

Worship at HCC December 2012

December 2 • 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent
All Ages Spontaneous
Christmas Pageant

December 9 • 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 2:22-40
**The Christmas Story of
Anna and Simeon**

December 16 • 10:30 a.m.
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Joy, Joy, Joy? Joy, Joy, Joy!

December 21 • 7:00 p.m.
The Longest Night Service
A service of healing and hope on
the longest night of the year

December 23 • 10:30 a.m.
Luke 1:39-45
The Magnificat

December 24 • 11:00 p.m.
**Candlelight Festival of Lessons
and Carols**

December 30 • 10:30 a.m.
Luke 2:41-52
Psalms 148
At Home with Jesus

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.

Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Celebrates Worldwide Tradition

The soft light of candles. The awe-inspiring music of the season—both familiar and new. The shining faces of loved ones around you. Rehearsing again the old, old story, made fresh and new again each year. It must be Christmas Eve.

Here at Hillsdale, we celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols, which is said to have originated in a shed in England in 1880 as an appealing alternative to an evening at the pub. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is now celebrated in countless congregations worldwide, including our own.

The Christmas Eve service is a not-to-be-missed time of worship and celebration. This year, by popular request, we are returning to an 11:00 p.m. service.

Hillsdale's service is patterned after the

service at King's College in Cambridge, England—the most famous Christmas Eve service in the world. From the quiet opening strains of the processional hymn, *Once in Royal David's City*, through the final majestic stanza of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*—“Yea, Lord, we greet thee...” the service recounts the story of God's love and Christ's birth. A tradition here at Hillsdale, the lighting of candles by the congregation as we sing *Silent Night* together is a powerful and moving moment that many of us recall with joy all year long. The service concludes at the stroke of midnight as we ring in Christmas Day together!

Celebrate with your church family this Christmas Eve. The service begins at 11:00 p.m. An extended musical prelude precedes the service, beginning at 10:45.



The darkened Sanctuary, candlelight, ten Christmas trees, scores of poinsettias, and more than a thousand tiny lights provide a beautiful setting for this most holy of nights.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at HCCUCC

Plan to celebrate Advent with your church family. We look forward to seeing you!

Sunday, November 25 • 11:30 a.m. • Greening of the Sanctuary • Join us as we get the Sanctuary ready for the holidays!

Sunday, December 2, 10:30 a.m. • All-Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant • Sanctuary Come one, come all as we begin the Advent season with an all-congregation retelling of the Christmas story. Costumes for everyone!

Sunday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. • Glitter & Glorias Christmas Dessert Concert • Fellowship Hall • This popular event for our congregation and friends always sells out, so be sure to get your tickets early! Tickets (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children) include dessert, hot beverage, and a wonderful evening of sacred and secular Christmas musical favorites. Tickets are available after worship on Sundays and during office hours. Forgot your checkbook? Don't worry! We can also accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express!

Saturday, December 15, 6:00 p.m. • The Hillsdale Moving Company Christmas Auction (formerly the Boomer Auction) • Home of Drake Mitchell and Diane Nelson Enjoy an evening of eating, laughing, and exchanging
see Celebrate, next column

Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell



For a while, it seemed as if the news was full of the Mayan calendar and the so-called end of the world that the calendar predicted on December 21, 2012.

Well, I don't believe that the world will end on December 21. I don't believe we are more likely to experience comets, earthquakes, or collisions with other planets on that day than any other day. In fact, the Mayans didn't even believe that. They just ran out of room on their calendar, and—unlike the calendar hanging in your kitchen—there was no next page to turn to. The end of a calendar, it turns out, is not the same as the end of the world.

There is a difference, after all, between how we *measure* time, and time itself. In other words, a calendar measures and marks time, but a calendar is *not* time. The problem comes when we confuse the way we mark, measure, or describe

something with the thing itself.

We can fall prey to this especially at this time of year it seems. The events with which we mark or celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas can seem to become the season itself, even if those events no longer have meaning or bring us joy.

When I was growing up, we usually made gingerbread houses on Thanksgiving weekend, as a way to prepare for the Advent season. Now, you may love making gingerbread houses, but I do not. Still, it seemed like an important tradition, so for many years as an adult, I would buy a bunch of sticky ingredients in order to put together an inedible, tilting and usually quite ugly creation. Every year, I would try to keep children and dogs away from it for a few days until I finally got fed up and threw it away. One year not long ago, I realized that making gingerbread houses

was a way to mark the season, but it was not the season itself. I did not make them that year (or any year since) and lo! Christmas still arrives! Not making gingerbread houses left some room for my family to mark the season in other ways that make more sense for us.

