

Worship at HCC April 2011

Sunday, April 3, 10:30 a.m.
Service of Holy Communion
John 9:1-41
Was Blind But Now I See

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Breath of Hope

Sunday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday
with Parade of Palms
Psalms 118:1-3, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

Thursday, April 21
Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Musical Service of
Tenebrae
8:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil through
the night

Friday, April 22
Good Friday
12:00 p.m. Simple Prayer Service
4:00-7:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, April 24
Easter
8:00 a.m. Outdoor Service
10:30 a.m. Festive Worship
Service, Sanctuary

Tidings is published monthly by Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ. The printed version is produced on recycled paper. A full-color electronic version is available via e-mail. Send a request to tidings@hillsdaleucc.org to be added to the e-mail list. *Tidings* is edited and designed by Tim Ditch.

Make the Holy Week Journey

Holy Week is a time to remember and recall Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, as we recall the suffering of all innocents who suffer in injustice and the promise of hope and new life that God offers to all.

The week begins with **Palm Sunday** worship at 10:30 a.m. on April 17. There is a parade of palms (or ferns, in our case, since we are always striving to be green and local) for the children during the children's time.

Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae service is a stunning and moving service of music, narration, and gradual darkening of the Sanctuary. The choir will be presenting Joseph Martin's powerful *The Weeping Tree*. The service begins at 7:00 p.m.

An all-night prayer vigil at the church follows the Tenebrae service. This is an opportunity for you to continue the awe, mystery, and challenge of the service. Volunteers will be able to sign up for two-hour time slots that begin at the close of the service and conclude at noon on Good Friday. Vigil-standers will use the time to contemplate Jesus' gift to us by surrendering his mortal life on the cross. Suitable biblical and secular materials will be provided as well as prayer suggestions. You may have a slot to yourself or with another person if you prefer. The prayer vigil will end with a simple prayer service at noon on **Good Friday** (April 22). If you are interested in being one of the prayer vigil ministers, please contact Anne Kennedy



(503-892-7181 or annealk@gmail.com).

We will continue our tradition of having the labyrinth walk in Fellowship Hall on Good Friday afternoon from 4:00 until 7:00.

The labyrinth, based on an ancient design in Chartres,



France, is a way to focus the mind and body on God as you walk a continuous route.

Also on Good Friday afternoon, we will prepare the sanctuary for Easter by stripping away the Lenten banners and creating a festive atmosphere.

Easter morning, April 23, begins with an outdoor service at 8:00 a.m. This is rain or shine, so dress for the weather! Then, at 8:30 we will head indoors for our Easter breakfast. At 10:00, an egg hunt takes place for the kids, followed by a full festive Easter worship service with choir, organ, and handbells at 10:30 a.m. The service concludes with Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Who, or How, You Gonna Call?



Jennifer:

Unless I am out on visits, I have office hours part of every day on Monday-Thursday, so you can always stop by. But the easiest and fastest way to reach me is either by email (pastor@hillsdaleucc.org) or by cell phone (971-340-6316). I check those messages many times a day, except Friday and Saturday, when I check them less often. You can also friend me on Facebook.

Tim: I have regular office hours Tuesday through Friday from 10 until 2. You can reach me by phone (503-246-5474) during those hours, or send an email anytime (tim@hillsdaleucc.org). I normally respond during office hours.

Christine: My work schedule shifts a little bit each week, but as of now my busiest days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Since I'm not in the building every day, the best way to reach me is to contact me by email (christine@hillsdaleucc.org) or on my cell phone (443-844-7743). I try to stay on top of both my email and voicemail and will respond as promptly as possible. Feel free to call any time!

Terry: I don't have regular office hours so the best way to reach me is by leaving a message on my voicemail at church (503-246-5474) or calling me at home (503-245-9581).

Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Carol Howard Merritt is a young pastor who is committed to church vitality. In an internet column during last year's Holy Week, she reflected on the story we retell every year of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Why is this story a central one of our faith, she asked? Is it because God requires sacrifice? If so, does that mean that God is vengeful?

