

## Worship at HCC October 2012

### October 7

World Communion Sunday

Job 2:1-10

Psalm 8

Book of Job: Here's the Deal

### October 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Mark 10: 17-31

Book of Job: Arguing with God

### October 21

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Mark 10:35-45

Book of Job: Where Were You?

### October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Mark 10:46-52

Book of Job:

Repentance and Restoration

*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](mailto:tidings@hillsdaleucc.org) to be added to the e-mail list. *Tidings* is edited and designed by Tim Ditch.

## Prayer Chain Links Caring People

Hillsdale Community Church believes in the importance of prayer and the power of

God to answer prayers. The Prayer Chain ministry at Hillsdale Church consists of a group of people who pray regularly, confidentially, and individually for the people and concerns that are requested of them. Each pray-er forms part of a chain of people who are praying at the same time for the same request, and it is through that chain that God's love flows.

*Here's how it works:*

You sign up to be a pray-er. Pray-ers make a commitment to pray as soon as possible after a request is received, and that they will continue to pray for the request on a regular basis.

Prayer requests may involve an



**Don't worry over anything whatever; whenever you pray tell God every detail of your needs in thankful prayer." (Philippians 4:6)**

individual need or a wider community need, or may be an invitation to give thanks to God. Requests, which come mainly from members and friends in our immediate community, are given to the pastor or to the prayer chain coordinator. The request is

then sent out to the pray-ers via e-mail or by phone.

If you would like to join in this ministry as a pray-er, please let Barbara Raz know by sending an email ([braz@teleport.com](mailto:braz@teleport.com)) or phoning her (503-244-7153).

Everyone is welcome to submit a prayer request as a need arises!

## Visioning Process Receives Approval

Earlier this summer, Hillsdale Community Church UCC embarked on a visioning program. More than 60 households weighed in, and the Consistory has carefully considered the results.

The congregation has expressed a desire to nurture and strengthen our programs for families, youth, and adults, in order to:

- Deepen our relationships with each other;
- Attract others to share in this community that we find so meaningful;
- Provide service to help meet the needs of those around us;

- Increase the diversity of our membership, and;

- Sustain the church so it can minister to future generations.

In a congregational meeting on September 9, the congregation unanimously approved these strategic objectives:

1. The Consistory will establish and maintain a focus on programming that is designed to meet the needs of families, youth, and adults. *Schedule: ongoing*
2. The Consistory will appoint a taskforce to identify facility needs that include

*continued on p. 2, Visioning*

## It Is about TIME Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell



**A**s we give gratitude for the past, and celebrate the present, we look with anticipation to the future of Hillsdale Community Church UCC. You and your financial contributions are an important part of that future. Early in November, in addition to the personal 2013 faith giving card you'll receive in the mail, you'll also receive a memento celebrating the year that has just passed and looking ahead to the year to come. Take the TIME you need to look over this memento with your family—it's yours to keep. Then, on Sunday, November 18, we'll celebrate with thanks the collection of our faith giving cards at our annual Festival of Thanksgiving worship service.

### Rummage=\$\$\$

**T**hank you to over 25 of you who volunteered to set up, organize, and operate the Rummage Faire this summer. Thank you, too, to all of you who donated items. We made over \$2,200! More than \$150 additional came in from boutique items and from organizations that picked up the unsold merchandise.

### Visioning (continued from p. 1)

accessibility improvements, flexibility enhancements, grounds development, and building updates. This task force will have a budget of \$10,000 to engage an architect to propose improvements, gathering input through

**O**n September 25, I spoke at a wall-raising celebration on the Stephens Creek Crossing construction site. We will be working with our new neighbors to build a community garden on our site once this mixed-income housing complex is complete. Here are, more or less, the words I said that day:

This wall is really a bridge. It's a bridge between the residents of Stephens Creek Crossing and other residents, businesses, and organizations in Southwest Portland. Hillsdale Terrace was maybe not literally buried in a hole, but it was *virtually* buried—unseen and easily ignored by the surrounding neighborhoods. There was a lack of communication, and even when the desire existed, it was difficult to know how to initiate conversation and relationship. With greater visibility comes greater opportunity for interaction—and all the blessings and challenges of truly knowing one another as neighbors, co-creators, and friends.

