

Worship at HCC December 2009

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion
Preparing the Way
Luke 3:1-6

**Sunday, December 13,
10:30 a.m.**

The Lord is Near
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

**Sunday, December 20,
10:30 a.m.**

According to the Promise
Luke 1:39-55

**Monday, December 21,
7:00 p.m.**

Longest Night Service—
a meditative service of healing
and hope on the longest night of
the year

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service—
Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m.

All Ages Spontaneous
Christmas Pageant



Celebrate the Season at HCCUCC

I don't know about you, but after last year's stormy weather, I'm hoping that this year it will NOT be a white Christmas! We may not think of rituals being all that important, but when we miss them as we did last year, we realize that gathering as a

church family is vital to our celebration of the season. I look forward to celebrating with you this year!

—Pastor Jennifer

Sunday, November 29, after church • Greening of the Sanctuary • Decorate the tree and hang greenery after church. A light lunch will be provided. A fun activity for all ages.

Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. • Friendship Builders Potluck and Auction • A fun evening for all ages. Begins with a potluck meal followed by an auction of Christmas decorations, books, baked goods, jams, and other items.

Sunday, December 6, after church • Sunday School Christmas Caroling • The Sunday School children and their families will meet after church for lunch and an activity before going caroling together.

Sunday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. • Fa la la — Fifth Annual Christmas Dessert Concert • Enjoy beautiful sacred and secular music of the season as well as fabulous dessert. This concert always includes a lot of fun, and is beloved by neighbors and members alike. Invite your friends to this festive evening.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, and are available after church Sundays or by calling the office at 503-246-5474.

Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 p.m. • Christmas Ship Walk • Meet in the OMSI parking lot at 6:30 for an all-ages, accessible walk around the esplanade to view the Christmas Ships. Dress for the weather!

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. • Longest Night Service • This worship service of healing and hope on the longest night of the year is perfect for people who are grieving, lonely, or just seeking a break from the stresses of the season. Childcare is available.

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. • Festival of Lessons and Carols • A traditional service of lessons and carols, including candle-lighting. An extended organ prelude begins at 7:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. • All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant • Be a part of telling the Christmas story. Everyone who would like is invited to wear a costume and join in the fun.

Friendship Builders Plan Dinner/Auction

The Friendship Builders will hold their Annual Auction and Potluck on Friday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and an *unwrapped* gift to be auctioned off. Holiday gifts, ornaments, home-baked goods, jams, jellies, or other special treasures make perfect items for the auction. All are welcome; children love this event! Please call Margaret at 503-598-3483 if you can help with set-up.

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Choir Presents Fa la la!

We're decking the hall—Fellowship Hall, to be exact—in preparation for the Fifth Annual Christmas Dessert Concert coming up on Sunday evening, December 13, at 6:30. The concert will feature classic Christmas favorites as well as a few surprises, and will be capped off with a delicious dessert. It's fun for all ages.

Tickets are available Sundays after church at the Narthex table, and weekdays in the church office. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, and seating is limited. Proceeds will benefit the Organ Fund/Pipes and Pipes Project.

The Light Still Shines

Our stewardship campaign this year truly included each member of the congregation as we all shared together the memories and photos in the albums that travelled around the congregation during the month of November. Thanks to each of you who made a faith commitment to Hillsdale Community Church UCC, we will keep growing and thriving in 2010.

There is still time to give! If you would like to make a financial commitment and have not yet, or if you would like to change the amount on your card for any reason at any time during the year, just leave a note in the office addressed to Barbara Raz.

missionmoment

by Maria Dunlop

Loaves and Fishes has been one of our church missions for many years. It provides meals to seniors and the handicapped at the Art Center in Multnomah or delivered to their homes by Meals on Wheels drivers. Most of the churches in Southwest Portland take turns providing these services. We have been furnishing volunteers since the program first started in our church years ago.

For almost 30 years I have been one of those volunteers. I have helped set up tables and serve the meal each month. Those who come for lunch are mostly seniors who enjoy meeting their friends there and making new ones, or they are tired of cooking, or just like getting a very inexpensive and well-balanced lunch. I have also taken meals out to the house-bound. Often we are the only people they see all day. They are so appreciative and happy to see us.

Now we need your help. Some of us who have been active with the Loaves and Fishes program for years can no longer do it. If you can help out for three hours or so on the first Wednesday of the month, it would be appreciated. Maybe you can do it just once in awhile. That's okay too. Please let Paul Gonzales (503-459-3382 or paulsings@thewoofen.com) know if you'd like to be involved.

Check Out the Library

by Bob Miller

The newly re-sorted and refurbished Library is open for your perusal, and just in time for your holiday reading! Look on each side of the Library/Conference Room in the office wing of the church. There are not only churchy tomes, but historical ones, biographies, psychological treatises, and swashbucklers. There is even a fiction section available for your lighter moments, and a kids and young adults section

for your younger guests.

No check-out is required, but please bring your book selection back when you are finished. The Library is open when the church office is open and on Sundays when meetings are not taking place.

