



THE CONNECTING LINK

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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MAY 2009

Celebrating HHPC!

I knew a little about HHPC in the first moments of arriving here and hearing stories of this congregation's life. The opening rounds went to the kids because they were everywhere – Kids Club, Sunday School, Junior High, High School, kids in worship morning and night, kids eager for the Haunted House, kids at Family Night. As the months have unfolded, kids keep showing up in new places – reading in worship, teaching in Sunday School, speaking out at Children's Time, joining the church, going to a nursing home, taking over Lent on Wednesday evenings. Kids, kids, kids – so many great ways to enjoy HHPC.

What I didn't know when I first touched HHPC was the dedicated corps of volunteers who reach out locally to carry out the mission, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ serving our neighbors. We soon reached the beginning of PADS last fall and I was bowled over by the loyal legion who give money, prepare food, show up and give some scores of homeless folk satisfaction. Later I realized where the Jones Center is, who's going weekly, what special events draw our time and money and gifts and prayers to make life good for scores of children and families in Chicago Heights. And all along I kept learning more and more about the Fund for Human Need and the easy way HHPC has of helping people in need – one by one by one by one.

I heard about Kentucky in those opening days, but it was still vague beyond the overflowing enthusiasm and widespread participation. Then I heard stories – stories of lives changed, stories of eyes opened, stories of souls transformed, stories of dreams awakened. Only gradually could I comprehend the impact on our daily life as a congregation, our

extension into Honduras, our living God's love here on the southwest side of Chicagoland.

And my beginning info never included any appreciation for all the groups I'd keep running into all week – Cancer Sewing, Stampers, Prayer and Care, Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Prayer Shawl. And they keep expanding – Christian Caregiving, Fireproofing your Marriage. What a pleasure to tell a new guest on Maundy Thursday – YES, there's a group for you – when do you want to come?

So, my friends, wherever we go – HHPC will be sure to show.

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

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

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

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

The PAST

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

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

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

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

The FUTURE

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

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

My plea is quite simple – LOVE this congregation's future. The more we complain, bitch, disparage, attack, belittle, etc. etc. etc. our future, the more we put ourselves out of balance, misdirected,

uncoordinated, blind. It is one thing to make plans for our future, it is another to LOVE it.

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

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

Peace,

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

We are called . . . to SEEK God's WORD

One of the great things about Hickory Hills is the readiness of people to dig into the readings from the Bible – to ask questions, to see connections, to hear God speaking to us. So I invite you to consider your time well spent in taking a few moments each day to read part of the passage for Sunday's sermon and let it seep into your soul.



May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Mark 10:1-31 & John 8:1-11

Divorce, adultery, children, money – yes, Jesus does have a lot of things to say about families. On this day for the Festival of the Christian Home, on this Mother's Day, on this opening for Family Week – can we listen, can we hear, can we live what Jesus says?

May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday – Proverbs 3

Prosperity, Medicine, Corrections, Happiness, Long Life, Safety – otherwise known as WISDOM. We have a whole book in our Bible that specializes in being wise, how to get it, how to keep it, and what benefits it brings. Do we recognize these things in ourselves?

May 24 – Seventh Sunday of Easter /

Memorial Day –

Genesis 17:1 – 18:15

Covenant, agreement, contract, promise, offer, deal – what is God offering us? The story of Abraham always pulls us back into the center of God's ways and the focus of God's plans. This story circles around the issue of children – will we have them? Then what?

May 31 – PENTECOST - Acts 2 & 3 & 4:32-37

Whew! When the Spirit comes, watch out! People speak out. Folks gather. Leaders speak up. Essentials get shared. God and people connect. Life tingles. When we walk into this story, heads turn, bodies move, feet dance, hands wave, and voices are lifted in strange new ways to announce the fullness of God's powerful presence. Join the party!!

