

Worship at HCC May 2011

May 1

Guest Preacher Jim Ruyle
Returning to Eden

May 8

Luke 24:1-35

"I'm known in the
breaking of the bread"

May 15

John 10:1-10

"I am the gate"

May 22

John 14:1-14

"I am the way, the truth,
and the life"

May 29

John 14:15-21

"You are in me, and I am in you"

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.

Stephen Ministry Enters Next Phase by Lynn Walser-Clark

The Stephen Ministry has entered its next phase of formation: accepting applications and meeting with applicants for a conversation regarding their application. Due to the unique type of one-on-one care that Stephen Ministry provides to our congregation members, an application and interview/conversation process is part of the program. This helps the Stephen leaders get to know those interested in the ministry and affirm that their gifts match those needed to be Stephen ministers.



As part of the congregational awareness and investigation process, the Stephen leaders—Carol Doyle, Dennis Frengle, and Lynn Walser-Clark—hosted an informational lunch after church on April 3. While breaking bread together, the leaders were able to talk in more detail about the ministry, and answer questions that members had. Those attending the lunch received applications to take with them. The application is simple and asks

a series of seven or eight questions about potential ministers' spiritual journeys and the types of gifts they have discerned within themselves regarding Stephen Ministry.

The application process is in its final stages, and Hillsdale's new Stephen Ministry trainees will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, May 8. Training will begin with a retreat on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14.

As most of us have experienced in our personal faith journeys and the journey of this church, God usually works in tiny steps, not in large leaps. The number of people being called to this ministry, given the size of our congregation, is very reassuring. We ask for your prayers as the Spirit continues to work in the Stephen Ministry program and the congregation as a whole. Through their hard work and your prayers, our future Stephen ministers will be able to reach out to those among us who need care and, as Galatians 6 instructs, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way... fulfill the law of Christ."

Pastor Relations Team Here for You

The Pastor Relations Team acts as a support team for Pastor Jennifer. They help her problem-solve, bounce around ideas, maintain a good balance between work and home, and plan for the future. They are also one conduit of information between Pastor Jennifer and the congregation. If you have any questions for the Pastor Relations Team, please contact one of the members: Lori Carlson, David Karkosky, Barb Raz, or Mike Van Loo.



Pets to Be Honored at Special Blessing

Each year in spring or early summer we celebrate a Blessing of the Pets. On this festive day, we remember



our connection to all of creation through the love we have for the animals who share our lives. This year's Pet Blessing will be Sunday, May 15. On that day, your pet is welcome in worship and the blessing will immediately follow on the patio outside of Fellowship Hall.

Peace Program Scheduled

An interfaith dialog titled Circle of Peace will explore our religious roots for peace on Saturday, May 7, at First Congregational UCC in downtown Portland. The program runs from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. and includes a welcome by Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet, Dalai Lama's message on "best religion," a panel and open discussion, and a peace covenant presentation. Pastor Jennifer will offer brief comments on the Christian roots of peace.

Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Over the years, your ministry has provided Band-Aids for us during our roller-coaster ride of a life. Our sincere thank you.

This is the end of a long letter I received recently from someone that we've helped from time to time with the family assistance fund. If you are not familiar with the fund, it is a small account from which we help individuals with expenses like rent, groceries, or medical bills. The amount is not very much—usually \$25-50 at a time.

I don't know about you, but at our house, we seem to go through a lot of Band-Aids. They just don't seem to last very long because they are not meant to. They are created to be disposable. Having read the letter I told you about, which detailed many housing and medical crises, the small amount we had provided to this family did indeed seem

like a Band-Aid trying to stop a roller coaster. Kind of a small and flimsy fix to a fast-moving and potentially dangerous situation.

But, for the folks who wrote that letter, the very small amount of help we were able to provide was just what they needed. With the help the church provided, as well as some other "Band-Aids," they have now moved to permanent housing and are getting help with their health care. More importantly, they have a sense that there is a community of support who cares for them enough to provide help when they can.

Sometimes, we stop ourselves from doing a small thing because it does not seem like nearly enough. What is our small donation to heal all the suffering in Japan, or Haiti? What is our one act of kindness to a person overwhelmed by life's many

tasks? What is our simple word of hope to someone in the pit of despair?

