

tidings

Sundays at HCCUCC November 2015

Sunday worship services begin at 10:30.

November 1

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Day

Communion Sunday

Psalm 146; Hebrews 12:1-2

November 8

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127;

Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20, 1 Samuel 2:1-10;

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 22

Christ the King Sunday

Festival of Thanksgiving

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12;

Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

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Love Kids? Teach Sunday School

by Alexis Hamilton

Some of you may not know this, but I love kids. Not just my kid. All kids. I love being around them; I love working with them, talking to them, and teaching them. That is why I became a Sunday School teacher.

At Hillsdale, we have a steadily growing cadre of kids that are learning, laughing, and developing the foundations for a life-long faith: faith in God; faith in Jesus, faith in our community, and faith in themselves. Just as importantly, they are building relationships with caring adults besides their parents and teachers—adults who nurture and care for them because they are worth it.

We are currently recruiting Sunday School teachers. Right now we have two classes each Sunday, one for our littlest sunbeams, toddlers through 1st grade, and then our school-age *wunderkinds* 2nd grade and up. That is a great gift to give a child. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to be an award-winning teacher. You don't have to be a parent yourself. You don't have to know everything about the Bible. All you need is an open heart and a willingness to give some time each month to our youth. You can make such a difference in the life of our kids here at Hillsdale.

Intimidated by the thought of standing in front of five or six attentive little faces assuming you are going to teach them something? Unsure of what you would teach? Not to worry! Our curriculum is extensive and self-explanatory, beautifully laid out from start to finish—and we won't

abandon you! You can shadow any of our current teachers and I will make time to have a session with our new teaching recruits and “teach the teacher.”

Pray about it, think about it, and if you find that teaching Sunday School might be a call for you, contact either Jess Porter at porter_jm6116@live.com or me, Alexis Hamilton, at iamgregsbird@gmail.com. You will be glad you did!



HCC to Host Discussion on Preventing Gun Violence

In the wake of the recent tragedy at Umpqua Community College, Hillsdale Community Church will host a community conversation on preventing gun violence. The free event will take place in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evening, November 11, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It will be facilitated by Ceasefire Oregon and will feature experts and advocates who can answer questions from a variety of perspectives. Come to be informed, inspired, and encouraged. Bring your questions and ideas. This important discussion is open to the public, and we hope it will start a larger conversation here at HCCUCC.

For more information, or to offer your help with the event, contact Nancie Wamser at 503-819-8879.

Consistory Updates

by Carl Wamser, Consistory president

This has been an unusually tumultuous year for Hillsdale Community Church. I would love to have more news of major projects completed, or at least major milestones passed on the way to completion of major projects. But here is where we are now on several important issues.

Capital construction is almost ready to start. In fact, it may have started by the time this Tidings is published. On October 21, the last approval in the permit process was received. There was a significant delay because the plans to open up the Narthex and create a free flow into the Tower Room required removal of a fire door; this was not approved. The Consistory decided not to appeal the decision, which would have been costly and could have led to further delays and conditions. It will always be possible to reconsider that project separately in the future. The contractor is writing a revised scope of work that includes some additional cost-saving issues that we requested. Once we sign the contract, construction will begin with opening up the eastside area and excavating an elevator pit. The contractor is projecting completion by April.

Frutiger House (where Terry Cornell lived) is being considered for renovations that would allow it to be suitable as a rental home. The Consistory heard several possibilities and was most favorable towards seeking someone who could live there and also serve HCC with custodial and possibly security services. Preference would be given to internal candidates for this position, which would be described as Sexton.

The pastoral search will follow well-defined UCC guidelines. The first step is to develop a church profile that clearly defines who we are as a church. Although much of the profile is statistical data, the most important part is the creation of a vision of what we want Hillsdale Community Church to be. How to carry out this process will be discussed at the next Consistory meeting on November 10. HCC bylaws call for a search committee of at least five members to be appointed by the Consistory; we expect to decide on the process for establishing a search committee at the November 10 meeting as well. We expect that the overall search will take 12-18 months. We are looking forward to working with Interim Pastor Chris Hyde as the congregation, the search committee, and the Consistory move forward to new beginnings.

We will continue providing regular

updates on these and other important issues in the *Tidings* and from the pulpit. Please contact me or any other Consistory member with your ideas about how we can sustain and inspire our church community. We look forward to engaging the entire congregation in the process of redefining our vision for our church.

Feed the Hungry, Shelter the Homeless

by Kathy Schneller

On a bad day it's easy to feel that our individual efforts on behalf of change count for very little. But if you'd like to prove otherwise you may want to check out one of the volunteer jobs here at Hillsdale Community Church. We have programs that will enable you to make a real difference in the lives of those around you. As one example, the task of helping other members of our congregation to prepare or serve a meal to homeless men at Transition Projects is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs you'll ever do.

Transition Projects is a local nonprofit organization that helps people as they transition from homelessness to housing. To achieve this goal, Transition Projects first helps people meet their basic needs for shelter, clothing, food, cleanliness. HCC is one of many local organizations that provide meals to the shelters managed by Transition Projects as an integral part of this effort.

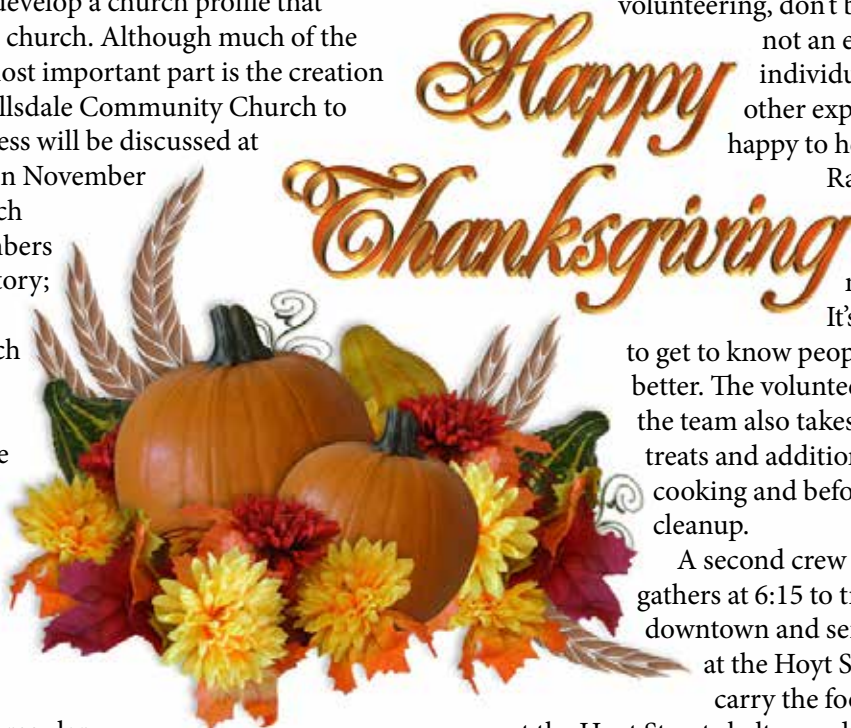
On the second Monday of each month beginning at 3:00 p.m., volunteers from our church gather to prepare a meal for the Hoyt Street shelter. Volunteers cook a main dish and a dessert, create a salad, help to prepare vegetables and separate bananas, and then clean up the kitchen. If you're thinking of

volunteering, don't be concerned if you're not an experienced cook: the individual steps are basic, and other experienced volunteers are happy to help as needed. Barbara

Raz Neu, the longtime leader of the project, will help you find work that makes you comfortable.

It's also a great opportunity to get to know people from this church better. The volunteers talk as they work, and the team also takes a break to enjoy some treats and additional conversation after cooking and before finishing with the cleanup.

A second crew of HCC volunteers gathers at 6:15 to transport the meal downtown and serve it to the men living at the Hoyt Street shelter. You help carry the food to the cars, unpack it at the Hoyt Street shelter, and then serve up the dishes



cafeteria-style until everyone is fed. Unless you're a professional entertainer, most of us aren't often applauded for our work. But that's exactly what frequently happens after the meal is served: the men stand to clap for you as you make your way out. Each person you serve is keenly and recently aware of what it means to be homeless and go hungry, and you will never find a more appreciative audience.

The group that transports and serves the meals is now looking for volunteers. If you can help out, please contact me at kathy@hillsdaleuucc.org or 503-246-5474 x 223. This is an opportunity to help make changes that matter in the lives of people right here in our community.

Community Garden Benefits All

by Patti Brandon

The Crossroads Community Garden on our property is moving right along, getting ready to have people sign up for use. Take a look at the garden layout, which includes raised beds for handicapped people. Gardeners are required to use organic treatments such as composting for fertilizer! Yea!

There are benefits to all of us in establishing the Community Garden. Here are just a few:

- Reduction of our carbon footprint.

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Communion Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	2	3 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	4 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	5 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	6	7
8 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	9 Transition Projects/ Hoyt St Meal BC 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	10 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT 7:00p Consistory Meeting MH	11 1:00p Memoir Writing Group 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3 7:00p Community Conversation on Gun Violence SA	12 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	13	14 Suppers for Seven
15 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	16	17 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	18 12:00p Tidings Deadline 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3 7:00p Foundation Meeting MH	19 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	20	21
22 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1 11:45a Choir Lunch and Rehearsal CR	23 6:30p Post-Sabbath Bible Study (PSBS) MH	24 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	25 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting, R3	26 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 9:00a Adult Study Group MH 9:00a Children's Activities DN 10:30a Worship Service SA 10:45a Children's Sunday School R1	30	December 1 7:30a Men's Breakfast GT	2 10:00a Loaves and Fishes MC 6:30p Open Co-ed AA Meeting R3	3 9:00a Walking Group UL 7:00p Choir Rehearsal CR	4	5

- **Municipal benefits:** Community gardens are an economic benefit to local governments.

- **Health benefits/food production:**

Community gardens provide access to fresh, traditional produce and nutritionally rich foods in low-income neighborhoods, where nutritious food is much less available than in other areas. A study of all food stores in three low-income zip codes in Detroit found that only 19%, or fewer than one in five stores, carried a minimal “healthy food basket” of products based on the food pyramid.

Studies have shown that community gardeners and their children eat healthier, more nutrient rich diets than do non-gardening families.

People who garden (or who live with someone who gardens) tend to eat more fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. In a survey in Flint, Michigan, while only 17.8% of respondents from non-gardening households ate fruits and vegetables at least five times a day, that number rose to 32.4% in households with a gardener. The same study showed that gardeners also tend to eat one more serving of fruits or vegetables per day than non-gardeners.

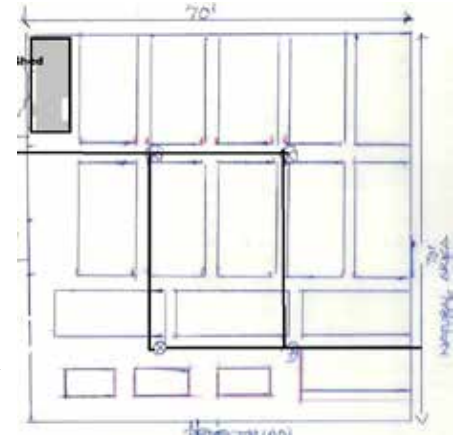
Increasing the consumption of organic local produce reduces exposure to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Local

food can also be eaten fresh, without the preservatives that are typically added to produce that is shipped long distances.

Multiple studies have shown that natural areas such as community gardens grant a variety of mental health benefits. Being in natural places fosters recovery from mental fatigue, improves outlook and life satisfaction, helps us to cope with and recover from stress, improves our ability to recover from illness and injury, restores concentration, and improves productivity.

Simply viewing plants has been shown to reduce fear, anger, blood pressure, and muscle tension.

We encourage any and all of our church members, friends, and community to join in the development of the Crossroads Community Garden.



Crossroads Community Garden Layout

tidings

November 2015

Hillsdale Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Interim Pastor **Rev. Chris Hyde** (chris@hillsdaleucc.org)

Director of Music/Church Administrator **Tim Ditch** (tim@hillsdaleucc.org)

Office Assistant **Kathy Schneller** (kathy@hillsdaleucc.org)

Child Care Providers **Sam Hinerfeld, Julia Miller**

2015 Consistory Members: Carl Wamser, President (503-504-4296 · wamserc@pdx.edu); Rebecca Holt, Vice-President, Share Christ's Word, Personnel (503-866-0340 · rebecca@ldark.edu); Bob Brandon, Past President, Pastor Relations, Capital Campaign (503-313-0056 · Bob.Brandon@ltic.com); Drake Mitchell, Treasurer (240-672-1738 · drakem@pdx.edu); Nayan Fleenor, Make a Difference (503-645-6132 · nayan@mindspring.com); Ruthanne Rusnak, Fellowship (503-701-2462 · xiiicatsold@yahoo.com); Cathy Thomas, Worship (503-246-9509 · elefun@aol.com)

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.