This wall is a really a bridge. It's a bridge from poverty to opportunity. In our planning conversations with

the folks at Home Forward, one of the most troubling was our congregation's growing realization of the problem of urban food scarcity. Surrounded as we are by food choices, many of them remain unattainable by the poor. That's why Hillsdale Community Church UCC is glad to be co-creating with residents of Stephens Creek Crossing and other neighbors a community garden that will address food scarcity at its most basic level. By providing a place for families and individuals to grow fresh vegetables and fruits, Stephens Creek Crossing and Hillsdale Church will provide opportunities across economic boundaries.

This wall is really a bridge. It's a bridge from despair to hope. Because of isolation and persistence of poverty, we know that residents at the former Hillsdale Terrace often despaired. Now with new programs, new staff, gardens and spaces to play, places to learn, there is reason to hope. But the hope that goes up with this wall is not just for those who live at Stephens Creek Crossing, but for all who desire a community

where children are better educated, youth are respected and encouraged, those who want to work are given the tools and training to do so, elders are cared for, and relationships between neighbors can flourish and grow.

This wall is really a bridge. And a bridge goes two ways. It used to be that we'd peer out the windows of our church on the hill at Hillsdale Terrace down below and wonder "how can we help you?" That started to change the day a group of young men from Hillsdale Terrace showed up to help the church during an outdoor workday last year. Now we know are on common ground—ready and willing to offer help, but ready and willing also to receive.

In the days and weeks and months to come, what's being built on this site might look like walls—but we know a different story. We know that these walls are really bridges.

See you in church!

*Pastor Jennifer*

an inclusive process. Improvements recommended by the task force and approved by the congregation will be the focus of a capital campaign. *Schedule: Task force selected and begins work in September 2012;*

*recommendations presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January 2013. A capital campaign will be launched in early 2013.*

3. The Consistory will appoint a task force charged with recommending strategies

to retain the current strengths of the church staff, and to evaluate and prioritize other staffing needs. *Schedule: Task force selected in January 2013; recommendations presented to the congregation no later than the annual meeting in January 2014.*

## Fall Blood Drive Needs Donors

by Margy Kleger

**H**illsdale's fall blood drive for Red Cross is almost upon us. Hopefully we will have better luck with the mobile unit than we did in June!

The drive is Tuesday, October 2, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. If you would like to donate blood, please sign up

in the Narthex or call Margy Kleger (503-644-7031). We have a goal of 25 units of blood, so this drive is an hour longer than the last one. We need 32 people signed up to be sure we get 25 units.

Thank you for giving those in need a second chance at life!

## Local Group Presents Fundraiser

**S**aints Brendan and Bridgid Catholic Mission presents *Something Beautiful for God*, an afternoon of inter-spiritual art and music. This fundraising event takes place Sunday, October 7, from 2:30 until 5:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, 8818 SW Miley Rd., Wilsonville.

Some of the most

outstanding artists in the Portland/Vancouver area will be present with their work, as well as musicians of excellence.

Learn more about the event and find a complete schedule at [www.catholicswithadifference.com](http://www.catholicswithadifference.com) or contact Fr. Chuck Cooper at 503-504-3827.

## Reaching Out: Stephen Ministry

### Grief: Dealing with It and Supporting Others

[Excerpted from Tamara McClintock Greenberg, Psy.D., M.S., "How We Misinterpret Grief," *Psychology Today*, September 2012]

**I**n our fast-paced world and one in which we are frequently kept moving and distracted, the concept of grieving is not well understood. Especially in today's times we can keep ourselves so busy, we can avoid absorbing loss.

People react to loss in different ways, however. One mistake is that there is an assumption that we all grieve the same way. Further, there is also a disquieting trend to label grief reactions as normal or abnormal.

Grief involves sadness and other feelings (that may or may not be overwhelming) related to the loss of something, often a relationship. These losses can be varied but include the loss of someone because of death, loss of a close relationship, loss of our youth or physical abilities, or even the loss of a job.

There are a number of problems with prescribed methods of grief and so-called stages of grieving. The main problem with this approach is that grieving is as individual as relationships. In other words, there is no right or wrong way to grieve.