I'll tell you what it is: it's the Band-Aid against the roller coaster. And it is one of the mysteries and joys of our common life that sometimes a Band-Aid—a flimsy, small, disposable Band-Aid, is just the healing touch that is needed.

I was so honored to receive the letter I mentioned. It provided a much-needed reminder that often it is the small things we do that have the biggest impacts. If someone has given you a Band-Aid, make sure to let them know.

See you in church!

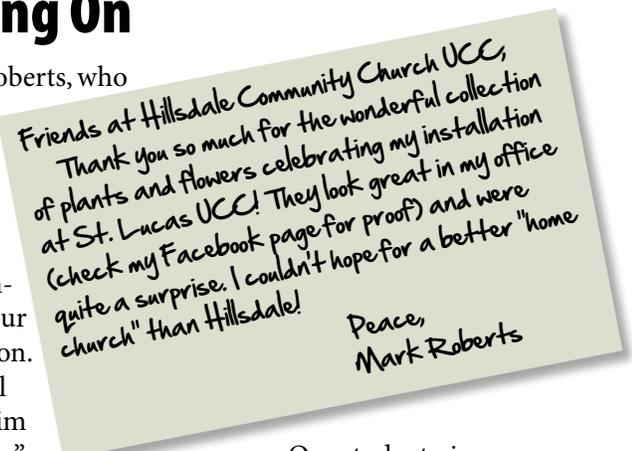
Pastor Jennifer

In-Care Students Moving On

Congratulations to our in-care student Tracy Barnowe! Tracy will graduate from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley on May 22, and her ecclesiastical council (EC) will be in our Sanctuary on Sunday, June 26 immediately following worship. The EC is a chance to hear from Tracy about some of what she has learned, find out her hopes for the future, and ask questions. If you want to send Tracy greetings or congratulations on her graduation, you can reach her by mail at 818 Adams Street, Albany CA 94706.

Mark Roberts, who was ordained here last year, is no longer officially in-care with our congregation. But, we still consider him one of "ours," so

when he was recently installed as Pastor and Teacher at St. Lucas UCC in St. Louis, where he has been working for some time, the church sent him a plant. He sent this thank you note (in your box).



Our students-in-care are members of the church who are pursuing vocations in ministry by attending seminary. We support them financially and with our prayers during their time in school.

Youth Corner

Children's Sunday School

How, where, and why does Jesus come to us and help us create community with each other? The children will be exploring these questions and more in Sunday School during the month of May.

May 1—Walking to Emmaus; Luke 24:13-35

Story: Two followers met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. They talked about his death, but didn't recognize him until later that day in the breaking of bread.

Faith Focus: Jesus opens our eyes!

May 8—Jesus appears to the disciples; Luke 24:36-49

Story: Jesus shows the disciples his hands and feet. He opens their minds to help them understand the scriptures.

Faith Focus: Jesus comes into our midst, and we can bring our doubts to God.

May 15—Jesus ascends to heaven; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Story: Jesus blesses the disciples and ascends to heaven. He promises to return again in the same way.

Faith Focus: We rejoice in the promise of the Holy Spirit!

May 22—the Church begins; Acts 2:1-41

Story: On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit. The church begins to grow.

Faith Focus: God gives the Holy Spirit to the church, and the Holy Spirit gives us power.

May 29—Life in common; Acts 2:42-47

Story: The first Christians studied, prayed, and shared with each other. God kept adding to their numbers.

Faith Focus: We work toward Christian community.

Young People Keep Active

The young people of Hillsdale Community Church were active in the kitchen last month! On April 3, five of the young men of our congregation visited the Hillsdale Farmers Market to do some shopping, and then returned to the church to cook some delicious and creative pizzas! Toppings included goat cheese, broccoli rabe, and exotic mushrooms—we have a group of boys with adventurous palates! Many thanks go out to congregants who supplied homemade dough and tomato sauce for our enjoyment.

