
Michelle Krumpolt
Michael Watson
Katie Treccani*

*Palos South Middle School
Paxton Buckley Coda High School
Argo Community High School
Stagg High School
Stagg High School
Schaumburg High School
Concordia University*



2012 CHURCH SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

To 1st/2nd Grade
T.J. Devries
Karrington Wreza

To 3rd/4th Grade
Bobby Devries
Jayden Kenealy
Leo Wreza

To 5th Grade
Jacob Morrell

To Junior High
Gabriel Meyer
Danny Orsic
Hailey Wreza



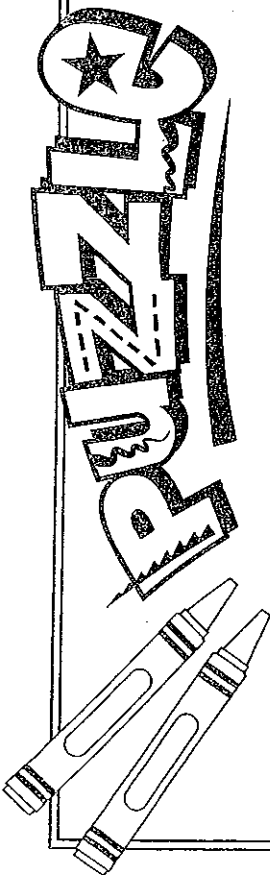
To Senior High
Brian Haack



Sacrament of Holy Communion- June 3, 2012

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
June 3, 2012	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke	Dave Delaney
June 10, 2012	D. LaCognata	Rick Vogl
June 17, 2012	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	If you are interested in Lay Reading, please see Pastor Lara. Thanks!
June 24, 2012	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Kim Ambrosat
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	
June 3, 2012	Susan Frangella	
June 10, 2012	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	
June 17, 2012	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	
June 24, 2012	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	

Communion Servers: Dave Delaney, Jean Swearingen, Ivy Tachel



★ A FATHER'S ★ INSTRUCTION

★ Although babies don't come with instructions,
★ God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, and the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

" ... 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2
6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3
5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1
4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3
3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1 "

EPHESIANS 6:4, NIV

Answers: "... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

JUNE 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	4 7:30 p.m. Session	5 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	6 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	7 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Interim Choir Rehearsal	8	9 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
10 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV July Newsletter Deadline	11 *** VBS *** 6:30-8:30 p.m.	12 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care *** VBS *** 6:30-8:30 p.m.	13 9:00 a.m. Stammers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry *** VBS *** 6:30-8:30 p.m.	14 5:00 p.m. TOPS *** VBS *** 6:30-8:30 p.m.	15 *** VBS *** 6:30-8:30 p.m.	16
17 <u>Father's Day</u> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	18 7:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting	19 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	20 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	21 5:00 p.m. TOPS	22 Manse Open House 6-10 p.m.	23 Manse Open House 10am-2pm
24 Hickory Hills Street Fair 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	25 7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting	26 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care	27 9:00 a.m. Stammers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 11:45 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer Service 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	28 5:00 p.m. TOPS	29	30

Make a "Zoo Treat"



You will need:

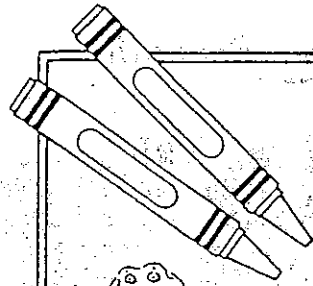
- ⊙ a medium bowl
- ⊙ a mixing spoon
- ⊙ sandwich bags with zip tops
- ⊙ measuring cups

Mix:

- 1/2 C. raisins
- 1/2 C. round candy-coated chocolate candies (M&M's)
- 1 C. peanuts
- 2 C. animal crackers (graham or plain)

Mix all together in a bowl. Put in bags to take with you.

Enjoy!



Just for KIDS



Let's Take a Trip!

Imagine that you are visiting a zoo in biblical times. What kind of animals would you find?

Unscramble the letters below to find some biblical animals. Check the verses to check your answers.

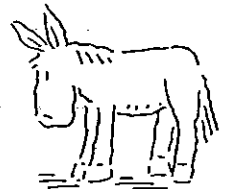


- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| _____ pae | _____ ntlaoepe |
| _____ atb | _____ lcaem |
| _____ dnyoke | _____ eplorad |
| _____ gfor | _____ roshe |
| _____ wlo | _____ aotg |
| _____ brae | _____ eder |
| _____ xo | _____ zirald |
| _____ otksr | _____ gzleael |
| _____ niol | _____ yeanh |
| _____ art | _____ eswale |
| _____ whak | _____ hesep |
| _____ mra | _____ iepgno |
| _____ dveo | _____ aclett |



Deuteronomy 14:3-5
Deuteronomy 14:15-18
Genesis 12:16
Genesis 15:9
Isaiah 13:22
Leviticus 11:29-30

1 Kings 10:22
1 Samuel 17:34
Genesis 22:3
Genesis 47:17
Revelation 13:2
Exodus 8:3



Unscramble the words below. Write the words on the numbered lines.

1. LA

2. SHM

3. EAR

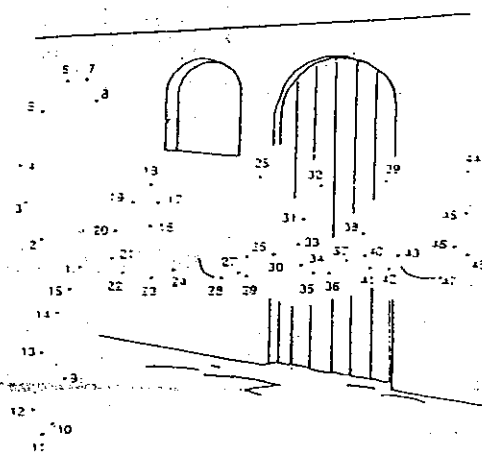
4. CIP

5. THW

6. OGD

The disciples were in a room together. The door was locked. Suddenly someone was with them!

CONNECT THE DOTS



June Birthdays

June 2 – Ed Zabelka
3 – Ivy Taebel
6 – Driton Semani
8 – Barbara Monczynski
12 – Amanda Swindle
14 – Cheryl Huenecke
14 – Alvin Swearingen
15 – Ryan Krueger
16 – Karen Hoffman
19 – Bob Nordstrom
20 – Leonard Van Vossen
23 – Roger Patterson
23 – Mary Richer
23 – Megan Zimmerman
27 – Linda Lavaretto
29 – Hanna Treccani
29 – Thomas M. Morrell
29 – Joe Simone

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

708-598-3100 or
HHPC@hickoryhillspres.org

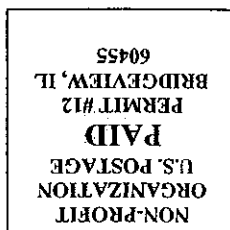
*If you wish to receive *The Connecting Link* through email, and no longer receive a paper version, please send an email to:
newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org
and we will place you on the mailing list.
Thank you.



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

**Do Not Hold
Dated Material**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street
Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457