

tidings

Construction Enters Home Stretch

The finishing touches have been coming along in the last few weeks—doors, paint, carpet, plumbing, and trim work should all be done by the time you read this. Please feel free to take a tour of the new areas. You will discover the impressive scope of these renovations and additions and you'll find another great view of Mount Hood from the upper elevator lobby. The state elevator inspection is set for Tuesday, July 5. Assuming all goes well, everything should be wrapped up and tidy on or about July 9. Ideas for celebration will be welcomed.

Through all this, we have kept well to our approved budget of \$502,000. We retain a contingency fund of \$13,000, but anything else unexpected is becoming less and less likely as we wrap things up. Income from pledges to the capital campaign have been keeping pace well with expectations, and we have a bridge loan of \$200,000 from the UCC Cornerstone Fund to finish payments while the rest of the pledges come in. However, the total of all pledges is about \$450,000; the Consistory will be developing ideas to make up the final difference.

The entire congregation should be pleased to witness the final results of our commitment to Raising Our Welcome!

Congregation Aids Pastoral Search

In its ongoing effort to compile the detailed information needed for our church profile, the Pastoral Search Committee has enlisted the help of the entire congregation. The PSC distributed 90 confidential surveys on May 15; to date, 57 have been returned. A second, more focused survey will be distributed soon.

The PSC will host two community conversations, after church on June 26 and July 10, to hear congregational input on topics including mission/outreach, engaging children and adults, membership, worship, and buildings and grounds. Worshippers are encouraged to attend whichever community conversation is more convenient for them. The questions to be covered at each Community Conversation were distributed after church on June 19 and are available in the Narthex. Those who cannot attend either event in person are encouraged to submit written responses to the community conversation questions.

In addition, the PSC has placed a brightly decorated box in the Narthex for comments, questions, suggestions, and even complaints, and invites everyone to use it freely. Anonymous notes are welcome. Notes left in the box may be read and answered during the worship

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service so that others may hear the input and response. Members of the PSC have also been receiving input from congregants through personal conversations, telephone calls, emails, and even text messages. Please feel free to contact any committee member to add your voice to the pastoral search conversation. We want every voice to be heard!

If you have not yet returned your confidential survey, please do so as soon as possible. You may place the completed survey into the offering plate, drop it in the mail, or place it in the PSC mailbox in the office hallway. Please be sure to use numbered confidentiality envelope you received with the survey. If you have lost or discarded the envelope, contact PSC Chair Alexis Hamilton at iamgregsbird@gmail.com to obtain your private survey number, then write that on the survey and seal it in an envelope. Only Alexis has access to the coding list, and she will not see any completed survey.

Thank you, Hillsdale Community Church UCC, for your help in this vital task! We are here to serve the congregation. Committee members are Alexis Hamilton, chair; Carol Doyle; Dennis and Trudi Frengle; Cathy Thomas; Mike Van Loo; Nancie Wamser.

Thank You for Your Spiritual Yard Work by Becky Meier

We are blessed with a number of volunteers who address the appearance of the church property so that it extends a warm welcome. Mike Van Loo chairs the committee, and devotes many hours to mowing, pruning, and pulling weeds. Pat Stenaros invests knowledge and much physical effort in the landscape both in front and in the back of the property. Jim Ruyle has put in many hours on the Back Yard Habitat concept. Jack Morby and Diane Kinzey- Morby maintain the rose bed. Nayan Fleenor has faithfully taken care of the first plot in the parking lot. Many Thursdays after her walk with the walking group, she stays and pulls weeds. Linda Waltmire, Paula McCall, and Cathy Thomas have worked on the second island in the parking lot. Carl and Nancie Wamser have made sure major projects like the removal of the hedge in the back lot are completed. Becky Meier, Barbara Raz Neu, Margy Kleger, and Patti Brandon also work on the yard.

God uses our spiritual gifts in many ways and this is one. We hope others will join us on our monthly work parties to maintain and improve the appearance of our property.