"Does God need payment for wrongs that have been committed? Is God bloodthirsty? Is God some sort of divine child abuser, a being who needs to see his own Son suffer so that our wrongs might be paid for? This idea of the divine is quite disturbing, so many progressive Christians question the nature of this reckoning, and we see the sacrificial system as something that humans (more than God) needed... So what is the significance of Holy Week for progressive Christians then?"

Carol goes on to say that Holy Week is important because it reminds us of the suffering of others. "It is important because we set aside our days to think about

suffering. Jesus was tortured and killed. As we think about the misery of Jesus, then our focus widens and we begin to realize the hardships of other humans."

As I write this column, the whole world is reeling from the effect of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster that most poignantly affected the country of Japan. My husband Jeff noted that as high quality cameras and video equipment become more readily available, the images from places of suffering get more powerful because they appear more real. Many of my Facebook friends were moved and horrified by one particular video in which a photographer on top of a building took footage of a whole village being swept away. "It's just like being there," said one commenter.

In a way, taking Holy Week seriously is like taking a better camera, pointing it toward the world's suffering, and taking a clearer picture. It's "just like being there" for the world's suffering, whether in Japan, Haiti, North Korea, the Mexican border, or down the block.

The practices of Holy Week, then, invite us to make a response to that suffering. Of course, we can feel overwhelmed and isolated when we consider the world's suffering, and that's the reason we come together during this time—to worship, to pray, to walk the labyrinth. These practices do not just draw us closer to our own hearts, or even to others. It also draws us closer to Christ and his Way. As Carol Howard Merritt says: "Traveling with Jesus, reading this story, and remembering that brutal assassination gives Christians the ability to see suffering not as something that happens to the weak, but something that happens in unjust societies, that can occur to the innocent, and will happen to all of us. And the act of focusing our attention on suffering, of having active compassion for those who endure it, just might save our souls."

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer

Eat Pancakes, Help SWCHC

The Southwest Hills Kiwanis Club will host their second annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 2, at Lucky Labrador Public House in Multnomah Village. All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, orange juice, Starbucks coffee, and

hot chocolate will be served from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m., and proceeds benefit SW Community Health Center. Adults are \$6 and children under 12 eat for \$4. Lucky Labrador is located at 7675 SW Capitol Highway in Multnomah Village.

Book Club Takes a Breather

Hillsdale's Book Club will be on hiatus through the Lenten and Easter seasons. Our next session is Tuesday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome the New Kidd on the Block

The Personnel Committee interviewed three excellent candidates for the part-time position of Youth Program Coordinator, but one of those three was outstanding—Christine Kidd. Christine has been successful in beginning new programs with youth in her previous positions with non-profits on the East Coast. The child of a minister, she has been active in camping programs throughout her life. During the interview with Christine, the personnel team was impressed with her confidence, outgoing personality, and good ideas for connecting with our children and youth. Her references were outstanding, using words like “awesome,” “responsible,” “innovative,” and “caring.” Here’s what Christine has to say for herself:

Hello Hillsdale Community Church! My first few days here have been exciting as I have had the chance to meet some of you and learn about your congregation. This space in the newsletter will hopefully shift to be more youth-focused, but it seems appropriate to use this month’s column to introduce myself. The questions “Who are you and how did you get here?” can take some time to answer, but I will try to be concise in doing so.

The bulk of my life was spent in Connecticut as the daughter of a college professor and a Lutheran minister. I was active in many areas, playing basketball almost non-stop and involved in the arts as a pianist and a trombone player.

My summers were spent at Camp Calumet, a Lutheran overnight camp in New Hampshire as a camper and staff member, which is where I began to develop my interest in working with young people.

I left Connecticut to attend Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. My years at Dickinson were busy, rigorous, and highlighted by two study-abroad experiences—a short-term stay in the United Arab Emirates and a year spent on the southern coast of Spain. I continued to work at Calumet and other youth programs during my college summers.

After receiving my bachelors’ degree I moved to Boston and began work as a Youth Worker at Roca, a community-based organization in Chelsea, MA. Roca serves high-risk young people in the community, most of them street- or court-involved, young mothers, borderline or completely dropped out of school, or generally disengaged from their lives and communities. In my position I worked closely with the young people on my caseload as a supporter and advocate as they navigated their unique challenges. The two and a half years I spent at Roca were some of my most transformative and are hard to describe in a paragraph, but please ask me about it if you’re interested!