Warren Wiggins, Interim Pastor

PADS UPDATE

The Hickory Hills Restaurant is closed for vacation. All our employees are certainly deserving of some time off as they have worked diligently for the past seven months. All the dishes are stacked neatly in the pantry along with the pots and pans. The silverware, by the way, was plastic, no need to save. It's very evident there is no food left for another meal as our guests consumed every morsel.

It's time for a special thank you to each and every supporter of our restaurant. You know who you are and how you have contributed to this worthy cause. The job you have done could not have been done by anyone else as you have put your signature to your purpose and desire to serve. I salute you all and say, "A job well done."

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson



PRAYER & CARE

"Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded..."
Jeremiah 31:16

In these troubled times let us not forget God doesn't overlook what we have to offer. In Christ, God will use us if we stick to Him like glue. We will not become undone.

Come to the library to show your support in praise/petition: Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.

"Prepare your hearts..." I Samuel 7:3

Love 'N' Hugs, Arlene

TWILIGHT PRAYER

We pray for a neighbor recovering from a recent heart attack.

We pray for a soldier recently injured in the line of duty.

We pray for a ghetto child who has lost all hope.

We pray for that murderer who by mistake killed a friend.

We pray for a world in crisis, the problem will be solved.

We pray for "You" because you have a need and we love you!

Have we missed anyone? Maybe you have a special friend who needs our prayers and support? Join us please:

Tuesday Evenings 6:30 p.m.

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Summer (DelPrete), Aaron, & Zoe Neal
9020 W. 93rd St.
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Helen Recktenwald
Manor Care
600 W. Ogden Ave.
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630-325-9630

Dorothy Scholefield
Villa Franciscan
210 Springfield
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-3400
Her room # 815-553-1315

Dave Ulrich
557 Huntsbridge Rd.
Matteson, IL 60443
708-720-2977

MARCH 2009 Treasurer's Report

General Fund Income
\$18,522.00

General Fund Disbursements
\$18,527.00

General Fund Account Balance
\$1,704.00

Building and Grounds Update

As a result of some recent security issues we are implementing new safety procedures with our offering and our church building.

The locks have been changed. New keys have been issued and we have record of them by number.

We are asking that each committee and group be sure doors are locked and closed tightly each night, after their meetings or events.

Everyone's cooperation will help us keep our building more secure.

Thank you,
Building and Grounds Committee

How to Welcome Visitors

Here are some comments I have received recently about Sunday welcoming:

- "The associate stood at the door and said, 'Have a nice day,' in a voice that clearly showed the person cared not a whit who we were."
- "We were ignored."
- "The pastor couldn't muster the courage to ask for my name."

These could be exceptions, and exceptions don't prove rules, as they say. But they do underscore the importance of solid fundamentals in Sunday greeting.

Here are seven basics for welcoming visitors:

1. Greet at the front door (and at other doors people regularly use). Exchange names.
2. Practice will vary, but in my opinion, primary greeters should include the clergy. They need to know who is worshiping today.
3. Don't pounce on the visitor. Extend a warm, respectful welcome.
4. If adults arrive with children, explain where children normally go (to a pew with their parents, or to a children's service, or to a class). This should be brief and intended to be helpful, not to impose barriers. An escort could be helpful.
5. After worship, greet again at all exits. This time, ask the visitor to fill out a card with two blanks: name and e-mail address. Perhaps telephone number, too, if that isn't considered intrusive in your context. You can get other information later. Some churches put these cards in the pews. Either way, you want to capture this information before they leave. Otherwise, you can't make a response.
6. During the next 24 hours, make a personal contact with the visitor. This could be an e-mail, a telephone call, or a drop-by visit. Whatever works best in your context. The point is to acknowledge their visit right away, invite them to come again, direct them to your web site for more information, and offer to meet with them, perhaps for coffee.
7. Enter data in a tracking system, so that you can follow their movement toward affiliation.

Every context is different, of course, and you will want to "test and measure" what works in yours. Be assured, however, that ignoring visitors will never work.

Moreover, a church that executes well in greeting visitors is more likely to handle other membership development ministries well. On the other hand, a church that can't be bothered to greet visitors won't communicate trustworthiness and openness.