The Sunday school youth dyed dozens of eggs on Sunday, April 10, to be given to Glisan Street. Olivia Hinerfeld and Gracie McManus were pros at preparation, teaching, and keeping the Fellowship Hall spotless in the midst of a lot of food coloring.

Personnel Committee Back to Work

Shortly after she was hired by the church just a month ago, part-time youth program coordinator Christine Kidd was offered a full-time job with a previous employer, which, unfortunately for us, is out of state. This was an offer she could not refuse, as the job was created specifically for her, although we are naturally sad to see her go. Her last day with us was Easter.

Christine has brought terrific energy and enthusiasm as well as organizational skills to this position, and she has laid good groundwork for the next person to come into this position. The personnel committee has re-opened this search and is hopeful to have it filled by the end of the school year in June.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you know any qualified candidates for this position, feel free to speak to a member of the personnel committee: Jack Morby, Pam Shelton, Carol Weber, Cindy van Loo, or Rebecca Holt.

Take a Soldier Fishing

Volunteers are needed for the Take a Soldier Fishing event on Saturday, June 4. More information is available in the Narthex. Forms are available for those who would like to give a cash donation.



Camp Adams Provides Fun for All Ages

There is still time to register for summer camp or family camp at Camp Adams! Register online if you would like to attend this summer:

www.campadams.org/summer-camps

HCCUCC makes scholarships available to any children or grandchildren of



the church who are interested in attending Camp Adams. Please speak to Patty or Pastor Jennifer.

- June 26 - July 2 Genesis / Seekers (finished grades 2, 3)
- July 3 - 6 Work Camp (age 18 and older)
- July 6 - 9 Family Camp and Young Adult camp
- July 10 - 16 Discoverers (finished grades 4, 5)
- July 17 - 23 Pathfinders and Sojourners (finished grades 6, 7, 8)
- July 24 - 30 Exodus (finished grades 9-12)

CPC Celebrates Possibilities

The theme of Central Pacific Conference's Spring Assembly is Imagine What's Possible! Join with members from the other United Church of Christ churches in the Central Pacific Conference for workshops, entertainment, and always-fabulous worship experiences. We also conduct the business of the conference. Our national UCC President Geoffrey Black will be visiting from Cleveland, helping us to

Imagine What's Possible for our present and future life together. President Black's keynote speech on Friday, May 20, will be free and open to the public.

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Spring Assembly, please talk with Jon von Behren or Pastor Jennifer.

Spring Assembly takes place May 20 and 21 at Highland Christian Center at the corner of 76th and NE Glisan in Portland.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, May 15 Blessing of the Pets
- Friday-Saturday, May 20-21 CPC Spring Assembly
- Wednesday, June 1 Red Cross Blood Drive
- Saturday, June 4 Take a Soldier Fishing
- Thursday, June 9 Sunny Hills Art Show
- Sunday, June 12 Festival of Praise
- Sunday, June 19 Children and Youth Help Lead Worship

It's Auction Season!

Three of the organizations that we support have upcoming fundraising events. You may want to support them further with your attendance at one of these gala events.

Neighborhood House

Please join us for Neighborhood House's premier annual fundraising event, *Fête Locale: A Celebration of All Things Local*, on May 7 from 5:00-9:00 p.m., Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St. This year's theme is Cirque du Sharing. There will be entertainment, local treasures, silent and live auctions, a cocktail party, dinner, and more. Suggested attire: top hats, tutus, and all things whimsical! You can purchase your ticket online at nhweb.org or by calling Laura at 503-246-1663, ext. 2118.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

The 2011 EMO Annual Celebration takes place Thursday, May 12, at the Portland Hilton Pavilion, 921 SW Sixth Ave. A reception and silent auction begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards presentation at 6:30. The Annual Dinner is the only time during

the year that EMO's 140 member congregations and organizations gather as one. The event embodies what is unique about EMO's mission: it is a drawing-together of members and friends—congregations, mosques, faith based organizations, and synagogues from around our rugged state. The Annual Dinner is an ideal time to network with others who share your values. Tickets are \$60 each; tables seating 10 are \$600. Visit www.emoregon.org to learn more.