People react to loss in a variety of ways. Some people who have been together for many decades cannot imagine life without their partner. They may develop symptoms consistent with depression, but this would hardly seem abnormal, given the length and quality of the relationship.

In contrast, there have been people in long relationships who seemingly move on quite well after losing a partner. Some people might look for another partner right away and some never think of being with a partner again. Either way, as long as people are comfortable with how they do things, people supporting a grieving person should be slow to judge how someone is coping.

Relationships are all very unique. We can never really know what two people mean to one another. When we grieve, we need to be supported in how that grief is expressed, not judged for doing it "right" or "wrong," taking "too long" or "not long enough." We need to be allowed to grieve in the way it works for each of us.

Beware of our North American models of grief that say grief follows a specific pattern, the experience of grief is finite, that grief occurs in stages,

that prolonged grief is abnormal, and that the "working through" of the grief process is necessary.

An article in a 2010 *The New Yorker* furthers the argument about the limitations of a one-size-fits-all model for grief. The author, Megan O'Rourke, points out the problems in stage models of grief. People fluctuate in their feelings about loss—sometimes they feel okay and sometimes they do not. The article points out that some people can be remarkably resilient about grief. Some people simply do not need to grieve intensely, even if someone they love has died.

There is no right or wrong way to grieve. People have all kinds of different strategies for managing emotions. Individuals as well as relationships are complex and unique. Grieving is similar. Ideas about what is normal about grieving should not be imposed; as outsiders we never really know the true story of a close relationship.

Perhaps as a culture we should let go of ideas of "normal" grief and what this should mean. Give grieving people permission to tell us what they experience and what they need. Then we can support them where they are, when and how they need us.

# October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training LIB	2 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study LIB 2:00p Blood Drive FH 4:30p Prayer Group PO	3 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MULT	4 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	5	6 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? 7:00a Youth Serve Breakfast CLAY 9:00a Work Day 2:00p YES Walk to End Slavery
7 Neighbors in Need Offering 10:30a Communion Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC	8 Transition Projects Meal BUD 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training LIB	9 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 4:30p Prayer Group PO	10 1:00p Memoir Writing Group MDH 1:30p Tai Chi FH	11 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	12	13
14 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC	15 Tidings Deadline 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training LIB	16 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study LIB 4:30p Prayer Group PO 7:00p Consistory LIB 7:00p Foundation WORK	17 1:30p Tai Chi FH	18 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	19	20
21 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC 11:45a Celebration Sunday, FH	22 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training LIB	23 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study LIB 4:30p Prayer Group PO	24 1:30p Tai Chi FH	25 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	26	27
28 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SANC 11:45a Margret Wilson's 95th Birthday Celebration, FH	29 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training LIB	30 7:00a Men's Breakfast GT 10:30a Bible Study LIB 2:00p Prayer Group PO	31 1:30p Tai Chi FH	November 1 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	2	3

**BUD**=Bud Clark Commons, 655 NW Hoyt St   
**CLAY**=St. Stephen's Church, 1432 SW 13th Ave.   
**CR**=Choir Room   
**FH**=Fellowship Hall   
**GT**=Golden Touch Restaurant (SW Barbur at 19th)   
**LIB**=Library  
**LOT**=Upper Parking Lot   
**MDH**=Maria Dunlop's Home, 12146 SW 29th Ave   
**MULT**=Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy   
**PO**=Pastor's Office   
**SANC**=Sanctuary   
**WORK**=Office Workroom

## Back to Eden—Who's for It?

by Jim Ruyle

**F**all plant sales are coming soon. Should we buy more plants and keep our project going? It takes only a couple of us to get them, and we have money in the budget. In fact, our after-church plant sale last spring covered the cost. Moreover, we're saving the church mowing cost whenever we remove grass and replace it with native plants.

But it takes more people to plant the plants and keep them watered. Indeed, the lesson we learned last spring was not to buy plants until we have commitments from enough folks to do the planting and watering. (Many thanks to our office volunteers for helping us get through the current dry season.)

And what about the other visions on the drawing board? Over a year ago, the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services inspected our property and gave us plans for flow-through planters and rain gardens to clean and control our storm water runoff, and grant money might be available if we submit timely proposals.

