

tidings

Worship at HCC July 2009

July 5

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Mark 6:1-13

The Prophet's Home Town

July 12

Genesis 2:18-25

Matthew 6:25-29

*The Blessing of
the Animals*

July 19

Psalms 23

Mark 6:30, 53-56

*Dwelling in
God's House*

July 26

John 6:1-21

Miracle Meal

Children's Sabbath Brings Joy to All Ages



Our children led us in a sometimes chaotic but always good-spirited service of worship on June 14. Thanks to youth readers Ben Soderquist, Laurel Soderquist, Aspen Sheehan, and Elijah Brownell, and to the many children who sang, created art, told stories, ushered, made animal noises, offered the benediction, and brought joy to our service of worship.



(Above) The children sing *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.
(Right) Laurel Soderquist and Pastor Jennifer lead worship.

Thursdays Combine Food, Fellowship, Fun

It is an idea that, once spoken, would not go away. "Wouldn't it be good to invite our neighbors to share a meal with us? We have a great facility, plenty of people who love to cook, and neighbors who we know could use a hot meal." At the same time, another idea was floating around, too. "Since the church we usually partner with is not hosting Vacation Bible School this year, let's think of a meaningful and fun project for the neighborhood children." These two good ideas came together and became *Thursday's Together: Food, Fellowship, and Fun*, combining a meal with time of activities, fellowship, and worship.

Every Thursday in July we will gather in

Fellowship Hall for dinner, activity stations around animal themes for families to enjoy together, and a short time of worship for all ages. Dinner is at 5:45, activity stations are 6:30-7:00, closing worship is from 7:00-7:15.

If you would be interested in helping these ideas become reality, there is still need for cooks and activity directors. Please call Carol Doyle (503-892-3023) or Erica Johnson (503-341-7821) if you would like to volunteer.

Thursdays Together offer a great chance to invite friends or neighbors who are curious about the church community but not ready or able for some reason to join us on Sunday mornings. The evenings are free.

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Play a Part in "Pipes and Pipes" Project

We have much to be thankful for at Hillsdale UCC, and the sounds of organ pipes and the clear running water from water pipes are blessings we all enjoy. The Pipes and Pipes Loan Repayment Team will be calling all Hillsdale members to visit in the coming weeks. Please welcome them into your home or local coffee shop to hear how you might play an important part in our collective effort for loan repayment.

Team members will share information, and answer any questions you may have about the project. We hope you will prayerfully consider a special gift for this purpose that is above and beyond your generous giving to our church.

All Creatures Great and Small...

Bring your animal friend, or a photo of a favorite animal, to be honored at a special pet blessing on July 12. On that day, animals are welcome in worship at 10:30 (leashed or crated, please), or you can leave them at home and go fetch them for the 11:45 blessing, which will be in the front parking lot. This is a joy-filled day of worship!



Conversation with Pastor Jennifer

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

—from the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

I'm writing this just before Father's Day, so I'm thinking about my dad. My dad is a minister, too, and he has always had a pretty irreverent sense of humor. When I was a little girl, he used to sing to me and my brothers:

*"I don't care if it rains or freezes
As long as I have my plastic Jesus
Sitting on the dashboard of my car..."*

I don't actually know any of the other words of that song, or if it even is a real song, but

I'm guessing that it's meant to be more ironic than sincere. Still, it makes me smile to think of my dad singing it to me, and at certain times in my life it becomes a sort of a theme song that I can hum through the rough days when all I can see is the "rains and freezes." It reminds me, even if it is in a silly way, that I have a Companion on life's journey.

And that's what the second section of the UCC Statement of Faith is all about. It is to remind us that we have companions on our journey and that whatever "rains or freezes" come our way, those companions will stick close by. We have Jesus, who came to live among us, show us how to be our best selves, and then to redeem us when, try as we might, we fall short. Our Companion Jesus left behind the Capital C Church, which includes our own little lowercase church. And the church

is made up of more companions, those who show us how to be our best selves, and who keep calling us back in when we fall short.

Sometimes we get stuck in the "rains and freezes"—those are the times we forget that our most important call as a church is to live in covenant relationship with one another. Sometimes this covenant business can seem cumbersome, inefficient, or just plain annoying. That's when we can turn to the Statement of Faith, to be reminded that this is first of all Christ's church, not mine or yours. Thanks be to the Holy Spirit who holds us together through all the "rains and freezes"!

In the Light,

Pastor Jennifer



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Friendship Builders Plan Outing

by Margaret Bronson

It's time for our annual outing to Dorothy Arthur's place in lovely Washougal. Please join us Wednesday, July 8.

We shall carpool from the church parking lot, leaving between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We will need several drivers.