Habitat for Humanity

Build a Home/Frame a Future Breakfast and Lunch 2011 Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity is Tuesday, May 17, from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel Ballroom, Washington Square. In 2010, we filled the largest venue in Washington County. In order to make room for you to share our mission with your friends, we want to expand! You will have a choice of which fundraising event to attend. There is no charge for the breakfast or lunch. Come and hear inspiring stories of people whose lives have been changed by Habitat for Humanity. RSVP at habitatwest.org by May 10.

Foundation Update

The Foundation has almost finished developing a brochure for the Sanctuary pews highlighting the work of the Foundation. Also watch for a new bulletin board that Patti Brandon and Charlene Dickinson are creating to

reflect the many ways the Foundation has contributed to the well-being of the church.

The Foundation will pay half of the new part-time youth program coordinator's salary..

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Communion Worship Service, FH 2:00p Edgewood Downs	2	3 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT	4 10:00a Loaves and Fishes 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	5 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	6	7 Suppers for Seven
8 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service, FH	9 Glisan Street Meal 10:30a Bible Study, LIB 7:00p Yoga, FH	10 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 11:00a Martha Circle, LIB	11 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	12 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, LIB 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	13 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training Retreat, FH	14 9:30a Stephen Ministry Training Retreat, FH
15 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:30a Pet Blessing, PATIO 11:45a Celebration Sunday, FH	16 10:30a Bible Study, LIB 6:30p Healing Service Supper, FH 7:00p Healing Service, SANC 7:30p Yoga, FH	17 <i>Tidings</i> Deadline 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB 7:00p Foundation Meeting, WORK	18 1:30p Tai Chi, FH 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, FH	19 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	20 Spring Assembly	21 Spring Assembly
22 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Worship God Joyfully Meeting, LIB	23 10:30a Bible Study, LIB 7:00p Yoga, FH	24 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 7:00p Book Club, LIB	25 1:30p Tai Chi, FH 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, FH	26 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	27	28
29 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT	1 10:00a Loaves and Fishes 1:30p Tai Chi, FH 4-7p Red Cross Blood Drive, FH 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, FH	2 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	3	4 Take a Soldier Fishing, Hagg Lake

CR=Choir Room FH=Fellowship Hall GT=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th) KIT=Kitchen LIB=Library LOT=Front Parking Lot PO=Pastor's Office SANC=Sanctuary WORK=Workroom

Tower Room Gallery Showcases Local Artist

Last year, the Tower Room was transformed into an art gallery to show Evan Holt's wonderful wood creations. That was such an enjoyable experience, that we thought we'd try again.

Please enjoy the work of Monica Hesseldahl de MacKenzie, a recent Mexican immigrant and UCC member, in the Tower Room from now until the end of May. Monica says that art is "a basic need for me like breathing

to express the beauty, the happiness, and the pain of our Latino culture. Prehispanic cultures were rich in signs and mysticism, but when Spaniards came, they erased the growth of an amazing civilization. However, they have enriched and integrated the culture of their own, creating an incredibly rich mixture culture and daily life.

"I also have the need to create forms and aesthetics right from the Prehispanic

ones because it was forbidden for women to do so, when Aztec people used to live. Art was exclusively for the males, and it was fine for women to make some crafts, but they were not allowed to create any paintings. Also, I find intriguing the concept of the underworld and the creation of men as a creature, and I wonder what kind of people it would be right now if the Gods would not make the man as we know but as the



Aztec Gods would have made them. Much of my work is inspired on Aztec mythology."

Monica's art is for sale, and her contact information is available in the Tower Room. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to our church.



A sprinkle of rain does not deter a dozen or so church members and another group of youth from a work day to spruce up the grounds before Easter. Crews took care of gardening, removing debris, weeding, and de-mossing. Watch for information about work days to come in the months ahead.

MAY 2011
tidings

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor **Rev. Jennifer Brownell** (pastor@hillsdaleucc.org) Director of Music/Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)
Youth Program Coordinator **Christine Kidd** (christine@hillsdaleucc.org) Custodian **Terry Cornell**
Child Care Providers **Olivia Hinerfeld and Gracie McManus**

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.