Reaching Within to Reach Out...GET READY!

"It's difficult to see yourself as others see you." ... "Perception is reality". ... "The only constant is change..."

Have you ever heard those old sayings? I know I have, many times. There is a great deal of insight in these statements, and it certainly holds true for all of us at HHPC.

Have you ever wondered how "others" see us? Or maybe you've thought about the Church's perception in the eyes of the community? Your family? A Guest? A Visitor? Or even the person sitting next to you?

And that *dreadful* "C" word.... CHANGE. Think about your life. Where would you be without change? Sociologists have studied this very subject for many years, as well as the reaction, acceptance (or lack thereof), and how to properly influence change. Undoubtedly, those who choose to embrace change for the reason of improving circumstances or situations, and not just for the sake of change, end up having a more positive outlook. Conversely, those who do not are left bitter and embattled.

We all have a certain degree of fear, hesitation or trepidation when asked to step out of our "comfort zone" and do new things or meet new people...however, economic times, the state of our Church, the community, and our polity require us to explore and change...are you ready and willing to accept it?

So the question is...what role do you play in the

future of our Church? Where is your talent (and we all have one)?

- Is it serving on the Mission, Fellowship, or Building and Grounds Committee?
- Is it singing in the Choir?
- Is it mentoring a Junior High youth or a Young Adult?
- Is it leading a couples group or a young mothers group?
- Is it creating a LOCAL mission?
- Is it becoming an Usher?
- Is it greeting members and visitors, or following up with them after a visit?

The steps we take over the next year will be critical in determining the future of this Church and of this congregation; a progressive movement has to take place...and it involves every single member of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church.

Do we stay complacent, and just "hope for the best"? The answer is an unequivocal and resounding, "NO!"

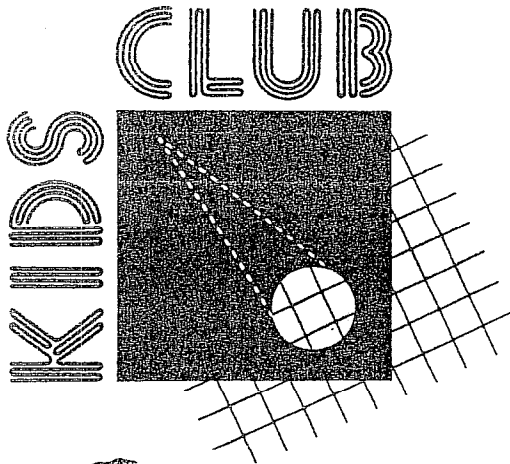
There are a multitude of dreams and aspirations floating through the minds of this congregation, big and small, of what we can become; the potential is here, the talent is here, the giving of one's time is here...the time to do it is **NOW!**

So what's within you? How can you reach out to be more open, more inclusive, more inspirational, more welcoming, more connected to those ideas and people you may not know "all that well"? How do you do it? Just look around you at all this place has to offer-reach out to someone!

Only by looking and reaching inward can we seek to reach out to others...**GET READY, GET SET, GO!!**

Wishing you all Peace,
Adam Schwake





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

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

During the month of May our weekly lesson time will be centered around the following story lines:

Beat the Clock - Learning to Serve

Clear Signals - Communication

Pep Rally - Encouraging Others

Congratulations to the winners of Bible Memorization for the month of March.
Good Work!

Gold winners - Jessica Leake, Alexis Ternig, Ryan Saeler, Hollie Fox, Kayla Wagner, Ashley Smith, Yasmine Fox, and Christy Caruso.

Silver winners - Kaily Simpson, Jenah Fox, Neal Lancaster, Maya Garcia

Bronze winners - Ashley Maranto, Breona Smith, and Vittorio Simone

Just a reminder that our Spring Family Night will be held Friday, May 1st. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a catered dinner. We are honored to welcome the Roberts Marionettes. Their presentation of the "Secret Garden" is an event you will be sure to remember. After the show we will be allowed to see the puppets up close and ask questions. During the next few weeks we will be preparing for this event in KIDS CLUB by reading the story and participating in crafts and other activities centered around the "Secret Garden". We encourage you to invite friends and enjoy this extraordinary evening together. The program is designed for young and old alike. Tickets for this event are on sale now.

