

tidings

Denniston at dennistonjm6116@gmail.com or 509-834-8261.

Animal Aid Wish List

- Grain-free dry cat food
- High-quality canned cat food
- Postage stamps
- Paper towels
- HE laundry detergent
- Disinfectant
- Unscented clay cat litter (available at Fred Meyer. Unscented is very important!)

HomePDX Wish List (all items are for adults)

- Socks (new crew or boot socks)
- Gloves*
- Blankets, ponchos, and/or tarps*
- Sleeping bags, the heavier the better*
- Camp stoves*
- Toiletries (baby wipes, deodorant, foot powder, lip balm, razors)

*Used in good condition is fine!

Fall Blood Drive Exceeds Goal

Our Red Cross Blood Drive on October 28 was a great success. We collected 20 units, exceeding our goal of 17! This has the potential to help 60 people in need.

Thanks to all who helped in this effort. Pattybear Barnett and Donna Bestwick ran the canteen while Gloria and Gerry Craig handled registration. Our faithful donors are terrific: Don Beard, Clyde Saylor, Andrea O'Connell, Mike Thomas, Bill Schneller, Jim Ruyle, Barbara Raz Neu, Pat Leach, Pat Stenaros, Mike Van Loo, Robin Williams, Charlene Dickinson, Cathy Wyrick, Nayan Fleenor, Ryan Boyer, Carol Weber, Sandra Barnes, Dennis and Trudi Frengle, Cathy Wright, Arthur Armour, and Chet Lee. Thank you!

Worship at HCCUCC December 2015

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent
Joy Sunday

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent
Peace Sunday

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Love Sunday

December 21 • 7:00 p.m.

Longest Night—A Service of Healing and Hope on the Longest Night of the Year

December 24 • 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 27

All-Ages Spontaneous
Christmas Pageant

Giving Tree Benefits Pets and People

This year the HCC kids are supporting both Animal Aid and HomePDX with a Giving Tree.



Animal Aid, founded in 1969, has helped tens of thousands of companion animals through their rescue and adoption programs for homeless animals, financial and volunteer support of spay/neuter efforts, and by providing funds to guardians unable to pay for urgent veterinary care.

HomePDX gathers as a community of folks who live inside and outside. Their motto: "This is the heart of who we are, and how we show our heart (and God's) for our friends: share meals, share hope, share supplies, share ourselves, help others connect.

Here's how you can help. On the Giving Tree in the Narthex, each ornament has written on it an item that is needed. Simply bring the item you choose and leave it on or under the table. The need far outweighs the number of ornaments, so feel free to bring any of the items on the following wish lists!

All gifts should be unwrapped and brought to the church by Sunday, December 20 so that we can get them to the organizations for delivery by Christmas.

Thank you for helping us make this a wonderful Christmas for the humans and animals less fortunate than ourselves. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica

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Missions Money Distributed

Each year HCC supports Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) as well as several other groups. Approximately \$1,800 was distributed earlier this year to 12 organizations. A group of interested HCC members met recently to allocate the remaining portion of the "other missions" budget.

The biggest need was to provide money for the monthly meal our church provides for the homeless shelter on Hoyt Street. Part of the money for the meals has come from the Boomers Auction that is held each December, and some food is donated. The group decided to allocate the majority of the remaining money to the Hoyt Street meals. The remaining \$700 was divided among seven organizations we have supported in the past: Neighborhood House, SW Community Health, Meals On Wheels People, Transition Projects, Youth Dynamics, Ethiopian Women's Health, and Project Ethiopia.

The group also learned about a sizable special donation to help with Water Projects in Haiti from two of the children in our congregation who have been saving the coins they find laying around, under cushions, or on the street. It is great to see kids get a passion for helping others.

If you want to get involved, here are a few ways you could help: We need someone to deliver the food we collect for Neighborhood House. It is simply a matter of loading up the donations and driving them to the NH food pantry in Multnomah Village. We are also in need of a chairperson (or people) for the Make A Difference Team which oversees the mission work of HCC. If God is calling you to help in either of these ways, please let Kathy know in the HCC office.

Raising Our Welcome Anniversary Shows Progress

by Bob Brandon

We have now reached the one-year anniversary of the kick-off for our capital campaign, "Raising Our Welcome"! You've no doubt seen the progress in the lower parking lot. The construction fence is up, shrubs have been removed, big machinery has rolled in, and excavation has begun.