Join us for fellowship, games, and, as usual, great food! We're hoping for sunshine, and everyone is welcome. Please bring a

potluck dish to share.

Bring your friends, young people, and grandkids. Last year we had a number of first-timers. I promise you'll enjoy yourself!

If you have questions, phone me at 503-598-3483.

HCC Budget Report—May 31, 2009

| | Budget April | Actual April | Budget Year-to-Date | Actual Year-to-Date |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$15,256.67 | \$15,321.60 | \$76,283.33 | \$75,456.47 |
| Expenses | \$16,060.14 | \$16,359.56 | \$78,162.72 | \$75,313.45 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$(803.47) | \$(1,037.96) | \$(1,879.39) | \$143.02 |



Bonnie Griswold, Rebecca Holt, Olivia Hinerfeld, Barbara Raz, Millie Alvarez, and Margy Kleger receive accolades during the Children's Sabbath.

Thank You, Teachers!

Our children's Sunday School teachers (Bonnie Griswold, Rebecca Holt, Olivia Hinerfeld, Barbara Raz, Millie Alvarez, and Margy Kleger) tell Bible stories, play, sing, and craft every week as they teach our young people. Dennis Frengle leads a weekly adult Bible study.

We will add another

children's class in the fall, and we will welcome new teachers Erica Johnson, David Karkosky, and Paul Thiers.

There is one opening to teach in the multi-age class (ages 6-11). If you would like to be a Sunday School teacher, please talk to Barbara Raz (503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com).

Your Summer Travels Can Help Glisan St.

Please save any unused hygiene products that are supplied in your hotel/motel room.

The soaps, shampoos, etc., can be used by the clients at the Glisan Street Homeless Shelter.

Just bring your supply to church Narthex area with Glisan St. Shelter marked on the bag.



Revisit, Return, Reconnect

All Camp Adams campers, new and returning, are invited to share in a reunion and fundraiser at the camp on August 1 from 3:00 until 11:00 p.m.

Support Camp Adams while you enjoy fellowship and activities including exploring, swimming (3-5 p.m.), legendary chicken dinner (\$10, 6 p.m.), silent auction, camp fire, and night hike.

Learn more and register at www.campadams.org.

Neighborhood House to Present Summer Benefit

Wine and dine at the famous Duckridge Farm Estate and help Neighborhood House! Our friends, Jeff and Betsy Miller, have graciously opened their beautiful French-inspired country home surrounded by 85-acres of picturesque gardens for this event. Duckridge Farm, Oregon's largest private garden, is listed in the Smithsonian Institution's Archive of Gardens.

Come and enjoy a summer feast celebrating the region's finest foods, harvested at the peak of the season. Listen to live music from local band Rhythm Dogs while you stroll through impressive gardens

enjoying local wines and conversation with friends both old and new!

The event takes place Friday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Duckridge Farm Estate in Northwest Portland. Tickets are \$75 per person. Contact Tia Sherry at 503-246-1663, ext. 118, for tickets or more information. Proceeds from the event benefit Neighborhood House.



Hillsdale Terrace to See Improvements

Hillsdale Terrace, our neighbor to the north, is a project of the Housing Alliance of Portland. The Alliance provides low-income housing to families in need. Hillsdale Terrace will be undergoing a much-needed renovation in the next few years. Along with other neighbors, we are invited to give input at design workshops scheduled throughout the summer.

Check out posters at the church, or visit www.hapdx.org/hillsdaleterrace to learn more. And watch for big changes at Hillsdale Terrace in the years to come!

Women's Group Breaks for the Summer

The Women's Spiritual Prayer and Share Group, held at Cindy Van Loo's home on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, is taking the summer off and will resume in the fall.

We are thinking about a women's retreat to the coast this fall. Let Cindy know if you have a beach house you would like to offer for the group to use.

July 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--------|---|
| | | | 1 10:00a Loaves and Fishes | 2 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 5:45p Thursdays Together, FH | 3 | 4 <i>Independence Day</i> |
| 5 <i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 2:00p Edgewood Downs | 6 Glisan Street Meal 10:30a Bible Study, LIB | 7 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT | 8 9:00a Friendship Builders Trip to Washougal, Meet in LOT | 9 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, PO 5:45p Thursdays Together, FH | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Pet Blessing, LOT | 13 10:30a Bible Study, LIB | 14 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT | 15 <i>Tidings Deadline</i> | 16 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 5:45p Thursdays Together, FH | 17 | 18 4:00p Summer Potluck Picnic at the Ewings' (Swimming at 4:00, Picnic at 5:30) |
| 19 <i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Celebration Sunday</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:30a Pipes and Pipes Team Meeting, LIB | 20 10:30a Bible Study, LIB | 21 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:30p Executive Committee Meeting, LIB 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB 7:00p Foundation Meeting, PO | 22 | 23 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, PO 5:45p Thursdays Together, FH | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC | 27 | 28 7:00a Men's Breakfast, GT | 29 | 30 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 5:45p Thursdays Together, FH | 31 | August 1 |

GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th) LIB=Library LOT=Front Parking Lot PO=Pastor's Office SANC=Sanctuary

It's Berry-Picking Time!