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 15 - 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For a week kids from our church and our community will join together for "Boomerang Express - It All Comes Back to Jesus". Our excursions will take us on an adventure as we participate in Bible stories, recreation, snacks, learn great songs, crafts, and much more! Tricia and Co. will be returning as our special guests for this week. Tell others about this week!!

The last day of KIDS CLUB for this school year will be Monday, May 18th. This will be a day of celebration as we rejoice in all that we have shared this year. KIDS CLUB will resume in September.

Peace and Joy,

Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

†

Have you set aside May 1st to attend the Family Night at the church? The dinner menu is set, all that is missing is your reservation for the evening of fun and great fellowship. The Roberts Marionettes are coming to present "Secret Garden." Your children will delight at this performance with actual puppets. It will be a version specially designed for the children. The Roberts Marionette theatre has been performing in the area for at least 20 years, maybe more, and they have delighted hundreds of children wherever they perform. We are sure that this is an evening worth remembering and you would not want to miss the fellowship and great food planned for the evening. So be sure to sign up so we can prepare enough seating for everyone. Dinner will be served before the show at 6:30 PM.

Our Cookie Monster Bake Sale is scheduled for May 10th. It is just in time to make some of your favorite recipes and bring them for sale at the church bake sale. All proceeds will go to Camp Scholarships. Be sure to treat Mom on her Special day with a dozen or more of her favorite cookies. The members of the Jr. High Youth Group will be waiting behind the tables loaded with delicious cookies to assist you in choosing only the best cookies available. Be sure to stop downstairs after the 10:30 AM worship service to make your purchases. Anyone who has not volunteered to make a batch of cookies but is still interested in doing that may wish to contact Dianne.

Both youth groups are busy in following months. The Sr. High Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped setup, take down, cook and serve dinner. All the proceeds were given to help finance future activities for the Sr. High Youth Group. The Jr. High Youth Group just enjoyed the weekend at the church in a lock-in on April 17-18. It seems that everyone involved had a wonderful time of fellowship, well, maybe almost everyone. I guess not many people had

time to sleep at the lock-in so maybe the adults did not have as great a time as the Jr. Highs. Both youth groups are planning mission trips in early May. They will attend "Feed My Starving Children" on May 2nd. and will attend the AWOL on May 8-9 where they will receive their work assignments and proceed to their site for the work day.

Recognition Sunday is scheduled for May 17th during the 10:30 AM worship service. It is a day to thank all those who worked so hard to make the Christian Education programs so successful. This year as in years past, the lists of workers seems endless. Their dedication to the programs designed for the adults and children of the church shows their great passion and energy. We encourage anyone who wishes to join us with their new ideas and energy to join us. On this special Sunday, the Graduates will be recognized as well as all the children from the Youth Choir and those with Perfect Attendance in Sunday School. Children who are members of the Youth Choir will be joined by the local children for "Our Kids Sing" during the worship service. Please have your children at church to join their voices and give a final gift to the congregation for the 2008-2009 worship.

Women of the Women's Bible Study will miss Pat Brady as she steps down in her leadership role. A final meeting will be on May 11th. The group will miss her leadership and her ideas but sincerely hope that she can still be a part of the discussions.

Good news for children interested in going to camp. Sue Orsic has reported that there are close to 20 children registered for camp this summer.

Another way to help promote camp for the children is to purchase flowers from the Fund Raiser. Final orders were taken on April 19th. Pick up for the orders is May 3 between the hours of 9 AM and 1:00 PM. There will be a limited selection of flowers in case you forgot to

**TOP OFF YOUR SUNDAY
IN STYLE**

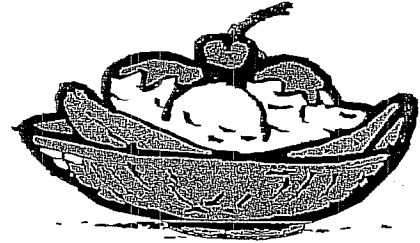
With an evening of

MUSIC...