Creating a Covenant at HCC

Following the Covenant Sunday service on April 17, our congregation met to share thoughts on creating a covenant for Hillsdale Church. A covenant is a collective agreement on how we treat each other and those outside our community. These guidelines describe how we wish to honor God in our

relationships and demonstrate the love that Christ has already shown us. Ideally, such a covenant will set a positive tone for our congregation, helping us grow together spiritually and serve others in God's love. It also will give guidelines for ways to work through the natural conflicts that happen in relationships, keeping our congregation healthier overall.

As your appointed representatives, Consistory members carefully considered the ideas shared during the meeting. Based on your collective thoughts, the consistory has written a draft, is fine-tuning it and will share it with the wider congregation in the coming weeks. We welcome your feedback, edits, thoughts for improvement, and suggestions. We want the entire congregation to "own" this covenant. Please contact Consistory President Rebecca Holt with any questions about the process.

From the Pastor by Chris Hyde



We made it! The construction project is just about done. Final inspections will be taking place by July 8 and then the actual construction part of the project will be over. That is cause for celebration! We've put up with our building being torn up and messy for several months now and I know that has been disruptive and inconvenient for everyone. But we've dealt with it and now the construction part of the project is complete. Now we can go on and enjoy the full use of our building again.

I say the "construction" part of the project is over because the whole project is not completely finished yet. We will still be paying off the construction costs through the pledges made prior to the work being started. I want to encourage you all to continue to make your pledge payments even though the construction is over. The sooner we get all of the money in, the sooner we will be able to pay it all off. Thank you to everyone who has been faithful in keeping up with your pledges for this project. Without you, this project would never have happened.

I have heard that there were some disagreements about this project early on and that it may still be a sore subject for some. While we can't go back and change the way everything happened, we can look forward to the future. My prayer is that we all can celebrate the new elevator and other changes that were made to the building and look to the positive ways these changes can enhance our ministry.

This project is but one link in the chain of many changes that have been going on here at Hillsdale Community Church. Change is not easy...and the process is sometimes very messy. But change is always inevitable. Now it's time to focus on the next big change: a new pastor. Thank you for your participation in the community conversations...that has provided important information for the search committee. Continue to be in prayer for the search committee and their process. Together, we can look forward to the person God has planned for this congregation.

July 2016

(visit our live calendar at www.hillsdaleucc.org/calendar)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities MR 10:30a Worship Service SA 11:45a Fellowship First Salad Luncheon FH	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	6 10:00a Meals on Wheels MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	7 9:00a Walking Group UL	1/8	2/9
10 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities MR 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School MR 11:45a Community Conversation, FH	11 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal KI,BC	12 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 7:00p Consistory Meeting, MH	13 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	14 9:00a Walking Group UL	15	16
17 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities MR 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School MR	18	19 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	20 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	21 9:00a Walking Group UL	22	23
24/31 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities MR 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School MR	25	26 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	27 10:00a Tidings Deadline 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R4	28 9:00a Walking Group UL	29	30

BC=Bud Clark Commons (655 NW Hoyt St) FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch (SW Barbur at 19th) KI=Kitchen MH=Mt Hood Room
MC=Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy) R4=Room 4, Education Wing SA=Sanctuary UL=Upper Parking Lot

Thank you for “hanging in there” through all of these changes. On my first Sunday at HCCUCC, I remember asking everyone in the congregation to “hang in there” through this interim process and all of the changes. Thank you all for showing up on Sundays, for giving of your time, talent, and treasure, and for your positive attitudes through this process. I know this church will be blessed in the future because of your commitment to staying the course during this unsettling time of change.

Blessings to you all, and enjoy the summer!

Cake Tasting, Wine Tasting, Church Tasting?

During this time of pastoral transition, we have an opportunity to re-imagine how Hillsdale UCC “does church.” Because we are used to the feel of Hillsdale’s culture,

Consistory and Pastoral Search Committee members decided to visit one or more fellow UCC churches in the greater Portland area during May and June. This experience has been enlightening, and we have come away with ideas that could enrich our outreach, welcome, and worship.

