A TIME TO SPEAK, A TIME TO LISTEN

In the book of Ecclesiastes is the often quoted passage that begins “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” I’ve improvised the line that reads “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak,” because what else are we doing in our silences but listening?

We listen to understand each other. We listen to be attentive to the world in all its richness. We listen for the movement of God in our lives. I believe that one of the primary callings of the church is to listen in all of these ways. Too often has the church become arrogant and hurtful when it stopped listening and acted as if it knew everything.

I am called to listen.

Last week, I shared with you the goals that will focus my investment of time and energy as I begin my ministry here at the Hills Church. These goals were informed by my conversations with the search and call committee, church staff, and congregational leaders over the six months prior to my arrival just a few weeks ago. I believe that they give focus to the beginning of my ministry with you.

This is also a time to listen. I have made it a priority in my first six months to create opportunities for the members and friends of this church to meet with me so that we can get to know each other. I want to hear about your lives, your experiences in this church, and your hopes for our future. As the summer winds down and we move into fall, you will be invited to join one of the small group gatherings that will be offered at different days and times. The only agenda for these meetings will be what I have just described. In the meantime, if you would like to organize a particular group, or begin a conversation in another way, I hope to hear from you by phone, email, or simply stopping by. I look forward to meeting with you.

Peace,

Mick

PUBLICATION NOTE

This week’s Day by Day (July 23rd) is our final issue of the program year until Rally Day – when we will be launching a new communication initiative – in an exciting new format.

On behalf of the clergy and staff of the Hills Church, we wish all our members and friends a happy, healthy, and restorative summer!
HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 23
  6:30 p.m.  Realignment Task Force/Nominating
  7:00 p.m.  Hills Bells

THURSDAY, July 24
  10:30 a.m.  Staff Meeting
  6:30 p.m.  New Beginnings

FRIDAY, July 25
  7:00 p.m.  AA Meeting

SATURDAY, July 26

SUNDAY, July 27
  10:00 a.m.  Worship Service
  11:00 a.m.  Community Hour
  4:00 p.m.  Hills Bells
  7:30 p.m.  AA Meeting

MONDAY, July 28
  7:30 p.m.  African Indian Alliance

TUESDAY, July 29

WEDNESDAY, July 30
  6:30 p.m.  Picnic and Concert at the Hatch Shell (Longwood Symphony and New World Chorale)
  7:00 p.m.  Hills Bells
PICNIC ON THE ESPLANADE – THEN SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE CONCERT
Since 2001, the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, made up of some of Boston’s most accomplished professional musicians, has been presenting free concerts at the DCR’s Hatch Shell along the Esplanade adjacent to the Charles River. Please plan on joining your Hills Church friends for one of these concerts next Wednesday evening, July 30, when the Longwood Symphony, together with the New World Chorale, will be performing: Bizet: Carmen Suite No. 1; Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 - Natasha Farny, cello; Faure: Pavane; Debussy: Nocturnes; and Bizet: Carmen Suite No. 2. The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. Plan on arriving at the Hatch Shell about 6:30 p.m. You can count on parking being a challenge. Look for special parking instructions on our website, or talk to some fellow members ahead of time about car-pooling. Bring your own picnic supper, a blanket and/or a comfy fold-out chair. And – as a special treat, look for the Hills Church members on the stage, including Bev and Larry St. Clair and Laurie Otten. We’ll gather on the right side as you face the stage, about halfway back.

WELCOME THE WOOSTERS BY SHARING YOUR “FAVORITES”
As part of our ongoing welcome to Matt, Betsy and their family, the Parish Life Committee is compiling a list of “favorites” to help get them acquainted with the area. Do you have a favorite restaurant, know of a hidden gem beach or walking trail, a reliable handyman, tailor, etc. you would like to recommend? To share any resources, please complete an index card, provided in both narthexes of the church, and drop it back in the basket, or send an email with your suggestions to Lori Janiuk (janiuk@verizon.net).
OUR NURSERY SCHOOL IS IN NEED OF A FEW GOOD TEACHERS!
If you know of a pre-school teaching professional interested in working with a great team in an exciting, vibrant, joyful and flexible educational environment, please ask them to send a cover letter and their resume to Laura Spadoni, nsdirector@hillschurch.org.

A CARE PACKAGE – FOR YOUR FAVORITE CAMPER?
Summer is upon us and many of the church’s younger members go off to camp. If you would like a care package sent from the church to your camper, please send their name, mailing address, and the dates when they will be at camp to Jess Boose at jessica@hillschurch.org. It’s always nice to know you are missed!

TWO UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT HONDURAS HOPE
For many years the WHCC has supported the work of Honduras HOPE, with Outreach monies and trips to Honduras to participate directly in their work with the poor and marginalized people in the communities of Plan Grande and San Jose.

Here are two upcoming opportunities to support the transforming work of Honduras HOPE, and have some fun doing it.

- **Tomorrow night, July 24** from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.: Mariposas Auction for Education, Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 307 Old Main St, South Yarmouth, MA, www.hondurashope.org
- **Saturday, September 27**: Granite State Grind & Roll. Bike rides of two different lengths through passes in the Franconia Notch area, www.granitestategind.org

A SUMMER READING SUGGESTION FROM THE ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Many thanks to all of you who joined us for our Winter/Spring programs and helped make them such a success. The Adult Education Committee has been hard at work planning another “semester” of programs for the fall, and we are pleased to announce the return of Congregational Library Executive Director Margaret Bendroth on Sunday, September 14. This time Dr Bendroth will be speaking about her latest book, *The Spiritual Practice of Remembering*. While by no means required to attend the session, we thought that some of you might be interested in reading Bendroth’s rich, thought-provoking book in advance of her visit. A slim paperback of 132 pages, it is ideal for the beach or bedtime. Our new Senior Minister Matt Wooster recently read it and highly recommends it! The book is available on Amazon for under $15.00. A copy is available in the church library as well.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES NEWS AND EVENTS
TEACHERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS FALL AND BEYOND!
Can you help encourage a child? There are many ways to serve, many ways to be involved in a child’s life. You can make a difference to a little someone.

Don’t want to do Sunday morning? Ask about helping at CLIB 345 – or about volunteering at Big Adventure VBS. Ask about being a youth mentor. We are a village. Talk to someone on the Children’s Ministry Committee: Michelle Foster, Vickie Batka, Kevin O’Grady, Bruce Dishman, Erin Johnson, Martha Cooney, Jackie Adams, Linda Wilkins, Korinna Garfield and Amanda Kinney. They will all be happy to tell you what a joy it is to teach our wonderful Hills children.

Sign up online: Hillschurch.org or contact Sallyt@hillschurch.org or during this Sunday’s Community Hour at the “Church School Teacher Sign-up Table” in the Assembly Room.