The city might also help us remove the blackberry bushes from our side of California Street. That's part of a plan we have discussed with the city to build a community garden to share with our future neighbors at Stephens Creek Crossing, the new housing project being built just north of the church. It would include access to the garden through our north lot with

trails and play areas amidst native plantings.

Our call, of course, is not to create outdoor work for ourselves. We are called to help save nature by teaching and leading members of our community to restore their own properties. Doing this on our own grounds is part of the learning and leadership process. Because of our leadership, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) chose our church to conduct a workshop for church and community leaders last spring about how to restore their grounds, and mentioned our work in the EMO fall newsletter.

Noted entomologist Douglas Tallamy writes that the answer to restoring native species and wildlife in our country is to restore suburbia. Hillsdale Community Church has been noticed for leading this effort in our community.

Should we keep going? Frankly, it will take more people to do the planning, planting, and watering than have turned out to date. Clearly, we cannot just keep buying plants without an adequate response from our members and friends. When we have that support, we can order more plants and continue planning.

Please let us know if you hear that call for our church, and any ideas you have about how we can answer that call. You can contact coordinator Jim Ruyle via email at [jimruyle@comcast.net](mailto:jimruyle@comcast.net), or by phone at 503-223-8838.

## Youth Corner

**Putting Service FIRST...** the first week of the month, that is. First Tuesday at Neighborhood House (7780 SW Capitol Hwy), 6:00-8:00 p.m. Children of all ages—and adults too—are invited to help stock the food pantry. This is a lively evening and a great hands-on way to help our neighbors. Upcoming dates: October 2, November 6, December 4.

**First Saturday at Clay Street Table** (at St. Stephen's Church, 1432 SW 13th Ave. on the corner of 13th and Clay), 7:00-11:00 a.m. Middle- and high-schoolers and your families. Serve breakfast to a group of homeless and low-income adults and families. A welcoming atmosphere and plenty of jobs for all. Upcoming dates: October 6, November 3, December 1.

**Olivia Hinerfeld** checks in about her work in raising awareness about human trafficking and modern day slavery: *Over the summer, several of my friends and I started a non-profit called Youth Ending Slavery (YES) for this purpose. We have scheduled an event at Director's Park on October 6 starting at 2:00 p.m., and I would very much appreciate an opportunity to talk to the church about it. It would be wonderful if members of the church could come. For more information, our website is [www.youthendingslavery.org](http://www.youthendingslavery.org).*



Oliver Frengle, Sophie Frengle, Gracie McManus, Olivia Hinerfeld, and Forrest Holt picking berries. The resulting fruit was served at an impromptu pie and ice cream social one warm summer day.

## Christmas Is Coming! Events Begin Early This Year

### Alternative Gift Faire

The Christmas holiday season is rapidly approaching. Along with all the festivities associated with the season celebrating the birth of Christ, you may be among those who struggle with the ever-present question, "What will I do about gifts this year?"

For many people, the joy of giving has become lost in the commercialism associated with Christmas. Are you looking for a more meaningful way to give gifts and help your local community? If so, join us Saturday, November 10, for

the first-ever Alternative Gift Faire. Interested in knowing more about this and how you might participate? Contact Elaine Walser-Clark at 503-901-9311.

### Friendship Builders Potluck and Auction

The stores are already gearing up for the holidays. Here's your chance to join the early-birds and get a jump on the celebrations. The Friendship Builders' annual

Potluck and Auction will be held Friday, November 16. Bring a favorite dish to share. Auction will follow. You are asked to bring a gift to auction

off. Everyone is invited. It's a great evening for kids! If you can help with the event, please call Margaret Bronson at 503-598-3483.

## Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Events

Save these dates and plan to celebrate Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas with your HCCUCC family.

Sunday, November 18 • **Festival of Thanksgiving**, 10:30 a.m.; Thanksgiving Feast, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 2 • **Spontaneous, All-Ages Christmas Pageant**, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 9 • **Christmas Dessert Concert**, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 21 • **Longest Night Worship**, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24 • **Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols**, 11:00 p.m. By popular request, we are returning to a late service on Christmas Eve. Ring in Christmas Day with your church family as we conclude the service at the stroke of midnight!

tidings

OCTOBER 2012

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, Gracie McManus**

**I**n 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.