

# tidings

## Worship at HCC January 2009

January 4  
Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

Another Road

January 11  
Baptism of Jesus

Genesis 1:1-5  
Mark 1:4-11

In a Beginning

January 18  
Guest Preacher

Central Pacific Conference Minister  
Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris

1 Samuel 3:1-20  
John 1:43-51

Saved or Called?

January 25  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Mark 1:14-20

Changing God's Mind

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*Tidings* is edited and designed by Tim Ditch.

## Pipe Organ Debuts Sunday, January 11

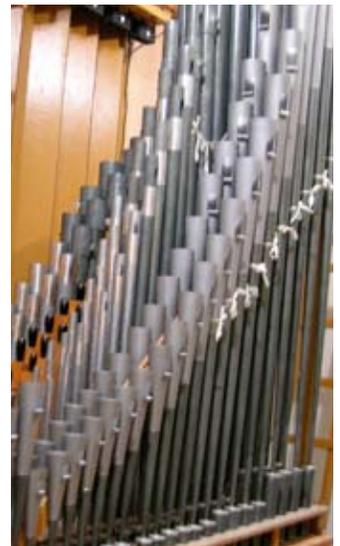
**A**fter a string of weather-related delays, the pipe organ in HCC's Sanctuary will finally make its debut in the morning worship service on Sunday, January 11.

Join us for this special day in the life of our congregation. Come prepared to hear some familiar sounds as well as some new sounds, but above all, come prepared to sing and celebrate!

A special Dedication Concert will be presented on Sunday, February 22.



(From upper right) Paul Gonzales, Evan Holt, Tim Ditch, Bob Miller, Ed Wilson, and Dennis Frengle stand triumphantly in front of the new organ console after successfully lifting the 740-lb. behemoth into the Chancel. ■ Trumpet, Flute, and Principal pipes are just a few of the "ranks"



that make up the new organ. ■ The Swell manual—or keyboard—and controls for couplers and Solo division stops. ■ Drawknobs control the organ's stops, or sounds. Pictured here are Pedal division stops. ■ Ed Wilson from the Rodgers Organ Company connects some of the more than 1,000 wires that control the organ pipes.



## Annual Meeting Announced

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ, will take place following the morning worship service on Sunday, January 18. All are invited.

## Electric Bill Shows Savings

Treasurer Jon von Behren recently shared this good news: “I noticed when I was paying the church’s electricity bill tonight how much our electricity use has declined. It’s fabulous! ... We’re saving about \$6 per day, which is a truly hefty windfall!”

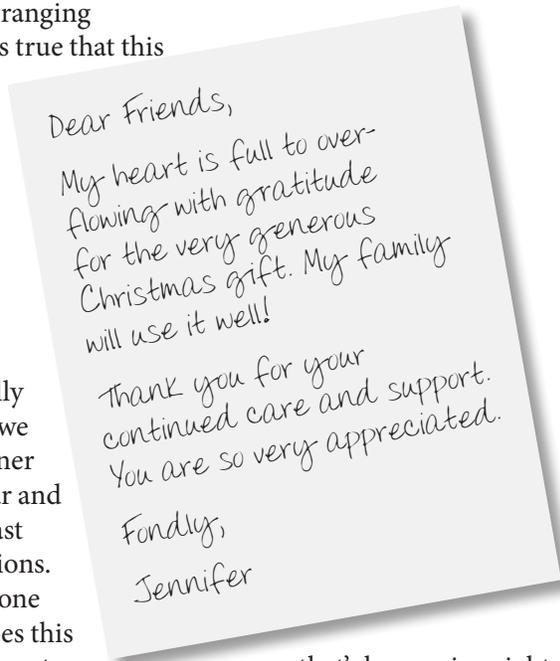
Thanks to the Buildings and Grounds crew, especially John Biskey, for your help in implementing the energy-saving measures which have lowered our energy bill by an average of about 30 percent since June!

## Conversation with Pastor Jennifer

There is an old saying “if you want to make God laugh, tell Her your plans.” As I write this, in the week before Christmas, many of us are housebound by ice and snow, and I have made and received many phone calls changing plans and rearranging meetings. If it’s true that this makes God laugh, there must be a lot of divine chuckling going on.