FELLOWSHIP...

&

ICE CREAM!!



Sunday, June 14, 2009

6:30 p.m. following REV Worship

An annual event sponsored by the

Senior Choir

get your order in on time. All the proceeds will benefit the camp scholarship fund.

June 15-19 is the week we will have Tricia and Company join us for Vacation Bible School. Our trip will take us to Australia on the "Boomerang Express." It will be a week filled with new songs, crafts, and lessons. Be sure to register with Dianne so your children won't miss this week of fun and adventure. Anyone interested in becoming a guide for one group or helping in a craft room should speak to Dianne. Children ages 4 to grade 6 are invited to attend. Anyone of the Jr. or Sr. High group is invited to speak to Dianne to be a guide or helper. We meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM to divide into groups and leave around 8:30 PM.

The cost for the week is \$6.00 and a donation of one package of cookies.

**COOKIE MONSTER
BAKE SALE**

MAY 10

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

*Hosted by the Junior High Youth to
Benefit the camp scholarship fund*

- * Remember, it is Mothers Day! Wouldn't it be nice to surprise her with a gift of homemade cookies?
- * Stop by on your way out of church and pick up some cookies to enjoy all week!! The money raised from this cookie sale will help to fund the week of summer camping at Camp Saugatuck.
- * If you are interested in making cookies for this event, please contact Dianne at the church office 598-3100

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The month of May has two great opportunities for community service for the Junior High Youth Group

On May 2

We will meet at the church at 12:30 PM. We will car pool for mission work at **"Feed My Starving Children" in Aurora, IL**. Our shift to work is from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. There is no cost to the junior highs to go except if you want to bring a small amount of money to stop at McDonalds afterwards for a snack and to talk about our day. We need a signed permission slip from your parent or guardian for you to go. There is a limit of 20 junior highs so get your permission slip in early! Below is a quote from their website.

" At FMSC your session will begin with an orientation. As you package meals by hand for the world's hungriest children, you will discover a deep sense of service and community. Volunteers often are surprised at the number of meals they are able to pack in a short time, realizing that each meal feeds a child for a day. In 2007 volunteers packed 40 million meals that were distributed in 60 countries."

On May 8-9

We will meet at the church at 4:30 PM. We will car pool to Fourth Presbyterian church, Chicago IL for mission project **"A.W.O.L."(A Work Of Love)**. The even starts at 6:00PM on Friday and ends at 4:30 PM on Saturday. The cost is \$25.00. The covenant and medical release forms (signed by parent or guardian) must be returned to the Hickory Hills youth leaders by May 1st. there is no limit to amount of junior highs that can go.

"A Work of Love is a one-day mission immersion experience sponsored by the Presbytery of Chicago. Friday includes games, group bonding and worship in preparation for Saturday's mission project"

We will be working with the ICH (Interfaith Council for the Homeless) that ends homelessness for families and individuals by offering hope, help and housing. On Saturday we will serve lunch and continue service projects until 4:30 PM.

On May 21st

potluck dinner with junior highs and their parents at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian church. This will be our last meeting until September, 2009.

Adam Schwake, Katie Treccani, Patt Pilgrim
Junior High Youth leaders

JUNIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We continue to study the life of Jesus and the different lessons he taught through parables he told, healings he did and his death and resurrection. We read from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We have begun work on a banner to depict these events and will be working on the banner for the next several weeks.

Some of the stories on our banner will be:

Feeding the 5000
Healing a Blind man
Healing a Leper
Calming the Sea
The Lost Sheep
The Mustard Seed
The good Samaritan
The Prodigal Son
The Lost Coin

We thank Kim Ambersat and Melanie Swindle for helping us put the banner together. All the junior highs will be working in community to complete the banner. They are Kyle, Sarah, Brittany, Ashley, Emily, Kaylee, Tristian, Halimah, Natalie, Alyssia, Natasha, Jessica, Adam, John, Becky, Stephanie, Erik, Megan, Kyle and Katie.