While Roca was amazing, it also proved tiring and I decided last year that a break was in order, which led to a move to Portland. My mother

grew up in Salem as one of six children, so proximity to relatives and a great city were some of the attributes that drew me here. I have settled into Northeast Portland where I live with three friends and a very friendly cat and dog. I have been taking full advantage of the mild winter weather and have been hiking and adventuring as much as possible!

I was excited to see this position posted while working on my job search, and that excitement has only increased. I will definitely be reaching out to some of you (and your children/grandchildren) directly, but please also be in



Christine Kidd

touch with me! My schedule will be shifting a bit as we figure out the best way to develop and expand the youth programming here, but you can always reach me by email (christine@hillsdaleucc.org) or by phone at the church.

Camp Adams Is Calling

Please join Patty Todd on April 9 for an opportunity to visit Camp Adams and experience part of what our summer camp has to offer.



The hours will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We plan to give tours, have a craft project, and sing. Lunch will be provided for those who are at camp at noon.

Camp Adams is a wonderful natural space available for our enjoyment. It is located in Molalla at 18499 S Highway 211. Please visit www.campadams.org for more information, or call Patty Todd at 503-890-2236.

If you would like to attend Camp Adams this summer, visit www.campadams.org/summer-camps to register online. HCCUCC makes scholarships available to any children or grandchildren of the church who are interested in attending Camp Adams. Please speak to Patty or Pastor Jennifer to learn more.

June 26 - July 2	Genesis / Seekers (finished grades 2, 3)
July 3 - 6	Work Camp (age 18 and older)
July 6 - 9	Family Camp and Young Adult camp
July 10 - 16	Discoverers (finished grades 4, 5)
July 17 - 23	Pathfinders and Sojourners (finished grades 6, 7, 8)
July 24 - 30	Exodus (finished grades 9-12)

A Wild Harp and a Winged Heart to Benefit SW Hope

Original blues, grooves, songs, and tunes will fill Hillsdale Community Church UCC on Saturday, April 30, in a performance to benefit Southwest Hope. New York singer/songwriter Martha Gallagher will be performing her distinctively original music from her new CD release, *Ebb & Flow*, in her first appearance in Portland. An unusual twist is that Gallagher's instrument of choice is not guitar, so often the accompanying instrument of the singer/songwriter, but the harp.

"The stereotype of the harp being a snooty, snoozy instrument is so off base!"