We are blessed to have an abundance of luscious berries and fruit in our area. Berries (like blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries) and fruits (like apples) can be used to make cobblers or upside-down cakes for the monthly meal that HCC supplies for the Glisan Street Homeless Shelter. The men at the shelter find these desserts to be a real treat. But...it takes lots of berries or apples to make a cobbler for 100 hungry people!

If you have berries or fruit to share, just wash it, place it in a plastic freezer bag with the number of cups marked on the bag, and place the bags in the back freezer in the kitchen or contact Barbara Raz at 503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com.

Rummage Faire Planned for Fall

A Rummage Faire will take place October 2 and 3, so please remember to save any items you would like to donate for this fundraising event. The 2008 Rummage Faire was a huge success with over \$3,000 raised!

If you have questions, please contact coordinator Elizabeth Karkosky at 503-929-2459 or e-karkosky@hotmail.com.



Plan Now for Community Volunteer Fair

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Community Relations Committee, MJCC, and Community Warehouse are partnering for the first "Hand to Hand." We are hoping to have the participation of our faith partners as well. This event will provide an opportunity for people to support non-profits in the metro area with in-kind donations and to become familiar with organizations that focus on helping people in need.

The idea behind this event is to provide a way for adults, families, and students to learn about volunteering opportunities with agencies that are focused on assisting people in need, to learn how and where to donate items, and to participate in discussions about local social justice.

If you are interested in helping plan this project, which will take place on October 18, please speak to Pastor Jennifer.

Swim at First Summer Picnic

Hillsdale's first summer potluck picnic is Saturday, July 18, at the home of Robert and Mary Jane Ewing. Come at 4:00 if you'd like to swim. The picnic begins at 5:30. The Ewings live at 5146 SW 26th Drive.

Foundation Report

by Becky Meier

Here is a quick update on the Foundation activities. We have approved a grant application from the Share Christ's Word team for \$450 for new Christian education curriculum. As the congregation has more children, we will be adding another class and purchasing more costly curriculum.

Foundation funds can be requested by any committee, the Consistory, or the pastor to further God's work in the

life of the church.

Other action includes paying \$5,920.73 on the Texas Street improvements. By paying an extra payment each year (3 instead of 2), the length of the loan will be reduced by 10 years. Foundation felt this was wise stewardship of funds. The Foundation continues to work on an educational brochure on the Foundation and its operations for publication later this summer.



Aspen Sheehan lights the Communion Table candles at the recent Children's Sabbath service

Like to Cook...for a Crowd?

Once a month, a group of four or five people gather in the church kitchen to cook for about 100 men at the Glisan Street Homeless Shelter. A hearty casserole and a dessert are the main items prepared by the cooking "crew," but included in the meal are salad, fruit, rolls, and a beverage.

We meet on the second Monday afternoon of the month at 3:00 and work



together until about 6:00 or 6:30. The cooks are on a rotating schedule so a person helps to cook the meal about once every three months.

It is almost time to make up a cooking schedule for September 2009 through August 2010. If you would like to be a part of this service ministry, please contact Barbara Raz at 503-244-7153 or braz@teleport.com.

Grauer Project Gives to Needy

Grauer Back-To-School Project giveaway day will be held on Saturday, August 8, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church near SW 45th and SW Vermont. This event distributes new school supplies and clothing to needy children in Southwest Portland. Last year, 678 children were served, and more are expected this year.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex if you would like to participate in the August 8 event. Volunteers are also needed for the set-up and

preparation running July 27 through August 7. Help is especially needed on July 27 and 28 to sort over 5,000 pair of underwear that Cindy Van Loo has ordered for the event.

There will be a collection barrel in the Narthex beginning June 29 in which you can place new underwear, socks, shoes, coats, and school supplies. The last day to deposit items in the barrel will be Sunday, July 26.

If you have questions about the event, contact Cindy Van Loo at 503-245-3890.

God is still speaking,

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6948 SW CAPITOL HWY
PORTLAND, OR 97219

JULY 2009
tidings



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
Office – office@hillsdaleucc.org • Pastor – pastor@hillsdaleucc.org • Music Director – 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**