If you are like me, you like to make plans, especially in January, as we round the corner into a new year and write (or at least make) resolutions. I have at least one friend who does this each morning, not just once a year! Every day, she sits at her desk, says a prayer, and then makes her list for the day. I have tried

this practice, but it’s only successful if I am willing to let go of the items on the list pretty much the moment I write them down. If I get too stuck on trying to cross everything off, I might miss the really important stuff



that’s happening right in front of my nose—the conversation that cannot wait, the phone that rings for a reason, the email that really



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

needs a reply. Still, I don’t give up on lists, because I don’t really believe God laughs at our plans. I believe God loves our good intentions, and takes pleasure in them, even when we can’t always see them through to completion. That’s why, even if I know there will be distractions from them, I really enjoy making lists of Things To Do.

May God bless your plan-making, as well as whatever distractions from those plans you may encounter, in the month to come.

*Pastor Jennifer*

## HCC Welcomes Conference Minister to the Pulpit

Conference minister Walter John Boris will be the guest speaker at HCC on January 18. His subject will be “Saved or Called.”

When asked about his sermon topic, Rev. Dr. Boris responded, “Remember those scripture banners in the end zone at NFL football games? John 3:16—‘For God so loved the world...?’ ‘Saved by Jesus’ is one way to understand our Christian faith. It leaves

us with the questions: saved from what? for what? Is there a better way to talk about what it means to be a Christian?”

Walter John Boris began serving as Conference Minister for our Central Pacific Conference in August of 2008. He came to us after 29 years of ministry in four churches in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; and Kirkland, Washington. Walter John sees

himself as a teacher and pastor, with much of his ministry focusing on building community in the church through themed worship services, educational opportunities for all ages, and strong participation in the camping ministry of the Conference. Over the past 14 years, the congregation he served in Kirkland was known for challenging the abuse of religion in politics, sharing their build-

ing with 13 other congregations, supporting gay rights, hosting the homeless encampment called Tent City 4, and exploring and promoting an inclusive view of



Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris

(See Boris, page 8)

## FAQs on Faith Giving at HCC

**P**astor Jennifer recently answered some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about faith giving here at Hillsdale Community Church, United Church of Christ.

*In the fall, I'm used to pledging, or telling my church how much I'm going to give next year. Don't we do that at Hillsdale?* Here at Hillsdale, we have a history of faith giving. Faith giving means that, in response to God's goodness in their lives throughout the year, each family gives as they are moved to and able to.

*Hmm, that seems kind of risky. Isn't it better to know exactly how much money is coming in before we make a budget?* In January, we'll all have a chance to look at the 2009 budget and vote on it. Then, everyone will know exactly what expenses we

have coming up in the year, and we can all work together to meet those expenses. It's actually a pretty faithful way to plan our expenses for the coming year.

*But I like to pledge—it helps me feel like I'm really making a commitment to the church. Can I still do it? Of course!* If it helps you in your faith commitment or financial planning, you are welcome to indicate to the church how much you are planning to give in 2009. To make a pledge, just send a note to Barbara Raz in the office that says, "In 2009, I will give \_\_\_\_ to the church," and sign your name.

*I've heard that many people at Hillsdale tithe. What does that mean?* Tithers give 10% or more of their income to the church. Many people start out by giving a smaller percentage, and then increase

their percentage of giving over a period of several years.

*My family and I can't tithe right now. Will a smaller offering make a difference?* Every single offering that is given helps the church.

Remember, it's all our offerings together that make the church run. Unlike other organizations that operate on grants and other funds, our church relies completely on all our offerings. And many people say that giving helps the giver just as much as the church.

*How should I give to the church—on Sunday, or by mail, or what?* Some people place their offering in the plate on Sunday, and some mail or drop their checks by the office. Others set up automatic payments through their bank's online service. Those are all good ways to

give. The important thing for most families is to decide on an amount and pay that amount regularly—whether it's every week, every other week, or every month.

*I understand we took out a loan to purchase a new organ console and repair a pipe in the church. Can I contribute to help pay that loan back right now?* Yes! If you would like to contribute to the organ fund, in addition to your regular giving toward the general operating expenses of the church, just indicate that on your check or envelope. We'll be having a campaign to help everyone learn how they can help with paying back this loan in early 2009. Watch for it!

*I have other questions. What should I do?* Feel free to check in with Pastor Jennifer or a member of Consistory anytime. And thanks for asking!

## Friendship Builders Auction: Success!

by Margaret Bronson

**O**ur December potluck and auction was held Friday, December 12, with 21 in attendance. Everyone had great time! Our auctioneer this year was Jeff Brownell. He did a great job, and although he may not realize it yet, once you agree to fulfilling this job, it's yours "for life"!