We Celebrate Birthdays And Perfect Attendance

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 David Hall
John Kemp
3 Courtney Freiberg
8 Noah Krueger
9 Adam Fox
17 Tom Krumpolc
20 Gigi Gianaca

KIDS CLUB BIBLE VERSES FOR MAY

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Romans 12:11

†

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up.”

Ephesians 4:29

†

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

How many medals can you win?

Memorize two verses to win the Silver medal.

Memorize all the verses for the month to win the Gold medal

MARCH PERFECT ATTENDANCE

3rd and 4th Grades
Veronica Swindle

Junior High
Sarah Swearingen
Natasha Swindle

Senior High
Gabriella Ciametti
Gina Ciametti
Mike Swearingen
Sam Swearingen
Amanda Swindle
Andrew Witek
Matthew Witek
Megan Zimmerman

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

- When in sorrow - *read John 14*
When people fail you - *read Psalm 27*
When you have sinned - *read Psalm 51*
When you worry - *read Matthew 6:25-34*
Before the church service - *read Psalm 84*
When you are in danger - *read Psalm 91*
For the blues - *read Psalm 34*
When God seems distant - *read Psalm 139*
When discouraged - *read Isaiah 40*
When doubts come - *read John 7:17*
When you are lonely or fearful -
read Psalm 23
When you forget your blessings -
read Psalm 103
For Jesus' idea of a Christian -
read Matthew 5
If faith needs stirring - *read Hebrews 11*
When you feel down and out -
read Romans 8:31-39

Sacrament of Holy Communion- May 3, 2009

| SUNDAY | USHERS | FELLOWSHIP HOSTS | LAY READER |
|---------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| May 3, 2009 | C. Pilgrim, R. Raschke | Majersky, Orsic | Dave Delaney |
| May 10, 2009 | T. Brock, T. Lane, H. Zimmerman | Richer, Sack | Rick Vogl |
| May 17, 2009 | If you are interested in Usher on 3 rd Sun., see Scott Zimmerman | Wiggins, Rys | Scott Zimmerman |
| May 24, 2009 | D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell | | Terry Brock |
| May 31, 2009 | S. Zimmerman | | Lisa Radetski |
| SUNDAY | COUNTERS | NURSERY | GREETERS |
| May 3, 2009 | Susan Frangella | Sarah Adams | Terry Brock |
| May 10, 2009 | Susan Frangella Karen Hoffman | Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys | |
| May 17, 2009 | Susan Frangella Sandy Beal | Beth Kommenich, Linda Rys | |
| May 24, 2009 | Susan Frangella Shirley Brunell | Lori Haack, Carri McKinney | Gina Ciametti |
| May 31, 2009 | Susan Frangella, Grace Muszynski | If you are interested for the 5 th Sun., see Dianne Flynn | |

Communion Servers: Kim Brock, Gordon Home, Charley Huenecke, Rick Raschke, Harry Zimmerman

Raising funds for Honduras

A new group of missionaries will be heading off to Honduras this year to complete the last project for the folks in the tiny Village of Los Ranchos.

Their request is to have a Church. Not a church like ours: a big building, with carpeting, padded pews, an organ and air conditioning. Not even windows. But to them an answer to prayers.

Just a building approximately 25 x 60, assembled out of hand made Cinder blocks.

Along with this mission project we are able to exchange the materials for a house for the land owner that donated the property for the church, masons, interpreters and the family who donated the land necessary for the church to be built.

So along with the church project there will be a water pila, 2 latrines and a small cinder block house.

Not everyone can go to Honduras understandably, but anyone is welcome to be a part of the Mission. We will be having various fundraisers as the year goes on. The proceeds will be helping to enable those that will be going to build the church, encourage the village people and build up the lives of those in Los Ranchos.