My invitation to you is now, early in the month of December, to take stock of what you will be doing to mark the season of Christmas. Are the events and gatherings you have planned ones that will bring you closer to God, your loved ones and your sacred center? Or are they just ways to mark the season? I invite you to let go of those events that have lost their meaning. Make some room to let the season of Advent, instead, mark *you* in new and surprising ways.

Pastor Jennifer



Celebrate (from previous column)

gifts. Bring your checkbook and two wrapped gifts—one a white elephant and one a “real” gift—and see what you go home with! Proceeds from this event usually go toward the expenses for our monthly meal at Transition Projects, with enough left over for other ministries of the church.

Friday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. • Longest Night Service • Sanctuary • A service of healing and hope on the

longest night of the year. Music, candlelighting, holy communion, and time for silent prayer make this service a meaningful respite from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the season.

Monday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. • Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols • Sanctuary • A traditional evening of scripture readings and Christmas carols, with candlelighting.

Master Calendar Tracks Events



Please remember that all groups using our church facility must contact the church office to schedule their meetings, rehearsals, and events. Listing your event on the master calendar ensures that the facilities are available for your use.

When your event adjourns, remember to close and lock all doors and windows!

Newcomers Invited to Lunch

Whether you've visited Hillsdale Community Church UCC a time or two, or you've been attending awhile, you're invited to the Newcomers' Lunch after church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 2. This is a great chance to share a little of your own faith story, meet others new to the congregation, and learn about this particular family of faith. Children are welcome.

Some may wish to join the church as members in one of the weeks following, and we will choose a time that works for everyone interested. If you would like to join the church as a member but cannot attend the luncheon, please see Pastor Jennifer or Elizabeth Pigg. For more information about the Newcomers' Lunch and to RSVP, call the church office at 503-246-5474.

Recycling Good for All

The recycling bins in the Narthex were recently emptied. A total of 75 compact fluorescent bulbs and 140 pounds of batteries were collected and delivered to a recycling facility by church member John Biskey.

A few simple guidelines will make this service safer and more convenient for everyone. Remember to fill out the form located on the bins *every time* you bring items for recycling. The form must be submitted to Metro or we will be charged for the items. Also, please bring only



unbroken bulbs and non-leaking batteries. If you have bulbs or batteries that are broken or leaking, they should be wrapped and placed in your regular garbage collection.

St. Luke's Church has scheduled a community recycling event for January 5, 2013. This event allows recycling of much more than just batteries and bulbs. Watch for flyers to be posted when more information is available. A \$2 donation is requested.

Poinsettias to Embellish Sanctuary

Each December, we decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias in memory or in honor of our loved ones. Giving is easy. Place a \$7 donation for each poinsettia desired in the special



offering envelope found in the pews, write on the outside of the envelope the name or names of the loved one you wish to honor, and return it to the church by Wednesday, December 12.

Acknowledgments will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

Boomer Auction on the "Move"

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 15, for the annual Hillsdale Moving Company Christmas Auction. The potluck and auction, formerly known as the Boomer Auction, will be hosted by Drake Mitchell and Diane Nelson, 5822 SW Luradel Ct, Portland, starting at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck,

plus two wrapped gifts for the auction—one a "white elephant" and the other a useful gift. This is a fun evening for adults of any age.

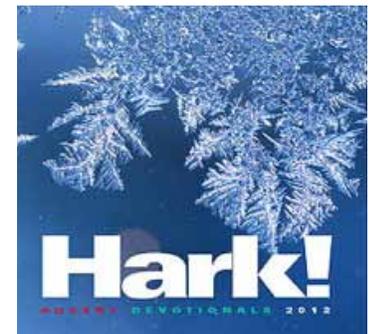
Proceeds will be used for Transition Projects meals and other mission projects.

If you would like more information, please contact Diane at diane.nelson37@gmail.com or 503-894-9018.

Advent Devotional Offered

Here's a way you can keep Christ in your Christmas this year. Christmas is a time-challenged time of year, and so it's easy to lose sight of the fact that it is a time to celebrate the Incarnation, the time that God came and lived among us. During Advent, the season when we prepare to recall this joyous moment, Gary and Sharon Roberts will be co-moderating a daily devotional conversation at Hillsdale UCC StillSpeaking Devotional, a private Facebook page for members, guests, and active participants at Hillsdale.

This Facebook community will allow us to share our reflections about the daily devotional, in a flex-time conversation that doesn't require any meeting commitment at all. If you



miss a day or two, it will still work, and offers you a deeper Advent experience. The Hillsdale UCC StillSpeaking Devotional Facebook page will operate from December 2-25. It's not too late to join, but don't wait much longer. If you would like to be included, please let us know so that we can order a devotional guide for you. Contact Gary or Sharon at 360-896-2276, sharon@garysharon.com, or gary@garysharon.com.

Loaves and Fishes Needs People

Our church serves food at the Multnomah Village Loaves and Fishes on the first Wednesday of each month. This month, there were only two people from HCC. We could use some additional

support for people to call when a regular person is unavailable. We serve from 10 a.m. until around 1:30 p.m. Please contact Anita Moss if you'd like to help either regularly or occasionally.



On Children's Sabbath, November 11, the youth and Sunday School classes led the congregation in song, scripture, and story. Thanks to all who participated; it was a wonderful day!
 Above left: Pastor Jennifer introducing the youth who received Bibles on Children's Sabbath. Congratulations to Catherine Karkosky, Madeline McCarter, MeilAn Wechsler, and Greer Hamilton.
 Above center: Andrew Johnson, Zoe Johnson, Jacob Stephens, and MeilAn Wechsler singing and dancing.
 Right: Gracie McManus, Olivia Hinerfeld, and Elijah Brownell helping the choir get into the act.

Architect Selected, Preparing for Annual Meeting

The HCC Building Committee interviewed four architectural firms, and on November 4 selected LRS and EVA Architects to develop preliminary renovation plans for our building to present to the congregation at its annual meeting in January.

We met three times in November, and have given the architect direction to focus their work in December. To provide that guidance, we shared the results of the all-church survey conducted last summer, supplemented with a mid-November survey of most of the congregation's leadership, including questions tailored to the architect's needs. Over the next two months, we expect to meet with the architect four more times so that we can have preliminary plans

and costs to present for discussion at the annual meeting on January 13, 2013.



We will continue to seek congregational input before, during, and after the annual meeting, so that the final renovation plan reflects a consensus of the congregation's sense of our mission and calling as a church.

On December 2 following the worship service, we will share a progress report for all who are interested.

Questions can be directed to any committee member: Jon von Behren (chair), Charlene Dickinson, Jeff Brownell, Mike Van Loo, Gary Roberts, Rev. Jennifer Brownell (ex officio).

Two Opportunities for Mission Trips Coming in 2013

Please speak to Pastor Jennifer if you have any questions about either of these trips, or if you would be interested in representing Hillsdale with one (or both!) of these groups.

February 7-11, 2013 • Border Travel Study Tour, Centro Romero. Join an interfaith delegation from the Pacific Northwest on an Immersion Study tour hosted by the Daniel F. Romero Center for Border Ministries.

The Romero Center is located in San Ysidro, California, less than 20 minutes from the Mexican border city of Tijuana, and is a ministry of the United Church of Christ.

This is a great justice and witness opportunity. The registration deadline is November 30, 2012, but extensions are available. The

cost is \$650 (if registered by November 30, and includes meals, transportation, interpretation, and program fees; does not include airfare and hotel accommodations. Limited scholarships are available.

Questions? Contact the delegation coordinators: Beth Poteet, Oregon New Sanctuary Movement, 503-550-3510 or portlandsanctuary@gmail.com, or Joanie McClellan, Kairos-Milwaukie UCC, 818-599-0257 or joanmcclell@aol.com. Delegation is co-sponsored by the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement and Kairos-Milwaukie UCC. For more information on the Romero Center, go to www.theromero-center.org.

June 27-July 8, 2013 • Chaupimayo in Peru

see Missions, page 6

Treat Yourself, Nurture Spirit

Join the women of HCC for a weekend of nurture for your heart and soul. Activities include a book/Bible study, art and crafts, a self-care/spirituality workshop, a Sunday morning worship service, and time to play.

The retreat will take place February 22-24, 2013, on the Oregon Coast, and costs \$150. Registration forms are available from Cindy Van Loo (vloo4@aol.com) or at the church, and must be returned by December 16. A \$25 deposit is requested with your registration (refundable until January 13). Registration forms should be returned to Cindy or sent to the church office, attention: Cindy VanLoo. Scholarships are available.



First Alternative Gift Faire Welcomes Many

by Elaine Walsler-Clark
Many thanks to the 25 people who helped make the first Alternative Gift Faire a success. You were so generous with your help, from sewing a banner to playing music, baking goodies, fixing soup, serving food, managing the logistics of setting up and tearing down tables and chairs and electrical hookups, taking photographs, and greeting people who came to the event. We anticipate making this an annual affair!

We had about 40 people attend, which is really fine for a first year. I was touched by the comment that Theresa Wechsler made when I asked

how much MeiLan raised for her group. She said "\$50," and then casually mentioned that amount would feed 150 children! I realized then that



it is not always quantity that matters, but the small gifts that do so much. I was also humbled when I spoke with Chris who was at the booth for Sisters of the Road. He told me how grateful he was

to Sisters for helping him move from being homeless to being a part of a family. He said he was so happy to have such a wonderful family. He

said he left his birth family long ago when he became an addict. When he was at the lowest point in his life, he found himself at the cafe for Sisters of the Road. That was over 10 years ago. Now he is joyful for his wonderful family, the people who has met through Sisters most who were homeless like he was. He shared his story with many people that day. What a gift he gave me!

I kept being reminded that day of the story of Jesus and the hungry multitude who were fed with a few fish and loaves of bread. If we are generous of heart and live our faith, we can do much with little. I am excited about the opportunities for the next Alternative Gift Faire next year. It gives those of us at Hillsdale an opportunity to live our faith and really "reach out" into our local community.

Youth Corner

Children's Sunday School

December 2 • The path to God's promise (Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25) Jeremiah shared God's promise of a righteous leader for Israel. The psalmist speaks of God leading the people in the paths of steadfast love and faithfulness.

December 9 • John prepares the way (Mark 1:1-8) John the Baptist proclaimed the good news in the wilderness. He urged people to repent and prepare for one who would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

December 16 • Mary says yes (Luke 1:26-56) The angel Gabriel visited Mary and said she would give birth to a son and name him Jesus. This baby would be the Son of God. Mary visited Elizabeth and praised God.

December 23 • Jesus is born (Luke 2:1-20) Jesus was born in a Bethlehem stable while Joseph and Mary were there registering in a census. An angel told nearby shepherds of the birth and they came to see Jesus.

December 30 • Jesus leads (Mark 1:16-45) Jesus called followers to himself. He taught with authority and people were amazed. He cast out an unclean spirit and healed many. Word of his power spread.

Missions

continued from p. 4

In the Spring of 2012, Smyrna United Church of Christ decided to accept a challenge from Green Empowerment in Portland and DESEA in Peru to build water filtration systems and provide basic health care to the village of Chaupimayo in Peru. Through the end of October we have provided Green Empowerment with \$20,000 to support clean water and nursing care for a village in Peru located about half way between Cusco and Machu Picchu. Our support will provide bio-sand filters and nursing care for 63 families. This next summer we will have the opportunity to visit the Chaupimayo Community we sponsored in addition to touring parts of Peru

You are invited to join this tour. The 12-Day Itinerary: Lima, Lamay, Chaupimayo, Cuz-co, Machu Picchu, Puna (Lake Titticaca) with optional tours to the Amazon or The Galapagos Islands. Price per person is \$2,665 (double occupancy) plus international airfare. Optional add-on trips to the Amazon or the Galapagos Islands are available.

For more information, including a daily itinerary, descriptions, and pricing contact Pastor Dave, 503-927-3681 or Joel Daniels, 503-651-2694, for a brochure. Richard Daniels, World Travel, Inc., is handling the arrangements.

Back to Eden: What Should We Do?

This article is being written two weeks before the BTE team's November 27 meeting. The agenda includes discussion of future projects such as replacing more unneeded lawn areas with native plants (see Texas street side), planting natives in the upper parking lot islands which would attract the attention of passersby and visitors, and constructing rain gardens and flow-through planters to slow down and filter our storm water runoff before it damages streambeds downstream of us.

In contrast, another agenda item raises the question of whether we should embark on such projects without adequate commitment by church members and guests to participate. It's not just the need for help that matters. There's a serious concern that if only a few people participate in the actual "work" (we think it's fun), we may never build an organization that will support this mission over the long

Talent Show? Yes or No?

We've had a Talent/No-Talent show each January for the last few years. Is this a tradition you are interested in continuing? Would you like to emcee this event? If you answer *yes* to either of these questions, please contact Pastor Jennifer ASAP.

term. Deciding to participate is, for some of us, a matter of answering God's call. This is about saving nature, about inviting insects back that need native plant species and birds that need the insects to reproduce. If we can do this on our grounds, we can set the example for our community and teach them as we did in a workshop last spring.