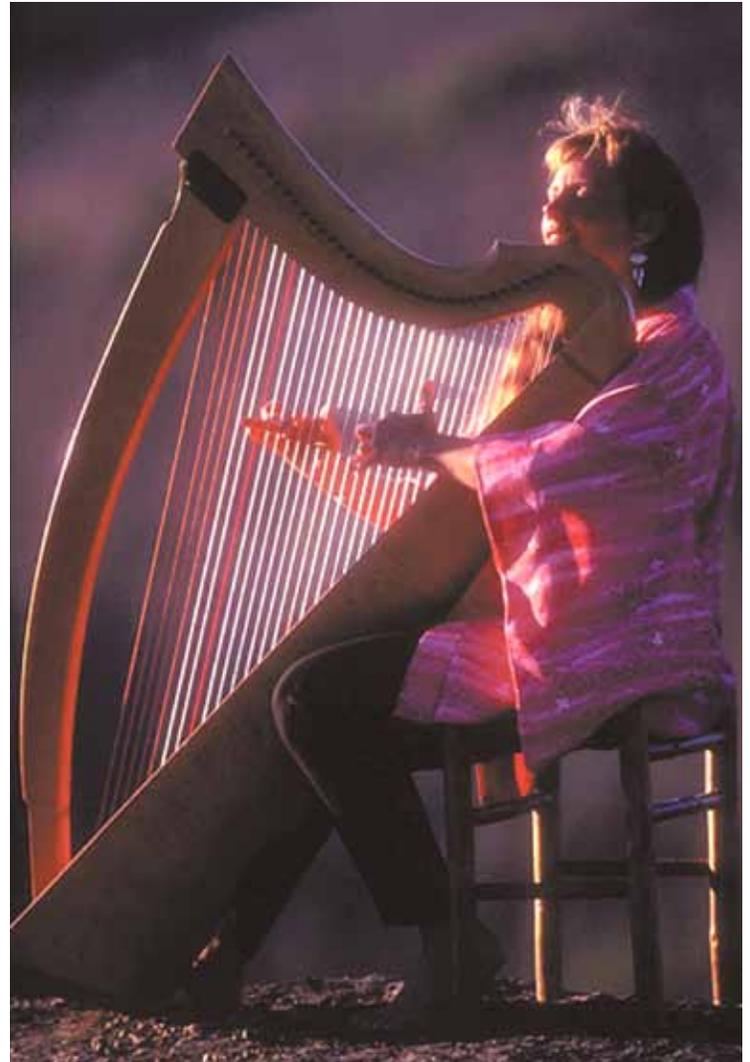
exclaims Gallagher. "It's an incredibly diverse instrument that can go from sounding beautiful, sweet, and delicate, to being bold, gorgeous, even bluesy, in the blink of an eye." Martha Gallagher is an internationally recognized singer, songwriter, and harper. She makes her home in the Adirondack Mountain Region of New York state and is well known there as The Adirondack Harper. One of Gallagher's hallmarks is playing music that most people don't expect to hear from a harp. Her versatile voice, penchant for defying the stereotypical confines of what "harp music" is, and her songwriting that spans genres from Latin grooves to Classical inspirations, from

wailing Blues to swinging Jazz to intriguing contemporary Folk, make her an enigma that resists musical pigeon-holes. "I have a very diverse musical background," says Gallagher. "There are so many great styles of music and I just can't resist playing them on the harp. And the harp is such a fabulously fun and intriguing instrument to play!" Gallagher's 30-plus-year music career includes solo national tours, some of which were sponsored by The National Endowment for the Arts, performing with six-time Grammy winners The

Chieftains, being a featured visiting artist at the prestigious

Berklee College of Music, researching and publishing articles on the cutting edge MIDI harp, and appearances on BBC TV, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, North Country Public Radio, and Good Morning Arizona. She has produced and recorded five CDs of primarily original music on her independent label, Singing Strings.

"This show is what I call "beyond concert," in that it is not just a program of music," explains Gallagher. With experience in theatre and as a storyteller as well, Gallagher draws performance inspirations from many quarters. "I start with a framework of music and ideas that I think will be



ideal for each performance, then I key into the energy and vibes that the audience brings to the space and time and go with it. Because of this, every performance has its own unique sound and feel. Performances feature lots of music and weave in theatre elements, poetry, improv, and more." The performance is suitable for all ages; the diversity of styles and subject matter will appeal to a wide variety of listeners. "My original songs sing of what I call the "everyday miraculous," smiles Gallagher.

This performance will benefit SW Hope. SW Hope is a coalition of local faith communities, neighborhoods,

and businesses working together to meet the needs of hungry people in Southwest Portland. In 2011, the need is greater than ever before. "I am honored and delighted to have been invited to share my music in a concert that will benefit people within the local community," says Gallagher.

The performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at Hillsdale Community Church UCC. A donation of \$10 per person is requested. For more information, please call the church's director of music, Tim Ditch, at 503-246-5474. To learn more about Martha Gallagher, visit www.adkharper.com

Saturday, April 30 • 7:00 p.m.
Hillsdale Community Church
\$10 donation at the door

Newcomers Invited for Lunch

If you are new to the congregation, or if you have been attending a while and are interested in membership in the church, you are warmly invited to a newcomer luncheon on Sunday, April 10, after church in Fellowship Hall. During this informal time, we will have a chance to get to know each other and learn a little about the United Church of Christ. We will receive new members on Easter Sunday, April 24, during our 10:30 hour of worship. Children are welcome at the luncheon, and childcare will be available for those families that would prefer that. Please let us know how many in your family can come (and indicate any food allergies or preferences) to the church office at 503-246-5474.