This process of “church tasting” and reporting back is open to all congregation members during July and August. We welcome the positive ideas you may bring back to continue improving our community. If you’d like to visit another UCC church and share your feedback, please contact Rebecca Holt at rebeccah@lclark.edu or 503-866-0340 to let her know the church you attended and your thoughts on the experience.

Group Provides Wheelchairs

We will soon have increased accessibility with our new elevator, and it is important to realize that there are many in other countries who don’t even have a wheelchair to use. There is an organization, Free Wheelchair Mission, that is faith-based and has developed ways over the last 15 years to get inexpensive and easy-to-maintain wheelchairs to some of those

Offerings as of May 31, 2016	Year-to-Date Needed	Year-to-Date Received	Shortfall
	\$77,115	\$67,279	\$9,836

most in need. The wheelchair is similar to a plastic yard chair, but made of a stronger resin. It has bicycle-type wheels. They use parts that are readily available and fixable. They work with other partners such as World Vision that are already working in the various countries who know of people who need the wheelchairs.

Free Wheelchair Mission has distributed almost 900,000 wheelchairs, and their goal is to reach a million by the end of 2017. They have found there are an estimated 100 million people who need wheelchairs in the 91 countries where they have had wheelchairs delivered. With so many people in need in other countries who can't work or go to school with out mobility, let's help at least a few more. We will be involving the children in this project so watch for more information in the weeks to come.

Fellowship Committee Plans Events for Summer Fun

We're planning an ice cream social on Saturday, August 6, beginning at 5:00. We'll provide the ice cream, and you can bring the toppings! Chopped nuts, crushed Oreos, chocolate sprinkles, fudge sauce—get creative!

On Sunday, September 4, we'll have the all-church potluck picnic. This year, it's all about board games! Come and join the fun. And remember the Friendship Tea coming up on September 24 at 1:00. Watch for details in next month's *Tidings*.

Personnel Update by Cathy Thomas, Personnel Chair

Due to budgetary constraints, the Consistory has decided not to hire someone to fill the nine-hour-per-week receptionist/office assistant position at this time.

Julia Miller, who had been filling in, will continue her custodial duties as the church's sexton.

Who's going to answer the church phones? When you call the main church phone number, an "automated attendant" will answer your call. Simply enter an extension (Chris is ext. 224, Tim is 221) or select from the voice menu. Your call will ring through to the staff member you are trying to reach.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Thomas.

CPCUCC Annual Meeting Offers Space at the Table

Do you crave the kinds of conversations that build upon themselves, unfolding like onions to reveal ever-deepening meanings? What would it mean to approach church with the same intention as we do those conversations? What if we talked about church with curiosity, openness, and love?

This September, members of the Central Pacific Conference UCC will gather to do just that.

We will circle together in small groups, hold space for each other, and listen well. We



will think deeply, share openly, and build relationships. And, we will trust that God will be ever-present, as we explore our church and our world with curiosity and hope. Let us gather with open hearts, and lay it all out at the table.

Hillsdale UCC is looking for four volunteers to attend the September 23-25 conference in Pendleton. Consistory especially encourages first-time attenders.

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.

2016 Consistory Members: Rebecca Holt, President, Share Christ's Word (503-866-0340 - rebeccah@lata.k.edu); Cathy Thomas, Vice President, Personnel, Worship (503-246-9509 - cethun@aol.com); Drake Mitchell, Treasurer (240-672-1738 - drakem@pdx.edu); Carl Wamser, Past President, Building Committee (503-504-4296 - wamserc@pdx.edu); Bob Brandon, Personnel, Capital Campaign, Fellowship Committee (503-313-0056 - Bob.Brandon@lata.k.edu); Cindy Van Loo (503-680-1746 - cindyvanloo54@gmail.com); Carol Weber, Make a Difference (503-232-2703 - cweber@poetworld.net).

Interim Pastor: Rev. Chris Hyde (chris@hillsdaleucc.org) **Director of Music/Church Administrator:** Tim Ditch (tim@hillsdaleucc.org) **Sexton:** Julia Miller (julia@hillsdaleucc.org) **Child Care Providers:** Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller