

tidings

Worship at HCC September 2011

Join us Sundays at 10:30

September 4

Acts 17:22-28

Psalms 139:13-16

Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17

Season of Creation: Forest

September 11

Psalms 139:7-12

Genesis 4:8-16

Season of Creation: Land

September 18

Revelation 22:1-5

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Season of Creation: River

September 25

Mark 1:9-13

Romans 8:18-27

Season of Creation: Wilderness



Anna Bauer's August 14 baptism was photographed by Leah Nash, as part of her project on people with Asperger Syndrome. The project is supported by RACC and will culminate in an exhibit printed in Street Roots later this fall. To see more of Leah's photos, visit her website at www.leahnash.com. Anna joined the church that same day, along with Lian, Paul, and Lana Jewell (who had been baptized by Pastor Jennifer in the Sandy River the month before), Jeff Barton, and Jim Harris.

Does God Really Answer Our Prayers?

Episcopal priest and award-winning author Barbara Crafton says: "What happens to you if you don't pray? Bad things? Does God turn away, refuse to hear you when you really do need him? None of the above. Bad things don't happen to the unobservant any more often than they do to the devout: stuff just happens, as those bumper stickers used to say. The love of God falls gently upon us all, people much wickeder than I am and people infinitely more righteous. Prayer has nothing to do with staying on God's good side.

"All that happens is that you don't have a life of prayer. And, if a life of prayer is what you want, rooted in the exploration of what it means to be a human being beloved of

God, you drift further and further from what you want. You are like a person who needs a hammer but refuses to go to the hardware store."

Get more "rooted in the exploration of what it means to be a human being beloved of God." Each Tuesday from 6:00-6:30, gather with others interested in deepening their prayer lives in Pastor Jennifer's office for Tuesday Commuters' Prayer Practice. You don't have to be a commuter, only desire the opportunity to explore your prayer life in a supportive environment. Prayer experiences offered for all, including children. Children will join the adults for part of the time, and explore prayer in an age-appropriate setting part of the time. Drop in every week, or when you can.

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 Support Needed for NIN

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We at Hillsdale Community Church are blessed to be part of the United Church of Christ, and to have the opportunity to support these important ministries of the church. We will receive our Neighbors in Need offering on October 2.

Stephen Ministers to Offer Support

The Stephen Minister course took a short break in August and will wrap up training in September. Stephen Ministers will be commissioned in worship on October 2 and will be ready to put all their hard-earned skills to work! Begin thinking about if you or someone you know is grieving or experiencing a difficult life transition, and might find a walk with a Stephen Minister to be of help. If you have any questions or referrals, contact Jennifer or a Stephen Leader (Carol Doyle, Lynn Walsler-Clark, and Dennis Frengle).

Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. Jennifer Brownell

If you've spent any time with me at all this summer, you have heard about piano lessons. When Elijah, my nine-year-old son, signed up to take a few weeks of piano lessons this summer, I signed up too, and I was surprised how very much I loved them.

In four lessons, I just learned a very little bit. But even with that very little bit of learning, I can still plunk out a few recognizable tunes with my right hand, while my left hand plays a chord or two. For a person who never took formal music lessons before, it is an astonishing and exhilarating experience. I like how playing piano engages my whole self—my mind is learning to do new things, my body is learning to do new things, and my creative

spirit is too. Of course, these lessons are also tremendously humbling. Because now that I know a little (a *very* little!) about playing piano, I realize how very much more there is to learn. Part of me wants to jump ahead quickly, to try and play something that is maybe beautiful, but definitely way over my head. Mostly, though, I know I will never play the really complicated stuff until I practice the easy stuff. So, every day, I plunk out the easy little tunes from the beginner book. I notice that sometimes they sound more than recognizable—sometimes they even sound beautiful.

I think prayer is a little bit this way. It doesn't take too long to get the hang of the basics. And, the more you practice, the more complex,

rich, and beautiful your prayer life can be.

That's why we are starting Tuesday Commuters' Prayer Practice this fall. Every Tuesday evening, stop by the church from 6:00-6:30. Over the weeks, we'll practice different types of prayer, support one another's at-home prayer practices, and lift up any prayers that are on our hearts. This is a drop-in group that meets in my office, so come whenever you can. I look forward to praying with you!

See you in church!
In the Light,

Pastor Jennifer



Rev. Jennifer Brownell

Uppity Women Can Be Misunderstood

A new season of adult education offerings begins Sunday, September 11, with a look at oft-misunderstood women of the Bible. A DVD presentation will be used to spark conversation. Join us

each Sunday at 9:15 in the Library for lively, thoughtful discussion facilitated by Becky Meier, as we understand and explore these new-to-us stories. As always, child care is provided during these times.

Looking ahead, October will feature sessions with Tara Wilkins of Community of Welcoming Congregations on "Why Marriage Matters," and with Pastor Jennifer and Jim Ruyle on simple living, generosity, and joy.

October Is the Month for Music at HCCUCC!

If you love music, then October is the month for you at HCCUCC!

Songs of Faith and Freedom, a choral festival benefiting the Community of Welcoming Congregations, will take place in our Sanctuary on October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fall Gathering of the Central Pacific Conference will focus on worship music. The gathering will be held at First Congregational UCC in downtown Portland on October 14 and 15.

A Little Fright Music: Halloween Organ Concert takes place in our Sanctuary

at the end of the month.

Finally, singers who would like to sing in the choir but are unable to make a long-term commitment are invited to join from mid-October through Christmas.

Watch for more about all of these events, coming up in the October *Tidings*.

Youth Corner

Children's Sunday School

We use a curriculum called *Gather 'Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News*. This Bible-based curriculum nurtures children in becoming followers of Jesus: people who know and love God, interpret God's word, belong to God's gathered community, and share God's good news.

During September, October, and November, we will focus on the amazing work accomplished through Moses, one of God's great leaders. We will learn how God saves the Israelites from cruel servitude to Pharaoh so they can engage in life-giving service to God. In the same way, God delivers us from oppressive powers so that we might be free for a life of joyful relationship, service, and worship to our rightful Lord.

September 4 - Exodus 1:1-2:10

Story: Moses is Born

Faith focus: God gives us courage!

September 11 - Exodus 2:23-3:22

Story: God calls Moses

Faith focus: God raises up leaders to bring people out of suffering.

September 18 - Exodus 4

Story: Moses accepts God's call

Faith focus: We are given what we need to respond to God's call.

September 25 - Exodus 5:1-6:9

Story: Straw and Bricks in Egypt

Faith focus: Don't give up on God!

Youth Bowling Event Planned

Our middle- and high-school youth will have a Back-to-School Bowling Event on Sunday, September 26. We will leave after church and spend a few hours bowling and hanging out. Any kids 6th to 12th grade are welcome to attend.

Invite a friend to join in on the fun! More details coming soon.

If you have questions or would like to help chaperone, please contact youth program coordinator Misty Town at 971-533-2271 or misty@hillsdaleucc.org.

Give Bible Study a Try

Monday morning Bible study is for you if you...
...have never looked inside a Bible before, and wonder where to start.

...have studied the Bible and want a refresher on what you have learned.

...would like a deeper understanding of the scriptures we hear on Sunday mornings.

...want to know what the Bible really has to say to us today. Or, what it meant to the people in Bible times.

...desire a place to pray for others or yourself in a supportive group setting.

...enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Is Monday morning Bible study for you? You'll never know unless you try! Bible study meets every Monday at 10:30 in the church Library.

Childcare is available on request. Contact the church office to arrange child care.

Global Peace Promoted at Rally

The Circle of Peace is organizing a rally entitled "The Role of Religions in Promoting Global Peace" at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Sunday, September 4, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the September 11 events that caused much loss of life and destruction in our country and around the world.

Fun Day Planned at Camp Adams

On Sunday, September 4, a group from Hillsdale will carpool to Camp Adams after church for an afternoon of picnicking, exploring the trails, walking the labyrinth, and enjoying the other pleasures of our camp. Camp Adams is just an hour away, and is fairly accessible for all abilities. Bring your own lunch and clothes suitable for the weather, as we'll be there rain or shine! Maps will be available that day.

Raw Faith Screening to Benefit EMO

On Sunday, September 18, *Raw Faith* will be shown at the Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. The film screens at 2:00 p.m. and features the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell, an accomplished Unitarian Universalist minister, writer, activist, and spiritual leader, who retired from parish ministry in 2009 after serving 17 years as the senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Portland.

A Q&A and reception (benefiting Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) will be held with Marilyn Sewell and director Peter Wiedensmith following the screening). Film tickets are \$10 (\$8 students); reception tickets are \$100 and are available at www.emoregon.org or call 503-221-1054.

Take Alternative Forms of Transportation to Worship

Everyone is encouraged to walk, bike, bus, or carpool to church on Sunday, September 25, a culmination of our month of celebrating Creation and the Creator in worship. On this day, we join with others from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Moving Planet in an international day of action promoted by author and Methodist Sunday School teacher Bill McKibben's nonprofit 350.org. Moving Planet calls upon our leaders and institutions to move toward cleaner forms of transportation and energy now.

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL), a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, is encouraging congregations statewide to celebrate Moving Planet with a "Take Alternative Transportation to Worship

Weekend" September 23-25, when members can walk, bike, take public transportation, and carpool to worship. Many religious communities around the world are working to reduce their carbon footprint, and are becoming a wellspring of inspiration for those who want to follow their example.

Leading scientists say that 350 is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Scientists measure carbon dioxide in parts per million (ppm), so 350 ppm is the concentration of carbon humanity needs to get below as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change. To get there, we need a different kind of PPM—a "people-powered movement"—that is made of people like us from every corner of the planet.

Native American Spirituality Focus of Women's Retreat

A Woman's Retreat sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ's Women's Board will take place at Camp Adams October 7-9.

The leaders of the retreat are the mother/daughter team of Denise and Caitlin Andersen. Rev. Denise Andersen has been pastor of the Clackamas United Church of Christ for 21 years, and Caitlin was named Pacific University's Graduate of the Year in 2008.

This year's Women's

Camp will focus on "Native American Spirituality and Art," learning about this culture's spiritual practices and art. This will be a hands-on experience, so come with openness and a playful spirit!

Registration forms and a \$65 deposit toward the \$105 registration fee are due October 1. Forms are available in the Narthex or by contacting registrar Nancy Klingeman at 541-753-3350. Financial aid may be available; information is available from the registrar.

Enough Is Enough!

If you are stressed about the economy and your personal finances, you are not alone. Over half of Americans say that they are worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Many report feeling angry, irritable, or losing sleep over financial issues. Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you can have it (whatever *it* is) now!" whether you can afford *it* or really even need *it*.

And yet, for all of our strong feelings about it, we have a hard time talking

about money and its role in our lives. So, in October and November, we'll be embarking on a congregation-wide study in small groups and in worship called "Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity." Besides exploring the Bible's surprising emphasis on financial matters, we'll hear stories of how others have worked through financial challenges. Together we'll learn to use practical tools to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan that is both biblical and livable for today's families. Watch for more information to come. "Enough" is on its way!

Ten Years: Opportunities to Consider the Legacy of 9/11

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ will present a candlelit Vespers Service on September 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The service includes meditative singing, poetry, and silence, led by music director Susan Peck.

In the service, we will reflect on where we have come as individuals, as a community, as a nation, in these 10 years since the

shocking events of September 11, 2001. The service will include songs from the Taizé tradition, poetry, and silence, to allow time for meditation on grief, healing, and how we can respond in peace and love. If you are interested in carpooling to this event, please check with Pastor Jennifer. LOUCC is located at 1111 SW County Club Road in Lake Oswego.

Bookcase Needed for Shawls

Do you have a bookcase that isn't being used? The church office would like to have a bookcase to display the prayer shawls that have been donated. Please see Tim if you have one.

Do you know someone who needs a prayer shawl? They can be given in celebration of an achievement—graduation or birth—or to give comfort to someone going through a difficult time.

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	2	3
4 10:30a Communion Worship Service, SANC 12-4p Camp Adams Fun Day	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO	7 10:00a Loaves and Fishes	8 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 1:00p Memoir Writing Group, Maria Dunlop's home 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	9 7:00p Stephen Ministry Retreat, LIB	10 9:30a Stephen Ministry Retreat, LIB
11 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	12 Transition Projects Meal, Bud Clark Commons 10:30p Bible Study, LIB	13 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 11:00a Martha Circle, LIB 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO	14 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, LIB	15 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	16	17
18 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC 12:00p All Church Picnic, Gabriel Park	19 10:30p Bible Study, LIB 7:00p Book Club, PO	20 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO 7:00p Foundation Meeting, WORK 7:00p Consistory Meeting, LIB	21 10:00a Tidings Deadline 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, LIB	22 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	23	24 9:00a In and Out Work Day
25 Moving Planet Alternative Transportation Day 9:15a Adult Ed Class, LIB 10:30a Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, SANC	26 10:30p Bible Study, LIB	27 6:30a Men's Breakfast, GT 6:00p Commuters' Prayer Practice Group, PO	28 7:00p Stephen Ministry Training, LIB	29 9:00a Hillsdale Hikers, LOT 7:00p Choir Rehearsal, CR	30	October 1

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

Habitat Dedication Nears; New ReStore Opens

by Bob Leitner, Habitat Coordinator

It has been a busy summer at the Ramble Glen construction site at 185th and Farmington. You wouldn't recognize it since our last workday in June. In fact, it is dedication time already for some of our fortunate new homeowners. On Saturday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m., all eight houses will be dedicated. This is always an exciting event as the new families are honored. Please join us at the Ramble Glen site. Parking is available in the Westside Community Church parking lot at 18390 SW Farmington Road in Beaverton, just a short walk from Ramble Glen.

Thank you to all who attended the most successful Faith Build Wall-Raising event for the Mohamed family. It was especially a joyous time to meet this friendly and industrious family.

Finally, after much anticipation, the new Washington County ReStore is now open at 13475 SW Millikan Way in Beaverton. The Washington County ReStore joins the Portland and Vancouver ReStores in supporting the three metro area Habitat affiliates. When you shop at one of the stores, you help Habitat build a home

for a low-income family. In fact, during the last fiscal year, Willamette West Habitat received enough money from the ReStore to build an entire house! So visit www.pdxrestore.org to find out the items acceptable at the ReStore.

Now, another most important date to save is our next workday scheduled for Saturday, September 24. Two shifts are available: 8:15-noon and 12:30-4:00. The Mohamed house will probably be the last one completed in the subdivision, now scheduled for the end of the year. Please plan on

coming out and joining our interdenominational partnership!

In and Out Work Day Planned

Help us spruce up the church building and grounds for fall during our September work day coming up Saturday, September 24, from 9-1 or so. There is always plenty to do indoors and out, and usually some yummy eats too!

tidings

SEPTEMBER 2011

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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.