SPRING FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, May 1
6:30 p.m.

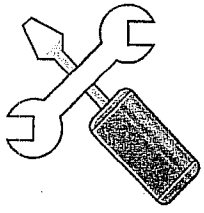
Mark your calendars now and begin planning for our Spring Family Night, the last family night for this year.

On Friday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m., we will host a fun filled evening complete with a catered dinner and entertainment by Roberts Marionettes Puppets. Their presentation of "The Secret Garden" is sure to be long remembered by all. After the play, we will be treated to a demonstration of the puppets and how they work. A question and answer time will follow the program.

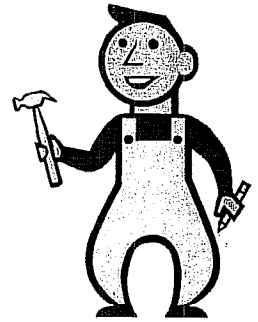
This evening is open to everyone. The tickets can be purchased after church on Sundays, or during KIDS CLUB hours on Mondays. Cost for the evening;

| | |
|--|---------|
| Adults - | \$6.00 |
| Students (12 and under) - | \$3.00 |
| Children (4 and under) - | no cost |
| Maximum of \$20.00 per immediate family | |

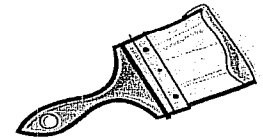
Questions? - Call the church office and ask for Dianne



Mission Council 8
WORK DAY
At Jones Center



Saturday, May 9th
8:00-1:00



We'll have breakfast and then begin doing some maintenance projects at the Center.

Come join us.
It is a great day of fellowship
and
a wonderful way to serve.

Please email debbiedennis@comcast.net by May 1st if you plan to attend. We need to be able to plan for food and jobs to be done.

YARD SALE DONATIONS

It is time again for HHPC's Annual Indoor Yard Sale to raise money for the Kentucky Mission Trip!!

We will be accepting donations during the following days and times:

Wednesday, May 20th thru Sunday, May 24th
Dropoff only-please place donations in lower level classrooms

Dropoff and Pricing (we need helpers)

Monday, May 25th 9:00am to 12:00pm

Tuesday, May 26th 9:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 27th 9:00am to 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 28th 9:00am to 7:00pm

ACTUAL YARD SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 29 9:00AM—3:00PM

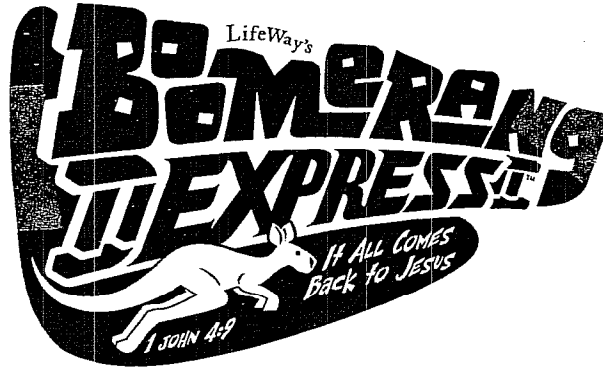
SATURDAY, MAY 30 9:00AM—1:00PM

IN ADDITION TO DONATIONS, WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SALE THE WEEK OF MAY 25TH THRU MAY 30th.

TOGETHER WE CAN HOST A WONDERFUL FUNDRAISER!!!!



Just a Reminder



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday through Friday
June 15 - 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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 "Boomerang Express - It All Comes back to Jesus". Pack your gear, prepare to take a thrilling ride across the land down under. As kids wind their way across Australia, they'll discover the vastness of God's love, and learn that no matter where they go or what they do in life - it all comes back to Jesus. Our five day adventure includes story and discussion time, crafts, recreation, snacks and music.

This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6. .

Cost for this week of fun is \$6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time. Call the church office (598-3100) to register.

MAY 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 9am-1pm Flower Sale Pick Up 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p> | <p>1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. C.E. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p> | <p>9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS</p> | <p>6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p> | <p>6:30 p.m. Family Night 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p> | <p>8:30 a.m. Building & Grounds</p> |
| <p>10 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Cookie Monster Sale 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV NO Sr. High Youth Group June Newsletter Articles Due</p> | <p>11 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:30 p.m. Session</p> | <p>12 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p> | <p>13 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> | <p>14 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p> | <p>15 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>17 Recognition Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Education 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group</p> | <p>18 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir 7:00 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. Deacons</p> | <p>19 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p> | <p>20 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> | <p>21 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p> | <p>22 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study</p> | <p>23 Plant Sale Outside- Honduras Fundraiser</p> |
| <p>24 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV Plant Sale outside</p> | <p>25 Memorial Day</p> | <p>26 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Care 7:30 p.m. Fireproof Study</p> | <p>27 9:00 a.m. Prayer & Care 10:30 a.m. Stampers 5:00 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> | <p>28 8:00 p.m. Handbells</p> | <p>29 Indoor Yard Sale 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.</p> | <p>30 Indoor Yard Sale 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.</p> |
| <p>31 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV</p> | | | | | | |

Katie Treccani
6011 Birmingham
Chicago Ridge, IL
(708) 650-6618
Email: Trop82@yahoo.com

Dear Family and Friends

I hope that God has been treating you all well. This letter is in regards to an opportunity that I have to go on a mission trip to New York City from July 18-July 24, 2009 with SpreadTruth Ministries. While there, we are going to be working on various tracks. We will be working in a basketball camp, soccer camp, a vacation bible school as well as a group in the streets working prayer stations for the people in New York. For more information on the trip and what each "track" will entail please visit http://nycm.spreadtruth.com/?link=trips_summer.

I would like you to become personally involved with me in the short-term mission trip in two ways: financial support and prayer support. Most importantly, this trip will not be possible without prayer support. I need you to pray concerning:

1. we do not know what all we will face spiritually
2. that God would protect us financially and make this trip possible for everyone going
3. that finances at home will be covered during the time we are away
4. safety on the trip there and back
5. safety on all of the "tracks"
6. for us to spread the word of God to those there that do not know Him.

If you would be willing to partner with us in prayer or financial support would you please let me know by filling out the bottom part of this letter and mailing your commitment to my home address which is listed at the top by June 1, 2009. If you would like to talk to me about this mission, please feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance.

In His name,

Katie Treccani
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

I will partner with you and begin praying for your trip

I will partner with you financially

(You may make your checks payable to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church and please put Katie Treccani in the memo line, this way your donation will be tax deductible. Otherwise make them payable to Katie Treccani)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

May Birthdays

May 3 – Myrnalyn Delalamon
4 – Adam Schwake
5- Ken Dritz
6 – Mildred Neil
6 – Kady Raschke
9 – Jennifer Ross
10 – Francine Costello
10 – Colleen Hall
11 – Wilda Duncan
11 – Michael Watson
13 – Kathleen Freeman
14 – Paulina Zharare
15 – Ginger Mercer
25 – Terry Brock
25- Pat Crowley
26 – Greg Majersky
27- Darlene Kibort
29 – Karen Golema

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* electronically
and no longer receive a paper version,
please send an email to: newsletter@hickoryhillspres.org
and we will place you on the mailing list.

HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Mary Richer & family in the loss of her
son in law, Terry
Carol Sack's sister, Ruth, for health concerns
The Krueger Family in the loss of
David's nephew, Cody Krueger
Dorothy Scholefield for healing
Mary Tarter for health concerns
Helen Recktenwald for healing
Scott Gehle for healing &
Jackie Gehle for strength
Joe Costello for strength
Christine Fox's mother for health concerns
Frank Esparza's sister & brother in law, Ruth & Joe-
Joe for health concerns
Gerald & Joyce Waller for health concerns
Carolyn Watson for health concerns
Ruth Hill & her daughter, Tracy, for health concerns
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

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church

8426 West 95th Street

Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457

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