As the follow-up chair for the campaign, it is my responsibility to monitor the incoming contributions to the campaign.

If you should need to make changes to your initial intended contribution, please contact me with that information. I can be reached by phone at 503-246-5354.

I'm delighted to share the status of the campaign with



Excavation begins with the removal of shrubs along Fellowship Hall

you as of October 31, 2015, as we have already collected \$240,342.80. That is truly wonderful! This figure includes 33 one-time gifts received at the time the campaign began. The remainder is comprised of individuals and families who have completed their intended contribution or are on track to meet their intended amount via Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs), monthly contributions, or periodic payments.

At the last Consistory meeting it was shared that our campaign expenses as of October 31, 2015, have been \$86,373.99. Therefore, we have \$153,968.81 in our account balance.

Congratulations and thanks for your generous gifts!

From the Pastor

by Chris Hyde

It brings me great pleasure to write this first newsletter article as your interim pastor. Thank you for the warm welcome that you all have given me. I am beginning to get the "swing of things" around here and am starting to feel more a part of the church family. Your welcome and inclusion of me has gone a long way in making me feel comfortable and appreciated.

And speaking of being your "interim," I thought I'd share a bit about what my role is over the course of my time with you. To put it simply, an "interim pastor" is a pastor on temporary assignment to provide pastoral care and leadership during a period of transition. Although some might view periods of "transition" with caution and an interim pastor as a "temp," I see my role quite different. For this transitional period, for this time that I'm here, I am your pastor. Many of you have seen me in that role as we gather for worship on Sunday mornings. For most pastors, this is our most public and visual role. But, of course, that is only one of my roles. I am also your pastor during this time for pastoral matters—counseling, pastoral visits in hospitals, nursing homes, and homes, and to talk about matters of faith. I also welcome conversations with you as you continue to seek God's direction in your life and in the life of this church. Also, one of the most important roles I have is to help this church to get prepared for the next pastor. So I will be helping to "take stock" of where the church currently is and giving suggestions on how it can get more prepared for the future. In a sense, I will be a consultant, working with the Consistory as well as all of you, to strategize about how this church can become its very best self. I look forward to this journey with you.

In the meantime, it's December...time for Advent and for Christmas! Let's celebrate the season together! It's time to enjoy the holidays with family, friends, and the extended church family. Let's soak up the season and enjoy it before we begin to tackle things in the New Year. I look forward to celebrating this season with you.

Holiday blessings to you all!



home

FOR CHRISTMAS

Eleventh Annual Christmas Choral Concert

Sunday, December 13 • 6:30 p.m.

Hillsdale Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland

The concert is free. Donations to the church's concert series gratefully accepted.

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	2 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	3 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	4	5
6 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Communion Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45a Choir Rehearsal CR	7 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	8 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	9 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	10 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	11	12 10:00a Choir Rehearsal SA
13 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 6:30p Home for Christmas Choral Concert SA	14 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC	15 Tidings Deadline 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	16 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	17 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	18	19 6:00p Boomers Auction RZ
20 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	21 7:00p Longest Night Service SA	22 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	23 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	24 10:45p Christmas Eve Musical Prelude SA 11:00p Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols SANC	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26
27 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a All-Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant SA	28	29 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	30 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	31 9:00a Walking Group UL	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St) CR=Choir Room DN=Downstairs FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th) MH=Mt Hood Room MR=Maple Room
MC=Multnomah Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) R1=Room 1, Education Wing R4=Room 4, Education Wing RZ=Fred and Joan Raz Home (7121 SW 25th Ave) SA=Sanctuary UL=Upper Parking Lot

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. • **Worship Service** • Sanctuary

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. • **Worship Service** • Sanctuary

Sunday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. • **Home for Christmas Concert** • Sanctuary

Saturday, December 19, 6:00 p.m. • **Boomers Christmas Auction** • Home of Fred and Joan Raz

Sunday, December 20, 10:30 a.m. • **Worship Service** • Sanctuary

Saturday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. • **Longest Night Service** • Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. • **Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols** • Sanctuary (prelude begins at 10:45)

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. • **All-Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant** • Sanctuary

Choir's Annual Concert Celebrates *Home for Christmas*

Our choir's 11th annual Christmas concert—*Home for Christmas*—will take place in the Sanctuary this year because of construction downstairs. And while we won't be having dessert (don't worry, it's coming back next year!), we will be treated to their usual fabulous blend of music for the season, from secular to sacred, silly to sublime. Tickets are not needed this year, so take advantage of the extra seating space and bring a friend!