Easter Garden to Adorn Cross

An Easter Celebration Garden will embellish the cross in the Sanctuary on Easter morning. You are invited to donate an azalea or hydrangea plant or other colorful spring flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. In consideration of those with allergies, please, **no lilies or scented plants!** Please sign the list in the Narthex and bring your plant or flowers to the church by 10:15 on Easter morning. Acknowledgments will be listed in the worship bulletin.

Lenten Series Continues

Join in conversation about themes raised in Jim Wallis' book *Rediscovering Values* about recovering morality in difficult economic times. You do not need to read the book to attend. The final two sessions are Wednesday, April 6, and Wednesday, April 13. A simple supper begins at 6:15, with conversation following at 7:00.

Imagine What's Possible!

The Spring Assembly of the Central Pacific Conference takes place Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, at Highland UCC in Portland. The theme of this year's assembly is "Imagine What's Possible."

This is a chance to gather with others from the Central Pacific Conference and UCC President Geoffrey Black as together we Imagine What's Possible for our present and future life together. President Black's keynote speech on Friday will be free and open to the public.

Easter Is in the Cards

A card-making class will be offered in the Library on Sunday, April 10, following the worship service. We will be making Easter cards. Bring your scissors and glue! To reserve your spot, call Marteen at 503-615-8131 or Ruth at 503-701-2462.

Make Your Own Pizza!

Join Christine after church on April 3 for a trip to the farmers market followed by some pizza-making in the church kitchen!

While this is specifically aimed at junior and senior high kids, all are welcome. If you would like to contribute a few dollars towards the cost of supplies, that would

be welcomed but not required. We would

also appreciate a few generous adults with vehicles who would be willing to drive us to and from the market in case of rain. Contact Christine (christine@hillsdaleucc.org) with questions.



Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, May 15

Friday-Saturday, May 20-21

Wednesday, June 1

Saturday, June 4

Thursday, June 9

Sunday, June 12

Sunday, June 19

Blessing of the Pets

CPC Spring Assembly

Red Cross Blood Drive

Take a Soldier Fishing

Sunny Hills Art Show

Festival of Praise

Children and Youth

Help Lead Worship



"Best Parade Ever!" says Donna Bestwick, who recently marched with Portland's Get a Life Marching Band in New Orleans. Donna was accompanied by another member of our congregation, Lynn Wolff.

HAP Reapplies for Hillsdale Terrace Redevelopment Grant



January 11, 2011

Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell
Hillsdale Community Church United Church of Christ
6948 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, OR 97219

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Steve Rudman

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF PORTLAND
135 S.W. Ash Street
Portland, OR 97204
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www.hapdx.org



Dear Jennifer,

I am writing to offer my thanks for the support you provided during our recent HOPE VI grant application for Hillsdale Terrace. We submitted our proposal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in late November and we anticipate hearing back sometime in the early spring. The current application improves the overall design and connections to the neighborhood, adds affordable homeownership through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and has secured commitments for the financing that will augment the federal grant.

Recognizing the excellent neighborhood amenities available in southwest Portland, our redevelopment proposal seeks to create a community of opportunity for the residents of Hillsdale Terrace. Our plans include building 129 units of mixed-income housing including seven opportunities for homeownership directed at first time home buyers.

The community services program will draw on 36 community agencies, including local schools, neighborhood institutions and faith-based organizations. The programs will focus on three core areas: the economic stability of families, youth achievement, and promoting a healthy and connected community. Plans for the revitalized Hillsdale Terrace include an early childhood education center complemented by a neighborhood network center with classroom and gathering space, a computer lab, and a community kitchen linked to the site's community gardens to improve access to nutritional food.

I am hopeful that our application is successful and that we are able to transform our most distressed public housing property – a property that isolates residents from the opportunities around them – into a community that thrives amongst its neighbors.

Once again, thank you for your support. We will let you know if our bid was successful just as soon as we get any news from HUD. We're looking forward to continuing our partnership with you in the future.

Wishing you a healthy, happy and successful new year!

