

Worship at HCC October 2011

Join us Sundays at 10:30

October 2
Stephen Ministry Sunday

October 9
Why Marriage Matters
Rev. Tara Wilkins, preaching

October 16
Matthew 22:15-22
Dream or Nightmare?
Abundant Living

October 23
Matthew 22:34-40
Wisdom and Finance: Simple Living

October 30
Matthew 23:1-12
Cultivating Contentment:
Joyful Living

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.

Your Chance to Be Heard

You are invited to Ministry Night, Tuesday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. It's a time and place for your voice to be heard and your skills to be appreciated as you help the church become the lively and inspiring place you and your family would like. You'll have the chance to renew old friendships and make new ones, and enjoy delicious dessert and coffee.

What is Ministry Night? In the past, our four ministry teams have all met on the same night. We are experimenting with this model again, but with a twist. Join the ministry that most interests you for the

evening, as the groups (Make A Difference, Share Christ's Word, Embrace All, and Worship God Joyfully) gather for mission projects, educational opportunities, or even to conduct business. On this night, *Make a Difference* will look ahead to 2012 and decide which mission projects outside the church we'll support financially. *Share Christ's Word* will hold an orientation for Sunday School Teachers. *Embrace All* will bake a treat together in our spacious kitchen. And *Worship God Joyfully* will meet to look ahead at the Advent season to come. Childcare available.

Why Marriage Matters

The Rev. Tara Wilkins will lead a workshop and conversation on legal marriage in the GLBT community on Sunday, October 9, at 9:15 a.m. She will continue the conversation by serving as our preacher on that day.

Tara serves as Executive Director of the Community of Welcoming Congregations, and she is a member of the United Church of Christ. In previous visits, we have found her to be an inspiring speaker. She and her wife, Carole, just welcomed a fifth grandchild.



The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) is an Oregon and SW Washington interfaith ministry and advocacy organization working toward full inclusion and equality for transgender, lesbian, bisexual, gay, and questioning persons. Their work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every person.

Fall Blood Drive Draws on Community

HCC's fall blood drive for Red Cross is almost here. It will be held in the mobile unit with registration in Fellowship Hall. The date is Tuesday, October 4, from 2 until 7 p.m. Red Cross has made a change in their goal target. We will be trying for 25

units of blood. With the longer hours (5) we should be able to reach the goal. Please sign up in the Narthex if you haven't already done so. The appointment times really help keep the stream of people steady. Help save lives.

HCC Hosts Songs of Faith and Freedom

Choirs from churches and synagogues all over the Portland metro area will raise their voices together in an interfaith celebration of the power of the human voice to make a difference in the world. This evening of shared music and fellowship is a



fundraiser for the ongoing work of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Participating churches include HCCUCC, Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, Meridian United Church of Christ, West Hills Friends Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver, P'nai Or, Congregation Neveh Shalom, and more.

Each choir will present a short set of pieces, and the massed choirs, numbering about 100 singers, will perform two anthems, including Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Antiphon" from *Five Mystical Songs* and "We Are One" by Vancouver BC composer Brian Tate. Susan Peck, music director for the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, is the artistic director for the event.

The program takes place in our Sanctuary on Saturday evening, October 22, beginning at 7:00. A free-will offering will be received.

Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Jokingly, I like to call it the Pastor's Plot. It's that little patch of garden just in front of the Library windows. Last spring, I asked if I could plant it with native plants. So, earlier this summer, Jim Ruyle and I car-tripped to a native plant nursery in Wilsonville and carefully selected several flats of seedlings. We lovingly planted them and, at Jim's suggestion, built the earth up around each one, making a little moat. We watered them, painstakingly filling the ditches around each one. They are growing steadily, I'm happy to say, except for one lupine that died an untimely death. One day we'll be able to harvest actual crops from the huckleberry bush, a strawberry plant or two, a couple of Oregon grapes. I've daydreamed about harvesting the little fruits from our few little plants and maybe combining them to make one tiny jar of jam.