Boomers Auction Has Food, Fun

Plan to have fun on Saturday, December 19, 6:00 p.m., at Fred and Joan Raz's home. Bring a potluck dish to share, two wrapped gifts, and your checkbook! One gift should be nice—something you would like to receive—and the other gift can be fun or silly. It's a great time to get creative. Plan to invite someone who is new to this fun tradition. Fred and Joan's home is at 7121 SW 25th Ave., just a few blocks from the church.

The Longest Night Brings Healing, Hope

Our annual Longest Night service is a quiet, gentle worship service offering healing and hope on the longest night of the year. Music, candlelighting, and time for silent prayer make this service a meaningful respite from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the season. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 21, in the Sanctuary.

New Garden Helps Neighbors Help Themselves

As you walk through the lower parking lot or gaze out from the Mount Hood Room, you'll notice that the large space behind the church which once held a fenced-in playground is now covered with garden plots. This new garden, called Crossroads Community Garden, is part of the Portland Parks and Recreation Community Garden program, and our church contributed this land to provide public garden space for our neighbors. Hillside Community Church contributes in other ways as well, such as providing some volunteer support and a water hookup.

Like Transitions Project meals, our Christmas giving tree, and our support of Neighborhood House and the Grauer Back-To-School Project, the garden is another example of our mission to care for those around us in an inclusive way. Gardens, however, are unique among the ways that we

contribute to feeding the hungry, since they provide the means for people to work to provide their own food.

Of course Portland has a wonderful climate for producing such summer crops as tomatoes and berries. But you might be surprised to find out how many crops, such as kale and leeks, can be planted and harvested on a yearly cycle, so that our garden could produce food almost year round. The planting dates calculator at www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-dates/OR/Portland reveals some of the additional possibilities for both year-round and seasonal gardening.

Crossroads Community Garden should be ready for planting by spring, and potential gardeners will be able to sign up for access to these spaces beginning November 15. Sign-up directions are available at www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/65821. Since community garden space is in high demand all around Portland, and wait-lists will form quickly, prospective gardeners should sign up as soon as possible and may wish to consider sharing a plot with a friend.

If you'd like to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to help improve the lives of our neighbors, please contact Patti Brandon at plb0609@gmail.com. The garden will need more work before it is ready for spring planting, and we would love to have you on board.

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 16.

Acknowledgments will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

Donated Turkeys Gobbled Up By Hoyt Street Shelter

This time of year, many supermarkets offer turkeys at a very reasonable price when you spend a minimum amount in their store. If you do not have a use for such a turkey but would be willing to donate one, the HCC Hoyt St. meal ministry would gladly accept your donation. The bigger the turkey, the better! Turkey is often used in the casseroles that our church prepares once a month for the 100 hungry men staying at the Hoyt Street homeless shelter. Just place your turkey into the freezer that is in the back pantry area of the kitchen, or contact Barbara Raz Neu (503-754-0942, braz@teleport.com).

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. Rehearing 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.

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. Also included in the service is our own Hillsdale tradition—the lighting of candles by the



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.

congregation as we sing *Silent Night* together. It 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.

December 2015

tidings

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Interim Pastor **Rev. Chris Hyde** (chris@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Church Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Office Assistant **Kathy Schneller** (kathy@hillsdaleucc.org) Child Care Providers **Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller**

2015 Consistory Members: Carl Wamser, President (503-504-4296 · wamserc@pdx.edu); Rebecca Holt, Vice-President, Share Christ’s Word, Personnel (503-866-0340 · rebecca@lclark.edu); Bob Brandon, Past President, Pastor Relations, Capital Campaign (503-313-0056 · Bob.Brandon@ltic.com); Drake Mitchell, Treasurer (240-672-1738 · drakem@pdx.edu); Nayan Fleenor, Make a Difference (503-645-6132 · nayan@mindspring.com); Ruthanne Rusnak, Fellowship (503-701-2462 · xiiicatsold@yahoo.com); Cathy Thomas, Worship (503-246-9509 · elefun@aol.com)

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.