There is ample scriptural support for the idea that we are called as people and as a church to care for creation, including not only at

church but also at home and elsewhere in our community and the world.

To enable more of us to hear this call, should we offer some education on the subject before we pursue further actions on the ground? Let us know your thoughts! You are welcome to attend our meeting on Tuesday, November 27, in the church Library. If you're unable to attend, talk to any member of the BTE team: Diane Kinzey-Morby, Elizabeth Karkosky, Gary Wolff, Jennifer Brownell, Jon von Behren, Mike Van Loo, Patti Brandon, and Jim Ruyle.



RAPHAEL HOUSE
of PORTLAND

Holiday Gift Drive

What: Organize a holiday gift drive for Raphael House of Portland and help make the holidays bright for hundreds of local families. We need new, unwrapped gift items for women and children: clothing (all sizes/ages), toys, household, kitchen, beauty products, gift cards, and hygiene items.

TARGET WISHLIST: visit www.target.com/target-list-portal and search for first name "Raphael," last name "House."

When: October 15 to December 13, 2012

Where: Drop off donations December 12th (10AM - 2PM) and 13th (3PM - 7PM) at Sunnyside Church (3520 SE Yamhill). Special drop-off arrangements can also be accommodated.

How: Contact Amanda Grebner at 503.222.6507 x315 or agrebner@raphaelhouse.com to schedule your Gift Drive or to learn more about how you can get your friends, family or coworkers involved at Raphael House this holiday season!

What else can you do to help? Help us spread the word by distributing this flier to your friends, families, coworkers, etc!

We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

www.raphaelhouse.com



December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30a All-Ages Spontaneous Pageant <small>SANC</small> 11:45a Congregational Information Session <small>SANC</small> 12:15p Newcomers' Luncheon <small>FH</small> 12:30p Choir Rehearsal <small>CR</small>	3	4 7:00a Men's Breakfast <small>GT</small> 10:30p Bible Study <small>LIB</small> 4:30p Prayer Group <small>PO</small>	5 10:00a Loaves and Fishes 1:30p Tai Chi <small>FH</small>	6 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, <small>LOT</small> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, <small>CR</small>	7	8 10:00a Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <small>FH</small>
9 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School <small>SANC</small> 6:30p <i>Glitter & Glorias</i> Christmas Dessert Concert <small>FH</small>	10 Transition Projects Meal <small>BUD</small>	11 <i>Tidings</i> Deadline 7:00a Men's Breakfast <small>GT</small> 10:30p Bible Study <small>LIB</small> 4:30p Prayer Group <small>PO</small>	12 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, <small>MDH</small>	13 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, <small>LOT</small> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, <small>CR</small>	14	15 5:30p Hillsdale Moving Company Christmas Potluck and Auction, <small>MITCH</small>
16 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School <small>SANC</small>	17	18 7:00a Men's Breakfast <small>GT</small> 10:30p Bible Study <small>LIB</small> 4:30p Prayer Group <small>PO</small> 7:00p Consistory Meeting <small>LIB</small> 7:00p Foundation Meeting <small>WORK</small>	19	20 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, <small>LOT</small>	21 7:00p Longest Night Service, <small>SANC</small>	22
23 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School <small>SANC</small> 11:45a Choir Rehearsal <small>CR</small>	24 Church Office Closed 11:00p Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols <small>SANC</small>	25 Christmas Day - Church Office Closed	26	27 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, <small>LOT</small>	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School <small>SANC</small>	31					

BUD=Bud Clark Commons, 655 NW Hoyt St **CR**=Choir Room **FH**=Fellowship Hall **GT**=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th) **LIB**=Library **LOT**=Upper Parking Lot
MITCH=Mitchell-Nelson Home, 5822 SW Luradel Ct **MDH**=Maria Dunlop's Home, 12146 SW 29th Ave **MULT**=Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy
PO=Pastor's Office **SANC**=Sanctuary **WORK**=Office Workroom

Glitter & Glorias

Christmas Dessert Concert

Sunday, December 9 • 6:30 p.m.

featuring spectacular music, scrumptious dessert, and fun for all ages

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland • ☎ 503-246-5474
tickets \$6 adults • \$3 children • includes dessert

Hillsdale Community Church UCC is an open and affirming congregation. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

DECEMBER 2012
tidings

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219
503-246-5474 • www.hillsdaleucc.org

Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Custodian **Terry Cornell** Child Care Providers **Olivia Hinerfeld, Gracie McManus, Chris Sessions**

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.