Thanks to all who have helped reorganize in the Library, especially Dennis Frengle, Bob Miller, Margy Kleger, Jayne Boone, Elizabeth Karkosky, and Pastor Jennifer.

Letter from Pastor Jennifer

As we enter into this season of busyness, feasting, and gifting, I invite you to spend a few minutes with these lovely words, written by Heather Johnston and found in the book *Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*.



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Nativity Gift List

Dear God,
Please give me
The unquestioning faith of Mary
The tolerance of Joseph
The patience of the donkey
The kindness of the innkeeper
The reverence of the oxen
The joy of the angels
The obedience of the shepherds
The perseverance of the wise men
The Christ Child in my heart today.

In this time of "too much" of so many things, I will not add more words to these simple ones, except to say that this is my prayer for each of you.

In the Light,

Pastor Jennifer

HCC Budget Report—October 31, 2009

	Budget October	Actual October	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date
Income	\$16,756.67	\$16,700.34	\$153,266.67	\$148,653.96
Expenses	\$12,280.15	\$10,402.09	\$149,282.45	\$141,178.16
Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,476.52	\$6,298.25	\$3,984.22	\$7,475.80

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 29 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Greening of the Sanctuary	30 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	December 1 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT	2 10:00a Loaves and Fishes 7:00p Finance Team Meeting, LIB	3 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	4 6:00p Friendship Builders Potluck and Auction, FH	5
6 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Communion Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Family Activities, FH 2:00p Edgewood Downs	7 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	8 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT 1:00p Martha Circle, FH	9	10 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	11	12 10:00a Choir Rehearsal, Decorating Party, FH
13 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 6:30p <i>Fa la la!</i> —Christmas Dessert Concert, FH	14 Glisan Street Meal 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	15 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:30p Christmas Ship Walk, Meet at OMSI 6:30p Executive Team Meeting, LIB 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB	16	17 <i>Tidings</i> Deadline 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	18	19
20 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent Celebration Sunday</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	21 7:00p Longest Night Service, SANC	22 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT	23	24 8:00p Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols, SANC	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26
27 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant, SANC	28	29 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT	30	31 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT	January 1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2

CR=Choir Room GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th) LIB=Library LOT=Front Parking Lot SANC=Sanctuary

Celebrate the Holidays with These Advent and Christmas Gatherings!

Sunday, 11/29	Greening of the Sanctuary, 11:30 a.m.
Friday, 12/4	Friendship Builders Potluck and Auction, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12/6	Family Lunch, Activities, and Caroling, 11:45 a.m.
Sunday, 12/13	<i>Fa la la!</i> – Christmas Dessert Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 12/15	Hillsdale Hikers Christmas Ship Walk
Monday, 12/21	Longest Night Service, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 12/24	Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12/27	All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant, 10:30 a.m.

Hope VI Grant Means Hope

On a beautiful sunny day in October, Mike Van Loo, Bob Miller, Trudi Frengle, and Pastor Jennifer (pictured below) joined with residents of Hillsdale Terrace and other neighbors to visit two other public housing projects that have benefited from a HOPE VI grant,

the same grant for which Hillsdale Terrace has applied.

The homes, gardens, and beautiful public spaces we saw gave us a good idea of what to expect if Hillsdale Terrace is rebuilt.

In February, we will know if the grant is received, and will move ahead then.



Foundation Update

by Becky Meier

The Foundation has been busy managing the Foundation's investments and encouraging church committees to apply for additional funds to further God's work. Here is a quick summary of our activities:

We decided to pay a double payment on the Texas Street improvement as the bond is still at around 6% interest. By paying double payments, we can reduced the life of the loan by more than 50%.

We reinvested \$10,000 in

a bond fund to provide better balance to investments.

We are developing a new educational brochure on the Foundation.

We asked for congregational support for our in-care seminary student, with the Foundation matching contributions.

We rolled over Washington Federal CD.

We received applications from the Share Christ's Word Team (Christian Education) and Building and Grounds Committee.

Dinner and Talent Show Planned

Dust off your musical instrument, break open your joke book, and practice your juggling routine! On Saturday, January 9, Suppers for Seven will meet for the

final time this winter at the church for dinner (each group can sit together) and AllChurch Talent Show. Carl Ditch will emcee. Mark your calendar now.

Fifth Annual Christmas Dessert Concert

Sunday, December 13 • 6:30 p.m.
Delicious fun for everyone!

Falala

ZAP Art Remains Available

The art of the Zimbabwe Artists Project has left our building, but is still available at the downtown gallery and office space. ZAP welcomes

visitors and shoppers at 107 SE Washington Street, Suite 162, Portland. For directions or more information, call 503-232-7057

tidings

DECEMBER 2009

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
503-246-5474 • www.hillsdaleucc.org
Pastor — pastor@hillsdaleucc.org
Office/Music — tim@hillsdaleucc.org

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.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Jennifer Brownell Director of Music/Administrator Tim Ditch
Child Care Providers Millie Alvarez and Olivia Hinerfeld Custodian Terry Cornell