As we were working on the Pastor's Plot, a seed (that no one will admit to dropping) was taking root, and pushing up stem, leaves, and flowers behind the bell tower. Did squirrels do it? Birds? Guerrilla gardeners? I guess we'll never know. By the time we found the vine, it was already pretty big, but no one was really sure what it was. Zucchini? Some other kind of squash? Watermelon? Whatever it was, it kept getting bigger, climbing out of its cozy, protected spot to cover the shrub and even wrapping around the tower before it put it out a fruit that was definitely a pumpkin. On the way to my carefully tended little plot, I sometimes dump a pitcher or two of water on it, but otherwise I leave it alone. At this writing, the pumpkin is still green, but it's already about the size of your head, and it's growing every day. And now,

a sunflower has joined it, grinning cheerfully at anyone who comes through the tower door.

This surprise pumpkin reminds me of what happens when we pray. We always get something, even if it is not what we think we planted. So, pray carefully, and with love and intention. The fruits of your labor may be what you intend. But God's imagination is much grander (and also perhaps more humorous) than yours. You may plan a small harvest, but God has bigger plans. Over there, just beyond your carefully marked boundaries, getting bigger all the time, God is preparing not a wee huckleberry, but a giant pumpkin.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Give Tracy a Boost to Ordination

Tracy Barnowe will jump through one more hoop on her road to ordination. We as a church body have recommended her as fit for ordination. On

October 29, the conference's Covenants Team will have the opportunity to interview her, too. We pray that the outcome of that meeting will be that she is found "approved

for ordination pending call," which will be a big boost to her as she continues her job search.

Tracy will join us in worship on October 30.

See What I'm Saying?

Our church is blessed to have live-captioning during our worship services. This summer, I decided to try it out. I learned a couple of things: Erik Olson, the person who does our captioning, is a really nice, multi-talented guy

who provides the captioning as a gift to our congregation.

Our beloved pastor delivers really interesting sermons, but sometimes she gets so excited about her topic that she speaks very rapidly and I lose some of what she says.

The captioning allowed me to read the words on the screen and fill in what I missed hearing verbally. It enhanced my worship experience!

So...try it! You might like it! And many thanks to Erik for his valuable service!

by Barbara Raz

Youth Corner

Children's Sunday School

From now through November, the children's Sunday School classes will focus on the amazing work accomplished through Moses, one of God's great leaders.

October 2 - Exodus 7-11

Story: The Plagues

Faith focus: God never gives up!

October 9 - Exodus 12:1-13:16

Story: Passover lessons

Faith focus: We remember God's faithfulness.

October 16 - Exodus 13:17-15:21

Story: God leads the people

Faith focus: God frees us.

October 23 - Exodus 15:22-17:7

Story: The people grumble

Faith focus: God provides for our needs.

October 30 - Exodus 18

Story: Jethro counsels Moses

Faith focus: We do God's work together.

Acolytes to Receive Training

We will host a training session for all school-age youth who would like to serve as acolytes during church services. The session will meet after the worship service on Sunday, October 9, in the Sanctuary.

All new and past youth will need to attend this training before they are able to perform the duties of an acolyte. If you are unable to attend the training, please contact Misty or Pastor Jennifer to set up an alternate training time.

Youth to Lead Worship Service

On Sunday, November 13, the youth of our church will help lead the worship service and will assist with telling the parable of the talents. Children who would like to sing in a youth choir for this event will need to attend

rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, October 30, November 6, and November 13. For additional information, please contact the youth program coordinator Misty Town at misty@hillsdaleucc.org or 971-533-2271.

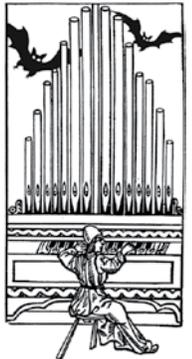
Local Organists to Scare Up "A Little Fright Music"

Admit it. Even though you're grown up now, you still like to dress up for Halloween. The question: what to do once you have your costume on? The answer: Bring yourself and a friend to *A Little Fright Music* on Friday, October 28, at 7:00.

Our Director of Music Tim Ditch and friends will thrill the senses during an hour of spooky and whimsical organ music that is enjoyable for kids and adults alike.

Seasonal refreshments will be served following the concert. Costumes are encouraged!

The free concert takes place in the Sanctuary. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Community of Welcoming Congregations.



CHUCC Presents NAMI Workshops

Cedar Hills United Church of Christ (CHUCC), in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Washington County, is sponsoring a series of presentations this fall on mental illness. Everyone in the local community is welcome to attend! There are people in our congregations who struggle with the pain of mental illness, perhaps within themselves or in that of loved ones. We believe this is a golden opportunity to shed some light on mental illness and to learn how we can best cope with its ramifications. Because the presentations will take place after church

every Sunday, from 12:30-2:30 p.m., lunch will be provided, free-of-charge. Lunch will be available from 12:30 until 1:00, followed by a 90-minute presentation on four successive Sundays: September 25 and October 2, 9, and 16. We hope you can come to all four presentations, but you are welcome to come to as many as you like. We will be meeting in the Youth Room (next to Fellowship Hall) at Cedar Hills UCC at 11695 SW Park Way in Portland, at the corner of Cedar Hills Blvd. (See www.chucc.org.) Please register with Polly at 503-520-1013 or polly.brown@frontier.com.

Stretch Your Horizons

A Yoga-based stretch movement class is offered most Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come one, come all. Bring your desire to "feel" good, a yoga mat,

and wear flexible clothing. \$9 drop-in fee, \$6 pre-arranged. Call Brenda @ 971-373-8288 to pre-arrange your arrival. The body loves to move. Do you?

Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

Learn practical tools to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan that is both biblical and livable for today's families. Beginning October 16, join us Sundays at 9:15 and Wednesdays at noon as we explore the Bible's surprising emphasis on financial matters, and hear stories of how others have worked through financial challenges.

Our conversation will be based on the book *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. We'll have copies available at our first gathering. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you, as together we face our current financial situation, and our what our faithful response might be, head on.

Facilitators are Pastor Jennifer and Jim Ruyle. The series concludes Sunday, November 6.

Photo Albums on the Way!

Every fall, we send photo yearbooks around the congregation, allowing us an opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished in the previous year and to consider what our faith giving (of time, talent, and money) will be for the year to come. This year's theme—Abundance, Simplicity, Generosity, Joy—is supported through our congregational study of the book *Enough*.

This year, the photo albums will travel from house to house in the congregation between November 6 and 20. How can you participate?

1. Take some moments to enjoy the photo yearbook. You may notice some of your meaningful moments from this year at Hillsdale Community Church UCC!
2. Select the Faith-Giving

envelope with your name from the envelope attached inside the photo album.

3. Prayerfully consider your faith-giving amount, and record the amount on your Faith-Giving Card for 2012. Help children complete their card, too.

4. Seal your Faith-Giving Card in your individual envelope and place it back into the plastic envelope. Check your name on the route list.

5. Call the next person on your list right away and set a time to pass the photo yearbook along within a day or two.

6. Inform your route leader that you have passed on the photo yearbook.

7. Rejoice as each photo yearbook is blessed on Sunday, November 20.

Party for Halloween?

Are you interested in having a Halloween party after church on Sunday,

October 30? If so, please contact Misty to share your ideas: misty@hillsdaleucc.org

Grounds Group to Host Program

During Celebration Sunday after church on October 16, Jen Seamans, outreach coordinator for Southwest Neighborhoods in partnership with Portland Environmental Services, will make a presentation about projects under study by the Grounds Committee. Jen staffs the Watershed Resource Center in the Gabriel Park center and has been helping the Grounds Committee's Back to Eden team plan the rehabilitation of our grounds that will benefit wildlife and water quality on our property and far downstream. Her

presentation, including a slide show, will address why HCCUCC should undertake this work, its impact on the watershed including the spiritual connection, as well as the effects for insects and other wildlife, visions of possible projects, and the church's potential role as a learning center for the community. Jen is expert in restoration of natural spaces and watershed management as well as in native and invasive plant species. She provides an exciting way to launch our new grounds projects.

Book Club Reads and Discusses

HCC's Book Club is meeting regularly, and you are most welcome to come join in any or all of the discussions!

Each meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. in Pastor Jennifer's office.

October 25 — *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. This book was the selection for September. We will finish the discussion of the book with the emphasis on what we could do at HCC to help transform the lives of women and girls in developing countries.

November 29 — *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. This book chronicles the lives of two boys named Wes Moore who were born blocks apart in Baltimore, grew up in fatherless homes, and had difficult childhoods. One Wes Moore becomes a scholar,

writer and business man. The other Wes Moore ends up serving a life sentence in prison. Alternating narratives tell their stories.

January 31 — *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Hurston. This novel follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida. Hurston sets up her characters and her locale in the first chapter, which, along with the last, acts as a framing device for the story of Janie's life. Hurston does not write explicitly about black people in the context of a white world—a fact that earned her scathing criticism from the social realists—but she doesn't ignore the impact of black-white relations either. She allows the characters to speak in their own voices.

Books for purchase will be available in the Narthex.

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30a Communion Worship Service, SANC 2:00p Edgewood Downs	3 10:30p Bible Study, LIB 7:30p Yoga, FH	4 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 2-7p Red Cross Blood Drive, FH 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO 7:00p Ministry Night, FH	5 10:00a Loaves and Fishes	6 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	7	8
9 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 11:45a Acolyte Training, SANC	10 Transition Projects Meal, Bud Clark Commons 10:30p Bible Study, LIB 7:30p Yoga, FH	11 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 11:00a Martha Circle, LIB 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO	12 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	13 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, Maria Dunlop's home 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	14	15
					CPC Fall Gathering	
16 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 1-3p CWC Rehearsal, SANC	17 Tidings Deadline 10:30p Bible Study, LIB 7:30p Yoga, FH	18 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO 7:00p Foundation Meeting, WORK 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB	19 12:00p Enough, LIB 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	20 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	21	22 5:45p CWC Mass Choir Rehearsal, SANC 7:00p CWC Songs of Faith and Freedom, SANC
23 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	24 10:30p Bible Study, LIB 7:30p Yoga, FH	25 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO 7:00p Book Club, PO	26 12:00p Enough, LIB 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	27 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	28 7:00p "A Little Fright Music" Organ Concert, SANC	29 2:00p Bob Miller Memorial Service, SANC
30 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	31 10:30p Bible Study, LIB	November 1 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO 7:00p Ministry Night, FH	2 10:00a Loaves and Fishes 12:00p Enough, LIB 1:30p Tai Chi, FH	3 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	4	5

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

Stephen Ministers to Be Commissioned

On October 2, we will commission our first class of Stephen Ministers. These church members have received 50 hours of training in order to be a caring and confidential listening ear in times of crisis, change, and difficulty.

Margy Kleger finds Stephen Ministry to be a natural extension of her life and faith. "I want to be a Stephen Minister because I can help people through tough times. I have always been interested in people, and I like to visit. I thought I might be able to be used by God to 'walk through the valley' with others and encourage and support them.

Maybe, be 'as Christ to them' like the song says."

Mike Van Loo reflects, "The materials covered have opened me up to new skills and perspective of interacting with people in a sensitive and caring fashion. I see the benefit extending beyond Stephen Ministry to all areas of life encounters. I hope going forward, Stephen Ministry will be enthusiastically supported and sustained by the members of our congregation and ripple out into the larger community wherever the need may be."

Trudi Raz Frengle echoes Mike's desire for the "ripple effect." "Especially during

vulnerable times (death, divorce, illness, depression, etc.), having someone trustworthy with you to listen to and encourage you is life-giving. With God as my guide and strength, I hope to help others and, in the process, help myself, and the church. With God as the cure-giver, creating a ripple of peace is the vision."

Diane Nelson adds, "The phrase, 'there but for the grace of God, go I,' keeps running through my head. My hope is to help someone walking a rough road make that walk with as much grace as possible, and I trust that a sacred presence will be along for the walk too. So I'm

looking forward to re-writing that phrase to 'There, but with the grace of God go we.'"

Rebecca Holt is also training as a Stephen Minister. She says, "The road of life can be rough at times. I am thankful to serve as a conduit for God's love to help smooth the journey for others. In Stephen Ministry, two people walk together in God's light, rather than one travelling alone through darkness."

If you or someone you know desires the companionship of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Jennifer or referral coordinator Lynn Walsler-Clark.

OCTOBER 2011
tidings

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Pastor Rev. Jennifer Brownell (jennifer@hillsdaleucc.org)

Director of Music/Administrator Tim Ditch (tim@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.