We had five children this year, and they were the "hit" of the evening, bidding against each other for stuffed animals, compliments of Louise Albagli.

A special "thank you" to Sue Floyd and Lois Coil for decorating the tables; young Elijah Brownell and Hunter

Parrett for helping Santa; Bill Coil, our treasurer; and Patty Todd and her kitchen crew. Thank you, thank you! I could not do this without your help.

The monies raised this year will benefit the Organ Fund.

Our next meeting will be in April, unless you hear otherwise!

## Church Building Has New Keys

**D**o you need a key to the kingdom? Or at least to the church building?

We have recently had the entire church re-keyed, since many of the old keys were sticking in the locks or not working at all. New keys are now needed for all exterior and office doors.

For better stewardship of the building, we will be carefully tracking the distribution of keys.

If you need a new key and alarm code, please see Tim in the front office.

## HCC Budget Report—November 30, 2008

	Budget October	Actual October	Budget Year-to-Date	Actual Year-to-Date
Income	\$14,217.83	\$16,845.78	\$158,982.17	\$153,271.47
Expenses	\$17,756.10	\$16,709.94	\$159,325.94	\$153,329.73
Surplus (Deficit)	\$(3,538.27)	\$135.84	\$(343.77)	\$(58.26)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Communion Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 2:00p Edgewood Downs	5 8:30a Yoga, FH 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	6 1:00p Martha Circle, FH 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	7 8:30a Yoga, FH 10:00a Loaves and Fishes	8 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	9	10
11 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	12 Gisan Street Meal 8:30a Yoga, FH 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	13 1:00p Martha Circle, FH	14 8:30a Yoga, FH 7:00p Women's Group, Van Loos' Home	15 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	16	17
18 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Potluck, FH	19 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	20 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB	21 Tidings Deadline 8:30a Yoga, FH	22 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	23	24
25 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	26 8:30a Yoga, FH 10:30a Bible Study, LIB	27	28 7:00p Women's Group, Van Loos' Home	29 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	30	31

CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall LIB=Library LOT=Front Parking Lot SANC=Sanctuary

# January 2009

## Wisdom Writings Class Highlights Tracy's Studies

I hope this note finds you well and in good spirits. As I write this, your very own Louise Albagli is sitting in my living room, and I've been having a wonderful time catching up with her on all of you!

Fall term ended on December 12, and I can say that I enjoyed my first semester at Pacific School of Religion very much. I've learned a lot in my classes, and met some terrific friends and neighbors. I especially enjoyed my Wisdom Writings/Psalms class, in which we delved into the Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and many other of the wisdom books in the Old Testament. It was really wonderful to dig into these classics and uncover all the richness and depth of meaning.

My Theology class was really tough, but for my final paper I got to choose my own topic. I decided to compare the Nicene Creed (AD 325) to the UCC Statement of Faith (AD 1959). It was a really interesting study, comparing not only the documents themselves, but also the times they were written in, the people who wrote them, the reasons they were written, and how their Christologies compare. It was a huge project, but very enlightening.

I'm glad to be on break, taking a breather, catching up on various projects, and spending more relaxed time with the girls. At the church where I'm serving, they've

asked me to do the 7 o'clock Christmas Eve service for the children. This will be the first full service that they've let me do, so I'm really excited.

This term I've been focusing primarily on my preaching, by taking a preaching class and giving sermons once a month. Next term, at my field education site, I'll be focusing more on learning about pastoral care, by accompanying the pastor on visits. It's been really interesting to see how much goes on behind the scenes, and what pastors do when they're not in church on Sunday morning.

In January I'll be attending a women's retreat, and I'm looking forward to a little rest and spiritual rejuvenation.

Colin came down to visit for Thanksgiving. It was wonderful to have us all together again, and we all had a fun week. He'll be coming down tomorrow to visit through Christmas, and we're all looking forward to that. The girls are doing well in school. Rosemary is always singing songs she has learned (she has quite a repertoire!) and Faye is practicing her letters and spelling words.

A few weeks ago I received a generous check from the Foundation Board, and I want to say thank you very much to everyone who contributed. As always, I'm grateful to all of you all for your love, prayers, and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love, Tracy Barnowe

## Consistory Update

by Sue Floyd

The final Consistory meeting of 2008 was held on December 8. We heard the report of the nominating committee and learned that we have some excellent nominees for the 2009 Consistory. Anyone wishing to add to the slate may contact Patty Todd or Mary Ann Schacher.