Sincerely,

Steve Rudman
Executive Director



These renderings show visions for the redevelopment of Hillsdale Terrace



April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB</p> <p>10:30a Communion Worship Service, FH</p> <p>11:30a Youth Pizza-Making Party, LOT/KIT</p> <p>11:30a Stephen Ministry Luncheon, FH</p> <p>2:00p Edgewood Downs</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00a Loaves and Fishes</p> <p>1:30p Tai Chi, FH</p> <p>6:15p Lenten Soup Supper, FH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT</p> <p>7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB</p> <p>10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC</p> <p>11:45a Easter Card-Making Class, LIB</p> <p>11:45a Wills Presentation, PO</p> <p>11:45a Newcomer Lunch, FH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Glisan Street Meal</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study, LIB</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT</p> <p>11:00a Martha Circle, LIB</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30p Tai Chi, FH</p> <p>6:15p Lenten Soup Supper, FH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Tidings Deadline</p> <p>9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT</p> <p>1:00p Memoir Writing Group, LIB</p> <p>7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>9a-1p Work Day</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB</p> <p>10:30a Palm Sunday Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC</p> <p>11:45a Celebration Sunday, FH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study, LIB</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT</p> <p>7:00p Foundation Meeting, LIB</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:30p Tai Chi, FH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT</p> <p>7:00p Maundy Thursday Service, SANC</p> <p>8:00p Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil, SANC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00p Good Friday Prayer Service, SANC</p> <p>4-7p Good Friday Labyrinth, FH</p>	23
<p>24</p> <p>8:00a Easter Outdoor Service, PATIO</p> <p>8:30a Easter Breakfast, FH</p> <p>10:00a Easter Egg Hunt, PLAY</p> <p>10:30a Easter Festival Worship Service, SANC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study, LIB</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT</p> <p>7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30p Tai Chi, FH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>7:00p <i>A Wild Harp and a Winged Heart: Martha Gallagher in Concert</i>, SANC</p>

CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th) KIT=Kitchen LIB=Library LOT=Front Parking Lot PO=Pastor's Office SANC=Sanctuary

Stephen Ministry Takes a Congregation

by Carol Doyle

As some of you know, the biggest thing that I got from the Stephen ministry training was the flu—but the most important thing we all learned is that, to steal a phrase from Hillary Clinton, it “takes a church” to have a Stephen ministry.

In other words, for the Stephen ministry to be successful, all of us—the entire church—needs to be committed to and involved with the ministry.

For some of us, involvement means recognizing a gift of listening and caring, and

having the time to make the commitment to become a Stephen minister. Stephen ministry is unique in that there is a 50-hour training required, in which we will be teaching you some of the skills you will need to become a Stephen minister.

It is also unique in that we will be asking potential Stephen ministers to apply and be accepted into the ministry.

We have sent a letter of invitation to some of you who might be interested in Stephen Ministry. But we don't know everyone, and we definitely don't know everyone's gifts. So if you

believe that you might have a gift for Stephen ministry, we encourage you to come speak to Dennis Frengle, Lynn Walser-Clark, Jennifer, or me about the ministry. We are also going to have an informational meeting and lunch on April 3 after church that we also encourage you to attend.

For others of us, involvement means receiving care from a Stephen minister. This means we are aware of ourselves and the struggles we face along life's path. And that we know that there may be times when we are the ones who need the caring heart and listening ear—and we have the openness and

willingness to receive the care that the Stephen ministers are ready and able to provide.

And finally, for the rest of us, involvement means supporting Stephen ministry through knowledge and awareness. Knowledge of what Stephen ministry is and how it can help those in need; and awareness of those around us who could use a caring heart and a listening ear—and be willing to let the Stephen leader team know of that need.

So that is what I learned, why I see us becoming and being a Stephen ministry congregation. I look forward to you joining us on this journey.



APRIL 2011
tidings

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
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Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (pastor@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)

Youth Program Coordinator **Christine Kidd** (christine@hillsdaleucc.org) Custodian **Terry Cornell**

Child Care Providers **Olivia Hinerfeld and Gracie McManus**

In Christ, we the members of Hillsdale Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. We cherish and embrace individuals and families of all kinds. Believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We commit to be a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness of life for all people. We believe that through our diversity, all can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.