The budget committee reported that a proposed budget for 2009 has been developed. All of this will be presented at our Annual Meeting to be held after worship on January 18. We will combine the business meeting with a potluck meal. We hope everyone will plan to attend.

In the last several weeks, we successfully negotiated a loan from Key Bank, sent Tim to Iowa to inspect the new organ console, purchased the console, and now have it in our sanctuary. The new water pipe has been installed, and some asbestos has been removed from our building.

Your Consistory has been a faithful, hard-working group that has been supported fully by our congregation this past year. We can feel grateful to each other and to God for our many successes in 2008.

I extend my personal thanks to all for all we have achieved.

## CWC Needs Your Support

An auction and celebration dinner is being planned by the Community of Welcoming Congregations, a non-profit organization dedicated to the full inclusion and equality of transgender, lesbian, bisexual, and gay persons. HCC is a member congregation.

The annual celebration will be held on February 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Lutheran Church. The dinner, entertainment, and auction includes: Dr. Bernie Schlager, recounting the history of the welcoming church and looks at where, we are going; the Portland Lesbian Choir; the Drama Queens readers' theatre, performing a teaser from a newly commissioned work; bidding on several tables of appealing silent auction items as well as participating in our rapid-fire

auction after dinner; and our returning caterer, back by popular demand.

Your support will help make this year's benefit a huge success. Items donated for the auction are fully deductible at fair market value for federal income tax purposes. Sponsorship opportunities for the event are also available. CWC is not eligible for traditional streams of funding, so your contribution makes a difference.

We hope you will join us in this celebration by attending our dinner and auction on February 28. Tickets are \$40; no one is turned away for lack of funds.

The address of the church is 1820 NE 21st Ave., Portland. Phone 503-665-8741 or e-mail office@welcomingcongregations.org for further information.

## HCC to Support Health Center

At the request of the Make a Difference Team, the Consistory voted to become a supporting member of Southwest Community Health Center. This clinic offers reduced-price medical care to people without health insurance in Southwest Portland, and they will soon be moving from their current home in Multnomah Arts Center to a new location in Multnomah Village.

The clinic sponsors walks for health the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. This event draws participants

from several neighboring faith communities, so it's a good way to connect with neighbors as well as enjoy an invigorating walk. You may walk 1, 3, or 5 miles, and all levels of ability and ages are welcome. The walks are free.

In addition to walkers, SW Community Health is also looking for volunteers and donors.

For more information, talk to a member of Make a Difference (Paul Gonzales, Carol Weber, or Nayan Fleenor) or check out the SWCHC web site at [www.swchc-pdx.org](http://www.swchc-pdx.org).

## Planning Team Seeks Volunteers

In 2009, its third year, we will again participate in Southwest Hope—a food drive campaign that benefits Neighborhood House. The campaign runs from late February through Easter. This food drive is organized by dozens of churches and synagogues and has set a

large goal this year.

If you would like to be part of the planning team for a dynamic, short term project that will really make a difference in our community this winter, please email Pastor Jennifer at [pastor@hillsdaleucc.org](mailto:pastor@hillsdaleucc.org), or call her at 971-340-6316.

## Boris (from page 2)

our faith referred to as “Progressive Christianity.”

Walter John and his wife, Cindy Penn, have been married for 33 years. They're the proud parents of three: Matthew 28, Leah 26, and Joshua 24.

## In Our Prayers

*Please remember these HCC family members and friends who are serving in the military:*

- Ryan Duffy (Iraq)
- Todd Duncan (Afghanistan)

### Hillsdale Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Worship God Joyfully • Share Christ's Word • Embrace All • Make a Difference*

6948 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland, OR 97219 • 503-246-5474 • [www.hillsdaleucc.org](http://www.hillsdaleucc.org)  
Office — [office@hillsdaleucc.org](mailto:office@hillsdaleucc.org) • Pastor — [pastor@hillsdaleucc.org](mailto:pastor@hillsdaleucc.org) • Music Director — [tim@hillsdaleucc.org](mailto: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/Office Administrator **Tim Ditch**  
Child Care Providers **Millie Alvarez and Olivia Hinerfeld**      Custodian **Terry Cornell**

Annual Meeting to Be Held Sunday, January 18

